

# The Federated Messenger

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October 2025

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## THE MEANING OF EMERITUS

by Pastor Ed Huntley

**“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves...keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” Romans 12:10-11**

At our wonderful united service in September, when we installed our new Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, and Youth Pastor, the Elders and Deacons of the Federated Church also gave a new title to me and Pastor Rick. The title is, “Pastor Emeritus,” and the question that everybody’s asking is, “What does that mean? We know what ‘pastor’ means, but what is the meaning of ‘emeritus’?” Elder Mike Anderson said that it isn’t a title given to a pastor who is dead, which Pastor Rick and I were very glad to hear! But what does it mean to call a pastor “emeritus?”

Webster’s Dictionary says that “emeritus” is “an honorary title” that is given “after retirement (from) active service.” This is what “emeritus” means to many people in the world; it means that we honor them for their service that they have completed. That’s an appropriate thing to do in the world, but in the church, according to the apostle Paul, “emeritus” should mean something different. In his letter to the church in Rome, Paul teaches that we are to “honor one another” and keep on “serving the Lord.”

Federated Church, this is what your giving me the title “Pastor Emeritus” means to me. It means that you are honoring me and Connie for 40 years of serving, and we are grateful for the honor. The standing ovation that you gave me and Rick was a beautiful expression of honor and love, and I will never forget it. And I want to give you honor as a church. You’re not a perfect church (nor am I a perfect pastor) but you are a blessing and joy to serve. I’ve talked with many pastors during my 50 years of ministry, and I’ve come away from many conversations so grateful to have grown up in this church and so honored to come back and serve you!



I’m also grateful that you are giving me the opportunity to keep on serving! Most churches do not allow their “retired” pastors to keep on serving or even attend their services, but you are encouraging me and Pastor Rick to continue serving. I want to commend the Elders and Deacons for allowing us to continue, and I want to commend the newly installed pastors and ministry leaders for letting us continue being a part of the ongoing ministry of the Federated Church. Most of all, I want to praise and thank our Lord Jesus, who is the Head not only of this church in East Springfield, but of the whole Body of Christ throughout the world. To Christ be the glory now and forever!

## Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch

by Joseph Preston

The scenery at the Ranch is beautiful in October, with the autumn leaves emerging in full splendor and the cooler temperatures finally settling in (just preferably not with cold and snow yet!). Enjoy these pictures from last October as you consider what October brings for the ministry of WLD Ranch.

In October, we are in full swing for our fall ministry season, complete with horse retreats, church retreats (specifically women's retreats this fall), horse lessons, Rough Riders (our horse program for kids arranged through Shriners Hospital), and an occasional day event for various groups. As we pursue our mission of guiding campers and guests to Jesus as the



Truth in life, we get to impact these various groups through our three primary approaches to ministry: direct impact, connecting, and support.

**Direct impact** refers to our opportunities to proclaim Jesus most clearly with gospel presentations, Bible lessons, and directly talking about the Truth of Jesus with our groups. Summer camp is of course the primary example of this, but for October, horse lessons and horse retreats have aspects of this approach to camp ministry.

**Connecting** covers a lot of territory and should be in every part of ministry opportunities as we are a strongly relational kind of ministry. Certain events are designed primarily for this, where we build connections with people, introduce people to the Ranch and to the staff who are letting the light of Christ shine through our lives, and pray that these connections will lead to further involvement and interest in coming back to the Ranch and that this would lead to interest in learning more about the Jesus whose light they saw in us. Some common examples of this kind of event would be Open House and Field Days. While directly talking with the whole group about Jesus is not our focus, there are certainly opportunities mixed in to any event for conversations to turn toward Jesus or for people to become curious about the hope and peace that we



pray they see in us. In October, Rough Riders and day events emphasize this approach, though we work toward building connections and showing the light of Jesus to everyone who comes here.

**Support** emphasizes our approach to ministry in which we come alongside other ministries to provide the space for their ministry to thrive. This refers primarily to church groups or other Christian ministries scheduling events or retreats at WLD Ranch. We support the work of other Christians when we provide lodging, meals, meeting space, and activities for them to enjoy while they build relationships and proclaim Jesus with their group. In October, the women's retreats from several churches are examples. WinterBlast, PAYC, and other events like church picnics or church hayrides are other examples. In all of these, we desire to build connections and have direct impact as well, but we're satisfied with supporting and encouraging the work of ministry that these ministries are doing as they spend time at WLD Ranch.

