

The Federated Messenger

September 2025

A Blessed Man

By Pastor Rick Plucknett

This month I will be stepping down from the role of Senior Pastor and full-time employment as a staff member of the Federated Church. God uniquely called me to East Springfield in August of 1983 and I have been blessed to serve the wonderful people of the Federated Church for 42 years! During the Pastoral transition service on September 7th I will have the opportunity to express my deep and profound gratitude to God for His faithfulness to me while enabling me to serve the people of the church, but I want to make sure that proper appreciation and recognition be given to the one person (besides God) who has been by my side through the majority of those years---my beautiful wife, Kelly! Through all the ministry joys, challenges, and difficulties, Kelly has been my constant support, prayer warrior, helper, and cheerleader!

I was drawn to Kelly and her love for the Lord I think from the day I first met her when she was 16 and part of the Teen Choir I was leading. She had a servant's heart, a love for God and for others, and a love for God's Word! It didn't take me long to conclude that maybe someday (after she was out of the youth group!) I should further pursue such an outstanding and beautiful woman! Well, one thing led to another, and in one of my better moments of judgment, I asked her to marry me and she said "Yes!"

For the past almost 38 years, besides being a faithful and loving wife, a super mother (all our children were blessed with a great teacher and creative Mom), a high energy grandmother, and a hard- working employee at various jobs, Kelly was always behind the scenes---encouraging me, praying with and for me, and serving wherever she was needed in the ministries of the church. She assisted and ministered with me during my Youth Pastor days---from driving vans, to feeding and housing youth, teaching and discipling youth as well. She also played piano for most of the years I led the Teen Choir and went with me on many of the Teen Choir tours (what great memories!). She was the founder of our SALT program, has served in children's and women's ministry, always been my worship team pianist, taken numerous missions' trips with me, provided housing and meals for numerous missionary guests, assisted me in marriage counseling sessions, and serves as a greeter and Sunday School teacher...and she has done and continues to do all these things with great JOY!

I am also amazed at her witness at her various workplaces (both formerly in the Northwestern Guidance office and currently at the Main Street Cakery). Kelly has always seen her "job" as her "mission field"---if you are currently one of her customers, you know this!

I can truly and gratefully say that anything good and praiseworthy that has been accomplished during my years of ministry here at the church, has been the result of the grace of God and the "blessing" of the teammate that He gave me by bringing Kelly into my life! I don't want to be over sentimental here, but on many occasions she was the "wind beneath my wings" (yep, that old Bette Midler song!)....she loved and cared for me often more than I deserved. Kelly is a wife of "noble character" (Proverbs 31) and as such, I as her husband want to "arise and call her blessed" (Prov. 31:28)

Martin Luther once said this: "Let the wife make the husband glad to come home and let him make her sorry to see him leave"! I am not sure about the second half of the sentence (you'd have to check with Kelly on that!) but I am absolutely SURE about the first half---Kelly made our home a sanctuary of love and peace, one that I was always GLAD to come home to!

Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch

by Joseph Preston

Summer camp finished well and before focusing on the fall season, I wanted to offer one more reflection on summer camp. One of the first things I think about when I think back to this summer is the joy it is to watch the staff praying with campers after an evening meeting. Typically, the evening speakers will encourage campers to stay back after the meeting to talk with the counselors if they want to trust in Christ or have something else that they want to talk to a staff member about. Often, campers will stay to ask for prayer for things going on in their lives or to ask a question to help them understand the Bible and God better. Those conversations are making such an impact in the campers' lives! But the ones that move me the most are when a counselor will come back after a conversation and let me know that the camper just trusted in Christ for salvation! Praise the Lord for the joy of lives transformed by the gospel and God's Word as God works through the messages and the messengers (the staff)!

Thank you to everyone who participated in Erie Gives! We raised more this year than we did last year. The donations through Erie Gives mostly help with general ministry needs, but a portion will go toward two specific projects – a piece of hay equipment that we need and also the pool cover that we'd like to install before leaves fall. We are still accepting donations for the pool fund to be able to get the pool cover. We have about \$3000 so far and may need another \$5000 or more.

Now, fall season is beginning! It is filling up with horse lessons, Girl Scout retreats, church retreats, and day groups. A few events you should be aware of include the **Outdoorsman Retreat on September 5-6**, the **Men's Work Day on September 20**, **Stampede (with a stronger focus on the shorter family run, though the 5K option is still available) on September 27**, **a disc golf tournament on September 27 to support the DR mission trip**, **the Women's Retreat on October 24-26**, and **the Kids' Christmas Shop on December 5 and**

6. There are so many ways to get involved at the Ranch, whether that is attending an event, or volunteering or preparing items for the Kids' Christmas Shop, or collecting shoes for our Shoe Drive, or supporting the Ranch through your prayers and contributions. Stay involved and stay connected! You can find more information on the bulletin board in the hallway or by going to www.wldranch.com or www.facebook.com/wldranch. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement and we look forward to connecting with you in the months ahead.

Springfield Senior Center



Tuesday, September 9

Springfield Senior Center will meet in the Family Center at **9:45 a.m.** Our own Pastor Rick Plucknett will have devotions.

Kelly Roland, a meteorologist with Erie News Now, will present a program about weather.

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

Come enjoy the day!



