



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

March 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

I have a confession: Lent is my favorite liturgical season.

I know pastors perhaps are not supposed to have favorites, but we're human just like everyone else! I also know I might be the odd one out in my love of lent.

Unfortunately, I think the ambiguity toward Lent for many comes from its mixed-up association with scarcity: fast. abstain from things you love. give something up. go without. do penitence. confess how bad you are. remember that you are dust.

There's a certain austerity—a shrewd simplicity—to the season, to be sure, but Lent isn't about self-flagellation or about God delighting in our abstinence from things we love.

Rather, for our fast-food, "super-size it" culture, it is a reminder that more isn't always better. In fact, "more" quite often gets in the way of "the better." Some people think about Lent as a time of personal and spiritual "spring cleaning;" a season of sustained self-reflection on what is cluttering up our lives, of what is getting in the way of "more life."

Lent is not about scarcity; it's about preparing for more, preparing for the new life awaiting us on the other side of the empty tomb.

In this sense, our Lenten journey embraces the truth at the heart of wisdom traditions throughout the world, including nature: life comes from death. Or, to put it another way, something *must* "die" in order for something new to spring forth. Like plant waste turning to compost and fertilizing this spring's new garden, what needs to be "cleaned out" or "die" in order for you to experience more of the true life, the blooming and flourishing, that God desires for you? Is it shame and self-blame? Is it pride and selfishness? Is it always having to be right or picking a fight? We must also ask the same question of ourselves as a church and society.

This death isn't easy and it can be quite painful, but it is necessary. The sad truth is that we are all addicted to many patterns and habits that bring more death rather than more life. But there is no shortcut to re-newed life or deeper living; the only way out is through. As the old folk song and spiritual reminds us: "Nobody else can walk [this Lenten journey] for us—we have to walk it by ourselves." But, while each of us must walk it for ourselves, we do not walk it alone. There is One who goes before us and journeys alongside us through it all; and we, too, will make it together as a church.

I hope you'll join us on the journey when you can—whether for worship on Sunday or during Holy Week, or for our Lenten Book Read group, which will reflect on this journey more deeply on Tuesday afternoons from 1-2pm.

Blessings on the journey,

Pastor Eric

God Speaks Through Our Worship



Sunday, March 1

Liturgist: Pam Kitterman
First Sunday in Lent
 Communion
 Feed My Sheep

Sunday, March 8

Liturgist:
Second Sunday in Lent
Daylight Saving Time begins

Sunday, March 15

Liturgist: Jean Evans
Third Sunday in Lent
 Handbell Choir

Sunday, March 22

Liturgist: Jerry Lane
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 29

Liturgist:
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Family Sunday & Penny March

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 1

March 8 Peggy & Ed Safford in celebration of
 30th Anniversary

March 15

March 22

March 29

Fellowship Hosts

Board of Trustees

March 1 Gip Seaver & Pam Jackson

March 8

March 15 Joe Baird

March 22 Suzanne & Dave Juday

March 29

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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Membership & Fellowship Board **From Pam Wagener, Chair**

DINNER WITH FRIENDS

Ready to join some Federated Friends for a meal at someone's house? People willing to host the event and people wanting to eat together and get to know each other better are needed to make Dinner with Friends a success.

What is Dinner with Friends?

Join a group of four to eight people at a host's home for a meal. The host usually prepares the main dish and the guests bring the rest of the meal, such as the appetizer, salad, vegetable or dessert. The host calls the participants to set up the date, time and what would the participants will bring to the meal. The host will also help provide a car pool, if needed, for the guests. The groups will change for the three time frames listed below so you will get to know a different group for each meal.

Membership and Fellowship will set up the groups and the time frames. Meals can be served at a time and date that works for the hosts and the guests.

Please join! We will arrange for groups to meet these time periods from March through May and June through August and September through November.



Please return this form to Pam Wagener if you want to Join Federated's Dinner with Friends.

_____ Yes! I want to join.

I can host _____ number of people in my home.

Name _____ Phone _____

Ladies Night Out

BEA's Wok N Roll
1402 Sycamore Rd.
DeKalb

6:00 pm
Monday, March 23

Sign-up Sheet in Dutton Hall



Guys' Night Out

Rosita's Mexican Restaurant
DeKalb

6:00 pm
Monday, March 16

Sign-up Sheet in Dutton Hall



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





Dear Families,

Thank you so much for all your support, presence, cheering and singing along at the Family Sings. The children really enjoy sharing their energy and joy of the music they learned this year. It is always a special night and takes much courage and self-confidence to get in front of a large group and perform. We would also like to thank the church members of Federated for supplying refreshments and serving them so children and staff could enjoy each other each evening.

Book orders for the month of March will be due by Friday, March 6th by 5 pm online or turned in on paper.

Goodies with Gals is the week of March 9th. Any significant female in the life of your little one is invited to join us during the week to learn and play with us. We supply the goodies, you supply the Gals. See any teacher with questions.

Spring Pictures are Tuesday and Wednesday March 10th and 11th. **EVERYONE GETS THEIR PICTURE TAKEN.** The photographer then sends home a sample picture for you to view. If you like it, you purchase the package you wish. If you do not want a package, simply return the sample. No pre-payment is due with spring pictures. If you are including other family members in the pictures, please see your teacher to set up a special time that same day.

