

# 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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*Website: [www.dccdearborn.org](http://www.dccdearborn.org)*

*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***



## A MESSAGE OF THANKS FOR PASTOR LEW

On January 26, Rev. Lewis Worthington, Interim Minister since Easter Sunday last year, delivered his final sermon to our church family. Pastor Lew, having found a new calling at a UCC congregation in Wisconsin -certainly fitting for an avid Green Bay Packers fan –will soon begin the next stage of his journey, bringing God's word to a flock numbering about 250 people. We wish him, his wife, Jenn, and son, Caleb, the very best. As our spiritual leader the past 9½ months, Pastor Lew brought a joy and enthusiasm for service, exhibiting an outward passion and style focused on connecting and engaging people during the Sunday service. By the same token, he faithfully tended to those among us unable to attend church due to illness or other hardship, and he stressed the importance of welcoming visitors to our church and making them feel “at home”. Indeed, his first act upon his arrival was to turn the Minister's parking space into one for Visitors.

Pastor Lew also dedicated himself to helping our church navigate through uncertain times. He created a survey distributed to members to help guide the congregation in decision-making as it impacts the future direction of our church. To create a climate of discipleship, he led a Ministry Leadership retreat last July in an effort to inspire our lay leaders. Out of that came a fundraiser for utility bills and a book study examining alternative ways to “do church”, giving us food for thought. While it's true Pastor Lew made changes to the worship service that weren't embraced by everyone, at the heart of it all was his intention to bring everyone closer in Christian community.

We also thank Jenn Worthington for gracing us with her musical talent on many occasions, singing songs she wrote and playing the guitar. To promote our church to the community, she was instrumental (no pun intended) in designing door hangers advertising Advent & Christmas services that our “foot patrols” delivered to 700 homes in surrounding neighborhoods. And for the first time in years, our Sunday service included a “Children's Moment” that naturally included 7-year-old Caleb and 2 other kids - a development that gives us hope for the future.

Indeed, we have much to be thankful for and can count many blessings because of Pastor Lew's service to us. We'll miss him and his family.

Godspeed, Pastor Lew!

John Peters  
Moderator

# **News and Updates**

## **DIACONATE NEWS**

### **February Worship Services**

Brian Sampson will lead our worship services during the month of February as the Search Committee continues to explore candidates to replace Rev. Worthington.

### **Bible Study Begins**

A six-week Bible study, led by Brian Sampson, will begin Monday, February 3 at 10:00 am. We will be studying the book of James and Brian is asking those attending to read it in advance. Sign-up sheets are in the Sanctuary and Mayflower Room, if you are interested.

### **Game and Pizza Night**

Plan to join us for our annual Game and Pizza Night on Friday, February 7. Pizza will be served at 6:30 pm with games beginning at 7:00 pm. If you have a favorite game that you would like to play, be sure to bring it along. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Sanctuary or Mayflower Room so we know how much pizza to order. Let the games begin!

### **Helping Hands Food Pantry**

Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church in Dearborn has reached out for our assistance to help support its Helping Hands Food Pantry that is open every Wednesday from 9:30am to 1:00pm. They are asking for help with food donations to keep up with the ever increasing demand during these cold weather months. We will collect items through February and continue to collect for Downriver Veterans during alternate months. Cherry Hill is asking for these specific items:

#### **Canned Goods**

Tuna  
Soup  
Vegetables  
Beans  
Fruit  
Pasta Sauce (without meat)  
Jelly

Peanut Butter  
Dry Goods  
Boxed Cereals  
Hamburger Helper

### **Diaconate Board Meeting**

The Diaconate is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, February 12 at 7:00pm.

### **Ash Wednesday Supper and Service February 26**

Our Lenten journey of prayer and sacrifice begins February 26. We will start the evening at 6:00 pm with a light supper of assorted breads and home-made soups and chili followed by our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. If you would like to make a soup or chili, please add your name to one of the sheets that will be available in the Mayflower Room or Sanctuary and also indicate how many people will be attending. Please join us for this special evening.

## **NEWS FROM THE MODERATOR**

**Minister Search Update** -With the departure of Rev. Lew Worthington, the Search Committee is at present working on filling the vacancy with another Interim Minister. To date, we have one candidate who's in the midst of the interview process. He is an experienced pastor. While the ultimate goal is to find a settled pastor who works part-time, perhaps 3 days a week plus Sunday -we aren't yet ready to hire a Called Pastor through the Michigan Conference UCC. In the meantime, Brian Sampson will fill the pulpit in February with a series of sermons from the book of James.

