

# 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**



December, 2021

## TIS' THE SEASON

Decorations fill our streets. The trees are up. A chill is in the air, and light snow has already fallen. Christmas is coming. Stores are beckoning us to buy gifts for loved ones, friends, and co-workers. The objective, we've been told, is to share the joy of Christmas. Yet Christmas is also, and always, about the coming of Christ. Christmas is about expectations and new beginnings.

However, for the second year in a row, still in the grip of a pandemic, churches are working to accommodate worshippers with coronavirus protocols and messages of hope after another long, dark year. Our church is no different. A manifestation of that is the decision to sacrifice our Christmas Eve service once again, but this time in favor of an individualized approach. On Dec. 24, we will open the church for a short period in the evening for those who wish to stop by to meditate and pray. There will be a reading, but there will be no music and no singing -just a time to reflect on the meaning of Christmas and celebrate inwardly the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It can also serve as a time to bring light into the darkness, to make a clear path in the wilderness, and to bring each of us new opportunities. As this is likely our LAST Christmas in the building where we have gathered to worship on Sunday mornings for decades, I expect it will be poignant for many. I sincerely hope and pray that you will find a free moment to pay your respects on this day, if only to say farewell to our church home at the same time as you welcome the arrival of the Christ child.

In the coming weeks, may we each take individual steps to spend more time considering our relationship with the Lord we worship and the Savior whose birth was the greatest gift ever given. We will take time to focus on these relationships on Sunday mornings together during Advent -the time of preparation for Jesus' birth. And on Dec. 26, the day after Christmas, we invite you all to come in joyful adoration of Jesus, the Word made flesh, as we sing songs of praise in a very special service. I pray that you will join us.

God bless you all and have a safe, peaceful, and joyful holiday season.

John Peters, Moderator

## DEDICATION OF FLOWER

**December 5** - Polly Fitzpatrick,  
In loving memory of Jim Quick  
**December 12** – Mark and Susan Dobronski  
In loving memory of Harry and Jerry Slater  
**December 19** – In honor of Tom and Cheryl  
Brown’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
**December 26** – Poinsettias from poinsettia  
tree  
**January 2, 2022** - Mark and Susan  
Dobronskis,  
All who worshiped and served  
Greenfield/Dearborn Congregational Churches.



### PRAYER LIST



**Tracy Dodes**, 12/05, Friend of Linda Haling  
Young teacher recently diagnosed with breast cancer  
**Mary Ann Clough**, 12/05, Friend of Tammy Jabtecki  
Health Concern  
**Cindy Toma**, 12/05, Friend of Tammy Jabtecki, Battling stage  
liver cancer.  
**Dee Schilbe**, 12/05, Mom of Kevin, Health Concern  
**Joann Herron**, 12/05, Friend of T. Curless, Stomach Cancer  
**Baby Kayden**, 12/05, Friend of Linda Haling, He is waiting for  
heart transplant  
**Michelle Campeau**, 12/05 Undergoing Treatment  
**Lew Worthington**, 12/05 Doing well  
**Gail Waggoner** Long-Term Health Issues  
**Pat Stacho**, 12/05 Rehabilitation  
**Sue Wilson**, Ongoing Health Concern  
**Carrie Goldie**, Ongoing Health Concern  
**Lois Clickner** Ongoing Health Concern

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

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

18 Brianne Schilbe  
18 Elizabeth Bilton Rabinowitz  
18 John Peters  
25 Baby Jesus



### Treasurer's Report for October 2021

Income- \$2,388.24  
Expenses- \$5,776.33

Citizens Account - \$3,457.68  
Investments with UBS valued at \$103,571.71

Treasurer

### **Dates to Remember:**

December 14 3 pm Trustees Meeting  
December 24 7 pm Christmas Eve Meditation



Sunday Services During Advent: Advent began last Sunday with a special reading and lighting of the Hope candle. Our four Sunday services in December will feature special readings and the traditional lighting of Advent candles for Peace, Love, and Joy, culminating in the lighting of the Christ Candle. Brian Sampson will present a series of sermons focusing on those weekly themes from the four Gospels. We hope you'll join us!

Christmas Eve "Open House": In place of our traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service, which won't take place due to the increase in Covid cases, the church will be open between 7 and 7:30 pm on Christmas Eve for a time of individual meditation and prayer. A special reading will be given by the Moderator, too. Everyone is welcome to stop in. More information will be shared about the occasion as the day draws nearer.

"Day After Christmas" Service -Sunday, Dec. 26: We officially observe the birth of Jesus Christ and celebrate his arrival with songs of joyful praise as part of our regular Sunday service led by Brian Sampson.

