

# The Union Avenue News

www.federatedff.org

church@federatedff.org

February 2016

## FEDERATED FAMILY FUN NIGHTS!!!



**Every Friday in February!**

**6:30–9:00PM**

**Where:** The Federated Church Fellowship Hall

**February 5:** Board Game “Hodge-Podge”

**February 12:** Card Games

**February 19:** Vintage Board Games

**February 26:** 6:00PM Pizza Feast and Railroad Games

Bring your favorite board game and a treat to share.

Contact Dennis Bowman for more info

998-0717 or [dbowman@fergusotters.org](mailto:dbowman@fergusotters.org)

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**Friday, February 5th**

6:30PM—Family Fun Night  
Board Game Hodge-Podge

**Wednesday, February 10th**

Ash Wednesday  
7PM—Worship

**Friday, February 12th**

6:30PM—Family Fun Night  
Card Games

**Friday, February 12th through  
Saturday, February 20th**

Mission trip to House of Hope in  
Zacapa, Guatemala  
Pastor Doug out of the office

**Wednesday, February 17th**

5:30PM—Lenten Service (Ross Stone)  
6PM—Lenten Dinner

**Friday, February 19th**

6:30PM—Family Fun Night  
Vintage Board Games

**Wednesday, February 24th**

5:30PM—Lenten Service (TBA)  
6PM—Lenten Dinner

**Friday, February 26th**

6PM—Family Fun Night  
Pizza Feast & Railroad Games

**Sunday, February 28th**

Confirmation Sunday  
Worship—10AM  
Cake reception—11AM

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

Non-Profit Organization  
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 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



*"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood."*

John 1:14, *The Message*

I love the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season, but it can often be a blur. I suspect I'm not the only one who thinks so. And now it's a new year. Time to catch our breath and reflect on what's just happened. Time to ask ourselves: how can we as a Christian congregation embody the world-altering truth that God came here to live among us in the flesh? Or, as Eugene Peterson says, Christ "moved into the neighborhood." When we can grasp the enormity of that statement, we can begin to grasp the enormity of the grace extended to us.

God became like us so that we might relate to the whole and holy other, so that we might hear and touch God. God became like us so that we might know that God in the person of Jesus Christ knows what it is like to be here on earth, to grieve the loss of dear friends, to be disappointed in the failing of those nearest us, to be misunderstood, to be rejected, to be laughed at, to know physical pain but also great joy. God became like us so that we may know God more fully.

Our God is a missional God, and our God's mission is to redeem the whole world. This is a BHAG (big, holy, audacious goal!). Christ began fulfilling that mission in the redemption that he showered upon those around him. He began to redeem the world when he cared for the people he met, when he touched them, when he sat down to eat with sinners, when he walked on "the wrong side of the tracks."

As followers of Christ, then, we need to continue to walk in his footsteps. In this new year, we are called to be a missional people. We are called to "move into the neighborhood" and be a witness to the truth of the gospel. During this new year we are called to continue Christ's work of redemption here and now, even as we wait with deep yearning the fullness of redemption when Christ comes again.

As we think deeply about the changes that resulted from Jesus "moving into the neighborhood," may we also hear the challenge to move out in Christ's name into our neighborhoods, sharing the good news, bringing light and life, spreading the joy of God's Kingdom.

We have our own BHAGs to work on this year: revitalizing our worship services, renewing our commitment to feed our neighbors, raising an endowment, refurbishing our facility, restoring relationships, rekindling our spirits, and realigning our lives. It sounds like a lot, but God is already out in our neighborhood doing these things. We simply need to join God and become part of what God is already doing.

Let's commit to being missional this year and joining God out in the neighborhood!

Pastor Doug

### **Newsletter Deadline**

Articles and announcements for the monthly newsletter are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please in electronic form (email) whenever possible. The church staff reserves the right to edit articles and space.



# Christian Education



*Karen Anderson, Interim Director of Christian Education*

The Christian Education committee is bursting with creative energy! At our last meeting, we generated many great ideas. One of the most exciting ones is the upcoming March 2<sup>nd</sup> Lenten service and dinner. Traditionally, the youth groups have provided one of the Lenten meals as a fundraiser for an upcoming mission trip. This year, however, we've decided to use whatever money we might raise at our Lenten dinner toward a mission of our choosing. Based on talks we've had—especially with our confirmands over the years—there is an interest in helping Christians in the Middle East who are experiencing intense persecution. Elizabeth Hatling shared information with us regarding a mission outreach through World Vision that provides supply-filled backpacks to Syrian refugees in refugee camps throughout Europe and the Middle East. It quickly became apparent that we have the opportunity to use this worship service and dinner as a way of not only raising money for the backpacks, but educating our church community about the perils of being a Christian in the Middle East today. Look for more details in the March newsletter, and mark your calendars for the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Lenten service!

