

January Worship

JANUARY 7 9:30a.m. Worship

Heaven Opened
Pastor Doug Dent

Mark 1:9-11
*Celebration of the
Lord's Supper*

JANUARY 14 9:30a.m. Worship

Boom! Says the Lord
Pastor Doug Dent

Psalms 29

JANUARY 21 9:30a.m. Worship

Taking the Call
Pastor Doug Dent

1 Samuel 3:1-10

JANUARY 28 9:30a.m. Worship

Prophet or Pitchman
Pastor Doug Dent

ANNUAL MEETING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20



Dates to Remember

MONDAY, JANUARY 1
NEW YEARS DAY
OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2
5:30pm Stephen Ministers Meeting

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6
7am-7pm Ice Fishing at Otter Tail

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7
9:30am Worship and Communion

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9
6:30pm Ministry Nite

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14
10:30am Chili Cook Off

MONDAY, JANUARY 15
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18
6:30pm D&E Meeting

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28
10:30am ANNUAL MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2
12:30pm Federated at Food Shelf

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3
6:30pm Family Fun Night



Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

The new movie "The Man Who Invented Christmas" tells the magical journey that led to the creation of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and other classic characters from *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. The film shows how Dickens mixed real life inspirations with his vivid imagination to conjure up unforgettable characters and a timeless tale, forever changing the holiday season into the celebration we know today.

I've not yet seen the movie, but I love the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, the mean, old miser who changes his attitudes and his ways after being visited by three ghosts and seeing a vision of his bleak future. At the end of the story, the new-man Scrooge resolved, as he always does, to "honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year." Then Dickens assures us that Scrooge was "better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more."

As far as new year's resolutions go, this is a big one. How can we keep Christmas in our hearts all year long? How can we keep the joy, the peace, the love, and the hope of Christmas alive when the bills roll in, and work piles up, and the kid activities eat up all our free time, and the yard is a mess, and the house needs work, and the car is on its last legs, and someone is sick, and...and...and...The joys of Christmas can easily be swallowed up by daily living.

Which is why, I think, so many of us make resolutions for the new year. Attempting to hold onto the Christmas spirit, we make promises to change how we live, to do things better going forward. But there are two things wrong with our resolutions, generally: they are too big to be realistic and they are not Godly. Here's what I mean.

I used to make resolutions that promised sweeping changes in my life. One year I resolved to wake up at 6AM to pray and do my devotions, then an hour of exercise, followed by

a healthy breakfast. I resolved to drink less Coca-Cola, spend less time at my desk and more time with my kids, help more around the house, and volunteer more in the community. That's a lot for one year! All this was supposed to bring me closer to God, help me lose 10 pounds, and make me the perfect husband-father-pastor. It proved too much for one mere mortal man to accomplish. The resolutions faded away before the Christmas cookies ran out.

This year my resolution (just one) is simpler: to listen more. My hope is that by listening, I will hear – REALLY HEAR – what God is speaking to me, what my children need, what my wife feels, and what my congregation requires of me.

Which leads me to the second thing: resolutions should be less about DOING and more about BEING. This is what Scrooge meant by honoring Christmas and keeping it in his heart all year. It's the same in God's Kingdom, where what we do grows out of who we are. God asks us to BE GOD'S before anything else is asked of us. When our heart and mind and soul and strength belong to God, then we can act in ways that honor God and keep Christ in our hearts all year long.

As you look to the future, resolve to be God's first, then decide how that will impact what you do in 2018. May the Spirit of God, which is Christ, dwell in you all year.

Blessings, Pastor Doug

Local Mission

Thank you for your continued generosity with the Local Mission Fund! Those who are helped by this fund are extremely grateful for the extra support they receive during tough times. According to our policy, we are able to help each family or individual three times during a 12 month period, with up to \$100 a time, depending on funds. We assist with food, utilities, rent, and, in emergency situations, a night at a hotel. Donations can be put in the offering plate with Local Mission Fund in the memo line or dropped off in the church office. Thank you!

