

Our Faith Community

OVID FEDERATED CHURCH

Volume 8, Issue 3
May-June 2009



From
the
Pastor's
Heart

A Hidden Promise

All up and down the road, the forsythia has exploded in hues of brilliant yellow and the magnolias are dressed in all their glory. It's just hard to be in a bad mood when the flowering cherry and crab apple trees suddenly are covered with pink and white blossoms.

Actually, it's not really sudden at all. The coming of spring blossoms has been getting ready to happen for a long time. We couldn't see it, but there's been an invisible process of nourishing and growth going on for months (in some cases, even years).

Jesus used the parable of the growing seed to give us a glimpse of how God works. In Mark 4:26-29 he said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not

know how. All by itself the soil produces grain; first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

When I read these words, I am reminded of my husband's friend who breeds deciduous azaleas. He cross-pollinates different varieties, waiting patiently until they bear seeds, collecting them and planting them in special beds. He tends them carefully for several years until they are mature enough to blossom.

It's a long process, requiring loving care of the seedlings and great patience, but the results are worth it. He has developed new varieties, in ravishing oranges, yellows, and pinks never seen before, with tantalizing spicy aromas. The thing is he is never exactly sure how the new varieties will turn out, only God knows that, but they are worth waiting for.

Jesus said that the kingdom of God is like that seed growing in our lives. The seed is alive: it contains life, eventually our physical senses are incapable of judging whether a seed is alive or not. We cannot see, feel, hear, smell, or taste the life in a seed.

There is only one way to prove a seed is alive and that is to plant it. Seeds do not grow sitting in a sack on our shelves. They must be planted in the proper place. If we want the Word of God to produce in our lives, we must decide to plant his Word in our hearts and minds.

Sometimes we get discouraged because it seems that scripture is very small in comparison to the problems we face, but remember that the each seed is much smaller than the plant it produces. Yet those seeds are powerful. As they begin to grow, they push dirt and even rocks out of their way. Whatever the obstacles are, God's Word planted in your heart can push them out of the way as new life grows.

All of this takes time, patience, and trust. Seeds begin their growth underground, out of sight. The only ways to tell if a seed is growing are to either dig it up, or wait for a plant to appear. If you dig up a seed, you may kill it. The best thing to do is to wait and give the seed time to produce. No one expects a seed to produce a harvest the same day that seed is planted.

We need to remember that's how it usually is when God is at work in our lives, growing us up in faith, answering our prayers or preparing a great work. It may look for a long time as if nothing is happening. But, don't give up, don't panic, don't push too hard or keep digging up the seed. Slowly, but surely, the processes of God will blossom; and you will reap the blessings of the seeds that God has sown.

Blessings,

Pastor Diane



NEWSLETTER DEADLINES FOR 2009:

Jul/Aug	Sunday, June 21
Sep/Oct	Sunday, August 23
Nov/Dec	Sunday, October 18

DEADLINE FOR 2010 BUDGET REQUESTS:

Sunday, November 1st

2009 ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE:

Sunday, December 6th

**AMISH GRACE:
HOW FORGIVENESS
TRANSCENDED TRAGEDY**
by Kraybill, Nolt & Weaver-Zercher



A study in forgiveness, this book takes a closer look at some of the elements of the process of forgiveness as practiced by the Amish. It is done through interviews with people of the Amish community, who remain anonymous in respect to their culture, following the Nickel Mines tragedy in Pennsylvania. This is a thought-provoking study of the response to the killing of 5 girls and wounding of another 5 children in a rural Amish schoolhouse. The practice of forgiveness, as the Amish interpret Jesus' instructions in the Sermon on the Mount and in The Lord's Prayer, is explored. This book will lead the reader to examine his/her own response to evil acts and the practice of forgiveness in his/her own life.

