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THE FEDERATED CHURCH OF WAUCONDA
200 BARRINGTON ROAD
WAUCONDA, ILLINOIS
60084

U.S. POSTAGE

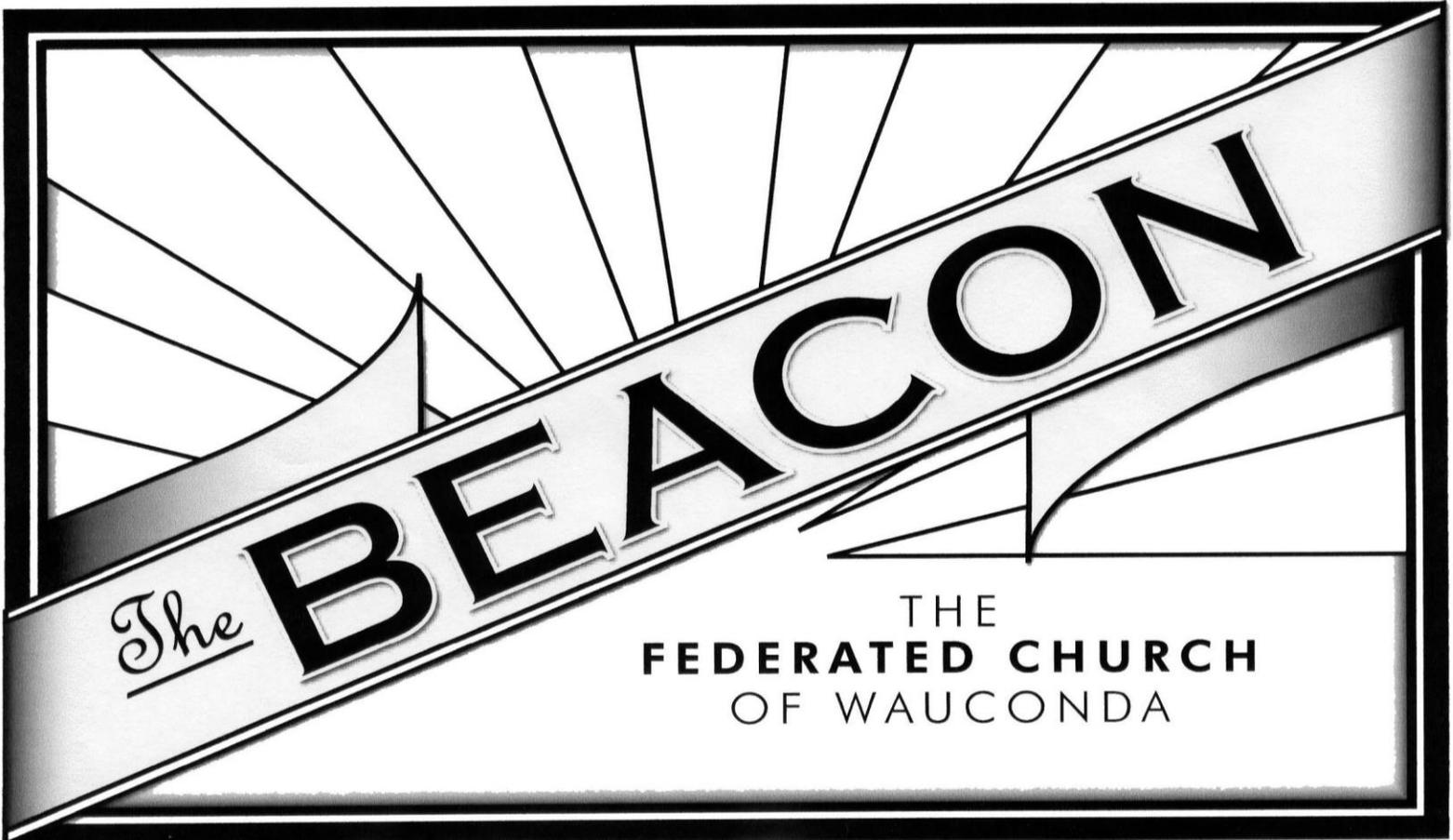
WAUCONDA, ILLINOIS
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March 2018

Vol. 66, No 3



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN –



For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come. (Song of Solomon 2:11-12a)

I am not fond of winter. I enjoy playing in the snow for ten minutes with my girls, and then I want to be inside with a cup of hot chocolate. This is the time of year with gray skies, lifeless trees and filthy, wet slush lining the streets. I miss the sun, the warmth and the color green. We know there is a season for everything, but I wonder why winter seems twice as long to me than any other season.

