



Gathering

Federated Church of El Dorado County

Volume 5, No. 3
November 2011

GIFTS THAT GIVE TWICE



Christmas shopping for friends and family benefits the community as well when gifts are purchased from Federated's annual **Alternative Christmas World Marketplace**, in Price Hall after each worship service, December 4 and 11.

The purchase of an ornament handmade by Federated children will provide a unique gift for a friend, while proceeds from the sale help the SHARE food closet feed hungry people in El Dorado County. A variety of fair trade gifts will support people in need locally as well as those in Kenya, Ghana, South America, Haiti and throughout the world.

Programs supported this year through Alternative Christmas are: Federated Church Youth Mission, Global Good, Church World Service, FCW youth scholarships, TIPORE, SHARE, Just Coffee, and United Outreach.

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!

A 10-week study in Christian Life practices.

Searching for "everyday sacredness in the ordinary" will be the theme of an interactive study that begins the week of January 8. Participants will use the book *Finding Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient Practices*, by Brian McLaren. McLaren asserts that "spiritual practices could be called life practices or humane practices, because they help us practice being alive, and humanely so...and are a way of becoming available and staying awake to God."

Participants may attend either the Sunday morning class, facilitated by Bob and Carol Olmstead, or the Tuesday evening class facilitated by Andrew Headden or Karen Shelnutt.

"Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16.



I BELIEVE...

"...that God is everywhere, in the trees, people, good deeds, everyday activities... God placed us each on earth for a purpose... we all have the same goal, to make the world a better place." - **Corinna Regan**

Worship for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| November 27th | 1st Sunday of Advent
<i>"The Awakening" Mark 13: 24-27</i> |
| December 4th | 2nd Sunday of Advent
<i>"Wilderness Survival" Mark 1: 1-8</i> |
| December 11th | 3rd Sunday of Advent
<i>"What Are You Waiting For?" John 1: 6-8, 19-28</i> |
| December 18th | 4th Sunday of Advent
<i>"Annunciation" Luke 1: 26-38</i> |
| December 24th | Christmas Eve
5:00pm, <i>Contemporary Worship Service</i>
6:30pm, <i>Trilogy from Handel's Messiah</i>
11:00pm, <i>Christmas Eve Communion</i> |
| December 25th | Christmas Day
10:00am, <i>One Worship Service</i>
<i>"The Future of Flesh" John 1: 1-14</i> |
| January 1st | 1st Sunday After Christmas
10:00am, <i>One Worship Service</i>
<i>"The Fullness of Time" Gal. 4: 4-7</i> |
| January 8th | Baptism of the Lord
<i>"Come on In, The Waters Fine" Gen 1: 1-5,</i> |

See Page 3 for more Advent Events!

From the Pastor ~

Christmas decorations are up in all the stores. Christmas carols seem to have filled the airwaves since the day after Halloween. Our children have been practicing diligently for their Christmas musical for a long time. It's all about the stable, the star and the shepherds.

And yet this is not how the writer of the gospel of Mark speaks about this time of year. His language suggests cosmic fireworks: a darkened sun, a dim moon, stars falling from the sky like sparks from a sparkler - and there, in the midst of it all, the Son of God coming in clouds with great glory.



Mark is sharing a vision of the end time, when the world as we know it will be healed, restored and blessed, to become the kind of world God has been trying to create for us all along. For the most part, we have refused that world. It is too demanding a world to live in; too much togetherness, too much accountability, too much humility.

Advent, then, is not so much a predictable, dull and obvious celebration of Christ's birth, but rather a retelling of a story we really did not know. It is about cataclysmic change, transformation, all things being made new, a new heaven and earth, a new community and, perhaps best of all, a new us! That, I think, is our hope and God's promise.
~ Blessings, **Andrew**

I BELIEVE...

