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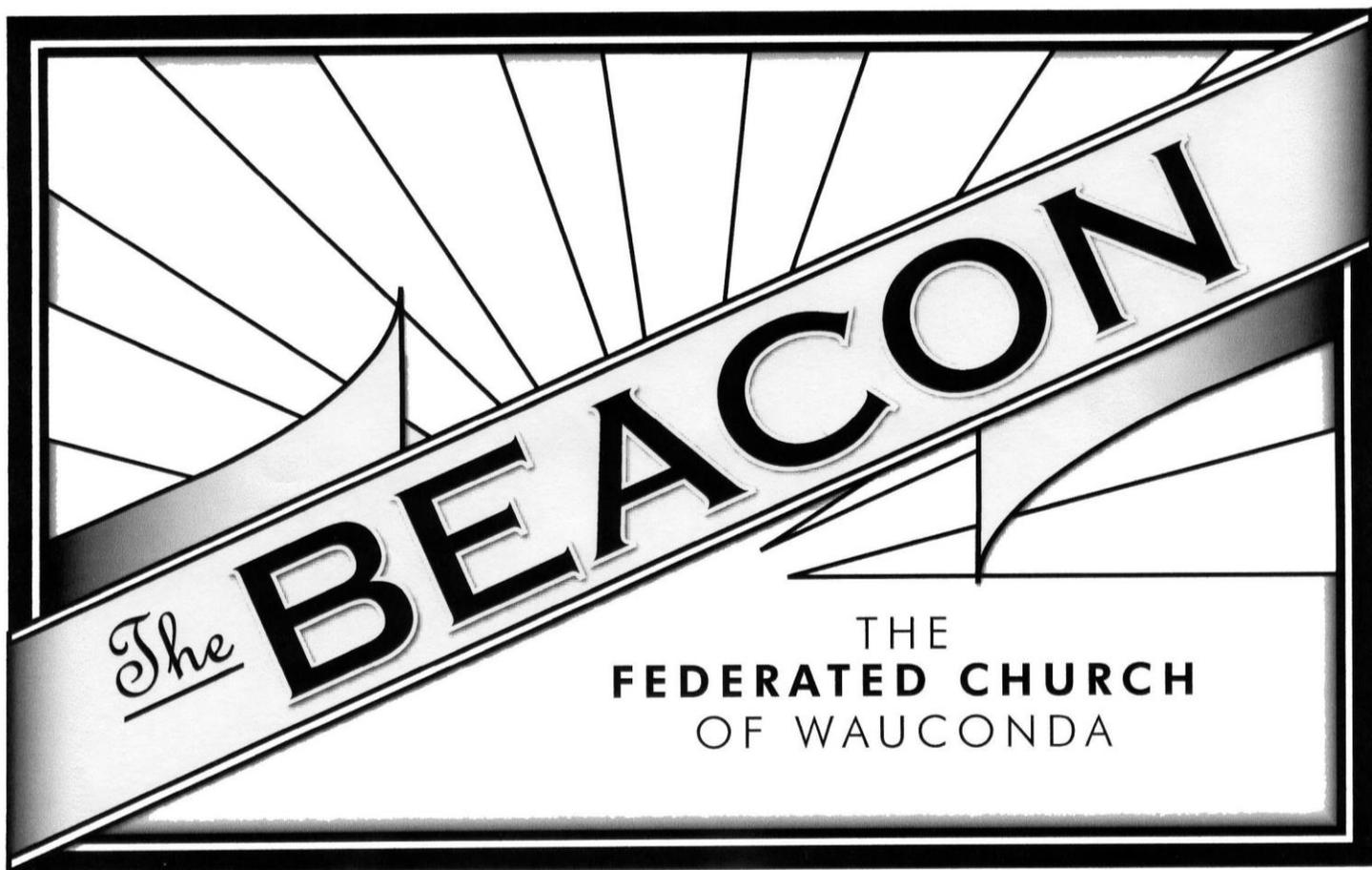
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April 2017

Vol. 65, No 4



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

So many of our Easter traditions are rooted back in history that we may not be aware of where they came from or why the early Christians started using them. The name Easter is not from Christianity, but from Old English. Eostre was their name for the month in which the first day of spring occurred. There were many celebrations for the coming of spring and as Christianity replaced paganism, these traditions were accepted by the church as they could be used to point to Jesus and the Resurrection. Easter time, later spelled Easter time, was a month-long celebration, but the most important day of celebration was Resurrection Sunday, which over time came to be known as Easter Sunday.



