

Keeping members up-to-date

NOVEMBER 2016

Operation Christmas Child

NOVEMBER 9

Intergenerational Event

5:30pm Supper

Shoebox packing to follow supper

(details on pp. 4-5)

Mission Sunday

NOVEMBER 13

10am Worship (one service)

11am Mission Dinner



November Worship

NOVEMBER 6 9 and 11am Worship

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Choose Wisely

Pastor Doug Dent

Focus: Acts 1

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

NOVEMBER 13 10am Worship

MISSION SUNDAY

Seek the Welfare of the City

Pastor Doug Dent

Focus: Jeremiah 29

Lunch served following worship

NOVEMBER 20 9 and 11am Worship

CHRIST THE KING

The View from Summit

Pastor Doug Dent

Focus: Deuteronomy 34

NOVEMBER 27 9 and 11am Worship

Advent 1

TBA

Pastor Doug Dent

Dates to Remember

FRIDAYS, OCTOBER 21 -
NOVEMBER 18

6:30pm, Social Dance Lessons
Federated Gym

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

Intergenerational Event

10am, Fellowship Hall
Paul Shol speaking

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

All Saints' Sunday

9am & 11am, worship

11am, special service of remembrance

First Sunday Bible Study

12pm, Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

**Operation Christmas Child
Intergenerational Event**

5:30pm Supper

Shoebox packing to follow supper

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Mission Sunday

10am Worship

11am Mission Dinner

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Thanksgiving day

Church office closed

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Church office closed



Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

Mark 12:30

I recently had the opportunity to hear one of my favorite preachers, The Rev. Dr. Tom Long, give a sermon at Luther Seminary. Dr. Long is a master at weaving stories: it's not uncommon for audiences to literally hold their breath while he speaks. So, it surprised me that Dr. Long chose to start his sermon with a short musical clip. He played a few minutes of a jazz recording with Duke Ellington on the piano and Jimmy Blanton on the string bass. Dr. Long told us that the studio executives decided to record this album in a living room, which is a more intimate setting, but because of the cramped space the microphones were placed extremely close to the musicians. As a result, you can hear Ellington breathing and the piano pedals creaking, and you can hear Blanton's fingers slide up and down the strings and his foot tapping on the floor. Dr. Long shared that what makes this recording so highly sought after by collectors of vinyl records, is that it embodies the "act of music being made."

It reminded me of one of my favorite classical pianists, Glenn Gould, who hums while he plays! It's true. If you turn the sound way up, you can hear Gould humming the tune while his fingers traverse the piano keys. It's probably not what the composer intended, but it does make for some fantastic music. Ellington, Blanton and Gould put themselves, their whole heart and soul, into their music. They withheld nothing in bringing the music to life.

Dr. Long went on to say that nothing less is required of Christians if they are to bring the Gospel to life. God's Word demands the very blood, sweat and tears of God's people – the Church – if the Gospel is to have any

meaning and import for the world today.

Jesus told us that love of the Lord, which includes love of God's Word and God's Creation, requires our whole self. Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Jesus calls us to serve God and God's Kingdom with our love and passion (heart), our spiritual gifts (soul), our wit and wisdom (mind), and all the power and ability we possess (strength).

All these words made me think about our ministry. Where is our passion to serve God and neighbor? What gifts has God given us to reach out in the name of Jesus? What resources do we have that might benefit others? What power do we have to affect change? What might our ministry look like if we committed our whole selves to what God is doing all around us?

If we claim to be Christ's disciples and if we say we believe the good news of the Gospel, what is required of us is an all-in, blood, sweat and tears commitment to doing things God's way.

If we say that we are the church with open hearts, open minds, and open arms, then what is required is that we live out what we profess in the name of Jesus Christ.

If we declare that hospitality is a hallmark of our ministry, then what is required is that we seek out those who need food and shelter and clothing and compassion, working with God's Spirit to affect real change in our community.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a powerful answer to the troubles of this world. Let's sing its praises to the world, and show by our actions the Gospel being made through us.

Blessings,
Pastor Doug

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 13	Mission Dinner	Meal following worship
December 18	Kids' Christmas Pageant	Coffee Hour following worship
December 25	Christmas Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
January 22	Annual Meeting	Meal and meeting following worship
February 26	Confirmation Sunday	Reception following worship
April 9	Palm Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
April 16	Easter Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
May 21	Ice cream social	Sundaes following worship



Daylight Savings Time ends at 2am on Sunday, November 6th. Make sure to switch your clocks back!



