

# THE FED CONNECTION

LOVING GOD, LOVING OTHERS, MAKING DISCIPLES



Federated Church Newsletter

April 30, 2016

## At DeWitt's End

Most of us know that if there is a real emergency, we can pick up the telephone and dial 911 and we will immediately be in touch with someone who can send help. Even if you don't know where you are, the 911 operator can often locate you using the GPS feature of your phone. That can be a real comfort.

God has His own 911 promise in the Bible. It is found, appropriately enough, in Psalms 91:1:

*“Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; He is my God, and I trust Him. Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day.” (Psalms 91:1-2, 5 NLT)*

It's comforting knowing we can have ready access to the “shelter” of an ambulance or police officer. But it is far more comforting knowing we have the “shelter” of God's protection and care. God has promised that, no matter how scary life can become at times, He will never leave us or forsake us. God will always be there for us no matter what may come our way.

I grew up in Kansas, a part of the Midwest which is known as “tornado alley.” Life in that “alley” can be pretty scary when the severe weather blows in. I have some friends who were recently hit by a big storm and lost some buildings. Some people make the investment of installing a tornado shelter in their homes. It can be really comforting to be able to take shelter when a tornado comes your way.

But it is even more comforting to be able to take shelter in God when the storms of life get a little turbulent. I hope you don't have any “storms” blow into your life anytime soon, but if you do, take comfort in the shelter that God offers to those who place their faith in Him!

Serving with you,  
Dan DeWitt

### A Change of Leadership

As you may have heard, Ula Greenwood and Chris Williams have both resigned their respective positions as Choir Director and as Worship Coordinator. They have both served faithfully for many years and have decided it is time to take a break. They will fulfill their term through the end of May. The Worship Ministry Team has begun meeting to begin the process of securing a new Choir Director and a new Worship Coordinator. The Worship Team asks that you keep them in prayer as they seek to continue these two valuable aspects of our church and ministry.

Coming Sermons

**Change Is Coming!**

God has a purpose for this world, for our lives, for His church. God’s purpose is not concerned with our comfort, our ease or our traditions. God’s purpose requires change. Earth-shattering change. Fundamental, to-our-core change. God is working out His purpose. Change is coming!

- May 1 “Sacred Cow Disease” Numbers 21:4-9; 2 Kings 18:3-4  
 It was special. God used it in a mighty way. It’s only natural that they would want to honor it and keep it as a way of remembering what God had done. But the tool God used to heal them became an idol they worshiped instead of God. The sacred cow contracted “sacred cow disease” and there is no known cure. The sacred cow had to be destroyed. Do you have any sacred cows that have taken the place God should have in your life? If so, the sacred cow has to go!
- 8 **(Mother’s Day)** “A Mother’s Prayer” 1 Samuel 1:3-18  
 Hannah’s heart was broken. The only thing she really cared about was denied her. She wanted to give birth to a child, a son. In her desperation, she prayed something that would forever change the future of her life as well as the future of the nation of Israel.
- 15 Pastor Dan will be attending the Northern Illinois Walk to Emmaus.  
 Chuck Johnson will be preaching in his place this Sunday.

CC-Chancel Choir	CE-Christian Education	CSS-Children’s Sunday School	EPIC-Youth Ministry
FF-Fellowship Feast	FG-Fellowship Group	HOW-Heart of Worship	LBS-Ladies Bible Study
MG-Men’s Group	SCUG-Computer Group	SG-Small Group	SLM-Spiritual Life
SS-Adult Sunday School	WBS-Women’s Bible Study	WMT-Worship Ministry Team	SB-Softball

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 8 pm-SB 9 pm-SB	3	4 9am-Wed. Friends 6 pm-HOW 7pm-CC	5 3:30 –WBS	6	7 7am-MG
8 9 am-CSS & SS 10:30 am-Worship	9 7 pm-SB 8 pm-SB	10 7 pm-FG	11 9:30am-LBS 6 pm-HOW 7pm-CC	12 3:30 –WBS	13 9 am-6 pm- Basement, Bake Sale & Bazaar	14 7am-MG 9 am-1 pm- Basement, Bake Sale & Bazaar
15 9 am-CSS & SS 10:30 am-Worship 6 pm-EPIC	16 8 pm-Sb 9 pm-SB	17 7-FG	18 9:30am-LBS 6 pm-HOW 7pm-CC	19 3:30-WBS SCUG	20	21 7am-MG
22 9 am-CSS & SS 10:30 am-Worship 6 pm-EPIC	23 6 pm-SB 7 pm-SB	24 FF –Here	25 9:30-LBS 6 pm-HOW 7pm-CC	26 3:30-WBS	27	28 7am-MG
29 10:30 am-Worship 6 pm-EPIC	30 Memorial Day	31 6:30-CE				May

