

The Messenger

A Newsletter for Dearborn Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Dearborn Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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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.



Running the Race

In one of his routines, Jerry Seinfeld commented that racehorses must be confused animals. At the start of a race, the jockeys are all excited, and they start whipping and kicking their horse to run as fast as possible, to win a race. But they don't take the shortest route possible - they all run in a big circle and end up right where it all began.

Last month, we rang in the new year! We were off to the races - doing our best to keep resolutions and not make the same mistakes of 2017. Our goal in 2018 was to do things differently. Exercise more. Spend less. Clean up the clutter. Reach some goals we missed, last year.

And now, it's one month later and we've experienced a setback, or maybe it's been more than a few disappointments. It's so easy to be discouraged or to feel overwhelmed by events that seem to steal any blessings and squash all joy. February is the month people abandon resolutions and fall into a rut. This year, let's just say "no!"

God promises us that he has a plan for 2018 – it's a future with hope. With His help, we can look forward to God's destiny for our lives. Here are two promises for February and beyond:

Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

A few weeks ago we held our annual Congregational Meeting and learned that the finances were thin, the workers are few, and the workload seems impossible. I don't know how this year will end, but I do know that God always has a beautiful purpose. And if we just keep on keeping on – we will win the race!

February Blessings,



Pastor Bill Kren

FROM THE DIACONATE

Memorial Service – February 3

There will be a Memorial Service at Dearborn Congregational Church for Irene Moxon on Saturday, February 3 at 12:00 pm.

Ash Wednesday Supper and Service – February. 14

Our Lenten journey of prayer and sacrifice begins February 14. We will start the evening with a light supper of bread and home-made soups and chili. Supper will be at 6:00 pm followed by our traditional Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm led by Rev. Kren. If you would like to make a soup or chili, please let Nancy know. If you're interested in coming to the supper, please add your name to the sheet in the Mayflower Room or Sanctuary and indicate the number of people attending. We hope you will join us.

Sunday, February 25

Brian Sampson will be giving the sermon on February 25 while Rev. Kren and Sue enjoy a visit with their son and his family in California.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Begins February 25

This year's theme is "More Than We Can Imagine". As the Apostle Paul writes, "by the power at work within us," God is able to "accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). "We are the agents of transformation that God uses to transfigure this world" (Archbishop Desmond Tutu). Wishing and dreaming of a better world means nothing if we don't realize that God gives us community to practice love and compassion. We cannot only care for ourselves, but we must also care about those around us, both near and far. Our gifts become part of a loving legacy in

ways we can't foresee. Our gifts become blessings to people we don't know and blesses in ways we can't expect. We can make a difference beyond what we can imagine. One Great Hour of Sharing is a Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food and give relief from disasters. Special offering envelopes will be in the pews February 25 through March 11.

Diaconate Meeting

The Diaconate Board is scheduled to meet Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 pm.

Fish & Loaves Food Pantry

We continue to collect non-perishable food items for the Fish & Loaves Food Pantry located in Taylor.

Your donated food items may be placed in the baskets behind



the last pew in the Sanctuary. Please also check the expiration dates. Expired items cannot be accepted.

Treasurer's Report for December 2017

Income- \$5,341.00

Expenses- \$8,804.83

Capital Improvement Fund - \$ 12,830.32

Investments with UBS valued at \$177,395.68

Matthew Haling, Treasurer



OUR CHURCH AT WORK In February



Helpers for Sunday Services

Ushers:

February 4 – Henry Zawu & Pete Stacho
 February 11 – Available
 February 18 – Available
 February 25 – Available

Liturgists:

February 4 – Sue Wilson
 February 11 – Available
 February 18 – Available
 February 25 – Valerie Haas

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

6 John Haling
 Pete Stacho
 15 Ian Haas
 Greyson Hansen
 17 Sue Kren
 25 Tom Brown
 27 Thomas Mawhinney

Dedication of Flowers - February

February 4 – Gail Waggoner
 February 11 – Bill Kren
 February 18 – Bill & Sue Kren
 February 25 – 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 |
| Nancy Gerlach | Medical Concerns |
| Family of Mary Ellen Matchynski | Bereavement |
| Family and friends of Irene Moxon | Bereavement |

Fellowship Hour – February

February 4 – Nancy Wolter & Marty Warren
 February 11 – Available
 February 18 – Available
 February 25 – Available

Dates to Remember:

February 7 Diaconate Meeting 7pm
 February 14 Ash Wednesday Supper & Service
 6pm & 7pm
 February 21 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

It's February! Already!

February is the shortest month of the year. There's a reason for that; February is a dreary month. If there's snow, it's usually left over from January, which means it's dirty, gray, and dreary. The sun, when shining, is often intermittent. Sun peeking out from random clouds. The song "Gray Skies" comes to mind.

Temperatures vary. You can leave the house in a sweater and your winter jacket, and break out in a sweat because Mother Nature cannot decide what the weather should be. Take off that jacket, sure way to guarantee a cold front coming your way. Trust me, it will happen. It wasn't always the "change."

Some will suggest Valentine's day makes February worth it. Maybe when I was 20 and had suitors bringing heart shaped boxes of Sander's candy, cologne and sweet, syrupy Hallmark cards. And dinner, and a night out to the movies, or dancing. Hmm, perhaps it wasn't always dreary. But now I can't have the candy, and cards are too expensive, give me the cash! Dancing is out of the question, I'm doing my best to keep walking!! As for dinner, I'm comfy in my pj's; delivery works for me.

