

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***



Goodbye to a Painful 2020 and a Joyous Welcome to 2021

An epiphany is an “aha” moment when something we have not yet conceived suddenly enters our minds and hearts with clarity. Epiphanies are beginnings of new ways of being. New inventions spring from them. And we see our focus begin to shift.

As we exit the year 2020—a number generally associated with perfect vision—the irony isn't lost on us. The year gone by has been dominated by disruption, disturbance, corruption & violence, and illness, isolation, death & heartbreak. Certainly, it's a far cry from what we as Christians would term the “perfect vision” for humankind.

But now, as we enter 2021, which most of us probably feel can't come soon enough, there is ample opportunity for a “new way of being” using lessons learned and adjustments made during the Covid-19 pandemic. The beginning of the year is a time to share insights on how Dearborn Congregational can best continue to be Dearborn Congregationa—and to build on that further—in the future, despite the usual obstacles such as dwindling membership or the budget deficit. Take a leap of faith and begin this wondrous New Year by believing!

The Way Forward Committee will start the year continuing to explore options for our church and property involving a possible sale of a portion of our land. There will also be a renewed effort to reach out to the Dearborn community and invite and welcome NEW people to come and worship with us, including those displaced by the unfortunate closing of their own church. It's important that the current situation centered around the pandemic doesn't color our judgment of the future. Dearborn Congregational Church could very well experience a renaissance once the pandemic comes to an end and the population receives the vaccine. People long for human connection, in-person, with like-minded believers. We hope for a renewed desire among our members & friends to attend Sunday services with a choir again singing in the sanctuary coupled with the ability to gather for fellowship again in our newly-restored Mayflower Room.

In the meantime, Brian Sampson will continue pulling double-duty as guest speaker bringing both the Sunday sermon and music on the piano for hymns and special music until we find a new part-time minister. We'd also like to extend a heartfelt 'thank you' to Maddie Kaplan for being guest soloist and leading us in song most Sundays since May.

As always, we pray for everyone in our church facing personal hardship, illness, hospitalization, or surgery. And with sincere gratitude, we thank each of you for your support, financially and otherwise. Abundant blessings, and God be with you in 2021!

Happy New Year,

John Peters
Moderator

Spiritual Inventory:

Relationship with God

- What victories have I had that I can thank God for?
- What recent blessings have I received?
- What have I repented of?
- How is my daily, hourly walk with Jesus? Do I consider his teachings and examples throughout the day?
- What Scriptural insights have I gained from my Bible study? ***Have I applied them?***
- Am I avoiding anything or anyone for any unrighteous reason?
- How have I been making my decisions? Through Scriptural wisdom and faith, or instinct and fear?

Relationship with my Spouse

- How have I led my spouse spiritually?
- How have I loved my spouse ?
- How have we grown or what victories have we had in our marriage recently?

Relationship with my family

- How have I led my family spiritually? (***they*** must answer that)
- What kind of presence am I with them? Do I help them be happy and secure or does my presence create strife?
- Do I meet all of their needs? Which ones am I good at meeting, which ones have I not met well, or have they let me know I have not met at all?

Relationship with disciples

- Who have I encouraged lately with Scripture?
- Who have I drawn closer to this year?
- Do I have relationships where I can openly share how I am doing – like sharing the results of taking an inventory like this one

Relationships with the lost

- Who do I rejoice in because they are now faithful and I had the joy of helping with the planting and watering?
- How much is the lost on my heart or in my prayers?
- Just what are my convictions about the lost? Do they match Jesus' convictions, whom I follow?
- Do I need a motivation check?

Any relationships

- Who have I served lately according to their needs?
- Do I love like Jesus?

Work

- What successes have I had in my work?
- What is my stock at work as a disciple? Do I strive for excellence because that is how Jesus did everything?
- Am I using the talents God has given me?

Stewardship

- Physical belongings (car, house, etc.)
- Finances
- Health

Dreams

- What am I waiting for?
- Have I committed my dreams to God praying for miracles?
- Do my dreams align with God's will?
- What is my plan upon failures? – Will it honor God?
- What is my plan if I am successful? – Will it honor God?

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'.

Fundraiser for the Mayflower Room Roof: The roof has been fixed and the Mayflower Room painted a new color, and it looks great! We are thankful to God, our supporters, and the contractors who restored our building. As of Jan. 1. we are about \$6,500 short of our \$25,000 fundraising goal to cover the roof repair. Can we count on you in the New Year? Please consider making a gift to Dearborn Congregational Church with an offering in person or by mail. Donations can be placed in a regular offering envelope marked 'Roof', if necessary. God bless each of you for your contributions!

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!

DCC ANNUAL MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED

Our annual DCC membership meeting, usually held in January, has been postponed until a date to be determined. Due to the pandemic, it simply isn't an option yet to hold a meeting requiring at least 20 people to attend. Once all of our members feel safe enough to return to church, hopefully once the pandemic ends sometime in the Spring, then a meeting will be scheduled. Those members with email will receive in January the Proposed Budget for 2021 and the Slate of Officers, items which must be voted upon by the membership. In this way, we are 'acting in the capacity' and when we can resume gathering in church, we will vote on these items at the re-scheduled Annual Meeting.

Position Opening - CLERK: The church has an opening for Clerk in 2021, taking the place of Diana Schilbe who has moved into the role of Treasurer, another Officer position. The duties of the Clerk include recording the proceedings (Minutes) of Council meetings, Congregational Meetings, and the Annual Meeting, as well as tracking membership changes (additions and subtractions) and producing an Annual Membership Report. The Clerk also keeps track of vital records of the church. If you are willing to serve in this capacity, please contact John Peters, Moderator at (313) 255-7774 or email: joogett13@hotmail.com. Thank you.

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BABY JESUS!

Finally, a bright spot in 2020. Let's not blow it. I can picture family gatherings, with no regards to guidelines set by our Governor. Crowds...no masks...certainly no social distancing.

Then a new outbreak and we lose grandpa because of COVID!! Stay home. Stay with those you live with. ZOOM the rest of the family. Stay safe and plan for next year!
I have some suggestions for you..

Make sure the kids are always with you. ALWAYS..I mean your kids, not your grown kids or grandkids!! If they live with you, put a present under the tree and let them stay. All others, call or zoom them!

If Uncle Mike or Aunt Mabel want to stop by, just for a few, say NO. It doesn't take but a minute to pass on the virus. You may not have it, but do you want that to be their last gift?? I didn't think so. Drop off a little gift on the porch. Hey, they know you love them....show it. Protect each other.

Christmas will be different for sure. But I think a few small sacrifices this year, will assure us a Merry Christmas next year.

Benefits of COVID19.....

1. No frantic shopping for gifts. (I plan on giving birthday gifts throughout the year.) No VISA remorse.

2. No holiday weight gain. I'm not cooking a huge meal with all the fuss.....not necessary to show off my culinary skills to Pete. We've been married 52 years. He knows!

3. Sorry. That's all I got! This virus has me perplexed, scared and downright angry.

My son has not hugged or kissed me since early April. I miss that, so does he. With my health issues we can't take any chance.

But we ALL will get past this. We know the rules....follow them. Remember the old saying, if you love someone, set them free? It's now if you love someone, let them be !!!

End of lecture. Have a blessed, safe holiday season. Call your loved ones, ZOOM them, but don't gather with them. Not yet!!!

I'm just saying.....