

# The Union Avenue News

[www.federatedff.org](http://www.federatedff.org)

[church@federatedff.org](mailto:church@federatedff.org)

February 2014

## **Vibrant Faith Ministries Training February 8th-9th—at The Federated Church**



Rev. Dr. David W. Anderson—Presenter, Coach  
and Author for Vibrant Faith Ministries

We are excited to announce that we are partnering with Vibrant Faith Ministries to tailor our Christian education opportunities to better suit the needs of the church and the world we live in. David Anderson will come Saturday, February 8th to hold an all-day session and will speak to the whole congregation on Sunday, February 9th about Vibrant Faith. If you are interested in coming to the Saturday session, please RSVP by emailing or calling the church office. We encourage everyone to participate and take this journey with us! If you have any questions about Vibrant Faith, or about the upcoming training sessions, feel free to peruse their website ([www.vibrantfaith.org](http://www.vibrantfaith.org)) or give Doug Snaza a call at church during office hours.



**What:** Vibrant Faith Ministries Seminar/Training

**Where:** The Federated Church

**When:** Saturday, Feb. 8th – 9-3pm and Sunday, Feb. 9th – 9AM & 11AM Worship gatherings;

9:45AM—Intergenerational Sunday School class

**Cost:** FREE! Saturday session includes lunch.

**RSVP for Saturday session:** [church@federatedff.org](mailto:church@federatedff.org) or 739-3227

We are a **catalyst** for Christian congregations, communities and households striving to practice a vibrant faith in a **dynamic** world.

From [www.vibrantfaith.org](http://www.vibrantfaith.org)

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #285  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Time Sensitive  
Information  
Please deliver by  
January 31st

#### Worship Schedule

9:00am Contemporary Worship  
9:45am Education Hour  
10:00am Fellowship  
11:00am Traditional Worship

*Nursery available from 8:45am-11:00pm*

#### 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.

#### Wednesday Weekly Meetings

3:30pm Kids Club  
4:00pm 7th/8th Grade Confirmation  
5:30pm Dinner  
6:00pm Handbells  
6:30pm 9th Grade Confirmation  
7:30pm Choir Rehearsal  
7:30pm Youth Group  
8:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal

#### 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

**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...*



*It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)*

In ancient Rome there lived a man named Valentine. He was a kind-hearted physician who practiced medicine out of a small room in his home. One might even describe him as “a gastronomical physician” because of his purported love of food and cookery. “Dr.” Valentine always made a special effort to offer his patients medicines that tasted delicious. He would take care to mix bitter tasting medicines with wine, milk or honey to make them more palatable for the sick and injured. He cleansed wounds with wine vinegar and would use freshly ground herbs and roots to relieve pain.

Faith was also a significant part of Valentine’s life, and although Christianity was not popular at that time (many were persecuted for their faith in Jesus) Valentine became a Christian priest and would lead others in prayer. Often he would pray for the health of his patients.

One day a jailer for the Emperor knocked on Valentine’s door clutching his blind daughter in his arms. He had learned of Valentine’s medical and spiritual healing abilities and he appealed to Valentine to treat his daughter’s blindness. Valentine knew that the girl’s condition would be difficult to treat, but he gave the man his word he would do his best. Valentine examined the little girl, gave her ointment for her eyes, and scheduled a series of subsequent visits. Several weeks passed and the girl’s sight was not restored; yet the jailer and his daughter never wavered in their faith and returned each week for their visits with Valentine.

Then one day, Valentine received a visit from Roman soldiers who arrested him, destroyed his medicines, and admonished him for his religious views. When the little girl’s father learned of Valentine’s arrest, he wanted to intervene, but there was nothing he could do. Valentine understood. Knowing that his execution was imminent, Valentine asked the jailer for paper, pen and ink. He quickly jotted a farewell note and handed it to the jailer to give to his daughter. Valentine was executed later that day – February 14, 270 AD – by order of the Emperor Claudius II Gothicus.

When the jailer went home, his daughter greeted him at the door. She opened the note from Valentine and discovered a yellow crocus inside. The message said, “From your Valentine.” As the little girl looked down upon the crocus she saw brilliant colors for the first time in her life! The girl’s eyesight was restored.

