

The Messenger

February 2012

Federated Church

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From your Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ:

Happy Valentine's Day! We just celebrated the Christmas season when God showed us how much He loves us, and now here we are coming up to Valentine's Day which is an opportunity to show others how much we love them! Is there someone in your life you would really like to know how much you love them but never told them? Well, now is the time. Have at it! Take a risk and let them know "I love you."

Just recently I was attending a meeting of the C. C. C. C. pastors planning for our combined Lenten Services this year. We were deciding at which church we would have the services, who would preach, and all the other things that need to be decided. One of the pastors turned to me and said he wanted to be sure to have one of the services at the Federated Church because "your church is so friendly and warm and I just love being there." WOW! What a wonderful compliment because that is what we are all about, i.e., sharing God's love with one another and with all our other brothers and sisters in Christ! Congratulations and give each other an extra hug!

Be sure you check out the places and dates in this newsletter for our combined Lenten Services both through the C. C. C. C. and the Mitchell/Morrill Ministerial Association. Lots of opportunities for this special time of the year!

This week I read the following quote and I just can not get it out of my mind. The quote is: "You have never tested God's resources until you have attempted the impossible!" What a bold statement filled with truth. It seems like we ask God for a lot but have we ever attempted the "impossible" and asked for God's help? Certainly we run into obstacles of all kinds having many different degrees of difficulty. But the "impossible?" Have we ever attempted that? This month when we run into a tough situation let's ask ourselves: This really tests my resources but does it truly test God's resources?! When teaching the disciples about salvation Jesus reminded them "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26 Have a great February!

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Chuck

February Birthdays

February

Anniversaries

Bob Frey	2-1
Arvid Gompert	2-2
Sharon Gowin	2-4
Rose Brown	2-5
Ermadean Haas	2-13
Marilyn Gompert	2-15
Jeff Jones	2-15
Gary Riley	2-16
Janet Johnson	2-19
Jean Stone	2-23
Floyd Gowin	2-25
Patricia Larsen	2-26

Floyd & Betty Schwartzkopf	2-22-48
Harry & Mary Jo Davis	2-25-50



Happy Birthday

Where Would You Like to Serve?

Each month a calendar is posted in Fellowship Hall announcing who will be serving as an usher, greeter, Scripture reader and so forth. Please be sure to check the calendar each month for your name, and if your name is not listed please let Pastor Chuck know where you would like to serve. Thank you.



Just a Little Humor

How well do you know your spouse? Recalling childhood memories, one author wrote “One of the funniest memories I have of the trials and tribulations of making the journey from childhood to adulthood was our annual summer vacation trek from Chicago to a cabin usually someplace on the lake in Wisconsin or Michigan. Every year, it seems, we would get on a highway a few miles out of the city, and Mom would wail, ‘Oh my goodness! I think I left the iron on.’ And almost every year we would turn around and go back. But as I recall, not once was it ever plugged in. She often had the same fear that all of our earthly possessions would disappear in a fire caused by her forgetfulness.

When I was about 14 years old, we were headed out of Chicago for Lake Geneva, Wisconsin and sure enough, Mom gasped, ‘I just know I left the iron on.’ My father did not say a word; he pulled over onto the shoulder of the road, got out, opened the trunk and handed her the iron!”

Bible Memory Verse

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” Colossians 3:12-14

Christian Education Committee



The Christian Education Committee met on January 11th.

Those attending were: Kelly Martin, Kevin Helser, Brittni Thomas, Marci Docekal, and Pastor Chuck

The temperature upstairs during Sunday School on Sunday mornings is still warm but not as hot as it has been in the past. However, the teaching staff is concerned about it being too hot during the summer month. If anyone has a window air-conditioner you will not be using this summer and would like to give it to the church for the upstairs Sunday School area we would be very grateful! Thank you!

The 5th Sunday in January, January 29th, we will have the Sunday School children in the worship service the entire time. We will search out ways to involve the Sunday School children during the worship service.

Our budget request for FY 2012 was determined and will be presented to the Stewardship and Finance Committee. Our next meeting will be February 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

C. C. Circle

The C. C. Circle of the Federated Church met January 5, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Cindy Cochran presented a very interesting program on her missionary trip to Uganda with Care International. She spent a month working in a neurological hospital in Mbale. A neurologic specialist there trains doctors from all over the world in a treatment procedure he perfected for spinal bifida and hydrocephalus.

Connie Birdsall reported the C. C. Circle delivered Christmas baskets to fourteen families including new warm winter coats to those who needed them.

In February the Annual Soup & Salad Luncheon/Bake Sale will be held February 18th. There will also be a Silent Auction and a drawing for raffle ticket winners. It will be a great day for fun and it begins on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. See you there!

The next meeting of the C. C. Circle will be February 2nd at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Library



Have you checked out a book recently? Our Church Library has some excellent books and audio tapes. Give it a try!

C. C. C. C. Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday, February 22 nd	7:00 p.m.	Plymouth Congregational Church Pastor John Adams preaching
Sunday, February 26 th	7:00 p.m.	Emmanuel Congregational; Pastor Rod Wetzig preaching
Sunday, March 4 th	7:00 p.m.	Salem Congregational; Pastor Ted Meter preaching
Sunday, March 11 th	7:00 p.m.	Federated Church, Pastor Dale Brown preaching
Sunday, March 18 th	7:00 p.m.	Zion Evangelical, Pastor Doug Rupp preaching
Sunday, March 25 th	7:00 p.m.	Salem Congregational, Pastor Garry Schick preaching Combined Choir will be singing.

Mitchell/Morrill Ministerial Association Lenten Services

Wednesday, February 29 th	7:00 p.m.	Holy Apostles Church; Father Thomas preaching
Wednesday, March 7 th	7:00 p.m.	Federated Church, Pastor Juan Espinosa preaching
Wednesday, March 14 th	7:00 p.m.	Methodist Church, Pastor Chuck preaching
Wednesday, March 21 st	7:00 p.m.	St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Pastor Carol Bullard preaching

Soft Soap

Are you soft-soaping God? DUZ you DREFT along with the TIDE? VEL, now is the time. If you want real JOY, the TREND is to BREEZE to Church regularly. Also, too many WOODBURY their heads in the pillow, or work in their fields or yard like HANDY ANDY, forgetting that Sunday was made for LES-TOIL. Where our Lord reigns, the DOVE of Peace will never need to send out an S.O.S. Do not trust to LUX, WHISK yourself out of bed, dress up SPIC AND SPAN and DASH like a COMET to Church. Your life will become full of ZEST!

Special Joys

The Visitation Teams are a special blessing to our congregation! It is so important for us to be in touch with these people. Many of them would love to come to church each week but their unique life circumstances do not make it possible. Please keep this special ministry and those we visit in your prayers.

Special Concerns

Richard Peterson, son of Mildred Peterson, died in their home on January 12th. A Memorial Service for him was held on January 21st. At the present time Mildred is staying with her daughter, Gloria Kelly, in Gering, NE. Please be sure to keep Mildred and her family in your prayers.

Persons recently hospitalized this month include Glenda Hilyard, Jack Lewellen, Wilma Welton, and Sara Jane Ward. Please be sure to keep each of them in your prayers as they address their health issues and recover.

Visitation Teams

Our Visitation Teams are hard at it! We met in Fellowship Hall on Friday morning, January 6th to report on our first visits. The team members were excited having seen those they called on so pleased to have had visitors bringing greetings from the Federated Church. Pastor Chuck received several unsolicited compliments from people who very much appreciated being visited!

Security Tips for the Month of February

- If it is necessary to put your name on a mail box or in the phone directory (wherever), just use your last name and initial only of your first name. “Even though my husband has been deceased for 4 years, I continue to use his and my name in phone book.” Never add just “Mrs.” or “Mr.”
- When you go for an outing, no matter for how long, be sure to turn on a light – a light inside your house, and a light outside such as a porch light – because you never know for certain if your return might be delayed. Remember to always have your door key ready before approaching the door.
- Never allow a stranger in your home, no matter what the emergency. If a stranger asks to use your phone, get the telephone number and offer to make the call yourself, shutting and locking the door while the stranger waits outside.

C. C. C. C. Annual Women’s Fellowship Banquet

Women of the church please mark your calendars for Tuesday evening, March 6th, to attend the C. C. C. C. Annual Women’s Fellowship Banquet at 6:00 p.m. at the Gering Civic Center. The menu includes Lemon Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Fresh Green Salad with a choice of Dressings, Rolls, Butter, and a Drink. The cost (which is non-refundable) is \$8.50 per person and that includes everything for the evening. The theme for the banquet is “Baskets of Faith.”

This event is open to all women of our church and their friends. So, if you like, bring a friend with you. This is such a great time of fun, fellowship, and food you will want to be sure to attend. Make your check payable to the “Salem Study Circle” and bring it to the Church Office. The registration deadline is February 28th so be certain to get your registration in early.

Church Council

The Church Council met January 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with the following members present: Anne Charles, Ardie Bowen, Erma Lewellen, Janet Johnson, Colleen James, Jackie Gompert, Maxine Walker, Joy Pedersen, Ermadean Haas, Larry Lebruska, Vern Pedersen, Bob Kraft, Verne Lewellen, Larry Birdsall, Kevin Helser, Dorothy Kraft, Ron Charles, Pastor Charles Richardson, Mike Gompert, Russ Noel, and Ralph Hilyard. Meeting opened by at 7:00 p.m. Russ Noel; Moderator. Pastor Charles Richardson led Church Council in the opening prayer.

The Minutes of the December 8, 2011 meeting were read and a motion was made by Joy Pedersen to approve minutes as read. The motion seconded by Kevin Helser and the Minutes were approved as read. The Treasurer's Report was read and a motion was made by Ron Charles that Treasurer's Report be approved as read. The motion seconded by Bob Kraft, and the motion was approved.

Boards:

Trustees: No report.

Elders: No report.

Deacons: No report.

Deaconesses: Met with following members present: Anne Charles, Ardie Bowen, Erma Lewellen, Maxine Walker, Janet Johnson, Colleen James, and Jackie Gompert. We talked about Christmas giving. Items taken to shut-ins were much appreciated. Budget for 2012 was set for \$100.00 to be used for gifts and note cards.

Managers: Set the Pastor's salary for year 2012, and he will continue being our Pastor for another year.

Committees:

Building and Grounds: Budget to remain the same for year 2012.

Christian Education Committee:

The Committee met January 11, 2012 with following members present Pastor Charles Richardson, Marci Docekal, Kelly Martin, Kevin Helser, and Brittni Thomas.

We set our 2012 budget request.

Connie Birdsall is our new Superintendent for the months of January, February, and March. Teachers of the month of January are Kelly Martin and Dot Tinsley. Teachers for the month of February are Kent Docekal and Barb Lebruska. Sunday School offering for December was \$25.79.

The Puppets Up team did two performances on January 12, 2012: Sunday morning at the First Church of God; and, Sunday night at Bible Baptist Church. Both performances turned out great and we received a lot of good responses, just as we did from our church. Our last performance was on January 10, 2012 at First Church of God for Connie Bretthauer's Friendship ministry.

Evangelism: No report.

Membership: Our next Carry-in Dinner will be Sunday January 15, 2012.

Missions: Larry Birdsall, Verne Lewellen, and Janet Johnson present and budget of \$6000.00 set up. The Committee will select which Missions to receive moneys when Sharon Gowin returns.

Stewardship and Finance: Review of budget for previous month.

Worship and Music: No report.

Scholarship: Dana will receive \$200.00 for the second semester. The scholarship for

Brittni Charles scholarship is on hold until she returns to school.

C. C. Circle: The Annual Soup Luncheon, Silent Auction, Raffle, and the Bake Sale February 18th.

Old Business: None

New Business: Russ reported he will check into CCLI license requirements. At this time we are not digressing from CCLII allowances.

Budget requests for 2012:

Building and Grounds: Same as last year.

Christian Education: decrease of \$500.00

Scholarship: CD's income off of interest for scholarship.

Evangelism: Remain the same.

Membership: Leave the same at \$350.00.

Stewardship: Pastor's salary increased.

Secretary's salary increased.

Custodian salary increased.

Choir Director salary increased.

4 C's membership remains same.

Postage increased because stamp price increased.

Missions: \$6,000.00

Worship and Music: Remains the same.

Total budget for 2012 will be increased \$4,870.00 over the 2011 budget. This is a 4% increase in budget. Pastor Charles Richardson commended Stewardship and Finance on preparation of budget for 2012. Ralph Hilyard commended Dorothy Kraft on keeping good books for the church.

A motion was made by Ralph Hilyard to forward the 2012 Budget in the amount of \$122,195.00 to Annual Church Budget meeting. The motion seconded by Bob Kraft. The motion was approved to present this budget to the congregation to vote on at January 15, 2012 Annual Budget meeting.

The Pastor's Report given by Pastor Chuck: I continue to make nursing home and hospital visits. I met twice with Ron Charles to plan for Christmas services; I met with the Board of Managers on December 11th; I attended the Christian Education Committee meeting on December 14th; I officiated at the funeral for Pauline Heil on December 22nd; I attended the Bay State Foundation Board of Directors meeting on December 22nd; we had a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service December 24th and we had a special Christmas Day worship celebration on December 25th

Russ Noel encouraged everyone to attend Annual Budget meeting for needed forum to vote on budget. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. following prayer by Pastor Charles Richardson.

Respectfully submitted,

Maxine Walker, secretary

Last Call

Have you brought your items for the Silent Auction and Raffle for the C. C. Circle Annual Soup & Salad Luncheon/Bake Sale? Pictured here is Walt Helser with just some of the items he has made and is donating. Walt is holding a “His & Her Piggy Bank.” The interesting feature of the “His & Her Piggy Bank” is that even though there are two separate slots in which to insert the coins, all of the coins slide into the “Her” side of the bank! Ladies, you will want to be sure to get this bank!!

