

The Messenger

A Newsletter for Dearborn Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Dearborn Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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*WORSHIP SERVICE EVERY **SUNDAY AT 10:00 A.M.** NURSERY CARE PROVIDED*

*OFFICE HOURS TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY **9:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm***

Reverend Kren's Office Hours:
Monday—Thursday mornings 8am—Noon
Monday—Thursday afternoons 1pm until 5pm,
except when visiting members of the congregation.



A Monday Morning Challenge

My daily prayer is that I live the next 24-hours as if it was the last day of my life. I pray this every morning at the start of my day. And – I punctuate the prayer with a request that God would use me in some way to further His Kingdom.

It's Monday morning, July 15, 2018, and at approximately 7:40 a.m. I'm on my way to the office. It's a trip I've been making, from my home in Garden City to Dearborn, five and six days a week for five years.

I know how long it will take me to drive the ten miles, barring any accidents or detours. I have alternate routes I can take in an emergency. And I'm so familiar with the highways and the side streets of Dearborn, that I know where all the potholes are. This kind of information is essential if you want to drive in Wayne County and survive.

On this morning, I discovered a "new" pothole! I'm almost sure it was NOT at the corner of Rotunda Drive and the Southfield Freeway, yesterday morning. Nevertheless, I found it ... with a BANG!



Fortunately, I was less than a quarter of a mile from the Church parking lot, and my car limped in with a literal "sigh." It was the final few pounds of air rushing out the rear tire.

It's my second ruined tire in two months (God must be teaching me patience).

Remember my prayer? **“Lord, let me live this day as if it were my last.”** Well, this is **NOT** how I want to live out my final 24 hours on this earth. I'm battling cancer. Every minute of every day is precious. I want sunshine and moderate temperatures. I want quality time spent with my wife and family. I want days of blessing, as I pastor Dearborn Congregational Church. What I don't want or need are **FLAT TIRES AND WASTED TIME IN AUTO REPAIR SHOPS.**

I phoned “Ford Road Service,” and within 10 minutes, Marion arrived in his service truck!

With a smile on his face, he pulled out his jack, lifted my vehicle off the ground and yanked off the flat tire. He then mounted the spare - it was like watching the pit crews at the Daytona 500!

And then we stood in the parking lot, and we talked.

He noticed from my window sticker - that I was a Vietnam Veteran. I shared my story about Agent Orange, lung cancer, and being blessed to be alive and serving God as a pastor in Dearborn. He told me about his life as a father, working hard to support his family and his concern regarding his young daughter. Without going into any details, *“she's not making the right decisions, and I'm worried about her.”*

I promised Marion I would pray for her and his family. He shared his appreciation, and his smile grew – it was even more radiant. He then told me it had been a blessing for him, that I was his first customer. (Yea, God!).

The day didn't start as I would have wanted – but it was as God had intended.

Isn't this the best way to live out a 24 hour period in your life? To be a blessing and pray for someone in need?

But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. 1 Timothy 1:16 NLT



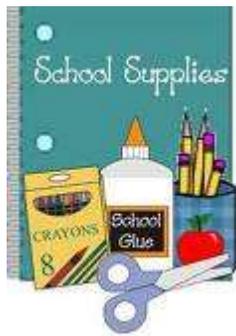
Pastor Bill Kren

News and Updates

Donating School Supplies

The new school year is about to begin and, as usual, we're collecting school supplies for our partner school in the Mexican community of SW Detroit, Bennett Elementary. The families in the area whose children attend Bennett have felt the strain of separation and anxiety as it concerns their loved ones and could use our support. Bargains can be found on supplies at major

retailers like Target and Meijer, or at dollar stores. Items needed most include composition books, pencils, colored pencils, pens, markers, erasers, and scissors. Donations can be placed in a box located in the hall outside the church office. Delivery of items will occur after Labor Day. Thank you for giving!



Downriver for Veterans

We are collecting non-perishable food items for Downriver for Veterans located in Wyandotte.

They provide support to assist local resource-limited veterans with food and other needs. Please place your donations in the Totes of Love bin in the back of the Sanctuary. Check the expiration date to make sure items have not expired.



**DOWNRIVER
FOR VETERANS**

Book Club

The Book Club is currently reading *The Namesake*, by Jhumpa Lahiri. Our next Book Club gathering will be Monday, August 6th at 7pm.



Diaconate Meeting

The Diaconate Board will meet August 15 at 7pm



Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet Wednesday, August 8th, at 7pm.

Treasurer's Report for June 2018

Income- \$3,152.00

Expenses- \$8,392.98

Capital Improvement Fund - \$ 12,880.32

Investments with UBS valued at \$144,161.82

\$6,500 was transferred from UBS to Charter One to meet expenses

Matthew Haling, Treasurer



OUR CHURCH AT WORK IN AUGUST



Helpers for Sunday Services

Ushers:

- August 5 – Jim Haling & Deb Evans
- August 12 – Tom Brown & Available
- August 19 – Available
- August 26 – Available

Liturgists:

- August 5 – Rufus Beardsley
- August 12 – Available
- August 19 – Available
- August 26 – Available

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Susan MacKenzie
- 15 Cathie Salach
- 17 Matthew Haling
- 26 Susan Wilson

Dedication of Flowers

- August 5 – Polly Fitzpatrick
- August 12 – Elaine Stacho
- August 19 – Sue MacKenzie
- August 26 – Available

