

The Messenger

A Newsletter for Dearborn Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Dearborn Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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313-271-8552
E-mail: dccucc@gmail.com
Website: www.dccdearborn.org

*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 Season of Joy!

The story of Jesus begins with the angelic announcement, "**Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.**"

Christmas is a season of joy!

- We **celebrate** the birth of the One that brings salvation to any and all who will believe!
- We give **glory** in the One who took delight in the world about him.
- We are **glad** in Jesus, who found pleasure in all kinds of people, saints, and scoundrels, children and foreigners, scholars and shepherds.
- We **rejoice** in the One whom, on the night of his death, promised to those who followed Him the gift of eternal joy!

Christmas is a season of joy! It's a joy that is something much more profound and more lasting than anything the world can provide. This joy comes into our lives as the gift of God.

As Teilhard de Chardin has said, "**Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God.**" Christmas joy – our testimony that God is real and Jesus is Lord!

During this Christmas holiday season, let's rejoice in the Lord for the incredible gift of Jesus and His glorious salvation.

Have a very merry and joyous Christmas!

Pastor Bill and Sue Kren

FROM THE DIACONATE

Advent Starts December 3

The greens are hung, the Christmas tree is decorated, the Advent candles are setup and the Nativity is on the altar as we begin this time of expectation and wonder. Join us on Sunday mornings as we await the birth of Jesus Christ during this Advent Season.

Poinsettias

We are taking orders for poinsettias. They are a wonderful way to honor or remember loved ones in your life or to simply help beautify the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. The cost is \$7.00 each. Payment can be given to Teresa or Nancy or you can put an envelope in the offering plate marked "Poinsettia" with your name on it. Look for the sign-up sheets in the Mayflower Room and Sanctuary to place your order and dedication. You may also call the Church Office at [\(313-271-8552\)](tel:313-271-8552) or email dccucc@gmail.com to place your order. The last day to order is December 10.

The Christmas Fund Special Offering

The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross has been a tangible expression of God's love and light for 116 years. This Special Mission Offering provides us an opportunity to reach out and provide assistance to clergy and lay employees who have faithfully served the Church and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. With last year's contribution, the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (the charitable arm of the Pension Boards) was able to provide Supplementation of Small Annuities, Retiree Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks to individuals and families. This year's theme is **Shepherding the Light** and we invite you to shepherd God's light and love to those who are in need this Christmas. You will find special

Christmas Fund envelopes in your pew. Offerings will be collected through December 17.

Christmas Eve Service – December 24

We hope you and your family plan to join us for our Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm. Come and hear the Christmas story. It is a special evening of singing favorite Christmas carols and lighting candles with a short Christmas message by Rev. Kren. Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Thank You!!

Thank you to everyone who made food and money donations toward our Thanksgiving Baskets. We were able to assemble three baskets of non-perishable items and turkeys. We gave two to the Lennon Pregnancy Center and one to a family who was suggested to us. Thank you for your generous support in making this a blessed Thanksgiving holiday for families in our area.

Securing Doors

As a precautionary safety measure, we will be locking the Sanctuary door five minutes after the service starts and an usher will monitor the door for any late arrivals. The Tower door will be locked just before the service starts. In light of the recent Texas tragedy, we want to ensure the safety of our congregation the best we can. If you have any questions, please see Rev. Kren or Nancy.

Diaconate Meeting

The next Diaconate Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00 pm.

Taking Down the Greens – January 7

Please plan to help us take down the Christmas tree, the greens in the chandeliers, and store away the decorations for another year.

FROM THE MODERATOR

Work a Shift on the Tree Lot!

We desperately need volunteers to sell Christmas trees on Friday nights, Saturdays, and Sundays the first 3 weekends in December! Shift times are Fridays, 5-8 pm; and 3 time slots

each day on Saturdays and Sundays: 11 am-2 pm, 2-5 pm, and 5-8 pm.

