

The Union Avenue News

www.federatedff.org

church@federatedff.org

November 2015

Mission Dinner

Mark your calendars! The Mission Dinner will be on Sunday, November 15th at 11AM. All proceeds from the dinner will go towards the Boxes of Blessings provided to patients undergoing cancer treatments through Lake Region Healthcare Cancer Care and Research Center. A speaker from the cancer care center will be with us during the dinner to speak about their work in the community and how the Boxes of Blessings are being used. We will have one worship service at 10AM that morning, with the dinner to follow at 11AM.



The piano recital given by Dr. John McKay on Sunday, October 18, 2015 was an amazing event! Dr. McKay entranced us with his rendering of Haydn, Brahms, Chopin and Debussy. We sat spellbound, not realizing how quickly 90-minutes passed. We are hugely grateful to Dr. McKay for sharing his gifts with us. As an added bonus, we raised \$560 for the Box of Blessings program.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, November 6th

United Way Food Drop at
FF National Guard Armory—9:30AM

Tuesday, November 10th

Final Pictorial Directory photo
session date

Sunday, November 15th

Mission Dinner
Worship—10AM
Dinner—11AM

Thursday & Friday, November 26th & 27th

Church Office Closed
Happy Thanksgiving!

Wednesday, December 2nd

Christmas Pageant rehearsals begin
All kids K-6th grade
3:30PM

Saturday, December 5th

Images of Adoration
Christmas Cantata @ Federated
4:30PM & 7:30PM

Sunday, December 6th

Advent Workshop—3PM
Chili Cook-off—5PM

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Time Sensitive
Information
Please deliver by
October 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

The Pastor's Pen...



For many of us, Advent marks the beginning of the church year. But is it the proper place to start? The season from Advent to Epiphany is only one chapter in the metanarrative that began with the creation of the world. Scripture makes it clear that the mission of God is to redeem the world, to bring the nations to himself.

In the Old Testament, God chose to work primarily through the Hebrew people to bring others into the covenant community. In Genesis 12 God says to Abraham: *I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*

That promise was passed on from generation to generation. Some of the Israelites ignored and even turned away from God, yet God was faithful and called them back into covenant. And as God performed wonders in their midst, whole nations testified to God's greatness. A Moabite woman was even led to proclaim to her Hebrew mother-in-law: *Your people will be my people and your God my God* (Ruth 1:16). One of this Moabite's descendants was Jesus himself.

Jesus is also a part of the larger metanarrative of how God redeems the world. Indeed, the incarnation is a missional activity. Advent, the time during which we prepare for the coming of Christ and anticipate his return, can be seen as a time of preparation for, as well as participation in, God's mission.

On Christmas Day our imagination is typically caught up in thoughts of cute babies and much-anticipated gifts. But Christmas is about spreading the good news in unexpected places and to unexpected people. Christmas is about the Savior coming to this world as its Redeemer. Jesus was the perfect missionary; will we look to him as the example of how we are to embody the gospel message and draw others to the light? Will we take a stand against injustice as Jesus did? Will we join in God's mission to bring the good news to all people, including those in our midst that others consider outcasts?

Epiphany is often the season when we think of the light being sent out, of the gospel message reaching the gentile community and drawing them in, as exemplified in the coming of the magi. And certainly we shouldn't diminish that emphasis. But what does it mean for us today? What is our place in God's mission? What is God doing in our neighborhood, and how can we be a part of it? What is God calling us to do as a family of faith?

As the light grows during the season of Advent and the anticipation mounts, we ought to ask ourselves where the Spirit is at work to bring light in the darkness and how we can be used by God to advance God's mission.

"No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found."
(Isaac Watts, *Joy to the World*)

May God's light shine on you, so that you might shine for others.
Pastor Doug

Newsletter



Newsletter Deadline

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



K-12 Youth

Karen Anderson, Interim Director of Christian Education

"The goal of Christian education is not banking isolated information, but forming faith."
(as quoted from the book *Vibrant Faith in the Congregation*, by David Anderson.)