"I have gone to church and enjoyed the energy and feelings of the experience, but rituals and concepts were of no significance to me...I have come to understand these practices, as well as the fact that love and absolute acceptance are the two underlining concepts embodying my faith." - **Emma Holm**

Planning by HOLY CONVERSATION

A note from Andrew

The Federated Church Council was glad to welcome two members of the Presbytery of Sacramento's Committee on Ministry to one of its recent meetings. After a productive time of sharing and thinking together, one of our visitors, Rev. Tom Oxtoby, interim pastor at the Westminster Church, suggested that it would be good for the Council to lead the congregation in a time of reflection, conversation and planning, to help us understand where we are going, why such direction is important and how to get there. He recommended a resource to us: a book called Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations.

The Council has responded to Tom's encouragement by forming the Holy Conversations Team, who will, in the weeks and months ahead, invite us all to join them in a conversation about who we are and what we believe it is important to do together. We will explore our perceptions, convictions and differences. We will share memories and hopes. We will be challenged, strengthened and transformed. In their work for us and with us, this new team - Susan Hunn, John Gray, Carolyn Bush, Kelly Christner, Sara Munday, and Linda Gates - will need our prayers and support; please commend them to God's grace and be ready to talk, think and plan with them.



Federated Staff -

Leslie Bush, Organist
Patty Case, Youth Coordinator
Gina Divine, Financial Secretary
Bonnie Green, Minister of Music
Andrew Headden, Pastor



Vicki Martin, Office Manager
Bob Olmstead, Parish Associate
Sandy Peirce, Parish Associate
Dave Price, Director of Support Services
Jodie Regan, Minister to Children & Families
Karen Shelnett, Faith Community Nurse

SHARE CHRISTMAS KINDNESS – BRING A BLANKET!

Blankets, jackets, sweaters and shoes will bring the warmth of Christmas to local families in need through Federated's annual Tree of Kindness, beginning at the Advent Celebration on Sunday, November 20, in Price Hall, and continuing through December 11. Envelopes will decorate the Tree, each one featuring the requests of a family referred by El Dorado High School or Placerville School District. Donors who are unable to meet the needs of a whole family are encouraged to bring one or more unwrapped new blankets of any size to Price Hall now through December 11.



How to participate:

- Choose a family request that is a good match for you from the Price Hall tree or an individual request from a tree at a Placerville merchant (more information coming in weekly announcements!). Consider teaming with family, friends or co-workers to adopt a larger family.
- Complete the green donor information form to indicate whether you will deliver the gifts or bring them to the church for the family to pick up on December 15.
- Select one or two gifts for the family members on your request form. Wrap the gifts, with the name of the recipient clearly marked on the outside.
- If your family requested gift delivery, contact them to arrange a delivery time, or advise the Tree of Kindness team for help with delivery.
- If your family will be picking up their gifts, place all the wrapped gifts in large bags with the family name and number clearly written on the outside and bring them to the church by noon on December 13.

Cash donations are always welcome, as well as donations of ribbon, tape, wrapping paper and gift bags. Help is needed to shop, wrap and deliver gifts. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Robin Stanley at 644-1631 or birdwomanca@comcast.net.

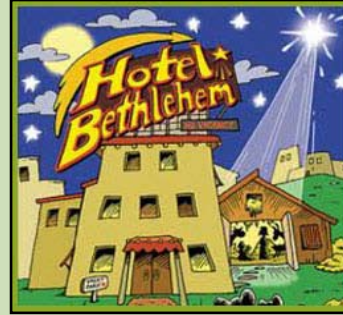


As the Connections Ministry Team notes, adopting a family or individual through the Tree of Kindness has become a Christmas tradition for many, and the team is grateful for the generosity of people at Federated and in the community.

I BELIEVE...

"I have realized that at Federated Church, no matter how I enter feeling...I just feel like everything is clearer, more beautiful...I could never feel like an outcast in this house." - *Emily Bonham*

Guests are Summoned to Children's "HOTEL BETHLEHEM"



When King Caesar Augustus sends his decree to summon all to Bethlehem, the little town's hotel bubbles with excitement as guests assemble from all points of the domain. Federated children's Christmas musical features more than 60 children who testify to a "feeling in the air," singing, dancing and acting the roles of innkeeper, bellmen, doorman, maids, and a certain stable boy who sees Jesus for who he really is.

