



THE FEDERATED FORECAST

The Federated Church

612 W. State Street, Sycamore, IL 60178

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A Covenanted Congregation of

The United Church of Christ & The Unitarian Universalist Association

"An Open and Affirming Church"

Welcoming Any and Loving All

April 2018



Thoughts and Prayers

Throughout this past month, ever since the school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland FL, people have taken to Facebook and Twitter saying "Enough with your thoughts and prayers, silent moments and condolences."

The message: pious platitudes won't cut it anymore -- the time for too-long-delayed action is now.

I confess to finding that message disturbing. It got under my skin and irritatingly stayed there. When something bothers me that much, typically it means I need to stop and think it through.

I believe in sending thoughts and prayers. I believe in it because there have been times in my own life when I have felt supported and uplifted by others sending their thoughts and prayers to me. I believe in it because I have seen prayers answered in miraculous ways. I believe in it because keeping someone in my thoughts increases my awareness and intensifies my caring.

Sometimes I have sent thoughts and prayers because I didn't know any other way to respond. More often than not, once having sent my thoughts and prayers, I discover something that would be helpful to do.

At the same time, I understand the sentiment of those now saying "enough." I understand because Christianity is an action-oriented faith. We are called to be "doers of the word, and not merely hearers," as St. James teaches, before going on to make us uncomfortable by asking, "If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what good is that?"

Today, James might ask "What good is it to say to students 'be safe,' if you do not also pass laws to increase their safety in school?"

There is an old German proverb which encourages us to "Pray as if working would do any good. Work as if prayers won't be answered." Finally, it doesn't boil down to our *either* offering thoughts and prayers *or* our taking action. We are called as Christians to do both.

Peace and joy!

Kent

God Speaks Through Our Worship



Sunday, April 1

Liturgist: Dave Juday
Easter
Feed My Sheep

Sunday, April 8

Liturgist: Pam Wagener

Sunday, April 15

Liturgist: TBD
Handbell Sunday

Sunday, April 22

Liturgist: TBD

Sunday, April 29

Liturgist: Jerry Lane
Family Sunday
Penny March



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

April 1	Spring Flowers
April 8	Linda & George Maness in memory of Michael Bennett
April 15	OPEN
April 22	The Bennett family in memory of Michael Bennett
April 29	

Fellowship Hosts Church Council

April 1	Pam & Nate Kitterman & Ali
Easter Sunday	
April 8	OPEN
April 15	OPEN
April 22	OPEN
April 29	OPEN



PRESCHOOL



March was a busy but exciting month for our students at preschool. We started the month off celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday and wore silly miss matched socks to school. It is always fun to wear socks and no shoes inside the classroom. We continued the fun by wearing green to keep the pesky leprechaun away and avoid those tickle pinches. They left us green lucky charms, shamrock stickers and a messed up classroom. The end of the month found us dressed in our homemade Spring-Easter hats for the annual parade. Our visitors enjoyed the bunny hop, egg hunt and viewing all our adorable dressed up kids. We are very thankful for the warmer weather, longer sunlight at the end of the day and getting to play outside every day. Our older kids recognized their uniqueness and special personal qualities and displayed them on their All About Me posters that we shared in the hall for all to enjoy. The last week of March brought vacation time and rest due to spring break. When we return in April we will be easing into our last two months of school. Enjoy the official season of Spring and all the beautiful new things popping up all around us!!



From the Board of Mission and Society

Feed My Sheep Sunday—April 1

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!

April Love Offering: School Supplies Project

The School Supply Pantry project provides new backpacks filled with needed school supplies for kids in need throughout DeKalb County prior to the start of the school year in August.

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.



Pork Chop Drive-Through Dinner

The church will be sponsoring a drive-through dinner the late afternoon of Friday, May 18th. The dinner will be catered by the Country Store and will include a pork

chop, baked beans, potato salad, applesauce, a roll, and a dessert (cookie, brownie, or bar cookie.)

The tickets will be \$12.00 and are currently available. It is important that all members sell as many tickets as possible.

The planning committee includes Alice and Tony Whitney, Skip Schramer, and Suzanne Juday. Please see any one of them if you have questions.

Further information as we get closer to the event.

Thrift Sale!

Now that spring has arrived, it's time to start thinking about the Spring Thrift Sale. Only a month left to clean out the closets and find those great saleable items to donate to the sale.

