

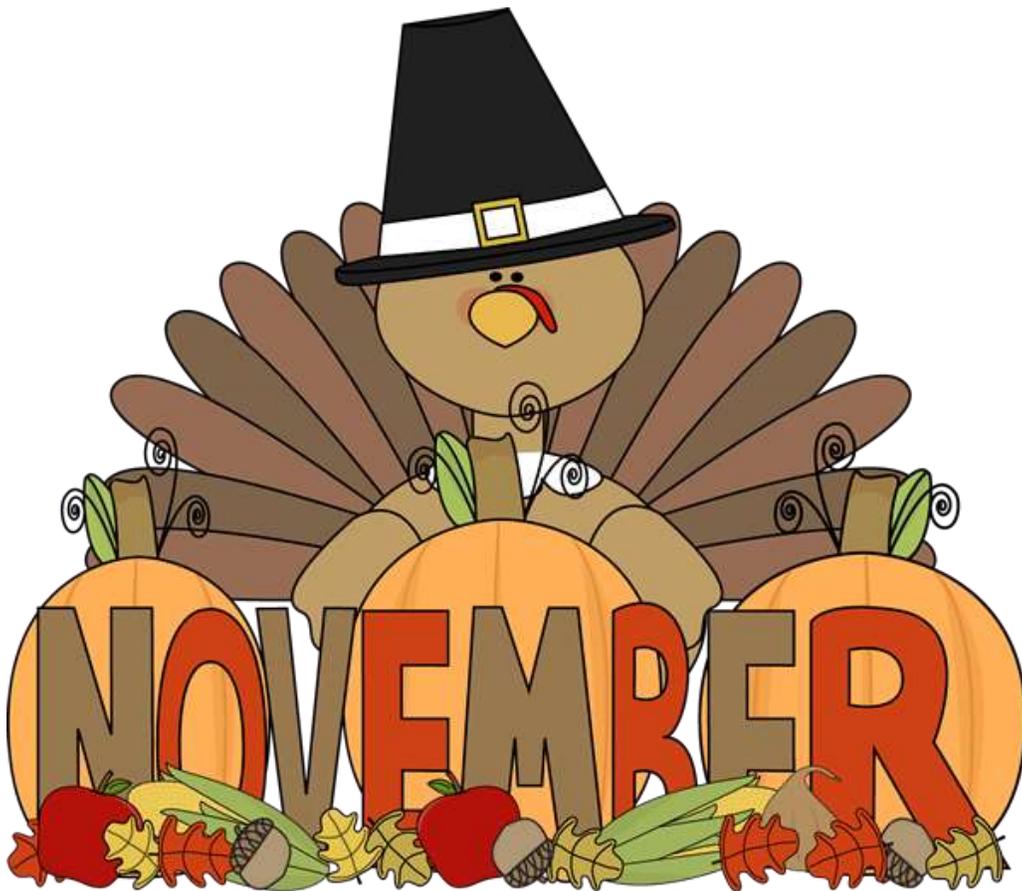
The Messenger

A Newsletter for Dearborn Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Dearborn Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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Please use his gmail for email messages at Jabulaney3@gmail.com.

WORSHIP SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 A.M



The Testing of Life and Faith

What is the hardest test you ever took? Did you pass? What about the test of life? Do you think you are passing or failing? Is that even the right question?

I recently read an article that said, "I'm looking forward to some **precedented** times." I couldn't stop laughing! The truth is, right now we're all a bit tired and weary, and honestly sick of being told we live "in unprecedented times." A little regular life would be good right now. If you're reading this, you're likely watching church services from home and you've pivoted so much in the last few months you feel like you're spinning in circles. I encourage you to keep in mind what the writer James had to say to the "twelve tribes scattered among the nations," *Count it pure joy, my brothers whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. (James 1:2-3)*

The one thing we can be sure of is that life will keep changing and trials will keep coming. This is the new normal, the new precedented times. Those who long for yesterday will be disappointed. We are not going back. It means more than just getting used to the idea. It means learning to live differently and moving forward. This is a test that can produce great faith and hope in our lives.

Stay well,
Pastor Gene

Dr. Eugene A. Blair

Ann Arbor, MI
1-734-748-6039

"Resentment is like drinking poison and hoping it will kill your enemies" ~ Nelson Mandela

A FAREWELL PASTOR BLAIR!

On behalf of the members and friends of Dearborn Congregational Church, we extend a heartfelt 'thank you' to Pastor Eugene Blair for serving as our Intentional Interim Minister, spiritual leader, and consultant since March 1. Pastor Blair will be leaving us after November 8 to take on a new challenge at United Church of Ovid in Ovid, MI which is both Methodist and UCC. In spite of very difficult circumstances brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, which prevented him from truly getting to know our congregation due to sheltering-in-place which drastically reduced attendance, Pastor Blair laid for us a valuable foundation for using technology both during the service and outside the service, provided a blueprint and methodology for us to consider a new mission field with a new future, and delivered inspired sermons, while doing it all with dignity and grace. His efforts are deeply appreciated and we wish him the best, along with all of God's blessings, in all of his future pursuits.

