



First Federated Church



January
2012

10786 Mahoning Ave, PO Box 188
North Jackson OH 44451
330/538-3936 / www.firstfederatedchurch.net

Inside

Denominational Meetings

One Service Sunday Feb 5

Annual Meeting

Soup Sunday

“Living the Questions”

Frogs

Mother Hubbard’s
Cupboard

Scout Sunday Feb 19

Thank You’s

Transition Team Meeting

“Sock It To Me”

Isaiah 9:1,2 "There will be no more gloom for those who were in distress....The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness- - on them light has shined."

Januaries here in northeast Ohio are the gloomiest month of the year. Sometimes it seems like months since the sun has shined or will shine again. As I sit in my office writing this, I look out on yet another dark and rainy day. I feel my shoulders slump and my spirit sag. Even after turning on all of the lights in my office, the days remain dark.

Similarly, dark seasons in relationships, health, jobs, school and our political situation can launch us into a climate of hopelessness and despair. The prophet Isaiah understood such distress, darkness and fearful gloom.

Isaiah writes to let us who know darkness too pervasive for medication, entertainment, or self-help to illuminate. He doesn't talk about temporary fixes, puddles of light that people can switch on and off like houselights. Instead he makes an amazing prediction: Light that will dispel the 3 AM blackness. *"There will be no more gloom for those who were in distress..."*

That light? Not an incandescent, halogen or LED bulb that lights only a small area around us. Not Botox, a big salary, applause or a community that looks exactly like us. Isaiah *continued*

Continued on page 4

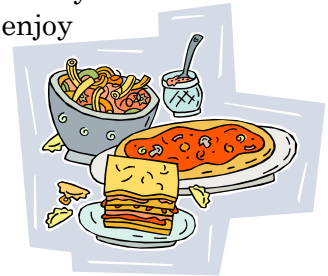


YOU ARE INVITED

Beginning Wednesday, February 1, please join us at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall for an interesting and entertaining discussion series titled **“Living with Questions”**.

This fellowship opportunity will be led by Pastor Gaye. You are asked to **bring a covered dish** to share and we can enjoy wonderful conversation while breaking bread over a potluck dinner.

The series will begin Feb. 1 and continue each Wednesday evening through March 21.



Pictured: Nolan, Pastor Gaye, Lisa, Brian, Anthony and Briley Chance

Welcome to the newest member of our Church Family!

Congratulations to Brian and Lisa Chance on the Baptism of

Nolan Michael

on January 15th. It was a joyous day enjoyed by everyone who was in worship.

Everyone’s Invited
Annual Soup Sunday
After annual meeting

On Sunday February 5, we will have our annual “Souper Sunday”. Everyone is asked to bring your favorite soup or something that goes with soup, or of course a dessert to share. After the meeting we can share food and fellowship.



Annual Meeting

First Federated Church Annual Meeting will be held Feb. On this day there will be one service at 10:00am with the annual meeting to follow. All are invited to stay for meeting, but you must be a member of the church to be able to vote. After the meeting we will have our “soup Sunday” everyone is asked to bring a crock pot of soup or something that will go with soup, or a dessert. It will be a great day for fellowship.



What's In Your Wallet?

The cartoon above is so silly, but so close to home that we all can relate to Charles. God gives us everything we have. But do we joyfully and freely give back? Sharing what money we have each week is one way for us to be faithful to the promises we made when we were baptized, confirmed or joined the First Federated family.

Occasionally we hear from fellow members their stories of how God has blessed them and how their blessings are multiplied when they freely give money to the work of God. Please remember the abundant blessings of God in your life and continue to give to the good works accomplished through the efforts of our church.

Thank you for the generous ways in which you have supported our missions like Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Family Promise and mission trips. Consider the impact you have on a person's life because you give the money that provides a safe place for people attending AA or NA meetings in our church. Take a moment to look up 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. God provides "every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

from front page.....

describes the One who will come as the Light of the world, shattering "the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor."

Christ shows us the way through the darkness, if we will just agree to follow. He shows us the path to the light which the darkness cannot overcome.

May Christ lead you to brighter days as we continue through the darkness of winter, into the light of spring that we know is coming.

Blessings,

Gaye

An Exciting New Offering Starting February 1! Living the Questions 2.0

Are you tired of Bible Studies that try to tell you what and how to think?

Then this is the gathering for you! Living the questions starts off with a 20 minute video that includes leading voices of faith and digital stories showing how Christianity is evolving to guide us in this new millennium. It is followed by plenty of time for discussion, allowing you to discover what you believe in a safe, non-judging environment.

People who have participated before swear it is life changing!

Come, bring a dish to share and join Pastor Gaye at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings starting February 1 in fellowship hall. *7 weekly meetings.*

Kids always welcome.

Attention Transition Team

The team will get together for their first meeting Jan 29 at noon. Please Let Pastor Gaye know if you cannot attend.



Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

We are fishing for Tuna! Tuna is an important protein and has not been available through Second Harvest. Donations of canned tuna are greatly appreciated, they can be dropped off here at the church and put in our basket. Monetary donations are always accepted also, just mark your enveloped with how much is to go to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.



Drop-In Tuesday Lunch

Bring a sandwich and join Gaye for lunch in the parlor as we discuss next Sunday's scripture lesson. Lunch's will continue every Tuesday at noon except for the last Tuesday of every month when the Lunch Bunch meets.

All are welcome!



Pastor Gaye's Office Hours

Pastor Gaye will be in the church office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 12 to 4pm or by appointment.

ffcpastor@neo.rr.com is still the pastor's email, and her cell # is 330-807-9201

Mary Sue in the office on Mondays from 9am to Noon and Tuesday thru Thursday from 8am to 1:00pm

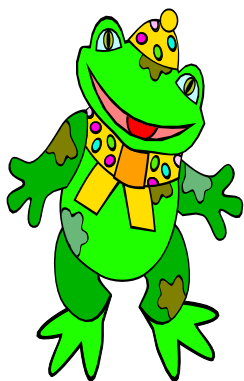
Ffcsecretary@neo.rr.com



Thank You

Thanks to the congregation and especially the FROGS for all of your help and assistance in all the projects the church and the FROGS did for the year 2012.

It was a pleasure working with all of you and making new friends and having a successful year in our attempts. Now it is a New Year and anyone who would like to join the FROGS of course is always welcome, and to those who are a part of the team I would like to invite you to a meeting after early church in the fellowship hall 1-22 to discuss what projects, charities, community functions, family assists etc. that you would like to consider to do for 2012. All of you have such great ideas and would like you all to put on those green thinking hats and think away as you leap to your lily pads and come up with some wonderful plans. As always it is majority rules and we can pick perhaps a project or ongoing event etc. to do about every 2 -3 months, so not to burden those already busy quick leaping frogs in their our activities and life events. The meeting should not be long but hopefully very productive and I am anxious to see everyone's ideas. Thanks see you on the 22nd. Cheryl Sandberg



A poem by Pam Lawrence

Invitation

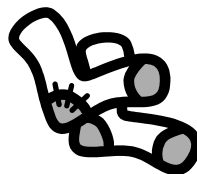
...anything that nudges us to grow and broaden our perspective,
should be a welcomed guest.
We get complacent,
and need reminding
that the depths still churn
inviting our participation in the uncovering of
pearls and treasures.
We need to take a deep breath and dive in.
Shallow waters offer little more than a comfortable
place to float.

P. Lawrence

"Sock It To Me"

The Breakfast Club is having their "Sock It To Me" new sock collection.

Please bring to the church new socks for men, women, and/or children in for those less fortunate in our community. These will be distributed to the Rescue Mission, Sojourner House and the schools by Valentine's Day.



FINANCE TEAM REPORT:

Financial Report – General Fund

YTD thru December 31, 2011:

Income	\$ 126,010.76
Expense	\$ 144,626.34
Deficit	\$ -18,615.58

Giving Updates for 2012

As you make your 2012 financial plans, please consider an increase in your giving to help our church touch even more lives in the community this year. The biblical call for tithing 10% of income to God can be a challenging goal for some givers. As part of a plan to reach this target, many donors increase their offerings each year by a percentage so that over time they can faithfully reach the ultimate goal.

Spiritual Life Board

We appreciate all who helped decorate the church for Christmas. The church was beautiful in all its holiday splendor! And a big thanks to all who helped undecorate too.

Special thanks to all our Christmas carolers! We visited four homes on the evening of December 4th bringing Christmas cheer to folks who might not otherwise hear the joyous sounds of the season.

Scout Sunday, February 19

Boy Scout Troop 105 will conduct both services on this Sunday.

Ash Wednesday, February 22

We will hold Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm this evening.

As the Weather Turns...

A gentle reminder to persons who are able: please park behind the building or in the gravel lot. This gives our visitors and those who have difficulty walking, access to the closer parking spots.

Recycle Bins

There are a few blue recycle bins in the hallway, two for paper (bulletins) and one for plastic bottles or cans. Please remember the Styrofoam coffee cups are not recyclable, there is a trash can at the far end of the counter by the parlor door for those. Thank you for helping keep our welcome area neat and tidy.



Donominational Meetings

For anyone interested these will be held January 23 at noon

A BIG THANK YOU

For all the prayers over the past few months; and also all the support everyone gave during this difficult time. A special thank you to Susan & Kent Helmick, Cheryl Sandberg, Betty Byram & Vera Davidson for the delicious and hard work on clean up at St. James. Your kindness was more than appreciated. LOVE TO ALL! Bea (Wilson) Titus and Keener Families

THANK YOU

We received a thank you from the Jackson-Milton School District for donations received to help families at Christmas. All together they were able to help 47 children!



Annual Reports need to be turned into the office as soon as possible.

