

**FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
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# *The Federated Courier*

Federated Community Church  
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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

Happy New Year!

It is always refreshing to have the next year's calendar before me at the end of each year. Blank dates, no appointments showing, no deadlines to meet: simply clean days and months to schedule. When I receive the calendar, it makes me think of the gift of Christ. How accepting Christ into one's heart gives us a new beginning: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

(2 Corinthians 5:17) This offering is not a once and done deal but a gift that is tendered each day or moment in which we fail, stumble, or harm our relationship with God or others. We are given a clean slate which we fill in as appropriate. I hope that you might consider scheduling a time set aside for daily devotions and/or prayer. It doesn't have to be a long time, however, it invites God in to be an active part of your day. The Upper Room Daily Devotional is a short booklet that can be read during breakfast or small enough to put in a pocketbook or lunchbox to be carried and read at another time. If you need suggestions for other readings, please speak to me.

One of my prayers is that each of us will grow in depth on our spiritual journey.

January 12<sup>th</sup> will mark the Baptism of the Lord. We will celebrate with new members joining our church community. If you are not a member and wish to know more about The Federated Community Church, please join us after worship on January 5th in the prayer room for conversation and question and answer time. There is no pressure to join the church, but we seek to deepen our understanding and knowledge of one another.

In Christ's Love and Light,

*Pastor Pat*

### *From the Deacons' Bench*

As I read through the many thoughts in the Advent Booklet for this year there seemed a persistent take away. That being the presence of God and His son, Jesus, in our day to day lives. Not just His presence, but His call and guidance to live His teachings and do His word.

How are you living the word of God, as taught by his son, Jesus?

Hayden Tibbetts, Deacon

## *Servers for the Month*

### Deacons

January	Dave Spencer
February	Karen Anable
March	Dave Anable



### Ushers

1/5	Jack & Regina Germain
1/12	Joyce Ogonowski & Mary Howell
1/19	Bill & Lynn Cunningham
1/26	Dave & Karen Anable

## *A Note from Bill Cunningham*

I am very grateful to all for the phone calls, cards, prayers and concerns during my recent illness. I managed to fight off a serious illness after many visits to the hospital and doctor's offices. The cards and phone calls definitely lifted my spirits. We have a very warm and caring congregation for which I am very grateful.

Thanks to all again for your support and kindness,

Bill Cunningham


Janet Brehaut sends her regards and thanks to church members for their cards, prayers, visits, and Christmas flowers. She is currently recuperating at home.

## *January Birthdays*

Birthday Greetings to the following adult members of our church who celebrate birthdays in January.



Catherine Gardner	01/02
Gail Banning	01/03
Richard Ritz	01/03
Dennis Chaffee Sr	01/04
M Winifred Stearns	01/05
Albert Jones	01/06
Geraldine Spear	01/06
Donald Ryan	01/07
Lisa Wyman	01/10
Steven Safford	01/13
Marilyn Connor	01/18
Dennis Connor	01/18
Nicholas Hummel	01/19
Edith Casey	01/20
Susan Quill	01/20
John Panek	01/20
Joan Harris	01/24
Richard Nelson	01/24
Shirley Fuller	01/26
Richard Taylor	01/27
Paul Willoughby	01/30
Rosemary DiSimoni	01/31



## *Sunday School Birthdays*

Madison Regnier	01/13
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## *Anniversaries*

Richard & Elizabeth Taylor	01/24
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## *Sympathy Extended To...*

Kristi & Jeremy Tessier & family in the death of Gerald Tessier who died on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Gerald is Jeremy's father.



Debbie Doyle and family in the death of her youngest son, Ryan. He died December 30<sup>th</sup>.



### *Prayer Corner*



Evie Meacham

Joyce Libby

Peg Stearns

Walter Black Jr.

Julia Winetrout

Gail Banning

Judy Ingle

Ethel

Audrey Burger

Christopher

Barbara Bennett

Carol Darnley

Maggie Waugh

Gwen Wills

Sarah

Lelum

Kayla

Winnie

Winn

Jackie Prior

Pat Safford

Beverly Pease

Bob Green

Dennis

Frank Watson

Beverly Brant

Janet Brehaut

Jim

If you have an announcement to share of a birth, death, long time anniversary or want to add a name to the prayer list, please contact the office.

## *Wednesday Worship Update*

Due to the unpredictability of the weather during the winter months and the difficulty many members have in walking on ice and snow, we will cancel our Wednesday noon service until March. We want all to be safe. If you are in need of pastoral visitation or desire communion, please call the Pastor and let her know (413-566-3711). Deacons are also available for a visit.