There is a schedule on which you can add your name that is located on the



unpainted table in the sanctuary, or see or contact John Peters (e-mail: joopett13@hotmail.com , phone:(313) 255-7774). If you haven't worked the lot before, we'll pair you with someone who has experience selling trees and preparing them for customers. Any time you can give would be most appreciated!

Member Information Forms

We're kindly asking all *members* to complete a form with pertinent info about themselves as well as to have a record of who to notify in case of emergency. Hard copies of this form are available on the table in the rear of the sanctuary. A form can also be e-mailed to you that you can fill out on the computer, then print or e-mail back to the church. Please return forms to the office or send by e-mail to the Secretary at dccucc@gmail.com at your convenience. Thank you.

Two Services on Sunday, December 24!

Because Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, falls on a Sunday this year, there will be two church services on the same day: the regular worship service at 10 am and our traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7 pm that evening.



Treasurer's Report for October 2017

Income- \$ 6,602.98

Expenses- \$11,258.48

Capital Improvement Fund - \$ 12,555.32

Investments with UBS valued at \$178,509.59

Matthew Haling, Treasurer



OUR CHURCH AT WORK In December



Helpers for Sunday Services

Ushers:

- December 3 – Deb Evans & Dave Allen
- December 10 – Available
- December 17 – Available
- December 24 – Available
- December 31 – Available

Liturgists:

- December 3 – Nancy Wolter
- December 10 – Available
- December 17 – Fred Michales
- December 24 – Available
- December 31 – Available

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Janice Chapman
- 13 Mary Ellen Matchynski
- 18 Brianne Schilbe
- 18 Elizabeth Bilton Rabinowitz
- 20 Kathryn Weyeneth
- 25 Baby Jesus

Dedication of Flowers - December

- December 3 – Polly Fitzpatrick
- December 10 – Elaine Stacho
- December 17 – Available
- December 24 – Poinsettias
- December 31 – Available

Fellowship Hour – December

- December 3 – Bill & Sue Kren
- December 10 – Donut Sunday
- December 17 – Available
- December 24 – Available
- December 31 – Available

PRAYER LIST



Geri Sampson	Medical Concerns
Pauline Gourlay	Medical Concerns
Annika Koch	Medical Concerns
Kathy Gideon	Medical Concerns
Cathy MacKenzie	Medical Concerns
Tom Schlaff	Medical Concerns
Carol Burroughs	Medical Concerns
Irene Moxon	Medical Concerns
Rev. Norman Kirsch	Medical Concerns
Lois Clickner	Medical Concerns
Elie Stergiou	Medical Concerns
Jane Haling	Health Issues
Jim Shippee	Medical Concerns
Carrie Goldie	Serious Medical Issues
Rev. Bill Kren	Serious Health Issues
Della King Family	Medical Concerns
Wanda Silvey	Medical Concerns

Dates to Remember:

- December 13 Trustees Meeting 7pm
- December 13 Diaconate Meeting 7pm
- December 24 Christmas Eve Services
10am & 7pm

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

We're at the end of another year. Hard to believe, isn't it? It certainly has been a crazy year. The violence, even attacking people worshipping our Lord on a Sunday morning! The horrific storms, and fires destroying our landscapes and so many homes and lives. I hesitate to mention politics, that's still a nightmare! And now all the sexual harassment accusations! I am GLAD this year is over!!! 2018...Let's make it great.

Merry Christmas to you, and a Happy, Blessed, New Year! We get a fresh start. We get through the madness of the holidays, and we can take a deep breath.

I've already bought my new datebook. Brand new, blank pages to fill, just waiting for appointments, dinners, church promises made, and reminders of birthdays, anniversaries, and lunches with friends! (Just text me if you're interested.)

I, unfortunately, have some carryover things that didn't get completed this year. The start of my 2018 "to do" list. Actually, I think I will simply change the date on my 2017 list. Easier. Plus, I can check off a couple things. I have a head start on my list—love it!!

