

THE FED CONNECTION



Federated Church Newsletter

December 1, 2016

At DeWitt's End

but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people." (Luke 2:10 NLT)

We know these words very well. Even if you don't know much about the Bible, you have probably heard these words which were spoken by an angel to some shepherds when Jesus' birth was proclaimed. The birth of Jesus is good news that will bring great joy to all people. That, essentially, is the story of Christmas. The point of Christmas isn't about brightly decorated trees or hanging lights from houses or the exchange of Christmas presents or hanging mistletoe or even going caroling. All of this is nice, but those things really aren't the point of Christmas. The point of Christmas is that Jesus, who was God in the flesh, came to earth in the form of a baby. And He came so that He could teach us about God's love and grace and so that we could receive forgiveness of our sins by placing our faith and trust in Him. He paid the price for our sins so we wouldn't have to. He, the Son of God, came to earth so that we could become God's children too. THAT is the point of Christmas. That is why the angels said they were bringing good news. That is why the good news they brought was to be a great joy to all people. It was, and it still is.

As I was thinking about this verse, it seems that we still need to hear the angel's reassuring words. There is a lot of fear in our world today. There is a lot of fear in our country these days. A lot of people feel the pains of anxiety and turmoil. We need to hear some good news. We need to hear good news that will bring great joy.

I pray the good news of Jesus Christ will bring you great joy as you deal with whatever fears and troubles that come your way. May the good news of Christ's birth fill your heart with great joy!

In His love,
--Pastor Dan

Tuesday Bible Study/Fellowship-Pastor Dan and Linda are hosting a Tuesday night Bible study / fellowship time at their home on Tuesday nights at 7:00. The group is taking a break for the month of December but will begin again January 10, 2017. During the months of January and February, Dan will be leading a discussion based on Part I the provocative book "What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be A Christian? A Guide to What Matters Most" by Martin Thielen. Part I deals with "Ten Things Christians *Don't Need to Believe.*"

Monthly newsletter-In order to save paper and printing costs, the Session has approved Pastor Dan's proposal that we **discontinue** publishing the newsletter twice a month. Beginning with this issue, we will only publish the newsletter at the end of each month and will not publish the newsletter on the 15th of each month. If you have announcements which need to be in the monthly newsletter, you will need to get them to the office by the 21st day of each month.

403 N. Main St.—Sandwich, IL 60548
(815)786-8595
Website: www.fedconnection.net

Office email: fedconnection@gmail.com
Pastor's email: pastordandewitt@gmail.com
Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: Dan DeWitt

Coming Sermons

Dec. 4 **“Heart of Contentment!”** Exodus 20:17
 The 10th commandment makes it clear that God calls us to more than just obeying certain rules. He wants to transform our hearts in response to the great love He has shown us. One sign of that transformation is a heart of contentment. (10 Struggles, ch. 10)

Advent sermons:

Dec. 11 **“A Reason for Joy”** Luke 2:10-14
 The birth of Jesus gives us a reason for joy because our Lord, our Savior was born and brought the love of God to our world in a very special way!

18 **“Amazing Love!”** 1 John 4:7-12
 Jesus came to earth because He loved us with an amazing love. It is important to be reminded of this. It is also important to be reminded that He wants us to show amazing love for one another!

25 **“God is With Us”** Matthew 1:18-25
 Today is Christmas day. It is the day we celebrate the truth that Jesus was God, and that He became human so that he could be the ultimate expression of God’s love! Let’s celebrate His presence today!

CC-Chancel Choir	CE-Christian Education	CWH-Children’s Worship Hour	EPIC-Youth Ministry
FF-Fellowship Feast	FG-Fellowship Group	HOW-Heart of Worship	LBS-Ladies Bible Study
MG-Men’s Group	AS-Adult Study	SG-Small Group	SLM-Spiritual Life
WBS-Women’s Bible Study		WMT-Worship Ministry Team	LCM-Leaders Coordination Meeting
ABC-Adult Baptism Class			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>December</u>				1 4 pm-Seeds & Weeds	2	3 7am-MG
4 9:30 am-Worship/ CWH 11 am-ABC	5 7 pm-Finance Mtg.	6	7 9:30 am-LBS 6 pm-HOW & EPIC 7 pm-CC	8 3:30 pm-WBS	9 7 pm-Christmas Concert	10 7am-MG
11 9:30 am-Worship/ CWH 11 am-ABC	12 6:30 pm-Fair City Quilters	13	14 9:30 am-LBS 6 pm-HOW & EPIC 7 pm-CC	15 3:30 pm-WBS	16	17 7am-MG
18 9:30 am-Worship/ CWH 11 am-ABC	19	20	21	22	23	24 5 pm– Christmas Eve Service
25 9:30 am-Worship Merry Christmas!	26	27	28 9:30 am-LBS 6 pm-HOW & EPIC 7 pm-CC	29 3:30 pm-WBS	30	31 Happy New Year!