The sale is scheduled for May 4th & 5th with set-up on May 3rd so mark your calendars.

Proceeds from the sale will again go to support the Backpack Ministry of our church. Look for sign-up sheets beginning in April to donate time as well as goods to the sale.

Thanks,
Phil Wagener, Sale Leader.



Fellowship Committee

Membership and Fellowship Board News

From Board Chair, Pam Wagener

SPRING SALAD SUPPER—6 PM

MAY 1, 2018



Make your plans now to hear the Sycamore High School Jazz choir and join your friends for the annual Spring Salad Supper. Tickets will cost \$5.00.

With Easter right around the corner, it is the perfect time to try out a new salad to share with your Federated Friends.

Bring a salad to share, your table setting, and your appetite. The Board of Membership and Fellowship will provide drinks and desserts. Tickets will be available from board members and in the office in early April.





Federated Preschool

February 28, 2018

Members of Federated Church
Sycamore, Illinois

Dear Members,

Thank you once again for the support you gave the preschool during the two night event for our Family Sings. The cookies were a big hit by all and everyone was excited with the variety and having a hard time choosing which ones would make their tummies happy.

Thank you to the workers who served our family and friends and cleaned up in the kitchen. This really is a big help to us and makes the teachers available to visit with our guests while you take care of the refreshment tables.

We appreciate all of you so much and send a big thank you from the children and teachers.

For the children,



Jan Scheffers
Director

Hey Kids!

Did you know we are having an Easter Egg Hunt for you on Easter morning after church? Yep, we are. So come to church Easter Sunday. After church we will have an Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn if the weather is nice, inside if rainy. Grandmas and Grandpas, bring your grandchildren, all ages welcome. We have baskets, but if you want, you may bring your own to church. Come Easter, bring your family and friends and celebrate Easter with your church family.



THE FEDERATED CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
February 28, 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 February was \$10,722 and the month's operating expenses were 13,543. This means that we had \$2,821 more expense than income.

The year to date operating statement income was \$36,979 and the operating expense was \$33,036. This means we have \$3,942 more income than expense.

Notes:

During the month of February the church received \$25,500 in bequests from the Virginia and Arnie Larson Estate and the Don Blickem Family. The council voted to place these undesignated funds into the Roof Replacement Account.

The Trustees received the \$5,250 bill for repairing the damage to the air conditioner lightning strike last summer. They had received a \$4,300 insurance payment in 2017. This cash flow difference distorts the budget report

Reminder: If you designate a portion of the Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA to be deposited directly to the church bank account, you do not have to pay income tax on that portion.

In summary, the general contributions should be caught up, the expense (after adjusting for the repair bill noted above) is less than expected. The detailed operating cash flow is shown below.

NUMERICAL SUMMARY
OPERATING CASH FLOW
February 28, 2018

	Y-T-D ACTUAL	Y-T-D BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
<u>INCOME</u>			
Total General Contributions	32,209	33,405	-1,196
Trust & Interest Income	3,909	3,683	227
Total Other Income	861	585	276
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	36,979	37,673	-694
<u>EXPENSE</u>			
Total Administrative Expense	0	1,000	-1,000
Total Bd of Trustees	19,143	13,665	5,478
Total Bd of Membership & Fellowship	11	0	11
Total Bd of Religious Education	0	205	-205
Total Bd of Deacons	13,219	14,160	-941
Total Bd of Mission & Society	664	800	-136
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	33,036	29,830	3,206
OPERATING CASH FLOW (Income less Expenses)	3,942	7,843	-3,900

Respectfully submitted, David Wood, Assistant Treasurer



Prayers for Healing from Illness or Injury

Georgiann Baird
 Jack Bauer
 Judy Hoke
 LeVern Hoover
 Husband of Jean Evans' friend
 Husband of Roger and Kay Jacobson's grand-daughter
 Husband of Jerry Lane's daughter
 Jeff, father of Harambee Ensemble member
 John McCue
 Shaun Tyler, grandson of Tomi & Bill Greisenauer

Prayers for Peace at Time of Passing

Family of Michael Bennett
 Family of Ron Blickem
 Family of Juli Du Pont
 Family of Ed Thompson
 Family of Virginia Larsen

Additional Prayer Requests

Rachel and family, niece of Bev Whildin



We are always accepting volunteers to participate in the worship service as liturgist. See Bill Griesenauer or Linda Babcock if you are interested. Liturgists are needed for April and May. Liturgist sign-up sheet is in Dutton Hall.

