



# Federated Church

## A Place to Belong

February

2024

REV. KENNETH  
MCKENZIE  
PASTOR

KEVIN DIXON  
ORGANIST &  
CHOIR DIRECTOR

LUANNE BROOKS  
CHURCH SECRETARY

Points of Interest

Pastor's Letter

Gathering Grounds

Blood Drive

Calendar

Movies

Confirmation Class

Lenton Soup  
Suppers

The days are getting longer, almost imperceptibly. It might just be a minute or so a week, but the cumulative impact is that more and more daylight becomes available as we move through the depths of winter, drawing us from the winter solstice toward the vernal equinox, when daytime and nighttime are equal for one day. I share this not to provoke a conversation on the weather, but as a way of introducing the season of Lent, the forty-days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter that will begin on February 14<sup>th</sup>, for the season of Lent, and the date of Easter itself are tied to the lunar calendar. Easter marks the first Sunday following the first full moon following the vernal equinox. This year the equinox is on March 19<sup>th</sup>, with the full moon following on March 25<sup>th</sup>. That sets the date of Easter on March 31<sup>st</sup>, and so, counting backwards, Ash Wednesday will be on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Simple, huh?

Anyway, Ash Wednesday, with its tradition of marking the forehead of believers with the sign of the cross, will be celebrated here on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, with a special worship service at 7:00 PM with our friends from Community Baptist Church of Millers Mills. In the weeks that follow, we will be hosting a six-week soup supper and Bible study series all about food and the Scriptures. Our dinner study will begin on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:45 in the evening, and should wrap up each week right around 7.

In addition to our soup supper study, we will be uploading a Lenten devotional series onto the Fed Church app. This will be a series of daily readings to help guide your personal devotional time as we move toward Holy Week. And if all that's still not enough, our Sunday morning services throughout Lent will be focused on the life of Jesus and the lessons we can learn from his life.

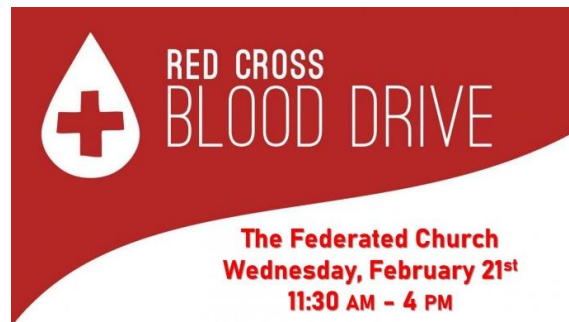
Join us!

Pastor Ken



## Gathering Grounds Update

Furniture has been ordered, and our special offering continues to help offset the cost of this new updated space. A big thank you to all who have made contributions toward this project. Watch for a grand opening announcement very soon!



The Red Cross is experiencing an **EMERGENCY BLOOD SHORTAGE** as the U.S. has the lowest number of people giving blood in **20 years**. The number of active blood donors has fallen by more than 40%. The blood supply has fallen to **critically low levels**. During blood shortages, essential medical procedures may be **delayed**. Distributions to hospitals of some of the most transfused blood types are being **limited** now.

Won't you please consider giving at this crucial time. You can call 1-800-RED-CROSS or sign up on the app to make an appointment.

## Applying Bible Principles

The Psalmist wrote, “So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart” (Psalm 90:12).

Have you ever numbered your days? If an average lifetime is 70 years, multiply 70 times 365. The result is 25,550 days in 70 years. Add 17 extra days for the leap years in that period of time. The total number of days is 25,567.

To the teenager at age 14, on average, there are 20,454 days left. That seems like an inexhaustible supply. To the retiree at age 65, there are only 1,826 days left. That number doesn't seem so inexhaustible. In fact, it can seem downright small!

But what does it mean to “count our days”? Did the Psalmist have in mind merely counting the days that we may hope to have left in life? Not really. Notice the second phrase in Psalm 90:12 — “. . . that we may gain a wise heart.” The purpose of numbering our days and of considering our days is that we might be wise in our use of whatever days God allows us to have. Just counting the days becomes a simple exercise in mathematics if it does not also cause us to consider **how** we are using our days.

- The wise person will realize that time (which comprises the days of our lives) is limited.
- The wise person will seek to accomplish as much as possible in terms of things that really matter for this life and the life to come.
- The wise person will seek to use the resource of time in a manner befitting both Christian faith and experience.
- The wise person will seek to make the most of time with the full realization that it could end at any moment.
- The wise person will be diligent in the use of time in order to maximize his or her impact for the sake of the Gospel.

As you think about how you are using the time God has given to you, how wise are you?

