

FEDERATED FINDINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WATERVILLE FEDERATED CHURCH

Ramblings from the Reverend

As I write this the first day of school has just come to a close. I couldn't hear any wailing or gnashing of teeth, but all the closer I got to school today was the Post Office. Some of us have fond memories of school and wouldn't mind taking another trip through. Some of us are sure glad that elementary, middle, and high school are far in the rearview mirror.

When you are formally in school, you have to (or should) have the mindset of a learner. You are there to master certain knowledge and apply it to some situation—whether it is a project, paper, exam, etc. When we are no longer in school, it can become too easy and too tempting to throw off the role of a learner. Deciding we no longer have to be a learner is a huge mistake. That's not to say that you should go enroll in a class right now, but it is to say that adults who finish well are lifelong learners.

A lifelong learner is someone who is always looking for avenues to expand their learning and development. It could be studying more about something you already know a great deal about by picking up some new books, watching a documentary, going to a training, or reaching after a development goal. It could be joining a new group to expand your horizons and learn from others in community. Perhaps it is going to a class at the community college or learning a new skill right here in Waterville. There is a great deal of learning that can go on by volunteering to be of service with a new group or taking on a new task.

By taking on the mindset of a lifelong learner, we keep our minds, hearts, and spirits open to how God wants to develop us and where God wants to lead us. This opens us up to the joy of being aligned with God's purposes for our lives. If we shut ourselves off from learning, we shut ourselves off from all kinds of growth that God wants to give you so that God can use you to influence those around you and develop them for the Kingdom of God! There are many learning opportunities that await you this fall at the Federated Church—this newsletter has a growth opportunity in every single article! There are also many learning opportunities throughout our community.

We lay the groundwork for finishing well at each stage of our lives. We have many wonderful saints in this church who are on the path to finishing well—being aligned to God's purposes for their lives so they can be a blessing to others. Prayerfully find opportunities that will help you be a lifelong learner and someone who continues to develop into the person God has planned. You will be glad you did!

Blessings,

Stay in Touch

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Youth Sunday School

New Start Time is 10:00am

Sunday School for our school-aged folks begins on September 10 at 10:00am. We will have two groups meeting. Our elementary students will be with our awesome cast of teachers and our middle/high school students will be with Pastor Seth.

Our elementary folks will start off with a four week series called *Autumn Leaves: God Makes All Things Beautiful*. In autumn, the leaves transform into many brilliant colors – each one reminds us of the beauty, majesty, and power of God. We will look at a few different Psalms together. The memory verse is Psalm 40:5: Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.

The middle/high schoolers will be discussing why we do the things we do in worship. Why do we read the Bible? Why do we sing? Why is there a sermon? Why do we pray? Why do we do communion? We will look to see if scripture supports what we do each Sunday.

We are excited to return Youth Sunday School to the 10:00 hour! This will allow our whole church family to be together each Sunday in worship, instead of sending some of us away. We learn to be together by being together and being in worship is an important avenue for the faith development of our younger folks. Please go the extra mile in welcoming (or maybe putting up with) the extra noise and busy-ness that comes from having some energetic young people in worship!



Fall Kickoff September 10

Time to get back in the swing of things after a hot, dry, windy summer!

Starting September 10:

Sunday School for All Ages at 10:00

Worship for All Ages at 11:00

We will kick-off our fall with a chili cookoff and some games for all ages on September 10 after worship. Dust off (or create!) your favorite chili recipe and let's see who takes home some fabulous chili cookoff prizes! Awards will be given for best in show, spiciest while still being edible by average people, and people's choice.

Praying is Your Business

Starting September 10, we will be specifically praying for the businesses in Waterville and those owned or worked at by our members and worshippers. We will list a few businesses in the bulletin each week so that we can pray for them on Sunday and throughout the week. If you know of a business that should be included in our rotation, please contact Pastor Seth. God calls us to be cultivators in His Kingdom and one way we can do that is to be praying for the other cultivators!

