

# THE GOOD News

JANUARY 2021



## Visit [DublinChurch.org](http://DublinChurch.org)

All recent Dublin Community Church sermons, music, and fabulous Sunday school offerings for the kids (ages 1-100+) can be found in text and voice on the Church's Facebook page.

Visit us at [facebook.com/Dublin-Community-Church-47439349395](https://facebook.com/Dublin-Community-Church-47439349395) to find our live-stream link for the 10:30 Sunday Service and so much more.

You can also join Bible Study in a Zoom meeting. Check the calendar for dates and times.

All are always welcome.

## Marking Our Place

This morning I pulled a book of poetry from the shelf and as I thumbed through it, I found a small fern leaf (or is it a stem of fern leaves?) that I must have picked to mark my place.

All day I have been trying to remember where and when I picked that fern. What I can remember is using all manner of things to mark my place because it pains me to crease the page. Flower stems, blades of grass, photographs, children's drawings, snippets of ribbon, and strands of yarn are all things that have been employed over the years. Do you mark your place? What do you use or how do you do it?

It's a small gesture, moving a book-mark from place to place, but in this moment it strikes me as profound. We not only mark our place, but we are also marking the passage of time; we are also marking our progress. Perhaps that is the appeal.

The early days of a New Year is the perfect time to mark our place. We have all been through a great deal over the past year. What have we learned? How have our relationships changed? Where are we now? (That last one is a poignant question, is it not?)

Let's take this time to mark our place, Friends. There are many chapters in our collective memories from this past year, chapters touched by hardship, fear, sadness, frustration, and friction. Look back from where we have come and mark your place, here and now, in the present moment. May the light of Christ guide our way as we move into the future, into chapters yet unwritten.

My prayers for well-being go out to each and every one.

— Traceymay



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### The Annual Meeting of the DCC will be held by Zoom on January 24, 2021, at 12:00 Noon.

The Congregation will elect church officers and fill all board vacancies, approve the proposed 2021 Annual Budget, and discuss any unfinished and new business.

**It is vitally important that members attend. A link will be sent by email as the time nears.**



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MESSAGE FROM THE DEACONS — Tim Clark: The UCC's N.H. Conference recommends that in-person services (indoors and out) remain suspended until February 16. All the COVID numbers are going up, not down. However, we will continue to offer Traceymay's regular weekly e-mail messages, and the online services on Sunday mornings at 10:30. Her sermons have been outstanding -- don't miss them!

MESSAGE FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION — Rosamond Cady

By the time you read this, our much-altered 2020 Christmas will have passed. The only remains will be the beautiful creche, lighted until Epiphany, January 6. Our church worked hard to assure our congregation and all the folks in our community who have gathered for generations in our sanctuary on Christmas Eve to celebrate the holiday with friends and neighbors, that Christ comes into the world every year – even this one. Especially this one. Our welcoming sanctuary was not open for gathering, but our church was open.



This is being written with only the imagination of what the center of Dublin looked like on Christmas Eve. Christ is the Light of the World. Two hundred *luminarias* placed around the center of town and the church – along with the bright Christmas star shining over the Holy Family in our front window – most certainly gave comfort and beauty and hope to our community. Imagine the opposite. No lights, no acknowledgement of the holy night. Just darkness. No, that did not – could not – happen.

And our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols also happened, again in a much-altered fashion. On December 13, our church family – 10 parents, 12 children, 3 great-grandparents, 1 grandfather, 1 proud Mom of 1 awesome producer, 1 music director, and 5 choir members – recorded that treasured service from their individual homes.

Again, as this is being written, no one but my treasured daughter, Margaret, who recorded this loving gift for us, has seen the end results. Her comment: “It’s so, so special!” It was posted on DublinChurch.org and on the DCC Face-book Page on Christmas Eve. This recording was our children’s pageant-that-wasn’t-really-a-pageant! But through the efforts of so many, our 2020 Christmas really was Christmas, and the faces and spirit of our treasured children were “seen” by all. Praise be to God.

Let us look to the New Year with much Hope.

Love,  
*Yummy*

MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

As much of a psychological boost it is to type in “2021,” symbolically leaving the past year behind, 2020 in some ways has strengthened our church. Those positives need to be acknowledged.



The pledging members of our congregation have been just remarkable in keeping current, and in some cases exceeding, their promised contributions. That, along with the PPP loan we received in early Spring from the government, thanks to Bruce Fox’s attentive hard work, has enabled the church to pay all bills, and to retain all paid employees at full capacity.

ministry, has stretched into the community as well, under the amazing skills and hard work of Tom Martin. He figured out a way to bring our talented summer guest musicians into so many homes, to provide beautiful accompaniment to the music of our neighboring rooster during our Garden Sanctuary services, created a beautiful audio Christmas recording of some of our choir members, and now is offering weekly song to our recorded Sunday services.

“Full capacity” is a bit of a misnomer. That phrase could imply status quo. Nothing could be further from the truth. Traceymay has done so much over and beyond what her duties as our devoted and beloved pastor require. She has led our church into the middle of our community, widely expanding our outreach, something that may not have ever happened without the stranglehold of the pandemic, forcing us to function, as Traceymay calls it, in “a new way of being church.” Not church, noun - a place of worship. But being church, verb – active participation in our community, our world. We will emerge from this tragic time as a vital, engaged partner in our community life.

