

# Federated Findings

the newsletter of waterville federated church

## Ramblings from the Reverend

As we begin to journey into our final days together with me as your pastor before my family and I take up God's new call for us in Virginia, I am grateful for God's providence in putting us together for three and a half years. My last Sunday will be June 8. While my family and I are excited for where God is calling us, we are sad to be departing from a place so rich in community, compassion, and companionship. Waterville Federated Church and the Waterville community are great places that will always hold a special place in our hearts. It has been a huge joy and tremendous blessing to be called as your pastor for the past three-plus years.

God moves in mysterious ways. I remember distinctly driving through Waterville for the first time about a decade ago near sunset on a summer evening and thinking what a lovely town it was and how interesting it would be to do ministry here. And then I saw the sign that listed the churches and noticed that there was no Presbyterian church and thinking, "Oh well." And then much to my surprise in the fall of 2015 there was an opening for a Presbyterian pastor at Waterville Federated Church. I leaped at the opportunity and am so glad I did.

If you would've told me that by the end of my first year here that I would be married, I might have referred you to a mental health professional. And yet, God had a plan for us to be married and spend our early years together in Waterville. Another reason this will always be a special place for us.

I have no doubt that Waterville Federated Church has a bright future in fulfilling God's mission! We are faithful in worship and fellowship and continue to reach out into our community with our Friday Lunch ministry, winter clothing distribution, women's bible study, men's breakfast, and hosting the community garden across the street.

While pastors will always come and go from every congregation, God's faithfulness does not. The Church is Christ's bride and it is to our Triune God that we must always look. "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed. (Deuteronomy 31:8)"

The Lord's blessings be with you,



## God Saves His People Sermon Series

In our new sermon series, *God Saves His People*, we will look at the story of Exodus and how Jesus' life and ministry parallels the Exodus journey in light of our Easter season. Our theme is inspired by John Oswalt in the introduction to his commentary on Exodus:

"God rescues his people and calls us into a life of holiness in order that we may have a living, personal relationship with him... Salvation is not merely the forgiveness of sins. God's goal for us is that, having been rescued from the bondage of sin, we might live daily in the glory of his presence and manifest his holy character."

Come see how God rescues his people and calls us into a deeper relationship with him through the stories of Exodus, Jesus, and us!

- April 28**      **The Lord Sends Moses**
- May 5**        **God Keeps Vigil**
- May 12**      **The Lord Will Fight For You**
- May 19**      **Finding God in the Desert**
- May 26**      **The Lord Remembers His People**
- June 2**        **God of Compassion and Grace**

## Pastoral Transition—Board Update

One of the blessings of being an intentionally multi-denominational congregation is engaging with different styles of hiring a pastor. Our congregation rotates through the denominations to select a pastor and it is now the United Methodist's turn to provide a pastor. The United Methodists appoint their pastors to serve their congregations, so it is largely up to the Methodist's District Superintendent who will serve as our next pastor.

The Board of Elders met with current District Superintendent, Mary Huycke, and future District Superintendent, Joanne Campbell, to get acquainted, share information, and express our hopes for our new pastor. Mary and Joanne shared information about their process and timelines. Using the information the Board and Pastor Seth shared, Mary and Joanne have a good idea of our congregational identity and hopes for the future. The United Methodists appoint pastors to start on July 1 and hopefully we will have someone by that time.

The Board will keep you up-to-date as the process moves forward. Please be in prayer for our new pastor!

## Women's Bible Study

Faithful women meet each Monday at 10:00 am at Carol McNabb's house, 418 S. Marion. You are invited to join them for a time of Bible Study and fellowship. They are starting a study called, The Prodigal God, this spring. They will also be making angels to send to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in St. Maries, Idaho, which distributes them to people who have experienced trauma or tragedy to remind them that God loves them.

### Stay in Touch

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Office Hours	M-W-F 9:00-12:00 and by appt.

## Free Lunch Fridays

Our Friday Free Lunch program is building a strong community of kids and adults gathering around the table to enjoy food and friendship together. It is a wonderful thing to behold! If you would like to be a part of what God is doing in the lives of our local kids, make plans to be a part of our Friday lunch program. Lunch is served each Friday from 11:30-12:30. We could always use help with meal preparation, serving, hanging out with kids, and cleaning up. This is a great way to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community! To learn more or to serve, contact the office or Pastor Seth. **Our last Friday lunch of the school year will be June 7.**

## Waterville Days

Waterville Days is around the corner and will be July 12 & 13. Our Guild will again be hosting their pie and ice cream booth and invites your contributions! Look for details as the time gets closer.

If you'd like to help with other Waterville Days projects, our congregation has a few folks on the Main Street Association Board (the group that puts on Waterville Days) and you can speak to any of them for more information on how to be involved: Lisa Davies, Jill Thompson, Royal Devaney, and Pastor Seth.

## Easter Thanks

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to create a joyous and festive Easter weekend! We had a meaningful Good Friday Experience, a delicious breakfast with wonderful food, and a blessed time of worship. Thanks!

## Guild Yard Sale

July 26 & 27

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 redesigning the church grounds to make them easier to maintain and use less water.

## 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!

## Men's Breakfasts

Men's breakfasts are on hiatus for the summer. We will see you in the fall for food, fellowship, and a devotional!

## Bible Word Search: LIFE OF MOSES

C H A R I O T S O C S R C C L  
Z E A D A N C E S N E V R K R  
O P A R J G R T A S T M E D N  
K H R S F E U I U Q I P D A W  
B P O E J U T R Q E K G S X K  
U L N L D P R O P H E T E S S  
B T K A Y E P M L I L T A L I  
K J V G C G M A J E A N P E R  
D D E T J A H P S J M R W R Q  
P K I H I O O O T S A I N B Z  
H O D R O I A B S I O Q R M G  
N A I B Y V R I S T O V J I N  
E M O S E S A E Y U Q N E T Z  
J I S S N B H H G E C R R R L  
X P F C J G P F L N O M J V R

EGYPTIANS  
AMORITES  
RED SEA  
JEHOVAH  
MIRIAM  
CHARIOTS

MOSES  
HOLY GHOST  
REDEMPTION  
PRAISE  
PROPHETESS  
TIMBRELS

AMALEKITES  
PASSOVER  
RESURRECTION  
PHARAOH  
AARON  
DANCES