

March Worship

MARCH 1 7 p.m. ASH WEDNESDAY

The Lesson of the Locusts *Pastor Doug Dent*
Joel 2
Imposition of Ashes

MARCH 5 9 and 11 a.m. Worship COMMUNION SUNDAY

When Failure IS an Option *Pastor Doug Dent*
Genesis 2 & 3
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

MARCH 8 5:30 p.m. FAITH STORY

Stephanie Hoff
6 p.m. Supper

MARCH 12 9 and 11 a.m. Worship

Abram and Lucy *Pastor Doug Dent*
Genesis 4

MARCH 15 5:30 p.m. FAITH STORY

Tessa Vogel
6 p.m. Supper

MARCH 19 9 and 11 a.m. Worship

Pardons Unlimited *Pastor Doug Dent*
Romans 5

MARCH 22 5:30 p.m. FAITH STORY

Abby MacFarlane & Paige Westra
6 p.m. Supper

MARCH 26 9 and 11 a.m. Worship

Know the No's
Ephesians 5

MARCH 29 5:30 p.m. FAITH STORY

Stacia (Harrington) Sytsma
6 p.m. Supper

Dates to Remember

THURSDAY, MARCH 2
United Way Backpack Program
2:30 p.m., United Way Office

FRIDAY, MARCH 3
Federated Friday at the Food Shelf
12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m., Food Shelf

FRIDAY, MARCH 3 -
SATURDAY, MARCH 4
Winter Camping Trip
4 p.m., depart for Maplewood State Park

SATURDAY, MARCH 11
Don't forget to set your clocks ahead!
Daylight Savings Time begins
2 a.m. Sunday, March 12

SUNDAY, MARCH 12
Softball Pancake Breakfast
& Silent Auction Fundraiser
10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, MARCH 17 -
SATURDAY, MARCH 18
Sr High Lock-in
8 p.m. - 8 a.m., Federated Church

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
United Way Backpack Program
2:30 p.m., United Way Office

FRIDAY, MARCH 31
Federated Friday at the Food Shelf
12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m., Food Shelf



For we are all baptized by one Spirit into one body...and were all given the one Spirit to drink. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

I've been thinking a lot about baptism these days. I'm currently working with families to arrange baptisms for six young people. What a tremendous blessing! As you know, baptisms are one of the perks of my job: to hold a young person in my arms, to pour the water over them, to say the words "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," to pray for them, and to welcome them into the family of faith is a joyous privilege.

Baptism is a rite – a religious ceremony or act – loaded with meaning. The Apostle Paul wrote that we are baptized into one body...and were all given one Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13). The water reminds us that in Jesus, our sins are washed away and that we can stand before God whole and holy. The prayers we say invite the Holy Spirit to infuse the baptized person with God's power and confidence, and to graft that person into God's family. As witnesses, we remember our own baptism and our inclusion into the family of faith, and we promise to train up this new family member to be a faithful disciple of Jesus, and a partner with us in God's

ministry of reconciliation for the world. We perform baptism as part of the worship service because this rite is meant to be witnessed, shared, and celebrated. A new brother or sister is added to our number, the gifts of the Spirit are increased in our midst, and our ability to be God's faithful people in this place at this time is enriched.

Paul also wrote: for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ (Gal. 3:27). As members of Christ's family, we take on Christ-like characteristics – love, peace, patience, kindness, joy, gentleness, generosity, humility, self-control – and proudly display them to the world.

Baptism is a celebration of our kinship with God in Christ by the power of the Spirit. Join with me in welcoming our newest brothers and sisters in faith!

Blessings,
Pastor Doug

House of Hope Mission Trip 2017

Buenos Dias! The Guatemala mission team is back with lots of stories and photos to share. The team – 13 strong – enjoyed the warm sun (it was 93-degrees or warmer every day!) and worked to renovate House #4 – cleaning and painting to make it a space for future mission teams – and some of the team built and installed kitchen cabinets. We spent time with the kids and staff, visited three mountain villages to worship and distribute food, Pastors Doug and Karen each had the opportunity to preach, and Suzanne, Madalyn, Jonathan and Makiya shared their faith stories.

