

The Union Avenue News

www.federatedff.org

church@federatedff.org

March 2016



Palm Sunday & Easter services

Palm Sunday || March 20th

Worship at 10AM

Brunch and Congregational Visioning meeting at 11AM



Easter Sunday || March 27th

Worship at 10AM

Coffee Hour at 11AM

All are welcome!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, March 2nd

5:30PM—Lenten Service

(Service for Refugees)

6PM—Lenten Supper

(A Middle Eastern meal)

Sunday, March 6th

10AM—Birthday Cake Sunday

(during coffee hour)

Wednesday, March 9th

5:30PM—Lenten Service

(Jordan Schiefert)

6PM—Lenten Dinner

Sunday March 13th

Daylight Savings Time begins

Move clocks ahead!

Wednesday, March 16th

5:30PM—Lenten Service

6PM—Lenten Dinner

Sunday, March 20th

Palm Sunday

10AM—Worship

11AM—Brunch and
Congregational Visioning meeting

Thursday, March 24th

7PM—Maundy Thursday service

Friday, March 25th

7PM—Good Friday service

Sunday, March 27th

Easter Sunday

10AM—Worship

11AM—Coffee Hour

Thursday, April 7th

11AM—1PM Spring Fling
at The Federated Church

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
February 29th

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 2nd 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



"I will pray until my heart rejoices in you."

Those words, from a prayer by Pastor Tim Keller, have been much on my mind and in my heart lately. For nearly a month, those words have filled my thoughts. Why? Because prayer has been difficult for me lately. With so many people in our congregation sick or in crisis, I wonder if my prayers are being heard. With the demands of work and school and family pressing in, I wonder when my prayers will be answered? But then I realized, I've got it all wrong.

Listen to Keller's words again:

"I will pray until my heart rejoices in **YOU**." It's not about me and my problems and my prayers at all. It's about being faithful to the One to whom I pray. God is worthy of my prayers and my praise, no matter what my state of mind or heart.

"I will pray until my heart **REJOICES** in you." Even when prayer is difficult, when times are tough, we can always find a way to rejoice in the One who is greater than our problems, our fears, and our doubts.

"I will pray **UNTIL** my heart rejoices in you." There are seasons in our life, and in our life of prayer. Some days prayer is easy. Some days prayer is reduced to a single word: "Help!" But we keep on praying. And praying. And praying. Until our heart finds a way to rejoice in God again.

"I **WILL** pray until my heart rejoices in you." This is our commitment to keep on praying to and listening for God's word to us. Through the good times and the bad times, we will pray.

The bottom line is this: prayer changes us. When we pray, we do not coerce God or change God's mind, but we do move our heart and minds and lives into line with God's thinking.

Learning to pray no matter what and to find joy in the midst of sorrow have been good lessons for me this Lenten season. So, let's keep on praying: me for you and you for me. And let's rejoice in God who is ever faithful.

Pastor Doug



Stephen Ministry - Rebecca Jorgensen

All are invited to attend the commissioning service for the 2015-16 Stephen Ministry Training Participants on Sunday, March 13 from 2-3PM at Calvary Free Lutheran Church (1416 County Highway 111, Fergus Falls). Refreshments will be served following the service. Jordan Schiefert and Ruth Aulds of The Federated Church will be commissioned at this service.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles and announcements for the monthly newsletter are due on the 15th 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, Director of Christian Education

Did you know that Syria was once one of the strongholds of early Christianity? The Apostle Paul was journeying toward Damascus in Syria when he met the risen Lord! He then began evangelizing throughout the Middle East—and especially in Syria! Well, today, there are few, if any, believers in this once-Christian area of the world. The Christian Education and Youth committee, along with the Junior and Senior High youth, are working on a special Lenten dinner to be held on March 2nd as a way of drawing attention to the plight of Christians in the Middle East. We will be devoting the Wednesday worship service to persecuted Christians and refugees, serving a Syrian dinner, and using the money raised to purchase World Vision backpacks for refugee children. These backpacks, which contain various daily necessities, each cost \$22. We are encouraging families or individuals to consider sponsoring at least one backpack. Everyone who purchases or packs one will be given the opportunity to write a personal note to the recipient. We hope all of you will make plans to come to this Lenten dinner, for education, fellowship, and service! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask me!

