

The Union Avenue News

www.federatedff.org

church@federatedff.org

January 2016

2nd Annual Federated Ice-Fishing Day Trip



Where: Ottertail Lake
Cost: \$25 per fisherman
Contact: Dennis Bowman
Phone—998-0717 or
dbowman@fergusotters.org
Fish-houses supplied by
Meister Guide Service

Saturday, January 2 All Day!

Mystery Dinner

Rumor has it, there are plans for another mystery dinner, coming January 30th! The Fellowship Committee is planning another night of fun and entertainment!

Pull out your boots and cowboy hat and start planning your costume – this time the dinner is set in the gold-mine era of the 1880s. Watch for further details to come! Sign-ups will begin in the New Year.

Get your part early!!

Annual Meeting of the Congregation



The annual meeting of the congregation is on **Sunday, January 24th**. We will have one worship service that morning at 10AM, followed by lunch and the meeting at 11AM.

Please plan to attend!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, January 2nd

2nd Annual Federated Ice-fishing Day Trip

Wednesday, January 6th

Confirmation and Youth Group resume

All music rehearsals resume
(See calendar for times)

Wednesday, January 13th

Kids Club resumes
(see calendar for times)

January 18th—22nd

Pastor Doug at Luther Seminary

Saturday, January 23rd

9AM —New Officer Training

Sunday, January 24th

10AM—Worship
11AM—Annual Meeting & Lunch

Saturday, January 30th

Mystery Dinner

Sunday, January 31st

11AM—New Office Ordination
(during the 11AM worship service)



Federated Church
224 N. Union Ave.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #285
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Time Sensitive
Information
Please deliver by
December 31st

Worship Schedule

9:00am Contemporary Worship
9:45am Education Hour
10:00am Coffee Hour
11:00am Traditional Worship

First Sundays of the Month

Communion served at each service.

Blood Pressure clinics held during the Fellowship hour by the Parish nurse.

Know your Neighbor Sunday Name tags distributed before each service.

First Sundays with Pastor Doug. From October to May, Join Pastor Doug the first Sunday of each month for an in depth look at some exciting and eclectic topics.

Ministry Nite

Committees meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm.

Reminder: Committees do not meet in July

Other Meetings

Men's Bible Study meets every Monday at noon in the parlor

Women's Bible Study meets every Thursday at 10:30am in the parlor

Deacons & Elders meet the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm.

Stephen Ministry meets the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm.

Call the Church office if you
have any questions!
218-739-3227



Growing together in God's love...
From generation to generation.

Come as you are...
Visitors expected

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



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!
Warmest greetings to all in this New Year 2016!

God's Word this year: *"We are not in our permanent city, but are seeking the next one"*
Hebrews 13:14

We are on this earth as seekers. Seeking has two aspects. (1) Seeking demands time and sometimes strength and energy. (2) Seeking is also something interesting and captivating, since when we seek we also find.

Life is never totally peaceful, it is an ongoing process. We are all changing. Our appearance changes over time. Our attitudes toward life and events around us also change. Our routines, our family situations, our work all change with time.

As this new year dawns, we are challenged to "Seek!" What are your goals for this New Year? Where do you want to go? What is it that guides you? Where are you seeking your life's purpose?

We are all seekers. Seeking helps us stay the course in life's process. We are each seeking something: a better job, more income, happiness, compatibility, a friend for life, a family.

But, God tells us that this world and our worldly possessions are not eternal. We cannot take them with us when our time comes to leave this earth and stand before God. This world is not our permanent place. We are seeking the next one! We are seeking what will be and what will last for eternity!

My hope in this New Year is that we can seek for that which never ends, that which is indestructible, for God's Word and everlasting life with Him!

May each one of you have a blessed New Year 2016!
Pastor Doug Dent

Doctoral Studies

Wow! Six months went by in a flash! It's already time for me to go back to school. I will be at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN from January 18-22, 2016 for my second class: *Pastoral Identity, Leadership, and Spiritual Life*. This class focuses on the role of the pastor as the leader of a congregation, and seeks to improve the pastor's leadership skills and deepen the pastor's spiritual and devotional life. As always, your prayers during this journey are highly coveted: I rely on your prayers to support me in this endeavor.



