

The Union Avenue News

www.federatedff.org

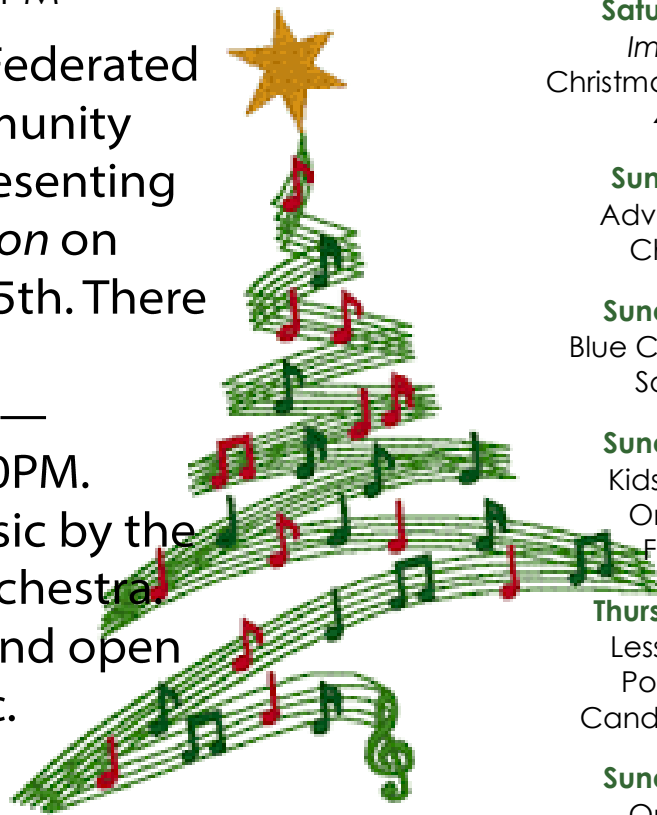
church@federatedff.org

December 2015

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—4:30PM and 7:30PM. Come and enjoy music by the choir, organ and orchestra. The concert is free and open to the public.



DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Sunday, December 13th

Blue Christmas Service | 4PM
Soup Supper | 5PM

Sunday, December 20th

Kids Christmas Pageant
One Service | 10AM
Fellowship | 11AM

Thursday, December 24th

Lessons & Carols | 5PM
Potluck supper | 6PM
Candlelight Service | 11PM

Sunday, December 27th

One Service | 10AM
Fellowship | 11AM

If you would like to donate a poinsettia for the Advent Season, please fill out this form and return it along with a check to the church office or place it in the offering plate by Wed., Dec. 9th. The cost is \$15. Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve service. Checks should be made out to The Federated Church with *Poinsettia* on the memo line. Thank you!

Your Name: _____

Color of poinsettia: White OR Red (please circle one)

Please place a poinsettia—(fill in with name of person you'd like a poinsettia in memory of honor of)

In Memory of: _____

OR

In Honor of: _____



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Time Sensitive
Information
Please deliver by
November 30th

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...



Joy to the world, the Lord has come! For those who observe it, Christmas is a day of much anticipation and celebration. In my home it is no different. Blessed with many friends and family, we have multiple celebrations to attend and gifts to exchange. It's a busy time with all the preparations and events at church. And there are so many traditions: decorating the house and tree, the kid's Christmas Pageant, the Service of Lessons & Carols, the communion and candlelight service, coffee cakes and sweet rolls on Christmas morning, and family worship. Christmas is a wondrous time, a joy-filled time.

We do all these things to celebrate the birth of Christ. But sometimes I wonder if the Christ child ends up buried under all the glitter, the trimmings, and the wrapping paper.

There are wars and rumors of wars, and areas about to erupt all over our world. There are droughts, floods, tornados, and mudslides. Many neighborhoods are shooting grounds and abuse is a daily occurrence. Justice cannot be forgotten as we celebrate Christmas. Christ came as a baby to rescue us but also to call us to follow him and be his disciples, to prepare the way for his second coming by building his kingdom even now as we await his return.

