

# The Union Avenue News

www.federatedff.org

church@federatedff.org

December 2014

## Mission Dinner—November 9th

The Mission Dinner, held on Sunday, November 9, 2014 was a great success with nearly one hundred people in attendance. Doug and Nancy Hansen shared about their visit to the House of Hope in Zacapa, Guatemala, presented the mission of the orphanage, and offered ways to support this important ministry.

Our congregation is raising funds to pay the school fees for each child (\$330 per child for one year). At the Mission Dinner we raised \$2,923 – enough to send nine kids to school. Adding this to the \$3,278 already raised this year, we have collected \$6,201 (or 18.7 school fees) – only \$69 to go!

Thank you to all the cooks, dishwashers, servers, diners, and donors who helped to make this Mission Dinner our best ever.



Doug & Nancy Hansen were the speakers for the 2014 Mission Dinner



### Join us for a Christmas Eve Service!

5PM A Service of Lessons & Carols  
"The Christmas Truce of 1914"  
6PM Christmas Eve potluck dinner  
11PM Candlelight and Communion



### Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21st | 4PM  
at The Federated Church  
Light supper to follow

This service is intended to be a time of solace for anyone who, for whatever reason, may struggle to have a merry Christmas.



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 Sunday, December 7th. The cost is \$15. Please note "Poinsettia" on your check. Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve service. Please make the check out to The Federated Church.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please place a poinsettia -

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  
Nov. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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



In *Walking on Water*, Madeleine L'Engle comments that "the Christian holiday which is easiest for us is Christmas, because it touches on what is familiar; and the story...is one we have always known." That, however, may be both bane and blessing, and it may explain why we let the folklore, customs, and frantic pace of this holy season obscure its essential truth for us. Over-familiarity can dull the meaning and diminish our response to any experience or relationship in life. Is that why many persons approach Christmas with either wistful yearning or cynical disdain, hoping each year to see, as W. H. Auden put it, "the actual Vision" of Christmas, or having missed it so often no longer believing the "Vision" exists?

Because we need to see this vision and to appropriate for faith the truth that Christmas celebrates, the church long ago set aside a margin of time celebrating the event of Jesus' birth so that believers could center attention more closely upon its deepest meaning, be nurtured by it, and respond to it. They called it the season of *Advent* (a Latin word meaning "come to"), underscoring how in this event God came to the world, entered human history, and is still revealing the love that makes us whole and opens us to eternal life.

We need a season of Advent to interrupt and unsettle us, to give us pause, to make us ponder, and to challenge our intentions and priorities. We need this season because we can be creatures of habit and routine who take each other and our spiritual life for granted. We need this season because we are prone to reduce the mysterious in order to make it manageable and marketable. We need this season as a reminder that our encounter with God through Christ can forever change our life and our world.

Indeed, Advent is not so much what we do (no matter how devoted or disciplined we are) but what God does for us in Jesus Christ. *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father...And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace* (John 1:14, 16).

So let us attend upon this mystery and celebrate how God comes into our world – in Jesus Christ with the whole-making power of love.

May the joys and mysteries of Advent surprise you once again!  
Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year.  
Pastor Doug

### Deacons & Elders

At their regularly scheduled meeting on November 20th, the Deacons & Elders:

- Noted with sadness the deaths of Zane Tassler and Bill Leeman;
- Received an update on the stewardship campaign, which is going well;
- Recognized Bev Richter for her role as Stephen Ministry Leader and Gloria Ronning for her role as Parish Nurse;
- Approved the Blue Christmas service for December 21st at 4PM;
- Received memorial funds in memory of Barb Johnson and Zane Tassler;
- Approved \$1500 from the general fund to match the Mission Committees funds for a food drop in 2015 through the United Way of Ottertail County;
- Considered new ways to market the missions and ministries of The Federated Church;
- Discussed the New Beginnings assessment service offered by the PCUSA.



**Doug Snaza. Director of Christian Education**

## Jr/Sr High

In November, the youth group talked about what they are thankful for in their lives, and giving thanks to God, who has given it all.

**Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>:** We will be volunteering at The Welcome House on College Way from 7:30-8:30pm, return to the church, have ice cream, and discuss our experience.