What are our goals in Christian Education? How do we impart faith to our young people when we have limited time with them each week? What does effective ministry look like? These are questions that the Christian Education committee (as well as the leadership of our church) began asking a few years ago when we embarked on a program called "Vibrant Faith Ministries", which promotes the idea that effective and impactful ministry happens most often when we do ministry TOGETHER, not always separated by generation and role in life, but as a family of faith with people of all ages and stages serving together. During this process, we began to consider a more integrated approach to Christian education—most notably, finding new ways to provide intergenerational ministry. The idea that we are a "church family" rather than simply looking at individuals and families makes sense, because we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, whatever our age! Opportunities to foster this interaction exist through the programming we have in place: it is so great having people of all ages in leadership positions such as Kid's club helpers, Sunday school teachers, confirmation teachers, and our special events such as Senior Brunch, the Blessing of the Keys, intergenerational Sunday school, one-service Sundays, Mission Dinner, Advent Workshop and Chili-Cookoff, Food Drops, and helping out at the food shelf, to name a few. We hope to continue to develop this idea as we work together in ministry. One very simple thing that we all can do that doesn't require a special event, however, is learning the names of our church family members! What a great opportunity to begin doing this when our church directories are finalized and distributed! Let's commit ourselves to getting to know each other better in the next year. This is a big part of Christian education, no matter what our age. The God of the Universe knows and loves each one of us, and we have the opportunity to know and love each other here at Federated!

Sr. High Youth Group

The senior high youth group is off to a great start this year. We have been meeting each week on Wednesday to hear and discuss people's faith stories. The last few weeks we have been focusing on messages presented by Christian musician, Mike Donehy of Tenth Avenue North. He gives wisdom and depth to the songs they sing, and provides us with a "bouncing off place" to talk about our own stories and struggles. What would youth group be, however, without food and games. If you are lucky enough to be here on Wednesday evenings, you might hear or see some energetic people around the church! Our group was fortunate to get out on what may prove to be the last day of autumn leaves when we hiked in Maplewood State Park in mid-October! In November, we have both a food drop opportunity and a lock-in planned for the same day!

In other fun news, we were excited to hear that youth group member Lexi Davis was elected Homecoming Queen at her school in Campbell-Tintah! Congratulations, Lexi!

Youth Upcoming Events

All Wednesdays, unless otherwise noted—Sr. High Youth Group @ Federated—7:30PM

Fri., Nov. 6 th	9AM-1PM	Food Drop @ the Armory
Fri., Nov. 6th	8PM-10AM	Youth Group lock-in
Wed., Nov. 25th		No Youth Group--Thanksgiving weekend
Wed., Dec. 9th	7:30PM-9PM	Caroling and Cookies
Dec. 23rd and 30th		No Youth Group—Christmas vacation
Jan. 6th		Youth Group resumes



Kids Club

Kids Club continues to be a time of great energy and fellowship this autumn! We have been learning about "mistakes" people made in the Bible, and how God used those mistakes and/or fixed them. We have covered such stories as Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Pharaoh, Elijah, and the rich young man. Our story and music time provides the opportunity to hear the story and have it reinforced by music; then our craft and gym time tie into the lesson so that kids can continue to process what they have learned. Look at the Kids Club wall in Fellowship Hall where we have several of our crafts displayed! One new feature is our "Bible Memorization Challenge" each week, when kids recite the memory verse of the week. We have a "Bible Champion" poster with winners displayed. Look for it and congratulate the kids!

It's hard to believe that this Kids Club session will be over on November 18th! Not to worry, however! After the Thanksgiving holiday we will start up again with Christmas pageant practice. More details to come...



Sunday School and Nursery

We are well into our second month of Sunday School, and classes are going well! At 10AM every Sunday all classes gather for music time, where we are learning songs to share with the congregation. Plan to hear the kids sing during the 10AM one-service worship on November 15th.

The launching of our parents/children 0-5 class on October 4th with Steve and Carri Thompson proved very popular! Several parents and children participated in this new venture which will continue to run on the first Sunday of each month in the youth room. Get the word out that this opportunity exists!