Newsletter Deadline

Articles and announcements for the monthly newsletter are due on the 15th of each month. Please in electronic form (email) whenever possible. The church staff reserves the right to edit articles and space.



Christian Education



Karen Anderson, Interim Director of Christian Education

Each month youth ministers from the Fergus Falls area meet together for fellowship and support. We discuss events, plan baccalaureate, arrange educational opportunities, and provide encouragement for one another. Two months ago, we began reading a book that looks into the world of today's teenagers, *Hurt 2.0*, by Chap Clark. We are moving through it chapter by chapter and then discussing how we as Christian leaders can work more effectively with the youth we see and love. The world of the teenager is so very different today from what it was like for me (and for all of you!), some 25-30 years ago—or longer. Families are more broken and fragmented, kids look more to each other for support and identity, and far too few mature adults play a role in their daily lives. The key word that summarizes the experience of too many adolescents is ABANDONMENT. They "have been cut off for far too long from the adults who have the power and experience to escort them into the greater society." (p. 3). In spite of the book's bleak perspective on these issues, I feel hopeful for our church and the ministry that happens here. Many of our teenagers find Federated an extension of their family, with lots of adults to connect and build relationships with—we include them in the full participation of church life. This opens up ministry opportunities for all of us to play significant roles in the lives of our teenagers. They want and need ADULTS to build relationships with! If you look around at our young people, you often find them participating in the life of our church in significant ways; on committees, in praise band, assisting in ministries to younger kids. Last spring, when a church member died, one of our youth was asked why she was helping at the funeral, and she said, "because he was a part of my faith family." This happens because our kids know that they belong here, that they are an important part of our whole community, and we shouldn't take that for granted. That doesn't happen everywhere! We have fostered and continue to foster an environment where young people know they are important to the life and functioning of our church. Our youth have a great opportunity to know where they belong—here—and to whom they belong and can get their full identity—a God who loves and accepts them and gives them purpose and hope. Let us continue to grow and develop ways for our young people to have meaningful relationships with all of us! Jesus said, "Let the little children come onto me, and do not stop them!" May we live that directive from our Lord!

Senior High Youth Group

The youth group had a great fall and winter, ending with two fun events. First, on December 9th we sang Christmas carols at the Village Co-op and shared cookies and cider with the residents. The kids spent about 30 minutes singing and another 45 talking and laughing with the residents. We had a great time! On our last meeting of 2015, on December 16th, we participated in a unique scavenger hunt that involved praying about identifying individuals to "meet", using random criteria, and finding those people so that we might present them with the blessing of a gift certificate for groceries. Our group split up into teams and went to different stores, with the task of seeking out the people whom God called us to bless.

Youth group resumes on Wednesday, January 6th at our usual time of 7:30PM. Look for information about our next special activity and/or lock-in on Facebook, in a mailed schedule, and in the church bulletin and newsletter.

Youth Upcoming Events

All Wednesdays, unless otherwise noted—3:30PM—Kids Club

3:30PM—7th/8th Grade Confirmation

6:30PM—9th Grade Confirmation

7:30PM—Sr. High Youth Group

Wed. Jan. 6th 7th/8th Grade Confirmation, 9th Grade Confirmation, and Sr. High Youth Group resumes

Wed. Jan. 13th Kids Club Winter session begins



Kids Club

Our Kids Club winter session will begin on January 13th and run through February 10th. During these five weeks, we will be learning about "Really Bad Days and How God Fixed Them!" Noah, Moses, Joseph, Daniel, and Jonah all had significantly bad days, and yet God found ways to meet their needs and increase their faith. We will be hearing the stories, discussing the ways that God worked in the lives of these individuals, singing songs, and having craft and gym time in our action-packed afternoons. We continue to deeply appreciate all the help through our volunteers, the snack providers, and dinner sharers that makes Kids Club possible. Ministering to our younger church family members takes the love and commitment of many people, so thank you all so much!



