

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
Website: 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***



Dear Church Family:

This is one of the most difficult letters I've ever had to write. I am saying goodbye to pastoral ministry and a congregation I dearly love. So please understand that with an aching heart, I am struggling for the right words.

Five years ago I was given the opportunity to "fill the pulpit" at Dearborn Congregational Church. Little did I know that this would be the start of an incredible spiritual journey. Together, we have experienced the grace of God. We have grown in our faith as we prayed and served the Lord together in this part of the world.

And now I am preparing for a new chapter in ministry – they call it retirement. It is coming sooner than planned due to the serious medical issues I am facing. Nevertheless, I want you all to know that I have tried to **"run a good race"** in Dearborn, with my **"eyes fixed on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith."**

Sunday, December 30, 2018, will be my last Sunday to worship with you as your pastor. It is with a grateful heart that I thank you for these last five years. You have been a wonderful blessing to Sue and me.

While I will no longer be your pastor, be assured that you are not abandoned. In the **Book of Hebrews**, the author reminds us: **"Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, 'I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.'"**

(Hebrews 13:5 NLT).

I believe that Jesus will continue on this journey with Dearborn Congregational, and the leadership of the Holy Spirit will help you navigate the road that will bring you to a new and exciting chapter in the life of the church.

Some of you have asked about our future. What will we do? Where will we worship? On January 1, 2019, Sue and I will continue this faith journey that will take us to a place God has prepared. Our immediate plan is to return to St. Paul UCC in Taylor (our home church) and be a part of their ministry. We will sing in the chancel choir and volunteer for some of the many outreach programs. Pastor Geoff Drutchas has assured me that I will even have a few opportunities to preach. Retirement will also allow us to spend precious time with our children and grandchildren.

One final thought: A few days after that last surgery at U of M Hospital, my daily devotional included a passage from the Old Testament – **Micah 6:8**. **"O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you - to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."**

God hasn't changed any of His requirements. So for the remainder of my life, I will do my best to do what is right, strive to be merciful (always) and walk humbly with my God.

Again, Sue and I want to thank you for allowing us to be a part of your life. We love you deeply. **You will always be family.**

Sincerely,

Pastor Bill and Sue Kren

News and Updates

January 6 - Worship in the Mayflower Room

Please join us in the Mayflower Room at 10:00am where Brian Sampson will lead us in an informal worship service. We will have Communion, singing, special music, and a few songs sung by the choir. This after-Christmas service has become a tradition for us and we hope to see you there.

January 6 – Taking Down the Greens

Please plan to stay after church and help take down the Christmas tree, the greens in the chandeliers, and store away the decorations for another year.

Guest Speaker for January

Brian Sampson will be our guest speaker for the month of January.

January 25 - Pizza and Game

Mark your calendars for Pizza and Game Night on Friday, January 25. Pizza will be served at 6:30pm with games starting at 7:00pm. Bring your favorite game if you have one, and if you don't, that's ok too. Pop, dessert and snacks will also be provided. Invite family and friends to join us for an evening of fellowship and fun. Please sign the sheet in the Sanctuary or Mayflower Room so we know how much pizza to order.

January 9 – Diaconate Meeting

The Diaconate is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 9 at 7:00pm.

Taking Down the Greens – January 6

Please plan to help us take down the Christmas tree, the greens in the chandeliers, and store away the decorations for another year.



Heifer International Collection For Christmas

Heifer International Donation

Heifer International began as *Heifers for Relief* in 1944. It was founded by an Ohio farmer, Dan West, who was a relief worker during the Spanish Civil War in the late 1930s. In 1938, while ladling out milk to hungry refugee children, it occurred to him "These children don't need a cup of milk, they need a cow". When he returned to the United States, he shared his idea with his neighbors and church. This led to the formation of the *Heifers for Relief Committee* in 1939. The charity was incorporated and sent its first shipment of 17 heifers to Puerto Rico in 1944. Through *Heifer International* a congregation can make a lasting difference in the lives of poor families around the world in countries like Ecuador, Honduras, Cambodia and Bangladesh. The gift of livestock helps struggling families lift themselves out of poverty. Heifer gives them the direct assistance they need, like chickens, cows, pigs, even llamas, so families can create their own farms and businesses and have steady incomes. We will collect donations through January to purchase livestock and the amount we collect will determine what we buy: a flock of chickens for \$20, a goat or sheep for \$120, a llama or alpaca for \$150, or a heifer for \$500. Donation containers are available in the Sanctuary and Mayflower Room.