## Senior High Youth Group

The new year brings new energy to our senior high youth group! The youth enjoy the faith stories and messages we select each week off of YouTube or other internet sources. Discussions range from how we should live our lives as people of faith to the differences between various world religions. Even when we go “off topic”, it seems that the Spirit leads us where we need to go. After snack and discussion, we have a great time playing various games—psychiatrist, octoball, full-court ping pong, to name a few. It is such a pleasure to spend time laughing and building relationships—in ways that can't be experienced through social media! We have a fun-loving, good-hearted group of young people who genuinely enjoy being together!

This winter season we plan to have game nights—at the church during February and at the Dents in January; at least one lock-in, more bowling, and other fun activities. We also hope to visit the Food Shelf, plan a World Vision Promise Pack backpack assembly, and cook a meal for the Lenten suppers. Dates and times will be posted on Facebook, texted, and shared at the meetings as we are working around other church activities.

## Youth Upcoming Events

### Weekly Schedule

**3:30PM—Kids Club**

**3:30PM—7th/8th Grade Confirmation**

**6:30PM—9th Grade Confirmation**

**7:30PM—Sr. High Youth Group**

**Wed. Feb. 17—** No Kids Club

**Wed. Feb. 24—** No Kids Club

**Sun. Feb. 28—** Confirmation Sunday

## Confirmation

Confirmation Sunday is February 28, 2016. Join us as we worship together (10AM) and celebrate with our newest members: Ella Childs, Lily Sundheim and Rachel Westra. These three young women have been SUCH a joy to work with and walk alongside these past three years! They are all curious and passionate souls who love discussing issues of faith, current events, and how our faith impacts our daily lives. Please congratulate them and pray that they might continue to grow in faith!



# Kids Club

Kids Club began again on January 13<sup>th</sup> and will run through February 10<sup>th</sup>. During this five-week session we will be learning about "Really Bad Days and How God Worked Through Them." The Old Testament is filled with wonderful examples of God's grace and restoration in the lives of those who loved Him, and so we will learn more about Noah, Joseph, Moses, Daniel, and Jonah—men who had horrible days and yet saw God work through them to show God's love. We will see how they learned to obey God, who is in control and has a plan for each of us, and so we can trust God and lean on God's promise of love, forgiveness, and grace.

Our second session of 2016 will begin on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and run through April 13<sup>th</sup>, with the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup> off for Holy Week and Easter. This six-week session, entitled "Where in the World is Jesus?", will look at all the places Jesus appears to His disciples right before and after the resurrection. Each time He interacts with His followers, He teaches us about what we can trust and hope about eternal life.



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

It's February already! Are you thinking about Valentine's Day? One of my Bibles has this suggested activity. Read 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13 with your family, then write down the following words or phrases from the text: kind, patient, not jealous, not rude, doesn't brag, doesn't demand its own way, doesn't get angry quickly, doesn't hold grudges, happy about good things, sad about bad things, loyal, hopeful, trusting. Keep the list handy to be used at dinnertime or bedtime or whenever convenient. Invite each member of the family to tell about a time when he or she acted like the word on the paper or when someone acted that way toward them.

I suggest this exercise because our lives are richer and healthier when we "live" the love behaviors described in the text. May God's Holy Spirit reveal God's love for you in a new and fresh way! Happy Valentine's Day.

## House of Hope

Via con Dios! We leave for Guatemala on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> and return on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Please hold the team in prayer: for safe travels, for good health, and for opportunities to show God's love. Team members: Doug Dent, Lu Echelberger, Cindy Holte, Abby MacFarlane, Pam Phillips, Jordan Schiefert, Paige Westra and Char Zieline.



