

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, Loving All

February 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

February is a month of transition. As the days slowly grow longer, we journey through Epiphany celebrating the Light of the World that shines in every darkness of life, and reflecting on what it means to actually follow this light in our own lives.

And then, just when the story climaxes and the light shines the brightest—just when we begin to feel spring trying to push through the snow—we enter the season of Lent. Beginning with Ash Wednesday (Feb 26th), we turn our attention to the humble reminder of our mortality: "from dust you came, to dust you shall return."

From light to dust. And only then to the light and Alleluia of Easter.

This is the profound paradox at the center of our faith: The way up is down.

As we transition from Epiphany to Lent, I invite you to consider how you will offer yourself to this journey. One opportunity will, of course, be joining us for a special Ash Wednesday service (more details to come). Another opportunity is to participate in a new faith formation series: over the course of six weeks, we will read and discuss *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr. (see flyer on p. 3 for more details).

Mirroring the transition we make from Epiphany to Lent—from light to dust—the book discusses how, in the first half of life, we are naturally and rightly preoccupied with establishing our identity—climbing, achieving, and performing. But those concerns will not serve us if we to embark on a further journey of meaning and purpose. Drawing on the wisdom from time-honored myths, heroic poems, great thinkers, and sacred religious texts, Rohr will help us explore the two halves of life to show that it is only those who have fallen, failed, or "gone down," who understand "up."

As we journey toward Easter and the promise of new life, I believe that conversations like these—with more to come in the future—will hold transformational power not only for us as individuals, but for our entire church!

I look forward to being on the journey with you!

Peace,

Pastor Eric

God Speaks Through Our Worship



Sunday, February 2

Liturgist: Pam Kitterman
4th Sunday of Epiphany
 Communion
 Feed My Sheep

Sunday, February 9

Liturgist: Carl von Ende

Sunday, February 16

Liturgist:
Usher Breakfast
Handbell Choir

Sunday, February 23

Liturgist:
Family Sunday & Penny March

Wednesday, February 26

Ash Wednesday
 6:00 pm Soup Supper
 6:30 pm Worship Service

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

February 2

February 9 Linda Babcock

February 16

February 23 Polly & Dick Carter in honor of
 their 62th Anniversary

Fellowship Hosts

Board of Deacon

February 2

February 9 Linda Babcock

February 16 Bd. of Deacons

February 23 Kitterman's

I N T H I S I S S U E

Worship Service

Worship	10:00 am
Kids Club	10:15 am
Coffee Fellowship	11:00 am

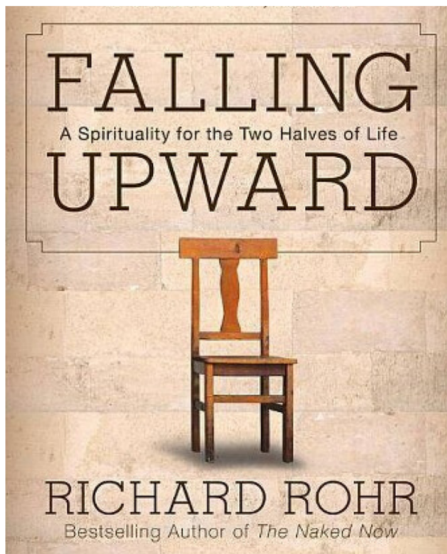
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LENTEN

BOOK READ



Tuesdays, 1-2pm
February 25 - March 31
join us when you can!

In the first half of life, we are naturally preoccupied with establishing our identity—climbing, achieving & performing. But these concerns won't serve us as we embark on a deeper journey. Drawing on the wisdom of time-honored myths, heroic poems, great thinkers & sacred religious texts, Rohr will help us explore the "two halves of life"—and the significance that only those who have fallen, failed, or "gone down," truly understand "up."

No sign up necessary. Book can be purchased on Amazon for \$14 (large print for \$18). If you don't have Amazon Prime and want to avoid shipping costs, or if the book cost is a burden, please call or email Liz in the church office.

BUNCO RETURNS IN FEBRUARY!

Get ready for fun and the opportunity to win a few dollars! Bunco is back on February 22nd at 7 pm in Dutton Hall.

Novices and returning players are welcome to roll the dice. Bring 4 quarters and a snack to pass and your sense of humor. If you haven't played before, we will teach you.

See you them!