Opening with Federated's teen YES Choir singing a medley of lighthearted Christmas songs, the presentations are in the Federated sanctuary on Friday and Saturday, December 9 and 10, 6:30 pm, and Sunday, December 11, 1:30 pm.

Christmas Joy Offering - DECEMBER 18



Christmas has global resonance through Federated's Joy Offering, to be taken during worship services on Sunday, December 18. Shared by the worldwide ministries of Federated's two denominations, half benefits the United Methodist mission in

Bolivia, supporting programs in a new community center and helping with education. The other half supports scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial and ethnic colleges in the US and assists families of active and retired church workers to meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Presbyterian Board of Pensions. Connections Ministry team members observe that though these programs seem far afield, they extend Federated's reach across the world.

SINGERS INVITED TO JOIN IN CHRISTMAS EVE "MESSIAH"

An adaptation of Handel's "Messiah" will highlight Federated's 6:30 pm Christmas Eve worship service on December 24, featuring three choruses – "And the Glory of the Lord," "For Unto Us a Child Is Born," and "Glory to God" – with narration. All interested singers are encouraged to join the Celebration Choir for this performance, with rehearsals on Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the church sanctuary. Information may be obtained from Music Minister Bonnie Green at the church, 622-0273, ext. 21.





CROP WALK A HABIT FOR FEDERATED

El Dorado County's October CROP Walk featured 85 people and five dogs, who walked three miles up and down Main St. and Broadway in Placerville to raise more than \$13,000 for Housing Emergency Lodging Program (HELP), the Community Resource Center, and global issues related to poverty.

An acronym for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty, El Dorado County's CROP Walk was started by Federated Church in 2003, and joins thousands of other CROP Walks across the country to support both local missions and the programs of Church World Service (CWS), who provide the materials to support the walk without charge. Federated regularly has the most participants in El Dorado County's CROP Walk, and features the most prolific fund-raisers, led by Doris Henke.

The funds generated are shared by the local CROP and CWS, with 75% dedicated to the international commitment of CWS to address poverty, disaster relief and clean water projects all over the world. CWS was reported to be the first agency on the ground after the earthquake in Haiti.

The 25% of proceeds returned to the local CROP since 2003 has supported SHARE, Upper Room, Food Bank of El Dorado County, Mother Teresa Home, United Outreach, Grace Place and various food closets in the county. As many as nine local churches have joined the effort, generating \$126,611 for the programs of CWS and \$32,934 for local mission since 2003.

Joanne and Chuck LePere, chairpersons for the 2011 El Dorado County CROP Walk, say "God bless you all!"



I BELIEVE...

"... that God forgives everyone even before they realize that they have committed a sin. God knows that humans cannot and never will be perfect and loves people with their imperfections." - *Ellen Tiedemann*

H.E.L.P. – PROVIDING HELP FOR 29 YEARS

Since 1982, Housing Emergency Lodging Program (HELP) has been providing assistance to the homeless population in El Dorado County. A consortium of 14 local churches providing volunteers and financial aid, HELP provides two programs – a transitional home (Mentor Home) for families, and vouchers (Placement) for one night's lodging in local motels.



The population served is diverse, with referrals from local schools, the Center for Violence-Free Relationships, County Welfare Department, Community Resource Center, Salvation Army, churches and occasionally the local hospital. While the Placement Program has served primarily individuals and couples, recently there has been a surge of families with children, particularly single parent families.

The Mentor Home. A transitional home for families who need shelter for two to four months, the Mentor Home has two units - a three-bedroom unit and a small efficiency unit. Prospective guests are interviewed by a team of mentors and, if accepted, sign a contract and set up goals that lead to moving out of the home and into permanent lodging. Mentors meet with the families on a weekly basis, helping them to establish and maintain life skills, such as budgeting, job search help, counseling, etc. They must sign a contract which specifies no alcohol, drugs or smoking on the premises. If the guests violate the contract, they are asked to leave.

