

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, 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.



FROM THE DIACONATE

Dinner

Friday, March 9 – 6:30 PM

We hope you can join us for a Lenten Dinner of Middle Eastern food catered from Ollie's in Dearborn. We are asking \$10 per person for adults with children 12 and under – free. Following dinner, Rev. Kren will share a short devotional for the Lenten Season. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Mayflower Room or Sanctuary and indicate the number of people attending so that we can order the appropriate amount of food. The deadline is March 4. You may also call the Church Office at (313-271-8552) or email dccucc@gmail.com to sign up. This will be a special evening of fellowship.

Daylight Saving Time Begins – March 11

Remember to change your clocks forward one hour.

Easter Flowers

It's time to place your order for Easter flowers. These spring flowers are a wonderful way to honor or remember loved ones in your life. The cost is \$7.00 each and you have a choice of tulips, lilies, hyacinths and daffodils. Please sign the sheet in the Mayflower Room or Sanctuary and indicate how many of each flower you would like and the name(s) of those being remembered. Payment can be given to Nancy or put in the offering plate marked "Easter Flowers" with your name on the envelope. You may also call the Church Office at (313-271-8552) or email dccucc@gmail.com to place your order. The deadline for is March 18.

Diaconate Meeting

The next Diaconate meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 14 at 7:00 PM.

Good Friday Service – March 30

Just as last year, we will not have a Maundy Thursday Service and hope you will join us instead on Good Friday at 7:00 PM. Rev. Kren will be sharing a meaningful message and the choir will be singing special music. To appreciate the excitement and joy of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday it's important to experience the sorrow and passion of our Lord on Good Friday.

Easter Sunday Communion – April 1

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed! Come and celebrate on Easter morning when we will share in our Lord's Supper.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

This year's theme is "More Than We Can Imagine". As the Apostle Paul writes, "by the power at work within us," God is able to "accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). "We are the agents of transformation that God uses to transfigure this world" (Archbishop Desmond Tutu). Wishing and dreaming of a better world means nothing if we don't realize that God gives us community to practice love and compassion. We cannot only care for ourselves, but we must also care about those around us, both near and far. Our gifts become part of a loving legacy in ways we can't foresee. Our gifts become blessings to people we don't know and blesses in ways we can't expect. We can make a difference beyond what we can imagine. One Great Hour of Sharing is a Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food and give relief from disasters. Special offering envelopes are in the pews through March 11.

Downriver for Veterans

We are collecting non-perishable food items for Downriver for Veterans located on Fort Street in Wyandotte. Only in its second year, this organization needs ongoing support to assist local resource-limited veterans with food and other needs. Some veterans are on disability income and don't have enough to pay their bills and buy groceries. Please place your items in the baskets behind the last pew in the Sanctuary. Plan to give to this worthy cause. Also check the expiration dates, as expired items cannot be accepted.

Treasurer's Report for January 2018

Income- \$5,713.00

Expenses- \$9,828.90

Capital Improvement Fund - \$ 12,830.32

Investments with UBS valued at \$181,611.13

Matthew Haling, Treasurer



OUR CHURCH AT WORK In March

Helpers for Sunday Services

Ushers:

March 4 – Jim Haling & Pete Stacho
 March 11 – Marge Manspeaker & Available
 March 18 – Debbie Evans & Available
 March 25 – Available

Liturgists:

March 4 – Raymond Carter
 March 11 – Available
 March 18 – Available
 March 25 – Available



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 John Proctor
 Karen Lawrence
 4 Michelle Fitzpatrick
 7 Melissa Schilbe
 10 Elizabeth Paul
 Betty Radatz
 13 Henry Zawu
 14 Phyllis Preston
 16 Polly Fitzpatrick
 22 Grant MacKenzie
 23 Zoe Martin
 Marge Manspeaker
 27 Michelle Martin
 30 Michael Haling
 31 Linda Meadows

PRAYER LIST



Geri Sampson	Medical Concerns
Pauline Gourlay	Medical Concerns
Annika Koch	Medical Concerns
Kathy Gideon	Medical Concerns
Cathy MacKenzie	Medical Concerns
Tom Schlaff	Medical Concerns
Carol Burroughs	Medical Concerns
Rev. Norman Kirsch	Medical Concerns
Lois Clickner	Medical Concerns
Elie Stergiou	Medical Concerns
Jane Haling	Health Issues
Jim Shippee	Medical Concerns
Carrie Goldie	Serious Health Issues
Rev. Bill Kren	Serious Health Issues
Della King Family	Medical Concerns
Wanda Silvey	Medical Concerns
Nancy Gerlach	Medical Concerns

Dedication of Flowers - March

March 4 – Gail Waggoner
 March 11 – Available
 March 18 – Polly Fitzpatrick
 March 25 – Teresa Curless

Fellowship Hour – March

March 4 – Available
 March 11 – Available
 March 18 – Ann Saadah & Deb Evans
 March 25 – Available

Dates to Remember:

March 9 Lenten Dinner 6:30pm
 March 14 Diaconate Meeting 7pm
 March 14 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm
 March 30 Good Friday Service 7pm

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

One of my favorite places to visit is any of our local libraries. You can get a book to read, get an audio book to listen to, a current or a classic movie to watch, join a book club, and the morning newspaper is still available. Soft, comfy easy chairs are there to get lost in one of the current novels— these are just a few of the benefits. There are neighbors to chat with, new friends to make, and a librarian to assist you. And there are now a LOT of large-print books available.