The authors give a brief history of the Anabaptist movement and the Amish Culture in the formation of their response to acts of evil. In order to adequately explore this topic, there are many terms that are explored and defined in the Amish cultural context. These include, but are not limited to: forgiveness, forgetting, repentance, pardon, love, humility, shunning, vengeance, revenge, grudges, anger, resentment, justice, providence, compassion, salvation and the separation of church and state.

Forgiveness is explored in two different approaches. The authors break down the response based on decisional versus an emotional response of forgiveness. Another one of the terms discussed is anger. This is broken down into two separate entities: 1) looking at the deed which is defined as an "evil enacted" as opposed to 2) the person who committed the deed being evil themselves.

Throughout the book the Amish interviewed responded with almost total agreement that, although they are brought up and instructed by Jesus to forgive, it is not an easy thing to do and they struggle with it daily.

A worthwhile read, this book will cause the reader to examine his/her own practice of forgiveness. On a final note, the reader might ask the question "If the world was able to practice forgiveness as the Amish strive to, would there be an end to war?"

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

OFC had **FAMILY FUN DAY** in February. There was no snow this year so the afternoon was filled with bingo and other games. All enjoyed pizza and pop.

Priscilla Smalser led a new **WINTER VBS** that was a great success. 20 children attended the winter program. Thank you so much to all of those that helped out, and a special thanks to the Woodard's who were there everyday!

The Christian Education students filled **EASTER BASKETS** for 53 children. Thanks to all of you for your donations of toys, candy, pudding cups, snacks, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Plans for **SUMMER VBS** are currently underway. VBS will take place August 10th through the 14th. The program this year will be "Camp E.D.G.E. (Experience and Discover God Everywhere)". "An adrenaline-filled, action-packed trip to and Extreme Adventure Camp where kids learn their strength and might come from God. Through rockin' music, extreme sports videos, mind-boggling science; larger-than-life recreation; and cool, challenging crafts, kids Discover God is Everywhere."

It's also that time a year to think about **SUMMER CAMP!** The deadline for applications for Summer Camp scholarships will be May 17th. The scholarship limit this year will be \$100.00, however other funding opportunities are available as needed. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children of our faith community. For camp information, please see Patty Ess.

The last day of the 2008-2009 Sunday School program will be Sunday, May 17th.

"THANK YOU!" for your continued support of our youth, and we ask for your prayers for continued growth and success in both the Youth Group and the Christian Education Program.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS



- Cereal
- Pasta
- Soup
- Tuna

LAY SPEAKING COURSE



*"Grow Spiritually Through Daily Discipline -
Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition"*

Ovid Federated Church

Mondays in June @ 6:30-8:30 PM

Cost: \$20

Please contact Rev. Walker
if you are interested in attending.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

- | | |
|----------|---------------------|
| May 3: | Bells / Choir |
| May 10: | Membership |
| May 17: | Nominating |
| May 24: | _____ |
| May 31: | Fellowship |
| June 7: | Bells / Choir |
| June 14: | Christian Education |
| June 21: | Finance |
| June 28: | _____ |
| July 5: | Bells / Choir |
| July 12: | Buildings & Grounds |
| July 19: | Board |
| July 26: | _____ |



WORSHIP SCHEDULE for 2009

MAY 10: Mother's Day and Blanket Sunday
 MAY 31: Pentecost
 JUNE 14: Flag Day
 JUNE 21: Father's Day and Recognition of Graduates

If you would like to offer special music over the summer, please see Marcia Klue. Thank you.