Bible studies and discussion groups

Adult Bible Study

SUNDAY MORNINGS 10am

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

Advent Study (November 20–December 11) we'll take four weeks out of our Confirmation study to consider the four "buzz words" of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Women's Bible Study

THURSDAYS 10:30am

Women's Bible Study meets every Thursday at 10:30am in the church parlor. All women are invited! We are studying the Book of Judges. We are learning that God raises up people to lead his people, often surprising choices. God is able to work through the unlikeliest of characters. Copies of the book are available in the church office for \$8.

Men's Bible Study

MONDAYS 12pm

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

First Sundays

SUNDAYS 12pm

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

November 6	Making End of Life Decisions
December 4	The Gift of Friendship
January 8	Books that Didn't Make the Bible (and Why)
February 7	Books Between the Testaments
March 7	Compassion as Spiritual Discipline
April 2	Class Warfare in the Bible
May 7	The Tomb of Jesus



Things to know from the DCO

Rev. Ed Morgan

Over the years that I have served churches, I have come to plan my year to start the second Sunday of September - Rally Day in many churches. Ours is no different; our programs and ministries shifted into high gear on September 11. We had a wonderful day with increased attendance and increased excitement about our church.

I have had the privilege of observing ministry in our church with people all the way from the very young to older adults. We have an excellent staff who are dedicated and equipped to lead. We have people in our church with all kinds of abilities and gifts and are willing to share their time. We are in a community which is healthy. We have people who have a vision for growing the church.

I return to Luke's insight into a blessed life: "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be poured into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:38) We are blessed.

As you reflect on how much of your time, talents, and financial resources to share with our church in 2017,

I know the generous members and friends of this church will provide the support that will allow us to put into action the priorities and the vision God has given us. Sunday, October 23 is Dedication Sunday, with worship at 10am and a celebration dinner following. I am praying that God will empower us all to live our church's vision of: Open hearts. Open minds. Open arms.

Another part of my work that I want to share with you is the Endowment Fund. Since the establishment of this Fund back in the spring, we have seen amazing growth. Many of our congregation have given substantial gifts which will be a blessing for generations to come. If you are considering a gift or including the church in your will, please give me a call. You can rest assured we will be good stewards of all gifts you make.

As we move into a new stage of our church's future, I am encouraged that we are on this journey together. We are truly partners in Christ's ministry.

Thank you,
Rev. Dr. Ed Morgan, Director of Church Operations





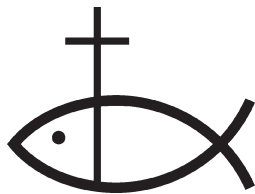
Christian Education and Youth

Kids Club

Kids Club is off and running this fall! If you have been around the church on Wednesdays after school, you may have seen LOTS of activity and energy in the fellowship hall, the youth room, and the gym! Our theme this fall is “Disciples are Such Characters”, and we have learned stories, created crafts, and played games which teach character qualities of Jesus’ disciples. Kids and adult volunteers alike have had a great time being together. We especially heard feedback from parents (and adult volunteers) about our special “shofar” or ram’s horn craft project! The kids LOVED having the opportunity to make AS MUCH NOISE as they could possibly make! Stop by and see this ministry in action—we are always happy to share what we are doing with others! This session of Kids Club continues through November 18th. We will take a one-week break for the Thanksgiving holiday, and then we will start in with our special December sessions that focus on the Christmas pageant. *See the back of the November calendar for photos from Kids Club*

Confirmation

Confirmation classes started in early October. On October 7th, the three classes headed to Clearwater Forest with five chaperones and two older youth leaders for a weekend of learning, teambuilding, and fun. Our theme was “The Faith Race”; we studied passages from the book of Hebrews (Hebrews 11:1-12:3) and Philippians (Philippians 3:12-14) that talk about our faith being like a race that leads us to cross - “the finish line” - a life well-lived and the promise of eternal life. We had lots of large and small group time for discussion, fun get-to-know-you games, and plenty of outdoor activities (games, hikes, campfire). Each class, along with their adult leader, prepared one meal for the entire group. The weather was perfect for the weekend, Eagle Lodge was a wonderful facility, and the fall colors were AMAZING! We couldn’t have asked for a better weekend! I would like to especially thank our chaperones and youth leaders who helped to make this an all-around super event: Erik Anthonisen, Lisa Becker, Caitlyn Nygard, Jordan Schiefert, Paige Westra, and Rachel Westra. Let’s do it again next year! *See the back of the November calendar for photos from the retreat weekend*



Youth Group

Our youth group is growing this year with the addition of friends of our members—it is awesome that our youth want to share what we do with others! We have been viewing the series “The Gospel Journey” that recounts the faith journeys of seven young people from different backgrounds. We have had some lively discussions based on the themes each week—the kids really seem to enjoy tackling tough issues of faith together and sharing their own perspectives. I think we have all had opportunity to further understand and define our beliefs, like “iron that sharpens iron”.