In 496, Pope Gelasius I named February 14<sup>th</sup> as Saint Valentine’s Day. In modern times, we show our love and affection on Valentine’s Day by sending cards, flowers and special messages to our sweethearts. Crocuses, the flower of St. Valentine, herald the arrival of spring by gracing our gardens and homes with their beautiful color.

This is one of the many legends surrounding the life and death of Valentine. Undoubtedly there is some truth to parts of this story; just as surely, other parts have been embellished through time and telling. But at the heart of the story is love – the love of Valentine for his patients, the love of a father and daughter, the love of God for us made manifest in the person of Jesus Christ who inspired Valentine to great acts of charity.

Like St. Valentine, we show our love for God and all God has done for us through Christ Jesus, by living out our faith. When we show kindness to others, we recognize God’s kindness to us. When we help one another, we celebrate God’s help when we were unable to help ourselves. When we love one another, we emulate God’s love for us in Jesus.

You are God’s Valentine, for God loves you better than anyone else can.  
Enjoy this Valentine’s Day secure in the knowledge that you are a beloved child of God.

Pastor Doug

## Benefit for Baby Aubree Jo Sortland

Aubree Jo is the daughter of Ashley Lien and Scott Sortland. She was born 15 weeks early weighing only 1lb 11oz. She was in the neonatal intensive care unit where she fought for her life while suffering from a brain bleed and several infections. She spent 103 days there before coming home where she stays busy with her doctors, nurses, and therapists. She recently had surgery on her hip and has most of her body in a cast for the next few months. There will be a benefit to help cover the mounting medical bills, cost of medical care, and the travel expenses. Ashley is the daughter of Dennis & Hiedi Lien and the granddaughter of Gary & Nancy Newborg and Ken & Ruth Anderson



Aubree Jo Sortland

Date: February 17, 2014

Time: 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Location: VFW ~420 E. Washington Ave Fergus Falls, MN 56537

There is a fund set up at Bell State Bank & Trust in Aubree Jo Sortland's name.

## New Member Bio

Ingrid Morgan

I was born and raised in Berlin, Germany and still have a brother living there. Ed and I met at a Bible study in Frankfurt/Main in 1969 while he was in the service. It was at that Bible Study that I first heard about the possibility of having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I had been baptized as a baby and gone to church pretty much all my life, but this was new to me. I made a commitment to Christ and my life has never been the same since. I am very grateful for the wonderful experiences I have had in the course of my life because of how God has been leading us.

We have two wonderful children, Kristina and Thomas, who grew up here in Fergus Falls at Federated Church. Kristina is married to Andrew and they have two sons, Isaak (13) and Sam (9). Thomas just got married to April, and she has two sons, Joshua (13) and Ethan (12). We feel very blessed with our family.

We are very happy to be back here in Fergus Falls and able to attend Federated Church again.



## Worship at The Federated Church

February 2, 2014 9AM and 11AM	"#4 - Pray!" Red Sea Rules – a sermon series on Exodus 13-14 Commissioning of House of Hope Mission team (9AM) Celebration of the Lord's Supper (9AM and 11AM) Installation & Ordination of New Officers (11AM)	The Rev. Douglas Dent
February 9, 2014 9AM and 11AM	"Vibrant Faith Ministries"	David Anderson
February 16, 2014 9AM and 11AM	"Choose Life" Deut. 30:11-13 and John 1:10-18	The Rev. Ed Morgan
February 23, 2014 9AM and 11AM	"#5 - Give God Time to Work" Red Sea Rules – a sermon series on Exodus 13-14	The Rev. Douglas Dent
March 2, 2014 9AM and 11AM Confirmation Sunday	Celebration of the Lord's Supper (9AM and 11AM)	The Rev. Douglas Dent
March 9, 2014 9AM and 11AM	"#6 - When Unsure, Step By Faith" Red Sea Rules – a sermon series on Exodus 13-14	The Rev. Douglas Dent
March 16, 2014 9AM and 11AM	"#7 - Envision God's Presence" Red Sea Rules – a sermon series on Exodus 13-14	The Rev. Douglas Dent
March 23, 2014 9AM and 11AM	"#8 - Trust God to Deliver" Red Sea Rules – a sermon series on Exodus 13-14	The Rev. Douglas Dent
March 30, 2014 9AM and 11AM	"#9 - This Crisis Will Build Faith" Red Sea Rules – a sermon series on Exodus 13-14	The Rev. Douglas Dent

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### 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.





