

# FEDERATED FINDINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WATERVILLE FEDERATED CHURCH

## Ramblings from the Reverend

You know what I spend most of my time on every other month in putting together this newsletter? It is the spacing and formatting to fit everything into the newsletter! And still there are awesome ministry items that don't get the space they deserve! What an awesome blessing for our congregation to have so much going on for God's glory! Woo-hoo!

Here are some awesome ministries that didn't get space anywhere else and deserve a shout out here:

- the planning for the community garden, a partnership between the church and the Waterville Main Street Association, continues in earnest. The raised bed garden will transform the empty lot next to the parsonage where the Methodist church used to stand. If you'd like more information on how you can get involved, please talk to Jill Thompson, Lisa Davies, or Jenna Dixon.

- the Women's Guild does tremendous work in support of the ministries of our church and the community throughout the year and we would be so much less without their ministry! They meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00am at the church and you are welcome to join in.

- our music folks have had a wonderful season of music and are gearing up to bless us with more of the sweet sounds of musical worship. If you'd like to be a part of the vocal choir, they rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:30pm at the church. And they wouldn't sound as great as they do without the sound engineering of Dale Bortz—thanks, Dale! If you have other talents you'd like to bless us with, please talk to me!

- the people who provide food for our fellowship after church do a wonderful job of sharing their talents and God's bounty with us week in or week out. If putting on a whole spread seems like too daunting a task, look at the sign-up list and partner with some experienced hands to get in the groove.

With all of that, I am sure that there are more folks and more ministries to highlight that won't make it this time. A blessed problem, indeed!

As for me, the next two months will be busy as I become a certified personal development coach and design a mentorship program for our presbytery—both of which are part of my Doctor of Ministry program. I look forward to implementing these ministry skills and concepts into our ministry together at Waterville Federated Church.

My family and I continue to be grateful for your love and support!

Blessings,



## Creating Flourishing in Your Life for the Kingdom

What are the habits and outlooks of people who have vibrant, flourishing lives in Jesus Christ? In my time here, we have had sermons and formation opportunities about scripture reading, prayer, and joyfulness, but there are other less obvious things that create Christ-centered, God-glorifying lives and this sermon series will look at those principles. **We will kickoff the series on January 21** and then look at the following:

**January 28** Having a Sovereign Mindset

**February 4** Understanding Your Dynamic Calling to Jesus

**February 11** Being a Lifelong Learner

**February 18** Committing to Mentoring Relationships

**February 25** Planning and Experiencing Consistent Renewal

It is my hope and prayer that through this sermon series and the adult formation workshops that go along with it on Wednesdays at 11:00am and 7:30pm that your life will be full of flourishing for God's Kingdom: that you will experience more of God's joy, be better equipped to handle the bumps in the road, and have a powerful ministry in Jesus to share with those around you.

## Coming Up in Worship

On March 4, we will be led in worship by the creative spirits of the Spiritual Musings group as they reflect upon Lent. Spiritual Musings meets on Tuesdays at 7:00pm and you are invited to come check it out!

We will reflect on the journey of Christ throughout the Lenten season and have a little excitement planned for Palm Sunday!

Beginning Easter Sunday and extending through the spring, we will have an eight week sermon series called, *The Miracle of Mercy*, that you won't want to miss!

## Annual Meeting

The annual congregational meeting and potluck will be immediately after worship on January 28. Come celebrate the ministry of this church and hear about what is in store for 2018. We will also be voting on the revised by-laws which will be distributed on Sunday, January 14.

If you are fortunate enough to contribute something to the written annual report, it needs to be submitted via email to the office by Tuesday, January 16. Please send items to: [office@watervillefederated.com](mailto:office@watervillefederated.com)

## Ash Wednesday Worship

The aims of worship on Ash Wednesday are three: to reflect on our own mortality, sinfulness, and need for a savior; to renew our commitment to daily repentance and turn towards Christ; and to gratefully recall that Jesus has conquered sin and death on our behalf.

Our gathering will reflect these aims with meditative liturgy and music as well as being marked by ashes—which symbolize sorrow, mourning, frailty, and repentance.

**Ash Wednesday Worship on February 14 at 6:00pm**

Our worship will last about 30-40 minutes and then you can jet off for that hot Valentine's date!

### Stay in Touch

<a href="http://watervillefederated.com">watervillefederated.com</a>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/watervillefc">facebook.com/watervillefc</a>
<b>Office</b> 509.745.8785	<a href="mailto:office@watervillefederated.com">office@watervillefederated.com</a>
<b>Pastor Seth</b> 509.797.3531	<a href="mailto:pastorsethnormington@gmail.com">pastorsethnormington@gmail.com</a>
Office Hours	M-W-F 9:00-12:00 and by appt.

## Christian Formation

In truth, we are not necessarily educated into mature followers of Jesus. Not unless we consider that all of who we are is to be educated—or better yet, *formed*—into the people Christ calls us to be. Here are some opportunities for that coming up in January and February.