We continue to offer nursery during the 11AM service each Sunday. Thank you so much to the volunteers who make it happen!

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes are underway! Pastors Doug and Karen spent the summer revising the 7th-8th grade curriculum, and so far this new survey of the Bible is going well. There is lots of energy and high spirits during classes.

Please hold our confirmands and teachers in prayer this year:

7th Grade: Piper Andrews, Sterling Andrews, Tessa Becker, Madalyn Dent, Ashlyn Eckhoff, Xyola Macheel, Emily Nuss.

8th Grade: Brayden Aasen, Jackie Borowski, Shaylin Gutz, Jozee Lee, Tucker Ugstad, Hannah Woessner

9th Grade: Ella Childs, Lily Sundheim, Rachel Westra

Teachers: Karen Anderson-Dent, Erika Mariotti, Connie Seltz, Jim Worner and Doug Dent.

Confirmation

November Service Group Group #10

Kym Christiansen
Doris Enderson
Joel Enderson
Gail Green
Terry and Cheryl Harrington
Gerri Hilden
Jim and Janet Knapp
David and Mary Lundeen
Millie Pearson
Paul and Bev Richter
Mark and Sheila Rodning
Heather Rundquist
Wade Ugstad
Randy and Marian Wasvick
Perry and Peg Werner
Linda Wolfe

December Service Group Group #1

Mark and Tami Anderson
Jim and Robin Andrews
Erik Anthonisen and Marna Brown
Dennis and Bonnie Bergerud
John and Tami Collins
Nathan and Stephanie Hoff
Jeff and Jo Kohlhasse
Norma Loomer
John and Eunice MacFarlane
Nick and Erika Mariotti
Jay and Cindy McDougall
Chad and Elizabeth Nelson
Roger and Jane Nelson
Jerry and Jodie Nuss
Clayton and Terri Skretvedt
Doug Sperling

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

November 2015

Sunday, November 1

9AM— Mark & Sheila Rodning

11AM— Perry & Peg Werner

Sunday, November 8

9AM— David & Mary Lundeen and Kym Christiansen

11AM— Terry & Cheryl Harrington

Sunday, November 15 (Mission Dinner)

10AM— Doris Enderson and Joel Enderson

Sunday, November 22

9AM— Randy & Marian Wasvick

11AM— Linda Wolfe and Millie Pearson

Sunday, November 29

9AM— Wade Ugstad

11AM— Jim & Janet Knapp

S E R V I C E



****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...

- † Jeremy Jensen on the loss of his father.
- † Renee Larsen on the loss of her mother, Lorane Royce.
- † The Loomer family on the loss of John Loomer.

Congratulations to...

- ✧ Terri & Clayton Skretvedt on the birth of their grand-daughter, Rosemary (Rosie) Katherine.



Thank you to everyone who brought pies for the pie social! People were so willing to bring pies – it made the job of finding enough pies a breeze! We had more than enough pie to be enjoyed by all! - The Fellowship Committee

November Birthdays

Andrew MacFarlane 11/02
McKenzie Olson 11/03
Maximillian Jensen 11/04
Paul Richter 11/05
Brandon Truax 11/07
Mike Walls 11/07
John MacFarlane 11/08
Lance Nygaard 11/09
Marna Brown 11/10
Ann Porter 11/10
Laurie Skogen 11/10
Bailee Griego 11/11

Mark Sundberg 11/11
Austen Tabbut 11/12
Dennis Bergerud 11/14
John Lindholm 11/14
Erik Lindholm 11/14
Alexandria Haas 11/14
Karen Hauck 11/15
Rick Schara 11/15
Tommy Bowman 11/15
Terry Harrington 11/16
Donna Solin 11/18
Tessa Becker 11/19
Maury Skogen 11/20

Ross Johnson 11/22
Molly King 11/22
Landon Link 11/23
Brayden Aasen 11/24
Michelle Loomer 11/24
Katelyn Sperling 11/24
Elaine Snyder 11/25
Meg Garrahan 11/26
Franklin Schierer 11/26
Duane Rose 11/29
Erik Loomer 11/29



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

Ministry Nite!

