

FEDERATED FINDINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WATERVILLE FEDERATED CHURCH

Ramblings from the Reverend

Where there is no vision, the people perish; but happy are they who keep the teaching.— Proverbs 29:18

We will certainly keep the teaching of Jesus Christ first and foremost in all that we do in ministry at Waterville Federated Church. Now it is time to ask God what is His special plan for our church in the next 2-5 years as we seek to love Jesus and love others. What is God's plan for us? Our Vision Team, Jenna Dixon, Kim Katovich, Dennis Shriner, and I, are embarking on a journey for the rest of the calendar year to pray, discuss, and discern what our awesome God has in store for us as a congregation going forward. In the coming months, there will be opportunities for you to engage in forums and give feedback as we are one body in Christ. Please be praying for God's revelation for this congregation and for our Vision Team as we engage this time of discernment and discovery. The future is bright and we seek to be faithful as we walk in God's light!

Blessings to your and your family,

Pastor Seth

Mother's Day Tea

Mark your calendars for the Mother's Day Tea at **10:00am on Sunday, May 13!** All women and girls are invited to enjoy a time of friends, family, and treats on this Mother's Day and then join us for worship. Registration for this event is requested so we have the right amount of food. There is a signup sheet on the table outside the sanctuary. Men: we will be looking to you for your serving skills so the women can enjoy the day!



Mother's Day Tea

Stay in Touch

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Pastor Seth 509.797.3531	pastorsethnormington@gmail.com
Office Hours	M-W-F 9:00-12:00 and by appt.

Miracle of Mercy Sermon Series Continues in May

Jesus' ministry was all about mercy. He showed mercy to everyone who was in pain. It is through God's mercy that Jesus came to our world to live a perfect life, teach us what God is really like, then suffered and died on the cross to pay for all our sins, and rose on Easter to prove that God is victorious over everything—even death! God literally died to be merciful to you! Come hear and experience God's mercy in your life! Here are the sermons left in our series:

- May 6** **Your Ministry of Mercy**
- May 13** **Showing Mercy to Your Family**
- May 20** **Being an Agent of Mercy in the World**

New Series on Colossians Starts May 27

The Apostle Paul sent a letter to the Christians in the town of Colossae, which was a city 120 miles inland from the Mediterranean Sea in modern-day Turkey. The Christians there were being bothered by a cultic group who claimed to have secret religious knowledge and practices and that the Christians needed to incorporate some or all of what these people believed and did. To help these Christians, Paul writes a stirring letter on who Christ is and what Jesus has done in an effort to strengthen the Christians to avoid these practices. Paul makes it clear that Jesus Christ should have the highest and most central place in the lives of believers and that Christ is the exclusive head of the Church Universal. Paul then goes on to encourage the Christians to adhere to practices that will strengthen their walk with Jesus.

Why is this important to us? Talk of religious cults and such seem silly and easy for us to avoid today, but we are often tempted by clever bits of "wisdom", quick fixes, and earthly practices that don't build up our walk with Jesus. They are distracting us from focusing on Jesus. By listening to and drawing out Paul's words, we will get a better sense of who Christ is and how Jesus' work on the cross is sufficient for our salvation—and just how big that salvation is! Join us to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, the one who is sufficient for every need! Sermon themes and references in Colossians will be:

- May 27** **Thanksgiving for the Hope that Bears Fruit (1:1-14)**
- June 3** **The Supremacy of Christ (1:15-20)**
- June 10** **Continue in Christ (1:21-23)**
- June 17** **Suffering for the Body of Christ (1:24-2:5)**
- June 24** **Fullness in Christ (2:6-19)**
- July 1** **Getting Confused (2:20-23)**
- July 8** **Throw Out the Former Things (3:1-11)**
- July 15** **Getting New Clothes (3:12-17)**
- July 22** **Get Your House in Order (3:18-4:1)**
- July 29** **Words for My Peeps (4:2-18)**

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

- Colossians 3:1

Fellowship Hall Improvement

We have been blessed to be able to start a project to improve the fellowship hall through the updating of the hall's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system. Last year, the base-board heater in the fellowship hall caught fire. Blessedly, this happened when we were here for fellowship following worship and it was quickly extinguished. For the past couple of months, the Board has been examining possibilities for updating our HVAC in the fellowship hall and things have come together in short order! As I type this on April 26, work has begun on installing heat pumps in the fellowship hall to provide heating and air conditioning! The project includes the units, the inside and outside work, and the electrical modifications... the whole enchilada. Now for some numbers:

Total cost: \$14,396.41

Contributions already made: \$7,405.00

Balance Remaining: \$6,991.41

If you can make a gift above and beyond your normal giving to the church for this project, it would be greatly appreciated. However, as you can see from our financial update below, we are in a deficit position in 2018, so please do not divert your regular giving to give to this project. Please prayerfully consider making an extra gift to keep our Fellowship Hall a space that blesses our fellowship and our community. And a special thank you to those who have generously contributed to the project so far!

Guys Breakfast May 19

Calling All Men and Boys!

We are having our last Guys Breakfast on Saturday, May 19 from 8:00am-9:00am before we break for the summer. There will be pancakes, eggs, meat, coffee, and orange juice served and ready to go! We will open with a brief devotional, chow down, and enjoy fellowship with one another! Invite your friends and neighbors!

Financial Snapshot

Here are the numbers through March 31, 2018:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Income	\$23,938	\$20,587
Expenses	<u>\$23,938</u>	<u>\$23,573</u>
Difference	\$ 0	(\$3,166)

There appear to be two primary reasons for the deficit that we have run through the first quarter of the year. First, we have several expenditures that must be made at the beginning of each year that lead to an outsized portion of the budget being spent in the first quarter. Second, our giving is slightly behind pace with our giving from last year.

We are headed into the summer, which is typically our lowest giving season. Please make plans to support the work of Christ in our community now.

Thank you for your continued generosity towards God's Kingdom here in Waterville!

Guild Yard Sale

June 8 & 9

9:00am-4:00pm

Doing your spring cleaning and don't know what to do with the excess treasures? Donations for the yard sale are being accepted now through June 7th. Donated items can be put in the fireplace room downstairs. Items should be clean and in working order. If you have any questions, please call Betty Jones, Patsy Ludeman, or the office. Proceeds of the yard sale will go towards yard improvement.

Preachers in Our Midst

We are so very blessed to have three women take a leap of faith in God's calling and preach when Pastor Seth is away. Carol McNabb, Bobby Ann Willms, and Linda Link have joined in a cohort with Pastor Seth to further hone their giftings in bringing God's Word to our ears. Please keep them in your prayers as enter into this time of special preparation and make sure you are at worship to hear them preach this summer and beyond! If you think you may be called to share God's Word through preaching, let Pastor Seth know and we will explore your calling together!

Women's Bible Study

Faithful women meet each Monday at 10:00 at the church for a time of Bible Study... and lots of laughter by the sounds of what we hear in the office. You are invited to join them throughout the spring and summer as we look at the Apostle Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Put 'Em On Your Calendar

Here are some wonderful opportunities you should be aware of that don't appear anywhere else in this newsletter:

May 20

Pentecost and Celebrating Graduates

We celebrate the creation of the Church Universal and our young people this Sunday. Be sure to wear red!

May 28

Community Memorial Day Service

The annual service will be at the cemetery at 10:00am.

June 21

Red Cross Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall

Please contact the office if you'd like to lend a hand. If you would like to donate blood, please contact the Red Cross at 1.800.733.2767 or redcrossblood.org.

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!

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

- John 10:40