



FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH  
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# *The Federated Courier*

Federated Community Church  
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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

*"..... remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ."*

Ephesians 2: 12-13

Greetings of Grace and Peace!

Earlier this week, a church member from years back stopped by to chat. He shared that he grew up in the church and it gave him a strong foundation of God's love and Jesus' ways, however, he didn't really understand it all. (It is that way for many folks.) He shared that as an older adult, he has found God and is filled with joy. *"Every day is a gift! What a difference knowing God has made in my life."* Then he asked me that same question I often ask myself, *"Why don't more people acknowledge God in their daily lives; so that they might have the hope, love, peace, joy, and more, that a relationship with God offers?"*

Journeying through Lent calls us to rediscover and/or deepen our relationship with God in Christ. I hope that you have been intentionally seeking and/or spending time with Jesus. There is an incredible difference in living when you know God is with you and for you. So, don't live as folks who have no hope or excluded from the promises of God, but reconnect and walk hand in hand with Jesus and see what a difference it makes! Each day will be a gift. At Easter, you truly will have something to celebrate!

In Christ's Love and Light,  
Pastor Pat

## *From the Deacons' Bench*

### "THE BEDTIME STORY OF STEVIE"

"OK, kids....you've had your baths. Time for bed and a story"

"What's the story tonight?" they clambered.

"We'll do a real story tonight....not a reading. It's about a little boy named Stephan, but his friends called him Stevie. Now, Stevie lived a long time ago before cars were invented, electricity wasn't even a concept and bedtime baths might have been a bucket of warm water and the lard soap that your mother made."

"That's gross!"

"Stevie must have been a curious lad as he often asked his mother while they were in the village shopping why there are so many poor people in town and some of them looked sick and even crippled. Stevie's mother paused as she decided how to tell the story. "Moses"....she started...."was a good and honorable man who lived about 1500 years before Stevie was even born. He was a gifted leader, trained just by assuming unyielding responsibility for leading a large captive following to a new life of freedom in a new land that Moses said flowed with milk and honey"

"Yuk!" they exclaimed. "That's sticky."

"Well, this was Moses' way of telling them that they could prosper here, form a great nation that all could celebrate....friends and neighbors alike....in a bountiful earthly garden gifted to all creatures great and small."

"That's sooooo good!" they said.

"Well....it's a vision worth striving for. Isn't it. But as the years went by.....hundreds of years....that vision of a garden's bounty gifted to all dimmed.....perhaps forgotten by some, perhaps some hoarded for personal gain, and perhaps others saw the impoverished as not having earned their support. Whatever the reason, too many widows and children, too many of the down trodden, the sick and the broken-hearted never got a share of the milk and honey.

Well, now, Stevie's early observations while shopping with his mother never left him. In fact, as he grew in stature and wisdom,

he came to know Jesus' personally and his teachings and our responsibilities as stewards.....responsible partners....in the Creation Story. In fact, he committed his entire life to the service of others. By now, Stevie was known as Stephan and the leadership of his Christian church bestowed upon him the special responsibilities as Deacon. Stephan became the very first Deacon of the Church. And he shall always be remembered because 'Stephan' means 'servant'."

"Ok, kids, bedtime has arrived. Shall we pretend we're Stevie this spring when we plant our gardens? Let's double our plantings so we as a family can help in his missionary work. Sweet dreams to all."

Dave Spencer.....Deacon.

References: Deuteronomy 26:1-15 and Acts 6 and 7.

### **National Pet Month**

Hold the Date of May 21<sup>st</sup> for a celebration of National Pet Month. We will be holding a Blessing of Pets at 12:30 PM, followed by dog agility shows and grooming techniques, and finally baby farm animals to pet and cuddle. Lots of fun and connection will fill the day. See poster on the back of your newsletter. Please share this with family, friends, and even your enemies.

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**For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

**- Psalm 92:4**



## *Music Update*

### **All God's Critters Got a Place In the Choir**

We're all making music for the glory of God. Every Sunday morning, we gather as a congregation and raise our voices in song. Lately, after the worship service, Laura and I have been teaching the children a few songs. After that we have a drumming circle, an intergenerational experience with a vibrant spirit. Before worship begins, a smaller group gathers to review and prepare the music of the morning. We call that smaller group "the Choir." But you know what? We're ALL the choir. Bell, drum, voice, toe tap, body movement (just wait'll you see the kid's "Butterfly Song") we put it all out there for God's glory.

