

THE FED CONNECTION



Following Jesus, Extending Love, Developing Disciples

Federated Church Newsletter - We are "The FED"

August 1, 2020

A Message From Pastor Laurie:

FED Family and Friends,

What a glorious day it was when we opened the church doors for in-person worship! No, it was not the same in terms of face masks, social distancing and no singing. But, we were together in God's House and the Spirit was present with us! Now, we will continue to adjust to the new normal and offer both in-person and online worship opportunities, including individually wrapped communion elements.

This past month I helped facilitate a zoom conversation about the Matthew 25 initiative in Blackhawk Presbytery. Churches joining this PCUSA-wide initiative, agree to work on one of more of three focus areas: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty. Covid-19 has accentuated these three focus areas. The first, congregational vitality is what we are working on as we gradually return to in-person worship. The Matthew 25 initiative suggests that church vitality has seven indicators. Over the coming months I will present these marks of vitality for your own self-assessment.

The first mark is a commitment to forming disciples over every member's lifetime. This leads first to personal transformation, as people put on the heart of Christ, and then to social transformation, as people joyfully go forth into the community and tackle the issues facing today's culture.

The FED has made a special commitment by designating our "D" to stand for Developing Disciples. This time between permanent pastors is a time when the work of disciples is critical. Some people think they are not "qualified" to be disciples because they have not been personally transformed. Disciples are not already personally transformed, they are open to and in the process of personal transformation. Disciples are being formed over every member's lifetime. Their work is not focused inwardly, taking care of the church. Their work is focused outwardly, using the church as a foundation for reaching out to the community tackling the tough issues we face.

Congregational vitality means that our existence is vital to the community we serve. Are we making ourselves part of the life and well-being of our broader church community?

Matthew 25:44-45. ⁴⁴ "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?'"

⁴⁵ "And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'"

By grace together,

Laurie Walker

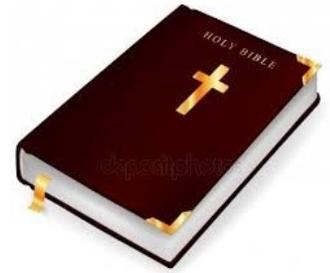
Temporary Pastor

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: bygracetgether@gmail.com
Church Contact Telephone Number:
Jane Jakubiak - 765-729-1923

Bible Reading Plan for August:

Aug. 1 -- Jeremiah 15	Aug. 11 --Jeremiah 23	Aug. 21 -- Jeremiah 32
Aug. 2 -- Catch-Up Day	Aug. 12 --Jeremiah 24	Aug. 22 -- Jeremiah 33
Aug. 3 -- Jeremiah 16	Aug. 13 --Jeremiah 25	Aug. 23 --Catch-Up Day
Aug. 4 -- Jeremiah 17	Aug. 14 --Jeremiah 26	Aug. 24 -- Jeremiah 34
Aug. 5 -- Jeremiah 18	Aug. 15 --Jeremiah 27	Aug. 25 -- Jeremiah 35
Aug. 6 --Jeremiah 19	Aug. 16 -- Catch-Up Day	Aug. 26 -- Jeremiah 36
Aug. 7 --Jeremiah 20	Aug. 17 --Jeremiah 28	Aug. 27 -- Jeremiah 37
Aug. 8 --Jeremiah 21	Aug. 18 --Jeremiah 29	Aug. 28 -- Jeremiah 38
Aug. 9 --Catch-Up Day	Aug. 19 --Jeremiah 30	Aug. 29 -- Jeremiah 39
Aug. 10--Jeremiah 22	Aug. 20 --Jeremiah 31	Aug. 30 --Catch-Up Day Aug. 31 -- Jeremiah 40



Upcoming Sermons:

August 2 - Communion, Romans 9:1-5

August 9 - Romans 10:5-15

August 16 - Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

August 23 - Romans 12:1-8

August 30 - Romans 12-9-21

Reminder

If you plan to attend worship services Sunday mornings at 9:30, please submit the survey via email, sent out each week prior to the service, or call the office to let us know of your attendance, and how many from your family will be coming. This is to make sure we are in compliance with the allowed number of people gathering in one location. Thank you for your cooperation!

Things To Know

Help Needed: Would you, or someone you know, like to learn how to edit video clips using I-Movie? We are looking for someone to edit the Sunday morning videos and upload them to YouTube. No experience is necessary. A stipend of \$50 per Sunday is being offered. Please let Pastor Laurie bygracetgether@gmail.com know if you are interested.

Bubble Event Cancelled: The “Bubble Blowing Adventure Afternoon” being planned for late July was cancelled. We will hope to have it at a later, safer time.

Meals On Wheels: We will be doing Meals on Wheels again in September. There are minor changes in the pickup procedure. Basically, you stay outside. Knock on the kitchen door and someone will put the food in your vehicle. And please wear a face mask for pickup and deliveries.

As before, we will deliver meals each weekday of the month. Volunteers will deliver 6-8 meals, which takes about an hour. Directions are provided. Interaction with recipients will be minimal now with the virus.

A sign-up calendar is on the bulletin board in the lower entry. Please fill in your name on the days you can deliver. Or call / notify Jane at the office and she will get you on the calendar.

Thank you for your continued support of this mission.

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 Carl Gustafson if you have questions.

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

Family of "Boots" Hoffman

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)

Judy Rohrer

Mary Plante's brother Donald

Sue Hanson

Homebound, Nursing Homes or

Assisted Living:

Lisa Augustine, Susan Beall

Bill Keele, Val Skupa



The Pastor Search Committee Update: It's with great interest that your Pastor Search Committee wishes to inform you of our progress in the search process. Your committee continues to have Zoom meetings and held an important one Saturday morning, July 18. We were able to make the final move based upon our completion of the two parts of the Ministry Information Form (MIF) and the official approval of the document by the Session at their meeting on July 16th. Dale Hamilton has placed the document in several computer formatting methods for sending to our Blackhawk Presbytery representative, Debbie Stevens (lives in Mendota). Debbie will send the document to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) for their review and then report back to our committee for the final approval. After this process, the "Final MIF" will be sent to the Louisville, KY, synod office for distribution to the "world" as we officially launch our pastoral opportunity at The Federated Church.

Thanks again for your support and prayers.

Your Pastor Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee is also putting together an interactive video showcasing the Federated Church and who we are. Several church families volunteered to be involved in the video and recording has started. We will be using the clips and blending them together in a video format, complete with music from our 100 year anniversary celebration. We look forward to including this video in our active search for the pastor the Lord is calling to our church.

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.

Glenda Potter wishes to thank everyone for their prayers for her brother, Roger Kitner. Glenda reports that he has recovered from the virus and is doing very, very well! Praise the Lord for such wonderful news!

Upcoming Meetings: If your committee has set a date and time for meeting in August, please let Jane know so she can include it in the weekly bulletins.

8-2 April Skorup
8-4 Shannon Stahl
8-6 Bill Keele
8-8 Eileen Weber
8-18 Ellie Wiegman
8-19 Florence Miller
8-24 Dale Hamilton
8-26 Butch Babos
8-26 Wanda Goff
8-28 Joy Cunningham
8-29 Cherri Gustafson
8-29 Linda Holley



8-29 Cathy Owens
8-29 Barb Scheidecker
8-30 Roberta Troeger

Church Building and Office are Temporarily Closed weekdays.

Worship Services have resumed at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Please return attendance survey or call 765-729-1923 if you plan to attend.

Worship Services are also available on our Website and Facebook page. To reach us, email: fedconnection@gmail.com or call: 765-729-1923

Following Jesus, Extending Love, Developing Disciples

Federated Church of Sandwich

403 N. Main Street
Sandwich IL 60548