

# The Messenger

---

## A Newsletter for Dearborn Congregational Church United Church of Christ

---

Dearborn Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
16350 Rotunda Drive  
Dearborn, MI 48120-1120  
313-271-8552  
*E-mail: [dccucc@gmail.com](mailto:dccucc@gmail.com)*  
*Website: [www.dccdearborn.org](http://www.dccdearborn.org)*

*WORSHIP SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 A.M*



January, 2022

## **EMBARKING ON A YEAR OF UNCERTAINTY**

The lights of the Christmas tree continue to shine, while packages that once rested underneath have been delivered and opened. Very soon, the New Year will be upon us. I hope your Christmas celebrations with friends and family were enjoyable and pray that 2022 brings each of you the inner peace and joy of God's love.

The beginning of a new year is traditionally a time to reflect and consider where we have been, and to assess where we are going. Time moves so fast in our busy lives that we can lose sight of the big picture. Our lives are filled with changes; some desirable, some not. Some of the changes we can control, some we cannot. It's important that we understand the difference. Planning for the future can be challenging, especially when factors beyond our control come into play. Our church is no different.

Back in June, we held a congregational meeting and took a vote of our members on actions to determine the fate of our church and plot a course forward. By a vote of 19-3, it was decided to sell the church and relocate the congregation to a new location -to begin a new version of Dearborn Congregational Church. We even had a destination in mind that we were optimistic about. But as we all know, circumstances can create roadblocks to even the best laid plans. Fast forward 6 months to the present, and we find the enthusiasm that many in our church had when we took the vote has waned, attendance at worship services hasn't increased, and apathy seemingly has set in, even though we have an effective Covid-19 vaccine. So, as soon as it is safe to hold meetings in person, after this latest variant of an ubiquitous virus calms down, we will call another meeting to cast a vote again on the church's future - to either continue as a congregation at a church in Dearborn (where incidentally, we have now been approved to lease once we sell the building -or dissolve the church. As we plan for this, and for the coming year, we all need to do a self-examination. Would you consider giving just a little more if it means that DCC can continue as a congregation? There are sure to be rewards from such efforts to keep our church family.

2021 was filled with frustrations and setbacks as we continue to recover, haltingly, from a pandemic that has lasted longer than we anticipated. We don't know what the coming year has in store. But what we do know is that God's love, strength, and peace are always available to us. Abundant blessings in the New Year, and may God give us a fresh start.

John Peters, Moderator

## DEDICATION OF FLOWER

**January 2** - Greenfield/Dearborn Churches,

Mark and Susan Dobronski

**January 9**– Betty Bolton,

The Bolton Family

**January 16** – Harry and Jerry Slater,

Mark and Susan Dobronski

**January 23** – Arnie Lee Bolton

The Bolton Family

**January 30** – Helen Cumming

Cathy MacKenzie



## PRAYER LIST



**Tracy Dodes**, 01/02, Friend of Linda Haling

Young teacher recently diagnosed with breast cancer

**Mary Ann Clough**, 12/05, Friend of Tammy Jabtecki

Health Concern

**Cindy Toma**, 01/02, Friend of Tammy Jabtecki, Battling stage liver cancer.

**Dee Schilbe**, 01/02, Mom of Kevin, Health Concern

**Joann Herron**, 01/02, Friend of T. Curless, Stomach Cancer

**Baby Kayden**, 01/02, Friend of Linda Haling, He is waiting for heart transplant

**Michelle Campeau**, 01/02 Undergoing Treatment

**Lew Worthington**, 01/02 Doing well

**Gail Waggoner** Long-Term Health Issues

**Pat Stacho**, 01/02 Rehabilitation

**Sue Wilson**, Ongoing Health Concern

**Carrie Goldie**, Ongoing Health Concern

**Lois Clickner** Ongoing Health Concern

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.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Toni Boyd  
8 Linda Haling  
27 Cole Haas  
30 Marilyn Beardsley



## Treasurer's Report for November 2021

Income- \$1,560.99

Expenses- \$2,573.30

Citizens Account - \$12,445.37

Investments with UBS valued at \$90,435.70

Treasurer

## Dates to Remember:

January 11 3 pm Trustees Meeting

## Epiphany

Many Christians celebrate Epiphany on or near January 6. "Epiphany which means "Showing Forth", celebrates the visit of the Magi, or Wise Men, from a foreign country to see the baby Jesus. These men, also known as Kings, saw the star that led them to Bethlehem. The fact that the Magi were Gentiles, not Jews, teaches us an important theological lesson: their search for the Savior shows that Jesus came for all.

Taking Down Decorations - Jan. 9: Please lend a hand if you are able after the Sunday, Jan. 9 service to help take down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary. Thank you!