# S E R V I C E

## February Service Group (Group #9)

Dale Anderson  
Mark and Lisa Becker  
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  
Perrie and Lucille Sheldon  
David and Molly Stoddard  
Beth Strom  
Matyas Sundheim  
Gail Welle  
Jim and Arlene Worner

## March Service Group (Group #10)

Brian and Stacy Beck  
Kym Christiansen  
Delores Duncan  
Doris Enderson  
Dominic Facio  
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 February 2014

### Sunday, February 2nd

9AM—Gail Welle

11AM—Jim & Arlene Worner

### Sunday, February 9th

9AM—Ben & Tessa Schierer

11AM—Dale Anderson and  
Matyas Sundheim

### Sunday, February 16th

9AM—David & Molly Stoddard

11AM—Mark & Lisa Becker

### Sunday, February 23rd

9AM—Wayne & Patti Link

11AM—Chuck & Linda MacFarlane

**\*\*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.**

## Congratulations to...

- ▶ Zach and Dana Eifert on the birth of Jameson Joshua on Jan. 13th. Proud grandparents are Clyde and Beth Schlepp.



## Thank you to...

- ☺ Dennis Bergerud and Skip Zielin for snow removal and general maintenance around the church. We are grateful for their help!
- ☺ All the volunteers who help with the monthly newsletters and their extra help during the holiday season folding additional programs.

## February Birthdays



02/01 Ella Childs  
02/02 Robin Andrews  
02/03 Donna Hendel  
02/03 Karen Orcutt  
02/03 Jona Brown Stout  
02/03 Robert Stout  
02/04 Norma Loomer  
02/04 Anna Sundheim  
02/05 Olivia Jensen  
02/06 Joanne Lenning  
02/06 Jim Knapp  
02/08 Patty Lindholm

02/09 Lee Syverson  
02/10 Kurt Johnson  
02/10 Andrew Link  
02/11 Kitt Schara  
02/12 Greg Truax  
02/12 Alicia Paulzine  
02/14 Perrie Sheldon  
02/14 Douglas Dent  
02/16 Brennan Olson  
02/16 Tanya Westra  
02/18 Carol Bopp

02/19 LoveEll Hultin  
02/19 Marjan Schuetze  
02/20 Shana Johnson  
02/21 Barb Flom  
02/22 Bruce Bopp  
02/22 William Johnson  
02/25 Marsha Sperling  
02/27 Benjamin Schierer  
02/27 William Nuss  
02/28 Gary Nelson  
02/28 Mark Thompson

*We apologize if we missed your birthday! Please email your birthday information to [church@federatedff.org](mailto:church@federatedff.org)!*

## Worship Team—*Roxane Nereson*

Come and enjoy the music of the Hillcrest Choir! They will be singing at the 9am service on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014, and we will begin this season of study and introspection with worship at 7PM, including the imposition of ashes.

Our Wednesday Lenten services (5:30 PM) and suppers (6PM) begin on March 12, 2014 and run for five consecutive Wednesdays. Come and hear your friends share their faith stories, and join us for a hearty and delicious supper provided by our Men's Club.



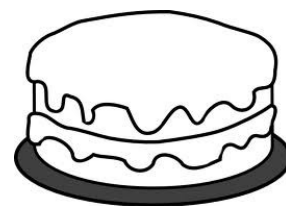
## Youth – *Doug Snaza*

The youth just returned from a cold weekend at Snow Camp at Clearwater Forest! We had a lot of fun and played in the snow as much as we dared! Thanks to Elizabeth Hatling for chaperoning and mentoring the youth, and Ross and Marianne Stone for lending their large vehicle to navigate the ground blizzards!



## House of Hope Youth Trip 2014

The annual cake auction is coming up! On March 9<sup>th</sup>, there will be cake! Join us at 10AM in the fellowship hall to bid on cakes and help support the youth going to Guatemala in December!



