

Douglas Congregational United Church of Christ

Pastor's Report – September 17, 2019

Since our last Church Council Meeting.....

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Giving</u>
Sunday, August 25	158	\$4,754
Sunday, September 1	183	\$2,676
Sunday, September 8	148	\$3,484
Sunday, September 15	147	\$3,287
Average	159	\$3,550

Season of Creation: “*The beauty of Creation praises God’s name*” – Psalm 148

September is Creation Month. I am so grateful to our church’s Creation Justice Team for assisting with our Sunday worship services this month; facilitating the Adopt-a-Highway and Beach Clean-ups this month; and for leading the *Braiding Sweetgrass* book discussion on September 24.

Douglas Socials: The final Douglas Social of the season was on August 22. Our Douglas UCC Food Booth was a big hit all summer. We took in a total of \$1,672 in donations at the socials this season. Thank you to all who came out in support, and thank you to our Food Booth Team: Gregg Smith, Larry LaBine, Greg Harvath, Gemina Petruzzelli, Ed Korson, Peter & Kathleen Mueller, Annie Hotwagner & Marty Coffin.

Pastoral Relations Committee: I met with the PRC on August 25 and September 8 in preparation for my sabbatical next year. As PRC member, Greg Sherman, mentioned during worship on September 8, members of our congregation will be leading different parts of our Sunday service while I am away, and we are currently reaching out to potential volunteers.

White Privilege: On September 6, I led the first of six sessions based around the White Privilege curriculum developed by the UCC. Twelve members of our congregation are taking part in these classes. Thank you to our church’s Social Justice Team for facilitating this.

Upcoming Workshops at Douglas UCCs: On September 22, authors Larry and Sandy Feldman will be discussing their book, *Building Bridges Across the Racial Divide*. On October 6, Ray Hippolyte will be teaching “Get Out Of Your Own Way!” On October 11, author Frank Cunningham will be discussing his book, *Vesper Time: The Spiritual Practice of Getting Older*. On October 16, Shannon Connell will be talking with us about “Healthy Aging.” And, on October 24, Jack Ridl will be talking about “Poetry and the Spirit.”

Interfaith Action: As part of our alliance with Interfaith Action, Douglas UCC will be hosting a “Symposium on Gun Violence Reduction” on Monday, October 14. Dr. Bill Durston of Americans Against Gun Violence will be the keynote speaker.

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

CROP Walk: Thank you to Chris Clark for facilitating this year’s CROP Hunger Walk on October 6. We already have five people signed up to walk and over \$300 in pledges. Informational inserts will be included in this upcoming Sunday’s bulletin.

Pastoral Duties: In addition to my regular monthly duties, I also met with 12 congregants in my office for one-on-one meetings this past month, as well as three visits to Holland Hospital...I attended the Stephen Leaders meeting on September 4, and the Stephen Ministry Supervision meeting on September 9...I was a guest on the Morning Grind radio show on September 7, promoting upcoming events at Douglas UCC... I officiated a wedding on September 14 for the son of a church member...I will be one of the speakers at Saugatuck Center for the Arts “Failure Lab” event on September 21.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Sal

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza, Pastor