Church Belongings to Give to Members: The Trustees have released some items in the church to be given away. These are free to any member and include things located in the 4 classrooms and the library. They consist of books, toys, games, supplies, household and decorative items. Please submit your request in writing (or by email) to the Moderator, John Peters ([joopett13@hotmail.com](mailto:joopett13@hotmail.com)). In the event more than one person wants the same item, a drawing will determine the recipient. Distribution will occur in mid-January once everyone has had time to put in a request.

Church Tables: If anyone is interested in the newer 8-foot tables that we used for past rummage sales, we're offering them to members for \$15 apiece. Please let John Peters know if you are interested in them. You may also give him your payment. NOTE: These tables do not fold in half so transporting them in your vehicle may not be possible unless it is arranged for a person with a truck/ large SUV to deliver them to you. Thank you.

Altar Flowers: If you'd like to dedicate flowers in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones or people in the church; or to recognize special occasions like an anniversary in February (January is FULL), just call the office (313-271-8552) or email ([dccucc@gmail.com](mailto:dccucc@gmail.com)) with the Sunday in February when you'd like flowers for the altar and details of your dedication. The cost is \$15, payable to the church, and can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or dropped off/mailed to the church. Payment should be made in advance.

Give Online at Your Convenience: Make your usual offering online...or schedule automatic payments! Go to [www.dccdearborn.org](http://www.dccdearborn.org) and click on the yellow "Donate" button. You DO NOT need a PayPal account. You can pay by credit card simply by entering the information asked for. If you use Facebook, go to "Dearborn Congregational Church, UCC" and you'll see a 'Pinned' post on the right side of the page with a Donate link. We invite you to take advantage of this feature.

Donate to Downriver for Veterans: We're still collecting food, personal items, clothing, and pillows to give to Downriver for Veterans in Wyandotte. Your gifts are always deeply appreciated and much-needed -especially by homeless vets. You can place items in a plastic bag or box and leave them inside, or next to, the bin behind the pews in back of the chapel. Thank you for your donations.

View the Sunday Bulletin Online Before the Service!: Each week, by Friday evening, a copy of the bulletin for the upcoming Sunday service is posted on our website at [www.dccdearborn.org](http://www.dccdearborn.org) (click on 'DCC Home' at top, and then scroll down to 'Weekly Bulletin'). Or, if you go to our 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', to see the Order of Worship, click on 'Worship'. To see the Prayer List and Altar Flower Dedication for the week, click on 'Announcements'.

NOTE: Concerning the Annual Meeting: An annual meeting in 2022 will not be held until further notice. The Moderator.

# **\*I'M JUST SAYIN' ...**

...with Pat Stacho

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2017...once again the promise of a better year. I for one, continue to believe that. Did you make your annual resolutions? Well, cancel them. I suggest that, this year, we make New Year's Gratitude Statements. Only we don't write all the statements at once.

You know that brand new calendar we all get? Before you set it on your desk, hang it on your kitchen wall, or wherever you put it....Mark each page, the first of EVERY month with a heart. (yes, a ♥ as sappy as it sounds. Stay with me...)

Now, every month when you flip the page and see that heart, I want you to write something you're grateful for. No more fretting over breaking a resolution. See how this works? No stress this next year...just gratitude. It'll be much easier than getting stressed about those ten pounds you resolved to lose, if you're grateful you don't have twenty pounds to lose.

I will admit some days are a real challenge. I have a list of suggestions for you. Keep it handy, just in case:

\*Be grateful your family has never been on Jerry Springer. (If they have, be grateful not many people know.)

\*Be grateful you are healthy. I know most of us have aches, pains, all

sorts of health issues, but we're still healthy. If you're blessed with minor issues, be grateful! (And take the time to pray for those who are not!)

\*Be grateful we don't have to deal with political debates for at least four years. Regardless of your views of the outcome, let's be grateful it's over!

\*Be grateful your children are going through the same things with their children that we did! (Told you...hahaha)

\*Ladies, be grateful for knee-highs, rotisserie chicken, and an occasional valium.

\*Men, be grateful your wife has an occasional valium.

You all know that saying, "When life hands you lemons, etc..." Who says we have to settle with lemonade? There's also lemon meringue pie! We need to be good to ourselves, and then pass it on. Gratitude attitude.

There are going to be days when we have to dig deep to find that feeling of gratitude. But dig! Is your cable working? Still got running water, inside toilet, heat, refrigerators with food inside?

See how easy this is going to be?

I'm grateful you took the time to read this! I'm just sayin' ...

Happy New Year!

\*This is a classic "I'm Just Saying" article from 2017.