



Federated Church

A Place to Belong

December

2022

REV. KENNETH
MCKENZIE
PASTOR

KEVIN DIXON
ORGANIST &
CHOIR DIRECTOR

LUANNE BROOKS
CHURCH SECRETARY

Points of Interest

Pastor's Letter

Blood Drive

Christmas Eve

Concerts

Tag Tree

December
Calendar

From the somewhat messy desk of Pastor Ken:

Christmas time is here! The radio is starting to blare Feliz Navidad, All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth, and of course, Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer—songs that truly don't reflect any of the meaning of Christmas. Inflatable penguins and snowmen are on sale at Home Depot, Walgreens resembles a winter wonderland, and overpriced wrapping paper abounds. Now you might think that this is the start of a large editorial about the over-commercialization of Christmas, but nothing could be further from the truth. Actually, what I want to share with you is a strategy for turning this year's Christmas into something special.

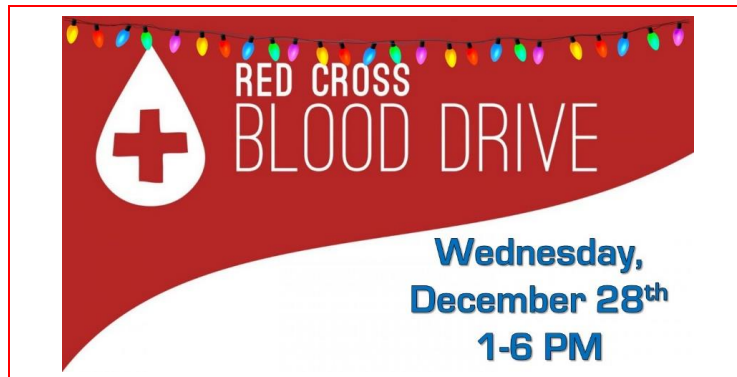
As I hope most of you already know, Christmas Eve is coming up, and we will be celebrating in worship on Saturday, December 24th, at 8PM right here in our sanctuary. My desire, and I hope yours, will be to see our sanctuary full as we share the story of the birth of Christ. I can think of no better gift to give anyone than to spend time on Christmas Eve in worship and praise. The service is already planned. We've got the invitations printed and ready to hand out. All we need now is you.

Take a moment right now to envision Christmas Eve. Who's in the car with you? Who are you walking into church with on this sacred evening? Friends, family, co-workers, neighbors? Picture in your mind who it is you want to bring, and begin praying for them. Pray for open hearts. Pray for the opportunity to invite them. Pray for their response. We're talking about the good news of great joy that is to be for all people, and that news is ours to share as we invite others to join us.

Let's make this a Christmas to remember.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Ken



Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

On December 4th we will be having a special offering for retired ministers and missionaries. There will be special envelopes in the bulletins for this. This is sponsored by the ABCUSA. The funds will be distributed as "thank you" checks to the ABCUSA ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to our denomination, as well as surviving spouses. A certain portion is also allocated for direct emergency assistance. The offering originated in the mid-1930's as the Communion Fellowship Offering and since 1977 has been known as RMMO.



Community Singers

Present Their
Annual Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 18th at 7PM
Mt. Markham High School
Refreshments following the performance.

Mohawk Valley Choral Society
Presents
George Frideric Handel's
Messiah

Sunday, December 4th at 7:30pm.

Church of our Lady of Lourdes of Mary,
Mother of Our Savior Parish
2222 Genesee Street

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.
For additional information www.mvchoral.org

The Federated Church is once again a drop-off site for Logan Clark's birthday collection of supplies for local animal shelters. Let's help him celebrate again this year by bringing in pet food and supplies next Sunday, Dec. 4th, and placing them under our sanctuary tree for dedication.

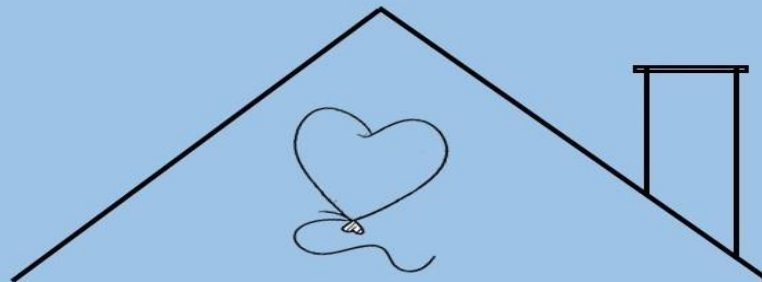
Here's a list of possible donated items:

Paper Towels
39-gallon garbage bags
Method brand floor cleaner
Dish detergent
Dry dog and cat food
Canned dog and cat food
Puppy and kitten food
Blankets, towels, etc.
Pet friendly ice melt
Martingale collars
Dog and cat treats
Dog and cat toys
Clay cat litter
Pine Pellet litter
Sponges
HE laundry detergent
Pine Sol liquid cleaner



We will be dedicating
all our shelter gifts on
Sunday, December 4th!