During December, we were able to help 4 families or individuals from the local mission fund. We gave a total of \$300 for food.





Parish Nursing Notes

Connie Seltz
Parish Nurse Coordinator

In my mailbox this morning was an invitation for those "divorced, widowed or separated coping with life alone." This is a Beginning Experience Class, a Fergus Falls Support Group. A new class begins on January 08, 2018, with registration at 6:30 PM, session starting at 7:00PM at

Zion Church. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information call 218-998-4300. To All: Well wishes for a healthy and happy 2018!



Remind Text Alerts

The Federated Church is now using Remind, a text alert system to send out reminders, schedule updates, cancellations and other time-sensitive announcements. If you would like to receive text updates from Federated Church, please **text the message @federated to the number 81010**. You will receive a confirmation text, followed by a text asking if you are a parent, student, or teacher. There's no need to respond to this text. You'll receive another text telling you about the app available to use with Remind. You can use the app, but it is not essential to have the app in order to receive text alerts. Feel free to contact the church office with any questions!



Guatemala Mission Trip 2018

The team is seven strong this year: Kathy Gilbert, Linda and Abby MacFarlane, and Doug, Karen, Madalyn and Jonathan Dent. We leave February 3rd and return February 11th. As always, we hope to work with the kids, do work projects at the House of Hope, visit a mountain village, and share our faith stories with our Guatemalan friends. Please pray for us as we get ready to go and as we travel. We are accepting donations to purchase food for a mountain village through January 15th. Your generosity is always inspiring.





Kid's Club

It's hard to believe Christmas and New Year's is behind us! We are now looking at the "second half" of our program year already. Our first winter Kid's Club session begins on January 3rd and will continue through January 31st. We will learn about the Apostle Paul's adventures of faith during this 5-week session. On February 7th, there will be no Kids club, but we will resume on February 14th. We are always adding new kids to our group, so feel free to jump in at any time! Students can ride the bus to church on Wednesdays—it is the last bus in line, and it takes kids to area churches for Wednesday after-school programs. If you have any questions, contact Karen at kmad@prtcl.com

Guatemala Mission Trip

We are holding a Guatemala 2019 Youth Trip organizing meeting on Wednesday, January 10th at 5:45 pm. This trip is a great opportunity for youth who will be in at least 9th grade during the 2018-2019 year. If you or your youth are interested in going on this mission trip, please join us for this important meeting. We will be determining the time-frame, looking into our fundraising plans, and discussing goals.

VBS

We want to bring special attention to the calendar for a big date change this summer: Vacation Bible School will occur during the week of June 25th through June 29th. Clearwater Forest changed their summer schedule and moved all the counselor-led VBS programming to the last two weeks of June. This allows the counselors to be present at camp during the entire camp season (which begins at the beginning of July) and gives more young people the chance to experience camp at Clearwater Forest AFTER having a great time with VBS!

Confirmation

Confirmation continues into early February. Our 9th graders are preparing to write their statements of faith to present to the Deacons and Elders on February 15th. Confirmation Sunday is February 25th. Please hold our soon-to-be-members in your prayers: Piper Andrews, Sterling Andrews, Tessa Becker, Madalyn Dent, Ashlynn Eckhoff, Emily Nuss, and Natalie Vogel.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, January 10th at 5:45 pm
Guatemala youth trip organizing meeting for parents and youth interested in the 2019 trip.

February 7th

No Wednesday kid or youth activities

February 25th

Confirmation Sunday at the 9:30 am service.

April 22nd at 10:30 am

Graduating Senior Brunch Celebration

May 15th

The camp scholarship deadline date. Please have forms to the church office by this date.

June 15th

The graduating senior scholarship deadline date. Please have a letter of request (with student id number and address of financial aid office) to the church office by this date.