In my short time here, I've begun to realize what a faith-filled community this is. The expressions of our love for Jesus are authentic and unapologetic. I could give yet another 'plug' to join the choir, or the drumming, or the bells, but I don't think I have to. You know you're welcome, or at least I hope you do, but whether or not we 'join' a music making group in the church, we're ALL making music anyway. The fervor with which you all sang the familiar hymns of the last few weeks; *How Great Thou Art*, *Just As I Am*, *Amazing Grace* and others, demonstrates the unifying power of music.

Consider the actions of Ukrainian musicians who in these dark hours are providing hope, strength and courage through their music. So we lift our voices, raise our hands, tap our feet; and we are awakened, renewed and enlivened. We are left better because of it. We leave the world a better place because of it. It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Grace and Peace,  
Mark

**but just in case you were thinking about it .....**

Bells - Tuesdays at 6:00 PM

Choir - Sunday 9:15 AM

(we'll try for a separate rehearsal at a later date- TBA)

Children's Music - Sunday, 11:15 AM ish

Drums - Sunday, 11:45 AM



## *April Birthdays*

Birthday Greetings to the following members of our church who celebrate birthdays in April



Elizabeth Nelson	04/02
Steven Elliot	04/02
Judith Hatch	04/04
Matthew Fisher	04/06
Richard Patullo	04/07
Abigail Tulloch	04/08
Gretchen Warner	04/10
Joyce Burt	04/12
Benjamin Blain	04/16
Jane Wyman	04/16
Richard Regnier	04/17
David Quill	04/18
Maurice Dezan	04/19
Matthew Doyle	04/19
Brittany Fisher	04/19
Karen Leger	04/19
David Anable	04/20
Hayden Tibbetts Jr	04/21
Marcia Willey	04/22
Melanie Bliss	04/23
Sarah Blain	04/25
Jeanne Westcott	04/27
Kim Cummins	04/28
Alice Wilcox	04/28
Mason Kennedy	04/28
Annabelle Tulloch	04/29
Anne Collins	04/30

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

April & Joshua Gonce	04/06
John & Barbara Panek	04/11
Mitch & Mary Drozdowski	04/21
Matt & Diane Fisher	04/21

## *Milestone Birthdays*

**Bob Green** turned 90 on March 2nd.

Happy belated birthday wishes & blessings in the next year!

Happy birthday to **Hayden Tibbetts** who will turn 90 on April 21<sup>st</sup>!



## *Children/Youth Faith Formation News*

During April we will be continuing our study of Jesus' life, his death and resurrection. The children have wonderful questions and, as always, we embrace the wonder that is Jesus' life.

We have talked about the Last Supper last month and will continue with Peter's denial of Jesus and connect it with forgiveness and being sorry for something you have done. We will celebrate Jesus's entrance into Jerusalem by waving palms in procession on Palm Sunday in preparation of Easter. After Easter, (we won't be meeting on Easter Sunday) we will celebrate his resurrection and talk about new life and new beginnings.

As always, we hear the stories of the Bible, have wonderful discussions and connect the events to our own lives. We incorporate art, music and games during our joyful time together.

If you would like to volunteer with the Children's Program for a fun change of pace on Sunday, please contact Laura Lillibridge by email at [beariverfarm@gmail.com](mailto:beariverfarm@gmail.com).

Laura Lillibridge



## *Prayer Corner*



Evie Meacham  
Gail Banning  
Jeffrey  
Watson Family  
Janet Brehaut  
Josh G & Family  
MaryLou Black  
Joyce Libby  
Pat Safford  
Tony Rogers  
Yvette  
Christopher  
Bob Green  
Fran Brown  
Rollyn Hatch  
Bonnie Watson  
Earl Schofield III

Elaine Selfridge  
Doreen  
Jaoat  
Ed  
Adam  
Jan  
Melinda  
Winnie  
Ann  
Anna  
Kelvin  
Doug  
Barbara  
Jack Hess  
Ed  
Sherry & Family

For the people of Ukraine  
For those battling cancer  
For those that grieve the loss of loved ones  
For those working on the COVID vaccines  
For those who do not have access to COVID vaccines  
For first responders & health care workers  
For those impacted by weather disasters  
For the people Afghanistan  
For the people of Haiti  
For the changing climate  
For our country  
For all world leaders  
For those traveling  
For shut-ins and those who are isolated  
For the homeless  
For Asian & Black people & all who are persecuted for simply being  
how God created them  
For transitions within our church

*Names will remain on our Prayer List for one month. If someone needs ongoing prayer, please contact the office to relist their name.*



## Sympathy to...

Sympathy to family & friends of **Phil Stoddard**,  
who passed away on March 10th.



