

THE FED CONNECTION

Following Jesus, Extending Love, Developing Disciples



Federated Church Newsletter - We are "The FED"

June 1, 2020

A Message From Pastor Laurie:

FED Family and Friends,

I just saw a cartoon of Satan and God talking. Satan says, "I just closed all the churches." And, God says, "I just opened one in every home!"

This past month I have enjoyed taking pictures of your beautiful church building. It has seemed empty with my words echoing back at me, begging the question, "**is a church a church when it is empty?**"

The Session has announced the formation of a Covid-19 Committee to re-open the church begging yet another question, "**is the church actually been closed?**"

Before this mandated stay-at-home time, these questions never came to mind.

During this "stay-at-home" time God is giving us an opportunity to think about what it means to be the church. He is reminding us that He calls us to be His Church to the world every day in every location during every time. That means we need to stay active looking for ways to serve God in our present circumstances. Your Outreach Team is looking for volunteers to make phone calls, to send notes, and to make outdoor visits. Please consider volunteering by emailing the church. Please also share needs that you see around you that we might work together to meet.

In the meantime, your Covid-19 Committee is meeting and making plans for opening the doors of our church building for in-person worship. We will do this safely and prayerfully, with Session approval. If you have a question or concern for us to consider, please contact me, one of our committee members, Roger Duffield, Carl Gustafson, or Jane Ryan.

Together let's give thanks, for the promise of our faith—that the Lord God will bless and keep us, the risen Christ is with us, and the Holy Spirit connects us with believers near and far. As we anxiously track the news in these times—numbers of new cases, numbers of deaths, and numbers of those recovering—we remember the good news of the gospel: "And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

Finally, let's look for glimpses of the new thing God is doing, even now. Let's take the opportunity to savor the spiritual gifts of love, joy, peace, generosity, and faithfulness. Let us be faithful, then—to God and to one another—as we use these gifts and work through the challenges of this time in the life of our congregation and world. Let us be guided by the Word, responsive to the Spirit, and open to the grace of God. Let us remember that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus.

By grace together,
Laurie Walker
Temporary Pastor

Addresses: If anyone would like to send a card to one of our extended care/assisted living/nursing home residents, listed below are their addresses:

Lisa Augustine, Val Skupa, Sheryl Higgins, Julie Marvick: Willow Crest, 505 N. Main St., Sandwich, IL 60548

Susan Beall, Cedarhurst of Yorkville, 4040 Cannonball Trail, Yorkville, IL 60560

Bill Keele, 1079 E. Wilson St., Apt. 283, Batavia, IL 60510

Rex and Sally Coultrip, 425 Chalk Hill Ct., Edmond, OK 73003

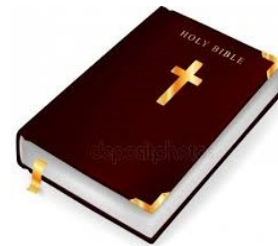
403 N. Main St. - Sandwich, IL 60548
Telephone: (815)786-8595
Website: www.fedconnection.net
Email: fedconnection@gmail.com

Temporary Pastor: Laurel (Laurie) Walker
Telephone: 815-274-3444
Email: bygracetogogether@gmail.com
Church Contact Telephone Number:
Jane Jakubiak - 765-729-1923

Bible Reading Plan for June:

June 1 -- Isaiah 24	June 11 -- Isaiah 34
June 2 -- Isaiah 25	June 12 -- Isaiah 35
June 3 -- Isaiah 26	June 13 -- Isaiah 36
June 4 -- Isaiah 27	June 14 -- Catch-Up Day
June 5 -- Isaiah 28	June 15 -- Isaiah 37
June 6 -- Isaiah 29	June 16 -- Isaiah 39
June 7 -- Catch-Up Day	June 17 -- Isaiah 40
June 8 -- Isaiah 30	June 18 -- Isaiah 41
June 9 -- Isaiah 31	June 19 -- Isaiah 42
June 10-- Isaiah 32	June 20 -- Isaiah 43

June 21 --Catch-Up Day
June 22 -- Isaiah 44
June 23 -- Isaiah 45
June 24 -- Isaiah 48
June 25 -- Isaiah 49
June 26 -- Isaiah 50
June 27 -- Isaiah 51
June 28 -- Catch-Up Day
June 29 -- Isaiah 52
June 30 -- Isaiah 53



An Encouraging Word:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” Matthew 6:33-34 NIV

Trouble. Each day has plenty of it, and tomorrow will usher in more. That part of the teaching the disciples had no problem accepting. It was the “do not worry” part that proved trickier. In fact, the entirety of their ministry would be spent trying to understand Jesus’ triumph over every kind of trouble.

Jesus could have kicked off His signs and wonders with a parting-of-the-Red-Sea-caliber miracle. Instead, He chose a simpler approach - He changed water into wine because it ran out. It was a relatively minor problem Jesus was asked to solve. His mother was anxious on behalf of the wedding hosts and wanted Him to step in - so He did. Which means it was during a party that Jesus chose to reveal His glory to His disciples for the first time. It was the public debut of triumph over trouble. In doing so, Jesus demonstrated that nothing is inconsequential. Every predicament is an opportunity for divine intervention and continued celebration.

We too tend to worry about issues large and small, and Jesus cares about each one, especially because of the opportunity they present - but we have to do our part. Like Mary, we have to ask even with seemingly small matters. Otherwise, we’ll read verses about not worrying and worry even more about our inability to cease worrying, rather than seeking and asking so that Jesus can prove Himself triumphant.

Perhaps that’s why He honored His mother’s request. The simplicity of it represents so many kingdom principles. For example, it takes faith to surrender our worries and trade them in for kingdom seeking and Jesus trusting. When we do, He goes to work on our behalf. Of course, that doesn’t mean He’s literally going to turn water into wine, but He’s going to always do the spiritual equivalent: work things out for good for those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

Trust Him with the little things, and He’ll prove time and again that you can trust Him with everything. And don’t worry about whether or not you have the ability to cease worrying. You don’t. That’s the point. Your job is to seek Jesus and His righteousness. His response will be to reveal more of His glory, and the outcome will be your refreshed and increased faith. And, miraculously, a whole lot less worrying.”

- The Chosen: 40 Days with Jesus by Amanda Jenkins, Kristen Hendricks, et al.
- Submitted by April Skorup



OUR FEDERATED CHURCH GRADUATES

Ellie Wiegman, 8th grade graduate from Somonauk Middle School and moving in the Fall to Somonauk High School!

Steve Battaglia, Master’s Degree in History of Christianity from Wheaton College!

Your church family is very proud of you and your accomplishments, and wish you much success!

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Pray for each other and our spiritual lives
Pray for our front-line workers
Bill Moebs and Genevieve's mother, Eva
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)
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

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)
Family of Zoie Davis
Mary Plante's brother Donald
Lee Heise Family (friends of the Klenes)
Roger Gordon

Homebound, Nursing Homes or

Assisted Living:

Lisa Augustine, Susan Beall
Bill Keele, Val Skupa



Meet Pastor Laurie: Our transitional pastor, Laurie Walker, is a former educator serving as a teacher, counselor and administrator in Plano and Leland school districts. After her retirement, she completed the coursework at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary to become a certified pastor. Pastor Laurie serves as the moderator of the Mission Committee of Blackhawk Presbytery, has made three mission trips to Kenya, and has filled the pulpit in area churches. She is now commissioned to be our temporary pastor during the search for a permanent pastor. She and her husband Jon, have three grown and married sons, two grandsons, and one on the way. They live in Leland.

Fishing for Families Event: 25+ cars drove through the rain on May 17 to participate in our Fishing for Families Food Drive in the church parking lot. People were able to meet and greet Pastor Laurie via social distance, and leave donations of money and food for Our Sharing Pantry without ever leaving their cars. \$500.00 and 8+ boxes of food were received! Thank you to everyone who donated, and to Pastor Laurie, Bill & Jane Ryan, and Steve & April Skorup for braving the elements to greet people and receive the donations.

Congratulations to Butch Babos! Butch won the "Exceptional Contribution by Staff" award from NIU's College of Education. His helpful and cheerful manner described in the award is easily recognized by all of us who have enjoyed working with him on various tasks around our Federated Church. Great job, Butch!

The Covid-19 Committee, Roger Duffield, Carl Gustafson, Jane Ryan, and Pastor Laurie has begun meeting. We have reviewed a long list of guidelines and started to create our own checklist. Please know that when this congregation begins to resume public activities, we will do so through a careful process of discussion and discernment, with an abundance of caution and concern for those who are most vulnerable, upon consideration of the best scientific knowledge at our disposal, in the spirit of constant prayer, and with full trust in the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. Not everyone will agree with how we do things and some will be upset that things are not the same. There will surely be awkward moments as we adjust to new protocols and practices. There will be times of frustration, disappointment, and grief. On the bright side, this means we will have countless opportunities to exercise the spiritual gifts of patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control.

Children's Worship: If you would be interested in teaching Children's Worship for the 2020-2021 calendar, please contact April Skorup. Children's Worship meets during the worship service from late August until late May. 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.

The Pastor Search Committee thanks those who submitted responses to the five narrative questions sent to the congregation. There is still time to participate by returning your responses to one or more of the questions by June 12th. After that date the committee will compile and combine the responses and submit to the Presbytery. You can either email them to the church at fedconnection@gmail.com., drop them off in the mail slot at the church, mail them to the church, or call one of the committee members: Bob Knight, Dale Hamilton, Mary Plante, Jamie Shumway, Jane Jakubiak.

Upcoming Meetings: Covid-19 Committee: Tuesday, May 28, at 6:00 p.m.; Pastor Search Committee: Saturday, June 13, at 9:00 a.m.; Session, Thursday, June 18, at 7:00 p.m.; Outreach Committee, Wednesday, June 24, at 3:00 p.m.

6-2 Margaret Droppa
6-2 Bill Moebes
6-2 Larry Phillips
6-8 Steve Battaglia
6-10 Josh Stahl
6-15 Sandra Stahl
6-16 Helen Kosteck
6-19 Lagene Wright
6-21 Kara Johnson



6-24 Christine Burgin
6-25 Norman Troeger
6-29 Rick Jakubiak
6-30 Brian Miller

Driveway/Porch Visits: We would like to visit you! This would be a social distance visit, where we would bring our own chair and sit 6 feet or more away from you. If you would like someone from your church family to come visit, please email the church at fedconnection@gmail.com or call Jane at 765-729-1923, and she will schedule a day and time for 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@
gmail.com](mailto:fedconnection@gmail.com)
or call: 765-729-1923

Following Jesus, Extending Love, Developing Disciples

Federated Church of Sandwich

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