

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

May 2019



Returning from the Home Depot, I noticed our next-door neighbors, in the shared courtyard between our condos, completing removal of an *arborvitae*. While an ugly plant, in my humble opinion, it did serve to hide somewhat the downspout. But this year's hard cold winter had done it in.

That meant another trip to the Home Depot, this time for a replacement, a royal star magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*), native to Japan, slow growing, with large but elegant white showy flowers which blossom in the early spring prior to the leaves unfolding. I think it will contrast quite nicely, with the red brick exterior.

Digging the deep hole, wresting the large root ball, and filling in the top soil proved to be exhausting for two old men, being supervised by most of the association. But my neighbor and I managed to do it. We took a step back and congratulated ourselves. Our spouses decided to christen the tree "Maggie." As the four of us took a two-hour break on our deck, suddenly we realized it was Earth Day.

How could we have forgotten Earth Day? But then the creation, which God entrusted to us to steward responsibly, often is forgotten. People naturally take it for granted, as if it is an inexhaustible resource of beauty, enjoyment, and wealth. Tragically, generations of our neglect is proving deadly.

Meg and I have planted at least one tree everywhere we have lived. When we have returned years later, we always are amazed at how they have grown. Our ancestors in the faith also were amazed by trees, especially the sturdiness of those that grew in the desert. The book of Psalms opens:

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
Or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;
But their delight is in the law of the LORD,
And on G-d's law they meditate day and night.
They are like trees planted by streams of water,
Which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

God's law calls upon us to be environmentalists, especially at this moment in history. For the natural laws God also placed into motion are powerful in their own right. And if we continue down the present path of denial, allowing those who scoff at climate science to prevail, in due time even the strongest of trees will perish as this good Earth is driven to its demise.

Kent



God Speaks Through Our Worship



Sunday, May 5

Liturgist:
Communion
Feed My Sheep

Sunday, May 12

Liturgist:
Mother's Day

Sunday, May 19

Liturgist:
Music Sunday
Teacher Appreciation

Sunday, May 26

Liturgist: Bill Griesenauer

I N T H I S I S S U E

Worship Service

Worship	10:00 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

May 5

May 12 (Mother's Day)

May 19

May 26

Fellowship Hosts

Board of Religious Education

May 5

May 12

May 19

Bd. of Religious Ed.

May 26





Pork Chop Drive-Through Dinner

The church will be sponsoring a drive-through, sit down dinner the late afternoon of Friday, May 17th. The dinner will be catered by Tom's Country Store and will include a pork chop, baked beans, au gratin potatoes, applesauce, a roll, and a dessert (cookie, brownie, or bar cookie.) The tickets are \$12.00 and are currently available. It is important that all members sell as many tickets as possible.

New this year. We will be baking our desserts for the dinner at the church. On Wednesday, May 15th, we will be baking brownies and cookie bars. Thursday, May 16th, will be baking angel food cake and Bundt cake. Volunteers are needed to bake, cut, bag and clean-up. Sign-up sheet in Dutton Hall. Donations for the cost of supplies is welcome.

Please return all money and any unsold tickets to the church office or Alice Whitney or Suzanne Juday by May 12th. If you sell tickets the week of the sale, just call Alice (815-895-5023) or Suzanne (815-895-2082) and tell them how many you sold, so we get the right number to Tom. If you have unsold tickets, they can be returned anytime, so they are available for sale by someone else.

Music Sunday Sunday, May 19

Extra music will be heard that morning from both the Handbell and Chancel Choirs. To continue the tradition, a Federated musician will be honored for outstanding dedication and service.



Happy Mothers Day

to ALL the MOTHERS out there whether you are a Past, Present or Soon To be Moms. May your day be filled with love, joy and laughter..





