

# 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  
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.** NURSERY CARE PROVIDED*

*OFFICE HOURS TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY **9:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm***

Reverend Kren's Office Hours:  
Monday—Thursday mornings 8am—Noon  
Monday—Thursday afternoons 1pm until 5pm,  
except when visiting members of the congregation.

*July* 

## A Sad Moment in June

I'm not that familiar with ladies accessories, but I did recognize the name – thanks to shopping trips to Macy's with my wife. I continued to read:

***Kate Brosnahan Spade, who created an iconic, accessible handbag line that bridged Main Street and high-end fashion, hanged herself in an apparent suicide Tuesday at her Manhattan apartment ... police responded at 10:10 a.m. after Spade was found by her housekeeper. A suicide note was found at the scene ... Spade addressed her daughter in the note, according to two NYPD sources. Spade's husband also is referenced in the note. Best known for its colorful handbags, the Kate Spade New York brand is synonymous with cheerful luxury...***

And the article continued with the history of her company.

This sad news reminded me of a similar news story in 2014. Robin Williams, one of my all-time favorite actors and comedians, took his life after years of suffering from deep depression.

No one knows the anguish he felt, and no one knows what Kate Spade was going through - something that pushed to her a place where she felt there was only one answer. That answer was so final.

Not long ago I officiated the funeral of a young man who committed suicide. The mother asked about my thoughts on someone taking their own life and the spiritual consequences. I shared with her that God would not hold someone accountable for a medical condition. He wouldn't condemn someone for dying of cancer or heart disease. God is merciful and just. He never makes a mistake, and he will judge us all fairly.

In I Peter 3:38 it reads that, ***“Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.”***

Let's not judge Kate Spade with the events of last month. She may very well have been struggling with a hidden mental disorder that finally consumed her. God has judged her fairly, and I'd like to think that she has finally found that peace and happiness we all long for – and she is now “safely home” with God.

This is also a reminder – if you know of someone who is struggling and needs help, reach out that person. And don't worry about the “what to say” – sometimes just knowing you are near is enough to give a lonely soul the support and comfort they need. Pray for those people who are going through bouts of depression. And, if they are open to the idea, I am here to help. Have them call me, or, they can “drop in” at the Church and visit with the Pastor. Together, we might help someone avoid making a final decision.

Blessings,



Pastor Bill Kren

## **News from the Diaconate**

**Detroit Churches Tour in July:** Save the date...Saturday, July 14. That's the day of our 7th annual tour of historic Detroit churches! This year, we're heading downtown for *guided* tours of two magnificent churches: Trinity Lutheran, established in 1850; and Christ Church Detroit, which is the oldest Protestant church in Michigan still located on its original site. The tour of Trinity Lutheran starts at 10 am and the Christ Church tour at 11. A suggested donation of \$5 per person is suggested for each church. Afterwards, the plan is to eat lunch in Greektown. We will meet in the church parking lot at 9:30 am before the trip downtown. You may carpool with others from that point, if you wish. PLEASE SIGN UP on one of the sheets in the church OR call the office at (313) 271-8552 on Tues, Thurs, or Fri. and leave a message. And please indicate how many are in your party. We hope you'll join us!

### **Singing Sermon Sunday – July 22**

Mark your calendars for our annual Singing Sermon Sunday on July 22. Start thinking about your favorite hymns you would like us to sing. If you would like to volunteer to sing a solo or duet, let us know, it would be a welcome addition. Starting July 1 forms will be available in the bulletin for you to request your favorite hymns. We'll try to sing as many requests as possible and share a little history on each song. The deadline for submitting requests is July 15.

### **Strengthen the Church Special Offering**

We collected \$300.00 for this special offering. Thank you to all of you for your support and generosity!

### **Memorial Garden Study Group**

We are looking for people to contribute ideas for a proposed Memorial Garden on church property. How do you envision such a place dedicated to remembering our dearly departed loved ones? Feel free to offer your input on aspects of the project such as design, objects/décor for the garden, location of the garden, dimensions/size, or any other feature. Please call the project leader, David Jabtecki, at 406-6137 with your ideas. Or simply let Dave know in person at church. We hope to present a garden proposal for vote at our next Church Council meeting on July 31.

### **Downriver for Veterans**

We are collecting non-perishable food items for Downriver for Veterans located in Wyandotte. They provide support to assist local resource-limited veterans with food and other needs. Please place your donations in the Totes of Love bin in the back of the Sanctuary. Check the expiration date to make sure items have not expired.

