

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***



July, 2021

THE VOTE ON THE FUTURE OF DEARBORN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

At our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 20, a vote of the members present was taken on whether or not to sell our building and property and the outcome of such a sale. This vote was prompted in part by the results of a congregation survey mailed to homes back in February which showed a majority of respondents (17-15) believed we should now sell the church. It had also become painfully obvious that getting enough *active* members for programs and activities in church had become a big problem, partly because of the pandemic, but also because of the resignation of key officers and Board members, none of whom have been replaced with new volunteers. An aging and declining membership along with a steady decline in member giving over the last decade forced our hand. And frankly, keeping a building with such high overhead and large budget open for just 12 people for one hour on a Sunday is not sustainable. So voting by secret ballot was done and the vote was 19-3 to sell and relocate the church. There was just one vote to sell and disband the church.

It's important to note our church is not out of money. But by selling now, it gives us time to organize and begin the painful process of selling. And if we sell and relocate, it will provide us with sustainable income to hire a settled minister, assure the minister of job security, and give us a chance to grow.

Fortunately, we have a landing spot that gives us promise. A church in west Dearborn willing to accommodate us as a tenant and partner in their mission just 5 miles away. Christ Episcopal Church on the corner of Military and Cherry Hill is active on many fronts helping the needy and less fortunate. By collaborating with them, we will be better equipped to serve the community, share resources, and actually DO the work of church rather than simply BE a church. It would give us outward focus rather than inward focus. And participating jointly in a church involved in so many mission activities would give our congregation purpose. Yet we would keep our identity as Dearborn Congregational Church.

The Vestry at Christ Episcopal has approved the rental and is moving the decision forward to the parish for discussion and vote. They intend to have discussions with their parish in August and early Sept. and have the parish vote in the first week of Sept. So the earliest we could move is mid-late Sept. However, if we decide to wait and make the move contingent upon the sale of our current building, the time of our move could come much later. One idea mentioned is to stay through the end of the year and celebrate one last Christmas in our building.

As a first step in this transition, we'd like to show members and friends our prospective new church and worship space. Our congregation would be using the chapel at Christ Church exclusively, and not sharing it with another congregation. Their chapel is quite similar to ours, actually - traditional in architecture and ambience, only smaller. If you're interested in visiting Christ Church, please contact me and we will work on scheduling a time that works for most, if not everyone, who would like to go.

The next steps will be preparing to sell our current property. We will need a property appraisal and to hire an attorney specializing in church real estate. We'd also like to stage an outdoor 'parking lot sale' on a Saturday or two this summer to sell equipment stored in the garage we no longer need as well as furniture and other items from inside the church.

I assure you that the decision to sell and move is not taken lightly by our church leaders. Several multi-generational families have grown up in this church. But we must position for the future if we are to survive, and we hope and pray that, by the grace of God, this turns out to be the right decision.

Together in Christ,

John Peters
Moderator

Thanks from Linda Haling

I want to express a heart-felt, gleeful thank you to each of my terrific church family members !

Each prayer said, every positive word spoken, each smile, hug, or "thumb up", made my heart twirl with joy to have your love + support.

Thank-you,

Love, Diva



Book Club will be meeting
Tuesday, July 6 at 7 pm to
discuss The Underground
Railroad by Colson
Whitehead

Bible Study in July: It's not too late to join us for our study of 1 Corinthians on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Our next meeting is July 1 when we will discuss chapters 7 & 8. 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 she sends out each week. We hope you can join us!

Coffee Hour is Back! Now that Covid restrictions have been lifted in Michigan and case numbers in Wayne County are extremely low, we have resumed Fellowship/Coffee Hour after Sunday services. For now, we will serve only beverages -coffee, juice, and water. Perhaps later in the month, we'll begin serving food such as light snacks, again. We invite everyone to join us on Sundays for conversation in the newly painted Mayflower Room!

Altar Flowers: If you'd like to dedicate flowers in memory of, or in recognition of, a loved one or event in your life, all Sundays in July are available. Please contact the 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 the details of your dedication. The cost is \$15, payable to the church, which can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or dropped off/mailed to the church. Payment should be made prior to the Sunday of dedication.

Outdoor Clean-up Work Needed: There are a few areas on the grounds of the church that need attention. Weeds need to be pulled around the storage garage, and weeding and leaf clean-up is needed between the evergreen shrubs around the church building. Picking up fallen branches, plus trimming the lowest branches of front lawn trees also needs to be done. Please consider coming by the church when you have free time and help to maintain the church! A list of the jobs needed will be left on a table in the chapel. If you come and complete a task, please draw a line through that task to indicate it is done. Thank you!

Give Online at Your Convenience: Make your regular offering online...or schedule automatic payments! Go to www.dccdearborn.org and click on the yellow "Donate" button. You DO NOT need a PayPal account. Pay with a credit card by just entering the information asked for. If you use Facebook, go to the "Dearborn Congregational Church, UCC" page where 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. Thank you for your support!

