



Federated Church

A Place to Belong

November

2023

REV. KENNETH
MCKENZIE
PASTOR

KEVIN DIXON
ORGANIST &
CHOIR DIRECTOR

LUANNE BROOKS
CHURCH SECRETARY

Points of Interest

Pastor's Letter

Baby Boy

Wedding

Live Nativity

Wreath Sale

Poinsettias

Calendar

Concert

Hanging of the
Greens

Feels like we're entering the final stretch for 2023. Halloween is behind us. Thanksgiving is on the horizon. Christmas is just around the corner. Our snow birds are starting their annual migration, and coats, hats, gloves, and scarves are starting to be seen. It already seems too busy, and yet now is the time to step up our witness in and through our community, for the holiday season is a time when people are more open to the message of hope that is Jesus Christ.

So as we prepare for our Thanksgiving dinners, let's focus on simplicity and generosity in place of elaborate menus and using the good dishes. Let's claim this time as a time to witness and to share and to help others experience the life-changing reality of Jesus Christ. Let us be thankful for what God has done in our own lives, and let us share our stories freely with all who gather.

This year, whether it's Thanksgiving with the relatives or Christmas with the kids, let us spend less upon the world and invest more toward the Kingdom. Let our actions speak louder than our words as we make our various preparations, and let us unite our voices in praise and prayer for all who so desperately need what the angels first announced.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Ken



Congratulations to Todd Brown and Kellie Decker on the birth of their son, Cole Warren Brown born on October 14th. His very proud family includes big brother Liam Proctor, grandmother Denise Brown and great grandmother Miriam

Congratulations to Kathleen Renee Brown and Scot Blum. They were united in marriage October 27 2023, at the Federated Church. Rev. Kenneth McKenzie officiated and Marge Ranger was the organist.

Mother of the bride is Denise Brown; Grandparents are Miriam Marriott and Sheryl and Robert Lamb.

Results of the October Blood Drive.

20 Donors Scheduled!
19 Registered donors!
0 First time donor!
1 Deferral!
15 Whole blood units collected!
3 Power Red Donors!
21 Total units collected

Our next blood drive is
Wednesday, Dec. 27th from 1:00
pm – 6:00 pm.



Applying Bible Principles

The Apostle Paul's words to Timothy as recorded in 1 Timothy 4:14 are highly appropriate for us today: "Do not neglect the gift that is in you."

All Christians have been given at least one spiritual gift. What is a spiritual gift? It is a God-given ability for service. For some, their gift might be teaching. For others, it might be filling the role of a pastor. For others it might be service or administration. For still others, it might be encouragement or exhortation.

Although sincere Christians can and do differ on the subject of spiritual gifts, three things are important to remember. First, spiritual gifts come from God. Just as we are stewards of financial resources, we are also stewards of the gifts that God gives to us. We cannot earn a gift or buy a gift. Rather, we can only be "grateful receivers" of what God entrusts to us ... including spiritual gifts.

Second, a spiritual gift is an ability to do something for God's kingdom. For example, counting the offerings on Sunday in and of itself is not a spiritual gift, but the administrative ability needed to do that task is. Running a vacuum to clean the carpets in and of itself is not a spiritual gift, but the service aspect of that task is.

Third, a spiritual gift has one purpose: It is for service. That service can be to God, or it can be to others in God's behalf. As we give a "cup of cold water" in Jesus' name, we are serving both the Lord and the recipient of that drink. As we feed the hungry, clothe the poor, or teach a Sunday school class, we are serving both God and people.

F.B. Meyer wrote,

I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves one above the other, and that the taller we grew in Christian character, the more easily we could reach them. I now find that God's gifts are on shelves one beneath the other, and that it is not a question of growing taller, but of stooping lower.

So remember: A spiritual gift is a God-given ability for service. As 1 Peter 4:10 states it so powerfully, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."