JUNE 25th-29th

Vacation Bible School with Clearwater Forest Camp Counselors

A Note From Sadie

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! A HUGE THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for all those you helped with Operation Christmas Child! We were able to ship 44 boxes! 44 children were blessed from our Federated Church Family. We couldn't have done it without you!

Happy New Year! 2018 is a brand-new chapter...let's build relationships with each other and our personal relationship with Christ. Continue to join your peers for discussion and fellowship. We will be finishing up with the book of John during January, and then I will be looking for input on our next topic for our Bible Study!





Bible studies and discussion groups

Women's Bible Study

THURSDAYS 10:30am

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We will be finishing week 8 when we return on the 4th of January. After this, we are on week 9 of our 12 week Bible Study of the book of John. Hard to realize how much we have gotten through the Gospel of John in such a short amount of time. I hope to see you all again Thursday Mornings!

~ Sadie.

Men's Bible Study

MONDAYS 12pm

Men's Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon for one hour. They will be diving into a study of Revelation. All men are invited! Friends of Federated are invited, too!

Adult Bible Study

The Story by Randy Frazee

If you've ever had trouble reading the Bible all the way through – and let's be honest, Leviticus isn't the most exciting book of the Bible – then try reading the *The Story*. Here the major stories and themes of the Bible are presented in a narrative form, more like a novel. Giving an overview of God's master plan, *The Story* tells the grandest, most compelling story of all time: the story of a true God who loves God's children, who established for them a way of salvation and provided a route to eternity. Each story reveals the God of Grace who speaks, acts, and listens, and whose love for us culminated in the coming of Jesus. We will work through the 31 chapters of *The Story* in an informal, conversational way. Copies of *The Story* are available in the church library (suggested donation: \$5).

Church News

Pastor Out of Office Dates

Pastor Doug will be out of the office from Jan 29th- Feb 11th for school and the Guatemala Mission Trip.

Chili Cook Off

Join the Fun on Sunday, January 14th at 10:30am. Sign up to bring a chili or come and be a taster. May the best chili win!

Christmas Pageant

Thank you to all the Kids Club/Sunday School children for their work on the Christmas pageant! As I told them at the worship service, most ADULTS get nervous about speaking in front of the congregation, and yet they all did a GREAT job! It's good to have the opportunity to speak in front of your church family—where you are supported and loved!

Thank you also to the adults who helped make the pageant possible—doing everything from setting up the stable to crowd control to costume collection! It couldn't have happened without all your help! Happy New Year to you all! May it be filled with great blessings!

- Karen and Sadie

Doctoral Studies

The work continues! I successfully completed my latest course in September 2017 and immediately started on the next course. I am currently working with a group of ten members from our congregation as we examine what it means to "breathe with God." We'll explore God's mission for the Church, spiritual practices, personality types, spiritual gifts, the work of the Holy Spirit, and God's call for us as individuals and as a congregation. In the meantime, I am also beginning to write the introductory chapters for my final thesis. Your continued support and prayers are appreciated during this hectic time.

- Doug





Events: Looking Ahead

Ice Fishing Day, Jan 6

All day starting at 7:00am on Otter tail Lake. Cost per person \$25. Call Dennis to reserve your fishing hole at 218-998-0717 or 205-8147.

Chili Cook-off, Jan 14

10:30am after church. This is a competition! May the best chili win!

Human Trafficking 1, Jan 16

Join St James Episcopal and the Fergus Falls Community for three sessions on raising awareness and identifying Human Trafficking and Exploitation in rural Minnesota. These events are free and open to the public. The first session will take place at St James Episcopal Church at 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan 15

Week of Prayer, Jan 22

12:00pm here at Federated church

Annual Meeting, Jan 28

10:30am after church

Food Shelf, Feb 2

Federated at the Food Shelf at 12:30pm

First Family Fun Night, Feb 3

See committee news below for details

No Kids or Youth Activities, Feb 7

Valentines Day, Feb 14th

Spread the love of Christ today!