## Kids Club

Kids Club will run through February 26<sup>th</sup>. We still need help with dinners for the last 3 weeks of Kids Club. If you are willing to help please let the office know. Dinners are served at 5:30 for about 20 people.

## Confirmation

**Pastors Doug Dent & Karen Anderson-Dent**

Sunday, March 2, 2014 is Confirmation Sunday (11AM). Please pray for our confirmands – Dan Anderson, Jaden Brown, Janie Lee, Abby MacFarlane, Paige Westra, and Amanda Woessner - as they complete their course of study and embark on this new phase of their faith journey.



**Confirmation**

## Stewardship Report *Gary Nelson and Greg Truax*

**General Fund Report—December**  
Revenue—\$50,287  
Expenditures—\$47,128

**Year to Date Pledge Offering**  
Budgeted — \$307,618  
Actual received—\$294,400

**2014 Pledge Drive**  
Status as of  
January 15, 2014 -  
\$290,418



Amounts are listed for the receipts brought into church from November through December of 2013. Thank you for bringing in the receipts.

-Kathy Zimmerman

SunMart: \$3,952.42  
Service Food: \$13,527.73

### 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 (which is not always so light!). Each spring, members of the bible study choose the topics, then Pastor Doug spends time researching and preparing. There are brochures available in the narthex and in the hallway outside the church office with more information on each topic. Here is the lineup for 2014:

February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	The Declaration of Independence
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Job
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Who is the Antichrist?
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Is Torture Ever Justified?



### Sunday Morning Bible Study - Pastor Doug Dent

#### *An Acceptable Feast: A Lenten Study*

February 9-March 16, 2014  
(6 weeks)

Old Testament scholar and teacher Patricia Tull begins each session by exploring a key Lenten theme: gratitude, taking the long view, choosing well, accepting responsibility, welcoming the future, and trusting God in times of conflict. Each session ends with a meditation on how the text speaks to our modern situation.



#### *Gospel in life: Grace Changes Everything*

March 23 – May 18, 2014

(8 weeks – no class Easter Sunday)

This is a course on the gospel and how it is lived out in all of life—first in your heart, then in your community, and then out into the world. The course opens with the theme of city (your current home, the world) and closes the course with the theme of eternal city (your heavenly home, the world that is to come). In between, it addresses how the gospel changes your heart, changes your community, and changes how you live in the world.

### Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 9:30AM. We will be using a Women of Faith study *A Time for Everything – Discovering the Beautiful Rhythms of Life*. We will meet every Thursday, except the 2nd Thursday of each month (Christian Women's Club meeting). Contact Anne Worner at 736-6082 for more information.



### Men's Bible Study

Men of the church! Join us Mondays at noon for prayer and bible study in the church parlor. Currently we are studying "God's Reluctant Leaders" by focusing on the stories of Jonah, Gideon, and Moses. Later this spring we will study Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. All men are welcome.



### Ministry Nitel

February 11th 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.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Fellowship Committee



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### Birthday Cake Sunday

Celebrate your birthday with Federated friends February 16th during fellowship hour. Sit at the table with your birthday month, and watch the parade of cakes. Then, enjoy a piece of cake with others born the same month as you. After you have had one piece of cake move to another table to enjoy more cake and fellowship.

### February Friday Fun Nights!

Come join the fun crowd as we get together every Friday in February from 7:00 to 9:00PM for board games galore at Federated! Bring your favorite game(s) and snacks to share! February Fun Nights are sponsored by the *Federated Church Fellowship Committee*.

For the kick off for the Friday Fun Nights we will be having a "Soup Sampler" Potluck Friday, Feb. 7 at 6:00 PM. Bring a crock pot of soup to share and the Fellowship Committee will supply the rest. Come just for the meal or come to eat and stay and play games.

Questions? Call chairperson Dennis Bowman @ 998-0717 for details.



### Federated Church Bridge Club



#### Do you play bridge? Great!

The Federated Church Fellowship Committee is forming a new week-day afternoon bridge club, and we're looking for bridge players.