The Easter Bunny comes from those old pagan celebrations. In their stories, the goddess Eostre (for whom the month was named) had a magic chicken. She would entertain the children by turning this chicken into different animals and the children would go on egg hunts to find this disguised chicken, who often took the form of a rabbit. While this is a very strange story, early Christians absorbed the idea of an Easter Bunny and egg hunts as rabbits and eggs are symbols of resurrection. When rabbits go into hibernation in the winter they enter the cold earth to come out again with baby bunnies in the spring.

Eggs are a reminder of the tomb from which Jesus Christ arose ([Luke 24:1-4](#)). An egg seems lifeless, but new life bursts forth. Early Christians used red colored eggs to symbolize the Resurrection, but over time various rainbow colored hues were used, which remind us of the promise of God to Noah in Genesis 9.

Other animals have been used to symbolize Easter because of their association with the idea of resurrection. Chicks are closely tied to the symbolism of the egg. The life cycle of a butterfly is a symbol of eternal life. While in its cocoon, it changes and emerges in a new and beautiful form ([1 Corinthians 15:53,54](#)). The lamb is another symbol associated with Jesus. He is often referred to in the Bible as the "Lamb of God" ([Revelation 5:6-14](#)). John the Baptist described Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" ([John 1:29](#)). Easter Baskets were an early part of the Holy Week celebration in the church. On the Saturday before Easter, families would gather the food for their Easter Supper and bring it in baskets to be blessed by their priests.

The candy we eat from our Easter baskets have ties to the symbolism of resurrection. Many candies are made to look like eggs, bunnies or chicks, and jelly beans remind us of the new life which can only come if a seed is planted in the ground ([John 12:24](#)). Even the grass that fills the basket is a symbol of resurrection as the winter kills the grass, but in the spring, it comes alive again.

Easter lilies grow in the spring close to Easter time. Because they look like trumpets, they are a symbol of celebration and of living forever with God ([1 Corinthians 15:52](#)).

The cross is a symbol of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Jesus' resurrection is his victory over the power of sin and death ([Romans 3:25,26](#)). That is why the cross has become the major symbol for God's power to forgive sins and give new life to people ([1 Corinthians 1:18](#)). People often bake hot cross buns to symbolize this event.

I pray your Easter is filled with the hope and joy which the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus provides.

Pastor Jason

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

March 5 – 78

March 12 – 78

March 19 – 81

March 26 – 64

MEETINGS IN MARCH

April 5- Worship

April 9- Fellowship

April 12- Trustees

April 17- Federated Board

April 26- Outreach

April 28- FOCW

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office hours are from 8:00am-12:00pm, Monday through Friday. If you need to drop off, or pick up something we are always open during those times.

PASTOR JASON'S HOURS

Pastor Jason's hours are Monday through Thursday 9am-2pm. He will be in the office at this time unless called away due to ministry. Even when he is not in the office he can be reached 24/7 by phone or text at [630-673-0492](tel:630-673-0492). Pastor Jason's cell phone will go straight to voice mail between the hours of 10:00pm and 7:00am, but his phone will ring if you call twice. You can also contact him at pastorhladik@icloud.com.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR



Start your week off right with a time of fellowship with friends from the church. We meet every week on Monday at 8:00am at the Wauconda Café on Rt. 176. Join us for coffee, breakfast or just a good conversation.

BIBLE STUDY

Follow up with our Monday and Tuesday Bible Story Café Bible studies which are getting great reviews.

Join in one or both!

Monday 10am New Testament Class

Tuesday 6pm Old Testament Class



BLESSING BAGS

On behalf of FOCW, I want to thank you so much for the generosity of this congregation! You really came through for us with your thoughtful donations. We were able to fill 80 gallon size zip-lock baggies with a wonderful assortment of necessities and food items. Half of these bags were brought to the Olivet United Methodist Church for the homeless and half went to the Home of the Sparrow women's shelter. Thank you for making this mission possible.

