

Federated Findings

the newsletter of the waterville federated church

Ramblings from the Reverend

I was chatting with a churchy-type person from out of our area who sees our newsletter via email and they remarked that we do more than many churches two or three times are size. How true! We are indeed a community of faith who takes action seriously. I am glad that we have extended that heart for service to activities that have focused more on those who are less economically well-off in our community in the last half of 2019.

The two big highlights in this area are our Friday lunches and our winter clothing giveaway. We had many donations for the clothing giveaway and several dedicated volunteers who organized all the donations and warmly welcomed guests. We didn't give away all the clothing we wish we had so we organized with the food bank and held a second giveaway at the same time the food bank was open. Presto! Most of the items are now in the hands of those who need them!

Our Friday lunches have been great. We may not be attracting the horde of students that we anticipate could use a solid lunch on Friday, but the kids we do have show up consistently and are finding our church a safe place to be and connecting with caring adults. More information about Friday lunches and how you can be involved are on the backside of this newsletter.

However, life in Jesus Christ is not really about how much we can do. We can run around in service doing great things and entirely miss the point. Our service should be our way of showing love to Jesus by loving our neighbors. Perhaps you are in a season of life where taking on service activities with the church isn't possible for one reason or another. What to do? Jesus wants all of us to abide in him as he abides in us. Start the new year out by experiencing Jesus afresh. Here are some ways to do that:

Be in worship There is nothing like being engaged in the community of Jesus. Even if the sermon is boring or we don't sing your favorite songs. Being in worship changes us and our participation changes others. Strive to be physically present in community.

Pray Sometimes, we put so many barriers around what a good prayer time looks like that we don't manage to pray at all! You don't have to close your eyes or be alone, you need to talk to God. The most important part of praying is doing it. If you don't have the words, exist in that silence. Or say the Lord's Prayer. It will matter!

Blessings



Stay in Touch

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Keeping Kingdom Time

We mark time in many ways in our lives and yet time can float past us, too. How odd was it to not get snow until December and then have it rain in the days before Christmas? It made the season more difficult because we didn't have our customary markers. And then we hit January and time seems to just hang. Well, brothers and sisters, there are important things going on in January in the Kingdom of God and we will explore those in January and February!

- January 6** **The Epiphany of What?**
- January 13** **Why Was Jesus Baptized?**
- January 20** **Bobby Ann Willms, preaching**
- January 27** **Looking Back, Looking Forward**
- February 3** **What's the Big Deal about the Lord's Supper?**
- February 10** **Where's the Feast?**
- February 17** **The Rhythms of God's Timing**
- February 24** **Marking Time in God's Mission**
- March 3** **Preparing for Lent... So What?**

Annual Meeting

The annual congregational meeting and potluck will be immediately after worship on January 27. We will elect an at-large officer to the board and nominations from the floor are welcome. Come celebrate the ministry of this church and hear about what is in store for 2019. And never fear, this is the NFL bye week... you won't miss any football.

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

Women's Bible Study

Faithful women meet each Monday at 10:00 at the church for a time of Bible Study and fellowship. You are invited to join them at Carol McNabb's house, 418 S. Marion.

Men's Breakfasts

Great food, fellowship, and a devotional are on the way! We will be having breakfasts at 8:00am at the Federated Church fellowship hall on January 9 and February 12 (Saturdays). Invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

Janitor Opening

Our jolly janitor (she'll love that alliteration), Trina Clune, is stepping down after many years of service to focus on Nathan's activities and her own schooling. Join us in thanking her for her dedication! That means we are now looking for someone to fill this spot. It is usually 1-2 hours each week, usually on a Friday or Saturday. Contact the office or Pastor Seth for more details or to put your name in for consideration.

Valentines Luncheon

The Guild is hosting the 6th Annual Valentines Friendship Luncheon for widows and widowers on Wednesday, February 13th at the Coyote Pass Café. The Guild handles the invitations. If you know of someone who should be invited to this wonderful event, please contact Phyllis Browning or the office. This is a luncheon that our community looks forward to and those who attend seem to have a wonderful time.

Free Lunch Fridays

We have had a great start to our Free Lunch Friday ministry to our local schoolchildren! Thank you to everyone who has worked hard to make this happen. We have received substantial financial donations to support this ministry for the next few months—most of these have come from folks who don't attend our church. We could use people who are willing to be here each Friday. As we balance participation from worshipers and community members, a sign-up sheet doesn't seem ideal. However, you can always talk to Pastor Seth or Jude Overby for how you can plug in. We also have a facebook group where you can get updates: www.facebook.com/groups/watervillelunch. Thank you for your support!

Ash Wednesday March 6

"Ashes have a long history in biblical and church traditions. In Scripture ashes (dust) symbolize frailty or death (Genesis 18:27), sadness or mourning (Esther 4:3), judgment (Lamentations 3:16), and repentance (Jonah 3:6). Some traditions also have considered ash a purifying or cleansing agent" (Harry Boonstra).

Our Ash Wednesday worship will be on Wednesday, March 6 at 7:00pm. Our worship gathering this year is called "From Dust to Life" and will include song, scripture, prayer, an opportunity for repentance, healing, and the imposition of ashes.

Come see how rich God's love for you is!

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 worshipers of our church! Thank you so much to everyone who sacrificed of themselves to make this season special, memorable, and glorifying to God!

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 Update

We are blessed to be a shining light to the world that folks from different backgrounds can come together in be in rich, meaningful community! Our Federated Church consists of four denominations and our non-denominational community group. Together, we form an independent body that has on-going relationships with the United Methodist Church, American Baptist Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the Presbyterian Church (USA). In 2017, I (Pastor Seth) personally connected with the Methodists and Baptists. This year, I just didn't make the time... but no one chased me down, either.

Being Presbyterian, I naturally connect more with the affairs of that denomination since I am more responsible and accountable to it. In 2018, I served on the Executive Board of the Presbytery of Northwest Coast (Central Washington, the north Seattle metro area up to Bellingham and the Peninsula, and Southeast Alaska), the Organization and Infrastructure Task Force, and am doing a doctoral project with the Presbytery. I've also been tapped to be the Moderator of the Executive Board in 2019.

While I haven't dug into the affairs of the multiple denominations much (except the Presbyterians), I do have the connections and resources to get you any information you might want, so please ask. We will be extending invitations to representatives of each denomination to join us in the first quarter of 2019 to share about their work and ministry.

AA

A reminder that Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the conference room each Friday at 7:00pm. If you or someone you know would benefit from being a part of their group, new people are always welcome. Let us continue to pray for the changed lives and recovery that happens with AA in Waterville!