Yummy has been reaching more than just our Sunday School children in her recorded lessons, delivered each Saturday morning on the DCC Facebook page. Many people in the wider community are watching, and responding, to them. Faith formation at DCC has taken on a new dimension – one that will be part of our new normal moving forward.

Wendy has been our steady anchor during these trying times. Her devoted presence in our office two days a week has assured stability with payment of bills and payroll, timely filing of required government forms, and fielding important phone calls. Rebecca continues to make our building shine like never before; and Paul has attended to our grounds, as well as some painting projects.

We have successfully learned how to “be” church! We shall bring that knowledge into the New Year.

Our music program, such an important part of our

MESSAGE FROM THE STEWARDS — May Clark

Thank you, thank you to the 42 people who have submitted your pledges! The Stewards are so grateful for your generous response to our campaign. Though we still need to hear from a number of you, we have already raised, as of this writing, over \$84,000! It is powerful evidence of the strength of our beloved church family.

There is one activity that the Stewards had planned for the spring, which didn't happen due to Covid. We hope that it can be rescheduled in the late spring or fall. It is a Lunch & Learn session, focused on planned giving, along with brainstorming other projects for our church to begin thinking about.

We are sure there are lots of terrific ideas out there for how we can share our talents and resources with the wider world. Mission trips is one idea that has already come up. Wouldn't that be exciting?



OUR  
OPEN & AFFIRMING  
STATEMENT

*“As people of faith, we believe that God’s love is for everyone.*

*We honor human relationships that are based on love, responsibility, mutual respect, trust and fidelity.*

*We embrace each person’s uniqueness.*

*We welcome and support all people equally regardless of marital, social or economic status, race, ability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, age or religious affiliation.*

*Therefore, as an Open and Affirming congregation, we invite all persons to join in the full life and ministry of the church and to share its joys, privileges and responsibilities.*

*Knowing that this commitment poses a spiritual challenge, we encourage each other to accept God’s call to love our neighbors as ourselves.”*

*— Adopted by the Congregation in 2005 —*

MESSAGE FROM OUTREACH — Penny Smith



**The Giving Tree:** The Board of Outreach would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all those who donated holiday gifts for our Dublin families in need. We included Market Basket gift cards along with their gifts. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated by each of the families and brought them holiday joy this year.

Thank you from June Brening, Penny Smith, Jim & Ellen Bingham, Kirsten Colantino, Tim Conrow, Laurie Jameson, Maureen Hulslander and Sally Hoover.

**Community Suppers To Go will begin in March.**

MAKING THE DCC VIRTUAL CHOIR RECORDING — Tom Martin

A few months ago while we were still meeting outside for Sunday services I thought it would be nice to attempt to bring our choir members together virtually so we could be a part of a service during the Christmas season.

After a bit of research on creating a virtual choral ensemble I realized it was something we could do. I created and sent out audio files for the participants to rehearse with and then use to record their voices.

Not all members were able to participate due to technical issues, but those that were able to do so sent me audio files of them singing. Just their voice, nothing behind it.

Now the work began. It took several hours editing to rhythmically align their singing, double everyone, add effects to the doubled parts to make them sound like more singers, and then edit the volume for balance and blend.

You can hear the results in the Children’s Christmas Service (posted online). Many thanks to the following choir members who were able to contribute their voices:

**Soprano:** Ellen Bingham. **Alto:** May Clark, Shari Lapierre, Tom Martin.

**Tenor:** Jim Bingham, Tim Clark, Tom Martin. **Bass:** Tom Martin


Perhaps we can do this again, and involve more of our choir members. I know I really miss working with the choir at our weekly rehearsals and services. I look forward to when all the members of our church musical community will have the opportunity to create music together.



DUBLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH  
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 1125 MAIN ST., PO BOX 308  
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**The Dublin Community Church: An Open & Affirming Church**

*"We, the people of the Dublin Community Church, gather together in love and tolerance to seek through prayer, worship, study, and fellowship to respond faithfully to God's Word, so that, edified and empowered by the spirit of a loving God, we will grow in faith in order to serve God and witness to our community through acts of love, compassion, and healing."*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January 2021</b>						
					1 Happy New Year	2
3 No outside service, will be recorded indoors for online viewing	4 Church Open 2-5 pm	5	6 Church Open 10 am to 3 pm	7 Church Open 10 am to 3 pm	8 Church Open 10 am to 3 pm	9
10 No outside service, will be recorded indoors for online viewing	11 Church Open 2-5 pm	12	13 Church Open 10 am to 3 pm	14 Church Open 10 am to 3 pm	15 Church Open 10 am to 3 pm	16 Bible Study, 8:30-10 am, Zoom
17 No outside service, will be recorded indoors for online viewing	18 Church Open 2-5 pm	19 Community Suppers ToGo (begin March on third Tuesdays)	20 Church Open 10 am to 3 pm	21 Church Open 10 am to 3 pm	22 Church Open 10 am to 3 pm	23
24 & 31 Annual Meeting Jan 24 at noon via Zoom, after 10:30 service	25 Church Open 2-5 pm	26	27 Church Open 10 am to 3 pm	28 Church Open 10 am to 3 pm	29 Church Open 10 am to 3 pm	30

Dublin Community Church,  
 United Church of Christ

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