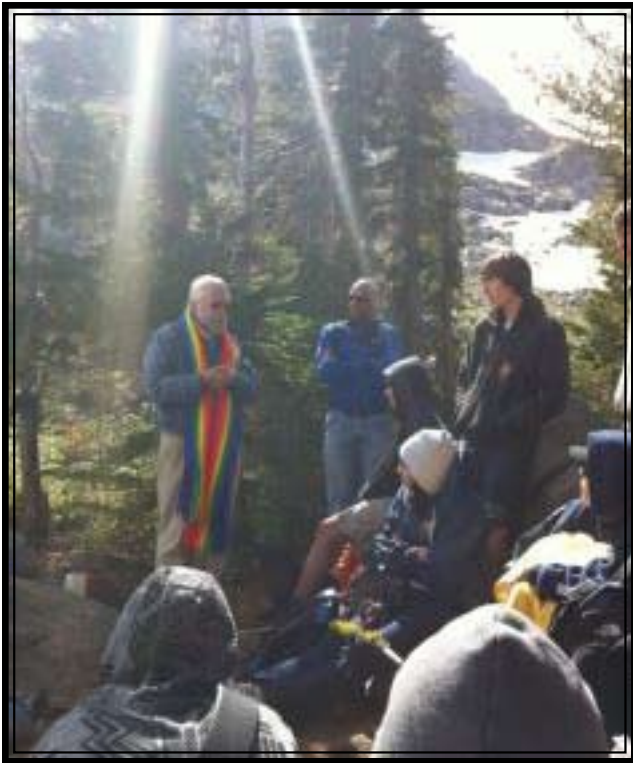
See H.E.L.P. on Page 5...

NOMAD SHELTER GEARS UP FOR WINTER

Volunteers from Federated Church will join other county churches in providing basic needs to homeless persons through the Nomad Shelter, a program of shelter, meals, and clothing through the winter months. The Community Resource Center (CRC), located at 1864 Broadway, coordinates with the Nomad Shelter to provide daytime shelter and assistance.

Federated Church is collaborating with Green Valley Community Church (GVCC) to provide volunteers three nights a month while GVCC provides the space. In addition to the shelter location, GVCC provides many recovery classes, which shelter guests can attend. Guests staying overnight on Fridays can take advantage of the GVCC community breakfast served every Saturday morning, pick up groceries and take clothes from a well-stocked clothes closet.

See SHELTER on Page 5...



A gusty wind blew billowy clouds across the mountain-top as the "765-Alive!" Sunday School group hiked the three-mile trail along Carson Pass for an outdoor worship experience at Lake Winnemucca in September. Pastor Bob Olmsted wrapped his liturgical stole twice around his neck to stay warm as he served communion to the thirty hikers, including youth and their parents. Hikers report that it was a good opportunity for the youth to become better acquainted while enjoying the beauty of Creation.

I BELIEVE...

"On every mission trip I've been on, I have felt the presence of God... I gaze at all the beauty of nature around us. God obviously loves every one of us. We just need to return the favor with love and kindness."

- Jake Peterson

SHELTER ...

Cont. from Page 4...

Beginning on November 3, volunteers from Federated will work at GVCC on the first, second and fifth Thursdays of each month. Three teams from Federated will serve on each occasion as follows:

- Evening shift from 6-9 PM,
- Overnight shift from 9 pm until 6 am the next morning
- Breakfast shift 6-8 AM.

Essential to this service are food and beverages supplied by many team members in Federated's congregation. Others make reminder calls, shop for staples, fill in as substitutes and make donations for supplies.

Shirley Edwards, volunteer coordinator, remarks, "This Federated ministry provides homeless persons the most basic of needs, but the most wonderful thing we bring to them is acceptance and friendship. It's as if God supplied this opportunity to us to become better people as we continue to follow the example that Jesus gave to us."

Housing Emergency Lodging Program (HELP), which provides one night in a motel, will direct people needing additional shelter to one of the nightly Nomad shelter sites.

Shirley reports that volunteer help is always welcome; there are tasks for everyone. The Community Resource Center (CRC) also needs more daytime help. Shirley adds, "CRC is the only place that homeless people in this community have to stay in the daytime, and the value of protection from the winter elements cannot be overestimated." People can contact Shirley Edwards at shirleyedwards@sbcglobal.net or 622-1103, or Cyndy Salmon, salmfam@calwisp.net, with questions or for more information.