Ash Wednesday, Feb 14th

Birthday Cake Sunday, Feb 18th

Confirmation Sunday, Feb 25th



Committee News

Annual Meeting

The Church Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, January 28 at 10:30am. Thank you for a great year! See you there!

Worship Team

Lent is coming soon! It's hard to believe, but Ash Wednesday is February 14th this year. We will worship together at 7PM that night. Then for the next five Wednesdays we will gather for worship (5:30 PM) and supper (6 PM).

Holy Week services begin on Palm Sunday (March 25th) and culminate on Easter Sunday (April 1st). In between we are planning to offer a Passover Meal (March 29th @ 5:30 PM) – in conjunction with St. James' Episcopal Church – and a Good Friday service (March 30th @ 7 PM). Stay tuned for more details on the Passover Supper!

Fellowship Committee

Federated Family Fun Night

At The Federated Church Fellowship Hall Join us for a game night at Federated church. Bring your favorite board game and a treat to share Saturday nights in February at 6:30pm.

February 3: Board Game Hodge Podge

February 10: Card Games

February 17: Vintage Card Games

February 24: Pizza Feast at 6:00pm and Railroad Games





Business as usual

Service Group

JANUARY SERVICE GROUP

Group #6
 Dennis and Jean Bowman
 Dennis and Lu Echelberger
 Paul and Tina Eckhoff
 John and Thea Franzen
 Cindy Holte
 Love Ell Hultin
 Karen Johnson
 Ross and Lisa Johnson
 Gary and Roxane Nereson
 Gene and Dorothy Porter
 Al and Connie Seltz
 Gerry and Anne Worner
 Vern and Joyce Youngren
 Jeff and Emily Sivertson

FEBUARY SERVICE GROUP

Group #7
 Walter and Bonnie Gondrez
 Karen Hauck
 Nathan and Stephanie Hoff
 Lorán Johnson
 Craig and Rebecca Jorgensen
 William and Peg Kalar
 Patty Lindholm
 Yvonne Marts
 Ed and Ingrid Morgan
 Ross and Marianne Stone
 Shannon Wilson

Ministry Nite: January 9 - 6:30PM

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	\$34,755.38
Expenditures	\$32,184.92
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$311,720.00
Actual Received	\$295,463.35

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

SunMart	
N/A	N/A
N/A	
Service Food	
N/A	N/A

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.

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

JANUARY 2018

SEASON OF ADVENT

Sunday, January 7th
 9:30am Al and Connie Seltz
 Cindy Holte

Sunday, January 14th
 9:30am Dennis and Jean Bowman
 Jeff and Emily Sivertson

Sunday, January 21st
 9:30am Gary and Roxane Nereson
 Dennis and Lu Echelberger

Sunday, January 28th
 9:30am Paul and Tina Eckhoff
 Gene and Dorothy Porter

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.

The church staff wants to know...

We rely on you to contact us with your email, phone or address changes. If you are not receiving our emails, but would like to, please contact to church office. Also contact us for pastoral care or parish nursing needs. Please call 218-739-3227 or email church@federatedff.org



Federated CHURCH

224 North Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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FERGUS FALLS, MN
PERMIT #285

**Time sensitive information
Please deliver by January 1st**

Thank you!

Jane Nelson, Roxane Nereson for decorating our church for Christmas and Pete Konrad for decorating the church for the cantata and the Christmas pageant.

Janet Knapp for the beautiful heart decorations on the Christmas tree.

Karen Hauck, the choir, and the orchestra for the marvelous Christmas Cantata.

The many people who pitched in during the Advent-Christmas season to host, decorate, sing, provide special music, usher, and do whatever needed to be done.

The caring folk who delivered 18 Christmas Food Baskets to members of the community


Condolences To

The family and friends of Michael Norby


January Birthdays

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





PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(USA)



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
UNITE TO SERVE
SERVE TO UNITE

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

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