

# THE FED CONNECTION



Following Jesus, Extending Love, Developing Disciples

Federated Church Newsletter - We are "The FED"

May 1, 2020

## A Message From Pastor Laurie:

Some things you just don't see coming! When I was growing up in Yorkville, I never guessed I would work most of my adult life in Plano schools. When I was raising my three sons in Somonauk, I never imagined I would move to Leland schools. When I left Plano schools, I didn't believe I would go back and retire from there. When I was cheering on the Reapers, I never thought I would be ready to cheer on the Indians, accepting a call as a pastor at The Federated Church of Sandwich. Is that the way with your life, too? You may have a plan for your life, but you find out that God has a better one?!

My home church remains in Yorkville, but since retiring, God has blessed me with the opportunity to visit many small churches in the area, and again I have been pleasantly surprised. In each church I have visited, I have felt at home, even when visiting Kenya. All my life I had been very comfortable in my home church with my immediate family, not thinking how I was missing out on my extended church family. How wonderful it is to meet and worship with sisters and brothers you have newly discovered. With God as our Father and Christ as our brother, we have a very large family indeed! I look forward to meeting all of you... but how?! Please join me for a virtual zoom coffee hour from 10:30 to 11:30 am on Sunday, May 3rd. You can join and leave at your convenience. More details follow in this newsletter.

For the record, I never saw this pandemic coming either! While God did not cause it, He certainly is using it to bring about good. Romans 8:28 reminds us God works for good in all things. His Spirit is prompting us to take a hard look at how we were/are living and what we felt was, and what really is, important. You will hear some reflections on this during the May worship services. Please note, we will draw from the reading plan for Ecclesiastes and Isaiah, as well as spending the month in the book of Galatians.

We continue to worship online. It has been a learning curve for all of us, but not for God. He is used to overcoming barriers of time and space. He responds to all forms of worship and is present in all forms of fellowship. Please let me or one of our committees know of any creative ideas you have to enrich our plans for worship or fellowship.

By Grace Together,

Laurie Walker  
Transitional Supply Pastor

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## Upcoming Sermons:

- May 3:** What Season is This? Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 / Galatians 2:15-21  
**May 10:** What is Meaningful? Ecclesiastes 8:14-17, 12:13-14 / Galatians 5:5-10, 13-15  
**May 17:** We Are Family! Isaiah 7:9-16 / Galatians 3:23-29  
**May 24:** Darkness to Light: A Time to Sow Isaiah 8:19-22, 9:6-7 / Galatians 6:7-10, 14-18  
**May 31:** **Pentecost - Wear Red** In Step with the Spirit: Vaccinated! Isaiah 14:1-8/Galatians 5:22a-26/Acts 2:1-12, 32-33

**Zoom Fellowship Sunday:** There will be a virtual Fellowship time at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, May 3rd. At this time you will get to meet Pastor Laurie, and we can fellowship with each other, similar, but not quite, like we always do after worship. Bring your own coffee! Prior to Sunday, instructions on setting up Zoom will be emailed to the congregation. It is very user-friendly, and will provide us a way to stay connected! See you all soon!

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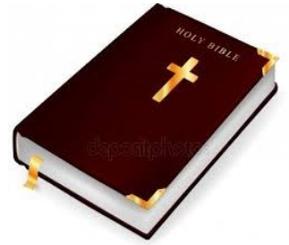
## Bible Reading Plan for May:

May 1 -- Ecclesiastes 10  
May 2 -- Ecclesiastes 11  
May 3 -- **Catch-Up Day**  
May 4 -- Ecclesiastes 12  
May 5 -- Isaiah 1  
May 6 -- Isaiah 2  
May 7 -- Isaiah 3  
May 8 -- Isaiah 4  
May 9 -- Isaiah 5  
May 10-- **Catch-Up Day**

May 11 -- Isaiah 6  
May 12 -- Isaiah 7  
May 13 -- Isaiah 8  
May 14 -- Isaiah 9  
May 15 -- Isaiah 10  
May 16 -- Isaiah 11  
**May 17 --Catch-Up Day**  
May 18 -- Isaiah 12  
May 19 -- Isaiah 13  
May 20 -- Isaiah 14

May 21 -- Isaiah 15  
May 22 -- Isaiah 16  
May 23 -- Isaiah 17  
**May 24 -- Catch-Up Day**  
May 25 -- Isaiah 18  
May 26 -- Isaiah 19  
May 27 -- Isaiah 20  
May 28 -- Isaiah 21  
May 29 -- Isaiah 22  
May 30 -- Isaiah 23

**May 31-- Catch-Up Day**



**An Encouraging Word** to those of you who may be by yourself, or anyone who feels alone...

- Submitted by Sheryl McAlearney

You are not alone (Jer.29:11)! The creator of the universe knows your name (Isa. 43:1). He will never leave you (Deut. 31:6). He dwells inside you (1 Cor. 3:16). You are precious to Jesus (1 Jn 3:1). So take heart, because he has overcome the world (Jn. 16:33)!

Did you notice most of these verses are in the present tense--These verses are happening right now! The other verse is in future tense--He will never leave you--not now, not ever! So take heart, Jesus loves you (Jn 3:16)!

If you can, listen to Matthew West's new song called "Take Heart" on YouTube [https://youtu.be/3osp2p\\_gLx4](https://youtu.be/3osp2p_gLx4).

**Lyrics**--Inspired by John 16:33:

**"Take Heart" By Matthew West**

Woke up this morning and life as you know it  
Looks nothing like the kinda life you knew before  
All of a sudden, fear stole the headlines, and it don't feel safe to even step outside your door

In this world you will have trouble  
But I have overcome the world

So take heart and take a breath  
Let me lift that heavy weight up off your chest  
Take my hand I know it's lookin' dark  
But when the world falls all around you I won't let you fall apart. Take heart.

Do you remember singin' back when you were younger  
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands  
Well, that's still true, I hold your family, all your friends, and all your loved ones  
And even when you're barely holdin' on, I'm holding you.

So take heart and take a breath  
Let me lift that heavy weight up off your chest  
Take my hand, I know it's lookin' dark,  
But when the whole world falls all around you I won't let you fall apart.  
Take heart, Take heart, Oh, take heart, Just take heart.

In this world you will have trouble, but I have overcome the world  
Oh, in this world you will have trouble, but I have overcome the world.

So take heart and take a breath,  
Let me lift that heavy weight up off your chest  
Take my hand I know it's lookin' dark, but when the world falls all around you, I won't let you fall apart  
So take heart Child, take heart.

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

Pray for each other and our spiritual lives  
Pray for our families & friends  
Pray for our communities  
Pray for our state  
Pray for our country  
Pray for the world  
Jennifer (daughter of Walt & Cathy Harrah)  
Jackie Green  
Barbara Lawson (Joyce Kaufman's sister)  
Dale Hamilton's mother and family  
Loren Klene (John's brother)  
Carl & Sandy (friends of Karen Beers)  
Brenda Beck (John & Diane's daughter)  
Joyce Mackie, Vicki Damato, and Tom Price  
Jens Kennedy (Emma Duffield's father)  
Wayne Morris (Mary George's son)

Judy Rohrer  
Chuck Nelson  
Bob Hawley  
Dannie Bradford  
Dick Andrews (Kristin Duffield's father)  
Helen Augustine Kostek  
Roger Kitner  
John & Diane Klene  
Keith Spears  
Jim (neighbor of the Duffields)  
Zoie Davis (Les & Pat Redden's niece)  
Mary Plante's brother Donald  
Lee Heise Family (friends of the Klens)  
Roger Gordon  
Unspoken Prayer Requests  
Erica Ostendorf (Chuck & Kathy Watros' niece)

**Homebound, Nursing Homes or**

**Assisted Living:**

Lisa Augustine, Susan Beall  
Bill Keele, Val Skupa



**We Welcome to The FED** Pastor Laurel (Laurie) Walker as our temporary/interim pastor! Laurie will begin her service to our church May 1. Laurie and her husband Jon live in Leland, IL. She has three adult sons and two grandsons - and one on the way! We are excited to have Laurie with us!

**A Summary on Philippians:** As I concluded our study of Philippians and then reviewed those four chapters, two insights continued to stick indelibly in my heart and mind.

The first was *JOY* that was pervasive in Paul's life. Imprisonment, dissension, frustration and more, did not intrude on the joy he possessed. A joy that was secure because of his relationship with Christ.

A second was the *AFFECTION* Paul possessed for the church family at Philippi. Time and again he referred to them as his dear brothers and sisters in Christ, among other warm signatures. They were Paul's partners in the battle for the faith. He had experienced their dedication and sacrifice for the Good News. He loved them dearly and they returned that love.

What does Philippians teach me? Many truths, but two stand out. The indefatigable joy he possessed in Christ, and, the affection he possessed for his fellow believers. May those two "feelings" be ours as well. - Rev. Bill Lupole

**Thanks:** Many thanks to Rev. Bill Lupole for his willingness to fill the pulpit between Pastor Dan's leaving and Pastor Laurie's arrival. We all enjoyed his humor and meaningful messages as he delivered God's Word to us. It is truly a blessing to have him and Linda in our church family!

**Thanks Also** to Roger & Kristin Duffield, Rev. Bill Lupole, and Elder Chuck Johnson for making it possible for us to worship online with our church family during Holy Week. Roger and Kristin will continue to work with Pastor Laurie to continue online services until we are once again able to return to worship in the church.

**Church Membership:** If anyone is interested in joining the church, applications are available from Jane Jakubiak. Contact Jane at [fedconnection@gmail.com](mailto:fedconnection@gmail.com) or call her at 765-729-1923, and we will be in contact with you.

**Face Masks:** Are you, or anyone you know, in need of a protective face mask? Doug Reiners, a member of the United Church in Sandwich, and others from our community, have sewn over 4,000 face masks. You may have read about this group in the last edition of the "Sandwich Record" newspaper. This group is willing to give these masks to anyone in need, without charge. How wonderful that these people are doing this! If you know of anyone in need of one, please contact Doug at 331-210-1607, or [dareiners@gmail.com](mailto:dareiners@gmail.com).

**Upcoming Meetings:** There will be an electronic meeting of the Leadership Team Tuesday, May 12, at 7:00 p.m. The Session will have their next meeting Thursday, May 14, at 7:00 p.m., and the next meeting of the Pastoral Search Committee will be the week of April 27, to be scheduled by Bob Knight. The Outreach Committee will continue to meet via telephone conference calls. They are looking for ideas from the congregation of potential events in future months. Please send any ideas to [fedconnection@gmail.com](mailto:fedconnection@gmail.com) or call Rick Jakubiak at 765-729-0111.

- 5-4 Bob Daleske
- 5-10 Carl Gustafson
- 5-13 Nicholas Allen
- 5-17 Jill Jutila
- 5-22 Roger Duffield
- 5-24 Melinda Neumann



**If you are aware** of anyone who needs assistance with getting groceries or supplies delivered to them, or any other way where help is needed, please contact Jane at: [fedconnection@gmail.com](mailto:fedconnection@gmail.com) or 765-729-1923.

**Additional May Events:** At this time, all events planned for the month of May have been cancelled. As new dates are set, you will be informed so you can mark your calendars! Remember to save items for the Basement Sale to benefit Open Door, which will be held as soon as possible.

**Church Building and Office**

**are Temporarily Closed by Order of the Governor**

**Worship Services are available on our Website and our Facebook page.**

**To reach us, email [fedconnection@gmail.com](mailto:fedconnection@gmail.com) or call: 765-729-1923**

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**Federated Church of Sandwich**

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