PRAYER LIST



Gerri Sampson	Medical Concerns
Pauline Gourlay	Medical Concerns
Kathy Gideon	Medical Concerns
Tom Schlaff	Medical Concerns
Lois Clickner	Medical Concerns
Elie Stergiou	Medical Concerns
Jane Haling	Health Issues
Carrie Goldie	Serious Health Issues
Rev. Bill Kren	Serious Health Issues
Della King Family	Medical Concerns
Walter Crawford	Medical Concerns
Barbara Kudizus	Medical Concerns
Ron Kupersmid	Medical Concerns
Phyllis Preston	Medical Concerns
Rev. Geoff Drutchas	Health Concerns
Frank Kren	Serious Health Issues
Stefanie	Serious Health Issues
Derek Kren	Serious Health Issues
Kathleen Smith	Serious Health Issues
Family of Bev Traver	Bereavement

Fellowship Hour

- August 5 – Pastor Bill & Sue
- August 12 – Available
- August 19 – Available
- August 26 – Available

Dates to Remember:

- August 6 Book Club Meeting 7pm
- August 8 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm
- August 15 Diaconate Board Meeting 7pm

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

Just want makes that little 'ol ant, think
he'll move that rubber tree
plant...everyone knows an ant can't
move a rubber tree plant!

You were singing along, weren't you?
Did you have high hopes too?? I sure
did. I had high hopes of becoming Mrs.
Eddie Fisher! I was ten years old, but
still had high hopes. I had such a crush
on him. Cut out pictures from Photoplay,
played his records over and over. And
then along comes Debbie Reynolds!
Game over. I cried and cried. How could
she?

My dear, sweet grandfather comforted
me. But I still cried. Until one day, a
letter arrived, from New York City! An
explanation of duty to his record
company, an arranged marriage, an "if
only" letter from EDDIE FISHER! Of
course, months later I found out my
grandpa had his brother, from New York
City, write that letter. Still had high
hopes, just not for Eddie.

I had high hopes of joining the ice
escapades, until I realized it required ice
skating! But those costumes were so
darn cute! And since I had trouble
walking without stumbling, ice skating
seemed out of the question.

In high school I had high hopes of being
a part of the girls' chorus. I made that

one come true. Well, sort of. I became
a member of the chorus, got to wear the
red plaid scarf, white blouse with the
Peter Pan collar and pleated navy skirt.
One minor detail...I was asked not to
sing! Seems anyone could join, but only
the chosen could sing!

Once out of school I had secret hopes of
working in radio. I wanted to be a
copywriter. Seemed attainable. I
marched my self-confident self into
WOAP radio in Owosso, Michigan and
asked for an application. They, in turn,
asked for qualifications. I got a job!
(Cleaning the offices.) But wait, high
hopes...remember? About six months
later, the copywriter gave me an ad he
wrote to deliver to the DJ on duty. I
read it, and said, "You're kidding, right?"
To this day, I'm not sure if I was
confident or stupid! He replied, "Think
you can do better, kid?" "Yeah, I do!"
(Stupid, huh? Risked my job with three
little words.) "Show me what you got."
So I wrote my first ad for a local car
dealership. He read it, smiled, and told
me to take it to the DJ. One of my
biggest thrills was hearing MY copy on
the radio. The next day, I was still
cleaning the offices...but was also part
time copywriter at WOAP.
High hopes, people...high hopes.
Whoops...there goes another rubber tree
plant! I'm just sayin'...

3 Reasons Why Summer Is a Great Time to Serve at Church

by **Chris Brown**

What's your idea of an amazing summer? A beach vacation? Hey, I totally get that. I lived in Florida for 15 years! Spending a summer day relaxing on the beach is right up my alley. But what if I told you that you could also have an amazing summer by serving at church?

Yes, friends. I'm suggesting that you make volunteering in church a part of your summer plans. I was once a church pastor. Coming from that perspective, I can tell you *for sure* that churches value their volunteers. Your pastor needs and appreciates your service, for at least these three reasons:

1. Your church really does need you.

Let's start with the practical. The truth is, **every church everywhere can always use volunteers!**

In summer, many regular volunteers take a week off here or there for vacations, so the church is operating with an understaffed volunteer team. It's true that many ministries slow for summer, but they don't stop completely. Even though summer is half over, it's not too late.

All of this adds up to a great opportunity for you to start serving. So jump in! You never know who will be encouraged by your faithfulness. **Even your church's leaders might feel discouraged** if *no one* steps forward, so be a blessing and get involved!

2. God calls you to serve.

If the *need* isn't enough motivation for you, maybe the call is. The Bible is full of instances where God calls us to serve others. In fact, **Ephesians 2:10** (NIV) tells us God has *designed* us for good works: "For we are God's handiwork, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**"

We're also called to be like Jesus: to live like He lived (1 John 2:6), love like He loved (John 15:12), and serve like He served (Mark 10: 44–45).

You might think your pastor should take the lead there, but the Bible calls *all* of us to serve and minister across our communities. Our pastors are called to equip us for that. That's the essence of a church. It's not a building or a structure, it's a group of people joined together, growing in the Lord and bringing Christ to those who don't know Him. By actively serving, you're joining that mission!

3. You'll actually enjoy it.

There's a reason Proverbs 11:25 (NIV) tells us, "Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." It's because helping others doesn't just benefit them. It's good for us too. When we sacrifice our own time and give of ourselves to others, we become more like Jesus. We become humble, compassionate, and tender-hearted. We've sacrificed something to give to others, but in turn, we feel richer, like we have a purpose.

It also **opens doors to deeper relationships and stronger community**. Summer, when people are engaged in all kinds of fun activities, is the perfect opportunity to initiate those!

So, though there's nothing wrong with a nice vacation (if you can afford it), it doesn't satisfy our souls as much as when we give of ourselves.

Summer is a great time to begin serving in church if you've never served before. My guess is that you'll find you love it. And you might also find that as summer winds down, you don't want to stop. I guarantee your pastor and other ministry leaders would be more than happy to count on your volunteerism year-round!