## *Watercolor Classes in 2020*



Watercolor classes are planned for 6 consecutive Saturdays from 12:30pm to 3:30pm starting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and ending on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The classes with instruction by David Spencer, will be held in Libby Hall for members of the Church and the community as well. Class size will be limited to around 10 to 12 attendees. There will be a cost of \$10 per session to cover class material and some watercolor paint supplies. Contact David Spencer to reserve your spot.

## *Fellowship Hour*

Please sign up in the kitchen to assist with items for coffee hours following worship. While many folks enjoy this time together, it is not fair that only a few members host repeatedly. Please take your turn.



# *Update on Christmas Bazaar*

Greetings and Happy New Year!

We had a great bazaar on December 7 and we would like to thank everybody who helped, came and ate at the pancake breakfast and supported our crafters. We would especially like to thank Jack Germain and Joyce Ogonowski for their ongoing help every year for which we will not be able to do it without them.

Blessings,  
Laurie & Kristi

Following Worship on Jan 26<sup>th</sup> we will have an All Church Debrief of our Bazaar. Please join us with your thoughts and ideas.



## *Missions*

Once again this year we sponsored a giving tree for foster children. As always our congregation was very generous and all the ornaments were taken and gifts were bought and returned under the tree. Thank you so much to everyone who donated.







## *Celebrating Twenty Years of our Turkey Soup Luncheon*

Again, it was made possible by contributions of your food and time. Turkey, vegetables, breads and desserts were prepared by many hands. On Saturday the well-practiced crew of Bill and Lynn Cunningham and Hayden Tibbets roasted, deboned and made the turkey broth. On Sunday morning all the parboiled vegetables were cut up and added to the broth by the Sunday School children supervised Kristi Tessier. Laurie Schoolcraft decorated the tables using the “Thankful” placemats made by the children. Joan Harris, Phyllis Watson and Pamela Rogers were the dining room crew. They were joined by the surprise visit of Meri Blanchard who organized the first turkey soup luncheon twenty years ago. Kitchen cooks were Dominick and Jeremy Tessier, Joshua Blain, Bruce Libby and Allen Schoolcraft. By the time of clean-up, I was escorted out of the kitchen so I don’t know the names of the “Eager-Beavers” that completed the cleanup. A huge “Thank you” goes out to everyone that helped make it a great success!



Joyce Libby

## *New Telephone Number for the Parsonage*

Please note that Pastor Pat and family have a new telephone number for their home phone. It is 413-566-1074, effective immediately.

## *Game Night*

**Last Friday Night** of each Month  
6-8:30ish PM in the Fellowship Hall

We will be having inter-generational game nights on the last Friday of each month. You are invited to bring your favorite game or to join in with others. Please bring a snack to share with others and a non-perishable item for the local food bank. Non-church members are invited. This is a wonderful way to have others meet some of your church community.



## *Women's Gathering*

The women gathered at the church in December and packaged Christmas cookies for our shut-ins and elderly members. The group followed with a Yankee Swap. Good Christmas fun was shared by all. The cookie recipients were thrilled with the treats.



On the second Saturday of each month 11-12:30 AM, the woman will continue in the mini retreats on "*Simple Faith*" by Margaret Silf. Even if you were unable to attend the first day long retreat, you are still invited to participate. Two options are available: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month 11-12:30 AM (church fellowship hall)

Or 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month Wednesday 6:30-8:00PM (church fellowship hall)

If you are not able to attend but would like to read the book, there are still a few available. Please speak with Pastor Pat or Karen Anable.

## *My Conversion*

My wife and I have been attending the FCC for approximately 12 yrs. In that time I have met some really good people. I have worked on many breakfasts, dinners, and other fundraisers. I have served on several committees. Almost without exception the experiences have been more rewarding for me than anything I gave. I have been proud to tell outsiders about who and what we (the FCC) are and what we do. One thing I did not do was discuss with anyone what they or Karen and I pledged to the Church. I believed that is between us (or you) and God. I do however believe that it is a must do (both work and give).

For the last two years I have had the privilege of being on the Finance committee and the Board of Directors and am currently the Treasurer. In those positions I have become familiar with the costs of running our beautiful church and the need for money to pay these costs. We have really good people working for us. They have to be paid every two weeks. We must heat the church so folks want to be there Sunday morning. 10% of our budget goes directly to the Missions Committee to fulfill their giving. We must pay for lawn care and winter plowing. The electric company must be paid to keep the lights on. Those costs do not come down no matter how hard we try and we try very hard.

As I travel around the area, I see building after building that is shuttered or repurposed. Those buildings were once vibrant churches like ours. The combination of knowing our needs and the consequences of not meeting those costs have convinced me I can no longer be silent. I still do not want to know who gives what. That is still between you and God but I do have to speak out

about the need and what I feel is an obligation to support what we have. That is my conversion.

A couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity to show our sanctuary to a couple of strangers. As they walked in their amazement with the beauty of that sanctuary made me look again. Sometimes we can look at the roses we see every day and not really appreciate their beauty. Seeing them through someone else's eyes can give one a whole new perspective and appreciation for what we get to see every day. That was my experience conducting that tour. We are truly blessed but sometimes, I think, we take our blessings for granted and just expect it will always be there. My travels tell me that without support it won't be, no matter how hard we work.

Dave Anable,  
Treasurer & Member of Finance Committee

## **Potential New Members** **Informational Session**

January 5th - Following worship in the  
Prayer Room



Interested in finding out more about The  
Federated Community Church? Who we are? What we  
believe? Other questions? Grab a cup of coffee from the  
fellowship hall and then join us for informal question and  
answers in the Prayer Room.

## **Pledge Forms Returned**

If you have not returned your 2020 pledge card, please  
consider doing so as quickly as possible. The budget is in  
process and we are striving to balance our budget.



## *Sunday School Leads Worship*

Thank you to the Sunday school and others for leading worship and sharing the story of Jesus' birth in December. We were pleased

to have Miyani Tessier sing a solo and Dominick Tessier play his saxophone. All the participants did a great job and looked striking in their costumes.



## *Children's/Youth Bell Choir*

Following Sunday worship, a 10-15 minute rehearsal is held in the choir room for our newly formed bell choir. A few adults are needed to play with and assist. Any person interested, please speak with Faith Thompson, Music Director.

## *Wreaths Across America*

Thank you to the eight church members who joined others in laying wreaths in the military cemetery. While the weather was cloudy, it was a very uplifting and meaningful time. Consider joining next year.



# Framework for Reviewing our Church

William Temple was the 98th Archbishop of Canterbury (1942–1944). One of his famous sayings: "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members." (Diocese of Monmouth, Bishop's visitation Charge, 2007. Retrieved April 17, 2008.) While the church is to care for one another, encourage one another in life and on our spiritual journeys, and to hold each one accountable, we are also commissioned to make disciples of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19). As we move into the New Year with our commission in mind, I (Pastor Pat) would like to give us a framework to think about why we are a church and what we are doing as a body. Three questions to reflect on before the church forms opinions or make decisions might be:

**\*Is what we want a personal preference or Godly purpose?**

This question takes us from "I want..." to asking what does God want in this situation? An example of this might be deciding on the music we sing. Does the music we sing make a difference to God? Does God care if we have traditional hymns or a rock and roll band?

**\* Are we outward looking or inward looking?** This question helps us to think about the folks outside that are not yet in a relationship with Christ. Are we speaking their language? Singing their music? If they came into worship, would they be comfortable?

**\* Are we a church committed to raising up the next generation?** This is a question not only about valuing children, youth, and young adults, but also investing ourselves to be participants, mentors, and educators in the spiritual development of others.

I hope as we move forward this year, that more and more folks might be involved in activities beyond simple coming to worship: committees, Spirit-chat, Bible study, choir, women's group, retreats, men's breakfast, game night, knit, stitch, and pray, craft fairs, suppers, etc. As we have conversations within each of these groups, we might keep these three questions in mind to guide our conversations and visions.

## January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<sup>1</sup> New Year's Day	<sup>2</sup>	<sup>3</sup>	<sup>4</sup>
<sup>5</sup> 10:00am Worship, Sunday School, Nursery New Member Meeting	<sup>6</sup>	<sup>7</sup> 9:30 am Spirit Chat 6:30/7:30 pm AA 7:00 pm Missions	<sup>8</sup> 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 Women's Retreat, <i>Simple Faith</i>	<sup>9</sup>	<sup>10</sup>	<sup>11</sup> 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Women's Fellowship 11:00 AM Study – <i>Simple Faith</i>
<sup>12</sup> 10:00am Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	<sup>13</sup>	<sup>14</sup> 9:30 am Spirit Chat 6:30/7:30 pm AA	<sup>15</sup> 10:30 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Deacons	<sup>16</sup>	<sup>17</sup>	<sup>18</sup>
<sup>19</sup> 10:00am Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	<sup>20</sup>	<sup>21</sup> 9:30 am Spirit Chat 6:30/7:30 pm AA 7:00 pm BOD Meeting	<sup>22</sup> 10:30 am Bible Study	<sup>23</sup>	<sup>24</sup>	<sup>25</sup> 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
<sup>26</sup> 10:00am Worship, Sunday School, Nursery Bazaar Debrief	<sup>27</sup>	<sup>28</sup> 9:30 am Spirit Chat 6:30/7:30 pm AA	<sup>29</sup> 10:30 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Deacons	<sup>30</sup>	<sup>31</sup> 6:00 pm Game Night	

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