This past weekend a large group gathered at our house to enjoy the outdoors. It was so much fun to see kids of different ages playing games together (including Nerf wars and hide-and-seek)! We have a great youth group—made up of people who truly love to hang out together while always being open to welcome in new people. I count it a tremendous blessing to get to spend my Wednesdays (and occasional other days) with them!!

Multigenerational Learning and Fellowship

Plan to join us on Wednesday, November 9th at 5:30 for a light supper and **Operation Christmas Child** packing party! We will view a short video about this mission outreach that brings the hope of the gospel and Christmas gifts to children around the world, and then we will join with our children and youth in packing shoeboxes with the items we have collected. It will be a fun, interactive fellowship event for all who participate!

We have collected several shoe boxes, but we could always use more! We are hoping for crayons, colored pencils, coloring books, toothbrushes, brushes, soap, small balls (or larger uninflated balls and a small pump to fill it), socks, small games and picture books, small craft projects, scarves for older girls, and any number of other creative gift ideas. We will also be collecting a free-will offering to contribute toward the shipping costs. We will set the gifts up in fellowship hall, and then individuals can go through and fill the boxes for a specific-aged child (young, middle elementary, teen). When we are finished filling the boxes we have, they will be delivered to the drop-off in our community during the following week.

Christian Education and Youth
CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



If you would like to prepare and fill an entire box for one child of a specific age on your own, feel free to do so beforehand and bring it to church anytime before November 9th or on that day—we will make sure it gets to the drop-off site.

This is a great opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit and fellowship with each other! It is awesome to imagine that children far from Fergus Falls will be experiencing a better Christmas because of the generosity and love of Federated Church!

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Suggestions:

Toys: Include items that children will immediately embrace such as toy cars, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), deflated soccer ball (include manual air pump), doll, stuffed animals, small musical instruments (such as a harmonica or woodwind recorder), etc.

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

Non-liquid Hygiene Items: toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, etc. (must be non-liquid!)

Accessories: T-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.

Crafts: Make-your-own-items such as hair bows, finger puppets, and friendship bracelets.

A Personal Note: You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself, your family, or group. If you include your name and an address, the child may be

able to write back.

Candy specifications: During 2016, the following types of candy can be included in shoebox gifts: hard candy, gummy bears, caramels, taffy, and gum—as long as its expiration date is at least six months after National Collection Week: November 14–21, 2016. Starting in 2017, no type of candy can be included in shoebox gifts.

Toothpaste specifications: Toothpaste can be included this year as long as its expiration date is at least six months after National Collection Week: November 14–21, 2016. Starting in 2017, toothpaste cannot be included in shoebox gifts, but a child's oral hygiene can still be improved by regular use of a toothbrush alone.

Please Do NOT Include: Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.



Parish Nursing Notes

Connie Seltz
Parish Nurse Coordinator

Last month, I attended the video conference: "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End." If you missed it, it was based on Atul Gawande's book, *Being Mortal*. I have the book and am willing to loan it out. Victor Lundeen's has copies, too, if you would like your own copy. One of the most important decisions we make is who will speak for us and make medical decisions when we are unable to communicate our wishes. That person is our health care agent. Please consider attending this educational event - Advance Care Planning: Preparing Agents For Their Role. Monday, November 14, 2016, from 7-8 pm or Tuesday, November 15, 2016 9-10am, at the YMCA Community Room. Refreshments available. No RSVP required. Deborah Laxton is the featured speaker. She is the founder of the Health Care Agent Literacy Project and author of the award winning book *The Gray Zone: When Life Supports No Longer Supports Life*. This is a community event, so do invite a friend!





Committees

Multigenerational Learning and Fellowship

LU ECHELBERGER

I am on the multigenerational learning committee and read with interest the article concerning our plans for November 9th regarding "Operational Christmas Child." I hope you had the chance to learn about this opportunity and feel encouraged to attend the event this month.