PRAYER MEETING – April 6 and 20



We will be meeting in the sanctuary at 7:00pm on these evenings. Whether you have a specific prayer in your heart or want to share communal prayer, come and join us. You will be blessed, refreshed and find a new sense of peace.

WAUCONDA CARE – April 26



A Wauconda Care Sing-along is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 3:00pm. Meet at Wauconda Care, just off Rt. 176, at 2:45pm if you'd like to help pass out songbooks and greet the residents before the fun begins. Join us as we bring the worship of God in song to the people at Wauconda Care.

FOCW MEETING – April 28

Please note that the date for our April meeting has been changed from Monday the 24th to Friday the 28th at 6:00pm.

JOURNEY TO EASTER

We began our journey to Easter with the observance of Ash Wednesday on March 1st. During the 6 weeks of Lent, we will continue the regular Bible studies and prayer meetings. In addition, there will be special services to observe Palm Sunday on April 9 and Maundy Thursday on April 13. In addition, on April 15th, we will observe the day before Easter with a service of special



readings and visual arts at noon. We culminate our journey with the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday April 17th. Lent is a time of remembrance, introspection, prayer and reflection culminating in the triumphant resurrection of Jesus. Come and be a part of our journey.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Our Maundy Thursday service this year will be at an earlier time to accommodate families. We will observe Jesus final meal by sharing communion and focus on Jesus love and redemption for us. See you there at 6:00 pm.

EASTER SATURDAY SERVICE APRIL 15 AT NOON

For the first time ever, the Federated Church of Wauconda is celebrating Holy Saturday! Holy Saturday is the Saturday before Easter Sunday, and the traditional service includes several Scripture readings that recount God's saving acts and redemptive plan throughout the Old Testament. For our first ever observance of this service, these readings will be creatively presented with drama, music, movement, and more. Please join us for this one of a kind service! Saturday, April 15th, 12:00pm, in the Fellowship Hall upstairs.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Bring the kids for the annual Easter Egg Hunt following the Palm Sunday Service on April 9th. Brightly colored eggs will be hidden throughout the grounds waiting to be discovered and fetched by little hands. Entertainment for children and enjoyment for adults as well!





SUPER SENIORS

The April luncheon for the Super Seniors will be at The Olive Garden restaurant in McHenry. The date is set for April 12 at 11:30. Please sign up by April 9th and see Lou Ann if you have any questions.

SHUT-IN VISITS FROM PASTOR

If you know of a member of our church or a family member that could use a visit from Pastor Jason, please let him know.



PRAYER PARTNER EMAILS

If you are not receiving the Joys and Concerns Prayer Partner Email and would like to - or if you have a concern during the week - you can call Louise or email her at lbcats32@gmail.com. Joys and Concerns from the Sunday worship service are emailed each week to all who sign up for them.

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is one of the ways we meet the needs of our congregation and our community. We have been able to provide assistance to members in emergency situations as well as provide gift cards for food, medicine and gas.

If you or someone you know is ever in a time of need, please talk with Pastor Jason. Donations to this fund can be made by writing a check to the church with the words Pastor's Discretionary Fund in the memo line. Donations can also be given in the form of gift cards from local grocery stores or gas stations. We thank you for helping us serve our community. - Pastor Jason

FEDERATED FAITH WALKERS 10th YEAR

Our Relay for Life team, the Federated Faith Walkers, invites you to join them. This is the tenth year the Federated Faith Walkers have committed to the fight against cancer.

There are 3 fund raisers planned for this spring:

May 4th - Fun and music at Strawberry Moon (music by the talented Jeff Trudell)

May 14th - Mother's Day bake sale

May 21st - Night of Hope candle light ceremony

If you have any questions please contact Lou Ann. If you need help signing up for our team please contact Pam Wilson. Last year, with the help of our church, we were able to raise \$8400 toward the fight against cancer!

Thank you so much for your amazing generosity!

