



Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ

Pastor's Report – May 13, 2019

Since our last Church Council Meeting.....

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Giving</u>
Sunday, April 21	183	\$5,650
Sunday, April 28	124	\$4,731
Sunday, May 5	144	\$3,896
Sunday, May 12	161	\$3,229
Average	153	\$4,377

Easter Season: Our beautiful service on Easter morning reminded us that we are in the season of new growth and new life. We are so grateful for the continued growth of our church. May we continue to be led by the Spirit of new life as we envision the future of our church together.

Holy Week & Easter: Sixty people attended our Maundy Thursday supper, and we had 183 people in attendance for Easter. All the many people who worked “behind-the-scenes” at both services were given “Kudos” in our e-Pistle newsletter and Sunday bulletin. I am especially grateful to Jim Bailey for coordinating the Maundy Thursday service, and to Marty Kiefer for directing the Easter choir.

Grant Proposals: On April 23, John Kerr of our Grant Proposal Team and I presented a \$2,000 check to the Sundance Center in Fennville to support Art and Horse Assisted Healing and Empowerment. And, on April 24, Peg Donohue and I presented a \$7,500 check to Ladders of Hope Food Pantry in Fennville to help them pay for a new generator. A photo us presenting the “big check” appeared in the “Commercial Record” newspaper.

Visioning Sessions: This week, Mayotte Group Architects will help us explore possibilities about the expansion of our church facilities. All involved in our Groups and Committees are invited to join us on Thursday, May 16, at 7 p.m. in the Friendship Hall for a sharing of ideas with the architects, and everyone is invited to join us on Sunday, May 19 at 12:30 p.m. for another visioning session with the architects.

Social & Creation Justice Events: Thank you to our church's Social Justice Team for hosting author Anna-Lisa Cox on May 4. Every seat was taken in our Friendship Hall for Dr. Cox's inspiring presentation on 19th Century race relations in Michigan. We had another packed house on May 7, as our Creation Justice Team hosted Anne Marie Fauvel from the Bee Informed Partnership, who spoke about the honey bee population and what we can do to help them thrive. A large number of people at both events were first-time visitors to our church.

Mikah Meyer Visit: Last month, Mikah Meyer became the first person in history to visit all 419 national parks sites in one continuous road trip, receiving national press attention. Mikah's next stop was Douglas UCC! On Sunday, May 4, we were so honored to host Mikah's first speaking engagement since achieving his world record. Mikah gave us an inspiring message, and even sang for us, too!

Pastoral Duties: In addition to my regular weekly duties, this month I also met one-on-one with eight congregants, six in my office and two at their homes. On April 24, I attended a UCC Planning Committee Meeting at the Holland UCC. On April 29, I attended a UCC Pastor's Meeting at the Big Rapids UCC. On April 28, I attended the Pastoral Relations Committee meeting at the Retreat House. On April 27, I officiated a Memorial Service at the church for Jeff Swanson, and on May 4, I officiated a Memorial Service at the church for Rebecca Cardona. On May 5, Peter Mueller and I attended the UCC Grand West Association Meeting at the Newyago UCC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Sal

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza, Pastor