

THE FEDERATED CHURCH OF WAUCONDA
200 BARRINGTON ROAD
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60084

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**FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN –
February, 2012**

*“But time and chance happens to them all.”
– Ecclesiastes 9:11c*

During the last few months, one thing has become very clear to me: time keeps moving on. Whether we're so excited about an upcoming event that we can barely wait until it gets here, or dreading something to the point of wanting to stay in bed to avoid it at all costs, time keeps marching forward. Lately, I've had the experience of both dreading upcoming situations and anticipating things that should be wonderful. And try as I might, I can't slow the clock down nor can I make it speed up. Wouldn't that be a great superhero power to have? If you knew something dreadful was on the horizon, you could just fast-forward – coming out on the other side without having to anticipate difficulties or truly experience any pain. You could also move quickly to a happy event without all the waiting - to when the baby is born, to a vacation you're looking forward to, to when you're all settled in the new house. Or maybe you could just freeze or reverse time so you'd never have to get to the day you're dreading or simply stay in a good period of life. Wouldn't those abilities be wonderful?

So why do you think God keeps the clock moving forward... and at a very steady pace? We can't go back to the good times we had in the past, and we can't fast-forward to just where we want to be, but I'm thinking that God does know what He's doing with all this time business. There are many people who would continuously 'live in the

past' if they were allowed to. They remember (whether accurately or not) how good the old days were, and would prefer everything to be just like it was. But if that were to happen, it would prevent them from all the great experiences God has planned in the present and future. While at times, the past was wonderful, that doesn't mean there aren't wonderful things coming right up the road. They won't be exactly the same - that's true - but I truly believe God can make life even better and more beautiful than it ever has been. It takes trust in the unknown, but it can be done if we work with the Lord to make it happen.

And the same goes for simply moving quickly through anything that could cause us pain. Although none of us wants more hurt in our life, it is something we can learn from and use to make us better people for the future. If we rarely experience difficulties, we won't be as able to handle the truly tough times when they occur. None of us will escape this life without pain; don't run away from it when it happens, but move valiantly forward through it and see how much you grow in the process.

As the passage from Ecclesiastes states, both time and chance happen to us all – and they occur each and every day. We can't stop the march of minutes forward, but we can choose to have the best attitude possible, not fearing the future or pining for the past. May the good Lord bless you in the time you have, and may you use it wisely and well – always confident that it will be constructive if you rely on our God.

Constantly moving forward with you,
Pastor Ryan

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

January 1 – 83

January 8 – 141

January 15 – 130

January 22 – 119

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

This is a reminder that office hours for the church are from 8:00am to 12:00pm Monday through Friday. If you need to drop something off or pick something up, we are always open during those times. Pastor Ryan is often in the office in the afternoon as well, but he also uses that time to attend meetings, visit people in the hospital or at home, and take care of other tasks. Since his usual day off is Friday, often he is available on Saturday mornings to talk as well. If you would like to schedule an appointment with him in the afternoons or evenings, please feel free to contact him at the office or by cell phone.

PRAYER PARTNER EMAILS

Thanks to Linda Baron, the Joys and Concerns from the Sunday worship service go out early each week to all who sign up for them. You can also email her concerns during the week at the same address. If you aren't receiving the list and would like to, please email Linda at federatedprayers@gmail.com.

WINTERTIME PARKING



When the snow piles up, it can be difficult to find a parking spot on Sunday mornings.

Remember that you are welcome to use the cell phone lot across Barrington Road (if it's plowed!), and if it's really filled up, you can park at the Village lot across Rt. 176. Be sure to use the stoplight/cross walk at Rt. 176/Main Street. And we can still have vehicles be registered

with the Police Dept. They have graciously allotted us 6-7 parking spots on Sunday mornings – provided you can walk the distance to the church. Let Pastor Ryan know if you could park at the police station.

GOODSEARCH.com

GoodSearch.com is a search engine that donates half of its advertising revenue (about a penny a search) to the charities its user designates. Use it just as you would any search engine and watch the donations add up. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Wauconda Federated Church as the charity you want to support.