OCTOBER 4: World Communion Sunday
 NOVEMBER 22: Combined Thanksgiving Service at Interlaken Reformed Church
 NOVEMBER 29: First Sunday in Advent
 DECEMBER 13: Children's Christmas Pageant (tentative)
 DECEMBER 24: Christmas Eve Service (7 PM Wednesday)

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:

	<u>MAY:</u>	<u>JUNE:</u>	<u>JULY:</u>
<u>GREETERS:</u>	Jim & Robbie Potter	Eva Bennett Janet Lynch	Joan Hallett Kate MacInnes
<u>USHERS:</u>	Mike & Judy Elliott	Betty Baker Michelle Langley	June Kerns Sandy Wilcox
<u>READER:</u>	Sandy Wilcox	Robbie Potter	Patty Arcangeli
<u>COMMUNION:</u>	May 3 - Pew	June 7 - Rail	July 5 - Pew
<u>STEWARDS:</u>	Margaret Malone Kareen Walborn	Gertrude Fischer June Kerns	Barb Strawway Patsye Yonce
<u>SERVERS:</u>	Marj Clark Barb Strawway Dixie Woodard Patsye Yonce	Karly Lavarway Kasey Lavarway Kathy Lavarway TJ Lavarway	Eva Bennett Elfriede Kraemer Sharon Ross Harriet Wagner

CWS HEALTH KITS

WCA is planning to assemble Health Kits and are looking for the following donations:

- Hand Towels (15" x 25" - no larger than 17" x 27") (no dish towels)
- Washcloths
- Combs (large & sturdy) (no pocket comb)
- Nail Clippers and/or nail files (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- Soap Bar (bath size - 3 oz. or larger)
- Toothbrush (made for adult) (sealed in original package)
- Band-Aids (6 each)
- Toothpaste (\$1.00 to purchase)





2009 MOTHER AND DAUGHTER BANQUET

Monday, May 11, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

WITH A SONG IN YOUR HEART

Entertainment: "Off Beat Five"

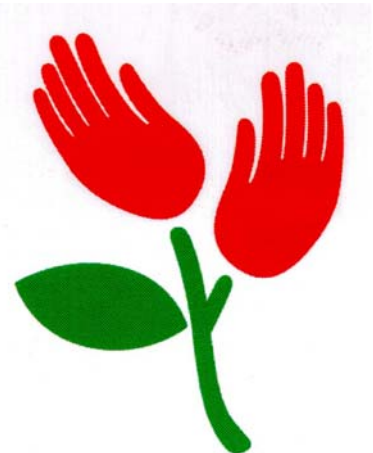
Tickets available at the door: Adults: \$6.50

Children 4-12: \$3.00

3 and under: Free

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

- "Thanks you!" to all who contributed food, time and energy to help make the Chicken & Biscuit Dinner (March 28th) a great success. The profit of over \$600 has been placed in the Spear Memorial Fund.
- Fifteen women attended the Potluck Luncheon (April 12th) and enjoyed a Native American Mission Study program entitled "Potluck: Listen and Learn Around the Table" presented by Janet Lynch.
- April 25th was the Geneva Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering in Painted Post with the theme: "Feeding the Body, Mind, and Spirit". Our annual birthday offering was presented at the gathering.
- We are looking ahead to the May 11th Mother & Daughter Banquet. We are happy to be entertained by a group from Ithaca this year. [Please refer to article above.]
- Our May 14th meeting, program, and refreshments will begin at 7 PM with a focus on "Social Justice: Food Security". All women are invited to attend.
- June 2nd is the Spring UMW District Dinner at Club 86 in Geneva. Reservations need to be made before May 18th. The cost will be \$20.
- Our June 11th gathering will begin at 5:30 PM with a covered-dish picnic. [Please bring your own table service.] We will be packing Health Kits. If you would like to donate, please see the separate article in this newsletter: "CWS Health Kits".
- The year, the School of Christian Mission will be held July 17-19 at Monroe Valley Community College in Utica, NY. The study choices are:
 - 1) Giving our Hearts Away: Native American Survival
 - 2) The Beauty and Courage of Sudan
 - 3) Spiritual Growth: Food and Faith Summary





Ordination Blessings & Celebration

Pastor Diane Walker will be ordained on Thursday May 28, 2009 (7 PM) in Hendricks Chapel on the Syracuse University Campus. There will be a group of people from this area who will be attending. Please contact a member of either the Worship or Fellowship committee for more details. [See additional information under "Worship News".]