Sunday School and Nursery

Our 2015 Christmas pageant came together on December 20th at the 10AM service. The kids did a great job, and it wouldn't have happened without the support of their Sunday school teachers-Jona Brown, Madalyn Dent, Abby MacFarlane, Paige Westra, Karen Bush; Carol Andstrom on piano, Maren Hatling and Jordan Schiefert on guitar, and our Kids Club volunteers Char Zielin, Colleen Kennedy, and Renee Larsen. The kids did a great job telling the story of Christmas and singing the carols.

In the coming weeks, the Sunday school classes will begin to transition to the next book in our new curriculum, "All-in-One Sunday School". Teachers and students all seem to like the change we've made this year concerning curriculum, and we hope to continue using this format in the future! Sunday school music gathering time will continue during the winter months and on into spring, as we learn songs to share with the congregation during worship time.

Grocery Receipts—*Kathy Zimmerman*

The Federated congregation brought in \$21,912.98 in Service Food receipts and \$4,967.83 in Sunmart receipts from September 7 - December 13. The grand total for Sunmart receipts from November 14, 2013 - December 13, 2015 is \$43,590.84. We are working toward \$150,000 of Sunmart receipts to be able to receive a percentage for our church.

A huge thank you to Ruth Aulds for being Federated's new volunteer to add up the store receipts. Thank you so much, Ruth!!



Fellowship Committee – *Patty Shol*



Thanks to all who attended the Chili Cook-off on Dec. 6. The winner this year was Karen and Jonathan Dent's batch of chili. Thanks to Cindy Holte and Connie Seltz for also sharing a batch of chili. It was a close race this year. See you all again next year!

Parish Nursing Notes – Connie Seltz, Parish Nurse Coordinator

This month's Parish Nursing Notes come from the Lake Region Chaplaincy Department:



Do you and your loved ones have Advanced Health Care Directives? Having one can be a real blessing to you and yours in the event you are unable to speak for yourself due to your medical circumstances. On the second Wednesday of every month, from **noon to 1PM** at the **Lake Region Cancer Care and Research Center** (908 South Cascade in Fergus Falls), there will be sessions to explain more about Health Care Directives. **The first session will be January 13, 2016.** There is no charge for your attendance at this event. Forms will be available for participants to complete at that time, or to complete later. If completed that day, your Health Care Directive can be notarized by the Cancer Center's social workers, and you will be assisted in getting a copy scanned into your medical record. You may also plan on coming back the following month if you want more time to discuss and prayerfully make your choices. Coffee and water will be provided; bring a bag lunch if you desire! If you have questions or concerns, please call Chaplain Deb Forstner at Lake Region: 736-8077

House of Hope

The team is set, the tickets are purchased, and we are gearing up for our trip to the House of Hope in Zacapa, Guatemala from February 13-20, 2016. Please hold our team members in prayer: Doug Dent, Cindy Holte, Lu Echelberger, Michelle Loomer, Mike Loomer, Abby MacFarlane, Pam Phillips, Jordan Schiefert, Paige Westra and Char Zielin.

During the month of January we will be accepting donations for the kids at the orphanage: school supplies, small toy cars, hair accessories, and supplies for crafts. Cash donations may be made out to "The Federated Church" with "House of Hope" on the memo line. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.



HOUSES OF HOPE
INTERNATIONAL

Mission Opportunities

Check the **Mission Opportunity board in the narthex** often for a one-stop listing of several service opportunities in the Fergus Falls area. Sign-up sheets or sign-up directions for each opportunity are available in the folders attached to the board. Check out the opportunities, and if one piques your interest, sign your name on the sheet or, if other directions are listed, follow the directions to sign up!

Stewardship Report

General Fund Report—as of

November 30, 2015

Revenue— \$48,161

Expenditures— \$25,726

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted — \$308,958

Actual received— \$305,130



Thank you for your continued generosity with the Local Mission Fund! There is much need in our community. Funds go out as soon as they come in! Donations can be put in the offering plate with *Local Mission Fund* in the memo line or dropped off in the church office.