AFTER-CHRISTMAS PARTY REPORT

This year, 75 people attended the annual After-Christmas Party. The Fellowship Committee did a great job in decorating the Stangeland Fellowship Hall, and coordinating the effort. There were so many great things to eat, and we played two Christmas games that Pastor Ryan 'forced' on us! Then it was on to the White Elephant Gift Exchange – always a highlight. There were lots of interesting items going around – including clowns and talking cookie jars! The Party is a great way to beat the winter blahs. Be sure to save up your unwanted gift for next year's Party!

REMEMBER GAME NIGHT – Jan. 28

Join us at 7:00pm downstairs in the church for some fun and games. No money is exchanged. Bring a game, a friend, and a snack to share!

ASK THE PASTOR – Jan. 29

Be sure to attend worship on Sunday, Jan. 29, to hear the answer to your question. Pastor Ryan will research the answers and deliver them during the message on that Sunday. You'll learn more about the church, theology, God, and other subjects.

ECUMENICAL MEAL & SERVICE

– Jan. 29

“Change and Connect Us: An Ecumenical Celebration!” will be held on Sunday, January 29 at 6:00 p.m. at Transfiguration Catholic Parish on Mill Street. The Knights of Columbus will serve a meal at the cost of \$5 per person or \$20 per family beginning at 5:00 p.m., also at Transfiguration. All are invited to gather with their friends and neighbors from different Christian churches for this time of song, prayer and unity. Bring a dessert to share if you’d like. If you can’t come for the meal (reservations needed), you can come at 6:00pm for the service only.

FISH FRY AT THE LEGION HALL

– Feb. 3

Join us at the Wauconda American Legion Hall on Main Street on Friday, Feb. 3 at 5:30pm for their Fish Fry. Meals can be bought for under \$10. We typically have a good group of people attend from our church, and we enjoy each others’ company. Meet us there and have a great meal!

SOUPER BOWL – Feb. 5

Coming up in early February is football’s biggest day – the Super Bowl. On that same day in the morning, our church will participate in the Souper Bowl.

Our kids will hold soup pots at the exits of the Sanctuary and collect spare change to give to the local Food Pantry – to help those who don’t have the money to even buy soup. Consider bringing some coins (or paper money if you are able) to help out on Sunday, Feb. 5.

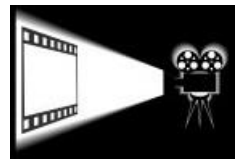


CARE CENTRE SERVICE – Feb. 9

Come and join us as we bring the worship of God to the people at the Wauconda Care Centre. Our next date will be Thursday, Feb. 9 at 10:00am. Meet at the Centre just off Rt. 176 at 9:45am to help pass out songbooks and greet the residents. We will be serving Holy Communion to the residents this month as well.

MOVIE NIGHT – Feb. 10

Join us on February 10 from 7-9pm to see the movie *Snow Dogs*. All ages are welcome. Just bring a drink and anything different you want to sit on if you don't want a chair. Can't wait to see you there!



About the Movie: Snow Dogs

When Miami dentist Ted Brooks learns that his birth mother has passed away and that he was named in her will, he travels to Alaska to claim his inheritance. Rather than the large chunk of change that many people would expect, Ted instead receives his mother's pack of rowdy sled dogs and her property. Although the dogs seemingly have it in for Ted, he decides to keep the dogs and race them in the local race, the Arctic Challenge, spiting a mountain man who wants the dogs. What follows is a comedy detailing Ted's adventures in learning to run the sled dogs. *From IMDB.com*

YOUTH GROUP

The youth group kids continue to amaze me! They're full of energy and enthusiasm. The holiday season was brimming with opportunities for them to shine. They not only helped receive food for our annual Thanksgiving dinner, they also helped with clean-up. Many came to help with the "Hanging of the Greens" to beautify our church for the holidays. Some were greeters with Pastor Ryan at the

Christmas Bazaar, and also helped in other areas where they were needed. We had a great time Christmas caroling in Wauconda and Island Lake. When the seniors had their Christmas party, they greeted them at the door, took and hung up their coats, served drinks, cleaned up, etc. We are working on cleaning up the game room, and are currently reading the book "No Longer a Stray", a book about a puppy who meets Jesus. This is a great bunch of kids that we should all be very proud of! - Lisa M.