It has been so cold for so long, that a day above freezing feels balmy, but we all know the weather in our region. We will have a week of warm, maybe even sunny days, only to be followed with more bitter cold and possibly a surprise blizzard before winter releases its grasp. Even when the first flowers begin to sprout, there will be weeks of waiting before the trees and grass reawaken.

To me winter is gray, dreary and depressing. But then I am reminded that God made our world, its cycles and seasons for a reason. On this gray day, I hear the birds singing outside my office window. It is not the robin's joyous song or the excited trill of the redwing blackbird, but it is beautiful nonetheless.

The grass is brown and the ground hard as stone, but I am reminded that the apple seed will not germinate unless it is first frozen. Without the cold of winter there would be no summer apple pie or fall's cider.

And winter is a time of rest, not only for the trees and fields, but for our souls as well. I think Goran Andersson said it best in "The Season of Winter":

"When you inwardly go through a time of winter, you may well withdraw from many expressions of life, but that doesn't mean your spirit is dying. It only means that for a time you are resting, and preparing for a new season, a season of flowers and growth. God takes you aside to prepare you for what is to come, and without that thorough preparation, you won't be ready for a new season!"

So, if you're in a winter season in your life right now, it's not the end! Even on the coldest day we have this sure hope, that after winter, comes spring. It is all part of God's plans for his creation. Be prepared, for one day you'll suddenly become aware that winter is past and the time for singing has come again.



Attendance

Jan. 28 – 58

Feb. 4 – 68

Feb. 11 – 56

Feb. 18 – 52

Feb. 25 - 65

Meetings in January

Worship- March 7 @ 7pm

Trustees-March 14 @7pm

Federated Board-March 19@7pm

Outreach- March 28@7pm

Education-March 25@10:45

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 10 am New Testament Class

Tuesday 6pm Old Testament Class





ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

You can help collect money for our church. Save your aluminum cans and bring them to the church to be recycled. There is a recycling bin outside behind the annex for you to drop off your cans.

TAKE A GOOD LOOK AROUND

Keep your eyes open for missing people. If you notice that someone has not attended for a few weeks, pick up the phone and let them know they are truly missed. Or, let Pastor Jason know if you are concerned about someone's absence.



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.



WAUCONDA CARE SERVICE

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 on March 28th as we bring the worship of God in song to the people at Wauconda Care.

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 Nancy Swanson or email her at nraswanson@gmail.com. Joys and Concerns from each Sunday's service are emailed each week to all who have signed up.

THURSDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETINGS

Last month we increased the regular prayer meetings to 3 times monthly. The first three Thursdays in March are the 1st, 8th and the 15th. Join us if you have personal requests or if you want to be in prayer on behalf of our church family, friends, or our community. We meet in the sanctuary at 7pm.



CONDOLENCES

Our prayers go out to the family and friends of Liz Sorlie and Marion Knoff who both passed away on Jan. 24.



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 provided 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

WANT TO HELP?

Treat bags will be given to youth following Palm Sunday Worship Service. Donations of the following items are appreciated (Rice Crispy Treats, Fruit Snack, Cheez-it) and can be placed in the box near Pastor Crystal's door marked "Treat Bags" beginning Sunday, February 18- March 25. Monetary donations can be designated "Sunday School treat bags" on the offering envelope. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Pastor Crystal, Val Lucius or Nancy Swanson by email.



This Photo by Unknown Author is

FOCW - March 26

Our next meeting will be at 7pm on Monday, March 26.



This year we are working on a publication called "Christmas Traditions" which will contain stories and possibly recipes submitted by members of the church. Selling this at the Christmas Bazaar might help raise money to enable us to help needy families during the holidays. However, we cannot do these things without help so, come join the fun and fellowship and give us your input.

Regular meetings of FOCW (Fellowship of Christian Women) usually occur on the fourth Monday of each month at 7pm from August through May. All women of the church are invited so please come if you are able.

SENIORS—GET YOUR ITALIAN ON!!

Super Seniors luncheon will be Wednesday March 7th 11:30 at the Olive Garden in McHenry. Look for the sign up sheet on the Narthex table. Good food---great fellowship!!



