



## January Worship

**JANUARY 1** 10am Worship **NEW YEARS' DAY**

**Let's Keep Herod in Christmas** *Pastor Doug Dent*  
Matthew 2:1-13  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

**JANUARY 8** 9 and 11am Worship **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**Wonder Water** *Pastor Doug Dent*  
Matthew 3:13-17

**JANUARY 15** 9 and 11am Worship

**The Happiness of Being Dirty**  
Psalm 40

**JANUARY 22** 10am Worship **ANNUAL MEETING**

**The View from Summit**  
Dueteronomy 34

**JANUARY 29** 9 and 11am Worship

**From Great to Good**  
Micah 6:1-8  
11am - Ordination & Installation  
of New Officers

## Dates to Remember

**MONDAY, JANUARY 2**  
**Church office closed**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4**  
**Next Session of Kids Club begins**  
3:30pm - 5:30pm

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 7**  
**Ice Fishing Event**  
7am - 7pm, Ottetail Lake  
Contact Dennis Bowman  
(dbowman@fergusotters.org)

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 13**  
**Scrapbooking in the fellowship hall**  
5pm - ?

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 14**  
**Scrapbooking in the fellowship hall**  
9am - ?

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21**  
**Multigenerational Fellowship Night**  
6pm-8pm, Breakout Edu Game

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 22**  
**Annual Meeting of the Congregation**  
10am, Worship  
11am, Lunch & Meeting

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 29**  
**New Officer Installation & Ordination**  
11am, during the worship service



# Pastor's Pen

Pastor Doug Dent

A few weeks ago, I helped Jonathan clean his room. Usually I just ignore his room, but we were expecting company for Christmas, so we would need the extra sleeping space. And, frankly, it was becoming something of a health hazard!

As we cleaned, I muttered, "How did we accumulate so much junk?" We sorted through clothing, Legos, books, toy soldiers, loose coins, drawings, and food wrappers. As we worked we talked about the importance of keeping things tidy. We made unwavering resolutions to keep his room (and our house) clean, orderly and functioning properly.

Thinking about resolutions, I sensed a connection between a clean room and a new year. The first order of business is to clear out the clutter, to discard the useless, to remove the dust and dirt. Begin fresh!

A new year can begin anytime in our lives. We can sort through old attitudes, clean our minds of envy, toss out the habits of gossip and carrying grudges. We can resolve to keep our promises and curb our anger.

I stood back and surveyed the tidy room. Yes, a new year could begin anytime or any place. A lot of things from the past need discarding. Things we collect that are of no more value or usefulness need to be trashed. Paul wrote, "But now also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds" (Col. 3: 8-9).

It is amazing how a clean room can change your outlook on life.

May this New Year be one of fresh perspectives and new starts for you!  
Pastor Doug

## House of Hope Mission Trip

The team is formed, the airline tickets are purchased and now the countdown begins until we leave on February 11, 2017! We are thirteen strong this trip: Karen Anderson, Makiya Cavalier, Doug Dent, Jonathan Dent, Madalyn Dent, Suzy Johnson, Michelle Loomer, Abby MacFarlane, Linda MacFarlane, Jordan Schiefert, Ryndel Vogel, Evan Westra, and Paige Westra.



## Special Sundays

One Sunday each month we will worship together at 10am and celebrate a special event in the life of our faith family. Please mark your calendars—you won't want to miss this!

<b>January 22</b>	Annual Meeting	Meal and meeting following worship
<b>February 26</b>	Confirmation Sunday	Reception following worship
<b>April 9</b>	Palm Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
<b>April 16</b>	Easter Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
<b>May 21</b>	Ice cream social	Sundaes following worship

### Attention all scrapbookers!

You are invited to the Federated fellowship hall for a weekend of scrapbooking! Bring your projects and supplies and enjoy some focused time of working on your projects. **January 13th, 5pm - 11pm and January 14th, starting at 9am in the Federated fellowship hall.** Please bring a snack to share.



