

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***



19 Ways to Help Your Church during a Pandemic
National Christian Foundations
Causes and Charities
July 28, 2020
by *Sheila Dolinger*

Each of us is probably yearning for certain things from our pre-pandemic life, but there is one thing that just about everyone in the NCF family has in common – we miss going to church!

And we're all concerned about helping our churches survive and even thrive during this pivotal time.

So, we asked pastors and church leaders across the country to suggest some creative ways that you can help your church thrive in the pandemic. Here are some ideas:

1. **Remember the Sabbath:** [According to a recent study](#), almost a third of churchgoers have dropped out during the pandemic. If you're growing weary of virtual Sunday mornings alone, organize a watch party on Zoom to stream your worship service with friends, and chat as you go along.
2. **Put your giving on auto-pilot:** Without the offering plate, it's easy to forget to mail or go online for your church giving. Use your [Giving Fund](#) at NCF to set up recurring grants for your regular commitments to your church.
3. **Volunteer your skills:** Do you have accounting or business skills? Ask if you can help your church cut expenses. Are you good at administration? See if you can fill in when they are short-staffed. Handy with social media? Volunteer to make regular posts.
4. **Stay connected:** Encourage your small group or Sunday School class to keep meeting virtually or outdoors, following safety guidelines. Create a contact list, and reach out by phone, email, and text every week to stay in touch and pray for each other.
5. **Encourage generosity:** During times of crisis, church giving is undoubtedly affected, even as needs grow. Now is a crucial time to engage friends from church in deeper generosity. A great way to do this is by hosting an online [Journey of Generosity](#) event.

6. **Invite new people to virtual church:** Reach out via phone or text to some people you know who aren't attending church anywhere, not even online. Ask them if they'd like to watch a service with you, and make sure they have the times and links to watch. Then, follow-up afterwards to talk about the service.
7. **Invest in tech:** Does your church need an investment in technical equipment and training to serve your congregation virtually? Contact your pastor to see if you can contribute financially or offer to invest your time if you have technical skills.
8. **Try something new:** If you've never done a virtual Bible study before, now's your opportunity. Use a tool like the [YouVersion](#) Bible app to keep your friends from church connected and in the Word. Invite them, and others, to do a study online and learn together each week.
9. **Coordinate a communication plan:** Does your church have a structure in place to ensure people are connected to a group who will care for each other's needs? If not, call your church leaders to ask if you can help assign each member with a list of people to regularly contact so that no one feels isolated.
10. **Remember the lonely:** Don't forget to check on people in your congregation who live on their own, whether they are elderly or young single members. Stop by their home for a chat from a safe distance outside, or send a hand-written card.
11. **Donate your tablet:** In some churches, pastors are asking for people to donate iPads, iPhones, or other tablets to help others go online to attend worship services virtually. Consider donating or buying a tablet for someone who doesn't have a device. (Added bonus: These can be used by kids for school work in coming months of online learning.)
12. **Keep the peace:** As many pastors are working extra hard to keep their congregations [facing forward with a plan](#), they report being caught in the crossfire of their leaders and congregants who disagree about social and political issues. Consider how you can meditate, pray, and sow peace within yourself and among your church family. Consider [Romans 12:18 and 14:19](#).
13. **Look outward:** Talk with church leaders about how you and other members can partner with local ministries that may be overwhelmed. Serving the hurting together can bring new purpose to your church, as it did for [one NCF giver and his church in Austin, Texas](#).
14. **Care for other churches:** While your church may be facing its own challenges, there are probably other churches in your area who are facing even greater struggles. Help your church find out about other local churches who are hardest hit, and reach out to see how you can help. [Read about the need and how other churches are helping churches in their areas](#).

15. **Invest in your benevolence ministry:** With so many people struggling or unemployed, your benevolence ministry is most likely overwhelmed with needs. Reach out to see if you can help your pastor in charge of benevolence with your community contacts, resources, or volunteer time.
16. **Support your worship team:** Contact your worship leaders to see what they need to thrive remotely. Ask them to build a special Spotify playlist of worship songs that you and others can share on social media, or other ways you can share their gifts.
17. **Give to the international church:** There are brothers and sisters struggling in areas around the world who are watching the [progress that has been made to eliminate poverty over the past 30 years quickly unravel](#). An investment in their churches can help fight the crisis abroad.
18. **Pray for revival:** Revivals and awakenings in the past have almost always occurred during times of great disruption and social upheaval. Everyone in the body of Christ can participate in praying for revival! Pray and remember that the Lord is working all things together for good.
19. **Shift your mindset:** It's helpful to remember that the church is who we are, not just a place we go. In this unfamiliar season, pray about how we can all shift our thinking from church-consumers to church-givers who serve as the hands and feet of Jesus to those around us.