*******Daylight Saving time begins March 11. Set your clocks forward 1 hour*******

SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW



This is John Fuessl. His Mom, Cindy Schofield, still calls him Johnny.

I had the pleasure of meeting this young man on the occasion of his Eagle Scout ceremony right here at the Federated Church. I learned quite a few things about John and the Wauconda Boy Scout Troop 90 that day.

First, I learned that John joined the Cub Scouts the summer right after he finished kindergarten. He was just six years old when he joined the Scouting program. That first summer he had so much fun and was introduced to several other young boys that would eventually become his lifelong friends. And I learned that first summer was when he first began saying he would be an Eagle Scout one day.

I learned that Bonnie DeBoer was John's Den Leader during those first years of Cub Scouts. And I learned that John and his Den buddies were a group of real go-getters, with each boy earning their Arrow of Light and with John, Austin DeBoer and one other boy earning every Webelos activity badge possible in the categories of Physical, Mental, Community, Technology and Outdoors.

John then crossed over and became a Boy Scout in 5th grade. He began working on his merit badges and camping many, many nights. He learned many outdoor skills and was able to explore some things that he might not have been able to if he wasn't a Boy Scout. He learned about things like Aviation, Wilderness Survival and Small Boat Sailing. He also earned all the merit badges required to become an Eagle Scout, such as First Aid, Cooking and Citizenship. John held several leadership positions, his favorites being Den Chief where he assisted at the Cub Scout Den and Pack meetings, and he enjoyed being Troop Guide, where he worked with all the new Boy Scouts and helped get them acclimated to Troop 90 and its ways.

I took note that John took the premiere youth leadership development training offered by the Boy Scouts of America, called National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). I heard about his fun at some high adventure camps where amongst many other things he climbed, he zip-lined, flipped a bike and canoed. And I also took note that John had been awarded the God and Church emblem from the United Methodist Church for his religious studies with Pastor Ryan.

I learned that this Boy Scout Troop, Troop 90, is like a great big family. There are many adult leaders, male and female, to help guide all the boys on their individual scouting paths. Everyone in this Troop wants to see everyone succeed and meet their own goals. I heard many stories about John, from Scout Leaders and Scout friends. Many relayed how well John worked with and lead the younger Scouts. There were also many stories about his quirky humor, and his screams in the middle of the night about camping with spiders!

I also saw a short video of John's Eagle project. It was clearly quite an undertaking. He, along with members of his Troop and the Messiah Lutheran Church, installed a French Drain System, a wooden air conditioner surround and landscape for the benefit of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, the sponsoring organization for Wauconda Boy Scout Troop 90. John's Eagle

project coach was our own Tim Benson! Tim shared how impressed he was to see John lead a group of adults through this big project.

Finally, I saw John, now as grown man, recognize 8 adults that had the most influence on his progress to become an Eagle Scout and well, into adulthood. John gave a heartfelt thank you and a commemorative Mentor pin to each one of these special people in his life. Each Scout Leader gave generously of themselves to ensure John was successful all along his path to becoming an Eagle. And they all stand by him still; waiting to see what he can do next.

Pastor Crystal Calhoun-Johnson

GARDENER NEEDED



The Memorial committee is looking for a person to tend the Duffin Memorial garden. The individual would be paid an hourly wage to weed, water and woo the garden during the growing months. If you have any interest or want to know more, please contact Candee Nustra at 847/526-3873 or email her at candeenustra@gmail.com

GIRL SCOUT RECOGNITION SUNDAY



We will recognize girl scouts who participate in our youth group on Sunday, March 11, 2018 during worship service. Please join us as we acknowledge our youth and their leadership abilities.

Congratulations to Angela Batson, Hero Lucius, Madison Lucius and Bella Dewars.

NEW EDUCATION POLICY

Due to the severe cold and flu season, the Education Commission has instituted the following policy:

If your child is sick, has an unexplained fever or rash, or a runny nose caused by a cold, please keep them home where they can rest and get well. We do not want to risk other children, volunteers or the elderly of our church becoming sick. Generally, a child who has had a fever is considered no longer contagious if they have been fever free for 24 hours. Should a nursery worker, Sunday school teacher or youth group leader notice symptoms during the child's time in the nursery/Sunday school, you will be asked to come pick up your child. Please understand that this is for the well-being of our children and volunteers in the nursery/Sunday school/youth group.

