



Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ Pastor's Report: November 14, 2023

A Season of Thanksgiving: As we approach Thanksgiving Day next week, I am expressing my gratitude to God for all of you. *"I thank my God every time I remember you"* (Philippians 1:3).

Fall Concert Series: More than 60 people attended the Michelle Willis concert on October 26 and more than 50 people attended the Bobby Jo Valentine concert on November 3. We are grateful to Shannon Connell, Debra Carr, Jim Kern, Vicky Cobb, Dave Bohn, and Jeff Spangler for their assistance.

Grand West Association Meeting: Peter Mueller, Beth Stallinga, and I represented our church at the annual Grand West Association business meeting on October 22 in Muskegon.

November Workshops: Thank you to all who attended the "Honoring Our Ancestors" workshop on November 1; "Soul Collage" workshop on November 11; and the "Beyond Religion" presentation on November 9. In total, more than 50 people participated in these events.

Flour Drive: This month we are collecting bags of flour for Christian Neighbors Food Pantry in Douglas for their Thanksgiving baskets for local families in need.

Transgender Day of Remembrance: After several years of hosting an annual Transgender Day of Remembrance service at our church, this year we are partnering with Holland UCC and Out on the Lakeshore to co-host the event at the Holland Armory on November 20.

Safety & Wellness Team: Our Douglas UCC Safety and Wellness Team is hosting a presentation in the Friendship Hall on November 30 at 3:30 PM by Allegan County Senior Services, outlining the many services provided free-of-charge to Allegan County senior citizens.

Season of Advent: The Season of Advent begins on December 3. Our Art Guild is working on the Advent wreath and decorations. UCC Advent devotionals will also be available for purchase.

Christmas Eve: This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. Therefore, we will be having two services that day. Our 10 AM service will be for the 4th Sunday of Advent and our 6 PM service will be "Lessons & Carols" featuring our Douglas UCC Holiday Choir.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Sal

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza, Pastor