### **Thanks from Marilyn Beardsley**

Thanks to all my church family for your thoughts and prayers during this strange battle for renewed health.

Hope to see you soon.

Love, Marilyn Beardsley

# OUR CHURCH AT WORK In February

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## Helpers for Sunday Services

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### Ushers:

February 2 – Deb Evans/Tom Brown  
 February 9 – Available  
 February 16 – Available  
 February 23 – Available

### Liturgists:

February 2 – Marge Manspeaker  
 February 9 – Valerie Haas  
 February 16 – Linda Haling  
 February 23 – Available

February 2 – Available  
 February 9 – Available  
 February 16 – Available  
 February 23 – Available

### Fellowship Hour

February 2 – John Peters and Teresa Curless  
 February 9 – Available  
 February 16 – Available  
 February 23 – Available

## PRAYER LIST



<b>Barb Allen</b> – 01/20	Serious Health Issues
<b>Gail Waggoner</b> - 01/20	Health Issues
<b>Teresa Curless</b> - 12/20	Finished with Chemo
<b>Pauline Gourlay</b> - 01/20	Shut in
<b>Fred Michales</b> - 01/20	Serious Health Concern
<b>Tom Schlaff</b> 01/20	Transplant candidate
<b>Marilyn Beardsley</b> 01/28	Health Concerns
<b>Katie Evelyn Riley</b> , Granddaughter of Deb Evans, Recovering from blood clots in the lungs	

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.



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

### Treasurer's Report for December 2019

Income- \$10,833.65  
 Expenses- \$7,142.11

Capital Improvement Fund - \$13,530.32  
 Investments with UBS valued at \$112,320.11

Matthew Haling, Treasurer



### **Dates to Remember:**

Mondays at 10 am	Bible Study with Brian
February 7 6:30 pm	Pizza/Game Night
February 12 7 pm	Diaconate and Trustees
February 26 6 pm	Ash Wednesday

# YIKES!

## I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

ATTENTION !! It's official. February, 2020. I have reached a very important milestone in my life. I thought I had reached the biggie last October when I turned 75. As you all know, I am a serious Bingo player. 75 is the last number on the big board. I am hanging on for all I'm worth.

But this latest milestone is really big. Ready? I have become my mother. Good or bad it has happened. For the last few years, I would see her in the mirror as I walked by. I would hear her voice, as I repeated her bits of wisdom. But as I was putting my lipstick on my mother's face, it hit me. That's me in the mirror. That gray hair is mine. The crow's feet are on my face. That look of shock is definitely mine. If that was mom in the mirror, she'd be laughing at me, telling me to face it...you're all grown up girl.....really grown!

It's really ok, my mother was a character, loving, funny, tough as nails, and I loved her dearly. She was a great cook and taught me well. I made my first Thanksgiving dinner when I was 11 years old. Mom was a single parent and worked at Ford's, worked hard. She took in ironing to help pay the bills. (Proud to say I learned to iron and helped her)

So I guess this is a pretty good milestone. I got my dimples from my dad, but that's about all. Mom is a tough act to follow, but I'm trying. I looked in the mirror this morning and smiled. Proud of the gray hair, everyone of

those were earned. I like to think God frosted my hair. That's better than blaming my kids, right? And the crows feet? I got those from smiles and laughter and infrequent worries. Mom would always sing, "que sera, sera, whatever will be, will be." Pretty good words to live by.

And you were right mom...all along. Just saying

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS NEWS

A few of us, over the course of the last year, have been discussing our church's yard maintenance needs. Specifically should we, the church membership, do this instead of hiring a contractor. A few of us did a cursory fall clean-up in December saving the church \$780. That was the amount the contractor was going to charge. The landscape maintenance cost for 2019 was still almost \$5000. If a sufficient number of us are able to perform the yard maintenance this year a contractor will not need to be hired. So that a few won't have to do this work each week, we will need between 8-10 volunteers. This way 3 or 4 people will be able to do the work each week without being overburdened. We will all be unavailable at different times this summer—trips, family, personal business, vacations, etc.

Please consider volunteering!!!

Call or email the church office.

Thank you,

Building and Grounds