Sympathy to family and friends of **Jack Bennett**  
who passed away on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Annual Meeting

Thank you to all whom attended the Annual Meeting held in Libby Hall on March 27<sup>th</sup>. We had enough to meet the quorum, so we could conduct business; however, we did notice that quite a few (A LOT) of members were missing. We miss you. You are part of the church. I hope that it will not be long before we see your beautiful face once again.

During the meeting, we voted to update our Mission Statement. Our new statement is as follows:

*The Federated Community Church Mission statement is to create a safe place to know and experience God's love, to learn the stories and ways of Jesus, and to carry faith, hope, and love into the world."*

It should be short enough to memorize and grand enough to embrace for many years. It is trinitarian in its wording: to experience God's love (as Parent, as Creator, as Protector, etc.), learning the stories of Jesus the Son, and through the wisdom, power, strength, hope, and more we move into the world to make a difference.

Between worship and the meeting, we enjoyed bowls of soup along with a variety of bread offerings. Thank you to Pamela Rogers, Beverly Barrett, and Wayne Miller Fernandes for providing delicious soups! Many of us didn't stop at one bowl but tried them all. Yum! Yum Yummy! Thank you.

Booklets were passed out and are available in the church office and outside the sanctuary. If you are not able to stop by and pick one up, please give us a call and we can deliver them to you through mail or personal stop.

Two items that are not in the booklet but were shared at the meeting were:

Pastor Pat will be taking a time of Renewal through June 28 until August 9<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to worship as normal. We know that as gracious and hospitable folks, we will be sure to attend and support those who provide worship. There will be a Pastor who will provide coverage if there is someone who needs a sick visit, or any type of pastoral care, and coverage for funerals.

The past two summers, we have worshipped outside. Most folks have really enjoyed it. We will not have the support of Pastor Pat or her husband Wayne to set up this summer. If we are going to have worship outside in July, we need you to come early and help set up. A sign-up sheet will be outside the office for you to sign up to help for a week or two. If no one signs up to help, we will have worship in the warmth of our sanctuary.

It was shared that Dr. Phil Stoddard has left a monetary gift to the church. It has not been finalized and the church has not received the gift. When the gift is received, we will inform the congregation and of the amount. We are grateful that Dr. Phil remembered the church in his will and generosity. Long after his physical life will us, he will be remembered and honored as we use the gift to provide our Christian message and do ministry in the world.

Phil Stoddard's Celebration of life will be On April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the church.



## *Connecting in the Spirit Update*

Since last July, Pastor Pat and 8 members of the Renovation Team, in addition to the Children/Youth Faith Formation Ministry Team, have met frequently, (1-4 times per month each) with and without our professional consultants, Ministry Architects, to build this transformational ministry program.

We'd like to share with you some thoughts which help us in planning for the present, and for the future of our church:

- From [relevantchildrensministries.com](http://relevantchildrensministries.com);  
*"Any church that wants to exist in the future must reach young families. A healthy church is made up of all generations, just like a family is: kids, teenagers, parents, grandparents, and great grandparents.  
But if a church only has grandparents and great-grandparents it will eventually die as the members die. ...take a risk. Change is always a risk. But the greater risk is to do what you've always done.  
If what you're doing now is not reaching young families, then guess what? Nothing is going to change that unless you change what you are doing."*
- From [Pastor Jayson D. Bradley](#):  
*"Children's ministry isn't a way to keep kids out of everyone's hair while adults have the "real" worship service. It should be a reflection of the emphasis the church puts on the discipleship of its youngest, most vulnerable members."*
- From [Debbie Swindoll, graftedlife.org](http://Debbie Swindoll, graftedlife.org):  
*"When we share spiritual experiences with children, we create a foundation for thriving....Children need adults who will walk with them in shared relationship with God."*



- From ministrytech.com:  
*One of the main things that keeps young families at your church is by helping them connect in meaningful and relational ways to other young families. With some creative thinking, the church will stop asking young families to “come to church” and will instead start taking the church to them.*

Research shows us that **vital churches have developed a culture which fosters this kind of connection and outreach not just among their families, but among their congregants of every age, and with their neighbors, near and far.**

You can help by sharing your ideas/inspirations/visions with Pastor Pat or any member of the Reno Team or CYFF Ministry Team: Beth Algie, Joyce Brooks, Penny Dibble, Linda Hornig, Karen Kielb, Janet Libby, Laura Lillibridge, Ellie Soucy

## *Save the Date!* **Jewelry Making Class**

Saturday, April 30th at 10AM.



