

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. NURSERY CARE PROVIDED

**OFFICE HOURS TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 pm**



Message from Pastor Lew

I love thinking about adages and finding ways they're not true. "The more the merrier" might be true when you're hosting a picnic, until the ant population gets the invitation. "Better late than never" never holds sway to an accomplished procrastinator. Likewise, the saying of the day, "Seeing is believing", simply underscores the embarrassing unreliability of our vision.

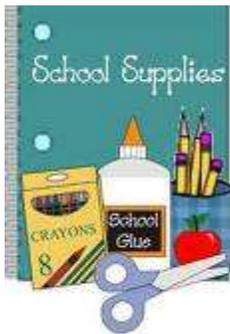
Indeed, most people rely on their sight (or other senses) to dictate to them what should be believed. Throughout Scripture -- especially in the Gospel of John -- there's a recurring theme of the problem of our need to see things before we believe them. This climaxes after Jesus' resurrection when Thomas, who doubts the testimony of the disciples with whom he'd been hobnobbing for years, declares, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week after that, Thomas is hanging out with these guys and Jesus is right there in front of his face. But true to his word, he professes belief only after he gives Jesus' wounds a physical examination. He is then given a mild reprimand from Jesus: Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

It's easy to debunk the idea that seeing is believing. It's a lot harder to live by the credo that affirms that believing is seeing. But let me suggest ways in which Jesus' declaration that believing without seeing is a blessing.

Many of life's richest blessings are things you cannot see. Love, trusting those you love, committing to a community of faith are all decisions that require believing something you cannot see. Not only is this a psychological and interpersonal truth, but our spiritual lives depend entirely upon this type of belief.

It's not only features of human experience that require faith without seeing, it's this type of believe that allows us to see God. The United Church of Christ emphasizes that "God is still speaking", and this is not mere marketing. It's a fact of spiritual reality. But it's a reality that requires believing before seeing.

Finally, without the priority of believing, we cannot have a vision for the future. Dreaming for future success depends wholly on our ability to envision without guarantees. I would even assert that we can't really accomplish anything worthwhile without seeing what we can do based on our faith to bring it about, and I believe we are capable of a great future together. What do you believe for our future together?



And a special Thank You to all who donated school supplies! They were delivered to Bennett Elementary in early Sept. and the staff was deeply appreciative. God bless you for making a difference in the lives of our children.



DOWNRIVER FOR VETERANS

Downriver for Veterans

We are collecting non-perishable food items for Downriver for Veterans located in Wyandotte.

They provide support to assist local resource-limited veterans with food and other needs. Please place your donations in the Totes of Love bin in the back of the Sanctuary. Check the expiration date to make sure items have not expired.

Coloring With a Twist - November 7: Bring your favorite beverage and join us on Thursday, November 7 at 6:30 PM for a Coloring Party. Snacks will be provided along with coloring books and pencils. Feel free to invite family and friends.

Book Club is reading *Anything Is Possible* by Elizabeth Strout. We will meet and discuss the book on **Monday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m.**

Blankets for Kids: We are hosting a program called Blankets 4 Kids, a program of Child's Hope. It is going to be on October 16 at 7 pm. It's kind of like a quilting be, only instead of quilting we will be making fleece blankets for children who are experiencing abuse and neglect and entering the foster care system. The contact person is Judy Buck or Carol McAdam who lives in Springwells. There's a sign up sheet in the Mayflower Room.

'Restorative' Yoga at Church: Karen Lawrence is starting up a yoga class. This time, a less-intensive version called "restorative yoga" will be offered. Poses are more like gentle stretching, and there will be a break during the sessions. Ideal for ALL AGES! Participants should bring their own yoga mats or blankets and 2-3 pillows for support. Classes will take place in the Mayflower Room. The fee is \$5 per session with all proceeds going to the church, and we're asking for a 5-week commitment from people to ensure participation. If interested, please let Karen know in person or by email at karenka347@yahoo.com

Memorial Service for Jane Haling: The memorial service for Jane Haling will take place on Saturday, October 12, 2019 at 10:30am at Dearborn Congregational Church. Jane passed away peacefully on August 05, 2019 at her residence in Cambrian Senior Living in South Lyon at the age of 92. There will be a luncheon following the service at the church in the Mayflower Room.

