



**Annual Congregational Meeting:**

**Please join us for Worship on Sunday, February 12th, with the meeting to follow.**

**Refreshments will be served**

**Per Capita assessment for**

**2017: \$36.11 (GA-\$7.50; Synod-\$3.81;**



**Celebrating birthdays in February:**

8th.....Ariel Russell

12th.....Linda Loudermilk

*thank you thank  
thank you thank  
thank you  
you thank you*

...to Shari Conley for printing and binding together our annual report.

..to our January Lector: Jeff Kerner

..to our **January Guest Speakers** January 8th & 22nd:

Richard Fick;

January 15th:

Christine Monteiro;

January 29th:

Sue Rood

**The N.I.C.E. Center**, located in Lee, Illinois, is open every Saturday from 8:15 am to 11:00 am. All clothing and food items are free and have been donated from various people in the community.

We are in need of volunteers to staff the facility for the month of February. Please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board at the church.



There are a few churches that support NICE by doing a monthly collection of a named item from their congregations. It is usually an item that is expensive for the Center to buy or that is very popular. We are now collecting for the month of February and we would like to collect peanut butter. The items can be put into the collection box in the Narthex. Watch the newsletter and bulletins for what we will be collecting each month.

**Thank you for your support. The families that come to the NICE Center are**



**Confirmation Class updates:**

We have two students completing their Confirmation class this spring and will be confirmed (date pending) in late spring. We are looking for 2 people for each of them to be mentors. If you are willing, please contact Sue Rood. Also, we ask that everyone be in prayer for these two terrific young people, Cameron Russell and Delia Diehl, as their big day approaches.



**Please Pray for:** The Family of Steve Bock, Jodie Schuck, Family of Herb and Donna Leifheit, Norm Johnson, Jennifer Hipple (Florence Hipple's granddaughter) Alma Schweitzer and Our Church. **Our military personnel:** Staff Sgt. Vadon Loudermilk Jr., Major Garrett Slack & Major Bob Mitchell.

The Spring Session of the After School Program will run from 1st Thursday in February through last Thursday in April. It meets at the United Methodist Church on Thursday afternoons from 3:30-5:00 p.m. for Kindergarten-4th grade students. The program is in need of more volunteers each week. Even if you can't go each week, they will take whatever time you can give them to help supervise the children.



#### FEBRUARY 2017...OPEN HANDS NEWS

In February we will discuss feelings and families. The feeling love will begin our focus. What is love? How do you show love? Who loves us? God's unconditional love! We will start our teachings on Jesus' miracles and how his love helped so many people! Some feelings we will focus on throughout the month are: love/anger, happy/sad, tired/excited, afraid/brave, shy/silly, and any other feelings the children may mention. The class will have a field trip to the post office to mail "Love Letters" to our families and a Valentine exchange in our classroom. We will have our doll house for the children to play with in our block area with multiple family members. Our literacy area will have a mailbox in it that the children can "mail" hug coupons to their friends in after writing names on them. Our sensory area will have playdoh and heart cookie cutters along with impression rolling pins. We are going to have 2 brand new light tables available this month for the children to enjoy.

There will be a number fishing game along with our number squares and dice.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>** walking field trip to the post office (weather permitting)

**Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>**—Valentine Exchange

**Valentine Exchange:** See your class list for the exchange. This will occur at 10:30am

**Field trip:** Children will walk to post office at 10:30am. They will mail their "Love Letters" **Please pick your child up at the post office at 11:00am.**

**Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>** committee meeting in the fireside room @ UMC; 6pm

Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> — NO SCHOOL

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:** All who use Schnucks EScript cards. OH made \$102.97 the month of Dec. Please continue to use your cards if shopping at Schnucks.

#### NEW 'WOMEN OF THE WORD' STUDY:

WOW/Women of the Word, Waterman, IL will continue our 'Armed for Battle' theme by starting a new Bible study based on the movie, "WAR ROOM". On Thursday, February 23, 2017, we will view "WAR ROOM" and then delve into a five-week study adapted from the film. It is so easy to become wrapped up in our hectic lives and forget the important things in life! Come and explore the power that prayer can have on marriages, parenting, careers, friendships and every other area of life! We can declare victory over our true enemy by using the powerful weapon of prayer!