**Dec 10<sup>th</sup>:** The youth will discuss the story of Esther and God's plan for every situation we are in.

**Dec 17<sup>th</sup>:** We will have a White Elephant gift exchange and celebrate the birth of Jesus together! Youth, please come with a wrapped gift (no more than \$5).

*Note: No youth group on the following Wednesdays: 12/24, 12/31, 2/25, 3/25*

### Upcoming Events:

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>3rd</b>             | 3:30PM Jr High Youth Group & Confirmation<br>6:30PM 9th Grade Confirmation<br>7:30PM Youth Group volunteering @<br>The Welcome House |
| <b>10th</b>            | 3:30PM Jr High Youth Group & Confirmation<br>6:30PM 9th Grade Confirmation<br>7:30PM Sr High Youth Group                             |
| <b>17th</b>            | 3:30PM Jr High Youth Group & Confirmation<br>6:30PM 9th Grade Confirmation<br>7:30PM Youth Group Christmas Party                     |
| <b>24th &amp; 31st</b> | Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!<br>No Youth Activities   |
| <b>25th—2nd</b>        | Youth Mission trip to House of Hope  |



**HOUSES OF HOPE**  
INTERNATIONAL

Youth going on the Mission trip to House of Hope in December—there will be a meeting with mentors on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> after church at noon in the youth room, and a packing party on the 21<sup>st</sup> after church at noon.

The youth are bringing Christmas presents to the children at the House of Hope! They sent us their wish-list of gifts, and we have put each item with the child's picture on the Christmas tree in the narthex. If you are interested in getting a gift for a child, take a look at the tree and choose an item. Keep the picture of the child to pray for over the Christmas season, and return the gift to the office, labeled with the child it goes to, by Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Please do not wrap the gifts, as we can't bring them wrapped through customs. We will wrap them in Guatemala. Thanks!

## KIDS

Thanks to all of the children, youth volunteers and adult volunteers that made Kids Club happen this fall! We had a blast talking about God's plan for us, and believing even though we don't always see God's plan!

Kids Club will start back up on January 7<sup>th</sup> and run for 6 weeks through February 11<sup>th</sup>. We will look at the Fruits of the Spirit, and how, as we walk in the Spirit, we may grow these fruits and use them in our lives.

### Upcoming Events:

- |                  |                      |                   |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Dec. 7th</b>  | <b>3:30PM</b>        | Advent Workshop   |
| <b>Dec. 10th</b> | <b>3:30PM-5:30PM</b> | Pageant Rehearsal |
| <b>Dec. 17th</b> | <b>3:30PM-5:30PM</b> | Pageant Rehearsal |
| <b>Dec. 21st</b> | <b>10AM</b>          | Pageant Rehearsal |
|                  | <b>11AM</b>          | Christmas Pageant |

## Sunday school

We are still in need of nursery attendants for Sunday mornings (8:30am—noon), Ministry Nite, and special services. In the meantime, we are asking for volunteers to help in the nursery on Sundays. The sign up sheet is next to the nursery door. If no one is signed up for a particular day, the nursery will be open, but we ask parents to stay with their children.



The Advent Workshop will be on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 3PM in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome! There will be crafts and activities for children and their families to prepare for Advent.



Immanuel - God With Us!

Pageant rehearsals for the December 21<sup>st</sup> pageant will be on **Wednesday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> after school until 5:30pm**. The usual Wednesday bus will take the kids from school to the church. Dinner will be available at the church for those who would like to stay. We will also meet in the sanctuary at **10am on the 21<sup>st</sup>**, prior to the pageant at 11am. If your child is planning to perform a musical piece as part of the prelude to the pageant, please let the office know so we can put it in the bulletin.



# Worship at The Federated Church

## December 7, 2014

9 AM and 11 AM

"Jesus Came – and Comes!"

Malachi 3; John 1

The Rev. Douglas Dent

## December 14, 2014

9 AM and 11 AM

"Where Jesus Came – and Comes"

Micah 5; Acts 9; Matthew 3

The Rev. Douglas Dent

## December 21, 2014

9 AM – Contemporary  
11 AM – Christmas Pageant

"How Jesus Came – and Comes" (9AM only)

Isaiah 7; Luke 2: Philippians 2

The Rev. Douglas Dent

## December 21, 2014

4 PM

A Blue Christmas Service

Anyone who finds the holiday season difficult to bear is welcome to join us for this service of comfort. There will be a light supper following the service.