On another note, check out the narthex area when you get a chance! It is a work in progress, sponsored by the Christian Education committee and envisioned by the talented Linda MacFarlane! The hope is to create a multi-use room for families, committees, Christian Ed classes, Bible studies, youth (for studying!) and just a comfortable space to hang out. The room itself is beautiful, with so much natural light and good views of the world outside; we would love for it to get more use by the whole church! We are already thrilled with the way it is taking shape!

Senior High Youth Group

The youth groups—junior and senior high—will be helping with the March 2nd Lenten service and dinner. It has become a tradition for our youth to provide one of the dinners during Lent, and the proceeds raised during that dinner have typically gone to mission trips. This year, on the heels of two big trips (Guatemala and Colorado), the money, instead, will go to refugee children in the Middle East and Europe. Once we see how many backpacks we can order for assembly, we will set a date for youth of all ages (and anyone else in the church family who would like!) to put the backpacks together.



Weekly Schedule

3:30PM—Kids Club

3:30PM—Jr. High Youth Group

7:30PM—Sr. High Youth Group

Wed. March 23 — No Youth Activities
(Holy Week)

Confirmation

It is hard to believe that confirmation is over for the 2015-2016 year. All three classes were WONDERFUL to work with! Our inquisitive ninth grade girls are now full members of the church, and our energetic seventh and eighth graders are beginning junior high youth group. We are planning to utilize the time we had for confirmation as junior high youth group! I can honestly say that the time spent with this crew is exciting and challenging, and we all are looking forward to the fellowship and fun we will have in this new venture!



Kids Club

We completed our first session of Kids Club on February 10th. The kids heard stories and did crafts about some great Old Testament people and how God revealed Himself to us through them. Our next session, called "Where in the World is Jesus?", begins on March 2nd and will run through April 13th. The group will follow the path that Jesus took from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday all the way to His ascension into heaven at the end of His earthly ministry. I am excited to continue working with our kids and the wonderful team of volunteers that help make this ministry possible. Pastor Doug is will be a part of the team during this coming session!

Sunday School

Our teachers and kids continue to meet each week for learning and music—we hope you have walked by to hear the singing during the first 15 minutes of class! Each class is working through the second lesson book in our new series, "All-in-One Sunday School". Everyone seems to truly enjoy this curriculum, and so we plan to continue with this resource in the coming year.

The children will be singing during the March 20th Palm Sunday service. This will be a one-service Sunday, so the kids will be able to sit with parents until their time to sing in worship. We will send out more information in the coming weeks about this important part in the worship service.



Nursery

The nursery continues to be staffed by willing volunteers. Thank you all so much for your dedication to the ministry of our youngest members. There has been some discussion about changing the nursery availability to the 9:00 am service, and so in the coming month the CE&Y committee will be reviewing the nursery situation and making recommendations. If we change the time of availability, we will let you know. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time!



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

What would it take for you to complete all steps of your Advance Care Planning Document? Do you need more information to help you make a comfortable decision? If so, here are some options for you: Ask your physician to refer you to the facility Social Worker or a trained Advance Care Planning Facilitator; or attend one of the free monthly meetings at The Cancer Center, held every 2nd Wednesday of the month from Noon – 1PM; or for \$25.00 you can attend a three and one-half hour seminar, "The Road Less Traveled". Presenters include Dr. Money, Internist and Hospitalist with Lake Region Healthcare and The Rev. Nate Oldenkamp, Professor of Practical Theology at Lutheran Brethren Seminary and Board Certified Chaplain of Lakeland Hospice. That seminar is Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 1-4:30 PM in the LB Homes Eisenhower Offices, 805 East Channing, in Fergus Falls, Register at 218-998-1400 by March 4th.