Ladies Night Out

Tapa LA Luna, DeKalb

6:00 pm

Monday, February 24

Sign-up Sheet in Dutton Hall



Guys' Night Out

PJ's Courthouse Tavern & Grille

6:00 pm

Monday, February 17

Sign-up Sheet in Dutton Hall



Cookies Needed for Federated Preschool Sing

The Federated Church Preschool Sing is Monday, February 24 and Tuesday, February 25 at 6:30 pm. Our congregation will again be donating cookies for the refreshments after the sing. If you would like to help this year, please bring 2-3 dozen cookies to the church kitchen by Sunday, February 23.





February is the month of Love!

We want to thank DeKalb Lowes Store #59 for the love they showed us with the wonderful makeover in our preschool office through their Hero's Project. Lincoln's dad, Bobby, helped me with the grant paperwork, coordinated designs and rough sketches, and then with the help of a co-worker, Nick, delivered, installed and created a work-space with plenty of storage, working areas, and freshness to an old space. We are so excited and grateful for this fresh, inviting and wonderful work area. Stop in and take a peek, or glance on your way by. A local business helping those in their community!

Happy Valentine's Day! We wish all of our family and friends a fun, caring and joyful day. Love is in the air!!!

Our Family Sings are at the end of February and we are practicing and preparing for an awesome concert! We love sharing our voices, songs and celebrating with everyone.

Jan & Staff



Need a Ride?



Some members of our congregation are not able or comfortable driving after dark. Since there are activities during the winter that they might like to attend, such as Ladies Night Out, Guys Night Out, Christmas Eve service, Bunco, special worship services, we want to be able to offer transportation when needed.

If you are able to provide transportation when you are available for a member of the congregation, please let Suzanne Juday (815-341-9948) or Liz in the church office know.

If you need a ride to a church event, please call the people below. If none of them are available, check with Liz first or Suzanne second, and they will try to arrange a ride. Please try to make the contact a day in advance of the event.

The following people have volunteered to provide rides for activities after dark:

Ruth Olle—815-757-1794 (she has a Tahoe that might be difficult for some people to get into.)
 Judy Winter—815-761-9515
 Wageners—Phil 815-895-9852—Pam 815-761-9344
 Juday's—Dave 815-751-1068—Suzanne 815-341-9948
 Dave Wood—815-756-1680 cell# 815-751-8874



**All Boards' Meeting
Sunday, February 2
Following Worship Service**



*Dear Federated Friends,
Thanks you for your many get
well cards and wishes following
my hip replacement surgery. It
made me feel so much better
knowing your kind thought were
with me. I do feel like I am on
the mend.*

Blessings,

Jean Evans



*For the Cookies
at Christmas
Time.*

Carlene Bauer

**Bowl for Kids Sake
is now
Spare Time For Kids!**

Our own Karen Hamingson will be bowling in this Fundraiser in March. She will be collecting pledges in February.



Deacon Ministry

Holy Communion on February 2 will be by intinction.

The Deacons have **re-scheduled** the **Appreciation Ushers' Breakfast** for February 16, 2020 at 8:30 am.

Liturgists Needed:

Sign-up sheets to be a liturgist is on the credenza in Dutton Hall. Don't wait to be asked. Each and every volunteer is very welcome.

The Deacons will host the coffee hour after church on Sundays in February. However, if you would like to help or take a Sunday, that would be welcomed as well.

Ash Wednesday is February 26 with the traditional soup supper. More details to follow.



Our Church Mission

Mission and Society January Message From Paula von Ende, Chair

February Love Offering

The February Love Offering will go to The Federated Preschool. When asked how the Love Offering donation would be used, Jan Scheffers, Preschool Director, replied,

We are always grateful for any blessings we receive financially or other. Our greatest need is always financial help for struggling families. Any funds we would be blessed with would help our parents who are needing a little boost to get over that next hurdle. We have many diverse family

units and they all want the best for their child. Many just need help for a month or at Christmas time when funds get pulled in many directions. Any extra cash I have in a special account that I can offer to them at those times is a miracle in their eyes and they truly appreciate the gift and the extended hand of help. The Love Offering would be love from your members to our families. The reinforcement that God does hear prayers and there is an answer would be so special. Thank you for the time and consideration of our preschool families.

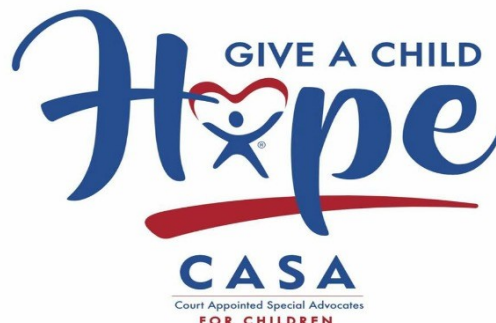
Follow Up on CASA Love Offering

Interested in learning more about CASA? Plan on attending one of the upcoming information sessions. CASA is offering *two Volunteer Info Sessions* in February to learn more about becoming a CASA volunteer. Actual training will be in the Fall.

