

# The Messenger

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## A Newsletter for Dearborn Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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United Church of Christ  
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**WORSHIP SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 A.M**



## Why Do You Come to This Church? Dr. Eugene Blair. Interim Pastor

You know that members and visitors drive past several churches on the way to ours for worship. With COVID-19, doing church is a struggle. In these days, sometimes our members are involved in more than one church at a time. They may support more than one ministry or program with their presence and money. An important question for our members might be, **“Why do you come to this church?”** Maybe ‘why do you support this church?’ it could be instructive to ask members who have left why they left. Their answers could be revealing.

There are as many answers as there are people. One answer might be, *“well, they have never given us any good reason to leave.”* Others who have left may have a different response. Another answer might be, *“this church has always been responsive to us at various times in our lives.”* Another might be, *“we’ve always been here and never given it much thought.”* Which answer makes you more comfortable? Ask ten to fifteen of your fellow members and collate their responses. Over the years I have heard these answers, and others, when the question has been asked. Let us take a closer look.

**“They have never given us any good reason to leave”** should make you uncomfortable and sweat a little. You could be in trouble. Being “just average” or mediocre is not going to withstand turbulent times or change. Like COVID-19! Members hanging around just because there is no obvious reason to leave could be a time bomb waiting to go off.

On the one hand, that answer could come from members who are never satisfied with any church or pastor and they will flee at the first sign of displeasure. Certainly, there are members you could lose to a church that offers some unique ministries, benefits, and opportunities. Avoid losing people out the back door to inactivity or other churches by being clear who you want to reach, how you want to reach them. You have to ask, “What is your plan to make happen to them what you want to happen to them in the life of your church?”

The answer **“this church has always been responsive to us at various times in our lives”** could mean you are in good shape. It indicates a church that has earned the respect and loyalty of its membership. It means that the church has put people and their needs ahead of administration, problems, and “we never did it that way before.” It indicates that membership nurture and visitor care are important. If you are meeting people’s needs for spiritual growth, nurture, and mission, conflict is low, and teamwork is high.

**“We’ve always been here and never given it much thought,”** could mean there is a need to challenge the membership in new ways. That answer could reveal that things have come to a happy plateau and members are not asking questions about their church or their personal spiritual journey. You could be sliding down the silent and deadly slope of decline and not know it. They may not be able to report anything new God has done in their lives for a very long time. Church is just what they do, not feel.

Always keep in mind that people, times, and needs change. Nothing and no one stay the same. Always be on the lookout for new ways to meet the spiritual and discipleship needs of your fellow members and visitors. In these days and times, if your church does not meet the needs of its members and visitors, another activity or some other church will. Let’s give our members real life changing reasons to stay and not just hang around. Think about it....!

Outdoor Services Will Continue into October!: Pastor Blair will keep preaching the Sunday service outdoors as long as the weather allows. Even if it's cool -about 45 degrees minimum- we will be outside as long as it doesn't rain. Feel free to bring your own chair to sit on. We have a speaker system and microphone set up so everyone can hear the service. Masks are required. And you can sit MORE than 6 feet apart. Let's pray for good weather and we hope many of you decide to come! In the event of inclement weather, we'll move the service indoors.

Roof Repair & Fundraising Update: On Oct. 1, work finally began on the flat roof above the Mayflower Room. The contractor will spend several days tearing off and replacing the roof plus adding insulation and water barriers along the edges. Once the roof is complete, the ceiling in the Mayflower Room will be replaced. The ceiling is covered by insurance, but the roof is NOT because the roof leak causing the ceiling to collapse was due to normal wear-and-tear. The cost to fix the roof is \$25,000 and we hope to cover this with extra donations. As of this writing, we've raised \$11,500. Can you pitch in once again to help us reach our goal? In early August, you were mailed a letter with an offering envelope inside. Please prayerfully consider giving extra to Dearborn Congregational Church using an "Improvement Fund" envelope. A one-time donation or extra monthly donations for the roof would be deeply appreciated! 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!

