

# The Messenger

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## A Newsletter for Dearborn Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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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**



Time is a funny thing. It's something that everyone, from the weakest to the mightiest, must obey equally. And it's something we really don't understand at all. The great Augustine said that if nobody asks him, he knows what it is. But if somebody asks him to explain it, he does not know. So as we are approaching the end of 2019, I wanted to share a few things about this oddball thing we call time.

1. First, time is closing the curtain on 2019. Many of us can relate to the experience that, as we get older, time seems to fly by faster. It's insane how quickly our almost 9 months together have flown. But it's hard to measure the worth of our time together simply by how many pages we've turned over on the calendar. Rather, I will forever cherish the deepening relationships between new friends and old, the gifts of joy and peace and grace, and the opportunities to change the world that time (and God) has granted us.
2. The close of the year is also a great time for looking at what lies ahead. January (yeah, still a month away) gets its name from the Roman god, Janus who was conceived as having a face looking backward, and a face looking forward. I may be early (another *time* related concept) talking about 2020, but it's definitely not too early to envision how God is equipping us for the next phase of ministry. I can't wait to see it materialize!
3. I've enjoyed promoting having something to **do** at the close of the sermons over the last few weeks, giving us all a challenge for the days after our worship experience. (Yes, I do the challenges, too.) Next week, December 1, we will be challenged with doing some random acts of kindness. That is, doing good to people around us in a way that is sometimes described as "paying it forward". This idea is both amazingly biblical and biblically ironic. It's biblical because we're told over and over to do good to everyone. It's ironic because we're not actually paying it forward as much as we're responding to the blessings we've already been granted through Christ. And the great serendipitous (I love that word that means something good you get that you were not actually seeking) thing about paying it forward is that it often promotes other people paying it forward for others! Let's change the world!
4. Finally, now is the time we celebrate the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I love the way the apostle Paul puts it: When the *time* have fully come, God sent His son... (Galatians 4:4). However else we think about Christmas, whenever it actually happened, I'm confident that it happened just at the right time in history way back then (a *time* thing) to change our lives in the present (another *time* thing) and will continue changing the universe into the forever future (the ultimate *time* thing).



### 2019 Men's Club Annual Christmas Tree Sale

The Men's Club is pleased to announce that we will again sell Christmas Trees this year. The trees have been unloaded and the lot set up. All trees are marked with the type of tree and the price. We are always looking for plenty of volunteers for selling trees. This season is a short season for selling as there are only four weekends until Christmas. We will start selling trees, Friday, November 29 th . For selling trees, sign-up sheets will be available at church. Selling times will be in the usual 3-hour blocks. As you can see, there is plenty to do, but every year, we as a church community rise to the occasion and make a successful annual tree sale. Bring a friend or guest, all are welcome.

To volunteer, just contact: John Peters or Jim Haling to be put on the schedule.

John: [joopett13@hotmail.com](mailto:joopett13@hotmail.com)

Jim: [jimhaling@gmail.com](mailto:jimhaling@gmail.com)

Jim Haling



### **Christmas Eve Service - December 24**

Come and join us on Christmas Eve at **7:00 PM** for a special service of Christmas carols and candlelight. Come celebrate the birth of Jesus.

### **Poinsettias**

Starting Sunday, December 1, you can place your order for Poinsettias. They are a wonderful way to honor or remember loved ones in your life and also to beautify the Sanctuary for Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve. The cost is \$8.00 each. Look for the sign-up sheets in the Mayflower Room and Sanctuary to place your order and dedication. You can also call the church office at 313-271-8552 or email [dccucc@gmail.com](mailto:dccucc@gmail.com) to place your order. Payment can be given to Nancy or you can put an envelope in the offering plate marked "Poinsettia". Please be sure to put your name on the envelope if you are paying with cash. The deadline is December 15.

### **Boar's Head Festival Concert - December 8**

We are planning an outing to the Boar's Head Festival Concert featuring the Vanguard Voices and the Boar's Head Festival Orchestra at Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church located at Cherry Hill and Telegraph in Dearborn on Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 PM. The cost is a free-will offering. Having something to eat before or after the concert is something we are planning to do, too. (Location to be determined.) Please sign the sheet in the Mayflower Room or Sanctuary, if you are interested in attending.



### **After-Christmas Service in the Mayflower Room**

-On Sunday, Dec. 29, at 10 am, we will gather in the Mayflower Room, in front of the fireplace, for our annual informal year-end worship service led by Brian Sampson. Join us for a time of hymn singing and reminiscing about memorable faith events in our own lives. A virtuoso violinist and professional singer is slated to perform, too! If you're in town for the holidays, you won't want to miss it!

**Thank You!** – We have delivered three turkeys with all the sides and trimmings to the Lennon Center to help three pregnant women enjoy their Thanksgiving holiday. Thanks to all who generously donated!

**Advent Offering Folders** are available in the Sanctuary and Mayflower Room. By using these folders, a daily donation of one or two quarters through December 24 will yield an offering of \$15.00. If you would rather not collect quarters, there is also a slot in the folder to insert a check or currency. If at least 20 of us give a \$15.00 offering, we will have an additional \$300 for the month of December. As we prepare for the Advent season, please consider participating in this special offering for our church.

### **Advent Readers**

The Advent season begins Sunday, December 1 and we are looking for volunteers to read and light the Advent candles for December 15 and Christmas Eve. Please sign the sheet in the Mayflower Room, if you are interested.