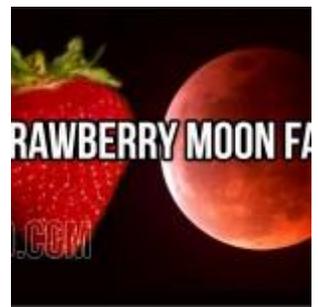
The Federated Faith Walkers



The next planning meeting of the Federated Faith Walkers will be on April 2 following worship. The team is up to 11 members and has already raised \$1300 on line!

RELAY FUND RAISER AT STRAWBERRY MOON

The Federated Faith Walkers are in full fundraising mode and are asking you to join them at the Strawberry Moon on April 4th at 7pm for an evening raffles, fun, and music by the very talented Jeff Trudell. Pastor Jason will serve you wearing a “frilly outfit” for a donation of \$20. So, bring your friends and join us for a wonderful evening as we fight cancer. All proceeds will go to American Cancer Society.



TOGETHER AT LAST—SISTERS IN SONG, SISTERS IN LIFE

Longtime summer special music soloist at the Federated Church of Wauconda, Mary Ann Beatty, and her sister, opera star Joanna Porackova, accompanied by pianist Linda Camp, will soon be giving the Chicago area performance of their concert “Together at Last—Sisters in Life, Sisters in Song.” Mary Ann is a long time friend of our church, blessing us frequently with her musical talent during the choir summer hiatus. Some might remember that she donated her time and talent to help us raise funds for new carpeting by giving a concert accompanied by Geri Meyer. So, if you have enjoyed listening to her in the past, this will be an evening of DOUBLE the PLEASURE. Performances are scheduled at the following locations:



Friday, April 21, 7:00 pm at St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church, 22333 W. Erhart Rd, Mundelein, IL

Sunday, April 23, 2:00 pm at The Church of the Holy Spirit, 400 E. Westminster, Lake Forest, IL

The concerts in Boston, Chicago, New York and northern Indiana mark the first time the sisters have sung together. Music will include duets, arias and songs from the Classical, Romantic and Contemporary Periods. There will be a free will offering taken at the concerts. Mark your calendars now and join the sisters in their celebration of God’s gift of Music.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

The youth group is busy planning and fund raising for the upcoming mission trip to the Redbird Mission on western Kentucky. Thanks to your generosity, the group raised \$715 toward the trip!!! They want to express thanks for your support. The trip is not yet completely funded and they can still use your help. Our youth will be going to the second poorest area in the country to help the people there with light construction, clean up, yard work, etc. They will be representing the Federated Church of Wauconda and are asking for your support and prayers. Trips like these have the potential to be life changing events for the group. They will have an opportunity to bond and strengthen their friendships, to deepen their relationship with our family pastor and to participate in acts of Christian service. If you would like to support this trip and our youth, look for the large water jug and empty your pockets of spare change, sponsor one of our youth or make a donation that can be used to defray the cost of meals and transportation. See Pastor Crystal or talk to one of our youth if you would like to help.



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAW COMMISSION

It has been a few years since our Constitution and By-Laws were reviewed and revised. A committee has been created to perform this responsibility. The following people have agreed to be responsible for investigating this situation and will report back to the Board with any updates they feel should be made: Mary S, Tony R, Dan F, Tom M, Cindy S, Pastor Crystal and Pastor Jason.



Changes can only be finalized at an annual congregational meeting, or a specially convened congregational meeting, when a majority votes for the changes. Proposed changes must be available for the congregation to review in advance of the meeting.

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE APRIL 2

Please join us for a non-traditional, but very special worship experience led by Chuck Burton. Chuck's message will be enhanced by local musicians Steve Gritman and Heather Moran. They will perform favorites from the 60s and 70s such as "Imagine," "Morning Has Broken," "Turn, Turn, Turn" and "Day by Day." You don't want to miss it! Invite your friends.

We hope to see you at the 9:30 service on Sunday, April 2.

SECRETARY ON VACATION

Judy P will be taking a well-deserved vacation so the office will be closed from April 24 through April 28 and again on May 5 through May 8. Pastors Jason and Crystal will have regular office hours on those days and can also be reached by cell phone. Have a great vacation, Judy!

