

THE FEDERATED FORECAST

The Federated Church

612 W. State Street, Sycamore, IL 60178

Phone # 815-895-2706 Fax 815-899-2076

A Covenanted Congregation of

The United Church of Christ & The Unitarian Universalist Association

"An Open and Affirming Church"

Welcoming Any and Loving All

March 2018

Pastor's Corner

Who is God?
Who is not?
Who are the REAL American idols?

What was required to live faithfully in the days of the Roman Empire?
What is required for us to live faithfully in the world's first borderless empire?

Such questions are at the heart of the Book of Revelation – a book seldom read yet the source of numerous beloved hymns, a book often misunderstood but full of truth worthy of our trust.

In response to a request from the Board of Religious Education, we will be offering a five-week adult Bible study on Wednesday afternoons, 2:00-3:30 pm, from April 11 through May 9.

While this bible study will present an overview of the Revelation to St. John, it will focus primarily on chapters 1-3 (where there are individual letters to the seven congregations to which John was writing) and chapter 18 (where there is a description of the empire's fall).

We will read a brief book – *No Longer at Ease: Seven Churches and the Empire* -- which I wrote and used as one of the textbooks when teaching a seminary course on this subject. I know some of you already purchased the book when it was made available in Dutton Hall one Sunday morning last Fall.

If you do not have a copy yet and want to join this class, please let Liz or me know by March 15th, so that we can secure more copies. My home supply has been exhausted, but I can secure more and make them available to you for a discounted price of \$10/each.

Please, please, please do not let either the subject matter or my book scare you away. We shall begin with the assumption that you have no knowledge of Revelation at all. (No insult intended. It's just a simple reality that most folk know little about the last biblical book.) And my book was written for local church audiences.

Seen you in class (as well as in church).

Peace and joy!

Kent

God Speaks Through Our Worship



Sunday, March 4

Liturgist: Carl von Ende
Communion
Feed My Sheep

Sunday, March 11

Liturgist: TBD
Handbell Sunday

Sunday, March 18

Liturgist: TBD
Corned Beef Dinner

Sunday, March 25

Liturgist: Bill Griesenauer
Palm/Passion Sunday
Family Sunday
Penny March

IN THIS ISSUE

Worship Service

Worship 10:00 am
(Childcare Provided)
Kids Club 10:15 am
Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am

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Flowers & Fellowship Hosts

*Please share your commemoration
of personal dates with your church family
by providing Altar Flowers
for the morning worship.*

*The cost is \$25.00 and envelopes are provided
for your convenience.*

*You are welcome to take the flowers home with you
following the service.*

***Please commit to these important roles by signing the
sheets in Dutton Fellowship Hall.***

Altar Flowers

March 4 Gordon McKee, Sharon McKee & Sherry Jones
in celebration of Ellie McKee's 90th Birthday

March 11 OPEN

March 18 OPEN

March 25 OPEN
**Palm/Passion
Sunday**

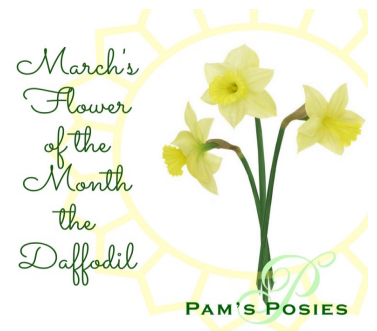
Fellowship Hosts Board of Trustees

March 4 Harambee Percussion Ensemble

March 11 OPEN

March 18 St. Patrick's Corned Beef Meal

March 25 OPEN
**Palm/Passion
Sunday**



PRESCHOOL



February is always a fun month at preschool with Valentine's Day and our Family Sings. We enjoyed the children and their performances on both special evenings. We thank all the family members and friends that attended and shared in our movement and song. It truly is special when the children realize all their practice and hard work pays off and how special it is to share it with their families. We want to thank the church members for providing the cookies for our refreshments and helping serve them after the sings. A big applause to all of you.

We are hoping the ground hog is wrong with his prediction regarding his shadow and spring arrives early for us. We need to get outside every day and play and run and move! We also have opened up registration for the 2018-2019 school year to the community. It will mark the 50th year of the church's ministry of early childhood education for all children.



sharing resources. changing lives.