Thanksgiving Baskets: In November, we will collect non-perishable foods to assemble Thanksgiving baskets for the Lennon Pregnancy Center in Dearborn Heights. Any cash donations will be used to purchase turkeys. In addition to food, we will also collect items that would be helpful and appreciated by new mothers and babies. In the past few years, we have been able to provide at least two baskets to assist new mothers during the Thanksgiving season and hope to do so again.

Diaconate Meeting: The Diaconate is scheduled to meet Wednesday, October 9 at 7:00 PM.

Sleeping Mats for the Homeless Project:

This is an ongoing project where anyone can make sleeping mats from plastic shopping bags.

The group meets on Mondays from 6-8 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 600 Brady St. Dearborn, MI 48124. Bring your bags and your friends. For more information, call **Charlie at (313) 506-0907**, or see the orange flyer in the sanctuary.

Thank You Church Family

I can't begin to thank you enough for all your prayers, love and support during this difficult time for me. I am truly blessed to have you all a part of my life.

Your cards, phone calls, texts, emails, visits, hugs and prayers mean more to me than you will ever know. They really did brighten my day, especially when I was feeling so crappy. Just knowing you're all there going on this journey with me is very reassuring. I love you all and together with your continued prayers and support we'll get through this trying time. This too shall pass!!

God is Good!!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

With Love and (((Hugs))),

Teresa

Noisy Offering – October 27: Start saving your loose change for our **Samaritan's Purse** Noisy Offering collection on October 27. This is an evangelical Christian Humanitarian organization that provides aid to people in physical need as a key part of Christian missionary work. The organization's president is Franklin Graham, son of Christian evangelist Billy Graham. Your support helps their worldwide work to provide physical and spiritual aid to suffering people in the Name of Jesus Christ and to continue sharing the love of Christ and the hope of the Gospel to more than 100 countries around the world. Our coins are collected in metal buckets so we hope to hear a lot of noise! Silent dollar bills will also be gratefully accepted.

Council Meeting: The Moderator has called a Church Council meeting for Tuesday, October 22 at 7 pm in the Library. ALL members are welcome! The heads of both Boards and Committees should attend and give a short report of their activities for the July-Oct. period. Discussion will focus on the initiatives of the Way Forward Committee, re-structuring that committee and clarifying its objectives, and options for hiring a long-term, settled minister. The meeting will also serve to set the record straight on actual plans for the church.

Fundraiser for Utilities Campaign: To bolster our stewardship ministry, instead of a pledge drive in October, we are launching a congregation fundraiser to collect donations to cover the church's utility bills this winter. We hope you'll prayerfully give to this special fund in addition to your regular support of the church. There will be *special envelopes* in the pews to use for your donations. The **goal is to raise \$5,000** to cover anticipated heating and electricity bills which make up a large chunk of the operating costs of our church... funds that are sorely needed! **Thank you** and God bless everyone for digging deeper to meet a need.

Group Study: John Peters is leading a group study of the book, "Weird Church: Welcome to the Twenty-First Century", which explores a shift in thinking about the future of church & ministry that focuses on new ways to connect with people and becoming relevant in the community. Please add your name to a signup sheet, if interested. The first session is Wed. Oct. 2 at 6:30 pm in the Library. Participants in this class, or anyone who's interested, should get the book! Used copies can be found at Amazon for \$10-\$15, including shipping. A Kindle version is available, too. You don't need to have read the book before attending the first study session. Material will be provided for Week 1. There is also a free Study Guide you can download at www.epicentergroup.org. It promises to be eye-opening and inspiring! We hope you'll join in the discussion!

