

The Federated Messenger

May 2026

EPIC MELTDOWNS by Pastor Stephen Pettis

Have you ever felt like a failure? Like you were doing everything you could to prove you had what it takes, and then in one moment of weakness or fear, you completely blew it? Maybe in those moments, you've even wondered, does God still love me after that? Can He still use me?

That's exactly where our new sermon series, Epic Meltdowns, is going to take us.

Over this month, we're going to walk through the lives of Sarah, David, Elijah, and Peter. These were real people who had real moments of failure. Sarah doubted God's promise. David fell into serious sin. Elijah went from a spiritual high to running in fear. Peter boldly said he would never deny Jesus, and then did exactly that.

These aren't small mistakes. These are the kinds of moments that can make you feel like you've disqualified yourself. But here's what we're going to see over and over again: God doesn't walk away from broken people.

In fact, Scripture shows us the opposite. In 2 Corinthians 12:9, God says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." And in Psalm 51:17, we're reminded that "a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." He works in and through weakness. He meets people in their lowest moments, restores them, and continues to use them for His purposes.

That means this series isn't really about their meltdowns; it's about God's character in the middle of them, because their stories look a lot like ours. We all have moments where we doubt, where we give in to fear, where we fall short. The question isn't whether we'll fail, the question is what God does with us when we do. And the good news is He wasn't finished with them, and He's not finished with you.

Our hope for this series is that you'll see clearly that failure is never final with God. He is still gracious. He still restores. And He still uses imperfect people for His glory. Join us as we walk through these stories together and see what they teach us about who God is and what that means for us right now.



“Breathe It In”

By Reilly Melin

Spring has certainly taken its time in arriving, so we are happy to finally welcome in the warmer weather. With the warmer weather comes more time outside with the horses, during lessons, either on the trails or in the corral; more time working on outside projects like house additions, gutter repairs and mowing; and getting a solid tan base before we burn during the many field trips we will be hosting. Though it seems like a fair amount on our plate at the moment, this is the quick but deep breath before diving into our busy spring season of weekends full of Girl Scout retreats, the field trips mentioned above, and various workdays, not to mention all of the prep we still need to do to make sure we are ready for summer camp.

As of writing this newsletter, our registrations are tracking well ahead of last year at this time. The trend seems to be



signing kids up sooner and sooner with more of our camp weeks filling up. To God be the glory for this trend as it shows us that kids and parents alike are excited for a summer experience at WLD Ranch. What we need to see next is for the staff numbers to follow the same trend. We were spoiled last year with an abundance of staff signing up early to the point of having to close applications on April 2nd last year! As of right now, we are still accepting more applications for volunteer and paid positions to ensure that every camper gets the attention they need and for the camp to run smoothly. If you know of a teen/young adult who would be interested in having a meaningful summer, serving the Lord, by making a difference in the lives of kids coming to WLD Ranch this year, please contact us for more information or visit www.wldranch.com/stafflink to apply. We would love to have a conversation with them!

Also upcoming is our **Open House on Saturday, May 9th from 11:00am – 5:00pm**. This is a free event for anyone who would like to come and enjoy learning about WLD and/or having fun with the various activities we will have available. Not planning on sending any kids to camp? No problem; we would love to see you here, regardless, to remind you of what we do here, how you can support us and simply to have a (Lord willing) beautiful day outside!

Springfield Senior Center



Tuesday, May 12, Springfield Senior Center will meet in the Family Center at 9:45 a.m., but plan to come at 9:15 a.m. to celebrate our **27th Anniversary** with light refreshments and coffee! **Pastor Ed Huntley, Federated Church** will have devotions.

Todd Morton will help us celebrate by performing his wonderful music for our enjoyment.



Senior Center concludes at Noon with a wonderful, home-cooked lunch, all for a \$3 donation.

Bring a Friend and Enjoy the Morning!

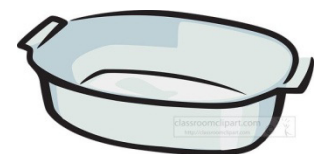


Congratulations to the following who were baptized on Resurrection Sunday!

- ❖ **Malachi Bush**
- ❖ **Jakobi Jerry**
- ❖ **Hailie Reese**
- ❖ **Tyler Rice**
- ❖ **Blake Thomas**

Just a reminder...

Remember when you brought a dish of food for a funeral dinner or other event? Did you ever pick up your empty dish or container? If you are missing dishes, check the counter in the Church Basement kitchen or under the counters in the Family Center kitchen and retrieve your dishes!





OCC SHOEBOXES

by Beth Rigden

At a recent Operation Christmas Child work session I asked for some input for this article. Attendees were asked: "Why are you involved in OCC?" I want to share some of the answers here and perhaps it will inspire you to be involved in this very important ministry where we are sharing the Gospel with children (and their parents) all over the world.