From the Board of Mission and Society

Feed My Sheep Sunday—March 4

Non-perishable food items are collected on the first Sunday of the month, but you are welcome to place them in the basket in Dutton Hall at any time!

March Love Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ. OGHS provides clean water, food, education, health care, small business microcredit, emergency relief and advocacy/resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. Also, this offering supports domestic and international disaster preparedness and response.

Envelopes for the monthly Love Offerings can be found in a basket at the back of the church or in the attendance folders. Or you can put "Love Offering" on memo line of your check.

The DeKalb County Health Department is asking members of the community to take their poll on how we make a “Healthier DeKalb County”.

The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment survey hopes to provide a deep understanding of the issues that residents feel are important by answering the questions: “What is important to our community?” “How is quality of life perceived in our community?” and “What assets do we have that can be used to improve community health?”

The assessment should result in a strong understanding of community issues and concerns, perceptions about quality of life, and a map of community assets.

After worship service on Sunday, March 4, individuals can complete the assessment survey on laptops during coffee hour. The laptops will be provided by church members. Assistance will be available and discussion of ideas will also occur.



Membership Committee

Membership and Fellowship Board News

From Board Chair, Pam Wagener

CORNEBEEF MEAL

Make plans now for the second annual Corned Beef Meal after church on Sunday, March 18, 2018. Barbara Strayve is back at corning the beef for this wonderful meal with corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots and dessert.

Tickets will be available from Membership and Fellowship Board members after church and in the office. Each meal will cost \$12.00. Profits go to support the church. Invite your friends and family and be sure to be seen “wearing of the green”.

Ladies
Night Out

6:00 pm
 Monday, March 26
 Fanatico
 1215 Blackhawk Rd.
 DeKalb





From the Church Moderator—Pam Kitterman

Where did February go? It's almost over in a blink of an eye! Yet, as always, our Federated Church was busy with the beginning of our Lenten season. Ash Wednesday's soup supper fed 22 members/friends. (The flu was running savagely throughout our congregation!) Pastor Kent conducted a meaningful Ash Wednesday service around the tables.

During our Church Council meeting we were told that both the Arnie and Virginia Larsen and the Ron Blickem families gave our church two very nice donations. These donations along with monies from our Investment Fund will greatly help push our roofing project forward.

Community Health Network has been conducting heart health classes and blood pressure clinics throughout the month of Heart Health February. They'll be wrapping up their classes on Monday, Feb. 26 at 1pm in Dutton Hall. All are welcome to learn a new taco seasoning recipe (using much less sodium!) and have their blood pressure taken. We're planning on reviewing and/or learning the AED defibrillator that is on the wall in Dutton Hall. A post service will be presented in April. We encourage all ushers, knitting/sewing circles, and all committee members to take part in this training!

Pam Wagener let us know at council meeting that the DeKalb County Health Dept. along with other health care facilities in the area are doing a survey on the county's health needs. You will see a bulletin insert about this survey and on March 4, after church, there will be six computers/laptops in Dutton Hall where our members and friends may sit down and take this short survey. There will be several people helping at the laptop "stations" so no one should be hesitant about using the laptops.

Enjoy the month of March! I will be out of town for the month of March and Jerry Lane, Assistant Moderator, will be available for any concerns.

Pam



BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Karen Hamingson will be collecting donations for Big Brothers Big Sisters. If you would like to make a donation Karen will be glad to accept it....



Thanks
Karen

THE FEDERATED CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
January 31, 2018

This report covers only those funds available for paying operating expenses and does not include bequests, designated pass through funds, or unrealized gains from investments. The operating income for January was \$26,206 and the month's operating expenses were \$13,088. This means that we had \$13,118 more income than expense. We did \$837 better than anticipated. The year is too new to draw any trends or conclusions. It does reflect that 2018 is stepping off well.

