

THE FED CONNECTION

Following Jesus, Extending Love, Developing Disciples

Federated Church Newsletter - We are "The FED"

December 1, 2019



At DeWitt's End

Books can challenge and inspire you. Books can help you see things from a different perspective. I was reading a book recently that did all of that for me: From the Steeple to the Street, by Travis Collins. December is the month that we think about Christmas and the coming of Jesus to earth. Travis Collins picked up on the concept of Christ's incarnation (becoming flesh) and made an important analogy: Just as Jesus came to earth to be part of and to show God's love to our world, so God is calling us to go into the world and to bring the love of God into the community around us. God is calling us to be "incarnational" in our little corner of the world.

This is a vastly different concept than most of us have when we think about church. Most of us think about trying to find ways to bring the people of the world INTO the church. That's not a bad thing, but the concept of the incarnation would compel us to bring the light, the life and the hope of God INTO our corner of the world.

The more I thought about it, the more I think Travis Collins is right. There is nothing wrong with trying to have relevant, meaningful programs at church, but maybe that isn't the primary calling God has for us. Maybe God really wants us to focus our time and energy doing what Jesus did: take God's love to people "out there." I don't know about you, but I haven't spent a lot of time thinking about how I can take God's love into the world. I think that needs to change. It needs to change for me personally, and it needs to change for us as a church. I ask that you join me in praying that God will help me, help the Session, and help all of the leaders of the church better understand what it might look like for us to bring the light, the life and the hope of the Lord into our little corner of the world!

--Dan

Coming Sermons:

Dec. 1 "Joy in the Lord" Psalm 1

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, a time to reflect on the joy Christ brings us. Psalm 1 reminds us that true joy is not found in receiving things, but in a life committed to God.

Dec. 8 "Peace In the Lord" Psalm 5

Today is the second Sunday of Advent, a time to reflect on the peace Christ brings us. Psalm 5 reminds us that true peace is found by taking refuge in God's shield of love.

Dec. 15 "Hope in the Lord" Psalm 23

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, a time to reflect on the hope Christ brings us. Psalm 23 reminds us that true hope is found in our heavenly shepherd.

Dec. 22 "Love of the Lord" Isaiah 9:1-7

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, a time to reflect on love. Isaiah 9:1-7 reminds us of the passionate love God has to bring us light and life through Jesus Christ.

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Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: Dan DeWitt

Coming Sermons (Cont'd):

Dec. 29 "Focus on the Mission!" Luke 2:41-52

Mary and Joseph were frantic. Their 12 year old son was gone without a trace. What was he doing? He was focused on the Father's mission – and that's what we should do too!

Bible Reading Plan for December:

Dec. 1 -- Catch-Up Day	Dec. 12 -- Psalms 20 & 21	Dec. 23 -- Luke 1:46-56
Dec. 2 -- Psalms 5 & 6	Dec. 13 -- Psalms 22 & 23	Dec. 24 -- Luke 1:57-80
Dec. 3 -- Psalms 7 & 8	Dec. 14 -- Psalms 24	Dec. 25 -- Luke 2:1-20
Dec. 4 -- Psalms 9 & 10	Dec. 15 -- Catch-Up Day	Dec. 26 -- Luke 2:21-35
Dec. 5 -- Psalms 11 & 12	Dec. 16 -- Isaiah 53	Dec. 27 -- Luke 2:36-40
Dec. 6 -- Psalms 13 & 14	Dec. 17 -- Isaiah 9:1-7	Dec. 28 -- Luke 2:41-52
Dec. 7 -- Psalms 15 & 16	Dec. 18 -- Matthew 1:17-25	Dec. 29 -- Catch-Up Day
Dec. 8 -- Catch-Up Day	Dec. 19 -- Matthew 2:1-12	Dec. 30 -- Matthew 2:13-23
Dec. 9 -- Psalms 17	Dec. 20 -- Luke 1:5-25	Dec. 31 -- Matthew 3
Dec. 10-- Psalms 18	Dec. 21 -- Luke 1:26-45	
Dec. 11-- Psalms 19	Dec. 22-- Catch-Up Day	

C.A.M.P. MISSION TRIPS: There will be two trips in January. The first will be Jan. 4-11, and will feature concrete work and health screening clinics. The second will be Jan. 18-25, and will feature building construction and dental clinics. For further info. and pricing, please visit: campmissiontours.org, or see Steve Cromwell.

