

Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ

Pastor's Report: June 15, 2021

Return-to Church: On Sunday, June 6, 2021, we returned to in-person services in the church for the first time in 15 months. It was such an emotional service, with more than 100 people in attendance. Viewership for our online service was also very strong: more than 450 views on YouTube.

Kudos: Many thanks to all who helped get the church ready for our first Sunday back: Dick Bont and Stacy Honson, David Geen, Julie Ridl, Jack Ridl, Jim Bailey, Laurie VandenBeldt, Sue Scott, Mike VerMerris, Peter Black, Jeff Spangler, Peter and Kathleen Mueller, and Gregg Smith. And, thank you to Greg Plowe and Brenda Marcy for taking photos of all the happy faces returning to church.

Internet: We are working with Comcast to have internet installed in the church, Friendship Hall, and the Spring Street house behind the church. Thank you to Chris Clark for coordinating.

Community Pride: On Saturday, June 5, our church took part in the Saugatuck/Douglas Community Pride "Care-a-Van" car parade. Our Douglas UCC Rainbow Unicorn even made an appearance! Many thanks to Bob and Louise Kenny for decorating and driving our Douglas UCC Pride Van, and to Dale Lower and Ted Sommer for driving me in their convertible. Thank you to Greg Harvath, Ruth VandenBosch, Jim Bailey, Ted Sommer, and Craig Drager for organizing such a wonderful event.

Campus Inspection: On May 27, our Building Committee met with ABI Inspection Services, who have prepared a comprehensive inspection of our church buildings. Thank you to Dick Lucier, Bob Kenny, and Larry Fuerst for meeting with them.

Committee Meetings: On Sunday, May 23, I met with the Pastoral Relations Committee, and on Tuesday, May 25, I met with our Stephen Ministers for their monthly supervision meeting. Both meetings were held via Zoom.

Weddings: Since last month's Church Council meeting, I have officiated three weddings: Brent and Ray on May 29; Ed and Arturo on June 6; and Kelsea and Scott on June 12. Congratulations to all the happy couples.

Memorial Service: On Sunday, June 13, I was honored to officiate Larry Sharp's "Celebration of Life" service at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts. More than 100 members of our Saugatuck/Douglas community were present to honor and remember Larry.

Bernie Siegel Event: Thanks to our church member, Ruth VandenBosch, we will be having a private Zoom event on Wednesday, June 16, at 7 PM with renowned author and teacher, Dr. Bernie Siegel.

Annual Meeting: On Sunday, June 27, at 11:30 AM, we will be holding our Annual Meeting. The meeting will take place in person and via Zoom. All church members are highly encouraged to attend. We will be approving the new church budget; honoring out-going church leaders; and welcoming new members to our Church Council.

UCC Synod: I am so very honored to have been selected as one of the delegates for this year's UCC National Synod, which is being held the week of July 11. I will be representing our UCC Michigan Conference. I will be attending Synod Training next week on Tuesday, June 22, via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

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