

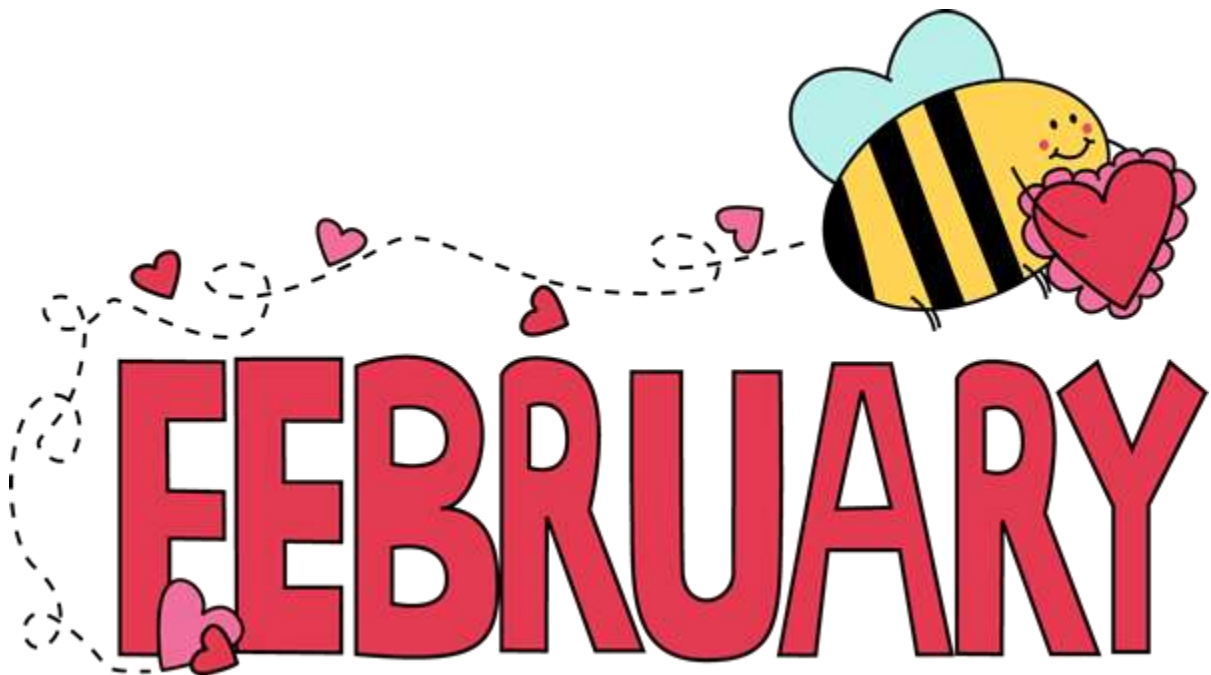
The Messenger

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**



MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

Clearly, time is of the essence. Based on projected forecasts and recent budget deficits, our day of reckoning will come sometime late in the year 2020 or by mid-2021 unless we take the necessary steps to ensure our survival. We can no longer afford to “kick the can” down the road. Granted, there's a lot of uncertainty and we don't yet know how this is all going to shake out. And nobody wants to talk about closing! I believe a church is worth saving...our church is worth saving! A good place to start is by asking yourself if you are doing everything you can to support Dearborn Congregational Church. Can you increase the amount you give? The bible references tithing. And though giving 10% of one's income to the church may be unrealistic in these times, I think many of us can all dig a little deeper, while acknowledging that some of us are already giving to our full ability. We also need to “think outside the box” and look at options that buy us time - by finding additional sources of income and cutting costs. Several ideas were presented at the Annual Meeting in January, and while not all of them may be practical for our situation - it forces us to think. As an example, some churches “share a minister”. Each church pays one-half the salary of the minister who divides his time between both churches but preaches in the same church every Sunday. An arrangement like this would cut our recent deficits roughly in half - assuming member giving and other offerings remain close to current levels. There are also a number of small congregations holding worship in former storefronts - not church buildings. One such church meets in the old Adray Appliance location in Dearborn. Would approaching them to ask if they'd like to worship with us in our sanctuary provide a boost for our church? Would they merge with our congregation? Perhaps it's worth exploring.

Meanwhile, we currently search for an interim pastor through the work of a 7-person Search Committee. It will be hard, if not impossible, to fill the shoes of Pastor Kren, but with change comes new possibilities. The Search Committee is considering options outside the UCC and the Michigan Conference in its efforts to find a new minister too - like interviewing recently graduated seminary students, and consulting job sites on the Web with postings from people looking for work in Christian ministry.

Right now, we don't have a minister. And we're only in the early stages of our search. So I encourage all of you not to lose heart. It's extremely important that we stick together and re-dedicate ourselves to the work and support of Dearborn Congregational Church. Because it's going to take all of us playing a part to make it happen. I believe a church is worth saving. Do you?

FROM THE DIACONATE

Game & Pizza Night-Friday!

It's not too late to come and enjoy an evening of games, pizza and fellowship on Friday, February 1 at 6:30pm.

February Worship Services

We will have Rev. Walter Kargus filling our pulpit and serving Communion on February 3. Jim Haling will be our guest speaker on February 10 and 24; and Rev. Lew Worthington will be with us on February 17.