FAMILY LENT ACTIVITIES

Lent is a great opportunity for families to seek spiritual reflection and contemplation. It is also a great time to take out all our Easter-related videos and enjoy them individually or as a family. Families can do several activities such as engage in bible discussion, arts projects, and sing hymns. To ensure that your children are as excited about Easter as Christmas, I would like to share several family activities you can do during lent.

- 1) God's holiness is preeminent and transcending. Explain repentance in terms of understanding God's holiness and seeing yourself through His eyes. Emphasize God's loving desire to redeem sinners. For young children teach them to say "Excuse me" or "I'm sorry" each time they make a mistake or do something wrong. Make that fun by lightly knocking into them and gasping, "Oh, excuse me!" Or spill some water and say, "I'm sorry!" Use role-play to get across the message.
- 2) Explain the word alleluia, which comes from a Greek translation of a Hebrew phrase meaning "Praise the Lord" - a call to worship. Sing a favorite praise song or hymn.
- 3) Define atonement, helping your kids understand the ideas of making amends or repaying a debt that is owed. For young children role-play the parable of the ungrateful debtor.
- 4) Take a nature walk and collect items that could remind you of the life of Jesus. For example, two sticks could be put together as a cross, a thorn could represent the crown on Jesus' head and a stone could remind the children of the big stone that rolled in front of Jesus' tomb.
- 5) Explain "fasting" and "abstinence" and how some Christians do both during Lent. Ask if anyone would like to forgo something for the day (coffee for mom, something sweet for the children).
- 6) Sacrifice something nice for someone in the family.
- 7) Practice giving one another a foot-wash. Talk a bit about Maundy Thursday when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples and commanded them to love one another. The word maundy comes from a root word meaning "mandate" or "command." Look up John 13:34-35 to discover the "new commandment" Jesus gives.
- 8) Make Easter cards to give or send to family and friends.
- 9) Talk about why the day Christ died (Good Friday) is ultimately very good because all of us need to be redeemed. We need a Savior.
- 10) Do something crafty like make a tissue or coffee filter butterfly. Or draw a butterfly and paint or color it. Look up 2 Corinthians 5:17. Which symbolize new life in Jesus.
- 11) Help your child understand why Jesus was called "the Lamb of God" (His role as the unblemished sacrifice: Ex. 12:21-24; John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7-8). With your child, make a lamb. Glue cotton balls to a small paper plate, then add pink and black construction-paper eyes, ears, muzzle, nose and hooves.
- 12) Watch an Easter-related movie.
- 13) Discuss and agree how as a family, you can "give up something" and give the money (which would have gone towards its purchase) to a charity or a benevolent fund.

- 14) Fill a clay pot with soil and grass seeds. Watch the grass sprouts come to life. Explain how Jesus gives us new life.
- 15) Sing “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” or “Jesus Loves Me”.
- 16) If you have older children, discuss why some think Easter is a pagan holiday.
- 17) Explain what “betray” means. Who betrayed Jesus? For how much? Discuss how we can be faithful to God on a daily basis. For younger children, ask them how they can be a faithful sibling or friend.
- 18) Make a “He is Risen!” or “Our Redeemer Lives!” poster or banner for the house or as gifts to grandparents.
- 19) Bake something for a shut-in or a needy family.
- 20) Learn to spell and define “resurrection”. What is the significance of Jesus' resurrection? Younger children could learn how to spell “Jesus” or “Cross”.
- 21) Spend several minutes praying together for friends or family that may need prayer.
- 22) If you have a fireplace you might want to scoop up some ashes and put them in a little bowl. Then explain how ashes is one of the symbols of Lent. Explain how people in the Bible used ashes to symbolize repentance and sorrow, humility and purification. Today some Christians mark their foreheads with ashes on Ash Wednesday as a sign of their willingness to cleanse their heart through prayer, fasting and self-denial.
- 23) Burn white candles at supper during the season to symbolize how Jesus is the light of the world.
- 24) Eggs are familiar symbols during Easter, although they are unrelated to the Easter story. They represent new life and have been a symbol of spring since ancient times. Let your children know that Christians have adopted the egg as an Easter symbol because of the relationship between spring and new life in Christ.
- 25) Give up something today. It could be a chocolate bar, time on the computer, the use of the telephone, etc. Read about how Jesus fasted 40 days in the wilderness to prepare for his ministry.
- 26) Sand is a Lenten symbol. Place a bowl of sand in a prominent place. Let it remind your family of how God let the people in their journey in the desert and how Jesus faced temptations during the 40 days in the desert. The desert can be a place of retreat where there is freedom from distractions. Each time someone feels tempted, it might be a good idea to return to the bowl of sand and think about how the Lord can help them. For younger children, do a sand craft if you have the materials.
- 27) Ask everyone to find something in the house that is purple. When you have a little pile of purple objects, explain how purple is the color of Lent. Purple symbolizes the pain and suffering leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus. It is also the color of royalty and symbolizes the kingship of Jesus in our lives. Younger children might like to wear something purple the whole day.