NUMERICAL SUMMARY
OPERATING CASH FLOW
January 31, 2018

	Y-T-D ACTU- AL	Y-T-D BUDG- ET	DIFFER- ENCE
<u>INCOME</u>			
Total General Contributions	23,212	24,815	-1,603
Trust & Interest Income	2,071	1,869	201
Total Other Income	924	305	619
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	26,206	26,989	-783
<u>EXPENSE</u>			
Total Administrative Expense	0	500	-500
Total Bd of Trustees	5,775	6,702	-927
Total Bd of Membership & Fellowship	0	0	0
Total Bd of Religious Education	0	65	-65
Total Bd of Deacons	6,729	7,042	-312
Total Bd of Mission & Society	584	400	184
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	13,088	14,709	-1,620
OPERATING CASH FLOW (Income less Expenses)	13,118	12,281	837

Respectfully submitted,
David Wood, Assistant Treasurer

Prayer Request



Prayers for Healing from Illness or Injury

Georgiann Baird
Larry Ball
Jack Bauer
Judy Hoke
LeVern Hoover
Husband of Jean Evans' friend
Husband of Roger and Kay Jacobson's granddaughter
Husband of Jerry Lane's daughter
Jeff, father of Harambee Ensemble member
John McCue

Prayers for Peace at Time of Passing

Family of Michael Bennett
Family of Ron Blickem
Family of Ed Thompson
Family of Virginia Larsen

Additional Prayer Requests

Rachel and family, niece of Bev Whildin

Dear Members of The Federated Church:

Thank you for the donation of \$280. this gift will be used to support the work of our volunteer advocates on behalf of 196 abused and neglected children of DeKalb county. These are children who, through no fault of their own, are part of the court system due to abuse and neglect by parents or guardians. We appreciate your support of important work of advocates for these children who need someone to speak for them during this difficult time of their lives.

Thank you for support of CASA. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of the children that we serve.

Very truly yours,

Jill Olson
Executive Director



Deacons will be offering spring flowers to be placed in church on Easter Sunday. The choice will be tulips, daffodils and begonias. They are \$16 each. They may be placed in honor of someone or in memory of someone. The Deacons will take orders on March 4th, March 11th and March 18th.

Liturgists are needed for March and April. Sign up sheet in Dutton Hall.

Communion will be done by intinction on March 4th.

Thanks to everyone who made soup for our Ash Wednesday soup supper. They were all delicious.



Safe Passage, INC.

Dear Federated Church,
The Safe Passage Board of Directors and Staff, on behalf of our clients, are so grateful for your very generous gift. We know there are many organizations doing critical work in our community and we are honored that you chose to share your resources and support with us.

Our services are critical and heartbreakingly necessary and we could not do what we do without your partnership. We are deeply grateful for your support that allows us to help survivors recover from the abuse they have suffered.

Thank you all so much! We are truly very grateful for your generous support!

All the best,

Mary Ellen Schaid, Executive Director

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

March Birthdays

03/03	Beth Gustafson
03/07	Michael Carlson
03/10	Katelyn Lancaster
03/14	Carl von Ende
03/18	Michelle Todd
03/18	Benjamin Lane
03/19	Reid Walzer
03/20	James Crosby
03/21	Mary Jo Johnson
03/22	Ian Wagener
03/22	Terry Baie
03/25	Dave Juday
03/25	Jacob Whildin
03/25	Mark Todd
03/26	Paul Salvatore
03/30	Allison Stahl



March Anniversaries

03/10 Ed & Peggy Safford



Upcoming Events:

March 3	World Day of Prayer
March 18	Corn Beef Meal
March 19	Guys' Night Out
March 25	Palm/Passion Sunday
March 26	Ladies Night Out
March 29	Maundy Thursday
March 30	Good Friday
April 1	Easter Sunday



Stewardship Report

Week ending February 25, 2018
 Attendance: 49
 Kids' Club: 3
 Offering Y-T-D: 30,571.00
 Covenant with God: \$ 158,169.00



**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Monday, March 19

Your Federated Church Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kent Ulery
Pastor's Emergency: 207-570-5627
Pastor's email: kent@ulery.net
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dale Beaman

Administrative Assistant: Liz Finney
Admin Assistant email: thefederatedchurch@frontier.com

Director of Music: Gary Mattin
Music email: mattincurtain50@aol.com
Keyboardist: Yule Dain Yoon
Handbell Director: Marilyn Montzka
Custodian: Almasa Camo

Office phone: 815-895-2706
Office fax: 815-899-2076
Office email: thefederatedchurch@frontier.com

Federated Preschool

Preschool Director: Jan Scheffers
Preschool phone: 815-764-9473
Federated Preschool email: Federatedchurchpreschool@gmail.com