There are always books for sale, super reasonable. (I was going to say cheap...but cheap books are found at the checkout counters of Kroger!) Last week a book caught my eye, a super bargain for 50¢.....1,003 great things about getting older. A collection of quotes from the famous, the young, and those of us who are getting older! Some are funny, some are sad, there are wise words and some are wise a** remarks. I thought I'd share a bit of them with you. Bet you'll recognize someone you know, if not yourself.

"It's getting easier and easier to meet your health -insurance deductible." Yep, I met mine the first part of February.

"You don't need the shingles with the thirty year warranty." (But you might want to consider the shingle vaccine.)

"Your spouse still snores, but now you can't hear it."

"Your children are starting to like you again." More importantly, I'm probably less likeable, but they tolerate me more

than I thought possible! And family meals have become a pleasure. Especially since our son usually pays for, or prepares, those family meals.

Susan Hayward movies....that's all I need to say. If you're close to my age, you KNOW exactly what I mean.

Handicapped parking. We even have a handicapped license plate. And no one questions me when I use it. (Not sure if that is good or not.)

"You have a profound new respect for your knees."

That one doesn't even need explaining! It is extended to hips, shoulders, back...well, you get the picture.

"You remember when meals on wheels meant riding your bike to the park, with a pbj wrapped in wax paper, a picnic with the gang."

"You're probably not going to be frisked at the airport."
(That's kinda' sad...frisking used to be fun.)

"Arthritis makes it less likely you'll lose your wedding ring."

"Nowadays, almost everything comes with a remote control." True but you first have to get your grandkids to program those remotes!

This is just a sampling from my new 50¢ book. I think I'll write the counterpart: "1,003 crappy things about getting older."

Feel free to send me your suggestions. Until then, keep thinking about the benefits we share...and no, NOT Social Security benefits! Geez...I'm just sayin'...

St. Patrick's Day History and Traditions

This holiday is celebrated every year on March 17th, honoring the Irish patron saint, St. Patrick. The celebrations are largely Irish culture themed and typically consist of wearing green, parades, and drinking. Some churches may hold religious services and many schools and offices close in Suffolk County, the area containing Boston and its suburbs.

People all over the world celebrate St. Patrick's Day, especially places with large Irish-American communities. Feasting on the day features traditional Irish food, including corned beef, corned cabbage, coffee, soda bread, potatoes, and shepherd's pie. Many celebrations also hold an Irish breakfast of sausage, black and white pudding, fried eggs, and fried tomatoes. Common traditions include:

- **Parades** – This event is most often associated with the holiday. Cities that hold large parades include Boston, New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Savannah, and other cities worldwide.
- **Drinking** – Since many Catholics are Irish-American, some may be required to fast from drinking during Lent. However, they are allowed to break this fast during the St. Patrick's Day celebrations. This is one cause for the day's association with drinking heavily.
- **Dying water or beer green** – Chicago dyes its river green for the festivities, and many bars serve green-dyed beer. The White House fountain is also dyed green.
- **Other incorporations of green** – In Seattle, the parade routes are painted in green. Observers are supposed to wear green or else risk being pinched. Parade floats and decorations will feature the color green.
- **Religious services** – Those who celebrate the holiday in a religious context may also hold a feast. Outside of this context, overindulgence tends to revolve around drinking.
- **Pea planting** – In the Northeast, many celebrate by planting peas. This is largely due to the color and time of year (prime pea-planting conditions).

Saint Patrick – The Missionary and Bishop of Ireland

St. Patrick, or the "Apostle of Ireland," actually started out in the pagan religion. While not much is known about his

early life, as many of his life's details were lost to folklore, letters from St. Patrick reveal that he was captured in Wales, Scotland, or another close area outside of Ireland and taken to Ireland as a slave. Years later, he escaped and returned to his family, who were Romans living in Britain, going back to Ireland for mission work after finding a place as a cleric and then Bishop within the Christian faith. He was born around 460, and by the 600s, he was already known as the Patron Saint of Ireland.



There are many legends associated with St. Patrick. The symbol of the shamrock used for St. Patrick's Day comes from the story of St. Patrick using the shamrock to illustrate the Holy Trinity. The three-leafed plant coincided with the Pagan religion's sanctity of the number three and is the root of the green color theme.

Another popular belief is that St. Patrick banished the snakes from Ireland. The story says that while St. Patrick was fasting, snakes attacked him, so he chased all snakes into the ocean. However, there have never been snakes in Ireland during the post-glacial period. The absence of snakes and symbolism involved with snakes is believed to explain the story, although it could have been referring to type of worm rather than snakes. One legend has St. Patrick sticking a walking stick into the ground while evangelizing, which turned into a tree.

The History of St. Patrick's Day and why it's celebrated.

St. Patrick's Day was first celebrated in America in 1737, organized by the Charitable Irish Society of Boston, including a feast and religious service. This first celebration of the holiday in the colonies was largely to honor and celebrate the Irish culture that so many colonists had been separated from.

Early celebrations continued this modest tradition. In New York, the first celebration took place as a small gathering at the home of an Irish protestant. St. Patrick's Day parades started in New York in 1762 by a group of Irish soldiers in the British military who marched down Broadway. This began the tradition of a military theme in the parade, as they often feature marching military units. The holiday eventually evolved from the modest religious dinner into the raucous holiday we know today.