The Annual Meeting of Dearborn Congregational Church is scheduled for Sunday, January 27, 2019 in the Mayflower Room immediately following the worship service. ALL MEMBERS SHOULD PLAN TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING! We will review significant developments over the past year, the church's finances, approve a 2019 Budget, and also nominate and elect members of the Board of Trustees & Diaconate Board. Committee positions will be finalized and major issues impacting the church will be addressed, as well. Copies of the Proposed Budget will be made available before the meeting. *A reminder to all Board and Committee Chairs: A report of your group's activities/ accomplishments in 2018 must be submitted to the Church office to be printed before the Meeting. So please deliver a hard copy or e-mail your report to the office by Friday, January 18. Copies can be placed in the Secretary's mailbox. A packet composed of all reports plus the budget to be voted on will be distributed to members attending the meeting.

Thank you. John Peters, Moderator

OUR CHURCH AT WORK
In January

Helpers for Sunday Services

Ushers:

January 6 – Available
January 13 – Available
January 20 – Available
January 27 – Available

Liturgists:

January 6 – Available
January 13 – Available
January 20 – Available
January 27 – Available

Dedication of Flowers

January 6 – Available
January 13 – Available
January 20 – Arnie Lee Bolton, from the Boltons
January 27 – Available

Fellowship Hour

January 6 – Available
January 13 – Available
January 20 – Available
January 27 – Available

Dates to Remember:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| January 6 11 am | Taking down the Greens |
| January 9 7 pm | Diaconate and Trustees |
| January 25 7 pm | Pizza and Game Night |
| January 27 11 am | Annual Meeting |



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Toni Boyd |
| 8 | Linda Haling |
| 11 | Linda Berndt |
| 27 | Cole Haas |
| 30 | Marilyn Beardsley |

PRAYER LIST



| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Della King Family | Medical |
| Geri Sampson | Medical Concerns |
| Lois Clickner | Medical Concerns |
| Elie Stergiou | Medical Concerns |
| Jane Haling | Health Issues |
| Carrie Goldie | Serious Medical Issues |
| Rev. Bill Kren | Serious Health Issues |
| Della King Family | Medical Concerns |
| Walter Crawford | Medical Concerns |
| Barbara Kudizus | Medical Concerns |
| Ron Kupersmid | Medical Concerns |
| Rev. Geoff Drutchas | Health Concerns |
| Frank Kren | Serious Health Issues |
| Stefanie | Serious Health Issues |
| Kathleen Smith | Serious Health Issues |
| Fred Michales | Health Concern |
| Gail Waggoner | Recovering from hip surgery |

The family of Pat Mangrum, upon her passing.

Treasurer's Report for November 2018

Treasurer's Report for November 2018

Income- \$4,545.73
Expenses- \$9,475.51

Capital Improvement Fund - \$12,905.32

Investments with UBS valued at \$116,493.41
8000 was transferred from UBS to meet expenses

Matthew Haling, Treasurer





I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

Happy New Year everyone! Time to make those resolutions. This year will be easy for me. I didn't keep any of the ones I made last year, so I just start over. Not just easy, brilliant.

I have been making resolutions for years, and years, and....well you get the idea. I always greet the new year with enthusiasm, good intentions, and a plan. All of which are forgotten by February. I used to resolve to be nicer to my brother when I was quite younger, and just learning the concept of resolutions. He always said, "don't make 'em if you can't keep 'em!" I felt that the sarcasm voided the entire idea. Which may be why I never follow through.

So now that January has arrived, my plans are not to make resolutions but rather to make suggestions. I will suggest to my husband that we dine out more often. It doesn't have to be with each other necessarily, just more frequently.

I will suggest to my girlfriends that they join me on that night out.

I will suggest to the young lady behind the Tim Horton counter, that she smile occasionally. Or at the minimum, acknowledge I am attempting to place an order. (Actually, the young people behind ANY counter.)

I have a very explicit suggestion to all those calls I receive, selling, begging, threatening, or just to annoy me. But I can't do that, they're all robot calls!!

I would like to suggest to so many young teenagers, change your style. PJs belong at home, not in school.

Girls...wear your skirts a bit longer. Knees are for praying. But that's old fashioned. I admit, I am a bit old fashioned.

Proud of it!

I suggest you buy a lottery ticket. Call me if it's a winner.

I can make suggestions on how we spend it.

One last suggestion, tell someone they look nice. Smile and say hello to a stranger. Come to church and sing with all your heart. Not because it's Easter or Christmas, but because it's the Sabbath. You'll feel better.

Life is short, love is forever! Make it count.

Finally, a request, not a suggestion. Please keep Rev Kren, and Sue, in your prayers and thoughts. Two really good people who blessed us all with their presence.

Any further suggestions can be forwarded to me. I probably won't utilize them, but I will take them under advisement. I'm just sayin'

