

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



Dear beloved of Dearborn Church:

Grace and peace everyone! Our prayer is that you are all staying safe, staying healthy, and staying in prayer. We are all struggling to make our lives strong and healthy again. Please be sure to call one another from time to time to see how the fellowship is doing. Always let me know of any pastoral care needs that are out there. Here are a few items for the days ahead.

Worship

We are in the midst of re-opening from the Corona Virus Quarantine. It has been a long process. There are a lot of new changes and requirements everywhere. That includes church. There are a few of us gathering on Sunday mornings to produce and record our FaceBook Live video for those at home. Please use the church FaceBook page to access at 10:00 am, it will be posted later on the church website.

Wednesday Coffee, Devotions, and Conversations (10:00am)

Theme - "Twenty-four Sundays of Pentecost, the Book of Acts

Each week we will explore a different chapter and church history in the Book of Acts. There are 24 Sundays in Pentecost and the next big holy day is the first Sunday of Advent in November. Our Wednesday discussions will center around the early church, Paul, and our calling as Christians. Join us on Zoom at 9:30am every Wednesday. Here is the link. You can go to [zoom.us](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88666865845) and search Eugene Blair and I will pop-up:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88666865845>

Summer is Here!

We know that many of us are going to try and get some time off, vacation, rest, or renewal after the long quarantine. Remember to stay safe. Keep the church in your prayers, and talent and offering. There are some clean-up and yard clearing jobs you can do also. The list is on the bulletin board by the office. Come out when you can on your own schedule.

Musician for July 5th Service

If anyone knows someone who can play for us July 5th please let us know. Hopefully, if all goes well, Brian will take some vacation time.

All the best,
Pastor Gene

Preparing for Life in the Church after COVID -19

Our June Church Council Meeting is approaching and it will be my first as pastor. We have faced two pandemics this spring. One, the racial protests over police violence and racism. Second, re-opening from COVID 19. In preparation I have attached a link for an article on the church post-COVID:

"Ten Ways the Church Will be Changed by COVID 19."
(<https://convergenceus.org/2020/04/02/ten-ways-the-church-will-be-changed-by-covid-19/>)

The list includes:

First, on-line worship is here to stay.

Second, church closures will accelerate. This is what I want to comment on for us at DCC. Churches that were close to closing before the pandemic will close faster now. They will not survive the months-long closure. There are several reasons for this. Churches that were fragile and vulnerable are going to be hit with the final blow and close. Loss of people, income, lots of fear, a devastating financial incident, (like a roof), low people energy, and refusal to change will be some of the reasons. Refusing to use technology will be a big factor.

Where do you think Dearborn Congregational stands in this long process of re-opening? What is God calling us to become and to do in the months ahead? Let begin the conversation at the Church Council meeting.

All the best,
Pastor Gene

Reaching Pastor Gene Blair

Cell phone: 1-734-748-6039

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News and Updates

FROM THE MODERATOR

Church Council Meeting on Tuesday: All members are encouraged to attend a Church Council meeting on Tuesday, June 30 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. We will social distance and masks are required. The head of each Board and Committee must be present or otherwise arrange for a representative to appear in their place. The emphasis of the meeting will be Pastor Blair's agenda for the church going forward, including incorporating technology and identifying a mission, the organizational aspects of the church with possible Bylaws changes, and revenue-generating ideas. Remember, this is an opportunity to voice your opinion on the future of our church!

Hope to see you there.

Church Maintenance Jobs -Volunteers Wanted: Even if you aren't attending worship on Sunday, there's a valuable way you can volunteer to serve the church. We've compiled a list of indoor and outdoor tasks that we need your help with. Feel free to come over on your own time and spend an hour or two. A 4-page list of jobs was printed in the June Messenger. This list is also located on the table in the back of the sanctuary and the bulletin board by the tower entrance. Some jobs have been completed or are nearly complete. We would like to take inventory of the classrooms, office equipment room, basement storage area, and storage garage!! Bring a notebook and pen for that task and pick a room. For outdoor work, please bring your own yard tools and either a lawn or trash bag. Thank you!

2020 Men's Club Annual Christmas Tree Sale

It is with great sadness that after 63 successful years of selling Christmas trees at Dearborn Congregational Church, our annual Men's Club Christmas Tree Sale will come to an end this year. With minimal people returning to church at this time and even less committing to selling trees this December, largely due to uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 outbreak, we simply couldn't place a Christmas tree order. Dutchman Tree Farms was insistent on the order being turned in by June 1, and then gave us a two-week grace period, but it just wasn't meant to be. We pray that by the grace of God, we can bring back the tree sale next year by promoting it on Facebook and the local neighborhood blog. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time and energy to keep it going the past few years.

Best wishes,
John Peters



Communion on Sunday July 5

Plan to join us for Communion on July 5. For our safety and peace of mind, we have purchased and received pre-filled Communion cups and wafers in individually wrapped sets that will be available on the back table of the Sanctuary for you to pick up as you enter.

