

# THE FED CONNECTION



Following Jesus, Extending Love, Developing Disciples

Federated Church Newsletter - We are "The FED"

February 1, 2019

## At DeWitt's End:

I was reading an article in the Wall Street Journal recently that really got my attention. It talked about how some old technological wonders used to be all the rage, but are now practically obsolete. There was a line in the article that really made me stop and think. This is what it said: "Kodak, Polaroid and Texas Instruments are all examples from the recent past of companies that held too tightly to an old idea."

The article was basically giving a warning that ANY company could experience the same problem that these companies experienced. They clung to old ideas too long while the waves of our world rolled on past them.

The article had nothing to do with church. The message of the Gospel is not an "old idea." God always has and always will extend grace and mercy to those who repent of their sins and come to Him in faith. That basic message is an amazing truth from God that we should always hold onto.

The article had everything to do with church. There are lots of "old ideas" we cling to in the church that threaten to make us a lot like Polaroid cameras. Don't get me wrong, I like old Polaroids. It's fun to watch the photos develop while you hold the little piece of cardboard, but Polaroids are no longer valued by the majority of people in our society. People want smart phones with amazing capabilities, not fun old novelties. You might argue that Polaroids are better, but that doesn't change the fact that most people want something else.

The Federated Church could easily become a fun old novelty like Polaroids if we aren't careful. We are doing a good job of preserving our age-old traditions – and I suppose that might be good for those who grew up on the old ways and still treasure them. But here's the sad reality: much of the younger generations have rolled on past the Federated Church while we have held onto our old ideas. Don't believe me? Consider this: the median age in Sandwich is 35.6 years of age. Look around this coming Sunday. What would you guess is the median age of our congregation? 50? 60? 70? I don't know, but it's nowhere close to 35.6.

We must never compromise the message of the Gospel. That never changes. But we must always seek to present the Gospel message in a way that "syncs" with the people around us. The people around our congregation are much younger than the people who make up our congregation. That needs to change. We need to change. We need to try to understand the younger people in our community – what they want, what they need, what touches their hearts, what moves their souls – so we can do a better job of communicating the message of the Gospel to them and help them come to know God's grace and mercy.

It's hard to let go of old ideas – especially those we love. But God has called us to reach out to the world around us. God has called us to "go make disciples." If the old ideas, the old customs, the old programs, the old practices no longer do that, we need lay down the old and find some new that do. Personally, I don't think the old ideas are being very effective any more. It's time to find some new ones. It's time to let go of the spiritual Polaroids and find some spiritual iPhones.

--Dan D.

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Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.  
Pastor: Dan DeWitt

**Bible Reading Plan for February:**

Feb. 1 -- Mark 7	Feb. 13 -- Luke 1	Feb. 25-- Luke 11
Feb. 2-- Mark 8	Feb. 14 -- Luke 2	Feb. 26 -- Luke 12
Feb. 3 -- <b>Catch-Up Day</b>	Feb. 15-- Luke 3	Feb. 27-- Luke 13
Feb. 4 -- Mark 9	Feb. 16 -- Luke 4	Feb. 28 -- Luke 14
Feb. 5 -- Mark 10	Feb. 17 -- <b>Catch-Up Day</b>	
Feb. 6 -- Mark 11	Feb. 18 -- Luke 5	
Feb. 7 -- Mark 12	Feb. 19 -- Luke 6	
Feb. 8 -- Mark 13	Feb. 20 -- Luke 7	
Feb. 9 -- Mark 14	Feb. 21 -- Luke 8	
Feb. 10 -- <b>Catch-Up Day</b>	Feb. 22 -- Luke 9	
Feb. 11 --Mark 15	Feb. 23 -- Luke 10	
Feb. 12 --Mark 16	Feb. 24 -- <b>Catch-Up Day</b>	



**Community Fellowship Feast:** The next Fellowship Feast will be Tuesday, February 26th, from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. at the United Church of Sandwich, 512 Lions Rd. We are asked to bring breads. If you can help, please sign the sheet on the podium outside of the sanctuary.

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
HOW-Heart of Worship	FMC-Facilities/Ministry Committee		

Sunday <b>February</b>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Pastor Dan Vacation thru Feb. 11	2 7:00 a.m.-MG
3 9:30 am-Worship/ CWH  4:00 p.m.-EPIC	4 3:30 p.m.-WBS	5	6 9:30 a.m.-LBS  6:00 p.m.-HOW  7:00 p.m.-CC	7 4:30 p.m.- Confirmation Class	8	9 7:00 a.m.-MG
10 9:30 am-Worship/ CWH  4:00 p.m.-EPIC	11 3:30 p.m.-WBS	12 7:00 p.m.-Adult Bible Study	13 9:30 a.m.-LBS  6:00 p.m.-HOW  7:00 p.m.-CC	14 4:30 p.m. - Confirmation Class	15	16 7:00 a.m.-MG
17 9:30 am-Worship/ CWH <b>ANNUAL MEETING/ POTLUCK DINNER</b>  4:00 p.m.-EPIC	18 3:30 p.m.-WBS  7:00 p.m.-Quilters	19 7:00 p.m.-Adult Bible Study	20 <b>March Newsletter Deadline</b>  9:30 a.m.-LBS 6:00 p.m.-HOW 7:00 p.m.-CC	21 4:30 p.m.- Confirmation Class	22	23 7:00 a.m.-MG  5:30 p.m.-Cup of Cold Water Ministries Annual Banquet
24 9:30 am-Worship/ CWH Gideon Speaker  4:00 p.m.-EPIC	25 3:30 p.m.-WBS	26 4:30-6:00 p.m.- Community Fellowship Feast  7:00 p.m.-Adult Bible Study	27 9:30 a.m.-LBS  6:00 p.m.-HOW  7:00 p.m.-CC	28 4:30 p.m. - Confirmation Class		

