

# 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  
16350 Rotunda Drive  
Dearborn, MI 48120-1120  
313-271-8552  
*E-mail: [dccucc@gmail.com](mailto:dccucc@gmail.com)*  
*Website: [www.dccdearborn.org](http://www.dccdearborn.org)*

*WORSHIP SERVICE EVERY **SUNDAY AT 10:00 A.M***



## The Reason for the Season in a Time of Trial

Now is the time we celebrate the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the gifts of joy, peace, and grace. However this year, we fully anticipate our celebrations will be muted, thanks to a terrible virus that rages unmercifully and discriminates against no one. While we have hope in our hearts that a safe and effective vaccine will soon be available to everyone and finally end this time of suffering, we know Christmas will look very different for our families and the spirit of the season has been wounded for many, desperately in need of revival. And so we wait...

When you think about it, isn't this the perfect setting for the dawning of the Kingdom of God among us? Who better to receive the season's message of hope than we who find ourselves isolated, or alone, or in distress as a result of the loss of a loved one or loss of a job that provided us a decent living?

"May God, who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts and unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in you..." (Thessalonians 2:16-17)

There's spiritual wisdom to the idea that we don't just flip a switch marked "celebration" or suddenly proclaim "peace and goodwill." We prepare for it. We wait for it. We consider what we need to do, by way of making peace and extending forgiveness, so that "peace and goodwill" are more than empty sentiments when we proclaim them. And once we make that proclamation, we have done the greatest service for humankind, which is to share the light and love of Jesus Christ with those who find themselves in the depths of despair due to an unforeseen crisis and need the Good News of our Lord and Savior.

If you are able to celebrate Christmas in Hallmark greeting card style, by all means enjoy it and as you do, be sure and count your blessings. As hard as it is to believe, blessings are there for all of us, no matter our circumstances: we can use the quiet time to reflect on and remember the first Christmas and earnestly seek out the peace of the season. Above all, we must embrace the core truth that Jesus really does live, and the hope and peace that he embodies is available to all, no matter how we end up spending December 25<sup>th</sup>.

Merry Christmas everyone! Be safe and make wise choices. And if you choose to go out, wear a mask. Yes, it is that simple.

(Excerpted from various sources, including the *Messenger*, Dec. 2013)

Sunday Services During Advent: Advent begins on November 29 this year, so our next four Sunday services will feature special readings and traditional weekly lighting of the Advent candles, culminating in the lighting of the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve. Brian Sampson will present a series of Advent sermons, too.

Virtual Christmas Concert!: The Diaconate along with Brian Sampson are planning an online Christmas concert to be performed on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 3 pm that will be shown on Facebook Live but will also be available on YouTube for viewing anytime. Look for a holiday card in the mail soon containing more details!

No Poinsettias this Christmas: Due to the pandemic's effect on in-person attendance, the Diaconate will not take orders for poinsettias for the altar this year.

Christmas Tree Sale is CANCELLED: Unfortunately, due to the Covid pandemic and the care being taken by our members to avoid contact with others, we simply didn't have enough volunteers to staff a tree lot this year. And with all the uncertainty surrounding the situation, we felt it best to cancel. God willing, we will return to full strength and have a successful Christmas Tree Sale next year!

View the Sunday Bulletin Online!: The bulletin is loaded on our website every week BEFORE the Sunday service. It's posted 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 on 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 all to take advantage of this feature!

Fundraiser for the Mayflower Room Roof: The roof has been fixed and the ceiling in the Mayflower Room and kitchen just needs a paint job. We are indeed thankful to God and to everyone else involved in restoring our building! But we're still \$8,000 short of our \$25,000 fundraising goal to pay for the repairs. Can we count on you? During this holy season, we pray you'll consider a special gift to Dearborn Congregational Church with an offering in person or by mail. God bless each of you who have answered our call!

Church Treasurer Needed: We're still looking for a Treasurer. While an important job, the work doesn't require special training and it's not especially time-consuming as many of the duties are automated or can be done with online banking. There are a handful of other tasks which are done once a year, too. We will train the new Treasurer on entering data on computer spreadsheets and using online banking. If interested in serving in this capacity or if you have questions, please contact John Peters (313) 255-7774 or Arnie Schilbe at (313) 318-5016 (cell).

## DEDICATION OF FLOWERS

December 6 – Valerie Mangrum, in loving memory of her mother, Pat Mangrum

December 13 – In loving memory of Betty Bolton, from the Bolton family

December 20 – Available

December 27 – Available



## PRAYER LIST



**Gail Waggoner**, 10/25 Gail has returned to her residence at River Glen.

**Pat Stacho**, 10/25 Upcoming Surgery

**Deanna Sample**, 10/25 Major Health Issue

**Carl House**, 11/29 Son-in-law of Toni Boyd

Recovering from major heart surgery

**Terry Curless**, 10/25 Brother of Teresa Curless

Serious Health Issue

**Jake Sherman**, 10/25 Friend of Tammy Jabtecki

Serious Health Issue

**Carrie Goldie**, 10/25 Recent Hospitalization

**Joann Michales**, 11/22 Recovering from Knee Surgery

**Heather Brooks**, Granddaughter of Pete and Pat Stacho  
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

25 Baby Jesus



## Treasurer's Report for October 2020

Income- \$8,333.00

Expenses- \$5,857.68

Citizens Account - \$33,715.69

Investments with UBS valued at \$100,010.99

### **Date to Remember:**

|             |      |                   |
|-------------|------|-------------------|
| December 9  | 7 pm | Trustees Meeting  |
| December 20 |      | Virtual Concert   |
|             |      | Diaconate Meeting |
| December 28 | 7 pm | Book Club         |

### Thank You!

Thank you so much to everyone for your generous donations to the Lennon Pregnancy Center food drive. With your donations, many young mothers were able to celebrate and enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with their families.

# I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

It's DECEMBER! The last month of 2020!. 2020 .... The longest five years of my life!! We made it through Thanksgiving. It was certainly different, wasn't it? At least I hope it was for you too. I missed being with my son and daughter in law, but we talked on the phone and shared some sweet memories of Thanksgivings past. Actually I think this year was more precious and made us REALLY thankful.

But Christmas will be a tough one. No family gatherings. But this is a perfect time to rethink Christmas. Wouldn't it be great to not stress over buying gifts which we can't afford? Do your grandkids know the joy of finding oranges, candy, maybe even a dollar bill in their stocking? (Mine was a quarter) When did the stocking become such a bonanza??? We need to celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus, not the release of a new I phone.

The Covid crisis is not going away anytime soon. But it WILL go away. We will make sacrifices, wear our masks, practice social distancing and whatever it takes to insure that Christmas 2021 we can, once again, celebrate with our family and friends.

I lost a dear friend to Covid 19. Her family has no idea when or where Linda contracted the virus, but she died 14 days after being admitted to the hospital. Died! Died alone! Leaving her family to grieve. Some Christmas they will have! Keep that in mind.

Christmas is the most beautiful time of the year. Take time to call family and friends we can't be with. I know they would love to hear from you. Stay safe. Do the right thing so that we will be here next Christmas!

I wish all of you a very merry Christmas. Watch a couple of the classic holiday movies! Smile, laugh and love the one you're with.

As for the New Year...well.. we'll face that when it comes! But we'll face it together.

Ho ho ho. I'm just saying

## **December Book Club**

**Book Club is reading, "America 1927. We will meet on Zoom, on December 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The books are available in the church office.**