

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***

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



A Christmas Promise of Change!



“In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard and the goat will be at peace. Calves and yearlings will be safe among lions, and a little child will lead them all. The cattle will graze among bears. Cubs and calves will lie down together. And lions will eat grass as the livestock do. Babies will crawl safely among poisonous snakes. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes and pull it out unharmed. Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain. And as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the Lord.” (Isaiah 11:6-9 - NLT)

This prophecy is hard to imagine. We have a promise that one day the wolf and the lamb will share the same living quarters. The leopard and the baby goat will sleep together. And a little child will put halters on a lion and a calf and lead them around. The lion will eat straw like the oxen. A little child will reach down into a cobra’s den and not be harmed. Hard to imagine. But that’s the way it will be one day, according to Isaiah. This is a Christmas promise of change.

Christmas is also a celebration of the birth of Jesus, and a promise of revolutionary change! Because of the Christ child, we do not have to wait for supernatural change. The reality is that the Christ child can save us completely – we can experience radical transformation for a day-to-day living! What a wonderful Jesus we have. What a glorious message to share!

On a personal note – this Advent Season will be my last as the Pastor of Dearborn Congregational Church. My retirement at the end of this year will signal a change for our church family and a radical change in my life. I have no idea what the future holds – but I know that we are secure as long as we trust in Jesus, the Lamb of God!

From our family to yours, have a very blessed and merry Christmas!

Pastor Bill and Sue

News and Updates

Diaconate Meeting

The next Diaconate Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 12 at 7:00 pm.

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) or email dccucc@gmail.com to place your order. The last day to order is December 9.

Advent Starts December 2

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. Please volunteer to light an Advent Candle during the worship service. A sign-up sheet is available in the Mayflower Room.

The Glory of Christmas Concert – Sunday December 16

If you would like to carpool to Northridge Church in Plymouth, we will meet in our church parking lot at 1:15 pm. The concert starts at 3:00pm, so we want to give ourselves plenty of time to get there, park, and get to our seats.

Thank You!!

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

Noisy Offering Collection

Thanks to all of you who gave your loose change, dollars, and checks to our Noisy Offering for Samaritan's Purse. We collected over \$225.00.

Taking Down the Greens – January 6

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

Update on Minister Search

The Interim Ministry Search Committee is about to begin the process of screening applicants for the Minister's position which have been provided to us by the Michigan Conference UCC office in Lansing. The committee is also considering tapping into a local seminary in Detroit for candidates to interview who are brand new to Christian ministry and not yet ordained. We pray to God to give guidance and discernment to the committee as they conduct their search.

The Christmas Fund Special Offering

For over a century, the Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross has been a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world. Year after year, UCC congregations have reached out in kindness, compassion, and gratitude to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church in the past and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. In 2017, congregations generously contributed over \$1,500,000 to the Christmas Fund. The theme of this year's offering is the **Light is Surely Coming**. The goal is to raise \$1.7 million. The recipients of our gifts are persons who have faithfully served the church for many years, and now, in their time of need, you can be the church to them. You will find special Christmas Fund envelopes in your pew. Offerings will be collected through December 23.



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 will be a very 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.

Heifer International Collection For Christmas

Through Heifer International a congregation can make a lasting difference in the lives of poor families around the world in countries like Ecuador, Honduras, Cambodia and Bangladesh. The gift of livestock helps struggling families lift themselves out of poverty. Heifer gives them the direct assistance they need, like chickens, cows, pigs, even llamas, so families can create their own farms and businesses and have steady incomes. We will collect donations through December to purchase livestock and the amount we collect will determine what we buy: a flock of chickens for \$20, a goat or sheep for \$120, alpaca or llama for \$150, or a heifer for \$500.

A single llama can produce up to 20 pounds of wool which can be used for clothing and blankets, or sold at market for a sustainable income.

A goat can produce up to four gallons of milk a day.

A flock of 10-50 chicks can lay up to 200 eggs a year that can provide important protein for the family or sold at market.

Donation containers are available in the Sanctuary and Mayflower Room



Volunteer to Sell Christmas Trees

We are looking for both men AND women to work the tree lot on Friday nights and weekends up until Dec. 23. Please consider signing up for one or more 3-hour shifts. The shift schedule is Fri. 5-8 pm; Sat. & Sun.: 11 am- 2 pm, 2-5 pm, and 5-8 pm. We are seeking 2 people per shift. If you have some free time on weekends and can help, add your name to the schedule in the appropriate time slot.

Schedules are located on the table by the sanctuary door or in the Mayflower Room. You can also contact Pat Stacho (patstacho44@gmail.com) or Tammy Jabtecki (tammy930@yahoo.com) with the day(s) and time(s) you can work. Thank you!

Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet Wednesday, December 12, at 7pm.



Treasurer's Report for October 2018

Income- \$6,565.60

Expenses- \$9,696.63

Capital Improvement Fund - \$12,905.32

Investments with UBS valued at \$122,581.00

Matthew Haling, Treasurer



Pastor Kren's Retirement Luncheon

- Catered luncheon to celebrate Pastor Bill's retirement.
- Donations at the door. (Proceeds going to Rev Kren)
- Sign up sheet in Mayflower room.
- Or call the office or they can call me, Pat Stacho at 313-381-1699
- MUST sign up by the 23rd...we need a count

Luncheon immediately following worship

OUR CHURCH AT WORK
In December



Helpers for Sunday Services

Ushers:

- December 2 – Jim Haling and Tom Brown
- December 9 – Available
- December 16 – Available
- December 23 – Available
- December 30 – Available

Liturgists:

- December 2 – Karen Lawrence
- December 9 – Jim Haling
- December 16 – Jim Haling
- December 23 – Available
- December 30 – Available

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1** Janice Chapman
- 18** Brianne Schilbe
- 18** Elizabeth Bilton Rabinowitz
- 19** Teresa Curless
- 25** Baby Jesus

Dedication of Flowers

- December 2 – Available
- December 9– The Bolton Family
- December 16 – Polly Fitzpatrick
- December 23 – Poinsettias
- December 30 - Poinsettias

Fellowship Hour

- December 2 – Carol and Mac McAdam
- December 9 – Available
- December 16 – Bill and Sue Kren
- December 23 – Available
- December 30 – Pastor Kren's Retirement Celebration

PRAYER LIST



Geri Sampson	Medical Concerns
Lois Clickner	Medical Concerns
Elie Stergiou	Medical Concerns
Jane Haling	Health Issues
Carrie Goldie	Serious Medical Issues
Rev. Bill Kren	Serious Health Issues
Della King Family	Medical Concerns
Walter Crawford	Medical Concerns
Barbara Kudizus	Medical Concerns
Ron Kupersmid	Medical Concerns
Rev. Geoff Drutchas	Health Concerns
Frank Kren	Serious Health Issues
Stefanie	Serious Health Issues
Kathleen Smith	Serious Health Issues
Kevin Schilbe	Recovery from surgery
Fred Michales	Health Concern

The Preston Family upon the passing of Phyllis Preston.

The family of Shaun Davis, nephew of Tammy Jabtecki, who passed away.

Dates to Remember:

- December 2 Men's Club Meeting 11:20 am
- December 16 Christmas Concert at Northridge 3 pm
- December 24 Christmas Eve Service 7 pm
- December 30 Pastor Bill's Retirement Luncheon 11 am

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

It's December and, depending on your age, it's either delightful, or depressing. If you're young enough to be anticipating the jolly fat man in the red suit to show up, it's going to be a long month.

If you are past that magical age, anticipating long days of shopping for that "just right" gift....decorating. cleaning, cooking, drinking, (but that's just one of my solutions) it will be a long month for you too!

December should be the anticipation of family. Remembering that it is, above all else, the birthday of baby Jesus. Seems a lot of us forget that. People are spending hundreds to spoil kids and grandkids...but walk quickly past those red kettles around town. Sure seems like priorities are not in order. OK. End of lecture.

December is always the last month of 2018. The end of the year. Sadly, the end of Pastor Bill Kren's role as minister at Dearborn Congregational Church.

After five wonderfully blessed years, he is retiring on December 30, 2018. As you all are aware, he is bravely fighting cancer. The time has come for him to be with his family. The legacy he leaves us with, is one of joy, not sadness. Yes, I am heartbroken, bet many of you are too. Cancer sucks...he certainly didn't deserve it. No one does.

But God has a plan for each of us. Pastor Bill is following His plan. With humor and strength, that surely has been tested over and over, and his faith, he is giving us hope.

Hope that we will always keep in our hearts all he has taught us. Pastor Bill has touched me personally, his words of encouragement through tough days, has put faith back in my heart. That is a darn good legacy as I see it! Think of the countless people this man has

touched over the years...impressive as it gets. Joy, share the joy he shared with us. Smile when you speak of our Serminator.

So I just want to say "thank you Pastor Bill....you served us well. You will be missed. You will always be an inspiration, a source of remembered stories..("True story") and above all, loved. We love you, Pastor Bill. I'm just saying.





**Christmas Craft Show
Unique Gift Ideas for Everyone on
your list!**

**Take a break from the cold and
find that special gift!**

Lots of crafters and Bake Sale too.

Saturday, December 8, 2018

**10 am-5 pm
Dearborn Congregational Church**