# February

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	2	3 6:00 pm Movie Top Hat
4 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee hour  Communion	5 7:00 pm Finance Board Bldgs. & Grds.	6 9:30 am Coffee, Clergy & Conv.  5:00 – 7:00 pm Girl Scouts	7 9:00 am W.I.C.	8 6:00 pm Bell Choir  7:00 pm Choir	9	10 6:00 pm Movie Meet me in St. Louis
11 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee hour	12	13 9:30 am Coffee, Clergy & Conv.  5:00-7:00 pm Girl Scouts	14 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	15 6:00 pm Bell Choir  7:00 pm Choir	16	17 10:00- Noon Diaper Distribution  6:00 pm Movie An American In Paris
18 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee hour	19 7:00 pm Church Council	20 9:30 am Coffee, Clergy & Conv.  5:00-7:00 pm Girl Scouts	21 11:30 am – 4:00 pm Blood Drive 5:45 pm Soup Supper & Study	22 6:00 pm Bell Choir  7:00 pm Choir	23	24 5:45 pm Movie The Music Man
25 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee hour	26	27 9:30 am Coffee, Clergy & Conv.  5:00-7:00 pm Girl Scouts	28 5:45 pm Soup Supper & Study	29 6:00 pm Bell Choir  7:00 pm Choir		

## February Film Series: Classic Musicals



1938  
Top Hat



1944  
Meet Me  
in St. Louis



1951  
An American  
in Paris



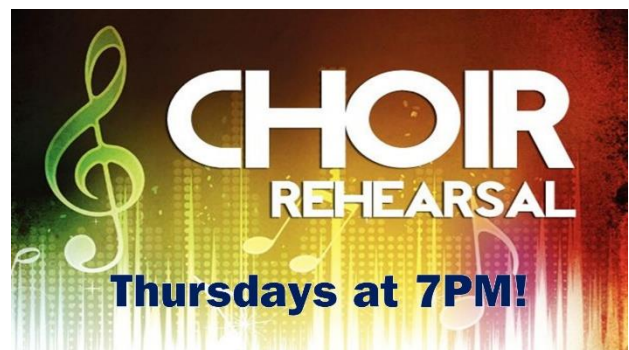
1962  
The Music  
Man

## Saturday Night at the Movies

This year our February film series will be presenting four classic musicals from the 30's, 40's, 50's & 60's. Join us for Top Hat (1938), Meet Me In St. Louis (1944), An American in Paris (1951) and the Music Man (1962). Series begins on **Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**, at 6PM here at the church. Bring some snacks to share as we sit back and enjoy the likes of Fred Astaire, Gene Kelley, Judy Garland and Robert Preston.



**Bell Choir  
Thursdays  
at 6PM**



**CHOIR  
REHEARSAL**

**Thursdays at 7PM!**

Gently Used. Greatly Needed.  
**PASS IT ON**  
 Community Closet for Baby  
 West Winfield  
 VillageDiapers.FedChurch@gmail.com  
 An Outreach of the Federated Church of West Winfield

**February 17<sup>th</sup>,  
 10am – Noon**  
*Running low? We can help!  
 It Takes a Village Diaper Bank  
 West Winfield*  
 VillageDiapers.FedChurch@gmail.com

**FED CHURCH**  
 GET IT ON  
**Google Play**  
 Download on the  
**App Store**  
 Federated Church  
 A Place to Belong

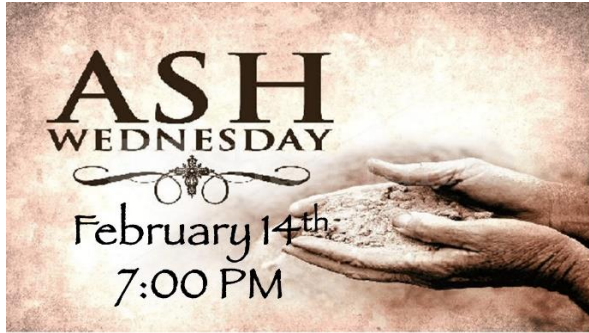
**Coffee,  
 Clergy,  
 &  
 Conversation  
 Tuesdays  
 9:30 – 11:00 AM  
 Join Us!**



### **Confirmation/Baptism Class**

A four-week Pastor's Class for baptism / confirmation is on the schedule for 10:50 – 11:30 am from **February 18<sup>th</sup> – March 10<sup>th</sup>** of this year. If you are interested in this class, please let Pastor Ken know by the end of this month so that we can have sufficient resources on hand to conduct the class.





The Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Don Pope who entered the heavenly kingdom on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Relatives and friends are invited to calling hours on Saturday, February 3, 2024 from 1-3 pm at the Federated Church of West Winfield. A Masonic Service will begin at 3 pm followed by a memorial service, officiated by Pastor Ken McKenzie. Interment will be in the spring in Unadilla Forks Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

[Obituary information for Donald G. Pope \(dimplebyfuneralhomes.com\)](http://dimplebyfuneralhomes.com)

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