



December Worship

DECEMBER 4 9 and 11am Worship ADVENT 2

Impatient for Jesus *Pastor Doug Dent*
James 5:7-10
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

DECEMBER 11 9 and 11am Worship ADVENT 3

The Name Game *Pastor Doug Dent*
Matthew 1:18-25

DECEMBER 18 10am Worship CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Kid's Christmas Pageant

DECEMBER 21 7pm Service

Blue Christmas Service
Heather Rundquist will share her story
Offered by local area congregations &
Lake Region Chaplaincy Services

DECEMBER 24 5pm & 11pm Services CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm Lessons & Carols
The Peaceable Kingdom
11pm Candlelight & Communion
The Best Gift
Titus 2

DECEMBER 25 10am Worship CHRISTMAS DAY

Give it up for Jesus *Pastor Doug Dent*
Psalm 97

JANUARY 1 10am Worship NEW YEAR'S DAY

Let's Keep Herod in Christmas *Pastor Doug Dent*
Matthew 2:1-13

Dates to Remember

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Christmas Cantata

4pm, Concert - *Go Sing it on the Mountain*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Poinsettia orders due

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Kid's Christmas Pageant

10am, Worship & pageant

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Blue Christmas Service

7pm, Federated Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Services

5pm, Lessons & Carols:
The Peaceable Kingdom

6pm, Potluck

11pm, Candlelight & Communion:

The Best Gift

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church office closed





It's a well-known story, but it bears repeating... A.J. Gordon was the great Baptist pastor of the Clarendon Church in Boston, Massachusetts. One day he met a young boy in front of the sanctuary carrying a rusty cage in which several birds fluttered nervously. Gordon inquired, "Son, where did you get those birds?" The boy replied, "I trapped them out in the field." "What are you going to do with them?" "I'm going to play with them, and then I guess I'll just feed them to an old cat we have at home."

When Gordon offered to buy them, the lad exclaimed, "Mister, you don't want them, they're just little old wild birds and can't sing very well." Gordon replied, "I'll give you \$2 for the cage and the birds." "Okay, it's a deal, but you're making a bad bargain." The exchange was made and the boy went away whistling, happy with his shiny coins. Gordon walked around to the back of the church property, opened the door of the small wire coop, and let the struggling creatures soar into the blue. The next Sunday he took the empty cage into the pulpit and used it to illustrate his sermon about Christ's coming to seek and to save the lost—paying for them with His own precious blood. "That boy told me the

birds were not songsters," said Gordon, "but when I released them and they winged their way heavenward, it seemed to me they were singing, 'Redeemed, redeemed, redeemed!'"

This is Advent. And the message of these times is the song of those wild birds.

It's the song sung in every carol this season: Redeemed!

It's the meaning behind every gift given under the tree: Redeemed!

It's the Word the shepherds heard: Redeemed!

It's the assurance Mary received: Redeemed!

It's the star the Magi followed: Redeemed!

You and I have been trapped by sin, but Christ has purchased our pardon.

We have been redeemed! Hallelujah! Amen.

May you experience the awe and wonder of Christmas anew this year!

Merry Christmas and Blessings on the New Year.

Pastor Doug



Christmas Cantata
December 3, 4pm at Federated
Go Sing it on the Mountain
Free and open to the public

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 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

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, please contact the church office, or fill out the form found in the Sunday bulletin. The cost is \$15. Make checks out to *The Federated Church with poinsettia* on the memo line. Be sure to let us know if you would like white or red, and who you would like it in honor or in memory of. Orders are due by Friday, Dec. 9th. Poinsettias may be taken home following the Christmas Eve service.





Bible studies and discussion groups

Adult Bible Study

SUNDAY MORNINGS 10am

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 book of Acts. 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!

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

The Campus Enhancement Team has been tasked with the priority "Enhance our campus while preserving the historic nature of our sanctuary", which was established by the congregation during the Discovering Our Future process.

