

# The Federated Messenger

February 2026

## Are You Asking “Too Much”?

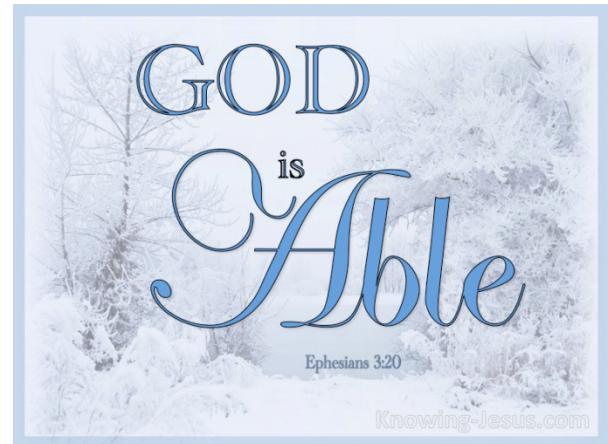
by Pastor Rick Plucknett

We are one month into the year 2026 and by now we know whether some of the changes we hoped to make in our lives this year will actually have a chance of happening! So far in 2026, what does your prayer life look like...thriving, barely surviving, just praying for tasks equal to your powers or powers equal to your tasks?

I have often been challenged by these words from the Apostle Paul: “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” (Eph.3:20)

The words “exceedingly” and “abundantly” lead me to ask: “What am I praying for that ONLY God can do?” I find myself sometimes just praying for everyday “small” things and there is nothing wrong with that (Jesus tells us to pray for our “daily bread” and our daily needs, etc.) But what are some things “that only God can do”, things that I am willing to fast and pray for because I know nothing is impossible with God! As A.W. Tozer said: “...prayer is an invitation to omnipotence...nothing is impossible to the Christian who prays in faith.” The reason we can pray for “things that only God can do” is because our God is able to do “exceedingly abundantly ABOVE all that we ask or think”

Andrew Murray, a great prayer warrior, gives us great advice: “Expect unexpected things, above all that we ask or think. Each time you intercede, be quiet first and worship God in His glory. Think of what HE can do, of how He delights to hear the Christian pray, of your place in Christ; and EXPECT great things!”



One of the only times we read that Jesus was “amazed” (or “astonished”), is in the story of the centurion who came to Jesus asking for His help in healing one of his servants who was paralyzed. In that story (Matthew 8:5-15), the centurion believes that Jesus can heal his servant, and he also believes that Jesus doesn’t even need to make the trip to his house! All Jesus needs to do is “just say the word” (v.8) and the centurion’s servant will be healed....and Jesus was “amazed” at this man’s faith and was glad to “say the word” and heal his servant. The Centurion knew WHO he was talking to, believed that Jesus could do this miracle, and so he wasn’t afraid to ask this great thing!

What great things, things that only God can do, things that are exceedingly abundantly BEYOND what you would normally ask or think, will you continually knock on the doors of heaven for this year? Someone’s salvation that seems so closed to the gospel, deliverance from a habitual sin, restoration of a long-lost relationship, or a sweeping revival in the Body of Christ. Whatever it is, remember the words of John Newton who wrote the hymn “Amazing Grace”:

Thou art coming to a King,  
Large petitions with you bring  
For His grace and power are such  
None can ever ask too much!

Pray On!

## Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch

by Christy Preston

Did you know? Practicing gratitude changes your perspective. Taking time to be thankful helps you focus on the right things. What am I thankful for today? I am thankful for WHO God is. And I'm thankful for WHAT He has done in my life and in the ministry of WLD Ranch over the years (and I've been here for quite a few years to experience God's faithfulness!).

I am THANKFUL for all the many donations that came in for our pool renovation in 2025. Can you believe that a year ago we were still looking for the right contractor and the right timing for renovation? Look at how God provided through donors such as you! Look how God filled in all the details for us! God is so faithful. I am thankful.

I am THANKFUL for everyone who is recycling their plastic and contributing to our shoe drive fundraisers. We now have ten good quality benches at WLD from plastic recycling that give guests a place to gather and build relationships while here! And the successful shoe drive fundraisers have contributed to the pool project and upgraded computer systems – my twelve-year-old desktop in the office got an upgrade and I am ecstatic to not wonder each day if my computer will turn on and function. Thank you for helping us collect plastic and shoes! I am thankful.

I am THANKFUL for another successful year of Kids' Christmas Shop, raising over \$5000 for our summer camp financial assistance fund. This event takes a lot of work to pull everything together – collecting and creating items to sell, pricing them, setting up for the event, running the event (which includes so many volunteers to help kids shop and wrap gifts and more!), feeding people at the event, cleaning up from the event. Each person who volunteers is a huge help toward Kids' Christmas Shop running smoothly. For each one of you, I am thankful.