**HOUSES OF HOPE**  
INTERNATIONAL



## THINGS TO KNOW FROM THE DCO

In the Book of Isaiah, we read of God saying to Isaiah, “Who will go for us?” Isaiah responded, “Here I am, Lord, send me.” Well, I have responded again to this call and said, I will step up to the challenge of performing the duties of the new Director of Church Operations. I am excited about this new opportunity to serve our Lord together through the work of Federated Church. I am also thankful for the opportunity of serving with my good friend, Pastor Doug, for whom I have great respect.

Now, let me get to the work at hand. In addition to working with the Board of Managers to assess the facilities needs of our church, tend to financial management, start work on the development of an endowment fund, work with the stewardship committee, I will also work with all of you to complete a visioning process. Together, we will ask the question, “God who do you want us to be? God what do you want us to do?” This process will be carried out over the next six months. We will be committed to a theology and methodology that places the entire congregation in the center of the visioning process. In the end, we will decide together on four priorities that will focus our ministry for the next five years.

As we start our work together, I ask you to do two things. First, please be in prayer as we all ask those two questions about who God wants us to be and what God wants us to do. Second, pray about how you will fit into this work. We need the participation of everyone in our congregation – both members and friends. God has an exciting future for this congregation. Let’s be open to discovering the future God has for us and how God wants each of us to be involved.

As I figure out when the best times to have regular office hours, I will let you know. You can always reach me on my cell phone – 218-731-8302 or via email [ed.morgan@friendsofpeb.org](mailto:ed.morgan@friendsofpeb.org). If you are really with it, you can text (Even I am getting into this.) Stop by for a visit, call or let’s have coffee sometime.

Partners in Christ’s Ministry,  
Ed

### Mission Opportunities

Check the Mission Opportunity board in the narthex often for a one-stop listing of several service opportunities in the Fergus Falls area. Sign-up sheets or sign-up directions for each opportunity are available in the folders attached to the board. Check out the opportunities, and if one piques your interest, sign your name on the sheet or, if other directions are listed, follow the directions to sign up!

#### Stewardship Report

##### General Fund Report—as of December 30, 2015

Revenue— \$42,561

Expenditures— \$41,353

##### Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted — \$337,045

Actual received—  
\$319,914



**Thank you for your continued generosity with the Local Mission Fund!** There is much need in our community. Funds go out as soon as they come in! Donations can be put in the offering plate with *Local Mission Fund* in the memo line or dropped off in the church office.

#### Local Mission Fund Report

December	As of January 25th
26 families or individuals helped with \$1835.00 towards food, rent or utilities	32 families or individuals helped with \$2242.15 towards food, rent or utilities

# S E R V I C E

## February 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  
Olaf and LaVane Ugstad  
James and Amy Underdahl  
David and Vivan Whipple  
Ruby Whipple  
Skip and Char Zielin

## March Service Group

### Group #4

Wes and Lori Beske  
Wes and Phyllis Binner  
Mark and Carol Bischof  
Jona Brown  
John and Kim Erickson  
Bob and Barb Flom  
Stella Fox  
Kathy Gilbert  
Fred Harthen  
Alan and Valerie Haavig  
Myron and Joanne Lenning  
James and Rebecca Michael  
Vern and Deb Tabbut  
Lois Tassler  
Steve and Carri Thompson  
Del and Kathy Zimmerman

## Greeters and Coffee Hosts

### February 2016

#### Sunday, February 7

9AM— Rick & Kitt Schara

11AM— Skip & Char Zielin

#### Sunday, February 14

9AM— David & Vivian Whipple

11AM— James & Amy Underdahl

#### Sunday, February 21

9AM— Gary & Jan Nelson

11AM— Clyde & Beth Schlepp

#### Sunday, February 28

—Confirmation Sunday

10AM— Terry & Abby Harthun



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

Our Condolences to...

U Kitt Shara and Bruce Bopp on the death of their aunt, Juneal

Thank you...

U Thank you for the cards, the gifts of money, your prayers and your caring with the passing of our son, Bradley. – Ole & LaVane Ugstad



## February Birthdays

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

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  
02/18 Carol Bopp  
02/19 LovEll Hultin

02/19 Marjan Schuetze  
02/20 Shana Johnson  
02/21 Barb Flom  
02/22 Bruce Bopp  
02/22 William Johnson  
02/24 Madilyn Michael  
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!*

## Ministry Nite!

February 9th is Ministry Nite. Committees meet at 6:30PM in the fellowship hall. 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.