CWH-Children's Worship	EPIC-Youth Group	HOW-Heart of Worship	CC-Chancel Choir
WMBS-Women's Morning Bible Study	WABS-Women's Afternoon Bible Study		

Sunday December	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am-Worship/CWH 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.-EPIC	2	3	4 9:30am-WMBS 3:30 p.m.-WABS 6:00 pm-HOW 7:00 pm-CC	5 4:00 pm- Seeds & Weeds	6	7 7:00 a.m.-Men's Bible Study & Fellowship 9:30 am-Vesper Practice
8 9:30 am- Worship/CWH 4:00 p.m.-VESPERS	9	10 7:00 pm-Adult Bible Study	11 9:30 am-WMBS 3:30 pm-WABS 6:00 pm-HOW 7:00 pm-CC	12	13	14 7:00 am-Men's Bible Study & Fellowship
15 9:30 am-Worship/CWH 4:00 - 6:00 pm - EPIC Christmas Party	16 7:00 pm-Session Meeting 7:00 pm-Quilters	17 7:00 pm-Adult Bible Study	18 9:30 am-WMBS 3:30 pm-WABS 6:00 pm-HOW 7:00 pm-CC	19	20 January Newsletter Deadline	21 7:00 am-Men's Bible Study & Fellowship
22 9:30 am-Worship/CWH 4:00 - 6:00 pm - EPIC	23	24 5:00 pm-Christmas Eve Service Office Closed	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! Office Closed	26	27	28 7:00 am-Men's Bible Study & Fellowship
29 9:30 am-Worship (No Sunday School)	30	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed				

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Brenda Beck (John & Diane Klene's daughter)
John & Diane Klene
Sally & Rex Coultrip
Wayne Morris (Mary George's son)
Family of Lois Peterson
Dick Andrews (Kristin Duffield's father)
Helen Augustine Kosteck
Lee Heise Family (friends of the Klenes)
Erica Ostendorf (Chuck & Kathy Watros' neice)
Unspoken Requests
Jens Kennedy (Emma Duffield's father)
Pat and Andrew (friends of Barb & Dick)
Carl & Sandy (friends of Karen Beers)
Janice & Aaron (friends of the Klenes)
Pam & Glen Nelson (friends of the Reddens)

Judy Rohrer
Pastor Bill Lupole
Bob Hawley
Dannie Bradford
Barbara Lawson
Roger Gordon
Patti Fox
Loren Klene
Roberta Troeger
Addie Moore
Jim (neighbor of the Duffields)
Zoie Davis
Mary Plante's brother Donald
Chuck Nelson
Keith Spears

Homebound, Nursing Homes or Assisted Living:

Lisa Augustine, June Bannister,
Bill Keele, Val Skupa

Community Fellowship Feast:

There is no Community Fellowship Feast in December.

Community Event:

C.A.K.E. A Children's Musical.
Sat., Dec. 7th at 6:00 p.m. at First
Apostolic Church, 221 N. Eddy
St., Sandwich. Donations of non-
perishable food items is requested.

Vesper! The Chancel Choir and other musicians will be performing in a Vesper service, "*Just a Girl*", December 8 at 4:00 p.m. There will be refreshments in Fellowship Hall following the service. Plan to come and enjoy this wonderful Christmas tradition, and be sure to invite friends!

Session Meeting: The Session will meet on Monday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the pastor's office.

Sympathy: Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Lois Peterson. Lois passed into the presence of the Lord on November 9, and her Memorial Service was held at the church on November. 16.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes: Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Operation Christmas Child shoebox drive. Because of your generosity, a child's Christmas will be made brighter, and he/she will see the caring and love that is out there in the world.

Commitment Letter: Recently, commitment letters were either emailed or mailed to members and regular attendees. As in the past, the Finance Committee is asking you to consider making a "pledge" regarding the financial contribution you plan to make in the coming year. Other than adding your amount to a total, there is no recording or tracking of your commitment. It would be very helpful to the finance committee if you would fill out the information at the bottom of the letter, and return it to the church by December 8. You do not need to give your name. Thank you!

Chuck Johnson was commissioned as the Moderator of the Blackhawk Presbytery as of November 12, 2019. He will serve as Moderator for a one-year term. His duties will include moderating Presbytery meetings; serving on the Presbytery Planning Committee; being on the Presbytery Council; and being a member of the transition team regarding the retirement of Rev. John Rickard as the Presbytery Stated Clerk.

All Committee Chairpersons: Please plan to have your committee's Annual Report to the office no later than Sunday, January 19. The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 23, 2020.

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

Office Schedule: The office will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, December 24 & 25, and New Year's Eve and New Year's Day., December 31 and January 1.

Time Away: Pastor Dan and Linda will be taking some time off January 10-30. They will be visiting their son, Levi, who is a foreign exchange student in Taiwan, and then will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in New Zealand. Pastor Bill Lupole will be providing pulpit supply in Dan's absence.

EPIC Update: EPIC will be meeting at The FED in December. They will have a Christmas party on December 15, hosted by Pastor Tom Bourke of United Church of Sandwich.

12-8	Mary George	12-26	Nancy Sanders
12-8	Steve Skorup	12-29	Mike Burgin
12-11	Susan Beall	12-30	Diane Klene
12-11	Jack Thompson	12-31	Steve Hoadley
12-14	Kristin Duffield		
12-17	Levi Shumway		
12-18	Amy Hamilton		
12-20	Pastor Dan DeWitt		
12-23	Chris Williams		
12-25	Bill Griffith		



Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8:30 - 12:30
Sunday Worship
Children's Worship
9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service - December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

We will sing the Christmas carols, read the Christmas story, and celebrate the coming of our Lord, as we participate in the Lord's Supper and a candlelight service. Come and join us - and bring a friend!

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