CHURCH FAMILY DANCE PARTY

- Feb. 11

We are planning a church family dance party which will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11th, at 5:30pm. Hope to see you there!

BAPTISM OF JOHN FUESSL – Feb. 12

Be sure to be in attendance for worship on Sunday, Feb. 12. John Fuessel, a part of this year's Confirmation class, will be baptized on his birthday! It's a special day in his life – let's make this blessing by God a day he'll always remember.

PASTOR RYAN ON VACATION –

Feb. 15 through 22

Pastor Ryan will soon be heading off to Disney World with his sister-in-law and niece! In his absence, Fred Berchtold, a retired pastor who now sings in our choir, will be delivering the message on Sunday, Feb. 19. Be here to hear a great sermon! If you should have an emergency, please call the church office 847-526-8471 or contact Rev. Fred Berchtold at 847-516-1440.

OUTREACH DINNER AND BAKE AUCTION – Feb. 18

Everyone is invited to attend the Outreach Dinner and Bake Auction that will be held at 6:00pm on Saturday, Feb. 18.

Feel free to invite your friends, also. This year, a light meal will be available for \$3 per person. Drinks (coffee, tea, lemonade) will also be served. Later, we'll auction off home-made baked goods that people in our church have contributed. Be thinking of what you can bake to donate, and then bring your wallet and checkbook to get some goodies and support the good work in our community! The proceeds from this event will benefit local missions.



ASH WEDNESDAY – Feb. 22

Believe it or not, Lent starts in less than a month! This is the time of preparation for Easter, as Jesus journeys to the cross. We're going to do something a little different this year. We'll have our usual worship service at 7:00pm with the choir singing and the 'nailing' of sins to the cross. But we're also going to have a soup and bread supper before the service, starting at 6:00pm. This would be a great time to bring the family for a simple meal and help them learn why we prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Week.

LENTEN LEARNINGS

The season of Lent begins on Feb. 22 this year – Ash Wednesday. This is the time of preparation (as we lead up to Easter) when we take time to reflect on what Jesus has done for us and how we can improve ourselves to better follow him throughout our lives.

On the Sundays of Lent in 2012, we're going to be learning about different parts of the Sanctuary that you may have wondered about while you are sitting in the pew on Sunday morning. Hopefully you'll be reminded of how *everything* can turn your thoughts and heart to our God.

SPECIAL LENTEN STUDY TO START ON FEB. 23 & 28

For those who are looking to add something positive during the season of Lent, you are invited to join a special Lenten study. It will run for the six weeks of Lent. Starting on Tuesday morning, Feb. 28, we'll suspend our regular Bible study and invite other people to join us for this new topic. And for those who can't make it during the day, we'll have the same study on Thursday nights at 7:00pm, beginning on Feb. 23. There is no charge – just come to learn!

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP – Feb. 24

If you enjoy reading and talking about books, please join our book discussion group which meets on the fourth Friday of every month at 10:00am at the church. We will meet on Feb. 24 to discuss the classic book *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Through the eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, the author explores attitudes towards race and class in the 1930's Deep South. Contact Laura Culberg at 847-526-3579 to get a copy of the book or for further information.

MEN'S BREAKFAST AND WORK DAY – Feb. 25

Our Winter Work Day is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 25. The men (and any others who'd like to help!) will gather at 8:00am to eat breakfast. Come at 7:30am if you'd like to help cook. Then about 8:30am, we'll get to work on a number of projects and wrap up shop at 12noon. Come and help us out – for an hour, for the whole time - even if you can't make the breakfast!