I am THANKFUL for a full February supporting churches in their ministries through hosting retreats, including Winter Blast and

Winter Blast Jr. (See you soon!) I am thankful for ministry opportunities in March with our Married Couples Retreat (March 20-21). I am thankful for the lives we can impact through showing God's love to those who are on camp



property for each horse lesson, retreat, sledding day, youth group event – all of it. God has blessed us with a unique place to do His work that we

get to be part of, and I am thankful.

What are you thankful for today? May we ever be thankful for who God is and what He's done for us.

## Springfield Senior Center



Springfield Senior Center WILL  
NOT MEET in February  
See you in MARCH!

## Fundraisers for Honduras 2026

♥ February 8<sup>th</sup> – Pizza Kit Sale! You can sign up in the Welcome Center until February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cost is \$10.00 each. Pickup just in time for the BIG game!



♥ February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Bake Sale after services



Mark your calendar for these events that will benefit the Honduras Mission Trip!



## OCC SHOEBOXES

### by Beth Rigden

What goes in an Operation Christmas Child box packed at the

Federated Church? This is a good topic to cover this month as we begin a new year.

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse and they set the guidelines that we follow. They ask that each box is:

**FUN** – includes a “wow” item and other quality toys  
**FULL** – packed to the brim with additional school supplies and personal care items

**PERSONALIZED** – prayed over and contains a note and photo, which are often the child’s favorite items!

To accomplish that, we pack boxes at our annual packing party with lots of fun items!

Essential to our boxes is a **WOW** gift, often a soccer ball with pump or a doll or stuffed animal, Lego set or an action figure.

We also include a full school supply kit (pencils, pencil sharpener, pens, eraser, scissors and paper).

Hygiene items are important too, so each of our boxes have a toothbrush, band aids, and comb/brush.

Each child is given a coloring book and crayons, along with the boys getting a handmade wooden car and a Matchbox or Hot Wheels car. For the girls we add jewelry and hair accessories.

Then once we have those items we want to fill the box with more fun items! There are two other items that we try to pack in each box—if a ball is not the **WOW** gift we have smaller balls available and if the **WOW** gift is not a stuffed animal we have smaller stuffed animals to add. We use lots of small toys since we do not want to send air!

The most important thing we add is prayer! Praying for the child to come to know Jesus as their personal Savior is the goal of OCC and the fun-filled shoebox. Last each box has a note—personalized notes are added to the one from the church.

The Federated Church  
 P.O. Box 158  
 East Springfield, PA 16411  
 USA  
 fedocbox@gmail.com



Dear Friend,

This gift was packed for you by The Federated Church.

Along with this gift come our prayers that you will also know about the best gift of all, the Lord Jesus Christ. The people who give you this shoebox will be able to tell you about Him.

Jesus loves you and we do too! We have prayed for you and asked God to bless you as you receive this gift.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

We will begin collecting items this month. Our items for this month are:  
 Toothbrushes, Band-Aids (non-medicated),  
 Combs, Beanies/Hats, Matchbox/Hot Wheels  
 Cars and Coloring Books and Crayons.

Thank you for your generosity! Remember:  
 It's All About Jesus!



Congratulations to the following on the births of their new baby boys!

*Nate and Toriann Phelps on the birth of their baby boy Huxlee Wynn, born December 19<sup>th</sup>, 8 lbs. 3 oz. 21-1/2". Huxlee is welcomed by big sister Wrenlee and Grandparents Jody and Erica Bonnett.*

*Bryan and Erica Plucknett on the birth of their baby boy Warren Richard, born January 19<sup>th</sup>, weighing 7.4 lbs. Proud Grandparents are Pastor Rick and Kelly and Steve and Anita Glover.*

*Jonathan and Fiona Grace Ramirez on the birth of their baby boy Jonathan David, born January 25<sup>th</sup>, 8 lbs. 3 oz. 21-1/4" long. Proud Grandparents are Brenda Hatcher and Adrian and Cheri Ramirez.*



The following folks were welcomed into the membership of the church on Sunday, December 28

- ❖ Amy Bovaird
- ❖ Judie Gleason
- ❖ Kendall and Rebecca Hunter
- ❖ Steve and Pam Miller
- ❖ Nancy Snyder
- ❖ John and Brenda Soltesz
- ❖ Pete and Jess Wurst



### ◆ **Celebration Class**

– This class is for people celebrating their “mature” years in the church dining room, studying the

scriptures on the current sermon series.