Church Leadership

Moderator:
Pam Kitterman 815-899-7032

Assistant Moderator:
Jerry Lane 815-895-2617

Clerk:
Suzanne Juday 815-895-2082

Treasurer:
Karen Hamingson 815-895-4631

Assistant Treasurers:
David Wood 815-756-1680
Linda Babcock 815-758-0763

Council Members-at Large:
Nancy Renfer 815-895-4742
Dave Wood 815-756-1680

Board of Deacons:
Linda Babcock 815-758-0763
Bill Griesenauer 773-720-8324

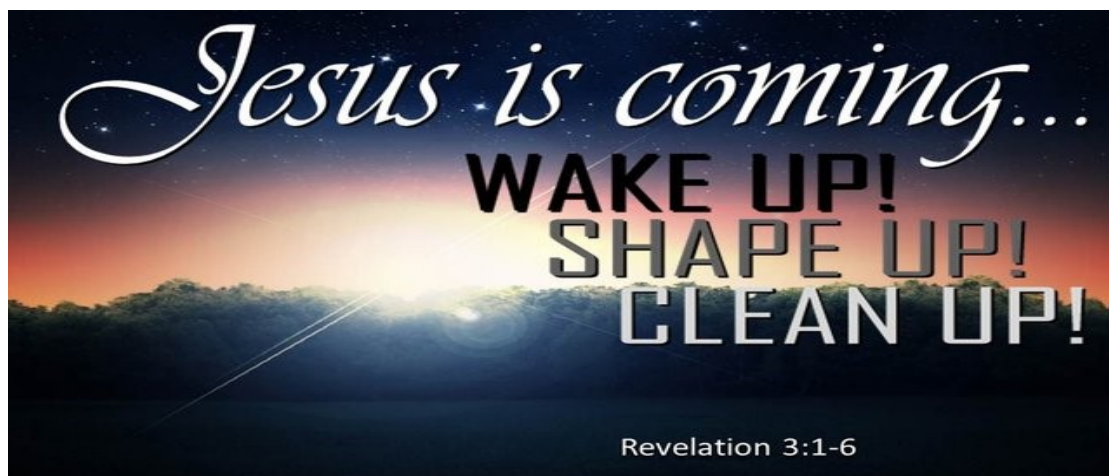
Board of Membership & Fellowship:
Pam Wagener 815-895-9852
Alice Whitney 815-895-5023

Board of Mission & Society:

Board of Religious Education:
Malorie Nelson 815-784-6060
Tomi Greisenauer 312-802-1486

Board of Trustees:
Nate Kitterman 815-751-1481
Skip Schramer 815-751-4817

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee
Jerry Lane
Roger Jacobson
Karen Hamingson



The Federated Church

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:30am Federated Preschool 8:00pm AA	2 World Day of Prayer 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	3 10:00am World Day of Prayer Service 11:30am Harambee Rehearsal
4 Communion Feed My Sheep Harambee Performance 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Bd. of Religious Ed. 8:00pm AA	5 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	6 8:30am Federated Preschool	7 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:00am Sewing Circle 12:30pm Federated Preschool 6:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8 8:30am Federated Preschool 7:00pm Church Council 8:00pm AA	9 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool 7:00pm UKB Drum Rehearsal	10 11:30am Harambee Rehearsal
11 Daylight Saving Time Begins Handbell Sunday 8:30am Membership Bd 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Fellowship 8:00pm AA	12 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	13 8:30am Federated Preschool	14 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:00am Sewing Circle 12:30pm Federated Preschool 6:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15 8:30am Federated Preschool 5:30pm Bd. of Trustees 8:00pm AA	16 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	17
18 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Corned Beef Dinner 11:30am Bd of Mission & Society 11:30am Board of Deacons 8:00pm AA	19 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool 6:00pm Guy's Night Out 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	20 Election Day 8:30am Federated Preschool 7:30pm African Violet Society	21 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:00am Sewing Circle 12:30pm Federated Preschool 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22 8:30am Federated Preschool 8:00pm AA	23 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	24 7:00pm Bunco
25 Family Sunday Palm/Passion Sunday Penny March 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Fellowship 8:00pm AA	26 6:00pm Ladies Night Out	27	28 9:00am Sewing Circle 6:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	29 Maundy Thursday 8:00pm AA	30 Good Friday	31