Thank you!!

A huge thank you to Brian Sampson for leading us in worship during the month of January in addition to his usual Sunday morning musical responsibilities.

Christmas Fund Offering

Thank you to all who made an offering to the Veterans of the Cross Christmas Fund. We collected \$205!

Diaconate Meeting

The Diaconate is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, February, 13 at 7:00pm.

Downriver for Veterans

We continue to collect non-perishable food items for Downriver for Veterans located on Fort Street in Wyandotte. This organization needs ongoing support to assist local resource-limited veterans with food and other needs. Some veterans are on disability income and don't have enough to pay their bills and buy groceries. You can place your donations in the Totes of Love bin in the back of the Sanctuary. Please check the expiration date to make sure items have not expired.

2018 Men's Club Annual Christmas Tree Sale

Thanks to all who volunteered many hours to support the 2018 Annual Christmas Tree Sale. It was a real team effort! There were about 14 trees left. Final numbers indicate that we generated about \$4,500 in profit. This is over \$1,000 less than last year, considering, we had about (\$600 - \$700 lost sales: 14 trees left) and trees were about \$500 more expensive this year. With the reduced number of people we had to staff the lot, it was an absolute GREAT success! Thanks again to everyone for all their hard work and support. If anyone has any other tree sale expenses or tree sale monies to turn in, please get the receipts or monies to me as soon as possible.

Many Thanks,

Jim Haling
Men's Club Christmas Tree Chairman

Book Club: The next Book Club will be on February 11th at 7:00 pm in the library. The title of the book this month is "A Spool of Blue Thread" by Anne Tyler. It is available on the counter in the office.

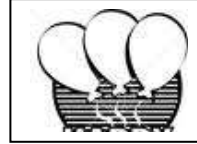
Treasurer's Report for December 2018

Income- \$6,109.00
Expenses- \$7,598.38

Capital Improvement Fund - \$ 12,905.32
Investments with UBS valued at \$115,939.12

Matthew Haling, Treasurer





OUR CHURCH AT WORK In February

Helpers for Sunday Services

Ushers:

February 3 – Tom Brown and Jim Haling
 February 10 – Available
 February 17 – Available
 February 24 – Available

Liturgists:

February 3 – John Peters
 February 10 – Available
 February 17 – Available
 February 24 – Available

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 3 – Available
 February 10 – Available
 February 17 – Memory of Lee Schilbe from
 Kevin and Diana Schilbe
 February 24 – Available

Fellowship Hour – February

February 3 – Ann Saadah
 February 10 – Available
 February 17 – Available
 February 24 – Available

PRAYER LIST



Geri Sampson	Medical Concerns
Lois Clickner	Medical Concerns
Ellie Stergiou	Medical Concerns
Jane Haling	Medical Concerns
Carrie Goldie	Medical Concerns
Rev. Bill Kren	Medical Concerns
Della King Family	Medical Concerns
Walter Crawford	Medical Concerns
Barbara Kudizus	Medical Concerns
Ron Kupersmid	Medical Concerns
Rev. Geoff Drutchas	Medical Concerns
Frank Kren	Health Issues
Stephanie	Serious Medical Issues
Kathleen Smith	Serious Medical Issues
Fred Michales	Medical Concerns
Gail Waggoner	Recovering from Surgery
Pat Stacho	Medical Concerns

Dates to Remember:

February 1 Game Night 6:30 pm
 February 11 Book Club
 February 13 Diaconate Meeting 7pm
 February 13 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

It's February! Already!

February 2019....can you believe it? Seems like it was just January! Well, actually, it was. But still.

Lately I have been spending a lot of time with Drew Carey, waiting for the big spin off at the wheel. Then BAM...here comes Judge Judy. I watch her everyday, even though it's like a train wreck about to happen. She is on the verge of a stroke, over dog bites, unpaid loans, that are not gifts, or cellphone bills. Chill Judy. You're scaring America.

To calm me down I switch to the food channel. How about the Pioneer Woman? Pioneer?? Get serious. She has a lodge, where she does her cooking...fully furnished with a pantry comparable to our local Kroger. And how many "pioneers" have a three story mercantile in town? Not to mention every Wal-Mart in America sells her line, from dishes, pans, glasses, gadgets, magazines, everything imaginable, except tampons with floral packaging. (I want royalties if they hit the shelves anytime soon) Tough to think of Ree as a pioneer.

I think it's time to turn off TV and get lost in books. I can get lost in any type of fantasy in just a page or two. I do have to be careful. There are no commercial breaks....dinnertime creeps up on me. And since I'm the one in charge of dinner, it can get tricky.

February is just a dreary month. Not much excitement in February. It's cold, not very sunny, and even when it snows, it snows

dirty! Pete's birthday is the 6th, but that's not really exciting. (Sorry, honey.) Valentine's Day? I'm diabetic, no candy.. Lingerie?? Yeah, right!! One good thing about February it only lasts 28 days.

So I am going to settle in with a good book, my flannel pj's, and a cup of coffee. I might spend some time on PINTEREST, looking up all the cute things I won't make for Easter. Egg dying tips, recipes, how to make bunny ears out of pipe cleaners..the list goes on and on.

In the meantime, stay warm, smile periodically, and read a good book. Think spring.....I'm just sayin'

