

## Why Attend Church?

We've survived another January in Michigan. While not experiencing the record colds of 2014, it's still a challenging month ... especially when it revolves around church attendance.

The cold kept a few of our members home and the attendance dipped. And yet, we still had some wonderful services. Many of us embarked on a journey to Dearborn Congregational and gathered for the 10 AM Worship.

But why? Why did you venture out in the cold and snow, for a Sunday service? Can you give me one good reason? How about 10 reasons for attending church?

1. You worshipped with us because it's at Dearborn Congregational where a person can learn the best way to live. Through worship we gain insights into living and contemplate our way of life.
2. You worshipped with us because church is a place where we can change. Change for the better! In fact, it's at our church where we leave better than when we entered. All because of God's grace.
3. You worshipped with us because you love to sing the hymns of the church. You love to hear Brian on the keyboard as the choir sings anthems of praise. Blessings are found in a song sung with anointing. Church music touches your heart and helps you in your daily walk.
4. You worshipped with us because there is a time for quiet reflection. Life is pretty hectic! At Dearborn Congregational there are quiet times in the service when God speaks to us.
5. You worshipped with us because it has strengthened your marriage. Using data from Redbook magazine's survey of 100,000 women, researchers found that it is the most religious women who report the greatest happiness and satisfaction in marriage.
6. You worshipped with us because Church is a healing place. Emotional, spiritual and physical healing is possible on any given Sunday! Worship is good for mental health. Prayers for healing are answered.
7. You worshipped with us because our church offers an opportunity to serve. St. Paul wrote: *"At the moment I have all I need – more than I need! I am generously supplied with the gifts you send me."* (Phil. 4:18). We are given opportunities to be a blessing and help to others!
8. You worshipped with us because church is one place where we are all equal! The Bible teaches us that God created men and women in his image. *"You are precious and honored in my sight, and ... I love you"* is the assurance from the Lord, found in Isaiah 43:4.
9. You worshipped with us because the Bible teaches that Jesus worshipped regularly. The Gospels report that Jesus attended services at the synagogue. As you follow in the steps of the Savior, you maintain your faithful Sunday morning connection with Dearborn Congregational Church!
10. Finally, you worshipped with us because at Dearborn Congregational you are a part of a family. Church is a place of worship and fellowship. Lasting friendships for all that want it!

I can't think of a better place to be on a cold, Sunday morning. See you at 10 on Sunday !

- Pastor Bill Kren

## **Messages from the Diaconate**

Diaconate Meeting - Thursday, Feb. 12, 7pm

**Pizza & Game Night:** This Friday night, January 30, at 6 pm, join us for an evening of pizza and fun playing board games! The Diaconate will provide the pizza and beverages. We're asking you to bring your favorite game. The festivities will take place in the Mayflower Room, with additional tables and chairs set up to accommodate everyone. Family and friends are more than welcome! Also, the pizza will come from Sylvia's Sub Shop in Allen Park and there will be vegan pizza options.

**Volunteers on Sunday:** We need your help during February. If you are able and available to lend a hand as an usher, liturgist, or fellowship host, please see John Peters or add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Mayflower Room on the date(s) you wish to serve. Thank you!



## **Ash Wednesday - Feb. 18:**

Our annual supper & service for Ash Wednesday will take place on Feb. 18. A light supper consisting of a sub sandwich from Leon's Restaurant and chicken soup from Dearborn Farm Market will be served in the Mayflower Room at 6:00 pm, with the service to follow at 7:00 pm. If you're interested in coming to the supper, please sign your name to the list located in the church, contact the church by e-mail, or call the church office between 9 am and 1:30 pm. Please consider joining your church family as we begin the Lenten journey towards Easter.

## **"One Great Hour of Sharing" UCC Mission:**

On Sunday, February 22, our annual OGHS campaign gets underway. Special envelopes will be set out in the church pews through March 15, which is the formal date of the offering.

Please consider a contribution to this worthy cause whose purpose is to bring Christ's love to individuals and communities around the world who have suffered the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship.

**COMING SOON...Movie Night:** The Diaconate has been working on a calendar of social activities for the coming year. Coming in March is "Popcorn & A Movie" where we'll gather to watch a classic Christian-themed movie projected on a wall of the Mayflower Room while munching on bags of freshly-popped popcorn! The date of this event is Friday, March 20, so mark your calendars now!



