



**Annual Congregational Meeting:**

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday February 17, at 11:30 a.m. Rev Blake Richter from the Westminster Presbyterian Church will be here to Moderate the meeting. There will be a Fellowship Hour following worship in order to give Rev. Richter time to drive to Waterman. Please check your bulletins for more details.

Many "thanks" to the Monteiro family for bringing Rev. Dr. Larry Kent's sermons to us in January & also to Sue Rood for leading us in our Sunday Worship.

- January 6: A Mother-In-Law who "Got It"
- January 13: A Small Man With a Big Turnaround
- January 20: A Sassy Woman From the Coast
- January 27: A Stressed-Out Servant

**February Pulpit Supply :**

- February 3rd...Worship/Communion at 10 am with Reverend Robert Conner
- February 10th....Worship at 10 am with CLP Wendy Keller
- February 17th....Worship at 10 am with CLP Charles Johnson
- February 24th....Worship at 10 am with CLP Charles Johnson

**Thank You** ..Shari Conley for printing and binding together our annual report.  
... Dave Stryker for snow removal  
.....and the many others who do tasks that we are unaware of!!!

**Starting in the month of February: the Church Secretary's office hours will be changing to Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 9am -1 pm**

~NICE CENTER collection item: 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. **For the month of February 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.

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**The NICE 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.

**Happy Birthday!**

A shower of cards would be appreciated for Florence Hipple's **100th birthday** on March 13th.

Her address: 200 West Eisenhower, Waterman Il 60556



### **Where did Valentine's Day come from?**

The origin of Valentine's Day is unclear, but it seems the tradition revolves largely around Valentine of Rome.

Valentine of Rome is said to be a Christian martyr, killed on February 14, 496 under the direction of Emperor Claudius II of Rome. Several stories about his persecution exist. One is that during general persecution of Christians, Valentine of Rome was interviewed personally by Emperor Claudius II for sentencing. Evidently Claudius II was impressed by Valentine and offered that if Valentine converted to paganism his life could be spared. Rather than convert, Valentine is said to have attempted to convert Claudius to Christianity, thus earning himself the death penalty. Prior to his execution, Valentine is thought to have performed a healing miracle for the jailer's blind daughter, Julia. In some renditions, Valentine wrote a letter to Julia prior to his execution, signed "Your Valentine."

Another tradition suggests that Valentine performed weddings for soldiers who had been prohibited from marrying by rule of Emperor Claudius II based on the belief that single men make better soldiers. Valentine was jailed and supposedly those whom he had married passed him notes and flowers in jail.

There is also a tradition that Valentine gave hearts made of parchment to soldiers and persecuted Christians reminding them of their vows as well as God's love. Some have linked Valentine's Day to a celebration of the beginning of spring. Others have suggested that Valentine's Day has pagan roots and is associated with Lupercalia, a February pagan holiday centered on fertility and love. Others say that the connection between Valentine's Day and romance did not come about until the 14th Century with the English poet Chaucer's writings.

It seems the modern celebration of Valentine's Day as a romantic holiday that includes exchanging of cards, chocolates, and flowers came largely out of England and developed fairly recently. Commercialized Valentine's cards came about in the early to mid-nineteenth century. In the latter portion of the twentieth century, giving gifts became popular.

Valentine's traditions vary depending upon the country. Many countries include the traditions of exchanging cards, candies, flowers, or other gifts with loved ones. In some countries Valentine's Day is largely a celebration of friendship whereas in other countries it is a celebration of romantic love. For others, both single and married, Valentine's is simply a day to express love to all manner of friends and family.





~**Please Pray for**~

The Family of Milford Clausen, The Family of Hazel Stryker, The Family of Natalie Witek, The Family of Emiline Rood, Amber Barshinger, The Family of Tony North, Kate Derry (Rev. Lupole's daughter) and Our Church. **Our military personnel:** Staff Sgt. Vadon Loudermilk Jr., Major Garrett Slack & Major Bob Mitchell.

Open Hands Preschool.....**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

"If we could see the world through the eyes of a child, we would see the magic in everything."

**A busy January...**

What a fun, chilly January we have had! The drastic changes in weather made our topic of "winter weather" easy to talk about! Snow, rain, and ice...oh my!

We also read many fairy tales and nursery rhymes- ask us to recite some for you! Pre-k learned about Humpty Dumpty and dropped eggs in different materials to see if he stayed whole. The verdict: he only broke when placed in a bag of cotton balls! After reading Goldilocks and the 3 bears, preschool had a teddy bear and pajama day! They told their friends all about their special teddies and sorted/counted/ and made patterns with gummy bears! To end our pizza parlor dramatic play unit, we made our own English Muffin Pizzas for snack! Yum!

**Good to know**

There is **NO SCHOOL** on Monday, February 18, 2019 in honor of President's Day. If your child comes to school in snow boots, please send a pair of inside shoes as well. In case of winter weather, we follow Indian Creek School District 425, if they are closed, so are we. We will also send out an email. Thank you for all of the continued support!

A special thank you to the Waterman Presbyterian Church for your donations!

**What we are learning in February**

February looks to be a busy month at Open Hands! Our themes are Valentine's Day and SPACE! We will be spending the month learning what space is, where we live, and all about the stars. Our dramatic play area will be set up as a bakery and then a space station!

We will continue to work on patterns and prepositional phrases. We will also focus on visual discrimination- same or different. In our block area, we will work on Sizes- small, medium, and large.

**If you have any clean bottle caps- from milk jugs, Pure Leaf Tea bottles, soda bottles, etc. Please send them in.**

**Thank you!**

To Everyone at Waterman Presbyterian  
Church —  
Thank you for the  
Thanksgiving offering  
& donation.  
We are so grateful  
for your support!

I owe you big time!

Blessings —  
Open Hands Preschool  
& Board

**Neighbors In Christ Ecumenical**  
346 S. County Line Road  
PO Box 5  
Lee, IL. 60530-0005

**NICE**

Waterman Presbyterian Church  
250 N. Cedar  
Waterman, IL 60556

December 31, 2018

On behalf of the Neighbor's in Christ Ecumenical Center, I would like to thank you for your generous donation.

Your gift of \$247.08 (Check# 9045), will help our organization fulfill its mission. Wherever there is a need, we try to help as many families as we can in our NICE community with food, clothing, furniture and any need that arises. Sometimes all they need is a little love from us to help them keep going! We all get such a warm feeling from just listening and helping.

We rely on donations to keep our center functioning. The people of this community have been very generous with their help. "We are people helping people!"

We are very blessed by having so many caring people like you who give of themselves.

Our thanks for your generous gift.

Sincerely,



N.I.C.E

This letter will serve as your receipt for tax purposes and certify that you did not receive any goods or services in exchange for your donation. Thank you for caring and helping when your neighbors need your help the most.

**People Helping People**

The per capita assessment for 2019 is \$38.47: (GA: \$8.95; Synod: \$3.81; Blackhawk Presbytery: \$25.71)