**OUR CHURCH AT WORK
IN OCTOBER**

Helpers for Sunday Services

Ushers:

- October 6 –
- October 13 – Deb Evans
- October 20 –
- October 27 –

Liturgists:

- October 6 –
- October 13 –
- October 20 – Linda Haling
- October 27 –



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Isabelle Hutton
- 3 Jay Carter
- 3 Ray Carter
- 8 Pat Stacho
- 23 Arnie Schilbe
- 26 Ethan McAdam

Dedication of Flowers

- October 6 –
- October 13 – From the Haling Family, in loving memory of Jane Haling
- October 20 –
- October 27 –

Fellowship Hour

- October 6 – Polly Fitzpatrick
- October 13 –
- October 20 – Liz Schlaff
- October 27 –

PRAYER LIST



Barb Allen 9/25	Health Concern
The Kren Family upon Bill Kren's passing	
Gail Waggoner 9/25	Health Concern
Teresa Curless 9/25	Chemotherapy
Pauline Gourlay 9/25	Shut In
Fred Michales 9/25	Health Concern
Tom Schlaff 9/25	Heart Failure

You may want to brighten the day for those listed on the prayer concerns with a card or a note. If you don't have an address, please contact the office.

Dates to Remember:

- October 2-30 Group Study 6:30 pm
- October 9 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm
- October 9 Diaconate Board Meeting 7pm
- October 16 Blankets for Kids 7 pm
- October 19 Craft Show 10 am-5 pm
- October 21 Book Club at 7 pm
- October 22 Council Meeting 7 pm

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

It's here! OCTOBER. Changes are coming, and coming fast. The leaves are changing from lush green to gorgeous golds and flaming reds, God's artwork in full glory. Before we know it, those trees will become bare....waiting for that first snowfall to bring a white blanket of beauty.

We are so lucky to live in Michigan and experience all the different seasons. But, granted, there are some changes I'm not so enthusiastic about. But my birthday is this



month. (Thank you !) 75 years of survival. 75?? I didn't see that coming. Changes? You betcha' there are changes. For instance, my legs. They used to strut, now they tend to drag along. But on the upside, I'm still moving.

Another big change is my hair. I not only lost half of it, I lost color! God has frosted my hair with silver brilliance. Right? He is my personal hairdresser.

Changes have occurred in my everyday conversations as well. It's not that I don't chat a lot, I simply forget what I said or wanted to say. And words...and who I said those words to, or who said what to me. Smiling seems to help.

But then, something's will never change, for one, the loss of Pastor Kren. We were blessed to have him and share in his teaching God's word. He was supportive of everything our church family did. Rummage sale, he sold things on e-bay for us, and sold 50/50 tickets at our craft shows. Who could say no to his infectious smile? Not many. He took the time

to introduce himself to every crafter, every visitor. Our farmer's market could count on Bill and Sue showing up to help. Even as his health was failing, he held on....never losing his wonderful sense of humor. He played that "cancer card" well. For me personally, he restored my faith and I will always be grateful. There are so many sweet memories I could go on for days. But I will simply say, we're going to miss you, our dear SERMONATOR. Thanks for all you did, for all of us.

I'm just Sayin'

Fall Craft Show



**Our annual craft show will be held
Saturday, October 19th
from 10 am-5:00 pm.**

We will also have a bake sale. Teresa and I would certainly appreciate your help. Please consider contributing your favorite baked goods. We may be a smaller group, but we are working together to make this a successful craft show.

We hope you will join us.

Calling All Bakers!

Pat Stacho is asking all bakers of the church to help out with the Craft Show/Bake Sale on October 19th. She really needs any kind of baked good for the Bake Sale. Bring your speciality, cookies, pie, cake, whatever you enjoy making. Let Pat know so she can plan for the sale. Thanks for your help!