You are invited to attend the May 31st formal reception for Diane at 3:00 PM in Sheldon Hall for congregation, family and friends to join Diane in her celebration of this momentous occasion.

Please join us.

"For I know the plans I have for you!"

Jeremiah 29:11




The **25th ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL** is taking place June 19th and 20th! Our church will (once again) play a major role in this community event!

- The youth group is going to do the refreshments for the Block dance on Friday night June 19th.
- The Pancake Breakfast is from 7am-10am Sat. June 20th
- The Strawberry Dessert booth will be open 10am until 4pm in the park
- The Flea Market on the church lawn from 9am - 1pm

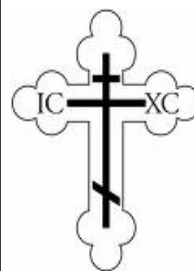


This is a very busy day for our church family, but please mark your calendar, and plan to lend a hand. Remember, “many hands make light work”, and it always proves to be a day filled with good fellowship! There is some kind of job for everyone!!!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- Easter week we packed and shipped 4 **shoeboxes** of goodies to our military. Thank you to all the folks who contributed so generously to this Mission project. 
- On April 19th, we had a **Recognition Brunch** during coffee hour. The four people honored, were Patty and Harley Ess, Joan Hallett, and Larry Pridmore. Each one of them serve the Lord, in a different manner, and we are blessed to have them part of our Faith Family. 
- The "New Member" **Bible study** that Pastor Diane, has been having on Sunday afternoons, is completed. New members will be joining the church on May 31st. If any one else is interested, please speak to Pastor Diane, as soon as possible. 

WORSHIP NEWS



- Additional **ordination** information:
 - * If you would like to carpool, please be at the church parking lot no later than 5 PM.
 - * Bishop Marcus Matthews will be speaking.
 - * There will be a combined choir of churches throughout our conference that evening. If you would like to sing, please talk to Marcia Klue for details. Diane said she would love to have familiar faces in the choir!
- This year, we are going to offer the opportunity to purchase **flowers for Memorial Sunday** in memory and/or in honor of loved ones. The plants will be offered in red, white, and blue. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the narthex. 



- Don't forget the **Flower Sign-up Sheet** on the bulletin board in the narthex. All year round you are welcome to bring flowers from your garden or order flowers to be delivered in honor or in memory of someone special.



CONGRATULATIONS to our **2009 GRADUATES:**

Nathaniel Lavarney
 Russell Dreyer
 Mariah Bowers

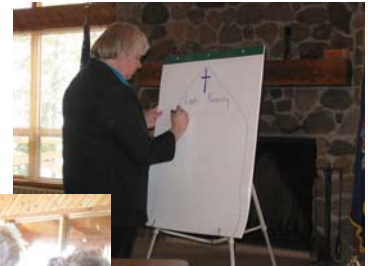
We will be recognizing our graduates during worship on Sunday, June 21st.

PICTURES FROM MARCH & APRIL 2009

Easter Sunday (4/12/09)



Visioning Retreat (4/18/09)



Recognition Brunch (4/19/09)



This page is a summary from the April 18th Ovid Federated Church Visioning Workshop. For all of you who were unable to attend, we welcome your comments and input. Please return this page to the church office no later than Sunday, May 17th. Thank you.

Celebrations of Ministry at OFC

Worship:
 Celebrating Christ
 Inclusive
 Children's Pageants
 Music
 Ecumenical services
 Special Groups

Recognition:
 Mother & Daughter Banquet
 Laity Banquet
 Recognition dinner
 Stewardship Dinner

Ministries:
 DVD
 Jail
 Prison Ministry
 Food Pantry
 Thrift Shop
 Lay Visitation Team
 Prayer Ministry
 MOPS
 Bereavement dinners

Youth:
 Youth Group
 Sunday School

Missions:
 Prayer shawls
 Shoe boxes (college/military)
 Easter Boxes
 Angel Tree
 China missionary
 Africa University Scholarships
 Helping Hand Fund
 Blanket Sunday
 One Great Hour of Sharing
 Care Kits/ School Kits
 Gateway Longview
 Mission Trips