One new feature this year: some of the funds donated purchased four stoves. These pre-fabricated stoves are installed over cement blocks with piping to channel the smoke outside the kitchens. Most families suffer from smoke inhalation and respiratory issues due to poor ventilation from wood fires; these stoves are designed to be compact, easy to use, and to improve the health of the women who do the cooking.

In all, we distributed over 100 packages of food: each package contained rice, black beans, corn (for tortillas), powdered milk, coffee, cooking oil, salt and pepper.

The House of Hope is wrapping up a year of massive changes in staffing, policy, and operations. Changes in Guatemalan regulations required the House of Hope to incorporate as an adoption agency (instead of a mission), meaning that the courts did not place any new kids with the House of Hope this past year. That paperwork is now complete and local judges in Zacapa are working with the House of Hope to begin placing new kids this spring. As part of this process, the government requires inspections of the facility: visiting teams have been busy helping to bring the campus up to code.

The ten kids now living at House of Hope continue to grow and thrive, to receive good nutrition and a first-class education, under the direction of Hermana Flora, a highly credentialed educator who left a lucrative government post to work with the House of Hope school. The school is bilingual and includes a trade school, preparing the kids for higher education and/or good jobs after high school.

Director Greg Miller shared his vision for opening a Nutrition Center on the campus. This would be a place to provide medical care for those suffering

from malnutrition and parasites, and to offer education on healthy eating practices. The old team house will be converted into this nutrition center (near the campus entrance) and will be open to the larger community. Please continue to pray for Greg and Sarita Miller, the kids and the staff of the House of Hope.

Want to learn more about the House of Hope? Abby MacFarlane and Paige Westra will share more stories about the trip as part of our Lenten service on March 22nd (5:30 p.m.). Ask any team member to share their stories and favorite moments.

Interested in joining the next team to House of Hope? Talk to Pastor Doug about the February 2018 trip. (Tentative dates: February 3-10, 2018. Approximate cost: \$1,500)

I continue to marvel at what is being accomplished at the House of Hope and to be blessed by the interactions with the kids there. Your support of this ministry is yielding good fruit in the lives of these kids. Truly, God is good.
Gloria a Dios!

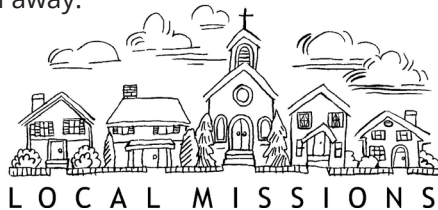
Pastor Doug

Local Mission

Thank you for your continued generosity with the Local Mission Fund! Those who are helped by this fund are extremely grateful for the extra support they receive during tough times. According to our policy, we are able to help each family or individual three times during a 12 month period, with up to \$100 a time, depending on funds. We assist with food, utilities, rent, and, in emergency situations, a night at a hotel. We were able to help many families and individuals during December and January, and the fund is once again empty. Donations can be put in the offering plate with Local Mission Fund in the memo line or dropped off in the church office. Thank you!!

During the month of January, we were able to help **28** families or individuals with a total of **\$1,953.76**, used for food, household goods, rent or utilities. So far in February, as of February 23, we have helped **10** families or individuals with **\$526.36** towards food, household goods, rent or utilities.

We keep a supply of soap, lotion, toothpaste, conditioner, toothbrushes, toilet paper, etc. on hand at the church to give to people who come in needing assistance. If you have extra at your home, bring them in! We'll give them away.



The Salad Luncheon is coming soon!

Tuesday, April 4
Federated Fellowship hall

There are several ways you can help this year:

1. Bring a salad
2. Donate baked goods
3. Give a cash donation
4. Come and eat with us
5. Or all of the above!



Call the church office if you are able to help out in any way!



Things to know from the DCO

Rev. Ed Morgan

I want to take a step back from talking about our church facility and our financial resources and focus on our church family. For the past two Sundays I have had the opportunity of leading worship while Pastor Doug was in Guatemala. They were wonderful experiences of observing the many people who make things happen in our church.

Being a person who wants everything to be in its place, I was wondering who would be running the slides for the contemporary worship. A very young girl came in, sat down behind the laptop computer, turned it on and began to make sure everything was as it should be. Very quickly, I realized she knew much more than I did about the technology we were using.

