



THE FED CONNECTION

Federated Church Newsletter

February 1, 2018

At DeWitt's End:

As we read through the book of Genesis, there are so many stories which are shocking. These stories make us shake our heads in wonder at times: men treated women terribly; adults treated children terribly; there is so much violence and bloodshed! It can be terrible!

And God didn't seem to do anything about most of it. It makes us wonder: why didn't God straighten everyone out and institute a "better" system in order to fix a broken society?

I wonder if maybe God had a reason. Maybe it was part of His overall plan. Maybe God had a different "agenda." Maybe our broken social and cultural practices were not (are not?) the real problem. Maybe the real problem lies in the fact that humanity is suffering from broken souls. Maybe God realizes that our social and cultural failures are the symptoms of the real problem which lies in hearts that are separated from God due to sin. I think maybe God puts up with the mess of cultural / social problems because he needs to focus on our real problem: the task of transforming our hearts and souls which have been broken by sin and rebellion.

And so, as we read through the stories of the Bible, we are essentially seeing a long account of the ways God has been working throughout history to bring about transformation to a world broken by sin. God has been working on the hearts and souls of mankind for thousands of years and isn't finished yet. He continues to work on this plan. He continues to work on individual hearts and won't be finished until Jesus returns to earth.

So, don't despair as you read the Old Testament stories and see all the failures of humanity recorded there. Instead, be excited that God has been and continues to be at work in the hard work of transformation. He isn't finished with the world, and He isn't finished with you and me. We all need to allow Him to do the work of transformation in our lives so that we can become more like Him. As we are transformed, we can each do our part to help make a difference in the world around us. We can all do our own part!

--Dan

Tuesday Bible Study

Pastor Dan is leading a study on what the Bible teaches about heaven. The class meets at Lagene Wright's house on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Contact Lagene for more information.

Coming Sermons:

Feb. 4 Gen. 26:1-5 "Pass It On!"

God blessed Isaac because of his dad Abraham's faith. The blessings were passed on to many generations to follow. Is it possible that we can pass on God's blessings too?

Feb. 11 Gideon Sunday

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 (Cont'd):

Feb. 18 Gen. 39:2-18 “In The Face of Temptation”

Joseph stared temptation in the eye and escaped with his integrity intact. His story gives great tips on how we can survive when we are faced with temptation as well.

Feb. 25 Gen. 45:5; 50:19-21 “From Curse to Blessing”

They intended it to be a curse. God turned it into a blessing. Joseph gives a great example of turning loose of the resentments and hurts which can make our hearts bitter.

Bible Reading Plan for February:

Feb. 1 -- Gen. 28	Feb. 10 -- Gen. 37	Feb. 19 -- Gen. 44	Feb. 28 -- Exodus 3
Feb. 2 -- Gen. 29	Feb. 11 -- Catch-up Day	Feb. 20 -- Gen. 45	
Feb. 3 -- Gen. 30	Feb. 12-- Gen. 38	Feb. 21 -- Gen. 46:1-7 & ch. 47	
Feb. 4 -- Catch-up Day	Feb. 13 -- Gen. 39	Feb. 22 -- Gen. 48	
Feb. 5 -- Gen. 31	Feb. 14 -- Gen. 40	Feb. 23 -- Gen. 49	
Feb. 6 -- Gen. 32	Feb. 15 -- Gen. 41	Feb. 24 -- Gen. 50	
Feb. 7 -- Gen. 33	Feb. 16 -- Gen. 42	Feb. 25 -- Catch-Up Day	
Feb. 8 -- Gen. 34	Feb. 17 -- Gen. 43	Feb. 26 -- Exodus 1	
Feb. 9 -- Gen. 35	Feb. 18 -- Catch-Up Day	Feb. 27 -- Exodus 2	

CWH-Children’s Worship	TBS-Tues. Bible Study	EPIC-Youth Group	FF-Community Fellowship Feast
MG-Men’s Group	CC-Chancel Choir	LBS-Ladies Morning Bible Study	WBS-Women’s Afternoon Bible Study
SCUG-Sandwich Computer Users Group		HOW-Heart of Worship	FMC-Facilities/Ministry Committee

Sunday February	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 3:00 p.m.-Music & Worship Committee	2	3 7:00 am-MG
4 9:30 am-Worship/CWH	5 3:30 p.m.-WBS	6 7:00 p.m.-FMC	7 9:30 a.m.-LBS 5:30-7:00 pm-EPIC 6:00 pm-HOW 7:00 pm-CC	8	9	10 7:00 am-MG
11 Gideon Sunday 9:30 am-Worship/CWH 1:50 p.m.-Sandwich Rehab Ministry 2:30 p.m.-Willowcrest Ministry	12 3:30 p.m.-WBS	13 7:00 p.m.-TBS	14 Happy Valentine’s Day! 9:00 a.m.-Lenten Breakfast 5:30-7:00 pm-EPIC 6:00 pm-HOW 7:00 pm-CC	15 7:00 pm-SCUG	16	17 7:00 am-MG 5:00 p.m. Miller/Stahl Rehearsal
18 9:30 am-Worship/CWH 2:00 p.m.-Miller/Stahl Wedding	19 3:30 p.m.-WBS 7:00 p.m.-Quilters	20 7:00 p.m.-TBS	21 9:00 a.m.-Lenten Breakfast 5:30-7:00 pm-EPIC 6:00 pm-HOW 7:00 pm-CC	22	23	24 7:00 am-MG
25 9:30 am-Worship/CWH 11:00 a.m.-Annual Meeting 12:00 p.m.-Potluck	26 3:30 p.m.-WBS	27 4:30-6:00 p.m. – Community Fellowship Feast 7:00 p.m.-TBS	28 9:00 a.m.-Lenten Breakfast 5:30-7:00 pm-EPIC 6:00 pm-HOW			