BUNCO RETURNS FOR THE THIRD MONTH IN ROW!!

Calling all gamers to another Bunco adventure on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 7 pm in Dutton Hall! Novices welcome to join the fun and good snacks.

Bring four quarters and a dish to pass for a few hours of fun.

See you there.



CORNER BEEF MEAL UPDATE

Thank you to all who bought tickets for the corned beef meal on March 18, 2018. Approximately 50 people enjoyed the excellent corned beef prepared by Barbara Strayve. We sold about 10 take-out meals and 14 packages of corned beef slices.

Everywhere I went people were commenting on the excellent food, even those who don't eat cabbage remarked on its excellence. Barb says she has a secret recipe! The decorations were an added attraction. Thanks to all who donated these items for the wonderful event. Thanks also go to Jewel and Hy-Vee for the gift card donations that were applied to the food purchases.

Best of all, Federated Church made \$602 from the event. These funds will be added to the 2018 church budget.

Thank you from the Board of Membership and Fellowship.

Sue Finney
 Betty Johnson
 Katelyn Lancaster
 Bev Schramer
 Pam Wagener
 Alice Whitney





April Birthdays

04/01	Breann Perkins
04/06	Ruth Johnson 95
04/06	Jim Lyon
04/08	Michael Gordon
04/09	Kimberly Foster
04/10	Nathan Finney
04/17	Ray Napietek
04/20	Mark Ekstrom
04/22	Brian Walk
04/23	Sarah Marsh
04/28	Katy Napietek
04/29	Gary Mattin
04/29	Kristen Salvatore
04/30	Andrew Walzer



April Anniversaries

04/12 Jim & Sharon Lyon



Upcoming Events:

April 1	Easter Sunday
April 11	Bible Study Begins
April 16	Guy's Night Out
April 23	Ladies Night Out
April 28	Trustees' Spring Work Day
April 28	Bunco Night
May 1	Spring Salad Supper
May 4 & 5	Spring Thrift Sale
May 18	Drive-Thru Dinner
May 24	Preschool Graduation



Stewardship Report

Week ending March 25, 2018
 Attendance: 62
 Kids' Club: 4
 Offering Y-T-D: 37,786.75
 Covenant with God: \$ 158,169.00



Monday, April 23 at 6:00 pm
 Red Ox Restaurant & Bar
 Hampshire



GUY'S NIGHT OUT
MONDAY, APRIL 16
6:00 pm
Los Panchos Mexican
Restaurant
1470 S. Peace Rd
Sycamore

**DEADLINE FOR
 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Monday, April 16

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

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Sunday Feed My Sheep 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Easter Egg Hunt 6:00pm Boy Scout Troop #16 8:00pm AA	2 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	3 8:30am Federated Preschool	4 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:00am Sewing Circle 12:30pm Federated Preschool 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 8:30am Federated Preschool 1:30pm Transition Team Meeting 8:00pm AA	6 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	7 11:30am Harambee Rehearsal
8 8:30am Membership Bd 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Bd. of Religious Ed. 6:00pm Boy Scout Troop #16 8:00pm AA	9 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	10 8:30am Federated Preschool	11 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:00am Sewing Circle 12:30pm Federated Preschool 2:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 8:30am Federated Preschool 1:30pm Transition Team Meeting 7:00pm Church Council 8:00pm AA	13 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool 7:00pm UKB Drum Rehearsal	14
15 Handbell Sunday 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Bd of Mission & Society 11:30am Board of Deacons 6:00pm Boy Scout Troop #16 8:00pm AA	16 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool 6:00pm Guy's Night Out 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	17 8:30am Federated Preschool	18 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:00am Sewing Circle 12:30pm Federated Preschool 2:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19 8:30am Federated Preschool 5:30pm Bd. of Trustees 8:00pm AA	20 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	21
22 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Fellowship 6:00pm Boy Scout Troop #16 8:00pm AA	23 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool 6:00pm Ladies Night Out	24 8:30am Federated Preschool	25 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:00am Sewing Circle 12:30pm Federated Preschool 2:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26 8:30am Federated Preschool 8:00pm AA	27 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	28 9:00am Trustees Spring Work Day 11:30am Harambee Rehearsal 7:00pm Bunco Night
29 Family Sunday Penny March 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Fellowship 6:00pm Boy Scout Troop #16 8:00pm AA	30 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool					