

# The Messenger

January 2012

*Federated Church*

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## From your Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ:

Happy New Year! Here we are in 2012 and we have a brand new year ahead of us! I wonder what it will hold? Sometimes we would like to know what lies waiting for us in the road ahead, but most of the time we accept life as God gave it to us, i.e., remember the past, live in the present, and hope for the future.

Remembering the past is important. Each of us has memories of events in 2011 we will always cherish and value. Memories that bring warm feelings and happiness. These memories remind us of pleasant times with family and friends. On the other hand, we also have memories that remind us of times and events filled with sadness or regret. These are the times we find ourselves saying "I wish I would have..." We wish we could "forget" them but that is not likely to happen. What we can do, however, is to make a conscious decision to dwell on our positive memories and give minimum time and attention to the memories that tend to pull us down. Yes, with practice, we can train ourselves to do that!

The present is what we have today. God, in His infinite wisdom, has charged us to live one day at a time. That is why He supplied the Israelites in the Sinai Desert with manna and quail once a day; He was teaching them to trust Him each and every day and to live in the present moment. In our fast-paced society this is a special challenge but we can do it!

Hope is a powerful emotion that can propel us beyond most obstacles that might confront us in the New Year of 2012. Go ahead and hope for good things for your family, your friends, your church, and for yourself for this coming year. Then place your hopes and your dreams in God's hands and ask that He will attend to each of them according to His will! Remember the opening words to that wonderful hymn we have sung for years, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness." If we have our hope for 2012 placed in His hands then our future is secure and there is nothing ahead of us that we cannot handle with God at our side! Blessings to you for a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Chuck

# January Birthdays Anniversaries

# January

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| VonEmma Clampitt    | 1-6  |
| Michelle Riley      | 1-10 |
| Mildred Peterson    | 1-12 |
| Darlene Francescato | 1-12 |
| Greg Gompert        | 1-14 |
| Chuck Clampitt      | 1-20 |
| Alvin Lebruska      | 1-20 |
| Clyde Johnson       | 1-28 |

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Larry & Connie Birdsall | 1-2-56 |
|-------------------------|--------|



## 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*

A man died and went to the pearly gates of heaven. There St. Peter greeted him and answered his first question “How do I get into heaven?” St. Peter replied “You need 1,000 points to get into heaven. You tell me all the good things you have done, and I give you a certain number of points for each good thing. When you get to 1,000 points you get to come into heaven.” “Okay,” said the man “let’s get started. Let’s begin with the fact I was happily married to the same woman for over 50 years and I never cheated on her or even looked at another woman.” “Excellent!” said St. Peter, “that is worth 2 points.” “Only 2 points?” said the man. But he pressed on and told St. Peter “I attended church all my life, I was active in the church all those years, and I tithed throughout my lifetime.” “Wonderful!” St. Peter replied, “That gets you another point.” “Only 1 point?” the man gently complained. But getting into heaven was way too important for him to quit so he continued. He told St. Peter “I started a soup kitchen in my city for the homeless and I not only worked in the soup kitchen but also I volunteered in the shelter for the homeless.” “That is fantastic!” exclaimed St. Peter, “That gets you another 2 points.” Finally, the man could not hold it in any longer. “Only

2 points?! St. Peter at this rate the only way I am ever going to get into heaven is by the grace of God!" "Now that is what we are looking for!" said St. Peter, "Come right on in!"

### *Bible Memory Verse*

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." *Isaiah 43:18-19*



The Christian Education Committee met on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Those attending were: Kelly Martin, Kevin Helser, Connie Birdsall, and Pastor Chuck

We discussed Christmas gifts for the Sunday School children that will be given during the Children's Sermon.

Connie Birdsall will be Sunday School Superintendent for January, February, and March. Kelly Martin will be Sunday School Superintendent for April, May, June, and July. Kevin has done an excellent job as Sunday School Superintendent for the past four months. He has also developed a written job description for Sunday School Superintendent which he will distribute to Connie and Kelly.

Teachers for the coming months:

|          |                                  |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| January  | Kelly Martin and Dot Tinsley     |
| February | Kent Docekal and Barb Lebruska   |
| March    | Brittni Thomas and Lana Wurdamen |
| April    | Kevin Helser and Charlene Madsen |

Our next meeting will be January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

### *C. C. Circle*

C. C. Circle of the Federated Church met at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with following members present: Ermadean Haas, Glenda Hilyard, Ardie Bowen, Erma Lewellen, Marian Schmer, Connie Birdsall, Bonnie Cawiezel, Helen Wigert, Maxine Walker, Joy Pedersen, Shirley Williams, Rose Brown, Anne Charles, Sharon Gowin, Kathy Richardson, Patti Larsen, and Dorothy Gompert. Meeting opened at 1:00 p.m. by Ermadean Haas, President. The opening prayer was given by Joy Pedersen. Roll call was answered with "Favorite memory of Christmas." Dessert was served by hostesses Sharon Gowin and Patti Larsen. Devotions were given by Bonnie Cawiezel.

Program presented by Helen Wigert.

C---Christ  
H---Herod  
R---Reciprocate  
I---Inn  
S---Santa, symbol of spirit of Christmas  
T---Tidings

M---Mary, Mother  
A---Angels  
S---Savior

Minutes read and approved as read. A motion was made by Patti Larsen that Erma Lewellen send out courtesy cards. Motion seconded by Sharon Gowin. Motion approved. The Treasurer's Report was given. See attached report. Motion made by Joy Pedersen that we pay outstanding bills and approve report as presented. Motion seconded by Anne Charles. The Treasurer's Report was approved. Connie Birdsall gave a report on the Christmas baskets for Morrill and Mitchell families. She has purchased coats and jeans for some of the families.

Old Business: Ladies bathroom has been redone by Ardie Bowen, Sharon Gowin, and Ermadean Haas. In October we gave a gift to Pastor Chuck and Kathy for Pastor Appreciation month. Calling on shut-ins committee assigned to set up time for meetings and organize plan. Helen Wigert is the chairperson; Ermadean Haas, Shirley Williams, and Maxine Walker volunteered to serve on the committee. Deaconesses will be delivering gifts to shut-ins for Christmas.

New Business: Cookies to be delivered to Mitchell Care Center on December 12<sup>th</sup> by 1:00 p.m. Sharon Gowin and Joy Pedersen will be taking cookies to the Center.

Sunday treats assigned:

Dec. 4.....Rose Brown  
Dec. 11.....Dorothy Gompert  
Dec. 18.....Anne Charles  
Dec. 25.....Connie Birdsall  
Jan. 1.....Maxine Walker

Hostesses for next meeting are Dorothy Gompert and Jane Ann Hall. The Program will be given by Ardie Bowen and she requested that we bring a purse to meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maxine Walker, secretary

### *Library*



Remember our church's Elliott Family Memorial Library downstairs. It is full of wonderful books, audio tapes, and video tapes to enhance your Bible study or provide great reading for new information and relaxation. Make a New Year's Resolution for next year to read more books from our library – you will be glad you did!

### *Special Joys*

Very special thanks to Stan & Kelly Martin for the beautiful huge Poinsettia plant that was in front of our altar during the Advent Season! It was lovely and it certainly added to the festive celebration spirit during the Christmas season!

Word has it that Don Lebruska is home! Welcome home, Don! We are delighted you are back. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you continue the healing process.

Kathy and I thank each of you for the lovely cards and gifts you gave to us for Christmas. Each one is so special to us. We are so blessed to be members of such a caring church! Thank you!

Congratulations to Vern & Joy Pedersen and to Jerry & Shirley Williams on becoming great-grandparents! Ask them about their new joy – they might even have a picture or two!

### *Special Concerns*

Jack Fox is still at the Med. Center in The Residency. Jack appreciates very much your visits, telephone calls, and cards. Please keep Jack in your prayers for healing, comfort, and encouragement.

On December 22<sup>nd</sup> we had the funeral service for Pauline Heil. Pauline was a long-time faithful member of our church and we will miss her greatly. Even as her health and strength declined Pauline still had a warm smile for everyone who went to the Residency Med. Center to visit her. We will also miss her son, John, and his family from coming to visit us; they always brought to church whenever it was possible.

### *Visitation Teams*

Pastor Chuck is working with a Task Force of the C. C. Circle to develop Visitation Teams that will call on persons who are unable to come to church on Sunday mornings. The initial meeting of the teams will be Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. At that time we will talk about some helpful tips to use when calling on people. We have a card made up for each person to be called on and these cards contain general information that will be helpful during the visit. If couples want to call together that is fine. Some people will prefer to make calls by themselves which is fine; and, others may want to join up with another person to do their calling. The main thing is for these people to have members of our church reaching out to them with love and compassion to let them know we remember them and we will keep them in our prayers.

