

# Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ

## Pastor's Report – October 15, 2019

Since our last Church Council Meeting.....

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Giving</u>
Sunday, September 22	130	\$3,677
Sunday, September 29	120	\$3,363
Sunday, October 6	140	\$3,451
Sunday, October 13	136	\$3,907
<b>Average</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>\$3,599</b>

**Neighbors in Need:** Thank you to all who contributed to the UCC's "Neighbors in Need" Fund. Thanks to your generous giving, we collected \$321. Our church will match this for a total of \$642 to the UCC.

**CROP Hunger Walk:** Thank you to all who walked in this year's CROP Hunger Walk: Chris Clark, Jane Brodt, Linda Charvat, Wendy Hamlin, Norman Capello, Mike VerMerris, Dan Mack, and Julie Ridl, and thank you to all who sponsored them. Our Douglas UCC Team raised \$3,725 (a new record for us!) which will go to fight hunger in Allegan County and around the world.

**Pastoral Relations Committee:** I met with the PRC on October 6. They are doing such great work in preparation for my sabbatical next year. We have volunteers in place to help lead all the different parts of Sunday worship from January thru March. Thank you to PRC member, Mike VerMerris, for speaking at our worship service earlier this month and giving us all an update on these preparations.

**Creation Justice Team:** Thank you to our church's Creation Justice Team for such a meaningful "Creation Season" month. Thank you to Mike Valdez, Sarah Swift, and Eric Lejeune for speaking during our Sunday worship about the importance of caring for creation. Sarah's talk on rain gardens prompted interest in installing a rain garden on the site of the old deck at the Retreat House. Also, this past month, dozens of people took part in both the Highway and Beach Clean-ups, and more than 50 people took in the Community Book Read of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, all of which were facilitated by the Creation Justice Team.

**Recent Events:** More than 30 people were in attendance for the *Building Bridges Across the Racial Divide* discussion on September 22, and more than 20 people attended the *Spiritual Practice of Getting Older* discussion on October 10. More than 40 people are signed up the *Healthy Aging* discussion on October 16, and 100 people have registered for the *Poetry & the Spirit* discussion on October 24.

**Interfaith Action:** As part of our alliance with Interfaith Action, Douglas UCC hosted a "Symposium on Gun Violence Reduction" on October 14. More than 100 people were in attendance. Dr. Bill Durston of Americans Against Gun Violence gave the keynote address. Thank you to Beverly Hawkes and Julie Ridl for all their help in facilitating this event.

**UCC Meetings:** I attended the Grand West Association Planning Committee meeting on September 19 at Holland UCC, and met with representatives from Pilgrim Manor (United Church Homes) in Grand Rapids on September 30. I will be attending GWA Fall Meeting on October 20 at St. John's UCC in Grand Rapids.

**Pastoral Duties:** In addition to my regular monthly duties, I also met with 11 congregants in my office for one-on-one meetings this past month, as well as one visit to Holland Hospital and one visit to U of M in Ann Arbor...I attended benefits for Arbor Circle on September 18 and Kids Food Basket on October 6...I spoke at "Out on the Lakeshore" in Holland on October 1...I was interviewed on the Morning Grind Radio Show on October 5...I was one of the featured speakers at the "Failure Lab" event at Saugatuck Center for the Arts (attended by more than 300 people) on September 21...and, I attended every single one of the events mentioned in this report.

**Kudos:** Thank you so much to our church members, Michael Bojko and Patricia Denner, for their very generous donations towards the purchase of a new video camera for our church. We are so grateful for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Pastor Sal*

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza, Pastor