

# 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  
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To reach Rev. Blair, please use his cell phone number; 1-734-748-6039.  
Please use his gmail for email messages at [Jabulaney3@gmail.com](mailto:Jabulaney3@gmail.com).

*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***



Welcome to Pastor, Dr. Eugene Blair. A special Congregational meeting was held following Sunday's, March 01, 2020 sermon. After a brief question and answer period, a vote was taken to approve Rev. Blair as our new interim Minister. As we have been Blessed with a very energetic Minister, it is time to move Dearborn Congregational Church forward to bring God's word to the people. Looking forward to everyone being a part of our future. Pastor Blair will have office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

~Pastoral Search Committee Chair, Jim Haling

**Dr. Eugene A. Blair**  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Jabulaney3@gmail.com

Eugene Blair currently serves as an Intentional Interim Minister with dual standing in the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church. He served nine years as program staff and district superintendent in the Detroit Annual Conference. From 1994-2004, he served as the pastor of the newly formed Resurrection United Methodist Church in Chicago and the Director for Congregational Development for the Northern Illinois Conference.

His pastorates include two new church starts. He served as a teaching missionary from 1992-93 at what is now Kenya Methodist University (Nairobi, Kenya). He was Dean of The Upper Room Chapel and the International Director of Spiritual Formation and Chrysalis (Youth Walk to Emmaus) for the General Board of Discipleship from 1987-1992. He has traveled and studied in several countries in Africa where he has also led spiritual formation events and consultations.

Dr. Blair studied at Bethel University and Seminary in St. Paul, MN (BS), the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (M.Div.), and the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit (D.Min.). For a number of years, he was involved with the Academy for Spiritual Formation. Before entering the ministry, he was a police officer and community organizer.

Dr. Blair has written several books over the years including *Maybe God is Trying to Tell You Something-Listening for Your Call to Ministry* and *What Kind of Man is Joseph, and What Kind of Man Are You? (A Bible Study for Men on Matthew 1 and 2)*. He is a member of the Academy for Spiritual Formation Forum.

Dr. Blair lives in Ann Arbor, MI with his wife Dawn and two daughters: Nia will be a junior at Tennessee State University and Imani will be a sophomore at Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor. Dawn is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher in Ann Arbor. Dr. Blair is also a youth counselor and teacher at the Washtenaw County Juvenile Detention Center. One of Gene's special interests is using mindfulness and spirituality with juvenile offenders and youth in drug recovery. He also runs an after school and summer camp STEM program for elementary students, Bricks 4 Kidz.

# News and Updates

## DIACONATE NEWS

### **Daylight Light Saving Time Begins - March 8**

Remember to change your clocks forward one hour.

### **Join Us For Dinner – March 25**

We plan to meet for dinner on Wednesday, March 25 at 6:00pm at Malek Al Kabob Restaurant. We are going to their ***new location at 22065 Michigan Avenue in West Dearborn***. We will be making a reservation, so if you plan on joining us, please add your name(s) to the sign-up sheet in the Sanctuary or Mayflower Room.

### **Easter Flowers**

It's time to place your order for Easter flowers to honor or remember loved ones in your life. 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. We are getting them from Schwartz's Greenhouse and the cost is \$10.00 per plant. Payment can be given to Nancy or put in the offering plate marked "Easter Flowers" with your name on the envelope. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 22.

### **Diaconate Meeting**

The Diaconate is scheduled to meet Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 pm.

### **Palm Sunday Brunch**

We will have our annual Palm Sunday Brunch on April 5 in the Mayflower Room immediately following worship service. Park Place will once again provide the food and the cost is \$10.00 per person. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Sanctuary and Mayflower Room.

### **Thank you!**

Thank you for your contribution to our special Advent Offering. We collected \$240.25 for our church.

## **Downriver for Veterans**

We continue to collect non-perishable food items for Downriver for Veterans located on Fort Street in Wyandotte. 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. You can place your donations in the Totes of Love bin in the back of the Sanctuary.

## **KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS**

It's been 22 years since our church became a recipient of 5% back on all purchases except gas, alcohol and prescription drugs made online or in the store. I hope to renew your interest in this free money that goes directly to our church each quarter. If you use a Kroger Plus Shopper's Card (which we all do in order to get discounts) please register it online if you haven't done so. ANYONE can register our church as a recipient, don't need to be a member. Invite your friends and family to register us. All your points for gas, coupons and everything else remains the same. Nothing special to punch in when checking out at the store. To be sure that our church is receiving the 5% back from your purchase, look at the bottom of your receipt and it will display Dearborn Congregational Church. Go online to Kroger Community Rewards and follow the instructions to register. No codes are needed – just type in the name of our church and it will come up. When we first began the program we were receiving approximately \$500 a year and other than registering once, there's nothing more to do. Contact me if you have questions  
– Diana Schilbe



Happy Birthday Betty!

On March 10, Betty Radatz will turn 100 years old! Although she now lives in Montana, she remains a member of the church, made many friends while she attended here, and still talks about our church with great fondness. Congratulations Betty on reaching this amazing milestone! Continued good health and God bless.