As an adult at Federated Church whose children have graduated and are not a part of the Federated Church community, my opportunities to get to know the youth in the church on a personal basis has certainly decreased. Yes, when I am sitting in church and the kids are singing or someone is sitting in front of me, I can poke my neighbor and ask "Who is that up there with the blond hair?" But I don't really have opportunities to get to know who they are, what their personalities are like, and talk to them other than saying "Hi!" (When I worked at school, I would say hi to some of the high school kids and I'm sure they thought, "Oh, that lady from church again".) As an adult who is out of touch with what kids are doing these days, I think striking up a basic conversation with them is difficult. This is why I support a multi-generational learning opportunity with Operation Christmas Child. This is a great chance to get to know them better while doing a fun, meaningful project that benefits others who are less fortunate than us. It is a way to give to the greater community and enrich our lives by interacting with the youth in our congregation.

So, adults, when you are out shopping and see a small item that would pack easily and light up a child's

day, throw it in the cart! On November 9th, plan on joining us at 5:30pm for a light supper and then stay to pack the Christmas boxes afterward. You will find it amazing to see the number of youth that hang out at church on Wednesdays at supper time, from the kindergartner to high school kids, along with parents. You will have the opportunity to get to know them better while getting into the Christmas spirit!

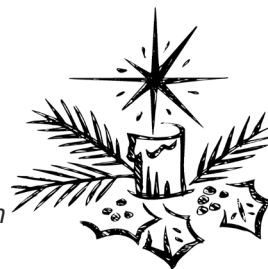
Caring and Ministry

CONNIE SELTZ

The committee is challenging all Greeters to have fun and be creative about welcoming people as they arrive each Sunday. A few weeks ago Stephanie and Ayla Hoff were standing outside, smiling and welcoming worshipers as they walked up the sidewalk. Ayla was holding the umbrella with the Federated logo. It brought a smile to my face. The committee is certain that this congregation is full of "Open Arms" kind of people who will find a unique way to express their welcoming spirit. Go for it!

Advent Readers

Advent is soon upon us! We are looking for families or individuals to be readers at worship services during the Advent season. If you are interested, please contact the church office. *For confirmation students, this fulfills the requirement to lead in worship.*



Local Mission

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

During the month of September, we were able to help **three** families or individuals with a total of **\$119.25**, used for food, household goods, rent or utilities. So far in September, we have helped **three** families or individuals with **\$225** towards food, household goods, rent or utilities.



LOCAL MISSIONS





Business as usual

Service Groups

NOVEMBER 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

DECEMBER 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
 LaVane Ugstad
 James and Amy Underdahl
 David and Vivan Whipple
 Skip and Char Zielin

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

NOVEMBER 2016

Sunday, November 6

9am Doug & Barb Becker
 11am Mark & Tanya Sundberg

Sunday, November 13

10am Jacob & Karoline Gustafson

Sunday, November 20

9am Ken & Marjan Schuetze
 11am Russ & Renee Larsen

Sunday, November 27

9am Mike & Patty Shol
 11am Darren & Erin Smith

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

Ministry Nite: November 8

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	\$30,113
Expenditures	\$34,867

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$267,587
Actual Received	\$282,717

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunmart

September	\$1,746.00
Total as of 10/1/16	\$60,243.45

Service Food

September	\$10,083.96
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The church staff wants to know...

We rely on you to contact us with your email, phone or address changes. Also contact us for pastoral care or parish nursing needs. Please call 218-739-3227 or email church@federatedff.org

Newsletter Deadline

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





224 North Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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Time sensitive information
Please deliver by October 31

Condolences

Friends and family of David Grotberg on the loss of David.

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

Congratulations!

Markus & Carol Bischof on the birth of their grandson, Andre Emmons!

November Birthdays

11/01	Sammy Ebert	11/14	Alexandria Haas
11/01	Andrew MacFarlane	11/15	Karen Hauck
11/03	McKenzie Olson	11/15	Rick Schara
11/04	Maximillian Jensen	11/15	Tommy Bowman
11/05	Paul Richter	11/16	Terry Harrington
11/07	Brandon Truax	11/18	Donna Solin
11/07	Mike Walls	11/19	Tessa Becker
11/08	John MacFarlane	11/20	Maury Skogen
11/09	Lance Nygaard	11/22	Ross Johnson
11/10	Marna Brown	11/22	Molly King
11/10	Ann Porter	11/23	Landon Link
11/10	Laurie Skogen	11/24	Brayden Aasen
11/11	Bailee Griego	11/24	Michelle Loomer
11/11	Mark Sundberg	11/24	Katelyn Sperling
11/12	Austen Tabbut	11/25	Elaine Snyder
11/13	Bill Nead	11/26	Meg Garrahan
11/14	Dennis Bergerud	11/26	Franklin Schierer
11/14	John Lindholm	11/29	Duane Rose
11/14	Erik Lindholm	11/29	Erik Loomer



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

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