# Bible studies and discussion groups

## Adult Bible Study

SUNDAY MORNINGS 10am

For most of us, Confirmation was a long, long, long, long time ago. Perhaps we've forgotten some of what we learned. Perhaps we didn't pay all that much attention the first time around... Well, join Pastor Doug on Sunday mornings at 10am for a Confirmation refresher course with an informal discussion about important aspects of our faith and witness.

## Women's Bible Study

THURSDAYS 10:30am

Women's Bible Study meets every Thursday at 10:30am in the church parlor. All women are invited! In January, we will be starting a new study called *By the Will of God*, an eight-part series on Ephesians published by Sola Publishing Company.

## Men's Bible Study

MONDAYS 12pm

Men's Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon for one hour. Men are currently studying the book of Acts. All men are invited to join us!

## First Sundays

SUNDAYS 12pm

'First Sundays' is a monthly forum for biblical and topical studies led by Pastor Doug Dent. We begin with a light lunch after worship (Noon) followed by the study. All are welcome!

January 8	Books that Didn't Make the Bible (and Why)
February 7	Books Between the Testaments
March 7	Compassion as Spiritual Discipline
April 2	Class Warfare in the Bible
May 7	The Tomb of Jesus



# Things to know from the DCO

Rev. Ed Morgan

As we come to the close of 2016 and look back, we can say, "God is good". This has been a good year for our Federated family and we thank God for the good things that have been accomplished. The list is long, but let me share the highlights: a visioning process that has produced positive results, our new vision - Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Arms., four new teams to continue to recommend and implement specific actions to make our vision real, a new floor, lighting and painting in the gym, an Endowment Fund that now totals over \$400,000, a monitored security system for the church, new handicapped curbs, painting in many of the classrooms, lighting in the hallways, a successful stewardship campaign. And I could go on with the many smaller projects that have been accomplished by the talented people of our church.

God told Abraham and us, who continue within the covenant that God established, "I will bless you, so that you will be a blessing." (Gen. 12:2) All that God has blessed us with this year is so that we can be a blessing to others. We see people being blessed through worship, Christian education, fellowship and missions.

As we reflect on the past year, we can say, "Thank you God for all that you have given us." After we give our thanks, I encourage us all to ask a question, "God, what can I give back for all that you have given me?" Please think of the many ways we can all use our gifts of time, talents, and financial means to be a blessing for the many people who are touched by this church.

I hope you all had a joyous Christmas and wish you a very blessed New Year.

Rev. Dr. Ed Morgan, DCO



# Christian Education and Youth

## Kids Club and Sunday School

Thank you to all the people who helped make the Christmas pageant a success this year! Renee Larsen, Char Zielin, Lu Echelberger, Colleen Kennedy, Jona Brown, Abby McFarlane, Paige Westra, Madalyn Dent, Steve Thompson, Carri Thompson, Karen Bush, Jordan Schiefert, Dove Schierer, Ben Schierer, Terry Harrington—you all did so much behind the scenes with costumes, music, and crowd-control! It wouldn't have happened without you!

Thank you also to all the children who put in a lot of time on Wednesday nights and Sunday school mornings in order to be ready on December 18th! You all did such a great job! The congregation was SO BLESSED to be able to hear and see the story of Jesus' birth through your pageant! Thank you so much!

There will be no Sunday School January 1st. Sunday School resumes on January 8th at 9:45am. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The next session of Kids Club begins on January 4th and runs through February 15th for a six-week session, so be sure to come and join in on the fun and fellowship! We will be digging into six of Jesus' parables: The Story of the Sower, The Great Banquet, The Treasure Hunt, The "Lost" Stories, The Rich Man and Lazarus, and The Unjust Judge. Some of these parables will be familiar, some will perhaps be new to us. It will be a great opportunity to hear again about God's love for us through the words of Jesus!

