

Relax! Give Thanks!

According to Greek legend, in ancient Athens a man noticed the great storyteller Aesop playing childish games with some little boys. He asked him why he was wasting time in such frivolous activity.

Aesop responded by picking up a bow, loosening its string, and placing it on the ground. Then he said to the critical Athenian, *“Now, answer the riddle if you can. Tell me what the unstrung bow implies.”*

The man looked at it for several moments but had no idea what point Aesop was trying to make. Aesop explained, *“If you keep a bow always bent, it will break eventually; but if you let it go slack, it will be fit for use when you want it.”*

People are also like that. We get so caught up in this frantic pace of this 21st Century that we fail to schedule times for rest and relaxation. There never seems to be enough time in the day.

Enough days in the week! As one t.v. pitchman put it: *“Stop the madness!!!”* Fortunately, the November calendar brings to us ... the help we need!

On Thursday, November 26th, we will celebrate that special day called Thanksgiving. This year, why not set aside this day to not only give “thanks” – but also relax physically and renew yourself emotionally and spiritually? You will then be your best for the Lord as you answer His call in your life! (And don’t panic, but Christmas follows in only 28 days!)

Loosen up!

Enjoy the holiday!

and...

Give thanks!



Pastor Bill

Messages from the Diaconate

"All-Saints Day" - Sunday, Nov. 1: Please join us for a very special service dedicated to remembering those in our church family who we've lost. In recognition of "All-Saints Day", which falls on Nov. 1 each year, a ceremony in honor of those who've passed on to be with our Lord and Father in heaven will take place during the morning worship. The names of the dearly departed will be read, a chime will toll in memory of each person, and Pastor Kren will give a red rose to surviving family and friends. We hope you will come and share in the moment!

Healing Service - Sunday, Nov. 8: Pastor Kren will officiate a special "Healing Service" for those in need during Worship on November 8. After he has preached on the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, worshippers will be invited to come forward to receive an anointing of oil, followed by a time of special prayer. The service is open to all church members and friends.

Coming Soon! "Popcorn & Movie Night, Pt. 2" - Nov. 13: An evening of film-watching, food, and fun is on the agenda Friday, November 13! The Diaconate is planning a sequel to last year's successful "Popcorn & Movie Night", and with the help of Pastor Kren's laptop and projector will show a flick in the Mayflower Room while viewers enjoy snacking on theater-style popcorn. The movie has yet to be determined but expect family-friendly fare or an historical period drama. Showtime is 7 pm, but feel free to arrive about 6:30 for a time of fellowship. Hope to see you all there!

Volunteers on Sunday: We need people to serve our church on Sundays in November. If you are able and available to lend a hand as an usher, liturgist, or fellowship host, please see Teresa Curless or sign the sheet on the table in the Mayflower Room. Thank you!

Thanksgiving Basket for a Church Member: In that vein, the Diaconate is leading an effort again this year to collect non-perishable food or money for a gift card to give to someone who can truly benefit from our assistance this holiday season. In the spirit of God's love, we humbly serve those less fortunate than ourselves to lighten their burden. If you know of a person who would be helped by our charity, please see Pastor Kren or Diaconate chair, John Peters.

Advent Readers Needed - Believe it or not, the first Sunday of Advent this year is Nov. 29! As such, it's not too soon to announce that the Diaconate is looking for couples, or two or more members of the same family, who would like to volunteer to do a reading and candle lighting on each of the 4 Sundays in Advent prior to Christmas Eve. If you are interested in participating, please see a Diaconate member or contact the church office by phone or e-mail.

"Hanging of the Greens" & Potluck Dinner: Mark your calendars for Friday, December 4th. That's the day on which we gather to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Prior to decorating, there will be a Potluck dinner in the Mayflower Room at 6:00. The Diaconate is providing ham. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the sanctuary and the Mayflower Room in late November. Please consider attending and bringing a dish to share. Thank you!