So, given all this, I need to ask:

What would Christmas be like without the wrappings?

What does Christmas look like for Christians living in refugee camps?

What does Christmas look like for children who do not receive gifts?

What does Christmas look like in parts of the world where gathering for worship makes congregants the target of extremists?

What is it about this Christ child that causes Christians, even those in the direst of situations, to celebrate and raise their voices to sing, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come"?

I'm not ready to give up all the traditions that help make the celebration of Christmas such a special time of year. But I need the reminder that Jeremy Summers offers: just as Advent is a "counter cultural act of intentional patience" so Christmas is an "upside down, backwards kingdom of Jesus, God comes to us" cosmic event. That's the message we all need to bring to our worship and our celebrations amid the distractions of Christmas.

The more distractions there are around us, the more intentional we need to be about taking the time to unwrap Christmas – to strip away all the shiny packaging and proclaim the gospel message: "Joy to the world, the Lord has come!"

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Doug



The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance for those who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church and supports leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. We have the opportunity to join in supporting the people assisted through this offering. The Christmas Joy offering will be taken on December 13th at both worship services.

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

Kids Club

Our Kids Club fall session came to a close on November 18th. We are all surprised at how quickly and how well our time together went! The kids learned Bible stories about people who messed up and how God made things right. We did crafts that reflected the stories and we sang songs that spoke of God's love and grace. The kids loved running and playing during gym time, and most of us memorized a new Bible verse each week that corresponded to our story. Check out the poster hanging over the water fountain downstairs which shows the group of kids each week who could memorize (or almost memorize) the verse—they are called the Bible Memory Champions. It was a fabulous way to start off the Christian Education year, and it wouldn't have happened without all the dedicated volunteers and snack providers! It takes a community effort to run a successful children's ministry program, and we have a great team!

Starting on December 2nd, we will begin using our Kids Club time to work on the Christmas pageant, to be held on Sunday, December 20th during the 10AM (one service) hour. EVERYONE should plan to continue coming to Kids Club as everyone will be able to have a part in the pageant. In addition to learning the Christmas carols and going through the story, we will still make time for crafts and gym.

Our last Kids Club meeting of the year will be on December 16th. We will let everyone know through announcements, e-mails, and signs when Kids Club will start up again in January.

Senior High Youth Group

Senior high youth group remains a solid, supportive crew of amazing and diverse kids! We are spending our time together with food, fellowship, and learning/sharing ideas and issues of faith. Each week, we watch a YouTube video of someone's faith story—sometimes, it is a well-known person, sometimes not. All the adults in our church would be surprised to hear whose faith story we viewed last week - Alice Cooper's!! Yes, the legendary rock villain of our younger years is a vocal and well-spoken evangelical Christian!! I encourage you to view his faith story on a website called "Faith in the News", which features hundreds of faith stories and positive messages. You will be amazed at his depth and wisdom—the youth sure were! We had probably the liveliest discussion yet! And I, for one, was excited to know that more than just me, a "seasoned" rock music fan, knew who he was!!! We are having such a great time learning and growing together in faith!

We had a great turnout of youth at the November 6th food drop. Everyone wore either their youth group t-shirt or their "Feed my Sheep" shirt, and the other volunteers took notice at the dedication of our kids! Let's continue to work together to foster a discipleship-making environment for our youth! Our fall lock-in was the same day, and it (along with all the others we've had together) proved to be a fun-filled evening, with a mixture of our own kids and several others who were invited by members. Some of us even managed to stay up all night!

On another note, I hope all of you had a chance to see the high school musical "Oklahoma"! Tommy Bowman played an awesome Will Parker and Lily Sundheim worked the lights for the show! Well done to both of you! Our youth group friends (from the lock-in), Clayton and Roxanne, participated in the pit orchestra and tech crew respectively. What good memories to see this fun show—I played Aunt Eller 25 years ago!!