How to Have Joy in Your Life

New Sermon Series Starts September 10

Joy is bigger, deeper, and better than simply being happy. Happiness comes and goes. In the morning, we might be living life as happy as a clam and by evening we find that something negative happened and all our happiness has been drained away. There is more to following Jesus than learning how to be happy as we walk through life together—we need to learn how to be filled with joy! Anyone worth their salt in the scriptures faced trials and many faced terrible ordeals and yet we find that time and again those who are walking with God do so with joy amidst their troubles. How can you be joyful and live in terrible circumstances? That is what we intend to find out this fall as we discover how to have joy in our lives! Don't miss it—and invite your family, friends, neighbors, and enemies!

Here's a breakdown of where we are headed:

September 10	Joy in Times of Difficulty
September 17	Recovering Joy
September 24	Counting It All as Joy
October 1	Trusting in God through Calamity
October 8	Spelling JOY a New Way
October 15	The Greatest Joy
October 22	The Difference Between Joy and Pleasure
October 29	The Fullness of Joy
November 5	Life with the Spirit of Joy

Coming Up in November

Thanksgiving is the most uniquely American holiday and one that touches on a great theme of our story and God's story: thankfulness. On November 12 and 19, we will take an in-depth look at what scripture says about thankfulness and how we can live out a thankful mindset each day.

November 26 is Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday before Advent, and we will explore what it means that Jesus is our King even though we have no earthly king. We will look at Psalm 100 and Matthew 25:31-46.

Financial Snapshot

	<u>Budget Year to Date</u>	<u>Actual YTD (as of 7/31/2017)</u>
Income	\$55,711	\$48,185
Expenses	<u>\$55,711</u>	<u>\$50,499</u>
Difference	\$0	(\$2,314)

Here is the financial update through July 31. We continue to keep expenses well under budget. We have been fortunate to not have any significant maintenance issues this year, which is what is generally keeping our expenses more than \$5,000 below budget. However, this can't make up for the fact that our giving is falling short by almost \$7,500 to date. Please prayerfully consider your level of financial giving so that we can finish the second half of the year in a strong financial position so that we can confidently maintain our worship and ministry and can look to start new ministry initiatives on a stable footing in 2018.

Community Christmas Cantata

Don't blame the messenger, but it's time to plan for the Christmas cantata. This year we are excited to breathe new life into a cantata featuring singers and musicians from the whole Waterville faith community. We anticipate that the cantata will be performed on the evening of December 17.

Participants will receive a CD to practice the music by early October (we are selecting the music as you read). Practices will begin in earnest in November and run through the performance date. If you know of someone who would enjoy being a part of the community cantata, please invite them! For additional information, please contact Phyllis Browning at 509.670.4421 or Dee Shriner at 509.679.3946.

Fall Bible Study

God's Grace at Work: 8 Weeks in Romans 9-11

Join Pastor Seth as we look at how Paul answers questions and challenges about the gospel of Jesus Christ, teaching that God is sovereign and that we must trust in his grace. We will begin on September 20/21. There are two meeting times each week, pick the one that suits your schedule each week:

Wednesdays from 11:00am-12:00pm or Thursdays from 7:00-8:00pm

September 20/21	God in the Midst of Sorrow
September 27/28	Let God Be God
October 4/5	By Faith Again
October 11/12	Hearing Christ
October 18/19	God in Charge
October 25/26	No Boasting
November 1/2	God the Promise-Keeper
November 15/16	Theology and Doxology

Women's Bible Study

After a wonderful summer studying the Ten Commandments and a little break for the month of September, **the Women's Bible Study will resume on October 2 at 10:00am**. Join in to delve into God's Word, have great discussions, and a good laugh! The group will be studying the Apostle Peter this fall. Contact the office for more information.

Spiritual Musings

Spiritual Musings, the writing group for those who want to explore the intersection of story and faith, begins again on Tuesday, October 3 at 7:00pm. Rookies and people scared by what this might be are encouraged to attend—this is a wonderful group of people! Contact the office or Marie Harding for more information.

