

# ***Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ***

## **Pastor's Report – November 19, 2019**

*Since our last Church Council Meeting.....*

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Giving</u></b>
Sunday, October 20	120	\$3,068
Sunday, October 27	126	\$2,589
Sunday, November 3	148	\$3,456
Sunday, November 10	137	\$3,525
Sunday, November 17	154	\$2,796
<b>Average</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>\$3,087</b>

**“Gratitude Month”**: A few weeks ago, I encouraged us to participate in a 30-Day Gratitude Challenge. I am delighted to hear from so many of you who have more consciously incorporated gratitude practices into your daily lives and are already seeing such a positive difference. *“In everything, give thanks.”* – 1 Thessalonians 5.

**Groups Fair**: This past Sunday, we held our first annual DUCC Groups Fair. It was such a great success! All of our church groups gave out information and signed up new members. It was such a great way to raise awareness about all of our groups, as well as to get new people involved.

**Friendship Hall/Retreat House Use**: This Fall, we have received \$845 from our various Workshops in the Friendship Hall, as well as \$1,750 in donations from our Retreat House guests. We are grateful!

**Pastoral Relations Committee**: This past month, three of our PRC members (Mike VerMerris, Greg Sherman, Glynis Whitcomb) spoke with the congregation in preparation for our Sabbatical. A schedule is now in place for all the Sabbatical speakers and worship leaders. More than 40 people have volunteered to help!

**Creation Justice Team**: Our CJT will be showing the climate change documentary, *Paris to Pittsburgh*, on November 19 at 7 PM in the Friendship Hall.

**TDOR**: Douglas UCC is proud to be co-sponsoring this year's *Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil* with Gender SAFE at the Herrick District Library in Holland on November 20 at 7 PM.

**Gun Violence Vigil**: Hannah Huggett and our church's Social Justice Team will be facilitating a *Vigil for the Victims of Gun Violence* on Saturday, December 14, at 7 PM in the church. We have held this vigil the past few years to coincide with the national vigil on the anniversary of the Newtown tragedy.

**Pastoral Duties**: In addition to my regular monthly duties, I also:

- met with 9 congregants in my office for one-on-one meetings, as well as one home visit.
- was interviewed on the Morning Grind Radio Show on November 2.
- attended the Pastoral Relations Committee meeting on November 3 and the Stephen Ministry meeting on November 14.
- co-hosted a “Poetry and the Spirit” event with Jack Ridl at the church on October 24. More than 100 people were in attendance.
- spoke at the Memorial Service for David Balas at the SCA on October 25. More than 400 people were in attendance.
- attended the “Health Aging” workshop on September 16 and the “Love Yourself Madly” workshop on November 2
- attended a reunion dinner for our DUCC Camino Pilgrims on November 2
- represented our church at the UCC Grand West Association meeting in Grand Rapids on October 20
- officiated a wedding on November 9.
- began training our Sabbatical Administrative Assistant on November 18.

Respectfully Submitted,

***Pastor Sal***

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza, Pastor