## Youth Group

Our senior high school youth group ended the 2016 year with two now-annual traditions that we all thoroughly enjoy! On December 7th we joined up with the residents at the Co-op to sing Christmas carols and eat Christmas cookies. Some of our kids even broke out into smaller groups and sang songs they had been working on in school. They had such a great time, and we all are so thankful for the chance to carol with everyone! Our second (newer) tradition we did the following week. We call it "Getting RACKed"—Random Act of Christmas Kindness, and it involves a scavenger hunt to identify people in various places so we can give

them a food gift card in time for the holidays. The youth are always excited to find the person the clues point to and brighten their day! Following the scavenger hunt, we came back to the church to decorate Christmas cookies. Our youth group is a great bunch of young people who genuinely enjoy and care about each other.

Regular Wednesday night youth group resumes on Wednesday, January 4th. Our senior high youth group will be delving into a series based on the popular book *Not a Fan* by Kyle Idleman. This six-session series focuses on the idea that Jesus doesn't just want "fans", he wants followers. Each week we will watch a segment of a story that observes the transformation of a man from marginal fan to a follower of Jesus. After some discussion, we will have time for some games - some old favorites, as well as some new ones!!

Our first fellowship event will be on Friday, January 13th, with a "Dent House Game Night." We hope to see you all there!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Senior High Youth Group Schedule for January and February:

<b>Wed., Jan. 4th</b>	7:30pm	Regular youth group
<b>Wed., Jan. 11th</b>	7:30pm	Regular youth group
<b>Fri., Jan. 13th</b>	7-10pm	Game night @ Dents
<b>Wed., Jan. 18th</b>	7:30pm	Regular youth group
<b>Sat., Jan. 21st</b>	Multigenerational Fellowship Night 6-8 pm	Breakout Edu Game
<b>Wed., Jan. 25th</b>	7:30pm	Regular youth group
<b>Wed., Feb. 1st</b>	7:30pm	Regular youth group
<b>Wed., Feb. 8th</b>	7:30pm	Regular youth group
<b>Wed., Feb. 15th</b>		NO YOUTH GROUP!!!
<b>Wed., Feb. 22nd</b>	7:30pm	Regular youth group

Christian Education and Youth

## Local Mission

Thank you for your continued generosity with the Local Mission Fund! As always, funds go out as quickly as they come in and we are currently having to turn people away. Donations can be put in the offering plate with Local Mission Fund in the memo line or dropped off in the church office.

During the month of November, we were able to help **11** families or individuals with a total of **\$630**, used for food, household goods, rent or utilities. So far in December, we have helped **19** families or individuals with **\$1,300.00** towards food, household goods, rent or utilities.

We keep a supply of soap, lotion, toothpaste, conditioner, toothbrushes, toilet paper, etc. on hand at the church to give to people who come in needing assistance. If you have extra at your home, bring them in! We'll give them away.



## Community News

The Fergus Falls Ministerial Association is sponsoring a *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* from January 23-27. Our theme for the week is what Jesus prayed in John 17:21, "... that all of them may be one."

Each day of that week, Monday through Friday, one church will open its doors at noon for a prayer gathering and a light lunch. The prayer gathering will go from about 12:10-12:35pm, with the light lunch to follow.

Here are the dates and locations for these events:

- Mon. 1/23 - Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- Tue. 1/24 - Grace United Methodist Church
- Wed. 1/25 - Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
- Thu. 1/26 - Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church
- Fri. 1/27 - Abundant Life Assembly of God

Everyone in the community is invited to all of these gatherings.



## Parish Nursing Notes

**Connie Seltz**  
Parish Nurse Coordinator

Happy New Year to you and yours! We can begin 2017 with confidence: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11 Is anyone discouraged because of Christmas bills coming in, some related to impulse buys? Have you made a resolution to address that? Recently I was alerted to a Thrivent.com article: "Ways to Stop Impulse

Buys" and thought it timely. The article listed 7 suggestions:  
1. Create a spending strategy. Decide what to share, what to save, then what is needed, and finally what is left.  
2. Put your fun money on a prepaid credit card so your limit is clear.  
3. Don't shop when you are sad or angry. Emotional buying can make one feel better in the short term, but doesn't last.  
4. Don't shop with other people. Peer

pressure can push you to spend!  
5. Wait before you buy. If you shop online, save your shopping cart, log out, and take a walk.  
6. Make a list. Lists keep one focused on what is needed.  
7. Don't be fooled by sales. Do wait for a sale to buy what you need. Eighty-four per cent admit to buying impulsively. There is hope for us!