Ministry of Prayer

Please keep the following in your prayers

- Doris Waldrop
- Wanda Goff
- John & Diane Klene
- Les & Pat Redden's daughter, Kristy
- Brian Hutchinson
- Pastor Terry Jensen
- Bill Griffiths' daughter, Diane Casurella
- Linda DeWitt's mother, Val Skupa
- Laurel Li Mack's niece, Tracey Brewer
- Carol Pruski
- Walt Droppa
- Gloria Gilbertson's daughter, Sonja
- Vicki Damato & Joyce Mackie.
- ◆ Judy Roher
- ◆ Tia O'Neill

Angel Tree Contributions

Our church is helping to support Dee Crest Needy Kids angel tree project. Those who want to be an anonymous "angel" may adopt a needy child and purchase presents for him/her. All gifts need to be taken to our church office no later than Dec. 10. For more information, Contact Glenda Potter or the church office.

Homebound, Nursing Homes & Assisted Living

June Bannister, Irma Grady, Ruth Breunig, Tia O'Neill, Lois Peterson & G.L. Hartman

Wanted: Nursery Childcare Worker-We are looking to hire a reliable and experienced person to care for children (birth through 4 years) at The Fed on Sunday mornings. We are seeking someone who is a committed Christian, who understands childcare as a ministry, and is able / willing to be an extension of the Church's ministry to children and families. We had, at first, said this person must be 21 years of age. We have reduced this requirement to 19 years of age. They need to be certified for infant CPR or be willing to obtain certification. If you know of someone who might be a good fit, contact the church office.

Organ in Chapel-The Worship Ministry Team has decided to offer the Thomas organ in the chapel to anyone who would like it – free of charge. Contact the office for more information.

Christmas Eve Service-Our church will be hosting a candle-light Christmas Eve service on Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. We will sing the old familiar Christmas hymns, take communion together, and hear the wonderful story of Christ's birth. This will be a great way to celebrate the birth of our Lord with your family and friends.

"Come As You Are" Christmas Day service-We will conduct our worship service on Christmas day at our normal time: 9:30 a.m., but this will be a much more "relaxed" service than our typical Sunday morning service. You don't need to dress up – just come as you are and plan on spending some time with your church family and friends. We encourage all who attend to sit in the front, center section so we can have a more intimate time of worship together.

Alathea Christmas Concert-Since our choir is not doing a Vesper Service this year, we decided to join forces with Cup of Cold Water Ministries and co-host a Christmas Concert here at the Federated Church on Friday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. Cup of Cold Water has co-sponsored this group several times and the group has a strong following in the LaSalle, Kendall and DeKalb county area. The band is a folk/southern Gospel group. Its name "Alathea" means 'Truth' in Greek. The band is made up of two talented women. They have several albums which will be available for those who are interested. A free-will offering will be taken.

Franklin Mall Project-Annual holiday food drive for local families. Non-perishable food items and personal items, such as new shampoo, hand soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, as well as individually wrapped toilet and facial tissue, are being accepted.

Happy Birthday to You!



12-8 Steve Skorup
12-11 Juanita Anderson, Susan Beall &
Jack Thompson
12-14 Kristin Duffield
12-18 Lois Peterson, Amy Hamilton &
Beverly Newton
12-20 Pastor Dan
12-21 Irma Grady
12-23 Chris Williams
12-25 Bill Griffith
12-26 Nancy Sanders
12-29 Mike Burgin
12-31 Steve Hoadley

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8:00—12:00

Sunday Worship

Children's Worship
Hour

9:30 a.m.

Loving God, Loving Others, Making Disciples

Federated Church of Sandwich

403 N. Main Street
Sandwich IL 60548