For the balance of November and December, Brian Sampson will lead us in worship and give the Sunday morning message. We greatly appreciate Brian for offering to fill this critical need during the holiday season.

Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone!

Canned & Boxed Food Drive for the Lennon Center

The Lennon Pregnancy Center in Dearborn Heights, which offers services to single, pregnant women who often have other young children, has reached out and asked if we would collect donations of canned and boxed food for Thanksgiving to help the MANY families that they serve. No turkeys this year -just side dishes. We're collecting until Thanksgiving week. You can place your items in the box in the sanctuary behind the pews. To drop off during the week, you can call ahead on Wed.-Fri. between 1-3 pm and let Liz know you're stopping by. Please wear a mask when entering the church! If you would like to donate, but are not able to come to the church, please call Nancy Wolter, 313-274-4204, to have your donations picked up from your front porch. Thank you for donating.

Wednesday Morning Coffee, Chat, & Bible Study: In November, there will be at least one more Zoom chat in the series, "Twenty-Four Sundays in Pentecost - A Study of the Book of Acts" on Wed. November 4 at 10 am, hosted by Pastor Blair. If you haven't sat in a chat before, consider participating if it fits your schedule because you don't need to have attended previously. Each meeting stands alone. During this time, we look at the New Testament church and the ministry of today's church as reflected in Acts. The Nov. 4 chat will focus on Chapter 20: "Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey through Macedonia & Greece". Here's the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8572657323> which will also be sent to you by email so you can click on it to join.

Fundraiser for the Mayflower Room Roof: The roof has finally been replaced and the new ceiling in the Mayflower Room is being installed. We are grateful to the Lord for his guiding hand in these major works! But we need to raise more money to cover the cost. The ceiling is covered by insurance, but the roof is NOT because the roof leak that caused the ceiling collapse was due to normal wear-and-tear. To date, we've raised about \$18,000. Our goal is \$25,000, so any assistance you can provide would be a blessing. Please prayerfully consider giving as much as you are able to Dearborn Congregational Church by leaving a special offering in person or by mail. A one-time donation or extra monthly donations for the roof would help immensely. Running totals are reported in the Messenger each month and a progress chart is tracking weekly how much we've raised, too. Thank you and God bless each of you for your gifts!

Church Treasurer Needed: We're still looking for a Treasurer. It's an important position, however the work doesn't require special training and it's not especially time-consuming as many of the duties are automated or can be done with online banking. There are also a handful of other tasks that are done once a year. The new Treasurer will get hands-on training, too. PLEASE SEE THE ADDITIONAL PAGE in the newsletter for more details of the Treasurer's responsibilities. If interested in serving in this capacity or if you have questions, please contact John Peters (313) 255-7774 or Arnie Schilbe at (313) 318-5016 (cell).

Give Online at Your Convenience!: For more flexibility in giving, you can now go online to donate to the church or pay your pledge, if you'd like. Go to www.dccdearborn.org and click on the yellow "Donate" button. You DO NOT NEED A PAYPAL ACCOUNT. Just choose to pay with a major credit card and enter the information asked for. Also, if you are a Facebook user and go to "Dearborn Congregational Church, UCC" you will see a post on the right side of this page with a link to our website button, as well. We invite you all to take advantage of this feature!

Watch our Sunday Service and View the Sunday Bulletin Online!: We hope you've been watching our Sunday services either in real-time (at 10 am) or afterwards from either our website at dccdearborn.org or Facebook. To see the service after it ends, click on the links under "Recent and Upcoming Events" on the website's home page. We keep the recorded service for 2 weeks on the site and then it's deleted. Also, to get the Sunday bulletin, it's posted every week on Friday -two days BEFORE the service. Go to dccdearborn.org and click on "DCC Home" at the top of the page, then scroll down to "Weekly Bulletin". After clicking on this, you'll see "Worship" and "Announcements" as separate links. Click on each one to view the whole bulletin as it is split into two parts.

'Way Forward Committee' Update: The Way Forward Committee is taking steps to obtain legal advice about our property and how to best use it to ensure a future for our church that hopefully includes staying in our building. We've suffered some financial blows since the pandemic started, including a garage theft and the roof leak. Our building maintenance and overhead costs coupled with a shrinking donor base makes the matter of charting a course to ensure our future all the more critical. The situation is compounded by the fact that about one-half of active members are staying home instead of attending on Sunday. *There will be a Congregational Meeting called later this month to discuss our options and survey the rest of the congregation.*

~John Peters, Moderator

A FINAL NOTE: The Christmas Tree Sale is CANCELLED for this year. Unfortunately, due to the Covid pandemic and extra care being taken by our members to avoid contact with others, we simply don't have enough volunteers to make it happen. And with so much uncertainty surrounding the future and concern for everyone's safety, we felt it best to cancel. But, God willing, we will return to full strength and have a successful Christmas Tree Sale next year!