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Pastor Wayne Edwards (KY)
Karen Peterson
Julianna and her baby Autumn
Lisa Augustine
Hailey Clairmont (Lynn Brooks' grandbaby)
Patti and Chuck Fox
Lee Legner
Linda DeWitt's mother, Val Skupa
Walt & Margaret Droppa
Carol Pruski
Vicki Damato & Joyce Mackie
G. L. Hartman
John and Diane Klene
Donald Alderman (Kara Johnson's dad)
Keith Spears (Florida friend of Johnson family)
Todd & Marcy - for family healing

Family of Irma Grady
Pat Ammons
Nancy & Jim Mitchell
Helen Kitner (sister-in-law of Glenda Potter)
Bev Anderson
"Missy" (Niece of Pat Redden's friend)
Judy Rohrer
Trakszelis Family (lost their house in fire)
Family in Wildwood who lost house in fire

Homebound, Nursing Homes or Assisted Living:

June Bannister
G. L. Hartman
Lois Peterson

The 2018 Lenten Breakfast Series begins February 14th from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. at Federated. Area churches will join us as we experience the Lenten season. This year's schedule will be as follows:

February 14: The Christian Life Begins And Ends With Love - Pastor Wayne Derber, Salem Lutheran Church
February 21: Giving And Receiving Belovedness - Mr. Chuck Johnson, The Federated Church
February 28: Letting Go And Loving - Pastor David Johnson, Somonauk Baptist Church
March 7: Deciding To Love - Pastor Anne Hoflen, Somonauk United Presbyterian Church
March 14: Loving In The Midst of Adversity - Pastor Matthew Jones, Sandwich Church of the Nazarene
March 21: The Healing Power of Love - Rev. Bill Lupole, retired pastor of Lisle Bible Church

Annual business meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 25 after the morning worship service. We will have a potluck lunch immediately following the business meeting. The Session will be providing meat dishes. The church will provide drinks. Please bring vegetables, salads, bread and/or desserts.

Invitation: Haley Miller and Aaron Stahl would like to invite the church family to celebrate with them in their marriage at The Federated Church on Sunday, February 18, at 2:00 p.m.

Our Sincere Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Irma Grady. Irma has gone into the presence of the Lord. Her services were held January 12th.

Church Doors: For church security purposes, the church doors will remain locked on weekdays. Pastor Dan or Jane will let you in if you want to come by the church. If you have a key and let yourself in, please make sure the door is locked when you leave.

Community Fellowship Feast: The February Fellowship Feast will be held Tuesday, February 27, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Catholic Church, 340 W. Arnold Rd., Sandwich. We are asked to provide desserts. If you would be willing to help, please sign up on the sheet outside the sanctuary, or call the church office.

The Annual Baptist Women's Retreat, "IF: Gathering 2018" will be held February 9 & 10 at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp in Chatham, IL, and is open to all women. A brochure with details is posted in the lobby. To register, go to their website: <https://form.jotform.com/72976800684165>, email: LSBCmanagers@gmail.com, or call 217-670-2356. In addition, Lake Springfield Camp is giving away a "goodie bag" to the first 25 women who register.

Willowcrest Ministry: Pastor Dan will lead worship at the Sandwich Rehab Unit and at Willowcrest on Sunday, February 11. He will be at the Rehab Unit at 1:50 p.m., and at Willowcrest at 2:30 p.m. If you would like to join him, it is always nice to have smiling faces who can help share the love of God with our friends who live at those facilities. Please help him if you can.

EPIC Update: EPIC Youth is looking for volunteers to provide meals for them! Please consider supporting EPIC Youth in this way. You can sign up to take a meal on their meal-share website (<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/1505o3>) or by contacting Autumn Battaglia (BattagliaAN1@gmail.com or 815-685-8448).

- 2-3 Rex Coultrip
- 2-9 Michele Stahl
- 2-11 Cindy VanKampen
- 2-12 Linda Allen
- 2-14 Brooks Shumway
- 2-19 Jack Neumann
- 2-20 Bill Hoving
- 2-22 Debbie Keele
- 2-22 Carolyn Meier
- 2-22 Emily McNurlan
- 2-23 Mike Pruski
- 2-26 Karen Peterson



Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8:30 - 12:30

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