Of course, the work of this team will affect the church for many years to come, so it is normal for people to wonder about what the team is doing. I have had the privilege of working with this gifted group of people. I assure you each member of this team has the greatest concern for what is good for the Federated Church now and into the future.

So, let me tell you what we have done. The Team has met three times—twice with the Team only and once with Jeff Jennen from Comstock Construction. From the first meeting, the team has been aware of the limits of the priority we have been given - enhance the campus and preserve the historic nature of the sanctuary. We have also been aware of space limitations, so we turned to Comstock to let us know what could be accomplished with our present location. Free of charge, Jeff has put all the previous church construction documents on CD and has begun to analyze our building and grounds. We hope to meet in

early December to discuss what he has found.

At this stage of the Team's work, we have nothing definite to report and no recommendations to make. Future work will include further input from the congregation, committees and boards. Eventually, the Team hopes to bring recommendations to the Deacons and Elders. We do not know when that will be. In the meantime, we will continue to search, listen and discern where God would have us go. If this process ends in definite building recommendations, the congregation will make the final decision.

We are nearing completion of the Fall Stewardship Campaign. Thank you to the Stewardship Committee for their excellent work. This year, we produced a DVD of church activities. You can access that DVD on our church website www.federatedff.org. Click on the "About" tab and then "Who We Are" and click play to view the video. Please feel free to share this with friends! We have already heard of many people viewing the DVD.

Thank you to our members and friends who share so freely with your time, money and talents.

Rev. Dr. Ed Morgan, Director of Church Operations





Christian Education

It is hard to believe that Advent is now upon us! Christmas is almost here and, for most of us, it is a busy and rushed time. We often focus so much on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and it is easy to forget that Advent is a journey of anticipation and expectation of the hope of Jesus' birth and second coming. There are great resources for individuals and families who wish to take some time to keep the season in focus. Several years ago my family spent the month making felt ornaments based on the "Jesse Tree", a biblical timeline of the stories that lead to Jesus' birth. If you are a "crafty person", this is a great way to recall Old Testament stories and see the path that God took to set the world right for Jesus in His time. Each ornament showed a snapshot of the featured story for that day. I used the book "Advent Stories and Activities: Meeting Jesus Through the Jesse Tree" by Anne Neuberger. There are also great Jesse tree quilt ideas and devotional books available on-line or in stores. Here is a list of verses that correspond to the Jesse tree that I found online at themommymess.com.

Jesse Tree Bible Verses and ornament idea list:

- Nov. 30 – Creation/earth (Genesis 1:24-31)
- Dec. 1 – Adam and Eve/apple (Genesis 3:1-21)
- Dec. 2 – Noah's Ark/rainbow (Genesis 6:5-8)
- Dec. 3 – Abram/tent (Genesis 12:1-7)
- Dec. 4 – The birth of Isaac/cradle (Genesis 21:1-7)
- Dec. 5 – Abraham tested/ram (Genesis 22:1-14)
- Dec. 6 – Jacob's Dream/ladder (Genesis 28:10-22)
- Dec. 7 – Joseph/coat of many colors (Genesis 37:31-33, 50:15-20)
- Dec. 8 – Moses/tables (Deuteronomy 5:1-22)
- Dec. 9 – Ruth/wheat (Ruth 1-4 & Matthew 1:5)
- Dec. 10 – Rahab/red rope (Joshua 2:1-21)
- Dec. 11 – David anointed/horn of oil (1 Samuel 16:1-13)
- Dec. 12 – King David/crown (2 Samuel 5:1-5)
- Dec. 13 – Isaiah's Prophecy/sun (Isaiah 9:2-7)
- Dec. 14 – Elijah/fire (1 Kings 18:17-39)
- Dec. 15 – The Branch/stump and branch (Isaiah 1:1-9)
- Dec. 16 – Jonah/whale (Jonah 3)
- Dec. 17 – Bethlehem/city (Micah 5:2-5)
- Dec. 18 – Esther/scepter (Esther 4)
- Dec. 19 – Daniel/lion (Daniel 6:1-23)
- Dec. 20 – Zechariah and Elizabeth/people (Luke 1:5-25)
- Dec. 21 – John the Baptist/shell
- Dec. 22 – Mary/heart (Luke 1:26-38)
- Dec. 23 – Joseph/carpenter's tools (Matthew 1:18-25)
- Dec. 24 – the shepherds/shepherd's hook or sandals (Luke 2:6-21)
- Dec. 25 – Jesus/Star (Luke 2:6-21)