"I love to be able to send smiles to children who have nothing. I'm praying in Jesus' name for them to know Jesus." Janet

"I really enjoy helping with OCC! It's a way to spread the Good News of Jesus around the world and it's great fellowship with brothers and sisters in the Lord." Brad

"I'm involved with OCC to be a part of something bigger than myself." Amy

"I volunteer with OCC to honor God with the talent He has given me and to make a child feel loved and cared for and most important to spread the Gospel." Phyllis

"OCC is an easy way to come together and bless children with the hope of Christ and fun gifts." Anita

"My children and grandchildren are so blessed. I can't imagine others going without or having no hope of Christmas." Betty

"I love to help to provide these blessing boxes to children all around the world and to share Jesus with them." Barb

"I have enjoyed filling boxes for OCC for a number of years. I'm so glad we can share the gospel message with children around the world." Bonnie

Thank you to all who have been helping by bringing items to the OCC donation box. With all of us working together we plan on filling 500 boxes for boys and girls ages 5-9 in the fall!

The May collection items are Stuffed Animals, Coloring books and Crayons and Matchbox cars. We are still in need of colorful bandaids and combs.



Garrit Anderson

Saturday, May 16
1-4 PM, WLD Ranch



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE SENIORS!

A list of students graduating from high school and college will be published in the JUNE

Messenger along with a list of Open House information. If you would like your name included on the list and the date, time, and location of your Open House published, please submit the information to the church office no later than May 15. You are also welcome to post information on the Family News bulletin board in the hall by the church offices. *(Even if you do not want an Open House listed in the Messenger, please give us your name so you can be added to the list of graduates).*



ALSO...

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!



The Lord has blessed the church with a scholarship fund. Requirements and forms for the 2026/2027 school year are available from the church office and the Welcome Center and must be completed and returned to the church office by June 7 in order to qualify. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 922-3655.

Monthly Bow Shoot & Fellowship Sunday, May 17, 3:00 PM

Join the local Christian Bowhunters of America for an afternoon of archery, fellowship, and faith, held the second Sunday of each month at the Federated Church Pavilion. All skill levels welcome. Bring your bow, invite a friend, and enjoy good shooting and great conversation.



◆ **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 Ephesians 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 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



National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 7

A gathering will take place in Albion in the parking lot of the St. Lawrence Church at 6:30 PM.

An Open House at the Federated Preschool is set for Sunday, May 17, 11 AM to 2 PM. Come, visit the school, meet the teacher

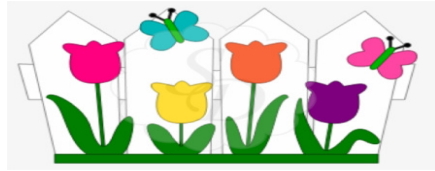
and sign up your preschooler for the 2026/2027 school year!



Thank you to those who have contributed your pill, vitamin or supplement bottles to the Recycling Program! If you are not sure where to drop off your bottles, the collection box is located in the Family Center, by the stage steps. Please ensure the lids are attached and, if possible, wash off the label, or cross out personal information with a black marker. If you are interested in being part of the cleaning / packing work team, please contact Amy Bovaird at 814-431-4266 or Suzanne Barton at 814-392-4383. **The times for the recycling operation will be as follows:**

- May 12** 1 PM - 4 PM
- June 9** 9 AM - 12 PM
- July 14** 1 PM - 4 PM
- August 11** 6 PM - 9 PM
- September 8** 9 AM- 12 PM
- October 13** 1 PM - 4 PM
- November 10** 1 PM - 4 PM
- December 8** 1 PM - 4 PM





MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
					1 6 PM Women's Event	2 8 AM Men's Breakfast March for Life
3 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 4 PM Teen Ensemble 5:45 PM Ignite	4 7 PM Men's Bible Study	5 6 PM WOW Grief Group	6 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Mtg.	7 9:30 AM Ladies' Study 6:30 PM CR 6:30 Nat'l Day of Prayer, Albion, St. Lawrence	8	9 11 AM-5 PM WLD Ranch Open House
10 Happy Mother's Day! 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 	11 7 PM Men's Bible Study	12 9:45 AM Senior Center 6 PM Grief Group 6:30 PM Leadership Meeting	13 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Mtg.	14 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 PM CR	15	16 10 AM-3 PM Tabitha Team Sewing Ministry
17 8:15 & 11 AM Worship <i>Communion</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School Alaska Bake Sale 11 AM-2 PM Preschool Open House	18 12 PM Mobile Food Pantry 7 PM Men's Bible Study	19 6 PM WOW Grief Group	20 10 AM Golden Circle 7 PM Prayer Meeting	21 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 PM CR	22	23 10 AM Tabitha Tm. Father & Son Backpacking
24 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 4 PM Praise Choir rehearsal	25 	26 6 PM WOW Grief Group	27 10 AM Golden Circle 7 PM Prayer Meeting	28 9:30 AM Ladies' Study 6:30 PM CR	29	30 Men's Workday @ WLD Ranch
31 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School						