We have been kept busy keeping track of the weather. Is it snowing and we need all our snow gear or can we put our shorts on and go play in the sand box and ride bikes? Well hopefully soon Mother Nature will let us keep those shorts on and be out in beautiful warm weather and enjoy fresh air and moving our muscles. Children love to move and need to be kept engaged and not be sitting still. At Federated Preschool we learn through hands on, interactive, concrete and awesome play!!! Children really need to feel safe, able to take risk, feel loved, and then their minds are open and ready to learn.

Our Preschool Graduation ceremony this year is Thursday, May 23.

Thank you for supporting this ministry of early childhood education that began 50 years ago and keeps on growing each day! God bless you all.

Jan & Staff



Thrift Sale Update!

The annual spring Thrift Sale is just around the corner; May 10th and 11th! Hopefully you will have looked at the sign-up sheets and filled in times when you can help out at the sale. Remember, items to go in the sale can be left in the Youth Room beginning on Sunday, May 5th. Thursday evening beginning at 5 pm on the 9th is the actual sale set-up. Dinner will be provided for everyone who helps during set-up. We are usually finished by 8 pm. The more hands helping that evening makes everything go quicker. The sale will open for preschool parents and families on Friday morning at 9:00 am, and to the general public at noon. We will be open on Friday until 6 pm. Saturday morning the sale will reopen at 9 am and run until noon. Saturday will be \$5 a bag all morning. Clean-up will begin at noon and we should be finished by 3 pm; earlier if we sell more items so there are fewer leftovers to dispose of. Hopefully you will be able to set some time aside to help with the sale.

Important things to remember are: no electronics such as computers, monitors or TVs. The money from this sale is going to fund the backpack ministry so only donate things that people will want to buy; no ragged clothes or dirty, worn-out shoes. Save winter clothing and Halloween/Thanksgiving/Christmas decorations for the fall sale. Hope to see everyone at some time during that week lending a helping hand.

Phil Wagener and Paula von Ende, Sale Leaders

Membership Committee

Pam Wagener, Chair



Ladies' Spring Salad Supper

n Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 6 pm

Admission \$5.00 includes one raffle ticket

Please bring a salad to pass

Drinks and Dessert provided

Entertainment by the Sycamore Jazz Orchestra

Sign-up sheet in Dutton Hall

IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK

Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital and Valley West Hospital have dissolved the Community Health Network – CHN. As our local healthcare provider Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital and Valley West Hospital's Community Health Services department are dedicated to helping our community members live healthier lives. A wide array of programs and services are now offered at both Kishwaukee and Valley West Hospitals or can be provided onsite at your organization. Residents will continue to receive the quarterly publication and can visit the website for a complete list of classes and programs offered by each of the hospitals. Website:

www.nm.org

*Side Note: The AED defibrillator that we received from CHN will be needing new "paddles" soon. These items will be purchased before the expiration dates and installed.



Dear Federated
Congregation,

Thank You for your very generous donation in support of our children's bereavement group. We consistently get very positive feedback from the children and families we serve, and there is no other group such as ours in the county. Thank you for helping us provide this valuable service!

*Jen Conley, Facilitator
First Friday Friends Club
Northwestern Medicine
Home Health and Hospice
Kishwaukee Hospital.*



Mission and Society News

Paula von Ende, Chair

The May Love Offering will go toward Strengthen the Church. Before Pastor Kent proposed to the Mission and Society Board that Strengthen the Church become a Love Offering selection, the Board, including me, was not familiar with it. What do you know about Strengthen the Church? To help you learn more about Strengthen the Church, take the multiple-choice quiz below and then consider a donation to this Love Offering.

What is church?

- a) Worship on Sunday mornings
- b) Protests and rallies in support of the least of these
- c) Helping to feed the hungry and support the addicted
- d) All of the above!

Where is church?

- a) In the sanctuary and church building
- b) In breweries and coffee shops
- c) Around a dinner table
- d) All of the above!

Why church?

- a) To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves
- b) To be united in Spirit and inspired by God's grace to welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all
- c) To vision a just world for all, united in Christ's love
- d) All of the above!

Where does Strengthen the Church money go?