- ◆ **Men's Class** – Studying the book of Mark, led by Pastor Rick, Bob Pettis and others. Meet in the Church Basement Room 32.
- ◆ **Ladies Class** – Studying the book, “Your Story Has a Villain” by Jonathan Pokluda, led by Suzanne Barton, Room 10 in the church basement.
- ◆ **Faith Chapel Ladies Class** –following an inductive study on Romans led by Christina Corbett. All ladies welcome!
- ◆ **Sanctuary Class** – a verse by verse study of the book of Proverbs, led by Jerry Hills in the sanctuary.
- ◆ **Everyone's a Theologian** - What do Christians believe and why? This series on Systematic Theology is designed for new believers and anyone wanting to grow in their understanding of God's truth. Meet in **Room 29**, Church Basement
- ◆ **College & Young Adult Class** – Room 28 in the Church Basement, exploring what the Bible says about topics relative to life, led by Mike and Cheryl Anderson.
- ◆ **Good News Class** – Family Center Office Room, studying the book of Galatians with Seth Huntley and Sam Ring leading.
- ◆ **Couples Class** – for married and engaged couples, led by Rick Fails and Jamie Greig in Room 31 in the church basement, studying the book of Revelation.
- ◆ **Heart and Soul Class** – led by Paul Burgess in Room 19/20 of the church basement, studying Biblical Covenants.
- ◆ **The Upper Room Class** – led by Pastor Mal Beall and Paula Adams. Open to Young Adults both single and married. Meeting in the big room upstairs in the church and studying a variety of topics.



**Kids Church** is for children 4 years old thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the Family Center. The children should be signed in at the Family Center desk by a parent/caregiver before services and promptly picked up afterward.

**Infant and Toddler care:** During the 8:15 a.m. service, unsupervised Infant/Toddler rooms are available for families to use. Also, there is a nursing mother's room available during both services at the back of the sanctuary. Infant and Toddler care **is** available during the 11 a.m. service in the Family Center. **MORE VOLUNTEERS** are needed to care for the children. If you can help, please contact the Church Office

*See information at the children's sign-up desk in the Family Center*



**February 7, 8:00 a.m., Family Center**

**Men, bring your sons and invite your friends to enjoy fellowship, a short devotion, and of course breakfast!**



# FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 4 PM Teen Ensemble 5:45 PM Ignite	<b>2</b> 7 PM Men's Bible Study 	<b>3</b> 3:30 PM SALT (Students After School Learning Truth)	<b>4</b> 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Meeting	<b>5</b> 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM CR (Celebrate Recovery)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8-10 AM Men's Breakfast 
						<b>WINTERBLAST JUNIOR WLD RANCH</b>
<b>8</b> 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School <b>SOUPERBOWL FAMILY FEED</b> (For NW Youth Ctr.) 4 PM Praise Choir	<b>9</b> 7 PM Men's Bible Study	<b>10</b> 3:30 PM SALT 6:30 PM Elders and Deacons Meeting	<b>11</b> 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Meeting	<b>12</b> 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM CR	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 
						<b>Winterblast at WLD Ranch</b>
<b>15</b> 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School Winterblast at WLD Ranch 	<b>16</b> 7 PM Men's Bible Study 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Meeting	<b>19</b> 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM CR	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:30 PM Women's Craft Night
<b>22</b> 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School <b>BAKE SALE for Honduras Mission Trip</b> 4 PM Praise Choir 	<b>23</b> 12 PM Mobile Food Pantry 7 PM Men's Bible Study	<b>24</b> 3:30 PM SALT	<b>25</b> 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Meeting	<b>26</b> 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM CR	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

## February Fed Kids Schedule

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER 1</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER 2</b>
<b>FEB 1</b>	9:45 Toddler SS		Amy Swartzfager
	9:45 Check In Desk		
	11 Check In Desk		--
	11 Toddler Room	Amy & John Swartzfager	
	11 Kids Church Helper	Keah Bush	
<b>FEB 8</b>	9:45 Toddler SS	Amy Swartzfager	Katie Elvir
	9:45 Check In Desk	Liz Bright	--
	11 Toddler Room	Emily Corbett	Brooke/Violet/Savannah
	11 Check In Desk	Liz Bright	--
	11 Kids Church Helper	Jaelin Snyder	
<b>FEB 15</b>	9:45 Toddler Room	Amy Swartzfager	Amanda Nagle
	9:45 Check In Desk	Taylor Billings	--
	11 Toddler Room	Josiah Merritt	Amy Pettis
	11 Check In Desk	Taylor Billings	--
	11 Kids Church Helper	Azalea Ring	
<b>FEB 22</b>	9:45 Toddler Room	Mary Ellen Hulley	Tamim Fenton
	9:45 Check In Desk	Terena Snyder	
	11 Check In Desk	Terena Snyder	
	11 Toddler Room	Melissa Greig	Violet/Savannah
	11 Kids church Helper	Jaelin Snyder	

**Come join us in Fed Kids! Reach out to Libby, if you can help us fill these needed positions!**