By the way, have you been keeping up with your monthly gratitude list?? Remember, we were all going to develop a gratitude attitude?? Well, I just wrote my December gratitude note in my datebook. This month I am grateful for Miss Clair!! Yes, I dyed my hair. Like

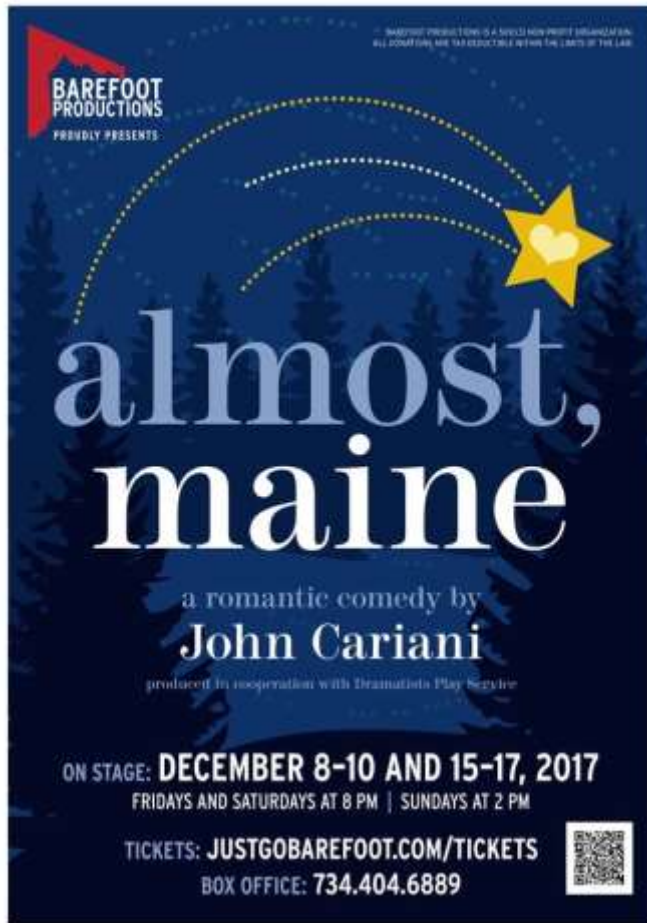
no one will notice...Lol. I caved...the gray hair had to go. I was tired of seeing my mother every morning in the bathroom mirror. I love her dearly, and miss her every day, but still was freaked out to see her staring at me. So call me vain, but I caved. Maybe everyone will be looking at my new color and won't notice that ten pounds I still haven't lost. And if you DO notice, keep it to yourself. I'm not just overweight, I'm sensitive.

Once again, Merry Christmas and HAPPY New Year to all of you dear people. I love you all, and appreciate your taking the time to read my monthly rants. I'm just sayin'...



Member News

Almost, Maine, directed by Valerie Haas, opens Friday, December 8th at Barefoot Productions at 240 Main Street in Plymouth, and runs for two weekends.



2017 Men's Club Annual Christmas Tree Sale:

A SPECIAL 'THANK YOU' TO ALL WHO HELPED UNLOAD CHRISTMAS TREES AFTER A 3-DAY DELAY!

There was a lot of difficulty this year with the delivery of the Christmas trees. Due to a shortage of trucks caused by the need for rigs to haul goods for hurricane relief in Texas, the tree farm that supplies our trees could not arrange delivery until Tuesday, Nov. 21. Unfortunately, because we could not get a Sat. morning delivery, we were forced to cancel our annual breakfast. Yet, thanks to the efforts of over 12 volunteers who came out mid-afternoon on Tuesday, we got the job of unloading and setting up the tree lot done by 4 pm, or in an hour-and-a half. Afterwards, a crew of people priced trees until after dark, fighting rain in the process. So a hearty 'thank you' to everyone who helped unload trees, set up the lot, and price trees. Without you, we might still be scrambling to open the tree lot.