Grocery Receipts – *Ruth Aulds*

The totals for the period from 12/13/15 to 2/5/16 are:

Sunmart - 2,053.34
Service Foods - 14,344.99

THINGS TO KNOW FROM THE DCO—Rev. Dr. C. Edward Morgan, DCO

One of my favorite verses is Philippians 1:3-5, “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing (partnership) in the gospel from the first day until now.”

I look at my work as Director of Church Operations as a partnership with all of you in Christ’s work in and through our church. This past month has seen the Federated partners hard at work doing Christ’s ministry. Not only do I see partners at work, but I am encouraged by the positive spirit that pervades all that we do. God is truly at work in our congregation.

Within the next few weeks, you will be receiving mailings that will tell about a special event scheduled for after worship on March 20. On that Sunday, we will have one worship service followed by a brunch and a congregational event. This will be the beginning of a series of events which help us to discover the future God has planned for us. We already have a team in place who will be leading the work. They are Jean Bowman, Karen Bush, Jake Gustafson, Terry Harrington, Nathan Hoff, Renee Larsen, Ann Porter, Ben Schierer, and Connie Seltz. 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. Please keep the team and our congregation in prayer as we conduct this important work.

An exciting new project has been approved by the Board of Managers. The present kitchenette next to the elevator in the narthex will be converted to a bathroom. Additional family friendly furniture is being purchased for the narthex. With the addition of new furniture and a bathroom, a variety of activities can be accommodated in this beautiful space. Karen Dent, Director of Christian Education and the Christian Education Committee have an exciting vision for how this space can be transformed into a space that will meet many needs. This is a wonderful example of how we can work together as partners.

We need volunteers to do much of the work in the new bathroom. We will contract plumbing through Pat Collins, but need help with building interior walls, sheet rocking, insulating and many other tasks to get the job done. Please let me know if you are willing to give some time and talent to this project.

Finally, we are well underway with a new Endowment Plan. We have already had members of our church express an interest in giving to establish funds that will benefit our church ministry for years to come. As you pray about how you will leave a legacy, please remember our church. We will soon have a committee in place and all the supporting features of the plan which will make it easy to make gifts to the church that will last from generation to generation. If I can be of help, please give me a call.

Right now, I am normally in the office Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 3:00. I am here on Fridays from 9:00 to 12:00. You can always reach me on my cell phone – 218-731-8302 or via email ed.morgan@friendsofpeb.org. I can also do texts. 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—\$95,389
Expenditures—\$26,414

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted — \$29,732
Actual received—\$74,727



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

January	As of February 25th
35 families or individuals helped with \$2,392.15 towards food, rent or utilities	1 family or Individual helped with \$53 towards food, rent or utilities

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
James and Rebecca Michael
Vern and Deb Tabbut
Lois Tassler
Steve and Carri Thompson
Del and Kathy Zimmerman

April Service Group

Group #5

Jim and Phyllis Behrends
Joel and Dawn Dulski
Elizabeth Hatling
Kathy Hatling
Jeremy and Jen Jensen
Cleo Langseth
Steve Lockhart and Donna Ohe
Tiny Macheel
Jacinta Macheel
Ann Porter
Mary Jones Olson
Duane and Carol Rose
Melissa Saurer
Donna Solin
Joan Tester
Greg and Kathy Truax

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

March 2016

Sunday, March 6

9AM— Vern & Deb Tabbut
11AM— Mark & Carol Bischof

Sunday, March 13

9AM— James & Rebecca Michael
11AM— Steve & Carri Thompson

Sunday, March 20—Palm Sunday

10AM— Wes & Phyllis Binner

Sunday, March 27 — Easter Sunday

10AM— Wes & Lori Beske, Kathy Gilbert,
and Fred Harthen

S E R V I C E



****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 Marian Wasvick on the death of her mother, Ramona Baldwin.

U Winnie Clambey on the death of her sister, Florence.