Our diaper bank is open every 3rd Sat. from 10:00am – 12:00 pm. Just send an email and they will sign you up.



*Running low? We can help!
It Takes a Village Diaper Bank
West Winfield*

VillageDiapers.FedChurch@gmail.com

An Outreach of the Federated Church of West Winfield

Download our app and keep up to date on everything happening here at the Federated Church.



**Coffee,
Clergy,
&
Conversation**
Tuesdays
9:30-11:00 AM
Join Us!



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the staff.

Ken, Kevin, Luanne and Brett



Applying Bible Principles

Life is full of choices. Regular gasoline or premium? Whole milk or 2%? Sweetened or unsweetened iced tea? Butter or margarine? Paper or plastic? Credit or debit?

The Christian life is also one that involves choices. Some of those choices may have been made for us by our parents when we were young. Some of those choices we reaffirmed as we grew up. The fact that we are part of the ministry here at The Federated Church is a result of a choice.

Romans 6:13 describes one of the most important choices we will ever make in the Christian life. Writing to first-century converts, the Apostle Paul instructed them, "No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness."

As God's children, we have a choice. One way or another, we are going to allow the control of our lives to be determined by a choice. Either we will choose to allow the arch-enemy of our souls to be in control, or we will allow God to be in control. The interesting thing about this choice is that it is not a once-in-a-lifetime decision. It is a decision that we make daily. Some days, it is a decision that we make continuously throughout the day.

In spite of Flip Wilson's contention that "the devil made me do it," in reality, we determine whom we will serve. And unlike the decisions regarding sweetened or unsweetened tea or paper or plastic bags, this decision has eternal ramifications. It also has ramifications for The Federated Church.

Think about this question: If everyone who is on the roll of our church were totally yielded to God every day, how would it impact the life and outreach of our congregation? If each of us were totally yielded to the controlling power of Almighty God every moment of every day, the impact we could and would have for God's sake would be staggering.

Choices are inevitable. We cannot escape them. But one choice is of paramount importance, that of deciding who will be in charge of our lives. Do you know how Joshua responded when faced with that choice? Here's what he said: "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Will you do the same?

December

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	2	3
4 9:30 am Worship Service Communion 10:30am Coffee Hour	5 7:00 pm Bldgs and Grounds Finance Board	6	7	8 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	9	10
11 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Hour	12	13 9:30 am Coffee, Clergy & Conv. 9:30am Coffee, Clergy & Conv.	14	15 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	16	17 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Diaper Distribution
18 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Hour	19 7:00 pm Church Council	20 9:30am Coffee, Clergy & Conv.	21	22 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	23	24
25 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Hour Christmas	26	27 9:30 am Coffee, Clergy & Conv.	28 1:00-6:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive	29 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	30	31

TAG TREE

Our church is responsible for 15 families that is 122 tags. Over all there are over 50 families in need this Christmas.

TAGS:

Each tag has a family name and number.

Each adult will have one tag. It will be labeled man or woman and have a size on the back. You can give a gift of something other than clothing if you wish.

Each child will have 2 tags – one tag will be labeled boy or girl and have an age and size. Some families have requested coats or other outerwear, but many have not. Use your judgment.

The second tag will be labeled boy or girl and their age - and is intended as a toy or other age-appropriate gift.

There may be some suggestions on the tags, depending upon any suggestions from the family. If there are items listed on the back, those are only meant to be suggestions, as most of the families are grateful for any gifts. So, if there are several items listed, it doesn't mean you are expected to buy all the things on the list – it is usually a suggestion, unless there is a specific toy requested, such a Legos or other popular toys for their age range.

Please keep in mind that while it is wonderful to want to be generous buying for your tag person, most families have several children, and if you buy 6 things for Child A, Child B may only receive one.

If you put your gifts in a gift bag, please be sure to label or put the tags on each of the gifts in the bag.

The deadline for these gifts to be returned to church is Sunday, December 11th. It is important, to get your gift wrapped and tagged packages back to the church by that date. If you are unable to get them to church on that date, please call the church office. As you can imagine, missing gifts or tags will have to be accounted for and gifts purchased. Gifts have to be sorted and bagged for delivery on the 17th.

It is easy to misplace these little tags, so I suggest that if you have a cell phone, you take a picture of the front and back in case it gets misplaced. In the event you find you can't shop for a gift, please call the church office.

Lastly. If you have any questions on a tag, or some information is missing or anything at all, please call the church office.

Thank you so much for your generosity. This congregation has always been so very giving to those less fortunate.

FAX: 315-822-6321
CHURCH: 315-822-6321
WEBSITE:
WestWinfieldFederatedChurch.org
E-MAIL:
Fedchurch66@gmail.com
PastorKen.FedChurch@yahoo.com



**THE FEDERATED CHURCH
P.O. BOX 337
452 EAST MAIN STREET
WEST WINFIELD, NY 13491**