Senior High Youth Upcoming Events

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

Wed., Dec. 9th

7:30PM-9PM

Caroling and Cookies

Weds. Dec. 23rd and 30th

No Youth Group—Christmas vacation

Wed. Jan. 6th

Youth Group resumes

Sunday School and Nursery

Sunday school continues to clip along at a fast pace, much like Kids Club! The kids and teachers have been using a new curriculum this fall, and everyone seems to enjoy the new format. It is less cumbersome, more flexible, and filled with ideas for all ages. We will continue using this new curriculum in the winter and spring months.

We are currently beginning to work on the Christmas pageant, set for December 20th during the 10AM worship service (one service). Our music time will be used to learn Christmas carols, and we will read and/or run through the program during some of the lesson time. We still want teachers to be able to have some time with their classes, however, so we will be using Kids Club time to work on it as well.

The new class offered for parents and young children had its second successful month. Peek into the youth room on the first Sunday of the month and you are sure to find lots of activity—with little ones and parents enjoying time together! Help get the word out that we offer this valuable ministry!



During the fall season, the Christian Education committee has been discerning the needs of our church regarding the nursery. We have staffed the nursery with volunteers during the 11AM worship hour, we have explored possible staffing options and posted the position in various settings, we have prayed for clarity and guidance, and we have talked with the parents of younger children to determine their desires. The feedback was immensely helpful! It became clear that the majority of parents wish to have their children participate in worship as much as possible. It is a blessing that Federated welcomes and embraces very young children at worship! At this time, we have determined to create a comfortable space in the narthex for parents and children; this way, if a child needs to move around, both parent and child can still feel a part of the worshipping community. We are also going to begin exploring the possibility of streaming the worship service on a monitor in the nursery or another space for nursing moms or others who might wish to move to a different space with their children. Those of us whose children are older can easily remember the anxiety of having a child who makes noise during church, and yet, when we pass through that stage, don't most of us realize that those sounds are WONDERFUL to hear as we worship? It is a reminder of the great blessing of children and the importance of sharing the gospel with all ages and stages! And don't worry about the preacher, he only ever heard his OWN children during worship—just like the rest of us!! We will continue to staff the nursery with volunteers during the 11AM worship service; the nursery will be unlocked for parents and their children during the 9AM service, as well.

Our confirmands are in their second month of classes. We gather after school on Wednesdays for snack and games followed by an animated hour of learning! You all would be so impressed with the inquisitive minds and thoughtful individuals we have in our middle school group here! I think I can speak for all the teachers and say that there is more discipleship-building and faith development going on during this time than one can even imagine. Pray for these wonderful young people who are being given the opportunity to grow their faith and become adult members of our church family!

Confirmation

Parish Nursing Notes – Connie Seltz, Parish Nurse Coordinator

Sometimes it is difficult for me to decide what to write about in this newsletter, but today I think I must write about Advance Healthcare Planning. I was reminded about its importance by a Lake Region Healthcare “Community Health Conversation” held last month at M-State. Without a directive, the medical community chooses to err on the side of full treatment, including aggressive care which may result in prolonged and expensive care.

Advance Care Planning is the process a person uses to prepare the Health Care Directive document. In order for the document to be useful it must clearly express the wishes (be educated); be accurate (define words); be complete (signed, witnessed); and be communicated to all who need to know (advocate, family, healthcare providers). A trained facilitator may be helpful to work through the process. There are about 25 persons, mostly social workers in the area who have been trained. The Federated Church paid for the training for Pastor Doug and me.

Lake Region Healthcare provides an excellent “Health Care Directives” form for your use. I have found it helpful and much easier to complete than the “Five Wishes” form of a few years ago.

If you have done due diligence and already completed a directive, consider reviewing it to be certain it reflects current life/health conditions. The recommendation is that directives should be updated if any of the following changes occur: 1. A decade has passed; 2. A death of an advocate or a loved one; 3. A Divorce occurs; 4. A diagnosis of a serious health condition; and, 5. When you experience a significant decline or deterioration of an existing health condition, especially when you are unable to live on your own.