Visitors and new members are always welcome! WOW has both morning classes and evening classes. The Morning Edition runs from 9 -11:30 AM, and also includes a Children's Program with curriculum for COW Club (ages 3-6) and BOW-WOW Toddlers/Nursery (under 2). The Evening Edition runs from 6:45-9 PM. The cost is \$10 and scholarships are available for those in need.

Contact Sue Hipple 815-264-3979, or [sjhipple23@gmail.com](mailto:sjhipple23@gmail.com) for more info. You can also find us on Facebook @Women of the Word, or visit the WOW LINK at [watermanpres.com](http://watermanpres.com).

**Come and visit us at Waterman Presbyterian Church, 250 N. Cedar St., Waterman.**

Bring a friend and join women from many surrounding communities and churches for a life impacting study!

*"But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in*

## Pastoral Survey Results

We received 13 responses to the survey and this is the result of those surveys:

### 1. What do you like most about our church?

Friendly atmosphere; Presence of God; calmness; closeness and small community feeling; church bell, generous members and church building; the history, facilities and traditions of our church; I've spent my whole life here and it's my life; sense of family; contemporary music, beautiful sanctuary and my church family; church home and family; coming to worship with family and friends in an atmosphere of warm fellowship.

### 2. What has made you feel spiritually connected?

Fellowship, music and message connecting together  
Pastor and caring members  
Music and sermons that feel like personal connections  
Many musical pieces  
Walking through the doors – stained glass images, praise sing, Communion and prayer.  
Bible studies, Adult Sunday School, Contemporary Service, serving Hope Haven and NICE  
It's a Holy Place – music, scripture, sermons  
The presence of other faithful members  
Sense of family and you can count on our church to be there  
Regular pastor to lead us and be dedicated to our church  
Trusting in the pastor  
Connecting with other Christians  
I felt spiritually connected until we became so small – we still care for each other but need to grow.  
God's Word and Contemporary and familiar hymns.

### 3. Regarding a pastor for our church, please number your preference:

(This is the order they came out)  
Sharing a pastor with a nearby church  
Sharing an associate pastor with a nearby church  
Yoking with another church  
Pulpit supply pastor  
Temporary pulpit supply

### 4. Would you be willing to explore a change to church time if it became necessary?

11 people said yes; 1 said no; 1 said it depended on the time change

### 5. What vision do you see for this church?

Continue to worship together but add members and programs.  
We have a lot going for us but need to let people know  
Continuation of worship and finding a pastor with workable growth ideas.  
Church is doing just fine.

Regular pastor to help us grow.

A church full of life, engaging with community with sermons focusing on life applications

To keep alive as many years as possible.

Hope and pray our church can survive without a lot of negative changes.

Change is always difficult but we must realize we will have many tough choices to make.

If we do not grow and bring in a ministry to meet the needs of all ages, we question our future.

## **6. Other thoughts?**

We need to become a more important or visible presence in our community with ministerial leadership that takes part in local activities – at school, fire department and other local groups.

I think that whoever the pastor is, they need to get involved in the community so we have a presence out there. We need social media that is up to date with our website and Facebook – nothing is ever posted there.

We need someone to update our church website and Facebook page and keep them updated and out there in ‘social land’.

I don’t think the church is close to closing in any way shape or form. If we stick together we will make it work like many years before.

I would like to see us with a pastor who is ambitious, motivated and excited! Someone who can relate every day/modern day occurrences to the Bible and Biblical times.

Makes it more relatable – especially for younger members.

We need to honor traditions but be willing to move forward in any or all ways, or we will become extinct. Have a pastor that is active in our community would have a big impact, if possible.

I hope we can find a pastor that is open to new things, trends etc. and also likes contemporary music.

The contemporary feel will help people that have never come to a church before to be more relaxed.

Change can’t make everyone happy and the choices will have to be made. We have always had a working relationship with the Methodist Church, from VBS to joint Sunday School for many, many years. We are a small community, but our church relationship with our Methodist church family has the same values and spiritual connection. I would like us to explore the possibilities of a working relationship with them.