Pete's birthday is in February. Whoo hoo...a party! Come on people, do you really think Pete is a party animal?!? Lol. Love him dearly, but he's Eeyore in disguise. Probably why he was born in

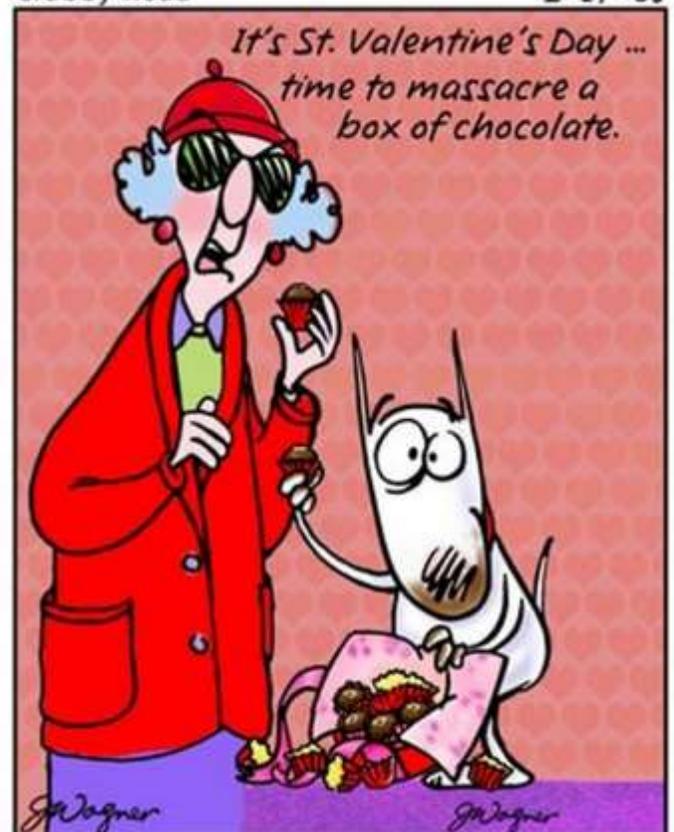
February. So I usually make a big deal out of the day of his birth...Love to aggravate him, keeps his juices flowing. (Happy 75th honey.)

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's day. So for Lent I am giving up sunbathing. Should be easy since it's hardly sunny, warm, or something I would do anyway.

I will however, be counting down the 28 days of February. April is just around the corner, SPRING!! We can get through this, I'm just sayin'...

Crabby Road

2-14-08



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In Memory of Irene...

The choir sings a chorus often, "Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful, may the fire of our devotion light their way." If you believe this



premise, then the future of this church is secure, because we are blessed with many faithful, devoted servants who have dedicated their lives to the work of this great institution. One I would like to highlight is one who has sung this chorus many times: my dear friend, Irene Moxon.

I cannot pen in a short article words that represent the work that she accomplished beginning when she came on staff as Director of Religious Education in 1961. A big undertaking for her, because at that time there were 213 children in the Sunday school, 40 infants in cradle roll, and 22 in confirmation classes. Irene taught, went on youth group outings, picked curriculum, did teacher training, made sure all the classrooms and the nursery were operational, and any other work that was not expected of her title, but the church expected her to do it because she was "staff". Many times the job was so demanding that it involved personal sacrifice because it took her away from her family, yet still she pressed on. Well, she did it, and she did it well, because in a short time she was promoted to associate minister of Greenfield Congregational Church.

And now, Irene was given the responsibility of filling in the pulpit for the minister when he was ill or on vacation; a role that continued for over 50 years. Anyone who has heard her preach has been inspired. With her English accent, she humbly delivered eloquent sermons emphasizing one simple biblical truth.

A clear, organized, concise message, and a lesson many full-time pastors

could learn (present company excluded). I have heard thousands of sermons in my lifetime and Irene's are some of the most memorable.

Irene's resignation from the staff did not end her service to the church. She continued working in many roles: as Chairman of the Trustees, Chair of the Diaconate, Chair of the



Music Committee, and many other official capacities too numerous to list. She

sang in the choir faithfully since before I have been here and up until last year, assisting me with the music and, most importantly, coming early and making coffee for choir rehearsal.

She was enlisted as a cook by Lee Schilbe, who taught her how to cook for large crowds. Together they would cook for the Rummage



Sale crew, Palm Sunday Brunch, and any other church function that required food. She continued doing so even after the death of her mentor and dear friend, Lee.

And now, on a more personal note, for over 15 years as music director here, Irene has been my go to person. She and I held the pulpit here between ministers, sharing ideas and developing a program to keep the church going. All along, she offered me advice, support, been my ally (when church politics arise), my confidante, my friend, and my sister in Christ. For me, and on behalf of this church, I thank her for her devotion to God and to the church. If we all listen, I'm sure we can hear Irene's voice singing in the celestial choir.

A Memorial Service for Irene Moxon will be on Saturday, February 3rd, 2018, at 12pm at Dearborn Congregational Church.

Following the Memorial Service, the family invites you to join them for a luncheon at:

Corsi's Restaurant
27910 W. Seven Mile Road
Livonia

Memorials may be designated to Dearborn Congregational Church.

Those we love
don't go away,
they walk beside us
every day...
unseen, unheard,
but always near,
still loved,
still missed
and very dear.

Brian Sampson