I BELIEVE...

"...God is a spirit who helps us make the right decisions. When people feel down they put God in the deepest part of their hearts, not letting him speak or help the situation." **- Ryan Hughes**

H.E.L.P ...

Cont. from Page 4...

The Placement Program. Motel vouchers are given for one night's stay to individuals or families. A cell phone is operated daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm by volunteers who receive calls from potential guests, and after a brief interview, contact the motel to determine availability of a room. If guests are accepted, the volunteer meets that person/s in the evening to sign a voucher and obtain other information. This program provides emergency support only. Weekly logs as well as an alphabetical list are kept of participants, who can be served once a year.

In 2011 five families have been assisted in the Mentor Home and 274 individuals in motels through the Placement Program.

Current volunteers from Federated Church include John and Meg Gray, Fred Unterleitner, Kathy Gramsgibbs, and Cindy Caldwell. Information about the program may be obtained by contacting JoAnn LePere, Vice-President of the HELP Board, 530-676-7181.



Gatherings by the Lake

Reminiscences by Evelyn Miller, Age 90

The gray-haired man nodded to me as I followed the path beside the quiet lake's edge. He was assembling two rods – one for his excited young grandson, one his own rod and reel. It was the time of day for both to wear expressions of expectancy. They would surely catch their limit because the truck had just delivered the “plants” to Jenkinson Lake – that is if the lake didn't fill up with boaters who brought expensive, luxury craft to cruise around, loud motors churning the waters and scaring the fish away.

In 1963, we built a home two miles from this delightful place where family fished and visiting friends enjoyed wiener roasts, swimming and hiking excursions with us. A family friend from South Dakota with two small sons

never forgot the day they rode in the back of the pickup truck with our girls, waving to passersby along the way. That same day the grill to our brazier flew off the truck and rolled over and over down the road and then down the bank into the lake. The little boys thought it was a great adventure and couldn't wait to tell the story when they returned home.

This morning seems to be a jewel in my charm bracelet of memories. It is peaceful. While my husband fishes to his heart's content, I read or do absolutely nothing but reminisce. Our aquamarine-colored home in the national forest setting was meant to be our abode for as long as the Lord granted us the privilege of those surroundings of nature – serenity, the smell of pine, star-studded night skies, deer peeking into our picture windows, wondering where we came from. When friends in Hayward heard that we were moving away to the forest seventeen miles from any town, their astonished reaction often was, “What will you do up there?” I replied, “As little as possible. I'm not going to get involved and do everything like I have in the past.” The people who knew me best just smiled a knowing smile as if to say, “oh, really...”. I told them I had plans to sit on the deck and write a novel. The dream of that little house in the forest lasted for nearly seven years – it was a gift. Many poems I've written describe the beauty of lakes, trees, seasons and periods of inspiration derived from that setting.

As always, the riches I count from the time spent in El Dorado County are topped by the wonderful friends who make our lives what they are. Opportunities to develop relationships and to serve the community and to grow “older” at our own pace. The beauty of the area seems to have grown along with us; mountains, parks, lakes and forest still abide with us. People travel a long way to see the Sierras, Lake Tahoe, and scenic Highway 50 - we've had it since 1963. How good is the Lord!



FCW SLATES FOOD, FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Fall finds Federated Church Women immersed in a study of the Beatitudes, a celebration of song, and ongoing ministry to the community and world.

Organized for small group study and mission, FCW Circles have followed an introduction to the Beatitudes by Pastor Andrew Headden with in-depth study

at their monthly meetings. Circle members report that the simple lessons of the Beatitudes are not so simple, leading each participant to examine inter-personal relationships and the stewardship of the earth, each developing her own Confession of Faith from the truths encountered.

Circle members are also currently making crafts and baked goods for Alternative Christmas, which will be held on Sundays, December 4 and 11. Proceeds benefit FCW Mission projects, including the Scholarship Program for high school students of the Federated congregation.

December's program on Wednesday, December 7, will feature Carol Brinkerhoff presenting “Lessons in Carols” and a Holiday Pot Luck with favorite recipes from FCW members. All women are invited to join the group's luncheon programs, the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 am in Price Hall.