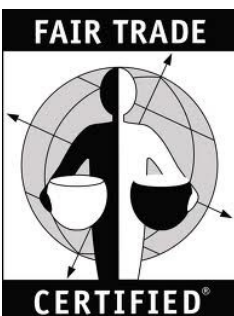
If you are interested in being part of this exciting new Federated Church activity, please contact Dennis Bowman @ 218-998-0717.



www.Visionline.com - 1/2007

### Cabin Fever Reliever

Come join us for an afternoon of cross-country skiing at Spidahl's Ski Gaard. We'll gather in the fellowship hall after the 11AM service on February 23<sup>rd</sup> for a potluck lunch. Bring a side dish or dessert to share; the Fellowship Committee will provide sloppy joes. After lunch, we'll drive out to Spidahl's for cross-country skiing. Cost of equipment rental is \$6 +tax for those over 12; free for 12 and under. Trail fee is \$6 +tax for those over 12; \$5 +tax for 12 and under. We need to give Spidahl's an estimate of how many people are coming, so please sign up on the sign-up sheets located on bulletin boards around the church. Feel free to invite and sign up friends to join us!



Sale on expired Fair Trade goods downstairs in the fellowship hall during coffee hour – tea, olive oil and coffee. Free-will donation.



The Relay for Life team will be holding a rummage and bake sale on Saturday, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> from 8am – 1pm at The Federated Church. Come shop and support a good cause!

## Parish Nursing Notes

*Connie Seltz, Parish Nurse Coordinator*

### COMING SOON: ADDITIONAL "RESERVED" PARKING SPACES.

We will continue to have the one "Handicapped Parking Only" sign which requires the medically authorized signage. We will increase the "Reserved for Physically Impaired" signs from two spaces to four spaces! Special requests have alerted us to the need to do this. For those who are able, this is a reminder that parking is available in the Good Year lot just south of the church building.

Community Parish Nurses started meeting again in January. Joann Gunderesen and Sandy Edwards, Bethel Parish Nurses, hosted the meeting. I attended along with Trudy Hershner from Grace Methodist, Pat Crawford from Trinity Lutheran, and Peggy Lien from Our Savior's in Dalton. For several reasons, we had not met last year, but now are back on track to meet quarterly. This has been a valuable resource in the past, so I look forward to continuing.

If you are interested in or in need of a support group, check the Parish Nursing bulletin board for a list of those groups that have regular meeting schedules.



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### House of Hope Mission Trip—February 2014



The eleven members of the 2014 House of Hope Mission trip will leave on Saturday, February 15 and return one week later. As they travel to Guatemala, please pray for safe journeys, good health, and God's blessing on all with whom they fellowship. The 2014 team: Tonya Anderson, Doug Dent, Cindy Holte, Molly King, Ben Schierer, Doug Snaza, Gene Wells, Jan Wells, Hayden Westra, Jill Winkels, and Char Zielin.

Quarterly giving statements are available in the Narthex on Sundays or the office during the week. Please pick up your statement the next time you're at the church building.

### Housing Help



Two students from St. Cloud, MN will be doing an internship at Lake Region Healthcare this spring. If anyone has a room for rent or knows of housing for rent for these two single female students April – June, 2014, please contact Ingrid Morgan at 218-998-2629.

The Federated Church Salad Luncheon  
&  
Baked Goods Sale  
**Grandma's Cookie Jar**  
Tuesday April 8th, 2014 \*\*\* 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
\$6.00 per person

We will be meeting on Thursday, February 6th at 11 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. EVERYONE is welcome to come and help plan this Federated church event. It is a fun time!!

If you would like to donate a salad, please contact Jan Nelson—736-7324 or Arlene Worner—739-9467.