Wear green on Monday and Tuesday, March 16th and 17th to keep the pesky leprechauns away

Federated is a Polling Place for DeKalb County. The General Primary is March 17th. This will add many cars to the parking lot. School will be in session- however if you opt to not attend that day, we understand.

Tornado drills will be March 19th and 20th.

No school from March 23rd through March 27th due to spring break.

Fire Drills will be on March 30th and 31st.

Fingers crossed, after spring break, I will be back at school!

For the children,

Mrs. Scheffers



Sunday, March 8th



CASA DeKalb County, Inc.
407 W. State St. #6
Sycamore, IL
PH: (815) 895-2052
FAX: (815) 895-3561

February 7, 2020

The Federated Church
612 W. State Street
Sycamore, IL 60178

Dear Members of The Federated Church:

Thank you for your donation of \$369 to CASA from your January Love Offering. This gift will be used to support the work of our volunteer advocates on behalf of over 200 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 their abuse and neglect by their parents or guardians. We appreciate your support of the important work of our advocates for these children who need someone to speak for them during this difficult time of their lives.

Thank you for your 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

*Thank you for your
continued support -
we appreciate it!*

Lift up a child's voice. A child's life. ®

casa@casadekalb.org

www.casadekalb.org



Mission and Society March Message From Paula von Ende, Chair

One Great Hour of Sharing Love Offering “Investing in Futures”

The theme of the One Great Hour of Sharing Love Offering is “Investing in Futures.” One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. This March our church will be supporting these ministries by participating in the OGHS Sharing Calendar activity.

To participate in this mission offering, each of you will receive a OGHS Sharing Calendar *Investing in Futures* and a special coin box on Sunday, March 1. This calendar is designed to help us acknowledge our blessings but to also think about and pray for others. Each day highlights various situations and suggests a donation of coins or bills (units). Your household will decide which unit works best for you. It is easiest if you select one unit and use it throughout the days on the calendar. For example: A unit could be dimes, quarters, or dollar bills.

Use the Sharing Calendar as a daily giving devotion. The calendar not only gives us a chance to gather funds, but it also gives us a focused time of thinking about people and communities in a variety of ways that our gifts will help. This year we will focus on the love of children, neighbor, and creation, and how our donations are an investment into brighter futures.

Pray for the people and situations highlighted in the sharing calendar, and for the people you will meet every day. Trust that our giving, and sharing, and praying can mean a world of difference for people and communities in the midst of a crisis. God uses us and our gifts in ways beyond our imaginations.

The Board of Mission and Society hopes that you enjoy this enlightening activity and learn from it. We will be returning our boxes to church on **March 22, 2020.**



GIVE TO
ONE GREAT
HOUR OF
SHARING.





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

03/10 Ed & Peggy Safford (30)



Prayer Requests

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers"

Prayers for Healing from Illness or Injury

Pastor Eric's grandfather
 Barry Schrader
 Jean Evan's good friend
 Earl Hollister
 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
 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
 Connie Dougherty, Bev Whildin's sister, Rachel's mom
 Corbin family unexpected death of father/husband, Sean

Note: If you or someone you know is in need

Stewardship News



Stewardship Report for the month of February

Average Monthly Attendance	48
Offering Y-T-D: \$	33,325.00
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



Sunday, March 8

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

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday of Lent Communion Feed My Sheep 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Fellowship 6:00pm Troop #16 8:00pm AA	2 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool 1:15pm Bd. of Religious Ed. 7:00pm Quilters' Board Meeting 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	3 8:30am Federated Preschool	4 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:30am Sewing Bee 12:30pm Federated Preschool 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 8:30am Federated Preschool 8:00pm AA	6 Pastor's Day Off 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	7 Pastor's Day Off 11:45am Harambee Rehearsal
8 2nd Sunday of Lent Daylight Saving Time Starts 8:30am Bd. Membership & Fellowship 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Bd. of Mission & Society 6:00pm Troop #16 8:00pm AA	9 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	10 8:30am Federated Preschool	11 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:30am Sewing Bee 12:30pm Federated Preschool 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12 8:30am Federated Preschool 6:30pm Church Council 8:00pm AA	13 Pastor's Day Off 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	14 Pastor's Day Off 10:00am Quilters' Guild Workshop 11:45am Harambee Rehearsal
15 3rd Sunday of Lent Handbell Sunday 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Bd. of Deacons 6:00pm Troop #16 8:00pm AA	16 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool 6:00pm Guys' Night Out 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	17 Election Day 8:30am Federated Preschool	18 8:30am Federated Preschool 9:30am Sewing Bee 12:30pm Federated Preschool 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19 8:30am Federated Preschool 5:00pm Harambee Rehearsal 5:30pm Bd. of Trustees 8:00pm AA	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 Pastor's Day Off
22 4th Sunday of Lent 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids Club 11:15am Fellowship 6:00pm Troop #16 8:00pm AA	23 6:00pm Ladies' Night Out	24	25 9:30am Sewing Bee 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	26 6:00pm Quilters' Guild Meeting 8:00pm AA	27 Pastor's Day Off	28 Pastor's Day Off
29 5th Sunday of Lent Family Sunday Penny March 10:00am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 6:00pm Troop #16 8:00pm AA	30 8:30am Federated Preschool 12:30pm Federated Preschool	31 8:30am Federated Preschool				