March Birthdays

Char Zielin 03/01
Douglas Becker 03/02
Lisa Becker 03/02
Brian Rodning 03/02
Benjamin Nuss 03/02
Grace Saurer-Olson 03/02
Gabe Dean 03/06
Matthew Orcutt 03/06
Lila Hiedeman 03/07
Mark Anderson 03/08
M. Emilia Griego 03/10
Jim Behrends 03/11
Karen Anderson 03/12

Jordan Schiefert 03/12
Carol Andstrom 03/14
Robert Flom 03/15
Ross Stone 03/17
Cindy Holte 03/17
David Whipple 03/18
Kayla Dean 03/18
Marian Wasvick 03/19
Martin Anderson 03/19
Willow Sundheim 03/19
Betty Larson 03/20
Cayden Hendrickson 03/20
Bonita Stock 03/23

Karen Bush 03/23
Madalyn Dent 03/25
Skip Zielin 03/26
Terri Skretvedt 03/26
Cleo Langseth 03/27
Vanessa Whipple 03/28
Ryan Truax 03/28
Robert Hansen 03/29
Tanner Johnson 03/29
Mary Ann Nead 03/29
Dolores Duncan 03/30
MacKenzie Meis 03/31



We apologize if we missed your birthday! Please email your birthday information to church@federatedff.org!

Ministry Nite!

March 8th is Ministry Nite. Committees meet at 6:30PM in the fellowship hall. Please email your minutes to 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

Sunday, March 6, 2016 – Lent 4

9 AM and 11 AM

“Faith Over Matter”

Pastor Doug Dent

John 5:1-9

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper (9AM and 11AM)

Baptism of Ida Gustafson (9AM)

Sunday, March 13, 2016 – Lent 5

9 AM and 11 AM

“Run the Numbers”

Pastor Doug Dent

John 6:1-13

Sunday, March 20, 2016 – Palm Sunday

10 AM

“The Giant Slayer”

Pastor Doug Dent

Luke 19:28-40

Senior Choir, Bell Choir, Sunday School Kids singing

Thursday, March 24, 2016 – Maundy Thursday

7 PM

“Last Meal Before Redemption”

Pastor Doug Dent

Exodus 12:1-14

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper (9AM and 11AM)

Friday, March 25, 2016 – Good Friday

7 PM

We welcome our friends from

Pastor John Lindholm

Western Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 27, 2016 – Easter Sunday

10 AM

“Signs of Life”

Pastor Doug Dent

Luke 24:1-12

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

March 2nd

Prayer Service for Christians in the Middle East

Dinner prepared by the Youth

March 9th

Jordan Schiefert

Dinner prepared by Mark Rodning

March 16th

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!

March 20th

Palm Sunday

Brunch & meeting following worship

March 27th

Easter Sunday

Coffee Hour following worship

April 17th

Senior Brunch

Brunch following worship

May 15th

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. Men are currently studying the gospel of John. 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 4th, is *Aging Faithfully*. Starting on February 11th, women will be going through the study *Be Holy*, a Lenten study from Presbyterians Today. All women are welcome!

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!

- Mar. 6th** Listening for God's Call
- Apr. 3rd** Does God Demand Blood?
- May 1st** Pentecost

Think, Pray, Share – Discovering our Future Team

It's an exciting time at The Federated Church; a time for discernment, reflection and planning. This month we embark on a process that will help us "Discover our Future." We've done it before, determined new paths and followed them. But the process of self-discovery is everlasting, and a team of this congregation (lead by Rev. Doug Dent and Rev. Ed Morgan) will guide us as we determine what the future holds. We'll attempt to answer the questions "Who does God want us to be?" and "What does God want us to do?"

That's a tall order, but absolutely achievable (and necessary) for the health of this congregation and the community we serve. The key will be membership involvement. Our future should reflect all of us. To ensure that this is an inclusive process, you will be asked to THINK about what attracted you to The Federated Church and what you'd like to see for our future. What do you like and wish to change? Visualize The Federated Church in 2021 – what does that look like?

PRAY that the process and outcomes will be fruitful and comprehensive. Pray for the team to lead and guide and listen for God's will. Pray that all members feel welcome to express and share their wishes.