November 10th 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.



Parish Nursing Notes – Connie Seltz, Parish Nurse Coordinator



Some helpful reminders for November:

- o Put flannel sheets on all the beds
- o Get your flu shot
- o Ask your physician about the Prevnar 13 vaccine
- o Look up the safe turkey handling procedures
- o Place a bag or box of salt in your car, so it is ready to use in those icy parking lots
- o Get your Christmas shopping done early, so you don't have to shop during those winter storms
- o Send a personal note to someone who isn't expecting it. Tell them why you are thankful for them.
- o Make a whole list of things you are grateful for and read it every day.
- o Thank God, knowing that God provides every good thing!

Happy Thanksgiving to you and all you love!



We want to give a great big THANK YOU to Elizabeth Hatling for preparing the wonderful meal for the Leadership Dinner on Tuesday, October 13th and the Congregational Brunch on Sunday, October 25th. We are so fortunate to have her expertise and her willingness to share it with us.

We also want to thank the Stewardship Committee and all the others who helped in any way at these two events. (food preparation, set-up, and clean-up). Pastors Doug and Ed Morgan gave inspirational messages to make Consecration Sunday and our Stewardship activities so meaningful. What a great group we have at Federated! Let's spread the word.

THANK YOU,

Co-chairs, Millie Pearson and Jim Worner

We are planning our next mission trip to the House of Hope in Zacapa, Guatemala in February 13-20, 2016. Trip cost is approximately \$1,600. We need to reserve the airline tickets by November 15th. If you would like to join us, spend time with some great kids, share God's word, and work for God's kingdom in Guatemala, talk to Mike or Michelle Loomer or to Pastor Doug right away!



HOUSES OF HOPE
INTERNATIONAL

Stewardship Report

General Fund Report—as of

October 22, 2015

Revenue—\$29,157.86

Expenditures—\$39,110.43

Year to Date Pledge

Offering

Budgeted — \$252,784

Actual received—
\$235,824.62



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

September
5 families or
individuals helped
with \$250
towards food, rent
or utilities

As of October 26th
10 families or
individuals helped
with \$700
towards food, rent
or utilities

Worship at The Federated Church

Sunday, November 1, 2015 – All Saints' Day

9AM & 11AM

“Renew My Mind”

Pastor Doug Dent

2 Corinthians 10:5 and Romans 12:2-3

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, November 8, 2015

9AM & 11AM

“Keep Me From Comparing”

Pastor Doug Dent

Romans 12:3-8

Sunday, November 15, 2015

10AM

“Here I Am, Send Me”

Pastor Doug Dent

Isaiah 6:5-8 and Hebrews 1:13-14

Mission Dinner following worship

Sunday, November 22, 2015 – Christ the King Sunday

9AM & 11AM

“Help Me Find the Smile”

Pastor Doug Dent

Romans 7:15-17 and 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Sunday, November 29, 2015 – Advent 1

9AM & 11AM

“What to Expect When You're Expecting”

Pastor Doug Dent

Isaiah 61:1-7 and Luke 1:26-38

Saturday, December 5, 2015

4:30 PM and 7:30 PM

“Images of Adoration”

The Federated Church Choir

A Christmas Cantata

with Orchestra

Funding for this program is generously given by family and friends
in memory of Blanche Arneson (1914-2015)

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!

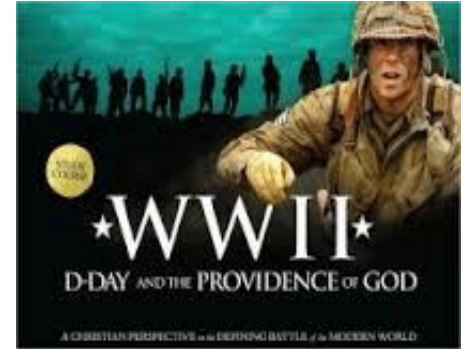
November 15 th	Mission Dinner	Meal following worship
December 20 th	Kids' Christmas Pageant	Coffee Hour following worship
December 27 th	Christmas Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
January 24 th	Annual Meeting	Meal & meeting following worship
February 28 th	Confirmation Sunday	Reception following worship
March 20 th	Palm Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
March 27 th	Easter Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
April 17 th	Senior Brunch	Brunch following worship
May 15 th	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 first study will be *WWII: D-Day and the Providence of God*. This seven session, DVD based series will provide a thoroughly Christian overview of the men and the movements that led to D-Day, the commanders and soldiers who engaged in battle there, as well as the results of the invasion.