January 2012 - February 2012

January 2012

February 2012

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 15 - 21	Jan 15 9:30am 10:30am Contemporary Service 11:00am 12:00pm Traditional Service 8:00pm 9:00pm AA (FH)	Jan 16 6:00pm 7:30pm Cub Scouts (basement) 6:30pm 9:00pm NA Meetings	Jan 17 12:00pm 1:00pm Drop In Lunch 7:00pm 8:00pm Boy Scouts (youth center)	Jan 18 8:00pm 9:00pm Choir (Sanctuary)	Jan 19	Jan 20	Jan 21
Jan 22 - 28	Jan 22 9:30am 10:30am Contemporary Serv 10:30am 11:30am FROGS Meet 11:00am 12:00pm Traditional Service 8:00pm 9:00pm AA (FH)	Jan 23 6:00pm 7:30pm Cub Scouts (basement) 6:30pm 9:00pm NA Meetings	Jan 24 12:00pm 1:00pm Drop In Lunch 6:00pm 7:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm 8:00pm Boy Scouts (youth center)	Jan 25 2:00pm 3:00pm Friendship Ops 8:00pm 9:00pm Choir (Sanctuary)	Jan 26 9:30am 10:00am Unload Truck 6:00pm 8:00pm Church Council	Jan 27	Jan 28 10:00am 12:00pm MHC
Jan 29 - Feb 4	Jan 29 9:30am 10:30am Contemporary Service 11:00am 12:00pm Traditional Service 8:00pm 9:00pm AA (FH)	Jan 30 6:00pm 7:30pm Cub Scouts (basement) 6:30pm 9:00pm NA Meetings	Jan 31 11:30am 12:00pm Lunch Bunch 7:00pm 8:00pm Boy Scouts (youth center)	Feb 1 6:30pm 8:00pm Pot Luck (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm 9:00pm Choir (Sanctuary)	Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4
Jan 29 - Feb 11	Jan 29 10:00am 11:00am Combined Service 11:00am 12:00pm Annual Meeting 12:00pm 1:00pm Soup Sunday 8:00pm 9:00pm AA (FH)	Jan 30 6:00pm 7:30pm Cub Scouts (basement) 6:30pm 9:00pm NA Meetings	Jan 31 12:00pm 1:00pm Drop In Lunch 6:00pm 7:30pm Girl Scouts Meet 6:00pm 7:30pm spiritual 7:00pm 8:00pm Boy Sco 7:00pm 8:00pm Trustee	Jan 31 6:30pm 8:00pm Pot Luck (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm 9:00pm Choir (Sanctuary)	Feb 1 9:30am 10:00am Unload Truck	Feb 10	Feb 11 10:00am 12:00pm MHC (pantry) 11:00am 5:00pm Youth Center Rented
Feb 12 - 18	Feb 12 9:30am 10:30am Contemporary Service 11:00am 12:00pm Traditional Service 8:00pm 9:00pm AA (FH)	Feb 13 6:00pm 7:30pm Cub Scouts (basement) 6:30pm 9:00pm NA Meetings	Feb 14 12:00pm 1:00pm Drop In Lunch 7:00pm 8:00pm Boy Scouts (youth center)	Feb 15 6:30pm 8:00pm Pot Luck (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm 9:00pm Choir (Sanctuary)	Feb 16	Feb 17	Feb 18 6:00pm 9:00pm Blue & Gold Banquet

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North Jackson, OH 44451

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NORTH JACKSON, OH 44451
PERMIT #5

God is still speaking,



January 2012

SERVICE TIMES

CONTEMPORARY

9:30AM

TRADITIONAL

11:00AM

CHURCH PHONE

330-538-3936

EMAIL:

Pastor Gaye Santoro

ffcpastor@neo.rr.com

330-807-9201

Mary Sue McKinney

ffcsecretary@neo.rr.com



ONE SERVICE

FEBRUARY 5, 2012 AT 10AM, ANNUAL MEETING 11AM.

Our Prayers in October:

John Bachinger, Billijo Byram, Tom Colwell, Gina Johns, Don Johnson, Marcia Kopey, Beth Lelo, Tom & Joy Murray, Shirley Ocheltree, Lucas Persing, Terry Raeburn, Mary Riebe, Dale Sewall, Family of Art Titus (you may add anyone to the prayer list by calling or emailing the church.)

Lunch Bunch

The next get together of the Lunch Bunch will be Tuesday, Jan 31, 11:30am. If you have any questions call Phoebe at 330-538-3126.

Friendship Ops

Their next meeting is, Wednesday Jan 25 at 2:00pm, in the church parlor.

Pastor Gaye's Office Hours

Pastor Gaye will be in the church office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 12 to 4pm or by appointment. Her email is: ffcpastor@neo.rr.com and her cell phone number is 330-807-9201. Please feel free to stop in the church office or to call her on the phone.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday's from 9AM-12Noon, & Tuesday through Thursday Mary Sue is in the office from 8am to 1:00pm