God Bless you everyone!

# Committees

## Caring Ministry & Outreach

CONNIE SELTZ

The Welcome Folders in the pews have been updated. We like to see them looking clean and with the most current information. If you note a wrinkled folder or one with missing or outdated information, please take the folder to the narthex table. We have a fresh supply on the usher's table. Thank you in advance.

## Multigenerational Learning and Fellowship

KAREN ANDERSON

The Multigenerational Fellowship and Education Committee has put together a new and exciting event for us this January! On Saturday, January 21st from 6-8pm, we invite you to join us for a fellowship opportunity for all ages that involves teamwork, critical thinking, breaking codes and solving puzzles. We will be divided into teams that include all ages so we all work together and use the gifts and abilities of everyone on the team! By using our logic and talents, each team will be given clues and challenges which lead to each additional step in the game. Eventually one team will be the first to get to the final answer! This fun-filled and popular activity, called "Breakout EDU", is used in schools, parties, and other venues to encourage interaction, knowledge-sharing, and cooperative learning. We plan to share a meal together and then break into our teams to solve the challenge. Are you up for a night of critical thinking and team-building? Please contact the church office by January 18th if you plan to attend so that we can have accurate numbers and begin creating the teams!

## Mission

MIKE SHOL

A letter from Jerry Fletcher, president of the Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf

Dear Congregation:

I have received several questions regarding a mailing sent by North Country Food Bank, located in Crookston, MN. Many of you may recall receiving it in your own mail boxes over the years. It is not a mailing from your local Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf. To be clear, we are two separate entities.

While both organizations are worthy of your donations, the Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf operates solely on the generosity of the good people, businesses, organizations and churches in our area. Each year, our major fundraising drive is in March. At that time,

you will receive a donation request from us. North Country Food Bank's area of focus is Northwestern Minnesota.

The focal area of the Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf is right here in your community and within approximately a ten-mile radius of Fergus Falls. We reach out to help your neighbors, friends and family members. In fact, we serve about 1,000 people each month, 400 of those being children under the age of 18. I encourage you to continue to give generously to your local food shelf.

Sincerely,  
Jerry Fletcher  
President  
Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf  
PO Box 136  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

## Fellowship

KATHY GILBERT

Some of the events planned for 2017 include **Ice fishing** on Jan 7 (see below); **Souper Bowl Sunday** soup lunch on Feb. 5 (free will offering will go to the local mission fund); **Birthday Sunday** on Feb 19, and a **pancake breakfast fundraiser** for the softball team on March 12. **Be sure to contact Dennis Bowman to reserve your spot for Ice Fishing - time is running out!** More events are in the planning stages, so stay tuned!!!

## Federated Ice Fishing Day-trip

Saturday, January 7th - all day!

Ottertail Lake  
\$25 per fisherman  
Contact Dennis Bowman  
998-0717  
dbowman@fergusotters.org  
fish houses supplied by  
Meister Guide Service



3rd Annual!