As we pursue our mission through these approaches to ministry, we are also mindful of the importance of sustaining this ministry for years to come. Your donations to the general fund or to specific projects like the pool fund or scholarships enable us to continue to carry out our mission. For more information on our current needs, please reach out to me directly! (Contact me at 814-474-3414 or [joseph@wldranch.com](mailto:joseph@wldranch.com) to have a conversation or to arrange a visit.)



**Thanks to everyone that donated to the 2025 Blessing Boot fundraiser. Your generosity raised \$3,801.10 to purchase sports equipment at the Ranch.**



**It's not too late to bring in your gently used shoes to help purchase a pool cover at the Ranch. Shoes can be placed in the bin in the Welcome Center.**



## OCC SHOEBOXES

It's here! It is time for the annual Operation Christmas

**Child Packing Party!** Join us in the Family Center on **Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**, anytime from **10:00 AM to 7:00 PM** and pack a few boxes! We will be packing 500 boxes for children ages 5-9. **These boxes are tangible expressions of God's love to children in need around the world.**



To prepare for this we will be having our final **pre-party work session on Thursday, October 2nd from 1-3 PM in the church dining room.** We will be doing a variety of needed tasks including attaching the labels and decorating the inside box lids.

On Sunday, October 12 following the second service we will be bringing all the packing items upstairs from the OCC room downstairs and setting up for the packing party. If you are available to help with this or help with the packing party, it would be very much appreciated.



Thank you to those of you who have donated items all year long, bought soccer balls, helped at work sessions, crafted

items, sponsored a box—all of us working together make this possible.

**Remember —It's All About Jesus!**

## Chicken & Biscuit Dinner

To Benefit the Springfield Volunteer Fire Department

Sunday, October 12, 11 AM to 2 PM

Federated Church Family Center

**MENU:** Chicken & Biscuits, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Dessert and Beverage

Adults - \$10, Children under 10 - \$5

**Dine In or Take Out**

## Springfield Senior Center



**Tuesday, October 14**

Springfield Senior Center will meet in the Family Center at **9:45 a.m.** **Pastor Keith Nitschke, United Church of Springboro** will have devotions.



**Tom Beam** will be with us sharing his musical talent and his testimony.

A delicious lunch will be served at Noon. Come enjoy fellowship and fun all for a \$3.00 donation.

*Come enjoy the day!*

**There are still seats available!**



**Travel with the Seniors...**

**OCTOBER 22**, we will travel to Sprague's Maple Farm in Portville, NY. Choose between breakfast or lunch (must choose ahead of time), hear a presentation on maple syrup, visit the Cuba Cheese Factory and the Rusty Rooster

- **COST: \$100 per person**
- **DEPARTURE: 8:00 AM from The Federated Church**
- **RETURN: 5 PM**

To sign up or for more information, call Jody Drakes at 814-323-7662 or the church, 922-3655

## THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S GROUP

This group is open to any woman wanting to gather for fellowship, encouragement and growth in their relationship with Jesus.

**September 18 – November 20, 2025**

**9:30 to 11:30 AM, Family Center**

**Rooms 6 & 7 (Center Hall)**

We will be starting **"Practicing the Way"**, by John Mark Comer on September 25<sup>th</sup>. This is an 8-week study on answering the call of Jesus to "Come follow me". We will be utilizing Right Now Media. This group is facilitated by Anita Glover and Marsha Howell.





### ◆ **Celebration Class**

– All are invited to this class for people celebrating their “mature” years in the church dining room for prayer and Bible study on the current sermon series.