### **Diaconate Meeting**

The Diaconate Board will not be meeting in July.

### **Trustees Meeting**

The Board of Trustees will meet Wednesday, July 11th, at 7pm.



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR**

Church Council Meeting -July 31: All members are invited to attend our quarterly Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 31 at 7 pm in the Board Room. The head of each Board and Committee should plan to attend or arrange for a representative to appear in their place and give a brief oral report of their recent activities. Several issues will be on the Agenda, including hearing and voting on proposals for a memorial garden, appointing a new Financial Secretary, and updating progress on an electronic giving proposal. Remember, this is your best chance to voice an opinion on the future of our church! So mark the date on your calendars. I sincerely hope you are able to attend! Thank you, John Peters

### **Treasurer's Report for May 2018**

Income- \$ 4,111.00  
Expenses- \$10,602.84

Capital Improvement Fund - \$ 12,830.32  
Investments with UBS valued at \$151,500.74



Matthew Haling, Treasurer

## OUR CHURCH AT WORK IN JULY



### Helpers for Sunday Services

#### Ushers:

- July 1 – Tom Brown & Dave Jabtecki
- July 8 – Available
- July 15 – Available
- July 22 – Available
- July 29 – Available

#### Liturgists:

- July 1 – Fred Michales
- July 8 – John Peters
- July 15 – Available
- July 22 – Available
- July 29 – Available

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Teresa Munson
- 4 Elaine Stacho
- 7 Valerie Haas
- 10 Constance Kruper
- 11 Betty Mawhinney
- 25 Brian Sampson

### Dedication of Flowers - JULY

- July 1 – Available
- July 8 – Sue MacKenzie
- July 15 – Teresa Curless
- July 22 – Available
- July 29 – Available

## PRAYER LIST



Gerri Sampson	Medical Concerns
Pauline Gourlay	Medical Concerns
Kathy Gideon	Medical Concerns
Tom Schlaff	Medical Concerns
Lois Clickner	Medical Concerns
Elie Stergiou	Medical Concerns
Jane Haling	Health Issues
Carrie Goldie	Serious Health Issues
Rev. Bill Kren	Serious Health Issues
Della King Family	Medical Concerns
Walter Crawford	Medical Concerns
Barbara Kudizus	Medical Concerns
Ron Kupersmid	Medical Concerns
Phyllis Preston	Medical Concerns
Laura Cleaver	Serious Health Issues
Rev. Geoff Drutchas	Health Concerns
Frank Kren	Serious Health Issues

### Fellowship Hour – May

- July 1 – Pat Stacho
- July 8 – Available
- July 15 – Available
- July 22 – Valerie Haas
- July 29 – Available

### Dates to Remember:

- July 13 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm
- July 14 Detroit Churches Tour 9:30am
- July 22 Singing Sermon Sunday

## I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

Life sure is funny. Not necessarily "ha ha" funny! Funny like, "hmm... That's funny, my keys were here a minute ago." You know that feeling, like somebody is messing with your head. This is my life as of late. Things I've always accepted as fact, are now in serious doubt.

For instance, respect! It's more than a song by Aretha Franklin. Or used to be. Walk through the local mall and listen to kids talking to their parents. Or for that matter, talking to total strangers. They look much too young to be talking like a sailor on leave.

Teachers used to be able to teach. Now they are basically underpaid babysitters. Again, respect.

I know I sound like a grumpy old lady, but I guess that's exactly what I've become. Think about all the sayings we grew up with....they mean something totally different from when we were kids...respectful kids, I might add!

"A penny saved is a penny earned" Try giving a kid a penny for taking out the trash. For that matter, try to give him a penny period!

"So many books...so little time" sounds like finals "Beauty is only skin deep." (Unless that thing of beauty is a tattoo.)

Helen Keller once said, "without music, life would be a mistake." Today we can

rephrase that as "Today's music is a mistake!"

But I really don't want to pick on the youth of America. They will be ok, eventually. We are, sort of. The know-it-all attitude will fade...the pants will be pulled up where they belong...they will realize a job is not an option; they will be forced to be adults. Revenge is sweet.

One more old saying...from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Life is a journey, not a destination." Things have changed, Mr. Emerson. I have GPS.

And on a final note, God has blessed me by giving my better half failing eyesight. This gives a whole new meaning to "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." And I be-holding his specs!

Enjoy the rest of the summer, be kind to each other, and smile at those who annoy you. It won't hurt you and just might drive them nuts!! Certainly worth a try. I'm just sayin'...