## **Treasurer's Report for December 2014**

Income- \$13,296.28

Expenses- \$12,724.21

Capital Improvement Fund - \$12,059.55

Investments with UBS valued at \$255,917.23

Matthew Haling, Treasurer

## OUR CHURCH AT WORK In February

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### Helpers for Sunday Services

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#### Greeters:

February 1 – Ian Haas  
February 8 – Ian Haas  
February 15 – Ian Haas  
February 22 – Ian Haas

#### Ushers:

February 1 – Polly Fitzpatrick & Pete Stacho  
February 8 – Available  
February 15 – Available  
February 22 – Available

#### Liturgists:

February 1 – John Peters  
February 8 – Rufus Beardsley  
February 15 – Available  
February 22 – Rufus Beardsley

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### **PRAYER LIST**

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Bernice Hartling	Medical Concerns
Shirley Fedraw	Medical Concerns
Bunny Hoganson	Medical Concerns
Geri Sampson	Medical Concerns
Suzanne Van Ranst	Medical Concerns
Dotty Klein	Medical Concerns
R. Ferguson Family	Healing, spiritual guidance
Sean Goldie	Medical Concerns
Ron Hopson	Medical Concerns
Harley Fisher	Medical Concerns
Daniel Less	Medical Concerns
Irene Moxon	Medical Concerns
Marge Manspeaker	Medical Concerns

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## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

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

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### **Dedication of Flowers - February**

February 1 – Available  
February 8 – Available  
February 15 – Available  
February 22 – Available

### **Fellowship Hour – February**

February 1 – Fred & Doris Bachert  
February 8 – Available  
February 15 – Available  
February 22 – Available

### **DATES TO REMEMBER...**

February	11	Trustees Meeting	7pm
February	12	Diaconate Meeting	7pm

## I'm Just Sayin' ...

### ...with Pat Stacho

FEBRUARY, already. The month for showing your Valentine how much she (or he) means to you, Presidents' Day, Groundhog day, Ash Wednesday, and my dear hubby is having another birthday, so much going on.

But this month my monthly rant is a bit different than you may be used to. No giggles, all sarcastic remarks are on hold, for now. (Don't get used to it!)

Do you remember having a sick child? Maybe a cold, chicken pox, or some other minor ailment. Ever have a child admitted to the hospital? I have. My sons were both hospitalized several times. I still remember the anxiety, the horrible feeling of helplessness. Wishing I could make it all go away. But you can't; you just pray, and pray some more, promising God you'll be a better mother.

Now imagine your 5 year old child being in the hospital, not for two or three days, not for a week....but for 14 months. 14 MONTHS!!

There was a story in the News-Herald last week about a sweet little boy named Collin, who spent his 5th birthday in Children's Hospital. He was admitted in November of 2013, and has been there since.

He has a genetic blood disorder, which caused brain hemorrhages, leading to bone marrow transplants, and complications. Collin is 5 years old!! FIVE years old! He has spent 14 months in pediatric intensive care. Christmas, his fifth birthday, Thanksgiving...all spent in the hospital!

That cold, that broken arm or the chicken pox doesn't seem quite as serious any more, does it? Yes, our babies being sick break our hearts, but Collin's story has also touched mine.

Members of St Joseph Catholic Church in Trenton, are asking people to send cards to Collin....that's all, a card. Send a card to a 5 year old little boy, to cheer him up! If you have children, or grandchildren, have them draw a picture or write a little note to him. I think we all should say an extra prayer for Collin's mother, father, and family. This past 14 months must have been absolute hell.

I really hope you will take the time to send Collin a card. A happy card...

Collin Taylor  
c/o Children's Hospital of Michigan  
3901 Beaubien Street  
Detroit, Michigan. 48201

We are so blessed; we have problems, but we are blessed! Let's not forget there are people going through so much, and ask so little. For the cost of a stamp, we can make a very sick 5 year old smile. I sent mine...I smiled...and felt really good.  
You will too.

When you say your prayers tonight, please remember Collin. And remember to thank God for keeping your family safe and healthy. I know I will.

Just sayin'