Bible Study Begins: A Bible study will begin Thursday, February 11th at 7:00 PM via Zoom to study the book of Romans. We will study one chapter each week and the session will last about 40 minutes. Can't join us every week? No problem, join us when you can. If you are interested, email Cheryl Brown at cherbrown27@yahoo.com and she will include you in the Zoom invitation that will be sent out each week. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Wolter at 313-274-4204 or nwc1929@gmail.com.

DEDICATION OF FLOWERS

February 7 – Available
February 14 – Available
February 21 – Available
February 28 – Available



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

6 John Haling
Pete Stacho
15 Ian Haas
25 Tom Brown
27 Tom Mawhinney

PRAYER LIST



Lew Worthington, 01/24 Undergoing Chemotherapy
Dorothy Brown, 01/03 Mother of Tom Brown Health Concern
Cindy Taylor, 01/24 Sister of Tom Brown Health Concern
Gail Waggoner, 01/24 Long-Term Health Issues
Pat Stacho, 01/24 Undergoing Physical Therapy
Sue Wilson, 01/24 Health Concern
Marilyn Beardsley, 01/24 Recovering from Eye Surgery

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.



Treasurer's Report for December 2020

Income- \$6,618.36

Expenses- \$19,539.21

Citizens Account - \$12,467.45

Investments with UBS valued at \$101,697.79

Date to Remember:

February 10	7 pm	Trustees Meeting Diaconate Meeting
February 16	7 pm	Zoom Book Club
Thursdays at	7 pm	Zoom Bible Study

2020 Annual Reports Due by Feb. 1: If you are a Board/Committee chairperson and haven't yet submitted an annual report for last year, please email your report to Liz, who is filing them away until an Annual Meeting of the church is scheduled. The 2021 Budget and List of Board and Committee members will be sent to members by email during the first week of February. Those who don't have email will get these documents in the mail. Because a quorum of members (19) is required to attend the Annual Meeting to vote on the 2021 Budget and Board & Committee nominees, a decision was made to postpone the Annual Meeting until an in-person meeting in the Sanctuary can be held safely and comfortably for all members.

Position Opening - CLERK: The church has an opening for Clerk in 2021 to replace Diana Schilbe, who has moved into the role of Treasurer, another Officer position. The duties of the Clerk include recording the proceedings (taking Minutes) at Council meetings, Congregational Meetings, and the Annual Meeting, as well as tracking membership changes (additions/subtractions) and producing an Annual Membership Report. The Clerk also keeps track of vital records of the church. If you are able to serve in this capacity, please contact John Peters, Moderator at (313) 255-7774 or email: joopett13@hotmail.com.

Altar Flowers in Feb.: If you'd like to dedicate flowers in memory of, or in recognition of, a loved one or event in your life, there are open weeks available in February. Please contact the church office by phone (313-271-8552) or email (dccucc@gmail.com) and let Liz know the Sunday on which you'd like flowers for the altar and to whom you are dedicating them. The cost is \$15, payable to the church. Payment should be sent BEFORE the week of dedication.

Give Online at Your Convenience: As another option for giving to the church, you can give or pay your pledge online. Go to www.dccdearborn.org and click on the yellow "Donate" button. YOU DO NOT NEED A PAYPAL ACCOUNT. Pay with a major credit card and just enter the information asked for. If you are a Facebook user and go to the "Dearborn Congregational Church, UCC" page, you'll see a 'Pinned' post near the top of the page on the right-hand side with a link to the Donate button, as well. We invite you all to take advantage of this feature!

Downriver for Veterans Donations & Pull Tab/Lid Collection: We're still collecting non-perishable foods, personal items, unwrapped clothing, and new pillows for Downriver for Veterans in Wyandotte. Place your items in a plastic bag and leave it in the basket in the church behind the pews. We're also collecting aluminum pull tabs and can lids for Ronald McDonald House. Thank you for donating!

Fundraiser for the Mayflower Room Roof: The roof is fixed and the Mayflower Room has been painted a new blue-grey color, and looks great! We are thankful to God, our supporters, and the contractors who restored our building. We have ended the fundraising campaign even though we wound up short of our \$25,000 fundraising goal to cover the cost. You may still choose to leave a gift to Dearborn Congregational Church in person or by mail for the roof, if you wish. Just place your contribution in a regular offering envelope marked 'Roof'. Thank you!

View our Sunday Bulletin Before Every Service: Each week, usually by Friday night, a copy of the bulletin for the upcoming Sunday service is posted on our website at www.dccdearborn.org (click on 'DCC Home' at top of page and then scroll down to 'Weekly Bulletin'). Or, if you go to the church Facebook page, "Dearborn Congregational, UCC", look for the latest post promoting the upcoming service and click on the highlighted links. Once you have selected 'Weekly Bulletin', in order to see the Order of Worship, click on 'Worship'. To see the Prayer List and Altar Flower Dedication for the week, click on 'Announcements'.