**DON'T FORGET TO TURNS YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR
BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON OCTOBER 31**



DEDICATION OF FLOWERS

November 1 – Available
November 8 – Available
November 15 – Available
November 22 – Available
November 29 – Available

PRAYER LIST



We offer our sincere Christian sympathy to the family of Pauline Gourlay who died on October 14, 2020. Pauline was a long-time, beloved member of Dearborn Congregational Church for many years. There may be a memorial service in the spring of 2021.

Our condolences to the family Donna Hire, Aunt of Polly Fitzpatrick, who passed away this week. She was very beloved by Polly and her family and will be greatly missed.

Gail Waggoner, 10/25 Gail has returned to her residence at River Glen.

Pat Stacho, 10/25 Upcoming Surgery

Deanna Sample, 10/25 Major Health Issue

Carl House, 10/25 Son-in-law of Toni Boyd
Waiting for major heart surgery

Terry Curless, 10/25 Brother of Teresa Curless
Serious Health Issue

Jake Sherman, 10/25 Friend of Tammy Jabtecki
Serious Health Issue

Carrie Goldie, 10/25 Recent Hospitalization

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.

Date to Remember:

November 11	7 pm	Trustees Meeting Diaconate Meeting
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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

16 Nancy Wolter
17 Elizabeth Schlaff
18 John Peters
19 Teresa Curless
21 Deb Evans
25 Diana Schilbe
26 Kirk Haas
27 Cheryl Brown
29 Katherine MacKenzie



Treasurer's Report for September 2020

Income- \$23,810.22

Expenses- \$5,986.78

Citizens Account - \$26,018.28

Investments with UBS valued at \$106,485.18

Matthew Haling, Treasurer



Treasurer Job Description

Monthly duties (1 hour)

- Enter all bills/payments and yellow sheets into accounting software (free software at <https://www.gnucash.org/>)
- Generate Monthly Report (template saved in software) save as PDF
- Transfer monthly report totals for each account into Excel sheet to generate monthly budget report, save as PDF (automated as well)
- Update monthly income/expense in Messenger report and email to office manager (Word file)
- Email PDFs to trustees ahead of monthly meeting

Yearly duties (3-4 hours)

- Provide payroll / other information to building and worker's comp insurance companies for annual audit (online)
- File annual corporate filing with MI (online)
- Print and email/mail W-2s to all employees
- Create three reports for annual meeting, previous year files can be updated/resaved as current year
- Provide budget planning excel file to trustees, and load completed budget into monthly report template

Other duties

- Many of the utilities/recurring bills are set to autopay, so only need to handle the seasonal bills (lawn/snow) and water / printer bills, as well as any ad hoc requests, check requests for reimbursement, etc. - 5-10 of these per month, and can be paid through Citizens online portal - if a paper check is needed, there is a Word template for printing the check
- Payroll - payroll is handled by outside company, only work here is to add / remove employees - once they are set up, the payment (if direct deposit) and all tax filings are handled by company
- Payroll - Current exception is one employee on paper check instead of direct deposit - in this case, a check needs to be generated each period, but that can be set up automatically in Citizens online portal.
- Payroll - will need to login and check the payment summaries to reconcile the employer taxes and any paper checks per period - these amounts fluctuate slightly from the automated entries so may need to adjust what is recorded / paid out, but this can be done a couple times/and at year end to make sure everything matches.

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

It's November! Can you believe it???

NOvember...NO family Thanksgiving dinner. (Certainly not like previous years.) NO hugs, NO lipstick kisses from Aunt Millie! NO "pull my finger" jokes from Uncle Elwood.

We're going to be passing dishes across the room, not the table. Sure will be a challenge, but we will get through it. Togetherness has changed, but not our sense of family. Be safe...wear your mask, (you may remove said mask to eat!) distancing is important, and for heaven's sake, wash your hands!

By the time you get this, the Presidential election will be over.

NOvember will continue with NO angry political ads all day and night on TV.

NO more debates, or was that seriously debates we endured??

I have a list of NO's for NOvember. I intend to follow them all month long. Or at least a week or two.

NO more wearing pajamas all day. Unless I am relaxing...or watching Price is Right... or having a second cup of coffee. OK that one is going to be hard to follow. Even tho' my PJ's are the only clothes I have that are not tight. (Don't judge me! I have been quarantined since March. Snacks have been supplied by Pete.)

NO more midday naps! Unless I'm tired, or nod off watching Netflix.

NO pretending I don't hear Pete asking what time is dinner?

Lord, he just had lunch!! (That's why his pajamas are snug too!!)

NO more hiding the bread just to get Pete out of the house for a bit. Besides, he loves going to Kroger.

But there a lot of things I will continue. I will not give up hope. This craziness we are facing will go away. I don't know when, or how. But I do know God might shake us up a bit more, but He will see us through this nightmare.

I will try harder to keep in touch with friends and family, if they want me to or not.

I will keep being the sweet wonderful wife Pete deserves. Yes, I really will!

And I will promise to keep trying to make you smile every month. I love doing this silly little article and appreciate you taking the time to read it. Besides you're stuck in the house anyway! It's something to do.

I miss you all, love most of you, and am praying for ALL of you. Take care of each other.

And would it hurt ya' to smile more?

I'm just saying.