Treasurer's Report for September 2015

Income- \$6,439.40
Expenses- \$7,973.99

Capital Improvement Fund - \$11,267.26
Investments with UBS valued at \$202,158.19

Matthew Haling, Treasurer

A Note of Thanks

So many thanks to this wonderful congregation for making Sunday, October 18th such a great day for me. There would have been no celebration had it not been for the clergy and lay members of this church, past and present, whose assistance I have relied upon throughout the years. My thanks to all of you.

Irene

OUR CHURCH AT WORK In November



Helpers for Sunday Services

Greeters:

- November 1 – Ian Haas
- November 8 – Ian Haas
- November 15 – Ian Haas
- November 22 – Ian Haas
- November 29 – Ian Haas

Ushers:

- November 1 – Dave Jabtecki & Marge Manspeaker
- November 8 – Available
- November 15 – Available
- November 22 – Available
- November 29 – Available

Liturgists:

- November 1 – John Peters
- November 8 – Available
- November 15 – Available
- November 22 – Available
- November 29 – Available

PRAYER LIST



Bernice Hartling	Medical Concerns
Shirley Fedraw	Medical Concerns
Bunny Hoganson	Medical Concerns
Geri Sampson	Medical Concerns
Suzanne Van Ranst	Medical Concerns
Dotty Klein	Medical Concerns
R. Ferguson Family	Healing, spiritual guidance
Sean Goldie	Medical Concerns
Gordon Grozdanoff	Medical Concerns
Arline Prois	Medical Concerns
John Adams	Medical Concerns
David MacKenzie	Medical Concerns
Pauline Gourlay	Medical Concerns
John B. Curtis	Medical Concerns
Barbara Allen	Medical Concerns

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 8 Pauline Gourlay
- 16 Nancy Wolter
- 18 John Peters
- 19 Teresa Curless
- 25 Diana Schilbe
- 25 Suzanne Van Ranst
- 26 Kirk Haas
- 27 Cheryl Brown
- 29 Katherine MacKenzie

Dedication of Flowers - November

- November 1 – All Saints Day
- November 8 – Elaine Stacho
- November 15 – Diana Lindsey
- November 22 – Available
- November 29 – Available

Fellowship Hour – November

- November 1 – John Peters & Teresa Curless
- November 8 – Available
- November 15 – Available
- November 22 – Available
- November 29 – Available

Dates to Remember:

- November 8 Healing Service 10am
- November 11 Trustees Meeting 7pm
- November 12 Diaconate Meeting 7pm

Save the Date! **Reserve a table!**

Are you crafty, or have friends who are? We will be having our 1st Craft Show on Saturday, December 5th. Tables are \$20. Call Pat Stacho @ [313-381-1699](tel:313-381-1699) to reserve your spot.

A Message about Giving

Dear Members and Friends

About this time, last year, many of you received a letter from the Stewardship Committee announcing that a decision had been made to discontinue the annual stewardship drive. No longer would there be pledge drives, pleas for money or forms to fill out. Many have responded and have given generously! The Dearborn Congregational Church family has worked together, exercised faith and has trusted God for blessings in 2015,

As we approach the end of the year, the Stewardship Committee wants you to know that, while God has been providing us with the resources to continue our ministry in Dearborn, we continue to struggle in meeting the annual budget. Please accept this reminder in the spirit it is written – that Our Heavenly Father expects all of us to be equally faithful in supporting the church with prayer and in our giving. This is not something new to Christianity. Throughout Scripture, God has called his people to be generous.

In the Book of [Malachi 3:8-10](#), it reads:

“Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! “But you ask, ‘What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?’ “You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!”

The word "tithe" literally means tenth or 10%. Tithing, or *giving* ten percent of our income, isn't merely giving something to God. It's *giving back* what was his to begin with. All that we have, or hope to have, comes from him. The Bible says that tithing is a reminder that God is the supplier of everything. It teaches us to always put God first in our lives. This generosity is shown in the use of our gifts, our time and our financial resources.

If you are a member or a regular attender and this is your spiritual home, then we encourage you to continue in your giving to the needs of the church and possibly consider a small weekly increase or a one-time gift that will help us finish the year strong. We are also painfully aware that too many ministries seem to make money a central theme and give ammunition to a cynical world to criticize the church. We seek to be biblical and balanced in our approach by trusting the Father to meet the financial needs of the church through the offering given by the Dearborn Congregational family. It is our desire that giving to the church would be an act of worship, giving from a grateful heart for all that the Lord has done for you.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter. And don't forget that God has promised to "... open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing!"

Pastor Kren and the Trustees of Dearborn Congregational Church



I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

Remember when we had to "dial" a telephone to call someone? I was in Bed Bath and Beyond the other day, just browsing. (Yeah, right! I browsed to the tune of \$38.) I was followed by a foreign gentleman, irate, yelling in a language I had no way of deciphering, pacing in the aisle. I truly thought he had mental problems. But, NO, he had Bluetooth. Bluetooth is just another way to drive my generation insane. What is the purpose of having something constantly in your ear, just waiting for someone to talk to? Look around, people, there are humans right before your Bluetooth eyes (or ear as the case may be). No need to dial, just yell.

I have a dumb phone, not a smart phone! My grandkids text me, which is nice because I know they're thinking of me. But I miss their voices. I admit I text now as well. Just one more concession to modern progress. I fear technology is taking over our lives. You all have seen people who are on the phone, while the person they are with is also on the phone. What is that all about? I wonder if they are talking to each other. I doubt it. What if the waiter called you on the phone to take your order....you'd be on the phone already. Oh, I forgot about call waiting.

And Caller ID...Now if I don't get an answer, I think I'm being ignored. "Don't answer it...it's Pat. She probably wants help with some pet project of hers!" Would it hurt to hear me out?

I miss the old days. When a phone call was meaningful. You had something to say. The party lines, remember? Listening in on conversations, not that I did, but I heard it was done quite often. I even recall the different rings for each household. Ours was 1 short, 1 long. My father never heard the short ring, so he never answered the phone. Then he wondered why we had the darn thing, since nobody ever called.

Today it seems everyone out of diapers has a phone. What could a 10 year old have to say that couldn't be said on the playground? And to whom? Parents say it's so they can keep in touch or in case of emergency. I wonder how many times these kids call home just to let mom know they're ok.

Anyway, thanks for letting me vent. I know we will never go back to the good ol' days, but I dread the thought of a generation that has no social skills, can't spell, and has thumbs the size of bananas. Call me, we'll talk. I'm just sayin'...





The Youth Group (Ian and Cole) is again participating in a mission project involving packing shoe boxes with gifts for needy children around the world. Samaritan's Purse collects and distributes these boxes through a program called "Operation Christmas Child". There are different ways to help.

You could buy items, put them in the designated collection box at the back of the sanctuary; you could donate a few shoe boxes or plastic boxes of the same size; you could donate money to go towards the shipping of the boxes. We need \$7.00 for every box for shipping. Last year we shipped 13 boxes.

Here's what we'll be doing:

Filling shoe boxes or shoe box size plastic containers, with small gifts for girls and boys from ages 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14.

Volunteers will assemble boxes as we collect items, and then deliver the boxes to a designated drop-off point.

Anything that you could donate will be helpful for this project. In addition to items for the boxes, we need monetary donations for shipping costs for the boxes.

"The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ."

We will be delivering the shoeboxes for mailing the week of November 15th.

Suggested gift items for the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes:

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: Pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

TOYS: Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS: Toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

OTHER: T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

A PERSONAL NOTE: You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

DO NOT INCLUDE: Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out- of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Samaritan's Purse is a Christian relief and evangelism organization led by Franklin Graham.