# Worship at The Federated Church

<b>February 7, 2016</b> <b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> <b>9 AM and 11 AM</b>	<b>"The Wine Maker"</b> John 2:1-11 Celebration of the Lord's Supper at both services	Pastor Doug Dent
<b>February 10, 2016</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>7 PM</b>	<b>"The Day of the Lord"</b> Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Pastor Doug Dent
<b>February 14, 2016</b> <b>Lent 1</b> <b>9 AM and 11 AM</b>	<b>"Marking Our Milestones"</b> Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Luke 4:1-13	Pastor Ed Morgan
<b>February 21, 2016</b> <b>Lent 2</b> <b>9 AM and 11 AM</b>	<b>"Go Get Your Miracle"</b> John 4:46-54	Pastor Doug Dent
<b>February 28, 2016</b> <b>Confirmation Sunday</b>	TBA	Pastor Karen Anderson



## Wednesday Lenten Services (5:30 PM) and Suppers (6 PM)

<b>February 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Ross Stone	Dinner prepared by Russ Larsen and Dave Whipple
<b>February 24<sup>th</sup></b>	TBA	Dinner prepared by Rick Schara
<b>March 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Prayer Service for Syrian and Other Refugees	Dinner prepared by the Youth
<b>March 9<sup>th</sup></b>	TBA	Dinner prepared by Mark Rodning
<b>March 16<sup>th</sup></b>	TBA	Dinner prepared by John MacFarlane



## Special Sundays

On certain Sundays 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!

<b>February 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Confirmation Sunday	Reception following worship
<b>March 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Palm Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
<b>March 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Easter Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
<b>April 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Senior Brunch	Brunch following worship
<b>May 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Ice cream social	Sundaes following worship

## Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon for one hour. All the men of the congregation are invited. Our current study is "Prophecy Fulfilled: The Prophets and Prophecies Foretelling the Coming of Jesus Christ." It's a fascinating study on the Old Testament prophecies of the Promised Messiah that Jesus realized through his birth, life, death and resurrection. Join us!



## Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets every Thursday at 10:30 AM in the church parlor. The current study, through February 4<sup>th</sup>, is *Aging Faithfully*. Starting on February 11<sup>th</sup>, women will be going through the study *Be Holy*, a Lenten study from Presbyterians Today. All women are welcome!

BIBLE STUDIES

## First Sundays

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

<b>Feb. 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Meet Abraham Lincoln: a look at our greatest President's faith
<b>Mar. 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Does God Demand Blood?
<b>Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Listening for God's Call
<b>May 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Pentecost

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

As a result of our stewardship efforts and the work of the budget committee, we are able to meet the funding goals we set out on Consecration Sunday. Although we feel there are a few pledge cards forthcoming, it appears we have just over a 5% increase from last year's budget, which comes after an increase from the previous year. As a committee, we thank you for your response to our ministry at The Federated Church. If you are one who has yet to pledge, we urge you to send your pledge card to the church office. As a committee, we particularly want to thank Millie Pearson for her leadership and encouragement throughout the year; we also offer a thank you to Jerry Hendel for being our dedicated secretary. The current pledge numbers are in the financial information in the 2016 Annual Report.

Jim Worner, co-chair

# New Member Bios

We welcomed six new members into the Federated faith family on December 13th at the 11AM worship service. Get to know some of those members a bit more below, and the next time you see them, make sure to introduce yourself! Look for more new member bios in future newsletters.

## James & Rebecca Michael

Rebecca writes: I am a Fergus Falls native, and glad to be back in town after 13+ years away. James and I have been married almost a dozen years and have two little girls, Madilyn and Emma. We moved here from Bloomington, MN and enjoyed being members at Oak Grove Presbyterian while we lived there.

I recently signed up for my second half-marathon and also like to read and hunt in my spare time. We are looking forward to being members at the church we were married in! Oh, and I work in the Public Relations department at Otter Tail Power Company.

James writes: I am originally from Billings, MT. I grew up as a member of Pilgrim Congregational Church, I attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, where I met my wife of 12 years (Rebecca). We have lived in Bloomington, MN for the last 12 years. We have 2 daughters, Madilyn (6) and Emma (4). I work as an auditor for Donaldson Co (9 years). I enjoy spending summers at my in-laws' home on Wall Lake and hunting ducks in the fall. I enjoy television and movies, am a big Twins fan, and love cars. I have a 1965 Mustang.



Emma, Maddie, Rebecca and James Michael