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, 814-922-3655



OCC SHOEBOXES

Our final focus of Operation Christmas Child is

Multiplication. After Evangelism at the initial Gospel presentation and guiding the children through the Greatest Journey Discipleship course, the children then are sharing the Good News with those in their families, neighborhoods, villages and schools. This shows that the boxes we send reach more than one child with the gospel. Evangelism, Discipleship and Multiplication has been so effective in reaching around the world and spreading the Gospel. What an awesome ministry that we can participate in as we pack our boxes.

This month our item is ministry/shipping costs. While it might not sound exciting, it is essential in the process of getting the gift-filled box from here to its destination. Samaritan's Purse requests a suggested \$10 donation per box. It is truly a ministry cost when you see what it covers-so much more than shipping. *It covers collection costs, processing each box, shipping (as on a ship or plane-not the US Postal Service), and a Gospel booklet printed in the child's own language. Also the \$10 goes towards helping to train and equip the local churches to hold outreach events where the boxes are distributed. When you see all that the \$10 covers, it is amazing.*

To help us collect our shipping costs for our 500 boxes to be done at our packing party, we are holding a fundraiser. On September 14th and 21st there will be an Operation Christmas Child display in the Welcome Center.

We will have envelopes for you to take to sponsor a box or boxes. Checks can be made payable to the Federated Church.

We have a list of some needed items and it will be posted near the OCC collection box in the



Welcome Center and updated weekly. Thank you for your generous donations all year long!

Our packing party is coming up soon! **Mark your calendar for Monday, October 13th. We will be ready for you to come pack from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM.**



Congratulations to Jacob and Jacki Dumond on the birth of their daughter Kennedy Grace, born July 16th, 6 lbs. 8 oz. and 18.75"

The Lord blessed us with a beautiful evening Sunday, August 10th at Raccoon Park in North Springfield where the following were baptized:



Adam Barton, Kelsey Drakes, Benjamin Grant, Fletcher Greig, Brianne Lybrook, Fran Makay, Stacy Parmerter, Bryan Plucknett, Kristin Reiland, Julia Reiland, Azalea Ring, Jonah Ring, John Soltesz, Kelly Swasing, and Isaac Ward

JOIN US FOR A DOORHANGER
FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT OUR
MISSION TRIP!

FEDERATED CHURCH
11995 MAIN STREET
EAST SPRINGFIELD

**PAINT FOR
A PURPOSE**

*Fundraiser Paint
Event*

**October 4
1-3 PM**

**COST IS \$35.
COME AND
JOIN US!**

This is to raise funds for DJ Snyder who will be traveling to the Dominican Republic in October on a Mission Trip.



Adult Classes

◆ 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 Elevator 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 5th 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

Sunday, September 7th will be a special day as we will have a Pastoral Installment Service in the Family Center at 10:00 a.m. A Family Feed will follow. There will be no Sunday School this day.





September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	1 *Happy* LABOR DAY *****	2	3 10 AM Golden Circle 7 PM Prayer Meeting	4 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	5	6 10 AM  WOMEN'S BRUNCH
7 10 AM Pastoral Installment Service, Family Center, Followed by Lunch NO Sunday School 	8 7 PM Men's Bible Study	9 9:45 AM Senior Center 6:30 PM Elders & Deacons Mtg.	10 10 AM Golden Circle No Prayer Meeting, Go to the Fair! →	11 5:30 PM Ministerium Program, Fair 6:30 PM CR	12	13
ALBION FAIR WEEK						
14 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School Move-up Day for K-12th Grade 12:30 PM Student Ministry Leader's Meeting 4 PM Praise Choir	15 7 PM Men's Bible Study	16	17 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Meeting	18 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	19	20 8 AM Men's Workday, WLD Ranch
21 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM SVFD Open House 4 PM Ensemble, 5:45 Ignite	22 7 PM Men's Bible Study	23	24 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Mtg.	25 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	26	27
28 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School FALL FEST, Bicentennial Park, 4-6 PM (Family Center if Rain)	29 11 AM Mobile Food Pantry 7 PM Men's Study 	30 3:30 PM SALT (Students After-school Learning Truth)				

Sept Fed Kids Schedule

DATE	SERVICE	VOLUNTEER 1	VOLUNTEER 2
Sept 7	10 Toddler Room	Amy & John Swartzfager	
	10 Check In Desk		--
	10 Kids Church Helper	Twila Anderson	Jaelin Snyder
Sept 14	9:45 Toddler SS	Anita Glover	
	9:45 Check In Desk	Liz Bright	--
	9:45 Nursery	Katie Elvir	Edwin Elvir
	11 Toddler Room	Emily Corbett	Brooke/Violet/Savannah
	11 Check In Desk	Liz Bright	--
	11 Kids Church Helper		
Sept 21	9:45 Toddler Room	Anita Glover	
	9:45 Check In Desk	Taylor Billings	--
	9:45 Nursery	Amanda Nagle	
	11 Toddler Room	Josiah Merritt	Amy Pettis
	11 Check In Desk	Taylor Billings	--
	11 Kids Church Helper	Jaelin Snyder	
Sept 28	9:45 Toddler SS	Anita Glover	
	9:45 Check In Desk		--
	9:45 Nursery		
	11 Toddler Room	Melissa Greig	Violet/Savannah
	11 Check In Desk		--
	11 Kids church Helper	Jaelin Snyder	