Give Online at Your Convenience: For greater flexibility in giving, we've added PayPal to accept online donations or to pay your pledge if you'd like. Just go to our website at [www.dccdearborn.org](http://www.dccdearborn.org) and click on the yellow "Donate" button. You DO NOT NEED A PAYPAL ACCOUNT. There is an option to pay with any of 3 major credit cards. Also, if you are a Facebook user and go to "Dearborn Congregational Church, UCC" you will see a post on the right side of the page with a link to our website button, as well. We invite you all to take advantage of this feature!

Wednesday Morning Coffee, Conversation, & Bible Study with Pastor

Gene: On Wednesdays at 10 AM, Pastor Blair hosts a one-hour Zoom Bible Study: "Twenty-Four Sundays in Pentecost -A Study of the Book of Acts". During this 24-week class leading up to Advent in November, we look at the New Testament church, Paul, and ministry of the church today in response to "Acts". We cover one chapter a week (on Oct. 7, we'll be on Chapter 16). Just click on the link shown below if you have Zoom installed on your laptop or cell phone. If you haven't, installing Zoom is free and it's easy! Go to Zoom.com. Here's the meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85726573232> The link is valid thru October and is sent to you each week by Pastor Blair so you can easily click on it in your email to join the chat. We hope you'll join us!





## IMPORTANT NOTICE: CHURCH TREASURER WANTED



We still haven't found anyone to fill the Treasurer's position. As an Officer of the church, it's an important responsibility, however the tasks are not particularly time consuming nor do they require special training. Once up to speed, only 2 hours of work is required per month! Main duties include issuing checks to reimburse people (minimal), monitoring the bank account, and doing some work at month's end to record the bills and generate financial reports for the Board of Trustees. Payroll is handled by another company, though, and monthly bills are paid by online banking, thus reducing the actual time commitment necessary. Matthew Haling is willing to coach/train the new person in the online banking system at Citizens Bank and the software used for monthly reports.

A complete summary of the Treasurer's duties was e-mailed to you in a PDF file and will be sent again to everyone by e-mail.

If you are interested, or if you have any questions, please contact John Peters (313) 255-7774 or Arnie Schilbe (313) 318-5016 (cell).

Thank you,  
John Peters

# I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

2020....Remember when that meant perfection? As in 2020 vision, perfect vision! We could see clearly if we had 2020 vision. I cannot see clearly, even if it is 2020.

Remember this..."I'm Barbara Walters, and this is 2020." That generally meant at least an hour of entertainment. Well this 2020 has, so far, pretty much sucked!

October is my birthday month. Again, pretty much sucks. There will be no party, no cake, no hugs, and most likely, damn few presents. FYI, if there isn't a party, or no cake, why buy a present? Right? But that's ok. I've done this 75 times already. The thrill is pretty much gone.

There are parts of my body that I rarely use, and yet they ache. How is that fair? My bladder for instance. It's tipped, slipped and leaks! Overactive bladder the doctor says. Right! Overactive at night. I'm up every hour or two to do my thing. But that's one way of getting my steps in. Kinda' justifies wearing my fit bit.

I will admit fall is my favorite time of year. I can wear sweatshirts. The trees are changing colors as God shows off a bit. But, then again, no excuse for not turning the oven on. Back to some serious cooking! And on the down side, those beautiful leaves will start falling before we know it. Did you ever really look at trees with no leaves? Reminds me of arthritis. My arthritic hands and those scraggly limbs. Makes me shudder.

Well, now that I've cheered you all up, happy fall y'all. Keep smiling, even under your mask I can tell if you're smiling. It's in the eyes. (that and the fact that you're not cussing at the person 6 feet ahead of you in line at Krogers.)

Seriously, stay safe...wear your mask...keep social distancing, and follow all the other demands in this crazy pandemic we're fighting. I still think we will get through this, together with God. Maybe it will take longer than we had hoped, but won't it be awesome when it happens?

Brace yourselves for November. I won't ask WHO you're voting for. Just asking you to vote. It's our duty, and privilege as American citizens to do so.

Gotta' run. Almost time for the mailman. I get to wave at him through the front window. Sorta' like a visitor.

I'm just sayin'

