



# Federated Church

## A Place to Belong

March

2022

REV. KENNETH  
MCKENZIE  
PASTOR

KEVIN DIXON  
ORGANIST &  
CHOIR DIRECTOR

LUANNE BROOKS  
CHURCH SECRETARY

Points of Interest

Pastor's Letter

Lent

Ash Wednesday

Calendar

Diaper Give Away

This week marks the beginning of Lent; a special forty-day observance in the life of the church that begins this coming Wednesday and ends with the celebration of Easter. It is a time set apart for introspection, confession, and prayer; a time of spiritual preparation as we approach the events of Holy Week. For many it's a time of sacrifice and fasting as a way to regain a spiritual focus for their lives. Sadly, for others, it's no more than some dates on a calendar, an ancient ritual with no relevance for today or impact upon the course of our lives.

My prayer for us this year is that we would invest our time in exploring this sacrificial and penitential season of the church year, beginning with our Ash Wednesday service coming up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00PM. We will be joining with the congregation from the Millers Mills Community Baptist Church in a service of ashes as we begin our journey through these forty days. Our Sunday services will be centered around the final teachings of Jesus to his disciples as recorded in the Gospel of John, and this year we will resume our in person gathering for Maundy Thursday on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

But what I really want to write about today is Easter Sunday, and our plans for inviting friends, family, co-workers, fellow students, neighbors, acquaintances, total strangers, sinners, tax-collectors and the like to join us for our Easter celebration. Invitations are being printed. Plans are in the works. But it will still take all of us, filled with the Spirit and actively praying for and inviting others, to make this a day of worship that just might change lives!

Are you with me?

Pastor Ken

# **Special Services for Lent**

**Ash Wednesday - March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 PM**

**Palm Sunday - April 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM**

**Maundy Thursday - April 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM**

**Easter Sunday - April 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM**





Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm



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



Join us in person every Tuesday for Coffee, Clergy, & Conversation.

Last Sunday Pastor Ken challenged the congregation to figure out just how much wine Jesus made for the Wedding at Cana. One person responded to that challenge and correctly figured out that between 120 and 180 gallons of water was turned into wine. Way to go, Kate!



### It Take a Village Diaper Ministry

Our Diaper Ministry is a partnership with Waterville Methodist Church. They began this ministry in March of 2020, when COVID began to affect our communities. They saw a need, researched it, and filed for grants. The following year they were looking for partners in surrounding communities because families were traveling far to seek this assistance. When they asked us, we immediately agreed that we wanted this for our community. All diapers are funded through a grant; however, Waterville holds diaper drives to supplement what the grant provides. Our contribution thus far has simply been to organize, wrap and distribute the diapers to those in our community.

We began our diaper distribution last November. We distribute diapers every third Saturday from 10am-Noon, believing the consistency and weekend hours will benefit the families we hope to serve. 40 diapers and wipes are provided each month, meant to help supplement. As the price of everything has gone up, so has the cost of diapers, and this ministry is more important than ever. Over the past four months, our impact has grown as the word gets out. If you would like to be involved in any aspect of this ministry, please let us know!

Email [Villagediapers.FedChurch@gmail](mailto:Villagediapers.FedChurch@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up.

Heidi Barrette  
It Takes a Village, West Winfield

## Applying Bible Principles

Someone once said, "Experience is a good teacher, but she gives the test first and then the lesson." That's certainly true, and based on many of life's experiences, we frequently fail the test before we can benefit from the lesson.

The formula " $e$  equals  $mc^2$ " is familiar to many college students but understood by very few people. Most of us know it had something to do with Einstein and was the formula that led to the release of enormous power and to the nuclear age. Similarly, in funding the local church, " $e$ " might stand for *every*, " $m$ " for *member*, " $c$ " for *commitment*, and the " $2$ " for the *effort multiplied by itself*. The fruit of that kind of effort is much more powerful than what Einstein discovered, even as Jesus described it in Matthew 21:22 — "Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

Right now, as we consider the opportunity to support the ministries here at The Federated Church, God is putting us to the test. As Gordon Moyes stated, "Responsible giving or stewardship is not man's way of raising money, but God's way of raising people. . . .The church's budget is not a list of its expenses, but a record of its vision. It is not a list of bills to be met, but a program of ministry to be achieved."

As each of us prayerfully considers what God would have us give, and as we obey what God asks of us, we can trust him to provide the resources. That's a test — a test of where we are spiritually much more than where we are financially. It's a test of us as individuals and of us as a church. The question is whether or not we really believe that God has the power and ability to bless our obedience "far more than all we can ask or imagine" (Eph. 3:20).

How are you doing concerning God's tests regarding money in your life? If God's provision in your life in the days ahead depends on *how* you obey his leading *now* concerning your giving, what will the future be like for you?

It just might, you know. . . .

# March

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30-11:00 am Coffee, Clergy & Conversation	2 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	3	4	5
6 9:30 am Worship Service  Communion	7 7:00 pm Finance Board Buildings & Grounds	8 9:30-11:00 am Coffee, Clergy & Conversation	9	10	11	12
13 9:30 am Worship Service	14 7:00 pm Worship Board	15 9:30-11:00 am Coffee, Clergy & Conversation	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Diaper giveaway
20 9:30 am Worship Service	21 7:00pm Church Council	22 9:30-11:00 am Coffee, Clergy & Conversation	23	24	25	26
27 9:30 am Worship Service	28	29 9:30-11:00 am Coffee, Clergy & Conversation	30	31		

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