Past programs included November's meeting featuring Partners In Care director Nancy Symons discussing community services provided by the organization, and a light-hearted program of song and laughter in October featuring “Women of Note.” The vocal quartet of Gwen Upshaw, Dolores Gerbo, Jean Allured, and JoAn Stokes, were accompanied by Leslie Bush.

PRACTICING HOSPITALITY – Neighbors Lead Process to Welcome All



Affirming long-held practices of Christian hospitality at Federated, Church Council authorized the Neighbors group

to move forward in a process for Federated to become a More Light/Reconciling Congregation. More Light Congregations are the Presbyterian-USA expression and Reconciling Congregations the United Methodist expression of churches who proclaim full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in their life and ministries. Participation in More Light/Reconciling ministries involves a period of study and discernment and the adoption of a covenant statement by the church.

According to Neighbors spokesperson Susan Hunn, recognition as a More Light/Reconciling Congregation is crucial to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Christians because church discrimination is so widespread against them that most assume they are not welcome unless a church is intentional about extending the welcome. Federated has demonstrated broad hospitality throughout its history, so this seems the logical next step.

The covenant statement proposed by Neighbors to the Council states:

All persons are welcome to participate fully in the ministries of Federated Church, regardless of age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, cultural background, disabilities, marital status or financial circumstances.

Upon adoption, this statement will appear on the front of weekly announcement pages, on the church's website following the description of who we are at Federated, and in any other appropriate media.

In the plan presented by Neighbors, Federated will engage in approximately nine months of study and discussion, and then the congregation will be asked to approve the covenant statement. The formal process will begin on January 8, Epiphany Sunday, with consecration of the leadership team and a video presentation. Team members will be available for questions throughout the process. Congregation members are encouraged to attend classes, ask questions, and read information to be supplied.

Neighbors is a group from the Peace and Justice Ministry of Federated's Connections Ministry Team. For information, contact Susan Hunn, shunn@comcast.net, 530-647-9337.



I BELIEVE...

"...that God has created the world and all of the beauty and grace in it... that Grace is the unmerited love of God for everything around us in the world." - **Brandon Cartee**

MISSION OF THE GATHERING

The Gathering is published by El Dorado County Federated Church to witness to the goodness of God as evidenced in the ministries of the church and expressed in lives filled with the hope and mercy of Jesus Christ. Contributions to the Gathering will be edited as appropriate to the mission and limitations of the publication.

Graphics – Vicki Martin
Copy Editing – Susan Hunn



Ministry Moment from Karen Shelnett

I gathered last week with 50 Faith Community Nurses who work in congregations throughout Northern California, and listened to many stories of health ministry that occurred in diverse denominations. Yet the similarities of the creativity, advocacy, education, and compassion in the work buoyed my spirit. The "missing link in health care" is how one speaker described the work done in faith communities who are involved in the intentional ministry to spirit, mind and body health. This ministry is contagious and just might be

HEALTH QUESTIONS?

Where to Look...



An unfamiliar health word, medication, diagnosis or suggestion by a friend often spurs a seeker to "Google," where one finds more than a million references to the word.

Federated's Faith Community Nurse Karen Shelnett says, "STOP! Bookmark <http://medlineplus.gov>. This is the best starting point for any consumer health-related question." MedlinePlus brings together authoritative information from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and other credible health sources. It includes over 900 health topics, an encyclopedia, dictionary, drug information, several directories, and current news items. For topics of interest to older adults, Karen recommends checking the senior-friendly and easy to navigate site: <http://nihseniorhealth.gov>.

the glue that holds hope and encouragement for families and communities as we live, love and struggle with life together. It is amazing how people with many different skills can create health and healing. In this season of Thanksgiving, I am grateful for being part of this ministry during the past 14 years. I wonder who will be part of the expanding ministry in 2012. Is it you?

Karen Shelnett, Health Ministries

I BELIEVE...