February 5
9:30 to 10:30 am
CASA Office
407 W. State St. # 6
Sycamore

February 20
5:30 to 6:30 PM
DeKalb Public Library
Bilder Room

CASA advocates are the voice for the abused and neglected children in court. They advocate for the child's best interests and provide the judge with the information he or she needs to make informed decisions.





February Birthdays

02/04	Becky Smart
02/05	Sue Finney
02/05	David Gordon
02/12	Linc Smelser
02/12	Aiden Johnson
02/14	Areane Gould
02/15	T.J. Jackson
02/18	Sharon Hollister
02/21	Bill Perkins
02/24	Bill Griesenauer
02/27	Katrina Olle
02/28	Tracy Ekstrom



February

02/22

Dick & Polly Carter
62 anniversary



Prayer Requests

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers"

Prayers for Healing from Illness or Injury

Rich Evers
Jan Scheffers
Liz Sauber and her son
Skip Schramer's sister
Yvonne Anderson, Betty Johnson's friend
Judy Hoke-Jackson
Judy Hoke-Jackson's friend, Heidi
Roger Jacobson
Pam Kitterman's brother, Larry
Karen Hamingson's grand-niece, Rebekah
Toni, Bread & Roses Alumna
Bev Whildin's sisters
Servicemen/women & Veterans

Prayers for Peace at Time of Passing

Pam Wagener's brother, Ron Siegfried's family
Family of Margot Mattin
Family of Mary Lidbury
Family of Gip Seaver in the loss of his mother
Family of Kal-el Sexton and Dalahn Colley
Rachel and family, niece of Bev Whildin
Corbin family unexpected death of father/husband, Sean

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



Stewardship Report for the month of January, 2020

Average Monthly Attendance	51
Offering Y-T-D: \$	23,509.00
Covenant with God: \$	178,935.00

Your Federated Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi
Pastor's Emergency: 815-797-2250
Pastor's email: RevEricFederated@gmail.com
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dale Beaman
Administrative Assistant: Liz Finney
Admin Assistant email: thefederatedchurch@frontier.com
Director of Music: Gary Mattin
Music email: gmattin41@gmail.com
Keyboardist: Yule Dain Yoon
Handbell Director: Marilyn Montzka
Custodian: David Whitney
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



*Happy
Valentines Day*

Church Leadership

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

Assistant Moderator:
Carl von Ende

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



New Collector
Sue McCue is collecting bottle tops.
Contact Sue if you have any questions.

The Federated Church

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Pastor's Day Off 11:45am Harambee Rehearsal 1:00pm Mary Lidbury Memorial Service
2 Communion Feed My Sheep 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:00am All Boards Meeting 11:15am Fellowship 6:00pm Troop #16 8:00pm AA	3 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Quilters' Board Meeting	4 8:30am Federated Preschool	5 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:30am Sewing Bee 12:30pm Federated Preschool 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6 8:30am Federated Preschool 8:00pm AA	7 Pastor's Day Off 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	8 Pastor's Day Off 10:00am Quilters' Guild Workshop
9 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Fellowship 6:00pm Troop #16 8:00pm AA	10 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	11 8:30am Federated Preschool	12 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:30am Sewing Bee 12:30pm Federated Preschool 6:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13 8:30am Federated Preschool 6:30pm Church Council 8:00pm AA	14 Pastor's Day Off 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	15 Pastor's Day Off 11:45am Harambee Rehearsal
16 Handbell Choir Sunday 8:30am Usher Breakfast 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Bd of Deacons 6:00pm Troop #16 8:00pm AA	17 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool 6:00pm Guys' Night Out 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	18 8:30am Federated Preschool	19 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:30am Sewing Bee 12:30pm Federated Preschool 6:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20 8:30am Federated Preschool 5:30pm Bd. of Trustees 8:00pm AA	21 Pastor's Day Off 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	22 Pastor's Day Off
23 Family Sunday Penny March 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Fellowship 6:00pm Troop #16 8:00pm AA	24 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool 6:00pm Preschool Sing 6:00pm Ladies' Night Out	25 8:30am Federated Preschool 6:00pm Preschool Sing	26 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:30am Sewing Bee 12:30pm Federated Preschool 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Soup Supper 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27 8:30am Federated Preschool 6:00pm Quilters' Guild Meeting 8:00pm AA	28 Pastor's Day Off 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	29 Pastor's Day Off 11:45am Harambee Rehearsal