I was overjoyed to see the praise band with people of all ages joining to lead worship. They led the congregation in joy-filled worship

services. As I walked around the church those two Sunday mornings, I saw many people using their talents. They were preparing the coffee hour, ushering, running sound, teaching Sunday School, reading during worship, singing in the choir, accompanying, and many more tasks to provide a welcoming environment for people of all ages.

As people rooted in the Reformed faith, we believe in the priesthood of all believers. That is a fancy theological term to mean that everyone has gifts to use and are encouraged to use them in the life of the church. I am hopeful for a bright future because we are making a place for people of all ages to be equipped to be full participants in our church's life and ministry. If you have felt the nudge to get involved, there is a place for you.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry,

Rev. Dr. Ed Morgan, DCO



What a wonderful experience it was spending a week in Guatemala in February! Our team of 13 shared so many great opportunities—from connecting with the children and youth at the House of Hope, to painting the interior of a team house, to bringing the gospel and food to mountain villages (those roads, UFF DAH!). There are so many memories, so many events to recall. One of the highlights for me was simply being in worship in different contexts—a large, modern church in Zacapa, two small but well-established mountain village churches, and a large and still-forming church plant in a more remote mountain village. What struck me, (what always strikes me!) when worshipping in different contexts is simply THE MIRACLE of the gospel. The fact that the message of Jesus Christ began over two thousand years ago and now reaches into mountain villages oceans away from where it began - that is truly miraculous and shows the power and truth of our faith. The message endures even unto the ends of the earth. Our faith family doesn't just exist here at the Federated Church in Fergus Falls. We are part of this ever-growing and ever-deepening family of faith that stretches throughout the world. And each week when we gather to worship together, I will close my eyes and picture the beautiful faces and energetic music of the Guatemalan congregations we were blessed to be a part of on our trip. It is awe-inspiring and humbling to know that we are all lifting our voices in praise to the same God in Jesus Christ. That is the eternal power of the gospel, and I am so thankful to be a part of it!

Youth Group

It is always a blessing to see youth blossom in leadership and faith, and so it is a real treat to share that Abby MacFarlane and Paige Westra will be giving their faith stories jointly on March 22nd! These young women have had many shared experiences growing up at Federated Church, most recently as co-teachers for two years to our 2nd-4th grade Sunday school students, and they just returned from their third trip together to Guatemala. I can't wait to hear what they have to share with us that evening! We have decided to combine their message with a youth group mission dinner to raise money for our 2019 youth trip to Guatemala! We will be serving a standard Guatemalan meal to the church and sharing pictures both during worship and the fellowship time. It should be a great experience for everyone—it may even encourage you to begin thinking about making a trip to Guatemala in the future!

In other news, we have a Senior high lock in planned for March 17-18 from 8 p.m.- 8 a.m. This is our first lock-in of 2017 due to having such busy and talented youth! We are looking forward to the bonding and all-around fun that lock ins promise to bring!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Senior High Youth Group Schedule for March:

Wed., March 1	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wed. Service followed by Youth Group
Wed., March 8	7:30 p.m.	Regular youth group
Wed., March 15	7:30 p.m.	Regular youth group
Fri., March 17	8:00 p.m.	Lock-In at Federated
Sat., March 18	8:00 a.m.	Lock-In ends
Wed., March 22	5:30 p.m.	Abby MacFarlane & Paige Westra's faith story
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Serve supper
	7:30 p.m.	Regular Youth Group
Wed., March 29	7:30 p.m.	Regular youth group

Kids Club

Kids Club kicks off again for our spring session on March 1st, (with a week off on March 29th) and will run through April 26th. We will be studying the passage of scripture written by the Apostle Paul that talks about "putting on the full armor of God", and we will be hearing stories from the Bible that illustrate these concepts. As in past sessions, we encourage families to stay for supper and fellowship after Kids Club ends each week. Beginning on March 8th, the Lenten Faith Story series begins with a short worship service at 5:30 p.m. followed by supper in the Fellowship hall. These series will continue for five weeks, so be sure to come out to support your church family members who are speaking and preparing the meals!

Sunday School

We are entering into the last quarter of our 2016-2017 Sunday School year! March is the only month of this year which has NO one-worship Sundays, and therefore we have a regular Sunday school schedule for the entire month! During our joint music time we are working on a great song that we plan to teach the congregation on Palm Sunday entitled "Everywhere I Go". The kids are already doing a super job learning it, and they are all looking forward to sharing it with you!

