

Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ -- Pastor's Report

October 19, 2021

Attendance/Giving: The average attendance these past four weeks was 76 in-person and 513 online. The average giving was \$4,230. We are so grateful!!

Livestream: Last month, we began livestreaming our Sunday services. An average of 122 viewers are watching live at 10 AM on YouTube. We are so grateful to Mike White for his leadership and service.

Blessing of the Animals: On October 3, I was so honored to officiate the "Blessing of the Animals" at Beery Field in Douglas. More than 40 people showed up with their dogs (and one turtle) to receive a blessing and a prayer card. Photos of the event appeared on social media and in the local newspaper.

Christian Neighbors Anniversary: On October 16, I was honored to speak at the 40th Anniversary celebration for Christian Neighbors Food Pantry in Douglas. More than sixty people from the Saugatuck/Douglas community were in attendance. I co-officiated a worship service with other local clergy and shared the story of the founding of Christian Neighbors by two women at Douglas UCC.

Retreat House Updates: On October 12, a brand new furnace and air-conditioning system were installed at our church's Retreat House. We are grateful to our Church Council for approving these updates, and to our Retreat House coordinator, Kathleen Mueller, for facilitating this project.

Community Book Read: Our Douglas UCC Creation Justice Team is leading a Community Book Read for the book, *End of Night*, by Paul Bogard, on November 2. A press release has run in the local newspaper; fliers have been posted around town; and the event has been promoted on the local radio.

Fall Clean-Up: On October 16, eleven our church members cleaned up the grounds of our church campus. We are grateful to: Bob Kenny, Larry Fuerst & Sue Scott, Peter & Kathleen Mueller, Paul Burdick, Greg VanPortfleet, Doug Sipsma, Linda Rieske, Jack Ridl, and Pete Wehle. I took photos of the volunteers and shared them on social media and in our weekly E-pistle newsletter.

Brother Al Concert: We are excited that Brother Al Mascia, former pastor of Douglas UCC, will be returning to our church for a free concert on Saturday, November 13, at 7 PM.

Church Use: We are grateful that our church facility has been used this past month for an ordination, and by many local organizations for their board meetings: Lakeshore Community Chorus; Chamber Music Festival; and West Shore Aware. This weekend, Rev. Mark Anthony Lord, pastor of the Unity Church in Douglas, has rented out our Friendship Hall for a two-day workshop.

In Addition: This past month, I had eleven one-on-one meetings with congregants in my office, and I had two home visits with church members...On October 11, I attended the Grand West Association Planning Committee meeting...On October 24, I will be representing our church at the Grand West Association Fall Meeting...and, this month, purple light bulbs from Sylvia's Place will be shining above the doors of our church and Friendship Hall for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Pastor