# OUR CHURCH AT WORK

## In March

### Helpers for Sunday Services

#### Ushers:

- March 1 – Jim Haling
- March 8 – Teresa Curless and Dev Evans
- March 15 – Available
- March 22 – Available
- March 29 – Available

#### Liturgists:

- March 1 – Valerie Haas
- March 8 – John Peters
- March 15 – Available
- March 22 – Available
- March 29 – Available

### Dedication of Flowers

- March 1 – Gail Waggoner
- March 8 – Tammy and Dave Jabtecki  
In honor of their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary
- March 15 – Available
- March 22 – Teresa Curless  
In honor of Dick and Jan Curless' wedding anniversary
- March 29 – Polly Fitzpatrick  
In memory of Evelyn Fitzpatrick

### Fellowship Hour

- March 1 – Diaconate
- March 8 – Nancy Wolter
- March 15 – Available
- March 22 – Available
- March 29 – Available

### PRAYER LIST



<b>Barb Allen</b> , 02/16	Serious Health Issues
<b>Gail Waggoner</b> , 02/16	Health Issues
<b>Pauline Gourlay</b> , 02/16	Shut in
<b>Fred Michales</b> , 02/16	Serious Health Concern
<b>Tom Schlaff</b> , 02/16	Waiting for heart transplant
<b>Katie Evelyn Riley</b> , 02/23	Granddaughter of Deb Evans, Ongoing health issues due to complications from diabetes.
<b>Carol Bowen</b> , 02/16,	Friend of Sue Wilson
<b>Marilyn Beardsley</b> , 02/16	Health Concern
	Recovering from health concern at home
<b>Cary Goldie</b> , 02/16	Health Concern
<b>Jim Shippee</b> , Friend of Sue Wilson, 02/16	
	Health Concern
<b>Jeff Hitchcock</b> , 03/01	
Son of Fred and Joann Michals	Health Concern

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.

#### Dates to Remember:

- March 1 11 am Congregational Meeting
- March 11 7 pm Diaconate and Trustees



- 2 John Proctor
- Karen Lawrence
- 7 Melissa Schilbe
- 10 Elizabeth Paul
- Betty Radatz
- 16 Polly Fitzpatrick
- 22 Grant MacKenzie
- 23 Zoe Martin
- 23 Marge Manspeaker
- 27 Michelle Martin
- 30 Michael Haling
- 31 Lynda Meadows

### Treasurer's Report for January 2020

Income- \$4,092.00  
 Expenses- \$6,415.62  
 Capital Improvement Fund - \$13,530.32  
 Investments with UBS valued at \$110,475.95

Matthew Haling, Treasurer





## I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

I have always tried to be a good neighbor. I am rethinking my position. From here on I will still try to be a good neighbor, but selectively.

I will be very careful before I agree to babysit children unable to go potty by themselves. Or feed themselves.

My neighbor recently called me in a panic. Her babysitter cancelled on her and she was going to be late for work waiting for her mother to bail her out. (Grandma was an hour away!) I could surely handle two little ones for an hour. Two little boys, 1 1/2 and three. Repeat....1 1/2 and three. In my defense, she called me at 7:30 in the morning. Not only was I half awake, I assumed the babies were sleeping and would remain that way until grandma showed up. HA!

Three, maybe four minutes after she raced away in her car, the kids were up and crying for mommy. I picked up the older one first, figured he would just be happy to get out of his crib. WRONG! Diaper change needed. Immediately. After searching for diapers, wipes and a change of clothes, we both were in tears. On to the baby...another little bottom full of surprises!

By this time I knew where the diapers were stashed. Got them in the high chairs, which wasn't easy. Not like the easy fits of years ago. The trays were a challenge no woman of my age should've had to face. However, I was able to make some scrambled eggs and a couple of bottles.

I set the boys down on the living room floor with enough toys for the entire neighborhood. I went to wipe down the walls, (flying eggs) when I heard blood curdling screams. OMG What if one was seriously hurt...but it was just a tug of war for a rather shabby teddy

bear. Obviously, these kids were not yet taught the concept of brotherly love.

The phone rang, and I had to search for it. Cell phones can be anywhere. It was mommy. I asked about grandma's status. Seems she texted her mom, but never got an answer!

Now what?? I lied and said I had a doctor appointment I couldn't possibly reschedule. "I'll get back to you ASAP." CLICK

Why it's called "babysit", I will never understand. Believe me, I don't recall sitting. OK. I sat on the floor with them for awhile, trying to teach them the art of sharing. Took me 20 minutes to get up.

Grandma never showed up, mom never called back. I will be very cautious answering my phone in the future. Caller ID is there for a reason. I learned the hard way.

I'm just saying.

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS NEWS

A few of us, over the course of the last year, have been discussing our church's yard maintenance needs. Specifically should we, the church membership, do this instead of hiring a contractor. A few of us did a cursory fall clean-up in December saving the church \$780. That was the amount the contractor was going to charge. The landscape maintenance cost for 2019 was still almost \$5000. If a sufficient number of us are able to perform the yard maintenance this year a contractor will not need to be hired. So that a few won't have to do this work each week, we will need between 8-10 volunteers. This way 3 or 4 people will be able to do the work each week without being overburdened. We will all be unavailable at different times this summer—trips, family, personal business, vacations, etc.

Please consider volunteering!!!

Call or email the church office.

Thank you,

Building and Grounds