- a) To seed brand new churches that bring hope to people on the margins who wouldn't set foot in church otherwise
- b) To help established churches begin projects working with refugees and immigrants
- c) To fund creative ideas experimenting with new way Christian millennials are gathering
- d) All of the above . . . and so much more!

If you answered "d) all of the above!," then you're not only correct, but you're thinking outside of the buildings and boxes that have defined the message of Christianity for the last several decades. You're thinking on the forefront of the United Church of Christ and the way in which we are Strengthening the Church, not only for the church we have grown up knowing, but for the church God is calling us to be!





Prayers for Healing from Illness or Injury

Bill Finney
Liz Finney's brother, Bill
Tomi Greisenauer
Judy Hoke-Jackson
Pam Kitterman's brother, Larry
Margot Mattin
Ed Safford's sister-in-law, Mary
Sally Stevens

Prayers for Peace at Time of Passing

Family of Ruth Johnson
Family of Ric McCue, John McCue's brother
Family of Jacki McLaughlin
Family of Bonnie Wilford, Joe Baird's sister

Additional Prayer Requests

Rachel and family, niece of Bev Whildin

Note: If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please let Liz know.

Date April 18, 2019

Dear Federated Church,

We gratefully acknowledge your gift of \$165.00 to the church in memory of Rev. Bill Nagy.

Thank you from,

Congregational United Church of Christ
St. Charles, Illinois

*Thank
You*

**Sue Lyon Memorial Book Sale
2019**

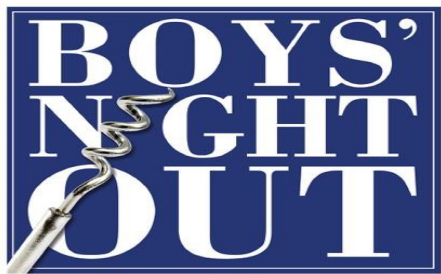


BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

It's Almost Here! The Sue Lyon Memorial Book Sale will be **Thursday, June 13, Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15.** Federated's own Book Sale Committee is organizing this annual event again. If you have any new or used books or children's books you would like to pass on, please consider donating them to this sale. Blackhawk Moving and Storage (340 S. Ave., Sycamore) continues to store these for us, and your books may be dropped off at Blackhawk. Blackhawk has graciously offered to deliver books, and Troop 16 and Federated worker bees will get them ready for the sale.

Worker bees needed! We will need many hands to help stack, categorize, sell, and pack. The new sorting procedure has made it easier, no lifting. Harambee Ensemble members and parents help move sorted books to categories. Please consider joining us to sort books Tuesday, June 11 and Wednesday, June 12 and/or throughout the sale, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. It's a great time to hang out with Federated friends and help with this Federated fundraiser. (Plus we now have air conditioning in the sorting room!)

Book Sale Committee members are Sue McCue, Sharon McKee, Sherry Jones, Karen Hamingson, Sue Finney, Bruce and Joan Wallace, Malorie Nelson and Nancy Renfer.



**Sam's Family Restaurant
Cortland**

**6:00pm
Monday, May 20**

*Happy
Birthday
to you!*



May Birthdays

05/01 Liberty Gould
 05/02 Emily Kitterman
 05/03 Gloria Welcker
 05/03 Jacob Finney
 05/08 Dick Carter
 05/10 Lilly Finney
 05/10 Justin Jones
 05/13 Kristin Carlson
 05/15 Nancy Wood
 05/15 Peggy Safford
 05/20 Jacob Ekstrom
 05/22 Victoria Walzer
 05/24 Polly Carter
 05/25 Amy Douglass
 05/27 Ann Smelser
 05/27 Hannah Ekstrom
 05/28 Dave Wood
 05/28 Steve Swedberg
 05/28 Franklin Marsh
 05/28 Nick Glover
 05/31 Marjorie Baie