If you get a chance to wander through the education wing on Sunday mornings, you will see some really energetic kids and creative teachers, who find new and unique ways to teach the Gospel to our youngest members. I encourage you to check it out! It might even inspire you to participate!



Bible studies and discussion groups

Adult Bible Study

SUNDAY MORNINGS 10 a.m.

For most of us, Confirmation was a long, long, long, long time ago. Perhaps we've forgotten some of what we learned. Perhaps we didn't pay all that much attention the first time around... Well, you are invited to join Pastor Doug on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. for a Confirmation refresher course with an informal discussion about important aspects of our faith and witness.

Women's Bible Study

THURSDAYS 10:30 a.m.

Women's Bible Study meets every Thursday at 10:30am in the church parlor. All women are invited! Women are currently studying the Letters of John. Join us!

Men's Bible Study

MONDAYS 12 p.m.

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 12 p.m.

'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!

March 5	Compassion as Spiritual Discipline
April 2	Class Warfare in the Bible
May 7	The Tomb of Jesus

Special Sundays

One Sunday each month we will worship together at 10 a.m. and celebrate a special event in the life of our faith family. Please mark your calendars—you won't want to miss this!

April 9	Palm Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
April 16	Easter Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
April 23	Senior Brunch	Brunch following worship
May 21	Ice cream social	Sundaes following worship



Parish Nursing Notes

Connie Seltz
Parish Nurse Coordinator

"It gets worse, you know!" is a comment my sweet hubby sometimes makes when I complain about a minor ache or pain. He's a bit older than me and firmly believes that those aches and pains don't get cured easily and likely won't go away. He makes me smile and reminds me to be grateful for my minimal discomforts. That may not work for everyone and certainly won't be helpful to someone in a crisis of physical, emotional, or spiritual pain. In those times a curious listener can be helpful in decision-making and well-being.

Someone who listens in a helpful way is not quick to shut down uncomfortable conversations, but sits down with an attitude that says "You matter, you have permission to talk, I want to hear." Asks open-ended questions such as: "How are you doing - really?" "How are you - really?" "Are you scared?" "Are you angry?" "Is there anything that could make it better?" "What would you wish for?" "Is there anyone you would like to see or talk with?" "What matters most right now?"

Listening is a skill that can be learned and must be practiced. Listening can happen only when one is not speaking. It includes observing nonverbal behaviors and clarifying what is seen and heard. It is best done face-to-face. No shortcuts.

On another note, here's a recruitment question: Do you know an RN who might enjoy becoming a Parish Nurse? Or, a Stephen Minister? I would be pleased to hear from you. Thank you.



Committees

Fellowship

DENNIS BOWMAN

Softball Team Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction

The Federated Softball team will be serving up pancakes between church services on Sunday, March 12 (10 a.m. - 11 a.m.) in the fellowship hall. Your free-will donation will help pay for Fergus Falls Park & Rec league fees, along with other expenses (jerseys, equipment).

There will also be a silent auction during the breakfast. We need cool stuff to display on our silent auction tables! Please contact Dennis Bowman if you can donate something (998-0717 or dbowman@fergusotters.org).



Jonathan and friends in Guatemala

Mission

PEG KALAR

Notes from the Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf Annual Report

Each household gets an average between 65-100 pounds of food, depending on their family size. It is meant to be a 3-day emergency supply of food, but because of generous donations from organizations, businesses and individuals, what they receive lasts them twice that long.

In 2016, we saw an average number of 324 families per month come to the Food Shelf.

In 2016, we had 843 NEW people come to the Food Shelf seeking help. In January 2016, we saw 1,061 people, 41 of them NEW to us. We hear many stories of hardship and heartache. There are many people who are disabled, don't have money for groceries after paying for a new tire, their furnace broke down or their hours were cut at work.

There is no paid staff at the Food Shelf; we are 100% volunteer based! In 2016, our volunteers logged 6,034 hours working at the Food Shelf. The main supply of volunteers is from the area churches. We have several other groups that come from organizations, businesses and two groups that come in to satisfy a classroom requirement.

Our biggest push for donations is normally in March, but with the increasing needs of area families, it's imperative that we see donations continue throughout the year.

We are incredibly blessed with food donations, but would like to share that with every dollar of cash donated, we are able to purchase 5 TIMES the amount of food than if you or I were to walk into the local grocery store. We purchase from North Country Food Bank in Crookston, as well as locally.

Thank you to our congregation for your tremendous support through volunteers and donations! I would like to give a HUGE thank you to all those from our congregation that volunteer time at the food shelf during the year!

Mike Shol
Board Member





Business as usual

Service Groups

MARCH SERVICE GROUP GROUP #6

Dennis and Jean Bowman
 Dennis and Lu Echelberger
 Paul and Tina Eckhoff
 Cindy Holte
 Love Ell Hultin
 Karen Johnson
 Ross and Lisa Johnson
 Jan Knackendoffel
 Bev Lambert
 Gary and Roxane Nereson
 Gene and Dorothy Porter
 Al and Connie Seltz
 Art and Lee Syverson
 Gerry and Anne Worner
 Vern and Joyce Youngren

APRIL SERVICE GROUP GROUP #7

Walter and Bonnie Gondrez
 Karen Hauck
 Loran Johnson
 Craig and Rebecca Jorgensen
 William and Peg Kalar
 Patty Lindholm
 Michelle Loomer
 Yvonne Marts
 Ed and Ingrid Morgan
 Gary and Karen Orcutt
 Ross and Marianne Stone
 Shannon Wilson

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

MARCH 2017

Sunday, March 5

9 a.m. Gary & Roxane Nereson
 11 a.m. Dennis & Lu Echelberger

Sunday, March 12

9 a.m. Dennis & Jean Bowman
 11 a.m. Al & Connie Seltz

Sunday, March 19

9 a.m. Paul & Tina Eckhoff
 11 a.m. Lee Syverson and Bev Lambert

Sunday, March 26

9 a.m. Love Ell Hultin and Jan Knackendoffel
 11 a.m. Gerry & Anne Worner

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: March 14 - 6:30PM

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	\$50,168.88
Expenditures	\$35,709.71
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$28,339.00
Actual Received	\$31,391.85

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS FOR JANUARY

Sunmart	
February	\$3,417.00
Total as of 2/1/17	\$69,076.45
Service Food	
Feruary	\$20,802.47

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. If you are not receiving our emails, but would like to, please contact church office. 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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PERMIT #285

Time sensitive information
Please deliver by February 28th.

Condolences

Kym Christiansen on the death of her grandmother.

Friends and family of Frances Johnson.

*"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!

Janet Knapp for her prize-winning quilt, *Magenta Magic*, displayed at the Road to California Quilt Show. Blessed are the piece-makers!.

Mark & Shiela Rodning on the birth of their granddaughter, Rylee Cora (parents Brian & Emilyn).



Carolyn Anderson on the birth of her grandson, Finn Oliver (parents Titus & Mindy).

Thank you!

Bill Nead for mentoring Reno Schierer and Jonathan Dent on the soundboard.

March Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 03/01 | Char Zielin | 03/19 | Marian Wasvick |
| 03/02 | Douglas Becker | 03/19 | Martin Anderson |
| 03/02 | Lisa Becker | 03/19 | Willow Sundheim |
| 03/02 | Brian Rodning | 03/20 | Betty Larson |
| 03/02 | Benjamin Nuss | 03/20 | Cayden Hendrickson |
| 03/02 | Grace Saurer-Olson | 03/23 | Bonita Stock |
| 03/06 | Gabe Dean | 03/23 | Karen Bush |
| 03/06 | Matthew Orcutt | 03/25 | Madalyn Dent |
| 03/08 | Mark Anderson | 03/26 | Skip Zielin |
| 03/10 | M. Emilia Griego | 03/26 | Terri Skretvedt |
| 03/11 | Jim Behrends | 03/27 | Cleo Langseth |
| 03/12 | Karen Anderson | 03/28 | Vanessa Whipple |
| 03/12 | Jordan Schiefert | 03/28 | Ryan Truax |
| 03/14 | Carol Andstrom | 03/29 | Robert Hansen |
| 03/15 | Robert Flom | 03/29 | Tanner Johnson |
| 03/17 | Ross Stone | 03/29 | Mary Ann Nead |
| 03/17 | Cindy Holte | 03/30 | Dolores Duncan |
| 03/18 | David Whipple | 03/31 | MacKenzie Meis |
| 03/18 | Kayla Dean | | |

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

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