For myself, I want to use Lent to focus less on my physical needs and more on my spiritual needs. My own observation of Lent is not based on any hard and fast rules or traditions. It is just a personal decision to examine my heart and life. Perhaps my meditation will lead me to appreciate more the suffering and death of my dear Lord and Savior, and maybe I'll be able to cry out like David "Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me".

(Psalm 51:9-10)

GOD IS IN THE FEDERATED CHURCH OF WAUCONDA NURSERY



Where is God on Sunday morning? Of course, God is everywhere. We know that God is enthroned in the praises of his people. (Psalm 22:3) When we gather to worship – God is with us.

We know that God is there when we pray. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20) When we pray – God is with us.

We know that God is there when his Word is read, preached, loved and obeyed. The Lord says, "I am watching over my word to perform it." (Jeremiah 1:12) When the Bible speaks – God is with us.

We know that God is everywhere. "Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 23:24) "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good." (Proverbs 15:3) No matter where we go – God is with us.

But did you know that God is back in the church nursery? "And Jesus took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me." (Mark 9:36-37) When you welcome a child in the name of Jesus you welcome Jesus himself. When we minister to children – God is with us.

Please consider volunteering in our nursery today.

For more details please see Nancy Lucius or Pastor Crystal.

MARCH 2018
USHERS & ACOLYTES

DATE	USHERS	ACOLYTES
Greeter for March – Bonnie DeBoer		
Mar. 4	Louise Bundy	Angela Batson
	Ann Petersen	Gabriella Stephens
	Tony Rake	
	Ruby Thacker	
Mar. 11	Raj Bhatt	Hero Lucius
	Rose Bhatt	Madison Lucius
	Tom Martin	
	Peggy Martin	
Mar. 18	Jutta Culbertson	Angela Batson
	Laurel DeBoer	Gabriella Stephens
	Mary Taylor	
	Ted Tremont	
Mar. 25	Dave Fehlman	Hero Lucius
	Jim Hill	Madison Lucius
	Joyce Hill	

MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Mar. 4	Pastor Crystal
Mar. 11	Mary Steffen
Mar. 18	Ruby Thacker
Mar. 25	Peggy Martin



APRIL 2018
USHERS & ACOLYTES

DATE	USHERS	ACOLYTES
Greeter for April – Mary Abraham		
Apr. 1	Dick Bode	Angela Batson
	Bonnie DeBoer	Gabriella Stephens
	Heidi Leo	
	Mindy Taylor	
Apr. 8	Louise Bundy	Hero Lucius
	Ann Petersen	Madison Lucius
	Tony Rake	
	Ruby Thacker	
Apr. 15	Raj Bhatt	Angela Batson
	Rose Bhatt	Gabriella Stephens
	Tom Martin	
	Peggy Martin	
Apr. 22	Jutta Culbertson	Hero Lucius
	Laurel DeBoer	Madison Lucius
	Mary Taylor	
	Ted Tremont	
Apr. 29	Jim Hill	Angela Batson
	Joyce Hill	Gabriella Stephens
	John Mate	
	Mary Taylor	

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Apr. 1	Pastor Crystal
Apr. 8	Linda Vrabec
Apr. 15	Lou Ann Kozderka
Apr. 22	Louise Bundy
Apr. 29	Cheryl Ficht



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
Church Phone..... 847-526-8471
Email..... federatedchurch200@sbcglobal.net
Beacon editor Mary Steffen
Mary's email..... marstef50@aol.com
Church Web Site www.federatedchurchofwauconda.org
Custodian.....
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.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Federated Church of Wauconda is
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
235 North Main Street
Wauconda, IL 60084

Mark A. Kisselburg
Craig A. Kisselburg

Phone 847-526-2115
Fax: 847-526-6251



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.