No Poinsettia Orders this Christmas: Due to the pandemic's effect on our in-person attendance, the Diaconate will not take orders for poinsettias for the altar this year. However, a poinsettia tree featuring over 20 poinsettias will grace the platform in front of the altar. Be sure to come and see it!

Parking Lot Salting Schedule: For those who come to church during the week- this winter, the parking lot will be salted on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays only. So if you're planning a meeting or have other business to tend to in the building, keep in mind this schedule on weeks we have inclement weather as you may wish to plan accordingly and come when the lot is free of ice.

NOTE: The Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 3 pm (NEW day and time)

Volunteering to Go Through Rooms: We're almost done with the 1st floor as far as taking stock of our property to determine what to keep, or to offer our members for sale when we move. Only the room behind the choir loft needs to be done on the ground level. We still need help with basement storage, basement kitchen, and garage areas. A sign-up sheet is on the card table in the sanctuary on which to add your name if you can help. Feel free to come to the church on your own time if you have a key, or stop by on Wed., Thurs., or Fri. from 1-3 pm when our secretary, Liz, is at church to let you in. If items are too large to be moved but worth keeping, please list the item on a sheet of paper and leave it in the Moderator's mailbox. Soon, we'll have a procedure on selling items to members and friends among the things we won't be taking with us to another church.

Altar Flowers: If you'd like to dedicate flowers in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones or people in the church; or to recognize special occasions like an anniversary, there are two Sundays open in December. Just call the office (313-271-8552) or send an email ([dccucc@gmail.com](mailto:dccucc@gmail.com)) with the Sunday you'd like flowers for the altar and details of your dedication. The cost is \$15, payable to the church, which can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or dropped off/mailed to the church. Payment should be made in advance.

Donate to Downriver for Veterans: We're looking for food, personal items, clothing, and pillows to give to Downriver for Veterans in Wyandotte. At this time of year, especially, our veterans could really use the assistance! You can place items in a plastic bag or box and leave them in, or next to the bin behind the pews in back of the chapel. Thank you for your donations!

View the Sunday Bulletin Online!: The bulletin is posted on our website every week BEFORE the Sunday service, usually by Friday evening. Just go to [www.dccdearborn.org](http://www.dccdearborn.org) and click on 'DCC Home' at the top of the page, then the last link -'Weekly Bulletin'. The first entry on the next page is the current bulletin. You will see two separate columns side-by-side: 'Worship' and 'Announcements'. To see the Order of Worship, click the word 'Worship'. To see the announcements, prayer list, and flower dedication, click the word 'Announcements'. Those who watch live on Facebook on Sunday mornings can check the latest post on the church Facebook page for links that instantly take you to the bulletin.

Give Online at Your Convenience!: As another giving option, you can now go online to give to the church or pay your pledge. Go to [www.dccdearborn.org](http://www.dccdearborn.org) and click on the yellow "Donate" button. You DO NOT need a Paypal account. Just pay with a major credit card and enter the information asked for. Also, if you are a Facebook user and go to the "Dearborn Congregational Church, UCC" page, you'll see a post on the right side of this page with a link to our web button, as well. We invite you to take advantage of this feature!



THANK YOU! ...to John Proctor and Jim Haling for repairing the boiler in the basement so we have heat on Sunday mornings Also, thank you to Jim for adjusting the chapel door to make it easier to open.

# I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

with Pat Stacho

It's December! Repeat...it's December! We are heading to a new year. (I am going to wish you all a very merry Christmas. Love and blessings to each and everyone.. There. I'm done.

Sadly, I have no Christmas spirit this year. Having made it through a very difficult year, I was looking forward to a subdued holiday. Time to appreciate my family, friends and many blessings. Silly me, I really thought the true spirit of Christmas would return. But the insanity has doubled. Buy more...buy now! Buy...buy..CHARGE!

Wouldn't you think after all that we've gone through, we would appreciate simply being together, loving one another, and letting Christmas be for kids? Guess not!

Which reminds me....when did the stocking tradition become a loan worthy gift?? Can anyone else remember getting an orange, maybe some lifesavers, a few nuts, a box of crayons and maybe a few Hershey kisses? Now the "stocking" costs more than our entire Christmas past!

You know what else aggravates me? Loss of perfectly good words in favor of lol...brb..idk, etc. And, yes, sadly I have been guilty of using them. And worse, knowing what they mean! When was the last time you heard the word acquaintance? What a great word. I know you, but you're not quite a friend yet, we're acquaintances. How about "curmudgeon?". Our book club read "A man called Ove," a true curmudgeon. Although lovable, a curmudgeon no less. Feel free to use that word as needed.

One final rant. The hell with HAPPY HOLIDAYS! It's MERRY CHRISTMAS! Once again,

Love and blessings to all....and to all a good night.

I'm just sayin'.