# Business as usual

## Service Groups

### JANUARY SERVICE GROUP GROUP #4

Wes and Lori Beske  
Wes and Phyllis Binner  
Carol Bischof  
Jona Brown  
Nic and Sammy Ebert  
John and Kim Erickson  
Bob and Barb Flom  
Kathy Gilbert  
Fred & Linda Harthen  
James and Rebecca Michael  
Vern and Deb Tabbut  
Steve and Carri Thompson  
Del and Kathy Zimmerman

### FEBRUARY SERVICE GROUP GROUP #5

Jim and Phyllis Behrends  
Elizabeth Hatling  
Kathy Hatling  
Jeremy and Jen Jensen  
Steve Lockhart and Donna Ohe  
Tiny Macheel  
Jacinta Macheel  
Ann Porter  
Mary Jones Olson  
Duane and Carol Rose  
Melissa Saurer  
Donna Solin  
Joan Tester  
Greg and Kathy Truax

## Greeters and Coffee Hosts

### JANUARY 2017

- Sunday, January 1**  
10am Del & Kathy Zimmerman
- Sunday, January 8**  
9am James & Rebecca Michael  
11am John & Kim Erickson
- Sunday, January 15**  
9am Fred & Linda Harthen  
11am Wes & Lori Beske
- Sunday, January 22**  
10am Nic & Sammy Ebert
- Sunday, January 29**  
9am Vern & Deb Tabbut  
11am Steve & Carri Thompson

**REMINDER:** You are also the coffee hosts for that Sunday. If you are unable to do it the Sunday you are assigned, it is YOUR responsibility to find a replacement. Check your email for information on greeter and coffee host duties. Please add church@federatedff.org to your safe senders list. If you don't use email, please check the bulletin board in the narthex for the information.

## Ministry Nite: January 10

Please email your minutes to church@federatedff.org. If you are unable to attend, please contact your chairperson. If your committee does not make a quorum, please schedule a time for your committee to meet before the next Ministry Nite. Reminder: Committees do not meet in July.

## Stewardship Report

General Fund Report	
Revenue	\$23,647
Expenditures	\$38,018
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$327,049
Actual Received	\$327,012

## Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS FOR NOVEMBER

Sunmart	
November	\$3,899.00
Total as of 12/1/16	\$65,228.45
Service Food	
November	\$9,403.27

## Newsletter Deadline

Articles and announcements are due the 15th of each month. Please send the by email whenever possible. The church staff reserves the right to edit articles for content and space.



224 North Union Avenue  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FERGUS FALLS, MN  
PERMIT #285

**Time sensitive information  
Please deliver by December 31.**

## Condolences

Duane Rose on the death of his sister, Lavonne

Cindy Spidahl on the death of her father, Ray Seaver

Skip Zielin on the loss of his nephew

Ben Boatright and family on the loss of his father,  
Randy.


*"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord.  
"The one who believes in me will live, even though they  
die; and everyone who lives and believes in me shall  
never die." John 11:25-26*

## Thank You

A heartfelt thank you from the Sundheim family for the  
Christmas food basket!

## January Birthdays

- |       |                   |       |                    |
|-------|-------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 01/01 | Wayne Link        | 01/16 | Bob Wolfe          |
| 01/02 | Geraldine Hilden  | 01/18 | Norma Bell         |
| 01/03 | Megan Grover      | 01/20 | Karoline Gustafson |
| 01/04 | Arlene Worner     | 01/21 | Judy Friedrich     |
| 01/06 | Walter Gondrez    | 01/23 | Molly McDougall    |
| 01/08 | Bill Borowski     | 01/24 | Brian Malchert     |
| 01/08 | Janie Lee         | 01/25 | Vivian Whipple     |
| 01/09 | Ella Sundheim     | 01/25 | Pam Phillips       |
| 01/10 | Ruby Whipple      | 01/25 | Dale Anderson      |
| 01/10 | Roxane Nereson    | 01/26 | Shelby Tabbut      |
| 01/10 | Cheryl Harrington | 01/27 | Robert Dent        |
| 01/10 | Tori Bult         | 01/30 | Linda Wolfe        |
| 01/14 | Chloe Beske       | 01/31 | Gladys Carlson     |
| 01/15 | Dana Schlepp      | 01/31 | John Collins       |
| 01/16 | Mark Rodning      | 01/31 | Beth Schlepp       |
|       |                   | 01/31 | William Haas       |



The Federated Church is a joint ministry  
of The Presbyterian Church (USA) and  
The United Church of Christ.

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