- ◆ **Men’s Class** – Studying 1 Peter, 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? Join us for this Sunday School series on Systematic Theology, designed for new believers and anyone wanting to grow in their understanding of God’s truth. Meeting in **Room 29** in the Church Basement (near men’s restroom)
- ◆ **College & Young Adult Class** – Family Center Coat Room, exploring what the Bible says about topics relative to life, led by Mike and Cheryl Anderson.
- ◆ **Good News Class** – Family Center Office Room, studying a book of the Bible with Seth Huntley and Sam Ring leading.
- ◆ **Couples Class** – for married and engaged couples, led by Rick Fails, Jamie Greig, and Melissa Pratt in Room 31 in the church basement, studying the book of Numbers.
- ◆ **Heart and Soul Class** – led by Paul Burgess in Room 19/20 of the church basement, studying a book by David Jeremiah, “The Great Disappearance”.
- ◆ **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

Dear Federated Family,

I sent out an email but since I know that not all of you receive emails from the church I wanted to include a similar message in the Messenger. On behalf of Kelly and me, thank you for the many cards and emails that we received over the past month! We were blessed, encouraged, humbled, and thankful for the many kind and thoughtful words you wrote to thank us for the many wonderful years we had of serving the giving and loving people of the Federated Church! We thank God for you and for His sustaining grace and strength to be able to serve you and pray that God will continue to use us in His work in the days ahead!

-Pastor Rick and Kelly



## *WOMEN’S FALL RETREAT*

**October 24-26, 2025, WLD Ranch**

Cost is \$80 for entire weekend, \$55 if not staying the night

Registration form and payment are due to the church office or registration table by **Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**

# October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI.	SAT.
			<b>1</b> 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM <b>JOURNEY</b> 7 PM Prayer Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:30 AM Women's Study 1-3 PM OCC Workday 6:30 PM CR	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1-3 PM Sit and Paint Event
<b>5</b> 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 4 PM Teen Ensemble 5:45 PM Ignite	<b>6</b> 7 PM Men's Bible Study	<b>7</b> 3:30 SALT (Students Afterschool Learning Truth)	<b>8</b> 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM <b>JOURNEY</b> 7 PM Prayer Meeting	<b>9</b> 9:30 AM Women's Study 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	<b>10</b> 9-11 PM 5th Quarter Youth Center	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School SVFD Chicken & Biscuit Dinner 4 PM Praise Choir	<b>13</b> 10 AM to 7 PM OCC Packing Party 7 PM Men's Bible Study	<b>14</b> 9:45 AM Senior Center 3:30 PM SALT 6:30 PM Elders and Deacons Meeting	<b>15</b> 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM <b>JOURNEY</b> 7 PM Prayer Meeting	<b>16</b> 9:30 AM Women's Study 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 1-3 PM Trunk or Treat!
<b>19</b> 8:15 & 11 AM Worship <b>COMMUNION</b> 9:45 AM Sunday School 4 PM Teen Ensemble 5:45 PM Ignite	<b>20</b> 7 PM Men's Bible Study	<b>21</b> 3:30 SALT	<b>22</b> 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM <b>JOURNEY</b> 7 PM Prayer Meeting	<b>23</b> 9:30 AM Women's Study 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	<b>24</b> <b>Women's Fall Retreat, WLD Ranch</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School Women's Fall Retreat 4 PM Praise Choir	<b>27</b> 12 PM Mobile Food Pantry 7 PM Men's Bible Study	<b>28</b> 3:30 SALT	<b>29</b> 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM <b>JOURNEY</b> 7 PM Prayer Meeting	<b>30</b> 9:30 AM Women's Study 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	<b>31</b>	

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER 1</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER 2</b>
Oct5	9:45 Toddler SS	Mary Ellen Hulley	
	9:45 Check In Desk	Terena Snyder	
	11 Check In Desk	Terena Snyder	--
	11 Toddler Room	Amy & John Swartzfager	
	11 Kids Church Helper	Jaelin Snyder	
Oct 12	9:45 Toddler SS	Mary Ellen Hulley	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		
Oct 19	9:45 Toddler Room	Amanda Nagle	Julie Hulley
	9:45 Check In Desk	Taylor Billings	--
	11 Toddler Room	Josiah Merritt	Amy Pettis
	11 Check In Desk	Taylor Billings	--
	11 Kids Church Helper	Jaelin Snyder	
Oct 26	9:45 Toddler SS	Tamim Fenton	
	9:45 Check In Desk		--
	11 Toddler Room	Melissa Greig	Violet/Savannah
	11 Check In Desk		--
	11 Kids church Helper		