Instruction and supplies will be provided. Please sign up by calling or emailing the church so that we know what supplies will be needed.

\*\*\*\*\**Please Note*\*\*\*\*\*

The April BOD meeting is postponed for one week until Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>  
 @ 7:00 PM



Photo: Sherry Smith for the church website

## *A Mother's Prayer*

God, my son is dying. I close my eyes and remember when I first felt his heart beating safely in my womb. I open my eyes and helplessly watch as his heart surrenders to stillness. Even before he was born I knew he was special. You said he would bring me joy and pain, comfort and sorrow. I helped give him life; now I cannot shield him from death. And what a cruel death. Could you not have chosen another means? Something merciful, not tortuous? Somewhere private, not public? My faith is floundering between your promise and this reality. Surely something has gone wrong. Yet I recall the words of the Teacher. He said that unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it does, it produces many seeds. The teacher spoke. I believe. I see death...but I will wait for fruit. The Teacher said he was the resurrection and the life; that whoever believed in him would live, even though he died. The Teacher spoke. I believe. I see death. I will wait for life. The Teacher said he was the Good Shepherd and would lay down his life for his sheep. He said he would be betrayed, crucified, and on the third day be raised to life. The Teacher spoke. Now I believe. I see death. I will wait for the third day. My God, I trust you, though my very soul is pierced. In faith, I will hold tightly to the Teacher's words even when the Teacher can no longer speak. For the Teacher is my son, and I am Mary, his mother.

Submitted by Marilyn Connor



# *Holy Week Schedule*

**Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 AM**  
Palm & Passion Service

**Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM**  
Maundy Thursday

**Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM**  
Good Friday Candlelight Service

**Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 AM**  
Old Cemetery/ Chapin Road  
Easter Sunrise Service  
*Pancake Breakfast to follow at Church Fellowship Hall*

**Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 AM**  
Easter Worship Celebration

## *Scholarships/Camperships Available*

**Camperships:** If you are interested in attending camps this summer, please speak with Laura Lillibridge or Pastor Pat. Partial **Camperships** are available for those attending a Christian camp. Applications are available from the office.

**Scholarships:** Are you a member of the church? Attending college? We have **College Scholarships** available. **Please note that you must be present in worship On June 12th to receive your scholarship.** Ask for an application from the church office and see if you qualify.

**The deadline to apply is May 15th.**

# April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30 PM AA	2
3 10:00 AM Worship *CYFF	4 9:30 AM Spirit Chat 6:15 PM CE Ministry Team	5 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM AA	6 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 Missions	7 5:30 PM Renovation Team	8 7:30 PM AA	9 8:00 Men's Breakfast
10 10:00 AM Palm Sunday Passion Service	11 9:30 AM Spirit Chat 6:15 PM CE Ministry Team	12 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM AA	13 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Knit/Crochet	14 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	15 7:00 PM Good Friday Service 7:30 PM AA	16
17 6:00 AM Easter Sunrise Service followed by Pancake Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship	18 9:30 AM Spirit Chat 6:15 PM CE Ministry Team	19 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM NO BOD	20 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:30 PM *WWW	21 5:30 PM Renovation Team	22 7:30 PM AA	23 8:00 Men's Breakfast
24 10:00 AM Worship *CYFF	25 9:30 AM Spirit Chat 6:15 PM CE Ministry Team	26 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM BOD	27 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Knit/Crochet	28 5:30 PM Renovation Team	29 7:30 PM AA	30 10:00 AM Jewelry Making Class
					*Children/Youth Faith Formation begins in classroom	*WWW= Wonderful Wednesday Worship /Lunch

# All Creatures Great and Small



**Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**

**12:30 PM – 1:00 PM**

**Blessing of the Animals**

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**Agility/ Learn to Groom**



**Meet different breeds & learn about dogs from the professionals**



**2:00PM – 3:00 PM**

**Baby Farm Animals**

**Ducks, chicks, bunnies, baby goats, baby pigs & pets!**

**(All dogs must be leashed)**



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