As you gather over the holidays with family, perhaps the conversation can begin. Make it fun. Bake some cookies. Here’s a highly recommended book: *The Conversation: A Revolutionary Plan for End-of-Life Care* by Dr. Angelo Volandes.



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!

Mission Dinner

The 2015 Mission Dinner took place on November 15, following the 10AM worship service. Tami, the patient navigator from the Lake Region Healthcare Cancer Care and Research Center, shared during the dinner about the Cancer Care Center and the Boxes of Blessings provided to cancer patients through The Federated Church and the Cancer Care Center. Around \$1100 was raised at the dinner, all of which will go towards providing more Boxes of Blessings. Thank you for your generous support!

The Mission Team for 2016 is set! Ten people will be travelling to House of Hope in Zacapa, Guatemala for a week of joining with the church at the House of Hope in God’s work in Guatemala. The team members are: Doug Dent, Lu Echelberger, Cindy Holte, Mike & Michelle Loomer, Abby MacFarlane, Pam Phillips, Jordan Schiefert, Paige Westra, and Char Zielin. Thank you for your continued prayer as the team prepares for the February trip.



HOUSES OF HOPE
INTERNATIONAL

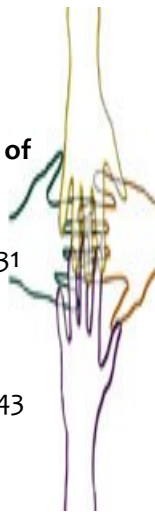
Stewardship Report

General Fund Report—as of October 31, 2015

Revenue—\$31,710.46
Expenditures—\$27,496.31

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted — \$280,871
Actual received—\$265,643



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

October	As of November 23rd
10 families or individuals helped with \$650 towards food, rent or utilities	6 families or individuals helped with \$480.53 towards food, rent

December Service Group Group #1

Mark and Tami Anderson
Jim and Robin Andrews
Erik Anthonisen and Marna Brown
Dennis and Bonnie Bergerud
J. Pat and Tami Collins
Nathan and Stephanie Hoff
Jeff and Jo Kohlhase
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

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
Mark and Tanya Sundberg

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

December 2015

Sunday, December 6

9AM— Mark & Tami Anderson
11AM— John & Eunice MacFarlane

Sunday, December 13

9AM— Erik Anthonisen & Marna Brown
11AM— Jim & Robin Andrews

Sunday, December 20 - Christmas Pageant

10AM— Terri Skretvedt and Erika Mariotti

Sunday, December 27

10AM— Nathan & Stephanie Hoff

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...

✝ Family and friends of Mary (Hugli) Smith.

December Birthdays

Olaf Ugstad 12/01
Shannon Wilson 12/01
Marsden Brimhall 12/02
Dale Larson 12/03
Patty Shol 12/03
Aaron Link 12/05
Kason Sytsma 12/05
Tami Anderson 12/10
Beverly Bach 12/14
Mike Loomer 12/14
Annie Murphy 12/15
Cris Styve 12/17
Rebecca Thanel 12/17
Riley Peterson 12/17

Karen Johnson 12/18
Syler Steinbrenner 12/18
James Worner 12/19
Perry Werner 12/19
Carol Hoivik 12/20
Amy Donoho 12/21
Jacob Gustafson 12/21
Jessica Steinbrenner 12/21
Mara Braaten 12/21
Gerald Skibness 12/22
Lori Beske 12/22
Jean Giles 12/23
Marianne Murphy 12/23
Phil Link 12/24
Ronnie Becker 12/24

Ron Henely 12/26
Amber Underdahl 12/28
Courtney Meder 12/28
Wendy Leidal 12/29
Molly Stoddard 12/29
Jonathon Collins 12/29
Jonathan Dent 12/29
Jacob Hatling 12/29
Myron Lenning 12/30
Mary Olson 12/30
Daniel Anderson 12/30
Camen Andrews 12/30



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

Ministry Nite!

