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Volume 76 11

November 2023

From the Pastor's Desk.

Let's Dream Together

"This is my Father's world, And to my listening ears All nature sings, and round me rings The music of the spheres. This is my Father's world, I rest me in the thought Of Rocks and trees, of skies and seas- His hand the wonders wrought."

• This is My Father's World, CEL #143

The world changes the color with the foliage so beautifully. As we are approaching the end of the year, even nature seems like praising the Lord in their way. Looking back this year, what would you praise the Lord for? What are you thankful for?

Personally, I am thankful to God for the ministry here at Federated Community Church. Early this year, I met the transition team and started serving the Lord with you in July. This is my first time living apart from my family. Not easy, but I think I can survive. The joy of working with faithful servants of God is much bigger than whatever difficulties I have.

Thinking about our church, I am grateful to see people coming and returning to God. For it is the sign that God trusts us to take care of the souls. Sunday attendance is growing. Our giving is increasing. We start or resume ministries: Children's ministry support,

Welcoming ministry, and Prayer ministry, along with our ongoing ministries. We see our children to become sincere worshippers. This is great joy and the reason for Thanksgiving.

And now we are dreaming for the next year. We would like to have a dynamic Children's ministry, develop strong lay leadership/servants, and empower outreach ministries. However, it is possible only when we all have the same hope and passion. We can bring our vision to life only when we gather our hearts and minds. I firmly believe that God will make it happen when He is pleased with our hearts and unity. He will move our hearts to do His will and provide whatever is needed for His Kingdom.

Let's give thanks to God. Let's praise for what He has done for us. And Let's dream together for what God is going to do through us.

Pastor Kwan Kim



From the Deacons' Bench

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace, guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!" "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

Submitted by Bruce Libby



November Birthdays



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

Heather Sterling	11/01	Alicia Hummel	11/18
Eva Becker	11/04	Beverly Barrett	11/18
William Haley	11/04	Sean Lee	11/19
Nancy Willoughby	11/05	Jeanne Regnier	11/19
Caleb Becker	11/06	Diane Fisher	11/20
Jeremy Tessier	11/09	William Cunningham	11/21
Earl Schofield Jr	11/10	Todd Kane	11/21
Journe Germain	11/11	Meredith Sullivan	11/22
Lisa Chaffee	11/11	David Spencer	11/23
Nathan Varney	11/12	Walter Bliss	11/25
Cheryl Fonda	11/15	Lynn Cunningham	11/26
Anthony Tulloch	11/16	David Hutchison	11/26
Carol Quinlivan	11/17	James Morini	11/30
Dawn McKeone	11/17		

Wedding Anniversaries

David & Kathleen Hutchinson	11/04
Anthony & Pamela Rogers	11/14
David & Karen Anable	11/23
Geraldine & John Spear	11/26





Prayer Corner



Phyllis Watson Bobby Schofield & family

Bonnie Watson Joanna Karen Kielb Connie Evie Meacham Ellen Gail Banning Karen Peter Lois Pixley Cheryl Joley Jacob Dennis Connor Howard Andrew Ryan Carl David Matt Earl

For World Peace

Rory

For victims & families of mass shootings

For the people of Israel & Palestine

For those affected by hurricanes

For the people of Hawaii

For the people of Ukraine

For those traveling

For those affected by floods and fires

For those battling cancer

For those struggling with addiction or mental illness

For those that grieve the loss of loved ones

For those impacted by weather disasters

For the changing climate

For our country

For all world leaders

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

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

During our Homecoming weekend, donations to Catie's Closet were collected from our church and community. Catie's Closet is opening doors to a brighter future for students in-need with life-changing access to clothing and basic necessities with in their own school buildings. They were very grateful for the nine bags of new and gently used clothing, the three large tubs of personal care products and the tub of new school supplies that were dropped off last month.

Thank you to all who participated in this new "Connecting in the Spirit" community outreach project!

Janet Libby



<u> An Invitation to All!</u>

Please join us, after worship, on Sunday, November 19th for our traditional Thanksgiving Turkey Soup Lunch! This is in celebration of the completion of our Pledge Drive for next year.



Several folks have signed up to help, but check in with Pamela Rogers or Penny Dibble next Sunday to see if any items are still needed. Helping hands may be needed the Saturday before, on the 18th to roast the turkeys and to make the broth.

Plan to stay a few minutes after your lunch to make an ornament to place on our Chrismon tree in the Sanctuary!

Bringing our Vision to Life!

We are halfway through our pledge drive for 2024 and I'd like to thank all those who have sent in their pledges of support. The pledge cards will still be in the pews for the next three Sundays, but we will also send out cards to those enjoying our service from home.

We see the spirit that is growing in our church and we celebrate with our new and returning members. Please remember that we are making a pledge for the entire year, do not feel this is something that needs to be "paid in full" at this time. We do ask, if possible, to increase your pledge since we have been using the principle funds from former donors to supplement our budget that is not being met by our current members.

One former donor, Lucetta Howlett gave through her will in 1884. We are still benefiting from her cash donation which supports our Sunday school program and our pastor's salary. She also donated the bell that rings in our steeple!

As we plan for the future, please consider how you will give generously of your prayers, presence, gifts and service.

Thank you! Janet Libby



Giving Tree

Looking ahead – the Missions Committee will be collecting Christmas gifts for

children in need. We will be donating them to the Springfield Partners for Community Action and will be serving 65 low-income families. Please take an ornament from the tree with an item on it and return gifts unwrapped by December 15th.



Honoring Native Americans

In conjunction with the "Thanksgiving Soup" luncheon on November 19th, the Missions Committee would like to honor the Native American Wampanoag Tribes of Cape Cod.

When the pilgrims landed in Plymouth, they taught them how to plant corn, to fish, and have an abundant harvest. Your donations to the Child & Family Service Kinship Navigator Program will help provide information, education and services for grandparents and relatives that assist tribal families with challenges in the society we live in.



Friday, November 3rd 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

November 2023

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