

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, THURSDAY & FRIDAY **9:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm***

Reverend Kren's Office Hours:
Monday—Thursday mornings 8am—Noon
Monday—Thursday afternoons 1pm until 5pm,
except when visiting members of the congregation.



A Plea for Our Pastor

Lately, it had become apparent to many in our congregation that our spiritual leader - our minister - was struggling. Obviously, something wasn't right. He had trouble recalling certain things, occasionally stumbled as he walked, and moved more slowly. Nothing like the vigorous and energetic pastor we had come to know and love. Prior to this, we had been buoyed by the good news that the lung cancer he was diagnosed with last year had stopped spreading thanks to the marvels of modern medicine and the excellent care he was receiving from U of M's cancer doctors. Months and months of regular chemo treatments were working, his condition was stable, and our fervent prayers for Pastor Bill's good health seemed to be answered. That is, until August arrived...

On Saturday, August 25, Sue Kren posted the following message on the church Facebook page concerning her husband:

"Many of you have noticed that Bill has been having difficulty in recent weeks. Some increasing problems sent us to the ER on Thursday ...and he was admitted to the hospital. Heavy-duty steroids helped him improve enough that he was able to come home the next evening. An MRI revealed that his lung cancer has spread to his brain. The doctors say the most effective treatment is surgery to remove the mass and then follow up with a series of radiation treatments. We will meet with his surgical team in a few days to discuss the particulars and then they will operate very soon after. We would appreciate all of your good thoughts and prayers as we face another hurdle. Bill is in good spirits (as usual) and we are trusting in our God to lead us through this trying time."

On Sept. 2, during the Sunday service, just two days before his scheduled surgery at UM Hospital, Pastor Bill will be seated among us -not standing in the pulpit as he normally would, but as a follower in Christ, drawing on his own faith and "trusting God" and His healing grace to help him clear the greatest "hurdle" he's had to face in this fight for his life. I'm sure nothing would please him more than to see many familiar faces in the congregation from which to draw strength, and to allow him to express his profound and sincere gratitude to his flock for all the support and prayers sent his way. We hope you can join us this Sunday.

In the meantime, we ask everyone to continue keeping Pastor Kren in their thoughts and prayers. With God, all things are possible.

Many Blessings,

John Peters
Moderator

News and Updates

Guest Speakers – September 9 & 16: While Rev. Kren recovers from surgery, we will have guest speakers filling in for him on Sunday morning. Rev. Ethan Drutchas, Rev. Geoff Drutchas' nephew, will be here September 9th and Rev. Cheryl Schalm from St. Paul UCC in Taylor will be here on the 16th.

Special Music and Potluck Lunch – Cancelled
The special music for worship and potluck lunch planned for September 16 have been cancelled.

Choir Resumes – September 9: After taking their summer hiatus, the choir will once again be back singing on September 9. New voices are always welcome to join us. Thank you to those who volunteered their talent and provided special music during the summer months.

Neighbors in Need: Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry with two-thirds of the offering going to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. These grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. Special envelopes will be available in the pews for this offering from September 23 through October 7.

Pizza & Movie Night - October 5: Even though it's a whole month away, mark your calendars for our pizza and movie night on Friday, October 5. Pizza will be served at 6:30pm with the movie starting at 7:00pm. We're looking at showing an action-adventure movie this time. In addition to delicious pizza, soft drinks, water, dessert, and popcorn will also be provided. We look forward to seeing you!

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.

Donating School Supplies: The new school year is starting up and once again we're collecting supplies for students at our target school in the Mexican community of SW Detroit, Bennett Elementary. *There is just one week*

left to donate! Bargains can be found at stores like Target or Meijer, or at dollar stores. Items needed include notebook paper, composition books, paper, pencils, colored pencils, ballpoint pens, markers, erasers, and scissors. Please place your donations in the bins in the hallway outside the church office. They will be delivered the 2nd week of September. Thank you for giving!

Electronic Giving is Here! For your convenience, we're now offering members and friends of the church a NEW way to give! If you can't make it to church or on a long vacation, you can now donate online from your savings/checking account or by credit card. Please consider signing up today. It only takes 5 minutes to create a Profile and start giving. You choose how much, how often, and which fund you want to direct your money to. You'll get a receipt by email, and you can change your giving choice any time. Plus it's safe and secure so your personal information isn't at risk! To get started, go to www.dccdearborn.org and click on 'HERE' in the first sentence at the top of the page under the photo of Bill & Sue Kren. There is also an easy-to-use app for your phone. Give anytime from anywhere! Questions? Contact John Peters (jopett13@hotmail.com) or Tammy Jabtecki (tammy930@yahoo.com).