Confirmation 2011



Patty Case, Brandon Cartee, Jake Peterson, Cole Fraser, Mark McLean, Garrett Short, Jeff Mosbacher, Carl Hughes, Ellen Tiedemann, Emily Bonham, Haley Owens, Kaela Marcus, Corinna Regan, Emma Holm, Ryan Hughes, Don Vanderkar

Look for the confirmands' "I Believe..." statements throughout the Gathering.

I BELIEVE...

"...Jesus is the son of God, our savior, human and divine, sinless, the most miraculous healer and our hope for eternity. He taught us how to live a Christian life by putting God and others before ourselves...the example I want to follow..." - *Kaela Marcus*



Federated youth spent two Wednesday evenings raking leaves in preparation for the harvest of chestnuts at Smokey Ridge Ranch as a way to earn money for mission trips. The traditional Christ Candle Prayer Circle was held after sunset under the canopy of these trees. Pictured are Don Vanderkar, Tabitha Fraser, Emily Bonham, Mark McLean and Corinna Regan. Jake Peterson, Adam Styles, Carlie Regan, Alec Martin, Brandon Cartee, Cole Fraser, Greg Maynard, Gordon Prow and Patty Case also helped out.



Mary Hughes and Kathleen Gleason take turns leading the Second Sunday Breakfasts that youth work to earn money for their mission trips.



Youth learn about gardening by planting seeds and getting an introduction to worm and compost bins.

I BELIEVE...

“...that God is ever-present and always with us no matter where we are or what we are doing... that God loves and appreciates all people equally, no matter who they are or what talent they possess.” - **Garrett Short**



The Wind Chime Project was assembled by individuals of all ages at August’s All Church Retreat at Lake Tahoe. Now installed in the church courtyard, bells represent people loved and lost, complemented by sea shells and driftwood donated by Federated members and found on local beaches. Artist Patty Case observes, “Music made by the chimes is a group effort – nature, people, and the Holy Spirit in the form of wind are working and creating together.”

I BELIEVE...

“...being Christian does not make one a good person. Words hold no merit unless backed by action. Jesus taught us not to judge others no matter what their differences were. Serving others is the way to spread Christianity’s positive message.” - **Carl Hughes**

I BELIEVE...

“...that my faith and my life is encompassed around God’s creation. God’s natural environment is my sanctuary. Living in it and following God is my calling.” - **Jeff Mosbacher**



A field trip to Sara Munday’s farm found Federated’s Junior High Youth learning about sheep, pigs, horses, geese, goats and compost piles. Aly Moreno, Mariah Chastain, Rebecca Stobby and Alexa Flickenger-Renzie were among the youth, who were also invited to pick apples from Sara’s trees.

I BELIEVE...

“... in Jesus Christ, sent here by God to show us the errors of our ways... Jesus was not forcing us to follow his religion, he was leading by example.” - **Cole Fraser**

I BELIEVE...

“... that God the Holy Spirit is God guiding us through our lives to make good decisions and help us try to live in the image of God. The Holy Spirit is in people when they do selfless acts for others and is among us and around us all the time.” - **Haley Owens**

Gathering ~

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News from Federated Church

What's Happening at Federated

November

- 20 - Advent Event
- 24, 25 - Thanksgiving Holiday, Office Closed

December

- 4 - Alternative Christmas, FCW Bake Sale
- 9 - Christmas Musical Presentation, 7:00pm
- 10 - Christmas Musical Presentation, 7:00pm
- 11 - Alternative Christmas, Christmas Musical Presentation 2:00pm
- 15 - Tree of Kindness Pick-up
- 23 - Christmas Holiday, Office Closed
- 24 - Christmas Eve, Contemporary Worship Service 5:00pm, Trilogly from Handel's Messiah 6:30pm, Christmas Eve Communion Worship Service 11:00pm
- 25 - Christmas Day, One Worship Service 10:00am
- 26 - Christmas Holiday, Office Closed

January

- 1 - One Worship Service, 10:00am
- 8 - Congregational Annual Meeting, One Worship Service 10:00am



I BELIEVE...

"...God is not a king of power and laws and earth, but a king of friendship, love and nonjudgmental, unconditional adoration for who we are, were and can be." - **Mark McLean**