

Dear Federated Church Members,

I was asked by Council to update the congregation on our situation.

We were fortunate to apply for and receive federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding. The PPP was established to help small businesses retain staff by continuing their paychecks while they are furloughed due to the pandemic. The funds go toward paying salaries and related expenses only. It is expected that this assistance will carry us through June. This includes not only our operating staff but the pre-school teachers as well. Although the PPP is in the form of a Small Business Administration loan, it will not have to be repaid if we meet federal guidelines for using the funds.

Many of you are anxious to resume in person worship. We have established a reopening committee to research and develop benchmarks and guidelines towards that end. The committee consists of myself, Pam Kitterman, Pam Wagner and Skip Schramer. Since there are so many of our church family who fall into high risk categories, we want to proceed with care. Some churches may be reopening this month. Others are being more cautious. Meanwhile, Pastor Eric and the Deacons will be exploring alternative modes of worship in addition to live streaming. Feel free to contact us if you have thoughts or suggestions.

Phase One of the roof repair project is nearly done. Due to some generous donations, we were able to cover the costs of this part of the project. Once the HVAC equipment was removed, mold was discovered in the insulation around the duct work. Mitigating that problem will be an additional cost. Despite this and a couple of other surprises, it's expected that the project will come in on or under budget. We have some good people working on this project who have already given a tremendous amount of time, effort and personal resources. We owe them our gratitude.

Moving forward, Phase Two of the project will, hopefully be completed in the next year or two. In the meantime, we must raise a substantial amount of money. Some have made donating easier by sending in a monthly contribution to the roof fund in addition to their pledge. Please give serious consideration to how you can support this effort.

While looking after Federated's assets is important, looking out for our neighbors is even more so. The response to our appeal for funds to assist families in need due to the pandemic has been wonderful. Pastor Eric has worked with members of our congregation, the pre-school director and key people in the wider community to identify those families who need our care.

Funds have been used for a variety of purposes ranging from rent to medical bills, prescriptions, car repairs and other vital needs. Eric is careful to vet the needs and pays vendors directly rather than handing out cash. He is working with our financial team to make sure everything is documented and accounted for. Continuing contributions to the fund will keep Federated in the forefront of those directly assisting families hit hardest by this disaster.

I hope you are all well and coping with the cabin fever. Despite everything, Federated remains a viable and thriving community. God be with you till we meet again.

Jerry Lane, *Moderator*