Diaconate Meeting
The Diaconate Board will meet
September 12th at 7pm

Trustees Meeting
The Board of Trustees will meet
Wednesday, September 12th, at
7pm.



Treasurer's Report for July 2018

Income: \$3,981.42
Expenses: \$8,763.96

Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 12,905.32
Investments with UBS valued at \$146,934.28

Matthew Haling, Treasurer



OUR CHURCH AT WORK IN SEPTEMBER

Helpers for Sunday Services

Ushers:

- September 2 – Tom Brown & Polly Fitzpatrick
- September 9 – Available
- September 16 – Available
- September 23 – Available
- September 30 – Available

Liturgists:

- September 2 – Nancy
- September 9 – Available
- September 16 – Available
- September 23 – Available
- September 30 – Available



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Susan Hutton
- 16 Bill Kren
- 30 Tammy Jabtecki

Dedication of Flowers

- September 2 – Rufus & Marilyn Beardsley
- September 9 – Elaine Stacho
- September 16 – Pat Mangrum
- September 23 – Available
- September 30 – Available

Fellowship Hour

- September 2 – Teresa Curless
- September 9 – Available
- September 16 – Available
- September 23 – Available
- September 30 – Available

PRAYER LIST



Geri Sampson	Medical Concerns
Pauline Gourlay	Medical Concerns
Kathy Gideon	Medical Concerns
Tom Schlaff	Medical Concerns
Lois Clickner	Medical Concerns
Elie Stergiou	Medical Concerns
Jane Haling	Health Issues
Carrie Goldie	Serious Health Issues
Rev. Bill Kren	Serious Health Issues
Della King Family	Medical Concerns
Walter Crawford	Medical Concerns
Barbara Kudizus	Medical Concerns
Ron Kupersmid	Medical Concerns
Phyllis Preston	Medical Concerns
Rev. Geoff Drutchas	Health Concerns
Frank Kren	Serious Health Issues
Stefanie	Serious Health Issues
Derek Kren	Serious Health Issues
Kathleen Smith	Serious Health Issues
Family of Suzanne Van Ranst	Bereavement

Dates to Remember:

- September 12 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm
- September 12 Diaconate Board Meeting 7pm

The Book Club is currently reading *The Dovekeepers*, by Alice Hoffman. Our next Book Club gathering will be Monday, October 8th at 7pm.

We mourn the loss of a beloved member

Mrs. Suzanne Van Ranst, a long-time member of Dearborn Congregational Church, who was active for many years in the church, passed away on August 1, 2018, at her home in Henry Ford Village, Dearborn. Her family was with her when she entered peacefully into God's eternity. A Memorial Service will be held on October 25, 2018 (her birthday) at the Village. More details are forthcoming.

I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

I recently was at my doctor's office, and before signing in for my appointment, went down the hall to use the restroom. A young mother was waiting for her daughter to "finish her mission." The daughter, who sounded about 4-5 years old, was humming and appeared to be in no hurry to make her "deposit!"

"C'mon Sara...we have to hurry."

"Okay...Okay. Oh man, mom...they've got two-ply!"

Her mom and I both shared a good laugh.

When was the last time you were that excited about something so simple? Bet it's been awhile.

How about the first frozen custard of the summer? I suggest BOB JO's on Fort Street. My grandfather took me there many, many years ago. I was 5. (I remember because it was 1949...the year they opened.) My grandfather was a big kid at heart. Having heard about a new ice cream stand, we took a road trip to check it out. It was really a trip back then, a lot of empty spaces between Melvindale and Wyandotte. We took that road trip every summer, just to enjoy the first frozen custard of the summer; simple, but oh so special. Even today, almost 70 years later, it's still a special treat. Takes me back to my childhood...and time spent with grandpa.

My first bra...you ladies understand. Training bras, lol. Not much to train, but we all felt like

Jane Russell, changing in the locker room for gym, first hour, didn't we? First pair of nylons, with a garter belt. Simple now, but so exciting back then.

Beating my brother for the first, and only, time at Monopoly. Mastering the fine art of applying mascara. Getting an A on the science test you forgot to study for. Having two guys ask you to the prom...didn't happen, but it sure would've been exciting.

First born. First house. First NEW car. First grandchild. Winning a jackpot at Bingo.

Trying a new recipe and they like it! The last homemade chocolate chip cookie nobody but you knew about. (Don't judge...that still excites me.) Zipping up your jeans, without a struggle. Missing all the red lights when you're running late...

All simple, all simple joys!

So take a minute, sit back and think about the simple joys in your life...past and present. You will be surprised, and may just find yourself smiling more often. Now if you'll excuse me, I'm taking my cup of coffee on the front porch, and I'm going to smile, remembering all the simple joys I haven't shared with you! I'm just sayin'...