November

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 W.I.C. 9:00 am 6:45 pm Breaking Free Bible Study	2 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	3	4
5 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee hour Communion	6 7:00 pm Finance Board Bldgs. & Grds.	7 9:30 am Coffee, Clergy & Conv. Election Day	8 6:45 pm Breaking Free Bible Study	9 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	10 Veteran's Day Church Office Closed	11
12 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee hour	13	14 9:30 am Coffee, Clergy & Conv. 5:00-7:00 pm Girl Scouts	15 6:45 pm Breaking Free Bible Study	16 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	17	18 10:00- Noon Diaper Distribution
19 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee hour Fed Teens 5-6:30 pm	20 7:00 pm Church Council	21 9:30 am Coffee, Clergy & Conv. 5:00-7:00 pm Girl Scouts	22 Church Office Closed	23 Thanksgiving	24 Church Office Closed	25
26 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee hour 11:00 am Hanging of the Greens	27	28 9:30 am Coffee, Clergy & Conv. 5:00-7:00 pm Girl Scouts	29	30 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir		



Daylight Savings Time Ends

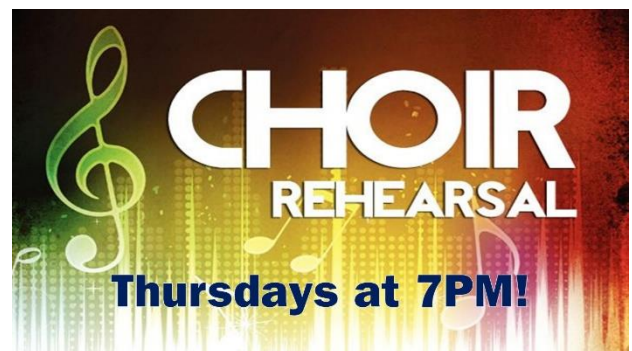
Don't forget to turn you clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 4th.

Election Day

Tuesday, November 7th

Voting for Districts 1 & 2 for the Town of Winfield is here in the fellowship hall.

Polls are open from 6:00 am – 9:00 pm



Poinsettias

We will be adorning the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Please let the office know if you would like a poinsettia in memory of a loved one.

The Masons will be selling poinsettias at the cost of \$11.00. Orders must be in by November 26th they will be delivered on December 4th. If interested you can contact Luanne Brooks or Don McDonald.



Live Nativity

Please mark your calendars for December 9th. The church will be having a live Nativity outside for all to view. We will be offering refreshments, and the church will be open for all to see our spectacular Christmas displays. Please see Theresa Gifford if you would like to help.



Mt. Markham Optimist Club
“Benefit Community Youth Projects”

20” CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE

Fresh Balsam with Red Velvet Bow

\$20.00

Call Nancy Cooper at (315-855-4280)

By NOVEMBER 28th “To Order”

PICK UP

Saturday, December 2nd

Or

Sunday, December 3rd
(12-5:00pm both days)

(6970 County Highway 18)

Speech and Debate Judges.

We have a unique opportunity to support our High School Speech and Debate club by learning how to be judges at their events. Mrs. Culver from the High School is willing to help us with training and get us familiar with the judging routines. The time commitment for this is minimal, but the impact on the students is not! Please consider signing up today to learn about how to judge the Speech and Debate events. You can sign up by calling the church office or reaching out to Pastor Ken.

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday,
November 26th

Help us decorate our sanctuary
for the holidays.



Hanging of the Greens

The Sunday after Thanksgiving is not only Christ the King Sunday, but it's also the time when we decorate the church for the holidays. Plan to hang out after Coffee Hour on the 26th and lend a hand as we see how many Christmas trees we can put together in an hour!

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



Grant Funding Update

Over the past few months I have applied for several grants to assist our congregation going forward. Two have already been rejected, and I just received news this week that the last of the three was turned down, which means that it's back to the drawing board. The project sought to answer the following question: *How does a small, aging, rural church with limited resources and limited growth potential re-engage with a polarized rural community of limited resources, limited employment opportunities, and limited community activities outside of the school district?* While the proposal was not accepted, the funding group has encouraged me to re-submit the proposal for their next funding cycle. If at first ...

Festival of Carols

Our community wide kick off to the Advent season will be on Sunday, December 3rd, at 2PM in the sanctuary. Help us spread the word!!!



Nursery Workers Needed

We're still looking for a couple more volunteers to help prepare us to re-open our nursery on Sunday mornings. Please give the church office a call or reach out to Pastor Ken if you're interested. First aid/CPR training is required for all nursery workers, as is a background check.

Pastor Appreciation Month:

I want to thank everyone who so generously joined in the celebration of Pastor Appreciation month. I appreciate the support and the gift cards. There's still much to do, and I look forward to spending my last two years of ministry working with and for this congregation.

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