December 8th 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

Saturday, December 5, 2015

4:30 PM and 7:30 PM

A Christmas Cantata

“Images of Adoration”

Funding for this program is generously given

by family and friends in memory of Blanche Arneson (1914-2015)

The Federated Church Choir

with Orchestra

Sunday, December 6, 2015 – Advent 2

9AM & 11AM

“Expecting Jesus’ Return”

Pastor Doug Dent

Matthew 25:1-13 and Romans 21:1-4

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Sunday, December 13, 2015 – Advent 3

9AM & 11AM

“What Were They Expecting”

Pastor Doug Dent

Matthew 2:1-12

4PM

Blue Christmas Service hosted by The Federated Church

Provided by local churches and Lake Region Healthcare Chaplaincy Services

At this service we remember those for whom the holidays are not joyful; those who are lonely, mourning, feeling alienated and cast apart from family celebrations; experiencing depression and sadness; and all who are compelled to "put on a happy face" for others, denying their true feelings.

5PM

Soup Supper following worship

Sunday, December 20, 2015 – Advent 4

10AM

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Thursday, December 24, 2015 - Christmas Eve

5PM

“The Fourth Wiseman”

Pastor Doug Dent

A Service of Lessons & Carols

6PM

Potluck Supper

11PM

“Expecting Too Much”

Pastor Doug Dent

Luke 2:8-18

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Sunday, December 27, 2015

10AM

TBA

Pastor Doug Dent



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!

December 20th	Kids' Christmas Pageant	Coffee Hour following worship
December 27th	Christmas Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
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 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. 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!

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



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

We want to thank all of you who returned your pledge cards so promptly. We really appreciate that. As of November 10, 2015 total pledges were \$240,476.00. We aren't there yet, but it is a good start. The Budget Committee is anxiously waiting for all the pledge cards to be returned. They really need them so they know how much money to expect to complete the 2016 budget for the Annual Meeting.

Special items to work into the 2016 budget are the Director of Church Operations, our local missions fund that Federated is noted for, and regular and unexpected maintenance issues.

Thank you for your continued support of Federated with your time and dollars. We invest not in ourselves, but rather in God's plan for our future.

If you need a pledge card, contact the office or pick one up in the church narthex. Pledges as of Nov. 19 total \$282,070.08.

Thank you,
Millie Pearson, Stewardship co-chair

2nd Annual Federated Ice-Fish 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!

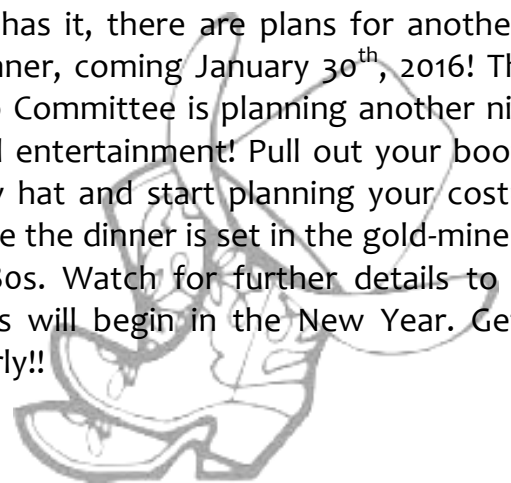
Fellowship Committee – *Patty Shol*

Chili Cook-off

The Federated Church's Annual Chili cook-off will be on Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 5:30PM, following the Advent Workshop. Cook up your best pot of chili and enter to win great prizes! OR just come to sample and cast your vote for the 2015 winner.

Mystery Dinner

Rumor has it, there are plans for another mystery dinner, coming January 30th, 2016! 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!!



Board of Managers—Donna Hendel

FREE ITEMS AVAILABLE!