Advent activities are also a great way to share love and joy with others during the Christmas Season. Here are some great suggestions from a blog I stumbled upon:

1. Act out the Nativity & read the Christmas story
2. Make homemade hot chocolate
3. Christmas movies & popcorn
4. Make & decorate sugar cookies
5. Go Christmas shopping as a family
6. Drive to see Christmas lights
7. Go ice skating
8. Have snowman pancakes for dinner!
9. Make paper snowflakes & hang in windows
10. Write letters to Santa
11. Deliver treats to neighbors & friends



12. Make & decorate gingerbread houses
13. Invite friends over for a Christmas sing-a-long!
14. Baking Day!
15. Visit Santa
16. Deliver treats to local fire stations
17. See the Nutcracker ballet
18. Go for a winter walk
19. Stuff & stamp Christmas cards
20. Gather friends to go Christmas caroling at a local nursing home
21. Make Christmas crafts
22. Make a snowman (inside OR outside!)
23. Family Game Night!
24. Make reindeer food!
25. Secret Santa night
26. Attend a Christmas concert, play, or performance
27. Decorate Christmas tree
28. Go to library and check out Christmas books
29. Attend a Christmas party
30. Make handmade ornaments

This year, I encourage everyone to find ways to point you forward to Christ's coming. In the busy-ness of life, let's be intentional about stopping to notice what the birth of Jesus means for us today.

ideas from <http://simplykierste.com/2014/11/25-days-of-family-christmas-activities.html>

Kids Club and Sunday School

Starting right after Thanksgiving, both Sunday school and Kids Club will focus on preparing for the Children's Christmas Pageant. The children will lead the worship service on December 18th with a traditional retelling of the story of Jesus' birth. Individual parts have been assigned, scripts have been mailed, and practices are underway! We will rehearse lines, learn the carols, and block the pageant during both Kids Club and Sunday school, so plan to continue coming to both! There may be a short Saturday rehearsal on December 17th at 9:00am in order to do a final run-through before Sunday worship. Kids Club will not meet December 21st and 28th, and will resume on January 4th at 3:30pm. Sunday school classes will not meet on Sunday, December 25th or January 1st, and will resume on January 8th.

Youth Group

Christmas is coming! For Senior High Youth, that means caroling at the Village Co-op, and getting to

participate in the 2nd annual "Blessing Scavenger Hunt". Senior Highers will share Christmas carols with residents of the Village Co-op on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7pm. Plan to meet at the church building at 6:30pm to ride to the co-op. After caroling, we'll enjoy Christmas treats with the co-op residents. The "Blessing Scavenger Hunt" will be on Wednesday, December 14, at 7:30pm. Before leaving the church building, we'll develop a random list of qualities or characteristics to search for in a person, such as wearing a knit hat, pushing a cart with paper towels in it, walking with more than one child. Next, we'll head to a store in town and look for the person who best represents the person we've described. When we find that person, we introduce ourselves as members of the Federated Church youth group, and present them with a gift card for the holidays. Last year we had such a great time sharing in the holiday spirit—we wanted to make sure to do it again!

There will be no youth group on Wednesday, Dec. 21st and Wednesday, Dec. 28th. Youth Group will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 4th. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!

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 October, we were able to help **three** families or individuals with a total of **\$225**, used for food, household goods, rent or utilities. So far in November, we have helped **five** families or individuals with **\$280** towards food, household goods, rent or utilities.