## Ministry of Prayer

### Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Diane Klene
- Linda DeWitt's mother, Val Skupa
- Laurel Li Mack's niece, Tracey Brewer
- Carolyn Meier's mom, Vi
- Sheryl McAlearney's uncle, Dick Stow
- Carol Pruski
- Walt Droppa
- Gloria Gilbertson's daughter, Sonja
- Vicki Damato & Joyce Mackie.
- ◆ Kim McGuire's sister, Carmen.
- ◆ Judy Roher
- ◆ Tia O'Neill



### Homebound, Nursing Homes & Assisted Living:

June Bannister, Irma Grady, Ruth Breunig, Tia O'Neill, Lois Peterson, Russell Wahlgren

### Pastor Dan is offering two different adult Study / Fellowship Groups this summer:

- A 10 week group that meets in Dan and Linda's home on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. Each evening we will have a brief time of prayer and reflecting on our love for God. We will also have a lesson / discussion on the topic of "Understanding the Old Testament." Dan will use a portion of Francis Chan's book: "Multiply" as a primary resource. This group will meet from June 11 – August 27. If the group is too large to fit in their home, the group will relocate to the church chapel. You do not need to sign up ahead of time.
- An 8 week group that meets in the church chapel this summer, on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. We will spend 4 weeks looking at **what it means to be a Presbyterian** and 4 weeks looking at **what it means to be a Baptist**. You will need to sign up by May 29 so Dan can prepare materials. This group will meet from June 12 – August 14.

**Basement, Bake Sale & Bazaar**-The ladies group will be raising money for the Open Door Rehabilitation Center with a basement, bake sale & bazaar on Friday, May 13th and Saturday, May 14th. You can help by donating unwanted items, baked goods, crafts or hand-made goodies, drop-off dates are: May 2nd-12th, from 9am-12:00. For more information see Sandy Rud or call her at 815-557-5222.

### Ministry Appreciation Day

The Worship Ministry Team and the Christian Education Ministry Team will both be recognizing The Fed's servants who have faithfully served in their ministries this past year. This recognition will take place during the 10:30 a.m. worship May 22. The Christian Ed Team will be hosting a breakfast potluck with entire church family invited during the 9:00 Sunday School hour that day. May 22 will be the last day of our "regular" Sunday School program for the summer.

### Changes in Sunday School

The Christian Education Ministry Team is working on a new approach to our Sunday School. Once our Fall program begins again after the fair in September, we will no longer offer a separate children / youth Sunday School program at 9:00 a.m. as we have done in the past. We are going to experiment by offering a Children's Worship opportunity at the same time that the adults worship at 10:30 a.m. We will encourage parents to drop off their children (infants through 4<sup>th</sup> grade) in the nursery / class room prior to the worship and pick them up again after worship is over. We will be developing several teams of adults who can serve as leaders for the Children's Worship. Our plan is to have the volunteer teams serve for a month at a time, and then be able to go back into the adult worship while other Children's Worship teams serve. Be sure to contact Sheryl McAlearney if you would like to help on one of the Children's Worship teams.

# Happy Birthday to You!



- 5-10 Carl Gustafson
- 5-13 Nicholas Allen
- 5-17 Jill Jutila
- 5-22 Patti Fox & Roger Duffield
- 5-24 Melinda Neumann
- 5-28 Linda Hoadley

**Reminders:** The last day of Sunday school will be May 22nd. The summer worship time begins on Sunday, June 5th, 9:00 a.m.

Office Hours  
Monday-Friday  
8:00—12:00

Sunday School  
9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship  
10:30 a.m.

A photograph of two small birds, one blue and one grey, perched on a branch with pink cherry blossoms.

Loving God, Loving Others, Making Disciples

## Federated Church of Sandwich

403 N. Main Street  
Sandwich IL 60548

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE