

# THE FED CONNECTION

Following Jesus, Extending Love, Developing Disciples

July 

Federated Church Newsletter - We are "The FED"

July 1, 2020

## A Message From Pastor Laurie:

FED Family and Friends, From "From Lament to Hope" (Lamentations 5:20-21) was the theme of the 224th General Assembly this past week. I was humbled to serve as a ruling elder commissioner and found myself lamenting that my plans to attend the Assembly in Baltimore, Maryland evolved into attending an online zoom meeting that lasted four days. One of the activities was a Bible Study with over two hundred people studying Lamentations 5. Thankfully, we broke down into small groups of nine and each shared our laments. It was then that I realized how important it is to allow ourselves to lament. Lamenting is part of grieving and leads to hoping. The Bible gives plenty of examples of lamenting and what we learn is God is with us in our lamenting and in His presence and love for us we find hope.

We have all been lamenting the loss of in-person worship. We lament not being able to see people, socialize, go out to eat, have graduation parties, attend sporting events, or even attend funerals. There has been so much to lament, but God has never left our side for a moment. God has been lamenting right beside us and opening our eyes to what He sees.

Now, our lament has turned to the hope of in-person worship. The Covid-19 Committee has completed a plan, approved by the Session for us to have the opportunity to return to in-person worship on July 12. This plan is described in the "Worship Safely" article that follows in this newsletter and also in the "Worship Safely" video which we will email to you. Please make your own personal decision about whether you will continue worshipping online or if or when you will return to in-person worship. The only right decision is the one you prayerfully discern is best for you at this time.

God has been with us through this difficult time and will continue to be with us as we start to come together again as the body of Christ. In the Old Testament, we will finish reading Isaiah and start reading Jeremiah. And, in the New Testament, we will continue reading in Romans. We will see the hope and the promise in Romans 8:28...

*28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him,  
who have been called according to his purpose.*

By grace together,  
Laurie Walker Temporary Pastor

## Upcoming Sermons:

July 5 Communion Romans 7:15-25a

July 12 Romans 8:1-11

July 19 Romans 8:12-25

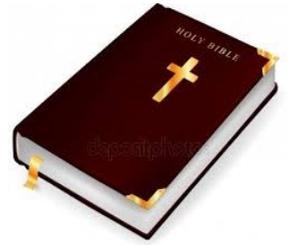
July 26 Romans 8:26-39

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**Bible Reading Plan for July:**

July 1 -- Isaiah 54	July 11 -- Isaiah 63	July 21 -- Jeremiah 5
July 2 -- Isaiah 55	<b>July 12 -- Catch-Up Day</b>	July 22 -- Jeremiah 6
July 3 -- Isaiah 56	July 13 -- Isaiah 64	July 23 -- Jeremiah 7
July 4 -- Isaiah 57	July 14 -- Isaiah 65	July 24 -- Jeremiah 8
<b>July 5 -- Catch-Up Day</b>	July 15 -- Isaiah 66	July 25 -- Jeremiah 9
July 6 -- Isaiah 58	July 16 -- Jeremiah 1	<b>July 26 -- Catch-Up Day</b>
July 7 -- Isaiah 59	July 17 -- Jeremiah 2	July 27 -- Jeremiah 10
July 8 -- Isaiah 60	July 18 -- Jeremiah 3	July 28 -- Jeremiah 11
July 9 -- Isaiah 61	<b>July 19 -- Catch-Up Day</b>	July 29 -- Jeremiah 12
July 10 -- Isaiah 62	July 20 -- Jeremiah 4	July 30 -- Jeremiah 13
		July 31 -- Jeremiah 14



**IN-WORSHIP RESUMES JULY 12!** Thank you to the Covid-19 Committee, Carl Gustafson, Steve Skorup, and Jane Ryan for their careful planning for our return to in-person worship on July 12. They have prepared a video and fact sheet to let you know what to expect when you return. Please know the decision of if and when you return is a personal one, and should be based on your own unique situation. The Fact Sheet has been emailed and mailed to the congregation, and the video link will be emailed in the next few days. A Google Survey Form for attendance will also be sent prior to July 12. Please remember that you will need to respond to these surveys when sent, so we will know how many will be in the church for worship. This is necessary to make sure we are in compliance with the permitted number of people gathering in one location.

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Dear Church Family of the FED:

During the spring of 2020, the coronavirus pandemic hits the world and we are all sent to our homes on March 13, 2020. Stay at home. I had been at home for two weeks on a leave of absence from my fourth grade class due to recurring bronchitis. But, let's start at the beginning. I made a New Year's resolution to become best friends with Jesus. In my little brain, this meant I would continue reading my Bible and praying, but I was going to listen to Jesus, as a friend. I wanted to develop a deep two-way relationship. So, since I am home, and now must be at home, I decided to spend this time focusing on building my friendship with Jesus.

Then, Black people in America began to protest when George Floyd was killed by a police officer, and I began to really want to try to understand what was happening. Why is this still going on? Wasn't civil rights solved in the sixties? No, there is more to be done. My skin color, which I have no control over, has given me an advantage; just like the skin color of other races has put them at a disadvantage. What can I do, Lord?

I heard Jesus in my heart saying, "I need you. I need you to serve others and share your love for me. Share and serve with those who are sick, with those who need comfort, who are different from you, and those you haven't met yet. Will you serve me?" "Yes Lord! Here I am! Send me."

"But first, Sheryl, I think you need to be prepared and learn more about me. I want to send you, but you need time to be equipped." I prayed, asking Jesus how I could become more equipped to serve Him. This is when I discovered the Alternative Ministerial Education (AME) program on the Great Rivers Region website of the American Baptist Churches. I prayed about pursuing this route. I began to share with others I felt called to ministry. I received encouragement. So, I shared with even more people my call to ministry. I received even more encouragement. I felt the unquestionable urge from Jesus to follow the path to lay ministry. The AME educational program will provide the knowledge, skills, and will equip me to serve the Lord wherever He chooses to send me. I have been accepted into the program. Here I am following Jesus, my best friend, into the future, relying on Him. I would greatly appreciate your prayers as I pursue this course. Later, in a congregational meeting, you will be asked to vote on whether or not you support me in this endeavor. This vote is one of the requirements of the program.

Thank you, Sheryl McAlearney

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

Pray for each other and our spiritual lives

Pray for our front-line workers

Bill and Genevieve Moebs

Jackie Green

Wayne Morris (Mary George's son)

Erica Ostendorf (Chuck & Kathy's niece)

Jennifer (daughter of Walt & Cathy Harrah)

Jens Kennedy (Emma Duffield's father)

Barbara Lawson (Joyce Kaufman's sister)

Hailey Keeton (Joyce Kaufman's granddaughter)

Loren Klene (John's brother)

Carl & Sandy (friends of Karen Beers)

Brenda Beck (John & Diane's daughter)

Joyce Mackie, Vicki Damato, and Tom Price

Roger Kitner

Chuck Nelson

Bob Hawley

Don Wright (Lagene's son)

Dick Andrews (Kristin Duffield's father)

Helen Augustine Kostek

Maddi Morris (friend of Debbie Keele)

John & Diane Klene

Keith Spears and Roger Gordon

Jim (neighbor of the Duffields)

Kristin Duffield

Mary Plante's brother Donald

Lee Heise Family (friends of the Klenes)

Judy Rohrer

**Homebound, Nursing Homes or**

**Assisted Living:**

Lisa Augustine, Susan Beall

Bill Keele, Val Skupa



**Our Sympathy** is extended to Bill and Genevieve Moebs on the recent passing of Bill's sister and Genevieve's mother. Bill and Genevieve would like to thank the church family for the prayers, cards, phone calls and visits. They felt all the prayers being lifted for them, and praise the Lord for such a wonderful church family.

**Many, Many Thanks** to Steve and Autumn Battaglia for their years of service to the Cooperative Youth Ministry. After prayerful and thoughtful consideration, they have made the difficult decision to resign their positions as youth leaders. We as a congregation, feel blessed to have had them in this role, serving as ministers to the youth of our and the other area churches. Their leadership and the example they set has been important and valuable in the lives of these young people, and we want them to know how much we appreciate their effort and dedication.

**On-Line Giving Now Available:** We now have an option for on-line giving. This new method is linked to from the top of the Church's web page. When you click on "Give Here" at the top, you will be directed to a Presbyterian Church USA application that lets you give to the Federated Church. After you set up an account, you will have various options to give. There are no changes to the current giving methods. This just adds a new way. Contact Dale Hamilton if you have questions.

**FED Fund Update:** Giving to the FED Fund has been generous and to date there is approximately \$9,800 available. The FED Fund was created to provide monetary assistance to church family members in need during the current Covid virus crisis. Amounts up to \$500 per family member can be awarded. If you or someone has a need, please make a confidential request by email or USPS to the church office, stating an amount requested and the use of the funds. Requests can be made by a person who is not the recipient, but recognizes another member's need for assistance. For more information, check with the church office or a Session member.

**Upcoming Event:** A "Bubble Blowing Adventure Afternoon" is being planned for Saturday, July 25, (rain date Sunday, July 26), from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. on the church lawn. This will be a young family event. We will be looking for 10-12 bubbly, smiling-in-a-mask volunteers. More details coming in upcoming bulletins. Contact Jane Ryan at 630-779-8496 or Jane Jakubiak at 765-729-1923 for further information.

**The Pastor Search Committee Update:** The Pastoral Search Committee is putting together an interactive video showcasing the Federated Church and who we are. We are looking for volunteers who would like to be involved and showcased in the video. We will be using the clips and blending them together in a video format. Please reach out to Jamie Shumway at Jamie.shumway3@gmail.com or 630-842-9667 with questions and your interest in participation.

**Children's Worship:** If you would be interested in teaching Children's Worship, please contact April Skorup. Children's Worship meets during the worship service. Teachers usually teach for one month, but you can teach for only two weeks if you would like to try it out. April can be reached at 815-685-9079, or adskorup@gmail.com. We currently don't know when Children's Worship will resume, but April would like to put together a list of volunteer teachers for when it does.

**Upcoming Meetings:** Pastor Search Committee: Sat., July 11, 9:00 a.m.; The Outreach Committee will not meet in July.

- 7-4 Trey Stahl
- 7-9 Bob Ash
- 7-9 Tari Fetty
- 7-10 Tom Scheidecker
- 7-11 Josh Swenson
- 7-12 Alana Stahl
- 7-20 Lexi Williams
- 7-28 Karen Beers
- 7-30 Pat Yuvan



**Driveway/Porch Visits:** Several people have taken advantage of the opportunity to visit with Pastor Laurie or other members of the congregation. If you would like to get on the list for a social-distance visit, contact Pastor Laurie or Jane to schedule a visit.

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@  
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or call: 765-729-1923

Following Jesus, Extending Love, Developing Disciples

**Federated Church of Sandwich**

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