Local Mission Fund Report

November	As of December 23rd
16 families or individuals helped with \$1080.53 towards food, rent or utilities	27 families or individuals helped with \$1935.00 towards food, rent or utilities

January Service Group Group #2

Kim and Martin Anderson
Doug and Barb Becker
Jerry and Nancy Bogen
Kim Dean
Jacob and Karoline Gustafson
Jerry and Donna Hendel
Carol Hoivik
Phil and Lori Kugler
Russ and Renee Larsen
Phil and Mary Link
Jean McKenzie
Ken and Marjan Schuetze
Mike and Patty Shol
Darren and Erin Smith
Bonita Stock

February Service Group Group #3

Norma Bell
Charles Ebbighausen
Joan Ebbighausen
Vaughn Ebbighausen
Terry and Abby Harthun
Brian and Nancy Malchert
Wally and Mary Moe
Gary and Jan Nelson
Iona Saunders
Rick and Kitt Schara
Clyde and Beth Schlepp
Bob Stout
Olaf and LaVane Ugstad
James and Amy Underdahl
David and Vivan Whipple
Ruby Whipple

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

January 2016

Sunday, January 3

9AM— Jacob & Karoline Gustafson
11AM— Ken & Marjan Schuetze

Sunday, January 10

9AM— Doug & Barb Becker
11AM— Bonita Stock and Jean McKenzie

Sunday, January 17

9AM— Mike & Patty Shol
11AM— Darren & Erin Smith

Sunday, January 24—Annual Meeting

10AM— Jerry & Donna Hendel

Sunday, January 31

9AM— Russ & Renee Larsen
11AM— Phil & Lori Kugler

SERVICE



****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.

Our Condolences to...

- U Family and friends of Jay Hugli.
- U Olaf & LaVane Ugstad on the death of their son, Bradley
- U Ross Johnson, on the death of his father, Beanie Johnson
- U Friends and family of Irene Randall.



January Birthdays

Wayne Link 01/01
Geraldine Hilden 01/02
Megan Grover 01/03
Arlene Worner 01/04
Walter Gondrez 01/06
Bill Borowski 01/08
Janie Lee 01/08
Ella Sundheim 01/09
Ruby Whipple 01/10
Roxane Nereson 01/10
Cheryl Harrington 01/10
Tori Bult 01/10

Dana Schlepp 01/15
Mark Rodning 01/16
Bob Wolfe 01/16
Norma Bell 01/18
Karoline Gustafson 01/20
Judy Friedrich 01/21
Molly McDougall 01/23
Brian Malchert 01/24
Vivian Whipple 01/25
Pam Phillips 01/25
Dale Anderson 01/25
Shelby Tabbut 01/26

Mary Anderson 01/29
Linda Wolfe 01/30
Gladys Carlson 01/31
John Collins 01/31
Beth Schlepp 01/31
William Haas 01/31

We apologize if we missed your birthday! Please email your birthday information to church@federatedff.org!

Ministry Nite!

January 12th is Ministry Nite. Committees meet at 6:30PM in the fellowship hall. Please email your minutes to church@federatedff.org. If you are unable to attend, 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.



Worship at The Federated Church

January 3, 2016 9 AM and 11 AM	"God is in the Relocation Business" Jeremiah 31:7-14 Celebration of the Lord's Supper at both services	Pastor Doug Dent
January 10, 2016 Baptism of the Lord Sunday 9 AM and 11 AM	"Wet Suit Faith" Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-22	Pastor Ed Morgan
January 17, 2016 9 AM and 11 AM	"The Agape Update" 1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Pastor Doug Dent
January 24, 2016 Annual Meeting Sunday 10AM	"Forcing God's Hand" Acts 8:14-17 Annual Meeting of the Congregation with lunch (11 AM)	Pastor Doug Dent
January 31, 2016 9 AM and 11 AM	"Hello, Jeremiah!" Jeremiah 1:4-10	Pastor Doug Dent



Stewardship—*Millie Pearson & Jim Worner, co-chairs*

We haven't reached our goal yet, but we are getting closer! If you haven't sent in your pledge card yet, the Budget Committee needs it NOW. It is important for them to get it as they work on the 2016 Budget to present at the Annual Meeting in January.