On Friday morning, January 6<sup>th</sup>, we will meet again in Fellowship Hall to share our information and experiences of calling. This will be a time to celebrate and to pray together for those on whom we are calling.

We hope you will choose to be a part of this outreach effort! If you have any questions please call Pastor Chuck.

### *Health Tips for the Month of January*

- Walk whenever you can. If you are driving your car then park just a little way from your destination so you can get in a few extra steps. When the weather is above freezing look

for times in the afternoon when you can take a walk out of doors. Fill your lungs with the fresh air knowing you will sleep better that night. Even a short walk down to the corner and back is better than staying inside in your recliner!

- When you are walking watch carefully right in front of you whether you are walking down the sidewalk or across a parking lot. Uneven sidewalks or tar strips in a mall parking lot can be just enough to catch your toe and pitch you forward without warning!
- Water is essential to our daily health and most of us simply do not make the effort to monitor how much water we drink each day. In fact, we likely would be surprised how little water we drink on a daily basis! We hear the usual recommendation of 8 glasses of water a day. If that is too much then set a goal that is right for you. Here is a tip. Have a water glass on the end table by your favorite chair. Every time you look at it take a sip until you reach your goal of how many glasses of water you should drink each day.

## *Church Council*

Church Council Meeting  
December 8, 2011

The Church Council met at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with following members present: Vern Pedersen, Lowell James, Ralph Hilyard, Kevin Helser, Colleen James, Joy Pedersen, Bob Kraft, Dorothy Kraft, Mike Gompert, Pastor Charles Richardson, Larry Birdsall, Connie Birdsall, Ermadean Haas, Russ Noel, and Maxine Walker. The meeting was opened by Moderator Russ Noel at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Chuck opened the council meeting with a prayer.

Minutes of the November 10, 2011 meeting were read by members and approved as read. Treasurer's Report was read by the Council members and approved as read.

### **Board Reports:**

Trustees: No report.  
Elders: No report.  
Deacons: No report.  
Deaconesses: No report.  
Managers: No report.

### **Committee Reports:**

Building and Grounds: Boiler working, but too hot upstairs, thermostat lowered upstairs. We will contact S&S Plumbing to check thermostat and radiators.

Christian Education Committee: Committee will meet on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday School: (1) Thank everybody for all your help with the operation Christmas Child. (2) Thank you C. C. Circle for providing lunch at the packing party. (3) We ended up with 76 boxes; our goal was 50 boxes. (4) Offering for November was \$13.62. (5) There will not be Sunday school on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. We will resume Sunday school classes on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Puppet Ministry: We did two short puppet shows for Thanksgiving. November 27<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School and November 29<sup>th</sup> during Connie

Bretthauer's Friendship Ministry.

We are planning a Christmas program. The play we are doing is called "The Christmas Miracle" and the two songs are "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "Christmas Everyday".

Evangelism: No report.

Membership: Carry-in Dinners begin on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 with the Annual Budget Meeting.

Missions: Deleted "Habitat for Humanity" since they are not returning our calls to them. Vouchers for this month are:

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Campus Crusades at Chadron.....    | \$300.00 |
| Hart International Missions.....   | \$200.00 |
| KCMI.....                          | \$50.00  |
| Myamar Missions.....               | \$100.00 |
| Navigators.....                    | \$100.00 |
| Seeds and Light International..... | \$100.00 |
| Special Olympics.....              | \$300.00 |

Stewardship and Finance: Reminded members of the Council that Committee and Board budgets due the first of January. Reviewed income and expenses.

Scholarship: Will be sending next semester scholarship monies out in January.

C. C. Circle: (1) We have remodeled the ladies bathroom for past president Joy Pedersen's project. (2) A committee was set up to work with Pastor Chuck to initiate a visitation program and set guidelines. (3) We served Sloppy Joes and Chips to 28 people who were packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, (4) Planning for Soup Luncheon in February. (5) Volunteers set up for delivery of cookies to the Mitchell Care Center and Sunday treats. (6) Served one funeral dinner for 70 people.

**Old Business:** Freight has been paid for shipping of Operation Christmas Child boxes.

**New Business:** Budgets are due the first part of January.

**Pastor's Report:** See attached report.

A motion made by Lowell James to adjourn meeting. Motion seconded by Bob Kraft. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maxine Walker, secretary