Parish Nursing Notes

Connie Seltz
Parish Nurse Coordinator

As I write this we are enjoying record-making warm fall temperatures; however we all know that winter is coming and Minnesota winters can be very cold! Staying safe inside and outside in cold weather is a must, especially for older people. Losing body heat can happen quickly and can be dangerous when body temperature drops to about 95 degrees—that's a condition called hypothermia. Here are some tips about staying warm inside:

1. Set your heat at 68 degrees or

higher. To save on heating bills, close off rooms you are not using.
2. Wear "long johns" under your clothes and pajamas.
3. Wear a cap or a hat
4. If you live alone, ask a family member or friend to check on you during cold weather.
5. If you need energy assistance call 1-218-739-3011 or stop in to the MAHUBE-OTWA Office located in the strip mall behind The Federated Church (near Ben Franklin).
And some tips for staying active and

being outside in cold weather:
1. Avoid going outside in very windy weather as a high wind can quickly lower body temperature.
2. Wear loose layers of clothing. Wear gloves, hats, scarves, and warm footwear.
3. Pack a survival kit for your car and keep it within reach.
Signs of hypothermia include cold feet and hands, puffy or swollen face, pale skin, slower than normal speech, acting sleepy, or being angry or confused.





Committees

Caring Ministry & Outreach

CONNIE SELTZ

The committee was delighted to visit the Veteran's Home to present each of our members with a bag of gifts to thank them for their service to our nation. The bag contained the new Federated t-shirts, tissues, lotion, a bag of chocolates, and a devotion booklet. We honor you and ALL those who have served. Thank you!

Stewardship

JIM WORNER AND JOHN MACFARLANE

The stewardship committee thanks all who responded to this year's campaign. While we cannot provide a total dollar amount, we can note that we are well on our way to a good year for Federated Church. If you are one of a very few who have yet to return your pledge card, we would appreciate having you do it as soon as possible, since the budget committee will use our total to plan next year.

Thank you,
Jim Worner, Stewardship Co-Chair

Multigenerational Learning and Fellowship

KAREN ANDERSON

We have had three events to create intergenerational fellowship this fall, and all have been a success! Paul Shol's inspiring talk during fellowship hour drew a great crowd, and everyone was deeply blessed to hear about his challenging trip across the country this summer. Cheryl and Terry Harrington's dance classes on Friday nights have been well-attended, and there is already talk of doing a youth class this spring! The Operation Christmas Child packing party brought all generations together for a holiday-themed common cause, and together we sent MANY Christmas gifts to children around the world!

Looking ahead to January 21st, we are planning a new event, a "Lock-Box Game Night". What is a lock box game night, you may ask? Lock Boxes are used in the schools and other activity-based settings to foster cooperative learning and teamwork toward an end goal. Teams will be given tasks to accomplish in order to make it to the next step in the game, literally opening the next "lock" in the game, with the first team to finish the winner. We are hoping to have multigenerational teams with people of all ages working together to complete the games. There will be a supper beforehand and fellowship time after the game. More details

to come. We look forward to having a wide range of people together to participate in this new event!

A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to everyone who helped in anyway with Operation Christmas Child on Nov. 9th! Whether you made or served food, brought toys to share, provided boxes, filled or wrapped presents, helped with shipping costs, cleaned up the fellowship hall and kitchen, labelled and delivered boxes - whatever way you helped, THANK YOU! We were part of a greater-than-ourselves group of people not only from Fergus Falls, but all over the country, who helped make Christmas special for kids around the world! We may even be able to find out WHERE our boxes have been sent! We will let you know when we find out! Merry Christmas, everyone!