Costs go up every year and new things get added to the budget, which requires additional money. Many of you have increased your pledges, but some have decreased, and we have lost several members either to death or moving away. All these factors have left us in need. The committee members have made contact with some of you if we haven't received your pledge cards. We really appreciate your prompt responses.

Thank you! We look forward to a good New Year at The Federated Church!

Co-chairs, Millie Pearson and Jim Worner

Special Sundays

On certain Sundays 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!

January 24th	Annual Meeting	Meal & meeting following worship
February 28th	Confirmation Sunday	Reception following worship
March 20th	Palm Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
March 27th	Easter Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
April 17th	Senior Brunch	Brunch following worship
May 15th	Ice cream social	Sundaes following worship

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon for one hour. All the men of the congregation are invited. Our current study is "Prophecy Fulfilled: The Prophets and Prophecies Foretelling the Coming of Jesus Christ." It's a fascinating study on the Old Testament prophecies of the Promised Messiah that Jesus realized through his birth, life, death and resurrection. Join us!



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets every Thursday at 10:30 AM in the church parlor. Our current study is "Prophecy Fulfilled: The Prophets and Prophecies Foretelling the Coming of Jesus Christ." It's a fascinating study on the Old Testament prophecies of the Promised Messiah that Jesus realized through his birth, life, death and resurrection. Join us!

First Sundays

'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!

Jan. 3rd	Meet George Washington: a look at the faith of our first President
Feb. 7th	Meet Abraham Lincoln: a look at our greatest President's faith
Mar. 6th	Does God Demand Blood?
Apr. 3rd	Listening for God's Call

BE, a Christian support group in the Fergus Falls area, will begin sessions on Monday, January 4th. All widowed, divorced or separated people are welcome. For information call [218-736-3204](tel:218-736-3204) or email befergusfalls@yahoo.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to call [218-770-0586](tel:218-770-0586) or email reen1963@yahoo.com

New Member Bios

We welcomed six new members into the Federated faith family on December 13th at the 11AM worship service. Get to know two of those members a bit more below, and the next time you see them, make sure to introduce yourself! Look for more new member bios in future newsletters.

Mary Ann Nead

Mary Ann was born in Cincinnati, OH, and was raised Roman Catholic. She met her husband, Bill, at Oak Hills High School and married in 1970. They lived in Massachusetts, Maryland, and Virginia while Bill was in the military and worked for the federal government. Mary Ann worked as a Registered Nurse, wife and mother. They have a son and daughter who both have their own families. Their son is married, has two children and lives in Coon Rapids, MN. Their daughter is married, has three children and lives in Crown Point, IN. When Bill retired in 2010, they moved to Underwood, MN. They have a home on Norway Lake. Mary Ann's hobbies are reading, cooking and weaving. She does demonstrations at the Thresherman's show in Dalton, taking her portable loom. She sings in the M-State Chorale and has joined the Bell Choir at Federated.

Bill Nead

Bill was born on 13 November, 1950 in Cincinnati, Ohio. After graduating from Oak Hills High School in Cincy, he joined the U.S. Army and served as a cryptologist in the Army Security Agency until Jan. 1979. He married his High School sweetheart, Mary Ann Haas, on 13 June, 1970. After Military Service, Bill worked for 10 years in private industry before returning to Government Service as a Computer Scientist at the Naval Research laboratory in Washington DC. In 2006, He transferred to the U.S. Air Force, Space Command as a Defense Intelligence Senior Leader (DISL). He retired from Government Service in November 2010 and joined Mary Ann at the retirement home they had built on Norway Lake, Underwood, MN. They have a son, Chris, and a daughter, Teresa. Chris is married to Michelle and has two children, Ryan and Bennett. Teresa is married to Derek and has three children, Kyrie, Mickey and Buddy.

In his free-time, Bill does leather carving, works at the Dalton saw mill, works on repairing two stationary steam engines, sings in the M-State Chamber choral and plays the Native American flute for pleasure.