SPRING WORKDAY

Spring is here---almost. In preparation for spring, the Trustees have scheduled a workday for April 8 starting at 9am. Bring your work gloves, indoor and outdoor tools and lots of energy. Under the direction of the Trustees, volunteers perform light repairs, cleanup and yard work. Come for the fellowship and let's see how much we can get done before the flowers bloom. Thank you, in advance, for your help.



ACOLYTES NEEDED

We are looking for youth who are interested in becoming acolytes. If your child would like to help with the lighting of the candles on Sunday mornings, please see Pastor Crystal for more information.

EXERCISE CLASS

There is a group who meet at our church every Monday morning from 9:00-10:00am for a *light exercise* class. They also meet at the Island Lake Village Hall on Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:00am. You can stop by either one of their classes to see what it's all about. Everyone is welcome to participate. If you would like more information, please call Patty at 847-487-1251.



Encouraging Youth to Serve God

If you are a parent, you know how your children rely on you for everything! As busy as our lives are, there's so much joy in parenting. They teach us every day. They are little mirrors. And, the things they learn, say and do, can take us off guard sometimes.

In the Bible, Paul expressed to Timothy, a younger man in the faith,

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. — 1 Timothy 4:12

Give them the opportunity

Sometimes our children don't realize their potential because they aren't given the opportunity. They aren't pushed out of their comfort zones.

I would like to encourage each parent to encourage their children to participate in youth Sunday which is every 5th Sunday of the month. There's nothing more powerful than witnessing God's perfect work in our children's hearts. All due to him/her being given the opportunity to serve.

Tell them they can do it!

Sometimes all our children need to hear is that they can do it and we believe in them! Tell them that God created them to serve Him and have an impact on the lives of others, for His glory!

Encourage them to listen to God above others

Our children will witness their friends and even family members making poor choices in life. They need to know that they can and should listen to God and follow Jesus' example above the example of others. God knows best! He is wise and incredible and powerful. We can have a strong influence instilling this in our children over and over.

Be real and authentic Christian

No matter how old our children are, we can encourage them to place their lives in God's hands and allow Him to do a work in their hearts. God wants our kids' hearts because that's where He begins His amazing work in our children.

Don't be hypocritical. We must show that we care about what God says in His Word by the way we live each day. If our children see us spewing out garbage and hatred, they won't see God's supernatural power at work. They are looking to us as their biggest, tangible example of God's love and His kindness.

God, the creator of the world, recognizes the value of our youth today. Young people are full of courage, vision, and dreams. They are daring and energetic! Don't stunt that in them! As parents, we can harness it, but we must never silence it. This may be the greatest asset they have that will spark in them great growth and great things for God's glory! God specifically commands young people to be leaders. Young people are to seek God's instruction and let the world watch them grow in their spiritual walk with the Lord.

Worship Schedule

Sundays - 9:30am

Sunday School (Sept.-May) - 9:45am

Fellowship - 10:30am

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Jason Hladik
Pastor Jason's cell phone..... 630-673-0492
Pastor Jason's email pastorhladik@icloud.com
Family Pastor Crystal Calhoun-Johnson
Pastor Crystal's cell phone ... 630-901-8540
Pastor Crystal's email pastorccalhoun@gmail.com
Pastor of Accessibility and Acceptance Pastor Fred Berchtold
Pastor Fred's cell phone 815-529-1725
Pastor Fred's email godslovestories@comcast.net
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Beacon editor Mary Steffen
Mary's email..... marstef50@aol.com
Church Web Site www.federatedchurchofwauconda.org
Custodian..... Panuncio Gonzalez
Director of Music/Organist..... Geri Meyer
Nursery Attendant..... Nancy Lucius
Secretary..... Judy Pinkonsly
Youth Coordinator Valerie Lucius

☺ 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.

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

☺ Recordings of our Sunday worship services are available on our website. Go to our website to view the latest worship service: www.federatedchurchofwauconda.org

☺ Our Beacon newsletter is also on the website. If you no longer wish to receive a copy by mail, 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:

Wauconda Funeral Home
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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 donation.