Fellowship

KATHY GILBERT

The **pie social** on Oct. 16 was a great success! Over 20 pies were donated and around 150 people enjoyed the pie and ice cream. The **social dancing classes** were so much fun for everyone who participated. We had new couples each week and reached out to some who were not members also. Even singles were made to feel comfortable and everyone learned in a fun environment. Thank you to Terry and Cheryl Harrington! If you missed out, rumor has it that we may do it again in April! Watch for further information. Some of the events planned for 2017 include **Ice fishing** on Jan 7 (see below); **Souper Bowl Sunday** soup lunch on Feb. 5 (free will offering will go to the local mission fund); **Birthday Sunday** on Feb 19, and a **pancake breakfast fundraiser** for the softball team on March 12. More events are in the planning stages, so stay tuned!!!

Federated Ice Fishing Day-trip

Saturday, January 7th - all day!

Ottertail Lake
\$25 per fisherman
Contact Dennis Bowman
998-0717
dbowman@fergusotters.org
fish houses supplied by
Meister Guide Service

3rd Annual!





Business as usual

Service Groups

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

JANUARY SERVICE GROUP GROUP #4

Wes and Lori Beske
 Wes and Phyllis Binner
 Carol Bischof
 Jona Brown
 Nic and Sammy Ebert
 John and Kim Erickson
 Bob and Barb Flom
 Kathy Gilbert
 Fred & Linda Harthen
 James and Rebecca Michael
 Vern and Deb Tabbut
 Steve and Carri Thompson
 Del and Kathy Zimmerman

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

DECEMBER 2016

Sunday, December 4

9am Terry & Abby Harthun
 11am Wally & Mary Moe

Sunday, December 11

9am Gary & Jan Nelson
 11am Skip & Char Zielin

Sunday, December 18

10am Rick & Kitt Schara
 James & Amy Underdahl

Sunday, December 25

10am Clyde & Beth Schlepp
 Bob Stout

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: December 13

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	\$26,430
Expenditures	\$30,766
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$297,318
Actual Received	\$307,551

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS FOR OCTOBER

Sunmart	
October	\$1,086.00
Total as of 11/5/16	\$61,329.45
Service Food	
October	\$2,761.11

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.

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





Federated CHURCH

224 North Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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FERGUS FALLS, MN
PERMIT #285

**Time sensitive information
Please deliver by November 30.**

Condolences

Sheila Rodning on the death of her mother, Maxine.

Alfred Anderson on the death of his step-son, Jerry Swenson.

Bob Hansen and family and friends on the death of Laurie.

"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!

Kevin & Stephanie Schmidt on the birth of their daughter, Hattie, on November 8th.



Grant & Mariah Davenport on the birth of their daughter, Addison, born on November 2nd.

Happy Birthday!

Paul Richter celebrated his 90th birthday on November 5th!

December Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 12/01 Shannon Wilson | 12/21 Mara Braaten |
| 12/02 Marsden Brimhall | 12/22 Lori Beske |
| 12/03 Dale Larson | 12/23 Jean Giles |
| 12/03 Patty Shol | 12/23 Marianne Murphy |
| 12/05 Aaron Link | 12/24 Phil Link |
| 12/05 Kason Sytsma | 12/24 Ronnie Becker |
| 12/10 Tami Anderson | 12/24 Iyla Iverson |
| 12/14 Beverly Bach | 12/26 Ron Henely |
| 12/15 Annie Murphy | 12/28 Amber Underdahl |
| 12/17 Cris Styve | 12/28 Courtney Meder |
| 12/17 Rebecca Thanel | 12/29 Wendy Leidal |
| 12/17 Riley Peterson | 12/29 Molly Stoddard |
| 12/18 Karen Johnson | 12/29 Jonathan Collins |
| 12/18 Syler Steinbrenner | 12/29 Jonathan Dent |
| 12/19 James Worner | 12/29 Jacob Hatling |
| 12/19 Perry Werner | 12/30 Myron Lenning |
| 12/20 Carol Hoivik | 12/30 Mary Olson |
| 12/21 Amy Donoho | 12/30 Daniel Anderson |
| 12/21 Jacob Gustafson | 12/30 Camen Andrews |
| 12/21 Jessica Steinbrenner | |

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

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