And finally, SHARE. There will be small group conversations, meetings and opportunities to share your vision and hopes for our future. On Palm Sunday, March 20th we'll have a congregational time of sharing (including lunch) after the service. If you are unavailable (or shy about sharing) please pay special attention to a forthcoming letter home that includes ways you can convey input to this process.

We anticipate this to be about a six-month process with ample opportunity to shape the final vision for our future. Thank you in advance for helping to discern and define that for Federated Church.

Jean Bowman
Team Member

(Team members were approved by D&E and include: Karen Bush, Jake Gustafson, Terry Harrington, Ann Porter, Renee Larsen, Connie Seltz, Nathan Hoff, Ben Schierer, Jean Bowman, Rev. Doug Dent and Rev. Ed Morgan (Ex-Officio))

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.

Alan & Valerie Haavig

Alan writes: I was born in Minot, ND, and grew up in Seattle, WA. I drove truck until I went into the U.S. Army and served during Vietnam. After I was discharged, I met my wife, Valerie. We got married that September. We have three sons. I joined the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves and served during Desert Storm. My wife and I were in the same unit. While in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves, I worked at Safeway Stores in the Grocery Warehouse as Shipping-Receiving Supervisor. I was run over by a forklift and was in a wheel chair for 1 year with two major operations. I went back to school and became ordained. I served Holy Trinity Church until we moved to North Dakota, where I served as pastor at a Lutheran Church. I served there until we moved to eastern ND, where I served out of the Bishop's Office (ELCA) as pulpit supply, preaching at many churches in the Red River Valley area. I also then served at Luther Memorial Home as chaplain, until I became pastor at Colgate Presbyterian and Pillsbury Presbyterian churches. While serving those churches, I was also the office manager for a bean processing plant until we moved to Fergus Falls to be closer to family.

Valerie writes: I was raised in Seattle, WA by my great-grandmother (grandfather's mother). I lived and cared for her until I married, moved next door and cared for her until she was 96. I toured Europe (10 countries) after high school. I went to Hawaii by ship the first time; for our honeymoon the second time. Before I got married, I did missionary work in Alaska. We (25 people ages 17-75) built a church near Soldotna. I traveled to New York and Washington D.C. with my grandfather before I got married. He was a politician. My life was very exciting and interesting. God blessed me and opened many doors. I joined the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves in 1983. During my time in the USCG, I became a Petty Officer. I was in for nine years and enjoyed the experience. I moved to North Dakota, so that was the end of the USCG. I am a nurse and a school teacher. Things have slowed way down because of health, but I know the Lord always has a plan for me, so I thank Him for each day. We have three wonderful sons, and seven wonderful grandchildren. We are really blessed!

Spring Fling

at

The Federated Church

Luncheon and Bake Sale

Thursday, April 7th
11AM—1PM // \$6

If you are interested in volunteering during the event or providing a salad or baked goods, please contact the church office (218-739-3227 or church@federatedff.org).

All proceeds from the event will go to
The Federated Church's Local Mission Fund.

Mystery Dinner—*Patty Shol, Fellowship Committee chairperson*

Many thanks to so many people who helped to make this year's mystery dinner another success! Carolyn Anderson did a fabulous job with all the food! All the people who volunteered to serve the dinner- Jan and Gary Nelson, Matt and Donna Solin, Bonnie Stock, Kathy Gilbert, Mike Shol, and Ingrid Morgan - many thanks! Special thanks to all who helped set up and decorate: Tessa Schierer, for your wonderful drawing; Ingrid Morgan, for your artistic abilities; Sheila Rodning, for all your hard work on the signs and the wonderful "Gold Mine"! Another special thank you to Tami Collins and her dad, Eldor Kugler, for lending us all his "western decor" - it was perfect! Thanks to Dennis Bowman, Ed Morgan, Mark Rodning and the guys from the Matthew House for helping to set up and take down. You people are all SO awesome!

P.S. The winner of both the costume award and the acting award was Kitt Schara! She did a fantastic job! Thanks to all who participated we hope you had as much attending as we had putting the event together. I appreciate those who took the part of a character role and made the night so fun.

