

THE FED CONNECTION



Federated Church Newsletter

January 1, 2018

At DeWitt's End

I used to really look forward to opening my Christmas presents when I was a little boy. It was so much fun finding out what was concealed inside of those brightly colored presents which were under the Christmas tree. Gifts which were lovingly selected, purchased, packaged, and wrapped with just me in mind. To be honest, it is still fun to open Christmas presents. There isn't much I really need, but I do appreciate the love which is represented by each gift I receive.

But now Christmas is behind us. December has come and gone and we are heading into a new year with many unknowns. We might face surprising challenges in the months to come, or we might receive surprising joys – we never know what circumstances tomorrow might bring. While we may not know what tomorrow may hold, we know that Jesus has it under control. Remember what he said in John 14:27 and 14:1:

(John 14:27) "I am leaving you with a gift--peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. (John 14:1) "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in Me.

Jesus left us with a gift. The gift of peace. It is a gift we can enjoy regardless of whether 2018 brings us joy or sorrow, victory or tragedy, gain or loss. We don't have to fear the days to come. We don't have to be overcome by anxiety or worry. We simply need to trust in Jesus. That which is unknown to us about the coming days will be no surprise to God. That which might cause us to worry is of no consequence to Jesus. He can handle it! So, we can leave the worrying to Him and simply enjoy His presence, His comfort, His strength and His peace in our minds and in our hearts.

So, my wish for you as we enter this new year is for you to realize and experience this marvelous gift of peace from Jesus. Whatever may come your way, trust Him and enjoy His peace!

--Dan

Tuesday Bible Study

Beginning Jan. 16, Pastor Dan will start a new study on what the Bible teaches about heaven. He will use the following book as a primary resource: Heaven by Randy Alcorn. You don't have to purchase the book, but it would be helpful if you did. It is available on Amazon.com for \$15. The class will meet at 7:00 p.m., at the home of Lagene Wright. All are welcome to come join the class.

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

Coming Sermons:

Jan. 7 “Snake in the Grass” Genesis 3:1-24
 God had given them paradise. God had provided them with perfection but they chose evil instead of righteousness. We still struggle as a result, even though God has provided a cure through Jesus.

Jan. 14 “Tough Call” Genesis 12:1-6
 God called Abram to leave all his comfort and security behind in what was either a wild goose chase or a grand adventure. How can we be like Abram and say “yes” when we receive a “tough call?”

Jan. 21 “God’s Favor” Genesis 15:1-6
 Abram believed God would protect Him and bless Him even when God’s promise seemed unlikely to come true. How can we be like Abram and trust God in the tough times of life?

Jan. 28 “Great Faith Not Required” Genesis 22
 God asked the impossible and unimaginable. Abram’s response of faith was equally impossible and unimaginable. The nice thing is we don’t have to have great faith to receive God’s grace. Just a little faith will do. (Luke 17:6)

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 January	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6 7:00 am-MG
7 9:30 am-Worship/CWH	8 3:30 p.m.-WBS	9 7:00 p.m.-FMC	10 9:30 a.m.-LBS 5:30-7:00 pm-EPIC 6:00 pm-HOW 7:00 pm-CC	11 7:00 p.m.-Session Meeting	12	13 7:00 am-MG
14 9:30 am-Worship/CWH	15 3:30 p.m.-WBS 6:30 p.m.-Quilters	16 7:00 p.m.-TBS	17 9:30 am-LBS 5:30-7:00 pm-EPIC 6:00 pm-HOW 7:00 pm-CC	18 7:00 pm-SCUG	19	20 7:00 am-MG
21 9:30 am-Worship/CWH	22 3:30 p.m.-WBS	23 7:00 p.m.-TBS	24 9:30 am-LBS 5:30-7:00 pm-EPIC 6:00 pm-HOW 7:00 pm-CC	25	26	27 7:00 am-MG
28 9:30 am-Worship/CWH	29 3:30 p.m.-WBS	30 7:00 p.m.-TBS	31 9:30 am-LBS 5:30-7:00 pm-EPIC 6:00 pm-HOW 7:00 pm-CC			

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

Homebound, Nursing Homes or Assisted Living:

June Bannister
Irma Grady
Lois Peterson
G. L. Hartman

Thank you: Central American Mission Projects (C.A.M.P.) would like to thank all of you who donated shoes, backpacks, school supplies, and funds for our ministries in Costa Rica. Along with other churches, Washburn University, and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, we were able to ship 2,800 pair of children's shoes, 800 backpacks, school supplies, and \$100,000 worth of new dental equipment. CAMP, along with ten local ministries, will distribute the children's items. Dental equipment is used by dental teams to treat those in poverty. We especially thank Glenda and Dean Potter for overseeing the collection here at the Federated.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Lions Club Food Drive, Operation Christmas Child, and the Angel Tree project. Because of your generosity, several families had a good Christmas.

Volunteers Needed: Volunteers are needed to help with the Fellowship snacks for January. If you would be willing to help in this area, please contact Florence Miller, or sign up on the sheet in the lobby. Thanks so much!

EPIC Update: EPIC Youth is looking for volunteers to cook for them! Last year they were blessed with so many meals, from homemade to take-out to monetary contributions. Anything you're willing and able to do, they are willing to eat! 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).

Office Hours: The church office will be closed January 1 for New Year's Day. Beginning January 2, the office will be open 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Bible Reading Plan: Beginning in January of 2018, pastor Dan will begin something new. He has put together a Bible Reading Plan for the entire year. He is encouraging you to read one chapter of the Bible each day, Monday through Saturday. He will do this all year long as we read through the Old Testament. He hopes everyone will participate in the Bible readings -- and don't just skim over the chapters. Spend some time reflecting and thinking about what you have read and ask God to speak to your heart as you read and reflect on each chapter.

Tuesday Adult Bible Study: The Tuesday evening Bible Study will resume January 16th at 7:00 p.m. The new location will be Lagene Wright's home, 654B, Bluebird Circle, Sandwich. **Please let Lagene know if you are interested in attending.**

Our Sincere Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Jan Way, who passed away in December.

100th Year Jubilee Celebration CD: If you would like to order a 100th Year Jubilee Celebration CD, please sign your name on the sheet on the podium outside of the sanctuary, or contact the church office. Cost is \$15.00 each.

Annual Business Meeting: Our annual business meeting will be Sunday, February 25, right after the morning worship. We will have a potluck lunch following the meeting. The Session is providing the meat dishes.

Reports Due: All committee and ministry team leaders need to submit reports for the annual business meeting. The reports need to be turned in to the office by **January 30.**

- 1 - 8 Dave Stahl
- 1 - 9 Levi DeWitt
- 1 - 14 Barb Rothlisberger
- 1 - 14 Colton Watros
- 1 - 26 Glenda Potter
- 1 - 29 Sally Coultrip
- 1 - 30 Bailey Watros
- 1 - 31 Cara Gustafson
- 1 - 31 David Gustafson
- 1 - 31 Amanda Miller



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
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