December 1- John Peters & Teresa Curless

December 8- Jim & Linda Haling

December 15- **Available**

December 22- Karen Lawrence

Christmas Eve- **Available**

**Flyer Promoting Advent and Christmas** -Rev. Lew and his wife, Jen, designed and had printed 750 door hangers inviting people to our Advent services in December, as well as the Christmas Eve service and Sunday-after Christmas gathering in the Mayflower Room. The hanger also contains information about our Christmas tree lot with days and times the lot is open. If you would like some door hangers to pass out in your neighborhood and help spread the word about our church during the holidays, please let John Peters know at [joopett13@hotmail.com](mailto:joopett13@hotmail.com) or call (313) 255-7774. NOTE: The Springwells Park neighborhood (single homes) has already been covered!



### **Hanging of the Greens & Potluck Dinner - December 6**

Join us on Friday, December 6 at 6:30 PM for an evening of food, fellowship, and fun as we prepare for the Advent season. Ham will be provided for the main course and we ask that you bring a dish to pass. Dinner will be in the Mayflower Room followed by hanging fresh greens and decorating the Christmas tree selected from our very own tree lot. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Sanctuary or Mayflower Room so we know how many to plan for and also indicate what dish you would like to bring.

### **Taking Down the Greens - January 5**

What goes up, must come down. Please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, January 5 to help take down the Christmas tree and decorations and help store them away for another year.

### **Diaconate Meeting**

The Diaconate is scheduled to meet Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 PM.

## OUR CHURCH AT WORK IN DECEMBER

### Helpers for Sunday Services

#### Ushers:

December 1 –  
December 8 –  
December 15 –  
December 22 –  
December 29 –

#### Liturgists:

December 1 –  
December 8 –  
December 15 –  
December 22 –  
December 29 –

### PRAYER LIST



Barb Allen 10/27	Health Concern
Gail Waggoner 10/27	Health Concern
Teresa Curless 10/27	Chemotherapy
Pauline Gourlay 10/27	Shut In
Fred Michales 10/27	Health Concern
Tom Schlaflf 10/27	Recovering from a fall
Carrie Goldie 10/27	Health Concern
Ken Wolffe 10/27	Serious Surgery
Sue Medellin, Friend of Tammy Jabetcki, 11/17	Serious Health Concern

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.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Janice Chapman  
18 Brianne Schilbe  
18 Elizabeth Bilton Rabinowitz  
20 Kathryn Weyeneth  
25 Baby Jesus

### Dedication of Flowers

December 1 – Gail Waggoner  
December 8 – Valerie Haas, in loving memory of her Mom, Patricia Mangrum  
December 15 – The Bolton Family, in loving memory of their Mother, Betty Bolton  
December 22 – Poinsettias  
December 29 – Poinsettias

### Fellowship Hour

December 1 – Fred Michales  
December 8 –  
December 15 –  
December 22 –  
December 29 –

### Treasurer's Report for October 2019

Income- \$11, 845.00  
Expenses- \$6,682.10  
Capital Improvement Fund - \$13,230.32  
Investments with UBS valued at \$102,290.16

Matthew Haling, Treasurer

### Dates to Remember:

December 6 6:30 pm Hanging Greens/Potluck  
December 8 4:00 pm Boars Head Festival  
December 11 7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting  
December 11 7:00 pm Diaconate Board Meeting  
December 22 10:00 am Christmas Carol Sunday  
December 24 7:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve  
Worship  
December 29 10:00 am After-Christmas Service  
Mayflower Room

It's December...you know what that means!

By now the Thanksgiving leftovers are a memory, the carcass was magically transformed into Turkey noodle soup. And soon we can all do our best Barbara Walters impersonation...."I'm Pat Stacho, and this is 2020."

But let's not rush it. Let's enjoy the holidays. Yeah, right! I am 75, officially an old lady. I remember when Christmas was a joy, not a test of endurance. We would ask for 2, maybe 3 things from Santa. And we were thrilled if we got one of them.. Our stockings were not full of GIFTS. We usually got an orange, some nuts, Hershey kisses, if we were lucky....black jack chewing gum, and some coins. There was no whining....we were blessed.

Christmas Eve was a family celebration. Wasilla (vigil night) was celebrated every year, with great anticipation from the youngest to the oldest. Wasilla is a Polish tradition. Dinner is served at 6:00 pm, 12 meatless dishes, representing the 12 apostles is served. Perogi, herring in cream sauce, fish, potato pancakes, borscht, mushrooms, a cabbage dish, noodles with poppy seed....and delicious desserts to make up the 12 dishes. There was always a lamb butter and wafers, representing Holy Communion, which we shared with each person, breaking off a small piece from each person. After dinner, we all sang Christmas carols, listened to the grandparents share stories. Lots of laughter, tears at times, but oh...so much love. At 11:30 we all walked together to church for Midnight mass. THAT, my dear friends, was Christmas.

Wish we could go back.

So this year, let's all take a step back. Spend Christmas with family, friends, and above all, with Our Lord. Make memories with the ones you love. Memories to last a lifetime. Better than DEBT lasting all year.

Remember those we've lost, those serving our country. And Merry Christmas everyone.

We'll talk next year. I have plenty left to talk about! Just saying.