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY – Feb. 26

On February 26, we will recognize the Girl Scouts in our congregation at the 9:30 Worship Service. We hope that you will join us to support our



Scouts on this special day!

FOCW MEETING – Feb. 27

Join us at our February 27th meeting at 7pm. Lou Ann will lead us as we share our secret tips for making our lives easier. For example, did you know that baking soda and a raw potato will take rust off of your metal cookware? Bring your tips with you, and enjoy the food and fellowship.

RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT – March 3

Relay for Life 'March Madness' Dinner and Talent Show

Our 2nd annual Relay for Life Dinner and Talent show will be on Saturday, March 3rd. Seating will start at 5:00pm. Advance discounted sales will take place after church on February 12th, 19th and 26th. Adults \$15, students 12-18 \$10, kids 4-11 \$5 and little ones (3 and under) are free. Ticket prices at the door will be \$20. If you have a talent to share, let us know. We would love to put you on our new stage! All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

Outreach – Feb. 1 at 7:00pm

Fellowship – Feb. 5 at 10:45am

Memorials – Feb. 6 at 7:00pm

Trustees – Feb. 8 at 7:00pm

Confirmation – Feb. 12 at 10:45am

Education – Feb. 19 at 10:45am

Worship – Feb. 28 at 7:00pm

Federated Board – Feb. 29 at 7:00pm

ATTENTION:

NEW MEMBERS ON COMMITTEES

Please remember that, if you agreed to be on a Commission or Committee in 2012, February is the starting month. Please let the office know if we don't have your email address and we'll send you a reminder of the meeting date. We hope to see you at the meetings – your input is needed!

BOTTOMLESS CLOSET **DONATIONS ACCEPTED**

Once again, we are gathering professional business women's clothing to take to the Bottomless Closet in Chicago. Women re-entering the business world are allowed to pick out several outfits to wear on interviews and to work. Desired items would include: gently-used or new dresses, slacks, coats, briefcases, shoes and purses. Clothing should be on hangers and can be hung in the Coat Rack area outside the main floor restrooms. Please bring your items to the church by the end of March.



KIDS HOPE USA **TUTORING OPPORTUNITY**

There are several children in our area who could really use the skills that a tutor could provide. The churches in our area are working together to provide these resources through Kids Hope USA. If you believe you have the skills that could help, consider giving one hour a week to our children. There would be a single training session to help you feel comfortable in this role, and then you would sign on to tutor one child for about one hour a week. Please see Pastor Ryan for more information.

NEW PROJECTOR

About 14 years ago, I joined the Contemporary Worship Committee to investigate the possibilities for a new type of service, new music, a new worship experience. The members of the committee visited other churches that were offering alternatives to the traditional service. A couple of things that these churches had in common were upbeat music and the use of a video projector. We could easily introduce new music to our congregation, but the cost

of a projector was out of our reach so we made do with what God had provided.

The contemporary worship service was not established, but my personal quest for the enhancement of our worship services through the use of a projector continued. As the years went by, I periodically brought up the idea of a projector, but cost and usage was still not economically sound. During the last three years whenever we needed a projector, I borrowed my son's or rented one from Bundy Audio (at no charge). The need for a projector was becoming more important.

The year 2010 was not a good one for my family - or for our church family. The death of my best friend, Jani Duffin, and (only 6 days later) the passing of my dear father, Lyle Matthews, were very sad times for all of us. But God always makes something good out of the worst of situations. With a portion of my dad's and Jani's memorials plus a generous gift from the FOCW, my prayers were answered and the church now has a new projector. The debut use of the projector was for the Boy Scout's Religious Achievement Award.



The homemade video they produced and starred in was viewed in the sanctuary on January 15th and the presentation was well received.

Now, the Sunday School, Youth Group, FOCW, or any other group in our church can benefit from this gift. With the growing audio/video needs in our church, I invite anyone who wishes to become part of the audio/video team to contact me or the church office. Be it a presentation in the Sanctuary or Movie Night for the kids, you can become part of this new worship resource.