Downriver for Veterans & Pull Tabs/Lids: We're collecting non-perishable food, personal items, new clothing and pillows for Downriver for Veterans in Wyandotte. Place your items in a plastic bag and leave in a box or basket behind the pews. Any and all donations are deeply appreciated by the volunteers at DFV. We're also collecting aluminum pull tabs and can lids for Ronald McDonald House which can be left in the container just inside the tower entrance door.

View the Sunday Bulletin Before Each Service: Each week, on Friday, a copy of the bulletin for the upcoming Sunday service can be found on our website at www.dccdearborn.org by clicking on 'DCC Home' at the top and scrolling down that menu to 'Weekly Bulletin'. Or, if you are on Facebook, search for "Dearborn Congregational, UCC" and look for the post promoting the upcoming service, then click on the highlighted links. After choosing 'Weekly Bulletin', then to see the Order of Worship, click on 'Worship'. To see the Prayer List and Altar Flower dedication, click on 'Announcements'.

DEDICATION OF FLOWERS

- July 4 – Available
- July 11 – Available
- July 18 – Available
- July 25 – Available



PRAYER LIST



Baby Kayden, 07/04 Heart Valve Issue
Teresa Curless, 07/04 Recovering from Hernia Surgery
Michelle Campeau, 05/30 Health Concern
Lew Worthington, 04/25 Pancreatic Cancer Treatment
 Health Concern
Gail Waggoner, 05/30 Long-Term Health Issues
Pat Stacho, 05/30 Recovering from Surgery
Sue Wilson, 05/30 Health Concern
Carrie Goldie, 05/30 Ongoing Health Concern
Unspoken Prayer Request

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.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Elaine Stacho
- 7 Valerie Haas
- 11 Betty Mawhinney
- 25 Brian Sampson



Treasurer's Report for May 2021

Income- \$2,055.15
 Expenses- \$4,486.66

Citizens Account - \$15,598.71
 Investments with UBS valued at \$101,958.89

Treasurer

Date to Remember:

July 6	7 pm	Book Club
July 14	7 pm	Diaconate Meeting
		Trustee Meeting
July 1-29	7 pm	Zoom Bible Study

I'M JUST SAYIN' ... Oldie but Goodie from July

2013...with Pat Stacho

CAUTION! Read instructions carefully before reading this article.

Sounds rather silly, doesn't it? Look around people...there are instructions on everything. Did you know an oven will get hot when turned on? Use caution! Don't let your children climb on said hot stove...really? I would think that feeling that heat would deter climbing.

I read my instructions carefully and often, how else would I know to plug in my toaster before use? You cannot use a hair dryer in the shower, especially if said dryer is plugged in. Laundry detergent is not to be ingested. Seriously, that is part of the instructions.

When did we get so dumb? I have never wondered what TIDE tasted like....never. I think once '1-800 Sam' hit the air waves, stupidity replaced common sense. You can't sue if there are no damages. So the question became how much is stupidity paying? Obviously, quite a bit.

Spill hot coffee while attempting to drive.....SUE

Forget to take the plastic off the lunchmeat....SUE

Find a finger in your big Mac, SUE. (Extra points, if it's not yours)

Have you failed to use extreme caution when lighting the grill? It will be o.k.

Your survivors can sue.

Be sure to call your lawyer if you forget to tighten those tricky lug nuts. (You should have access to a phone in ICU. If not, could be a double lawsuit. There is big money in hospital negligence)

Sadly, it is not just sporadic warnings, which America is disregarding. Check any product in your home, read the label.

And that is another thing...when did shampoo become gender specific?

I was in the shower, (an unnecessary warning) my shampoo empty, I reached for Pete's FOR MEN ONLY shampoo. For 'men only'?? Is it laced with viagra? Worse scenario, my hair goes straight. I ignored the label.

I have acquired a wealth of knowledge, just reading labels. But what about the ones they don't warn you about?

Like glass is sharp....ice cream must be kept cold....razor blades will cut your legs, most likely while primping for a night on the town. Soap will sting like crazy when in the eyes. A paper cut will hurt like it deserves stitches. There is not enough valium in the world to make marriage as perfect as you thought on your wedding day. Children are not always smiling. Men do not read instructions, nor do they come with instructions. (I would've remembered that) Red kool-aid stains are forever? Barney the dinosaur records will never stop rattling in your head. There are more calories in chocolate than Hershey's will admit. Flower beds require regular watering, weeds do not.

Just be mindful of all the hidden dangers lurking all around us. Read the warnings, friends. Heed the warnings.....I have warned you.

Oh, I almost forget...if there is something green and fuzzy, hidden in the back of the refrigerator in a Tupperware container, DO NOT OPEN. Just throw it out...wish I had been warned!