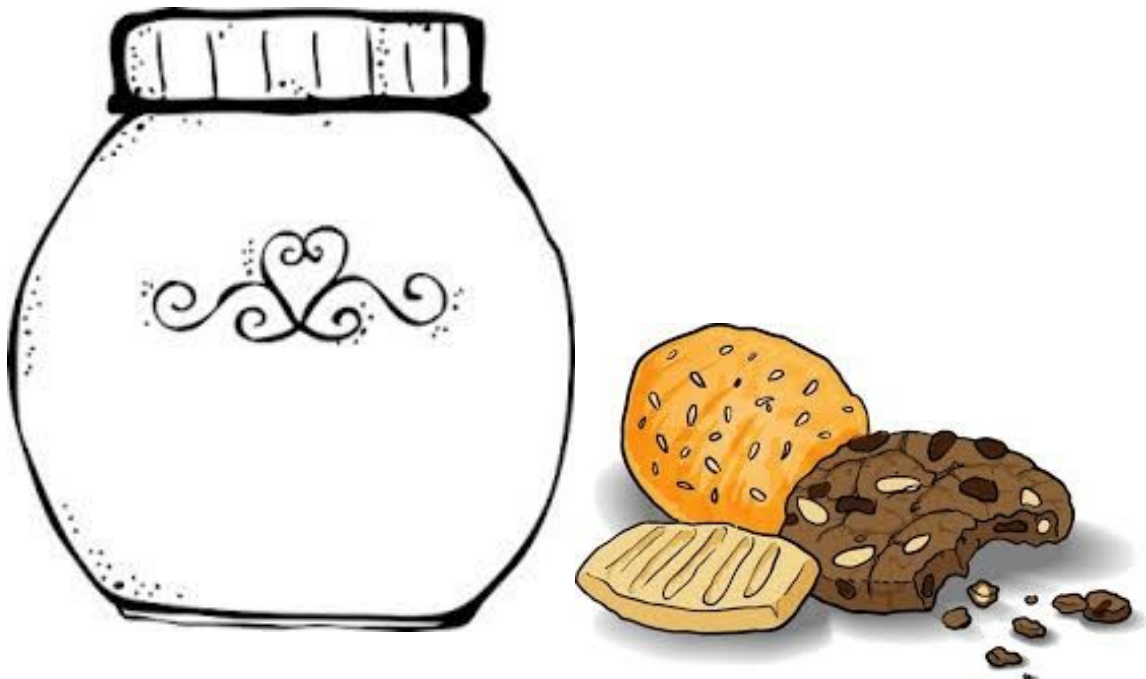
If you would like to make rolls or donate bread, contact Bonnie Bergerud—736-5723.

If you have any questions regarding donating items for the baked goods sale please contact Carol or Deb Rose—739-9582.

Decorations this year: Cookie Jars! If you have any cookie jars, we would love to use them for decorations.

If you have a cookie jar you would like to share, want to help or have questions, please call Janet Knapp— 736-5711.

Let's again make this a fun and special event for the Federated Church.



## Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The annual meeting of the congregation began with lunch provided by the Deacons and Elders. With 57 people present, Pastor Doug Dent called the meeting to order with prayer at 12:30 PM. As well as conducting the business of the congregation – reviewing the budget and pastor's compensation, electing officers and committee members, appointing a nominating committee – the congregation also thanked Pam Phillips (Clerk of Session) and Kathy Truax (Treasurer) for their efforts on behalf of the congregation in 2013. The Personnel Committee recognized the staff for its contributions to the church's ministries in 2013. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

**Hard copies of the annual report and 2014 budget will be available in the church office until the end of February.**

## Deacons & Elders

At their meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2014, the Deacons and Elders:

- Adopted the 2014 budget;
- Appointed Pam Phillips as Clerk of Session for 2014;
- Welcomed Ingrid Morgan into membership (again!);
- Allocated the \$1,000 from SunMart receipts to the Local Mission Fund;
- Invited Designated Executive Presbyterian Rick Carus to worship at The Federated Church on Sunday, February 2, 2014;
- Rescheduled the February and April D&E meetings to Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>;
- Appointed Elder Connie Seltz as our voting commissioner to the Presbytery of MN Valleys meeting on Saturday February 1, 2014 in Renville, MN;
- Designated the Christmas Eve offering to the House of Hope (Guatemala) food ministry;
- Approved the commissioning of the House of Hope Team on Sunday, February 2, 2014 (11AM);
- Approved the duplication and distribution of the 2013 annual report to the congregation



### ***New Chairperson Training***

Training New Chairpersons will be on **Tuesday, February 11, 2014** at 6PM in the fellowship hall (30 minutes prior to Ministry Nite).

### ***New Officer Ordination & Installation***

New Officer Ordination & Installation will be on **Sunday, February 2, 2014** at the 11AM worship service.