Local Area Clergy  
& Chaplains from  
Lake Region Healthcare

## December 24, 2014

Christmas Eve  
5 PM and 11 PM

5PM – A Service of Lessons & Carols

"The Christmas Truce of 1914"

11PM – Candlelight and Communion

"When Jesus Came – and Comes"

Isaiah 11; Galatians 4; Luke 1

The Rev. Douglas Dent

## December 28, 2014

10 AM

"Jesus' Coming and Our Going"

Isaiah 60; Titus 2; Matthew 2

The Rev. Douglas 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 28<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Sunday

Coffee hour following worship

**January 25<sup>th</sup>**

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Brunch following worship

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Confirmation Sunday

Reception following worship

**March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Palm Sunday

Coffee hour following worship

**April 26<sup>th</sup>**

Senior Brunch

Brunch following worship

**May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Ice Cream Social

Sundaes following worship

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 21<sup>st</sup> at both worship services.



### Newsletter Deadline

Articles and announcements for the monthly newsletter are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### December Service Group Group #9

Dale Anderson  
Mark and Lisa Becker  
Grant and Mariah Davenport  
Kirk and Marcie Hexum  
Tim and Desta Hunt  
Wayne and Patti Link  
Chuck and Linda MacFarlane  
Lynn Oxley  
Mae Reich  
Ben and Tessa Schierer  
Jo Schmidt  
David and Molly Stoddard  
Beth Strom  
Matyas Sundheim  
Gail Welle  
Jim and Arlene Worner

### January Service Group Group #10

Kym Christiansen  
Doris 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  
Tim and Heather Rundquist  
Wade Ugstad  
Randy and Marian Wasvick  
Perry and Peg Werner  
Linda Wolfe

### Greeters and Coffee Hosts

December 2014



#### Sunday, December 7th

9AM— Ben & Tessa Schierer  
11AM— Grant & Mariah Davenport

#### Sunday, December 14th

9AM— Mark & Lisa Becker  
11AM— Tim & Desta Hunt

#### Sunday, December 21st

9AM— Gail Welle  
11AM— Chuck & Linda MacFarlane

#### Sunday, December 28th

10AM— Jim & Arlene Worner

# COFFEE 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.**

### Condolences to...

- ✦ Friends and family of Zane Tassler.
- ✦ Family and friends of Bill Lehman.
- ✦ Family and friends of Jim Ouren.
- ✦ Family and friends of LaVonne Richards.
- ✦ Family and friends of Jim Solin.

### Congratulations to...

- ◆ Russ & Renee Larsen on the birth of their granddaughter, Aralynn Rose Larsen.
- ◆ Al & Connie Seltz on the birth of their granddaughter, Agnes Mae Evelyn Seltz.

### Thank you to...

- ☺ Thank you to everyone who donated all the wonderful pies for the Pie Festival on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> and thank you to everyone who came to enjoy the lovely pies. – The Fellowship Committee
- ☺ Federated Friends: Thank you so much for the love, support, prayers and caring for my family and me during my recent long stay in the hospital in the cities following surgery. –Jan Nelson

## 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  
Sonny Mjelde 12/12  
Beverly Bach 12/14  
Mike Loomer 12/14  
Annie Murphy 12/15  
Cris Styve 12/17  
Rebecca Thanel 12/17  
Riley Mandelke 12/17

Karen Johnson 12/18  
Sylar 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](mailto:church@federatedff.org)!*

## First Sundays - Pastor Doug Dent

First Sunday Bible Studies are designed to be one-time, one-topic programs. We gather after worship for a light lunch and discussion. Each spring, members of the bible study choose the topics; then Pastor Doug spends time researching and preparing. Here is the lineup for 2014-2015:

Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Parables of the Lost
Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup>	What is Heaven Like?
Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Does Hell Exist?
Mar. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Simplicity as Spiritual Discipline
Apr. 12 <sup>th</sup>	The Book of Revelation (Date changed due to Easter!)
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	James, the Brother of Jesus



## Sunday Morning Bible Study - Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday Morning Bible Study, led by Pastor Doug, meets in the Parlor on Sunday mornings at 10AM. All are welcome!

Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup> – Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Held in God's Grace: an Advent Study About Waiting (4 weeks)
Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup> – April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel: A Christ Centered Approach (12 weeks)
	(No class on Jan. 25 <sup>th</sup> , Feb 8 <sup>th</sup> or 22 <sup>nd</sup> , Mar. 29 <sup>th</sup> or Apr. 5 <sup>th</sup> )

## Men of the church!

Join us Mondays at noon for prayer and bible study in the church parlor. All are welcome. We are currently studying "All For One: Experiencing the Exclusive Claim of Christ."



## Women of the church!

Join us Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM for prayer and bible study in the church parlor. All are welcome. We are currently studying "In Harmony with the Word" based on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.



## Balanced & Blessed

*Experiencing Marriage the Way It's Meant to Be*

**February 15 – March 29, 2015—Sundays, 5-7 PM**

This seven session course is for anyone – married or single – who wants to learn the skills needed to nurture healthy relationships. We'll begin each session with a light supper followed by a DVD presentation and time for discussion. Cost is \$10 per person. Childcare provided.

The receipt totals from

October 15 - November 16 are;

Service Food -- \$3,535.46

Sunmart -- \$2,581.60

Thank you, Kathy Zimmerman



## Prayer Partners

Studies show that one of the keys to quality youth development is for young people to receive support from at least three non-parent adults in their lives. Would you like to invest in the life of one of our youth by being a Prayer Partner? Youth K-12 will be creating a short bio to hang up in the Narthex along with a photo. If you are interested in being a Prayer Partner with any of the youth, please fill out the short bio form and submit it, along with a photo, to the church office. It will be hung up in the Narthex next to the youth you are partnered with.





## Parish Nursing Notes – Connie Seltz, Parish Nurse Coordinator

I was listening to the radio (don't know to whom or which station) and a young woman with two young children was talking about the challenges she is facing since her husband was diagnosed with ALS nearly two years ago. The cold, the snow, the decreased sunlight, the approaching holidays all factor together to bring a unique sadness. Following her interview the call-ins started. All touching stories of heartache, illness, loss, painful memories, etc. The message I received was: it is okay to light a candle and cry, it is all right to ask for space to grieve, it is a gift to others to tell them what is needed. The advice from the professional was "Plan an act of generosity every day!" I think it is fitting for the Federated Church Family to again host the Community Blue Christmas Service. Do come, do invite friends and neighbors, eat a light evening meal with them, for surely the warmth of togetherness is one of the blessings of the Christmas season.

To all of you: May God give you comfort and peace and a knowledge of God's presence.



### The Federated Church 1st Annual Ice Fishing Outing

**Date:** Saturday, December 27th

**Time:** All day (starts at 7AM)

**Where:** Ottotail Lake

**Cost:** \$25 per fisherman

**Contact:** Dennis Bowman,  
fellowship committee chairperson

998-0717; 205-8147;

dbowman@fergusotters.org



Ottotail Lake guide, Ross Hagermeister, will locate the spot and provide the houses for a fantastic day of fishing. Ottotail Lake is only 1/2 hour away, so you can stay for the morning, afternoon, early evening, or the entire day. Call or email Dennis to reserve your fishing hole!



The Federated Church's Annual Chili cook-off will be on Sunday, December 7, 2014 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 2014 winner.

### House of Hope Mission Trip (February 2015)

Anyone interested in participating in the House of Hope Mission Trip (February 7-14, 2015) should contact Mike Loomer or Pastor Doug as soon as possible. The team is forming now! Join us and get a respite from the Minnesota winter while ministering to God's people in Guatemala. The approximate cost for the trip is \$1500.



HOUSES OF HOPE  
INTERNATIONAL

#### Stewardship Report *Millie Pearson and Greg Truax*

##### General Fund Report—as of October 31 2014

Revenue—\$34,921

Expenditures—\$32,437

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted —\$252,850

Actual received—\$250,234



Thank you for your continued generosity with the Local Mission Fund! As always, funds go out as quickly 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 Nov. 25th
11 families or individuals helped with \$550 towards food, rent or utilities	4 Families or individuals helped with \$350 towards food, rent or utilities

### Ministry Nite!

December 9th is Ministry Nite. Please email your minutes to [church@federatedff.org](mailto: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. Reminder: Committees do not meet in July.