Church as a part of the Community:
 Lions Club Dinners
 Senior Citizens
 WIC
 Parenting Network
 TOPS
 Boy Scouts
 Strawberry Festival
 Election Night Supper
 Chicken 'n Biscuit Supper

Multiple Bible Studies

Fellowship:
 Trips
 Retreat
 Progressive Dinner
 Church Picnic
 Fellowship Time each week

WHAT SAY YE?

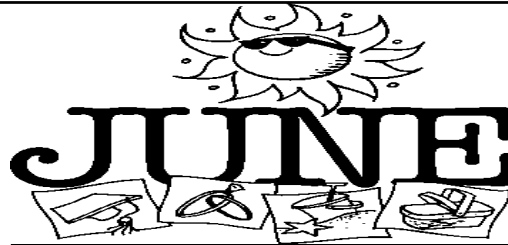
Dreams for the Ministry at OFC

Improvements Needed at OFC

Advertising
 Worship
 Attitudes
 Welcoming of visitors / Hospitality
 Evangelism
 Programs
 Community Mission
 New ideas
 Social Action

Bible Club at the High School	Financially Secure Church
Town Youth Center	Full Pews on Sunday / 2nd service
New building for the Food Pantry/Thrift Shop with showers & beds for Emergency housing	Repaired Parking Lot / Sidewalks / Lighting / Railings
Renovate upstairs apartment over the Thrift Shop for safe house or emergency housing	Bigger Letters for sign out front
Reflection Garden	Storage Space
Youth pastor	Gymnasium
Van	Retirement Home
Ever-growing Sunday School (youth & adults)	"House of John" sponsorship
Second Story on the Sunday School wing	Halfway House
Young Adult Fellowship Group	Alzheimer's Day Care
Pavilion by the garage w/ Chicken BBQ Pit	Parish Nurse Ministry
Guitar Player for Praise Band	

SPECIAL DAYS



Birthdays:

- 1st: Grohoski, Joe
- 2nd: Swick, Fred
- 3rd: Purdy, Marie
- 4th: Arcangeli, Patty
- 8th: Reigle, Sonia
- 9th: Woodard, Felicia
- 10th: Farr, Shelly
- 12th: Swick, Velma
- 15th: Bennett, Eva
- 16th: Klue, Jodi
- 17th: Hoagland, Bob
Malone, Margaret
Vargason, Florence
Yocum, Debbie
- 19th: Chamberlain, Don
Slocum, Catherine
Swick, Marge
- 20th: Corning, Eli
Moore, Mathew
- 22nd: Cassidy, Ellie
- 23rd: Limner, Carol
McMath, Jean
Ross, Sharon
- 24th: Clark, Marj
Yonce, Howard
- 26th: Allen, Vivian
Winstead, Nancy
- 28th: Hohwald, Joan
Hurling, Doris
- 30th: Lynch, Janet

Anniversaries:

- 4th: Morris, Hal & Bobbi
- 6th: Walker, Al & Diane
Williams, Mark & Karen
- 14th: Kenyon, Lloyd & Maxine
- 21st: Greenwalt, Richard & Bea
- 22nd: Brewer, Norman & Sue
Woodard, William & Patricia
- 23rd: Woodard, Patrick & Kaitlin
- 24th: Jones, Keith & Carol
- 25th: Houseknecht, Earl & Elaine
Smith, Carl & Misty
- 27th: Goslicki, Chester & Elinor
- 28th: Klue, Jim & Marcia
- 29th: Ess, Harley & Patty

Birthdays:

- 4th: McMath, Bob
- 5th: Walborn, Paul
- 7th: Beaujon, Florene
- 10th: Butler, Laurie
- 13th: Irwin, Kathy
- 15th: Grohoski, Lee
VanVleet, Helene
- 20th: Houseknecht, Earl
Kerns, June
Post, Eleanor
- 21st: Kenyon, June
Wilkins, Butch
- 22nd: Greene, Marie
- 28th: Morris, Denise
- 29th: Griffith, Jean
Vangalio, Dorothy

Anniversaries:

- 3rd: Irwin, Bill & Kathy
- 10th: Winstead, Carl & Nancy
- 12th: Stannard, Keith & Colleen
- 17th: Coleman, John & Pam
- 21st: Bixby, Richard & Debi
- 22nd: Boyce, Howard & Lorraine
Smalser, Phil & Priscilla
- 27th: Poth, Larry & Judy
- 29th: Reed, Terry & Janice

BLANKET SUNDAY (Church World Services)



On Mother's Day, we will be taking a special offering for the Church World Service (CWS) Blankets+ program. A contribution to the Blankets+ program is a wonderful way to honor our mothers. A blanket is a wonderful symbol of the love and warmth provided by mothers and those who wrap us in their love. By supporting the Blankets+, we will help mothers around the world to care for their children.

A few years ago, CWS expanded their Blankets for the World program to include tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster; tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields; wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens; and literacy training for women struggling to realize their potential.

In the USA this past year alone, Church World Service provided 15,950 lightweight blankets and 5,245 heavyweight blankets for needs of people affected by emergencies or economic hard times. Some of these blankets went to victims of Hurricane Gustav in Texas, to the homeless in Olympia, Washington, and to the economically disadvantaged families in Connecticut.

Your gifts will help people around the world to not only survive in the aftermath of disaster, but to rebuild their lives. Please give generously as we reach out to neighbors in need near and far-not with a hand out, but a hand up.

LECTIONARY



MAY 3: 4th SUNDAY of EASTER

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23;
1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

MAY 10: MOTHER'S DAY/5th SUNDAY of EASTER

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31;
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

MAY 24: MEMORIAL/ASCENSION SUNDAY

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

JUN 7: TRINITY SUNDAY

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29;
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

JUN 21: FATHER'S DAY/3rd SUNDAY after PENTECOST

1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49; Psalm 9:9-20;
2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

JUL 5: 5th SUNDAY after PENTECOST

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48;
2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

MAY 17: 6th SUNDAY in EASTER

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98;
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

MAY 31: PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

JUN 14: 2nd SUNDAY after PENTECOST

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20;
2 Corinthians 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34

JUN 28: 4th SUNDAY after PENTECOST

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130;
2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

JUL 12: 6th SUNDAY after PENTECOST

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24;
Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

These are the Scriptures generally used by the Pastor or Lay Speaker on Sunday morning. On the Wednesday (1 PM) preceding each Sunday, there is a discussion group meeting for those who wish to review and talk about the passages.

PRAYER CHAIN

CHURCH
OFFICE
869-2794

Judy Dresser
532-4891

Joan Hohwald
582-7677

Edith Lavarney
869-5236

Florene Beaujon
869-5244

Harriet Wagner
582-6464

Marj Clark
532-4802



Priscilla Smalser
869-9512

For inclusion on the Prayer-Net, you may send a prayer request via the internet to ofc@zoom-dsl.com.



MAY 7: National Day of Prayer

MAY 10: Mothers' Day

MAY 10: Blanket Sunday

MAY 11: Mother/Daughter Banquet

MAY 24: Ascension Sunday

MAY 25: Memorial Day

MAY 28-31: NCNY Annual Conference & Ordination of Rev. Walker

MAY 31: Pentecost Sunday

JUN 2: FL Dist UMW Spring Dinner

JUN 5-6: WOF Conference

JUN 7: Trinity Sunday

JUN 11: WCA Picnic (5:30 PM)

JUN 20: Strawberry Festival

JUN 21: Newsletter articles due

JUN 21: Fathers' Day

JUN 24: Blood Drive

OVID FEDERATED CHURCH

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