*Happy
Anniversary!*

May Anniversaries

05/10 Linda & Steve Benton
 05/16 Bev & Skip Schramer
 05/17 Vicki & Andy Walzer
 05/23 Carrie & Brian Walk
 05/24 Greg & Becky Smart
 05/27 Pam Jackson & Earl Seaver
 05/29 Sherry Jones & Sharon
 McKee



Stewardship Report April 28, 2019:

Attendance Last Week: 37
 Kids Club:
 Offering Y-T-D: \$ 61,3762.46
 Covenant with God: \$ 158,169.00

Upcoming Events



May 7 Ladies' Salad Supper—6:00 pm
 May 10-11 Spring Thrift Sale
 May 12 Mother's Day
 May 17 Pork Chop Dinner Drive-thru
 May 19 Music Sunday
 May 25 Preschool Graduation
 June 13-15 Sue Lyon Memorial Book Sale

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
Web Link: <http://thefederatedchurchsycamore.com>

Federated Preschool

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

Sandra Mineau, pastor at Woodside Congregational Church in Rockford, is collecting bottle tops. They will be recycled into benches, similar to those at Mayfield.

Please call if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

815-229-3265



Church Leadership

Moderator:
Jerry Lane 815-762-8339
Email—fedmod48@yahoo.com

Assistant Moderator:
TBD

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:
Pam Kitterman 815-899-7032
Dave Wood 815-756-1680

Board of Deacons:
Linda Babcock 815-758-0763
Judy Winter 815-761-9515

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

Board of Mission & Society:
Paula von Ende 815-758-7375

Board of Religious Education:
Malorie Nelson 815-784-6060
Ruth Olle 815-757-1794

Board of Trustees:
Skip Schramer 815-751-4817
Dave Finney 815-739-1734

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee
Jerry Lane
Roger Jacobson
Karen Hamingson
Nancy Renfer

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday
9:30am—4:30pm

Secretary's Office Hours

Monday—Wednesday—Friday
9:00am—3:00pm
Tuesday and Thursday
9:00am—noon

The Federated Church

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:00am Sewing Circle 12:30pm Federated Preschool 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2 8:30am Federated Preschool 8:00pm AA	3 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	4 10:00am DeKalb Co Quilters Guild
5 Communion Feed My Sheep 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids' Club 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Bd. of Religious Ed. 6:00pm Troop #16 8:00pm AA	6 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Quilters Bd. Meeting	7 8:30am Federated Preschool 6:00pm Ladies Salad Supper	8 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:00am Sewing Circle 12:30pm Federated Preschool 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9 8:30am Federated Preschool 5:30pm Spring Thrift Sale Set-up 7:00pm Church Council 8:00pm AA	10 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:00pm Spring Thrift Sale 12:30pm Federated Preschool 7:00pm UKB Drum	11 9:00am Spring Thrift Sale 11:30am Harambee Rehearsal
12 Mother's Day 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids' Club 11:15am Fellowship 6:00pm Troop #16 8:00pm AA	13 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	14 8:30am Bd. Membership & Fellowship 8:30am Federated Preschool	15 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:00am Sewing Circle 12:30pm Federated Preschool 6:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16 8:30am Federated Preschool 5:30pm Bd. of Trustees 8:00pm AA	17 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool 4:30pm Pork Chop Drive-Thru	18 11:30am Harambee Rehearsal
19 Music Sunday Teacher Appreciation Sunday 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids' Club 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Bd. of Mission & Society 11:30am Bd. of Deacons 6:00pm Troop #16 8:00pm AA	20 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool 6:00pm Guys' Night Out 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	21 8:30am Federated Preschool	22 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:00am Sewing Circle 12:30pm Federated Preschool 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	23 Last Day Of Classes 8:30am Federated Preschool 6:30pm Preschool Graduation 8:00pm AA	24	25
26 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 6:00pm Troop #16 8:00pm AA	27 Memorial Day	28 Harambee Rehearsal	29 Harambee Rehearsal 9:00am Sewing Circle 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	30 6:00pm Quilters' Guild meeting 8:00pm AA	31	