### Women's Bible Study

The women's bible study meets on Monday mornings at 10:00 at the church and is finishing up the book, *Spiritual Living in a Secular World*. They will then start in on the next study which they are discerning now. You are invited to be in on the action!

### Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings in the conference room at 10:00. You are invited to expand your knowledge of our God and Scripture before heading into worship!

### Creating Flourishing in Your Life for the Kingdom

We will have an adult formation opportunity to go along with our sermon series in the last half of January and running through February. We will dig deeper into the topics we talk about Sunday during worship. We will have two opportunities to be together each week—pick the one that suits you each week—Wednesdays from 11:00am-12:00pm and 7:30-8:30pm.

### Children and Youth Sunday School at 10:00am

Elementary folks will be going through the curriculum, *The Dog Ate My Homework*. The older crew will dig deep into questions of God, scripture, and our place in the Kingdom with Pastor Seth.

## Tuesday Afternoon Tea

We had a wonderful several weeks of Tuesday Afternoon Teas and it is time to get going for the next couple of months. Feel encouraged to stop on by the parsonage on Tuesdays from 2:00-4:00pm on Tuesdays for tea (or whatever you like), a snack (often a fresh baked treat), and some great conversation. We look forward to enjoying more fellowship this winter... and look forward to expanding the hours after basketball season ends!

## Wednesday Morning Coffee

The kaffeeklatsch on Wednesday mornings in the fellowship hall continues starting January 10. The coffee will be ready to go from 7:00 (or perhaps before) until 9:00. Swing on by and grab a cup and a treat on your way to work or pull up a chair and enjoy some good company.

## Financial Snapshot

	<u>Budget Year to Date</u>	<u>Actual YTD (as of 12/31/2017)</u>
Income	\$95,505	\$92,136
Expenses	<u>\$95,505</u>	<u>\$88,390</u>
Difference	\$0	\$3,746

Thank you for your financial support in 2017. We look forward to a wonderful 2018 of ministry! Keep your stewardship to God going through prayer, time, talent, and resources!

## New Office Email Address

Please use the church's new email address:

**office@watervillefederated.com**

The old address is still functional (for now) but please start sending your messages to the new address to ensure that the office gets them in a timely manner. Thanks!

## Become a Member!

We want you to be a member of the Waterville Federated Church! Why be a member?

1. We are called to be the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit has put us together in this time and place to be the hands and feet of Jesus in Waterville for God's greater glory. Becoming a member signifies this reality to God and the community.

2. The Bible teaches that we are to be in covenant community with each other. That is, we are called to make a commitment to each other in the name of the Lord and live life together.

3. It is a visible sign of being connected to God and each other. Individual Christianity is a myth and not biblical whatsoever. If we are saying we are committed to Christ, we need to be committed to His community, too.

If you are interested in or intrigued by being a member of the Waterville Federated Church, please talk to Pastor Seth. We will set up a time to more deeply discuss what being a church member means with other folks who are in the same boat!

## Denominational Updates

We are a rare breed of church: an intentionally multi-denominational congregation that has been united together in worship for about a century! The last group to join the federation joined during World War II and we've been glorifying God together ever since!

I (Pastor Seth) have had the chance to catch up with most of our denominations in the last few months of 2017. A general update is that we are in the good graces of all the denominations and they love that we are part of their denominational families! Here are some specific updates:

- I spent a couple of days with the American Baptists at a retreat at Ross Point, Post Falls, Idaho in September. The incoming president of the denomination spoke and I got to connect with a very geographically diverse bunch—there were folks there from as far away as South Dakota! The ABC is happy to be a resource and partner with us as we choose (...which is the Baptist way...) and I am in regular communication with our conference office.
- I met with the new District Superintendent of the Seven Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church this fall and we had a nice chat for an hour or so. They also look forward to continuing our ministry partnerships.
- I haven't had much contact with the Disciples of Christ but they sent us a check for \$1,500 in December from endowment resources!
- Being Presbyterian myself, I naturally have the most contact with the Presbyterians. Our partnership with the Presbyterians is currently growing and dynamic because of my affiliation and a new initiative on their part to reach out. I spoke at our conference in the fall which is the motivation for our upcoming sermon series. I am on our presbytery's Executive Board and on a taskforce helping to develop a reorganization plan for the presbytery's administrative functions. As the grand, final project for my Doctor of Ministry degree, I am helping the presbytery implement a mentorship and training network for our lay pastors.

If you have any questions or would like to be more involved with the larger work of the denominations, please let me know and I will connect you!

## Advent/Christmas Thanks!

Our dynamic worship and events during the Advent and Christmas seasons don't happen by accident—they are the result of hundreds of hours of ministry service by the members and worshippers of our church! Thank you so much to everyone who sacrificed of themselves to make this season special, memorable, and glorifying to God!