Louise Bundy



If you would like your birthday or anniversary acknowledged in the BEACON, please call the office at 847-526-8471.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

01	Mitchell Cummins
02	Lizz Buisson
02	Jacque Peterson
03	Geraldyn Carr
03	Laura Culberg
05	Bill McCall
07	Chuck Burton
08	Tim Benson
08	Floyd Whitman
11	Shannon Schultz
12	John Fuessl
13	Mary Abraham
13	Pun Fehlman
15	Shannon Haan
15	Glen Peroutka
16	Duane Schumacher
17	Thelma Tagtmeier
18	Jonathan Carr
22	Robert Fehlman
22	Sue Seaman
23	Don Meyer
24	Jon Nustra

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

14	Dave & Jutta Culbertson
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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

01	Melinda Taylor
02	Melanie Brommelkamp
02	Rosemary Buschick
03	Serenity Jensen
05	Kevin Null
06	Nicholas Batson, Jr.
08	Valerie Whitman
11	Linda Baron
11	Jeff Block

12	Amy Bundy
13	Madison Jensen
14	Jan Schulze
16	Austin DeBoer
16	Randy DuMez
16	Ann Petersen
17	Linda Jahnke
18	Matt Bundy
18	Glen Wiley
20	Lou Ann Kozderka
20	Mike Scholl
21	Ken Ramstadt
24	Mary McFeely
28	Dan Fiscus

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

03	Chuck & Nancy Lucius
27	Duane & Sally Schumacher
29	Chuck & Jan Thomas



YOU ARE IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Vern Anderson, Vicki Arnold, Sarah Brock, June Culberg, Laura Culberg, Laurel Doody, Donna Dowell, Florence Forbes, Pat Garlock, Eugene & Kitty Green, Verdelle Jonak, Beverly Kyllingstad, Kathy Langford, Love Inc., Ruth Milling, Gloria Murdock, Cindy Olsen, Bob Peterson, Evelyn Pierce, Arnie Potter, Lee Ann & Russ Rossman, Liz Sorlie, Brett Stangeland, Beverly Tower, Melody VerPlancke & family, Dick Warfield, Dorothy and Jack Wheelock, Bruce Winkler, Bruce Winkler, Sherry Wundsam

Our condolences to the family and friends of Violet Hampton who died on Jan. 9, and Margaret Wicker who died on Jan. 22.

Worship Schedule

Sundays - 9:30am
Sunday School - 9:45am
Fellowship - 10:30am

CHURCH STAFF

PastorRev. Ryan Sutton
Pastor Ryan's Cell Phone.....847-606-6314
Pastor Ryan's e-mail.....flavin2@yahoo.com
Church Phone.....847-526-8471
Church Fax.....847-526-0966
Email.....federatedchurch200@sbcglobal.net
Church Secretary.....Judy Pinkonsly
Church Custodian.....Dennis Pattey
Church Web Site:
www.federatedchurchofwauconda.org
Director of Music/Organist.....Geri Meyer
Nursery Attendant.....Nancy Lucius
Youth Coordinator.....Lisa Morrison
Beacon email.....federatedbeacon2@aol.com

☺ Become a greeter at Federated and make a difference! Anyone interested in sharing a smile, a hug, a handshake or just making someone feel welcome, contact Mary Taylor at 847-526-7151.

☺ Remember that DVD recordings are being made of every Sunday worship service. If you are sick or unable to attend worship, you are welcome to borrow, or buy one to *see* and *hear* what you missed! The cost to buy is \$2 for each DVD.

☺ Please remember to notify the church office if you have a change of address or phone number.

☺ If you no longer wish to receive a copy of our **BEACON** newsletter, please drop us a note or call the church office at 847-526-8471 and we will remove your name from our mailing list.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE

Federated Church of Wauconda
Committed to God through Christ to enrich the world through worship, mission, witness, and service.

The **BEACON** gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following sponsors:

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YOUR PLEDGE

Remember that all monetary gifts to the church are tax-deductible. Just make sure we know your name and address, and attach your name to your contribution each time!

Thank you for your generosity.