Nov. 2nd	Discussion of Episode 4
Nov. 9th	Episode 5: The Decision to God
Nov. 16th	Discussion of Episode 5
Nov. 23rd	Episode 6: The Men of D-Day and the Meaning of Manhood
Nov. 30th	Discussion of Episode 6
Dec. 7th	Episode 7: The Aftermath
Dec. 14th	Discussion of Episode 7
Dec. 21st	No Men's Bible Study
Dec. 28th	No Men's Bible Study



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets Thursdays at 10:30 AM in the church parlor. The current study is "One For All: Experiencing the Exclusive Claim of Christ." This study is open to all the women of our congregation and community.

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!

Nov. 1st	What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe?
Dec. 6th	Serve, Not Rule: What is our role as human beings regarding nature?
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
May 1st	Pentecost



Stephen Ministry—*Rebecca Jorgensen and Char Zielin*

Stephen Ministry training course is beginning its second month. Ruth Aulds and Jordan Schiefert are attending the training: hold them in your prayers as they learn how to give compassionate and Christian care in our community.

Our Stephen Ministry group continues to meet monthly: pray for our Stephen Ministers and our leaders – Rebecca Jorgensen and Char Zielin.

Doctoral Studies—*Pastor Doug*

I completed the first course in my doctoral program on September 30, 2015. The final paper was a detailed description of our ministry context: using census data, denominational records, and other statistics I described the Fergus Falls community and our congregation, outlined some of the goals we are working toward, and discussed my style of leadership (strengths and flaws). I submitted the paper electronically and a short 90-minutes later the professor returned it – graded. (I earned an A- for the course; I had some trouble formatting my footnotes!)

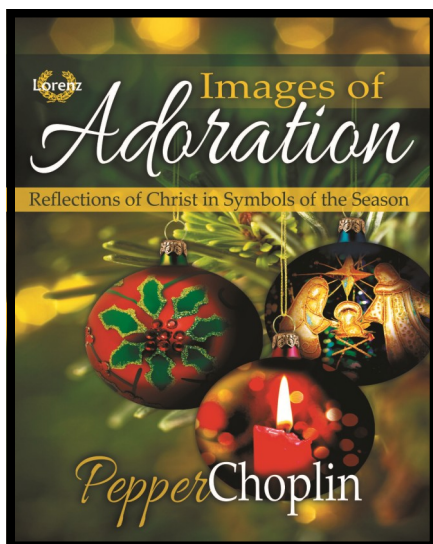
I am now preparing for the next course – “Pastoral Identity, Leadership, and Spiritual Life” – which occurs at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN on January 18-22, 2016. Please pray for me! It is a challenge to keep up with work and family and school. Your support is appreciated and your prayers are precious to me.



Mission Opportunities

There will be a mobile food drop at the Fergus Falls National Guard Armory on Friday, November 6th, starting at 9:30AM. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the church office by email (church@federatedff.org) or phone.

Keep an eye out for the new Mission Opportunity board in the narthex (appearing mid-November) 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 follow the directions to sign up!



A Christmas Cantata at The Federated Church

Saturday, December 5th
4:30PM & 7:30PM

Musicians from The Federated Church and community members will be presenting *Images of Adoration* on Saturday, December 5th. There will be two performances at 4:30PM and 7:30PM. Come and enjoy music by the choir, organ and orchestra. The concert is free and open to the public.

DCE Search Committee Update:

The Deacon's and Elders have approved the proposed job posting for the DCE position. The posting will be sent to 18 different career, university, and newspaper publications. Please pray for God's guidance in this search process. Also, please spread the word and refer interested and gifted individuals to www.federatedff.org for more information.