The Federated Church has been the recipient of some long meeting tables and chairs as First Presbyterian of Wheaton has closed. We have some older chairs and tables to pass on FREE to anyone who could use them. There are several 8-foot long wooden tables that are available, (great for workshop or sewing room), about 22 older metal folding chairs and some stacking chairs with arms. (the chairs that were in the parlor). Church members have first opportunity to claim these items. If there is no interest from congregation members, they will be offered to community members. We would like to move the “FREE” items out of the church by the end of December. If interested, contact Donna Hendel by email: DQhendel@prtcl.com or phone: 218-739-2822 to arrange a time to pick up the items. This will be a “first come first serve” opportunity.



After 5 years serving as our custodian, Alicia Paulzine resigned effective November 7, 2015 to spend more time with her young family. We wish her well as she goes forward.

Board of Managers has contracted with The Matthew House to provide both maintenance and custodial service on an interim basis. We have been pleased with the maintenance service The Matthew House has been providing since September. By adding extra hours to cover Federated's custodial needs, The Matthew House will supply two men who will work as a team to keep our building clean and maintained.

We intend this arrangement to be temporary and have informed The Matthew House of our intention. As the staff restructuring plan our congregation approved moves forward, we expect an Office Manager will be hired. Board of Managers feels that person should have the opportunity to determine the staff position needed to provide custodial care and maintenance of our building and the opportunity to hire staff to fill the position. In the interim, we will use The Matthew House to provide service. We ask that if anyone sees a custodial or maintenance issue that needs action, please use the slips in the church office. Complete the alert and place the slip in the Maintenance box for action.

Jordan's Journal

Our Timothy Fellow at Work & Play

The past few months have been filled with lots of activities. Our Kids Club afterschool program started on September 16th. Sunday school started the following Sunday. During October 5-7, I attended Luther Seminary's Celebration of Biblical Preaching conference with Pastor Doug. On Monday October 12th, I started Stephen Ministry Training classes, a program designed to provide skills for caring ministries. Tied to this, each week I go with Pastor Doug and our parish nurse to visit people in area nursing and retirement homes.



*“You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses.
Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.”*

2 Timothy 2:2
New Living Translation

Senior High Youth Group

Senior High youth group started September 16th. We have really good group of students this year, kids who have learned and grown up in this faith community. Our theme this fall has been focused on stories of faith. Each week, I help find a faith talk or story online to present to the group and we discuss the video afterwards. We also play games and enjoy fellowship time with each other.

Our youth group has a tradition of participating in the Fergus Falls area Food Drop, an outreach program that provides food to at-risk families. Several of our senior high kids spent three hours on their day off from school passing out food to the individuals who came for the event. We ended our day with a lock-in at the church, where we played "Mission Impossible", went out for pizza, and talked all night. The youth leaders throughout Fergus Falls meet once a month at a "Youth Workers Round Table" lunch. We are reviewing a book entitled Hurt 2.0, which is about the world of today's teenagers.

Kids Club

The theme for our after-school Wednesday program this fall has been: Bible Blunders--Mistakes people made in the Bible and how God fixed them. Some of the people we talked about are: Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Elijah, Paul, and the Disciples. The kids hear the weekly story, sing songs related to the story, and memorize a Bible verse. We then have crafts and games, and supper for the kids and parents.

Triennium

One of the opportunities I've been given this year is to be on our Presbytery's Triennium planning "GO" team. Triennium is a gathering of approximately 6000 youth from around the country. It is held every three years in West Lafayette, Indiana at the Purdue University campus. The next Triennium will be July 19-23, 2016. Some of my responsibilities as part of the "GO" Team are helping to plan the trip, reaching out to youth from around the area, and serving on the work crew at Triennium throughout the week.

Worship

Each Sunday I participate in worship as one of the guitarists and song leaders in praise band for our contemporary service. During the traditional and contemporary services, I sometimes read scripture or provide liturgical reading, and I have had the opportunity to sing solos and do special music several times this fall.



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

**The Timothy Project is funded
in part by a
New Initiatives Fund Grant
from the MN Conference (UCC)
and by a grant from
The Presbytery of MN Valleys
(PCUSA)**