

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, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 pm**



A couple years ago, Jenn and I watched a reality show called “Better Late Than Never”. It featured four iconic celebrities whose peak in popularity was at least a couple decades ago (Terry Bradshaw, George Foreman, Henry Winkler, Bill Shatner). They visited and experienced the most extreme forms of other cultures. What made this show so funny and successful (8.4 out of 10 stars on [IMDB.COM](https://www.imdb.com)) is not just watching these four magnetic personalities check items off their bucket lists, but vicariously living in vastly different cultures through their experiences.

Sampling cultures vastly different from ours can be fun and exhilarating. But plunging ourselves completely into another culture can be uncomfortable, stressful, frightening, and bewildering. Our response to this cultural displacement is what experts call “culture shock”. It is appropriately named, because exposure to different cultures causes various levels of “jolt” to everyone’s system.

Because of the unpleasantness of this jolt, it’s easy to see why most churches are slow to adjust their congregational culture, even if such an adjustment would help them better serve their surrounding communities. It’s also easy to see why congregations are shutting down in droves, unwilling to modify their culture or try anything new, and all the while chanting the mantra, “We’ve never done anything like *that* before.”

I knew one of our early challenges when I arrived at Dearborn Congregational Church would be effectively shifting our culture so we could create a healthy, growing faith community. Churches that sustain growth understand the vital importance of prioritizing outreach in their mission. It’s a perspective that is slowly but surely taking hold in our congregational life.

To that end, one of the first tasks we conquered during our ministry retreat on July 27 was to establish a purpose statement. The way a purpose statement functions is by establishing a focal point for ministry. With this statement as a guide, everything we do will help fulfill our declared purpose. During the retreat, we spent some time trying to refine the wording of our purpose statement, but it was clear that the essence was to become a spiritual home for all people, especially those who are “spiritually homeless”. We finally decided, at least tentatively, that our working purpose is “to welcome everyone into our family of faith.”

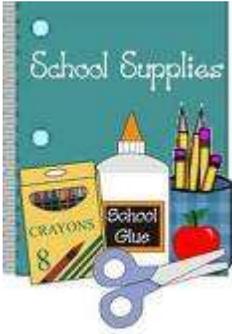
To be sure, we still love our membership and our current fellowship activities; we’re part of the “everyone” expressed in the purpose statement. But this statement has a decidedly “outreach outlook”. To fulfill our mission, our calling, our *purpose*, we must become more intentionally outreach oriented. And it is this orientation that will require the greatest cultural shift. This may create some culture shock, but I hope we’re ready for it!

Pastor Lew

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**

Fellowship Dinner - September 13

Save the date! Our last Fellowship Dinner in June was so enjoyable and so well received that we are planning another one for Friday, September 13th. This time we will have a *taco theme* for dinner with more details to come. So, mark your calendars!

Book Club

The Book Club is currently reading *Killers of the Flower Moon*. Our next Book Club gathering will be Monday, August 12th at 7pm.



Worship Service - August 11

We look forward to Brian Sampson leading us in our morning worship on August 11th while Rev. Worthington and his family enjoy a vacation from August 11th - 17th.

Diaconate Meeting

The Diaconate Board will meet August 14 at 7pm

Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet Wednesday, August 14th, at 7pm.



Treasurer's Report for June 2018

Income- \$3,772.86
Expenses- \$5,110.50

Capital Improvement Fund - \$ 13,230.32
Investments with UBS valued at \$117,840.78

Matthew Haling, Treasurer



OUR CHURCH AT WORK IN AUGUST



Helpers for Sunday Services

Ushers:

- August 4 – Pete Stacho and Deb Evans
- August 11 –
- August 18 –
- August 25 – Deb Evans

Liturgists:

- August 4 – Valerie Haas
- August 11 – Nancy Wolter
- August 18 –
- August 25 –

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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

Dedication of Flowers

- August 4 – Gail Waggoner, in thanks for her birthday celebration in church.
- August 11 – Elaine Stacho in loving memory of husband, David Stacho.
- August 18 –
- August 25 –

Fellowship Hour

- August 4 – Fred Michales
- August 11 –
- August 18 – Deb Evans
- August 25 –

PRAYER LIST



Barb Allen 7/12	Health Concern
Jane Haling 7/12	Shut In
Rev. Bill Kren 7/12	Serious Health Concern
Gail Waggoner 7/12	Health Concern
Teresa Curless 7/12	Chemotherapy
Pauline Gourlay 7/12	Shut In
Fred Michales 7/12	Health Concern
Pat Stacho 7/12	Recovering from shoulder surgery
Sandra Adams 7/12	Back Surgery

You may want to brighten the day for those listed on the prayer concerns with a card or a note. If you don't have an address, please contact the office.

Dates to Remember:

- August 12 Book Club Meeting 7pm
- August 14 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm
- August 14 Diaconate Board Meeting 7pm

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

Remember the proverbial handbasket?? And the destination?? Well, brace yourself people, it's happening.

First, Elaine sent me an article about MANhole covers in California. The local government is preparing a bill to henceforth call MANhole covers Maintenance covers. They do not want to offend anyone, so the covers will now be non-gender. Really?

Then on CBS Sunday morning they did a segment on pronoun protocol. (Didn't know there was such a thing)

A group of college students are forming a following to do away with HE..SHE..HER...HIM...to be replaced with THEY.

So satisfying to see that all that student loan money the government has supplied is being well spent.

Parents now have the option of not putting gender on newborn babies birth certificates. Is it a boy or is it a girl? You'll have to wait Grandma! Your grandchild will choose their own gender. WHAT!?! Insanity is running rampant.

What's next? Take those ladyfingers off the shelf Kroger. No more Manwich. Forget about peppermint patties....borderline, but sure to go! Oh Henry..Baby Ruth..Clark bar....things of the past? I hope not.

MENopause....that will stay the same. Men are such a large cause of the many tribulations of menopause, no break there fellas!

Mandolins will be slicers....boy or girl, either way, will be simply a scout....Miss America will become Our American...say goodbye to Burger King and Big Mac.

STOP THE INSANITY!!!

If this doesn't teach us anything else, I hope it teaches us to pray, and pray often. There is so much INSANITY going around, we need to stick together.

I'm just sayin'

P.S. Thank you to all my friends and church family for the cards, and prayers. I have a way to go, but I will get there. After all, we have a Craft Show coming up in October. I plan on being there, hope you do too.

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**2019 Directory Update:** There is a rough draft of an updated directory in the library. Please check your information and make corrections with the red pens provided on the table. If you are satisfied with your entry, please initial it. Thanks. Liz

**Attention Amazon Shoppers:** If you currently have an Amazon account (regular or Prime) your purchases can now earn our church .5%. All you need do is sign into **Amazon Smile** and log in just as if you were on your regular Amazon account, designate our church as your charity and shop. Please share our Charity with friends and family – anyone who has an Amazon account can donate to us. See Diana Schilbe if you have questions.