**Please keep the following in your prayers:**

Mary Plante's brother, Donald	Lisa Augustine	Jan Braden (friend of the Jakubiaks)
Loren Klene (John's brother)	Bob Hawley	Carolene Bell
Addie Moore & Boyfriend John	Melinda Neumann	Wayne Deadwyler
Val Skupa (Linda DeWitt's mother)	Naoma White	Russ Peterson
Carol & Mike Pruski's son, Jeff	Jenny Babos-Stark	Janet Perkins Rund
Unspoken Requests	Keith Spears	Joan Dobnick
Janice, and Aaron, (friends of Klenes)	Barbara Lawson	Family and friends of Bill Hagg
Larry (friend of John Klene)	Patti Fox	Lloyd, Sharon, Missy, Donna (friends of Pat & Les Redden)
Lee Heise Family (friends of the Klenes)	John & Diane Klene	
Erica Ostendorf (Chuck & Kathy Watros' neice)	Juanita Anderson	
Neil (Glenda Potter's Brother-in-Law)	Roger Gordon	<b><u>Homebound, Nursing Homes or Assisted Living:</u></b>
Corrine Ohlwine (Florence Miller's Mom)	Lee Legner	June Bannister
Jim (neighbor of Roger & Kristin Duffield)	Vicki Damato	Lois Peterson
Hailey Clairmont (Lynn Brooks' grandbaby)	Joyce Mackie	Val Skupa
Tonya (family friend of Judy Rice)	Renene Hendron	

**Upcoming Sermons:**

**Feb. 3** Guest Speaker: Rev. Bill Lupole

**Feb. 10** Guest Speaker: Rev. Bill Lupole

**Feb. 17** "Back to the Basics" Luke 3:3-14 John the Baptist was a no-frills, straight-forward kind of guy. His was a "back to the basics" kind of message. It's good to be reminded of the basics from time to time.

**Feb. 24** "He Is Willing" Luke 5:12-16 We might feel like we are so broken God would never want to help us. But God is willing to heal the broken places of our lives if we will ask in faith.

**Men's Fellowship:** Guys: We would love to have you join us on Saturdays at 7:00 a.m. in the church kitchen. We meet for coffee, donuts(?), fun, and a time of spiritual reflection. Come join us!

**Tuesday Study:** Come join Pastor Dan for a group study on 1 and 2 Timothy on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. The class is meeting in the "Adult" Sunday School room.

**Annual Meeting:** Our Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 17, beginning 15 minutes after the conclusion of the morning worship service (approx. 10:45 a.m.). We will have a potluck dinner after the business meeting (approx. 11:45 a.m.). The Session will be providing meat dishes.

**Cup of Cold Water Annual Banquet:** Cup of Cold Water Ministries will host its annual missions banquet on February 23rd, from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Hellmar Lutheran Church. Tickets are available now from Linda DeWitt, or online at CCWM.org. Cost is \$25.00. This year's theme is "The Send", with keynote speaker Caryn Candia, who has served in the mission field and is on the board of CCWM.

**Gideon Speaker:** We will welcome a Gideon speaker in our worship service Sunday, February 24. He will share the exciting stories of the Gideon ministry.

**Lenten Breakfasts:** Our Lenten breakfast series will begin Wednesday, March 6, at 9:00 a.m. The devotion themes: Jesus' Words on the Cross.

**Nursing Home Ministry:** Pastor Dan will lead worship at the Sandwich Rehab Unit and at Willow Crest on Sunday, March 3. He will be at the Rehab Unit at 1:45 p.m. and at Willow Crest at 2:30 p.m. PLEASE HELP HIM IF YOU CAN!

**Missions Giving:** Thank you notes have been received from Hope Haven, Growing Hope Globally, and Brett & Maria in Muslim Ministry, for our church's prayers, partnership, and financial gifts. They have been posted on the bulletin board in the lobby.

- 2-3 Rex Coultrip
- 2-9 Michele Stahl
- 2-11 Cindy Van Kampen
- 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



Reminder: If you have items for the Spring Basement Sale to benefit Open Door, feel free to bring them to the church now and we will store them for you until the sale.

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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