

Keeping members up-to-date

APRIL 2017

April Worship

APRIL 2 9 and 11 a.m. Worship **COMMUNION SUNDAY**

TBA *Celebration of the Lord's Supper*
Chaplain Liz Mahan

APRIL 5 5:30 p.m. **FAITH STORY**

6 p.m. Supper *Pam Phillips*

APRIL 9 10 a.m. Worship **PALM SUNDAY**

Kings, Colts, Cloaks and Kenosis *Philippians 2*
Pastor Doug Dent

APRIL 13 7 p.m. **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Holiness and Brokenness *Celebration of the Lord's Supper*
Mark 14:17-31
Pastor Doug Dent

APRIL 14 7 p.m. **GOOD FRIDAY**

Bad Friday *Psalm 22*
Pastor Doug Dent

APRIL 16 10 a.m. Worship **EASTER SUNDAY**

A Grave Solution *Colossians 3*
Pastor Doug Dent *Please note: We will have one worship service at 10 a.m. Easter Sunday*

APRIL 23 10 a.m. Worship **SENIOR BRUNCH**

No Memorial Needed *Matthew 28*
Pastor Doug Dent *We will honor our graduating High School Seniors - join us for brunch after worship!*

APRIL 30 9 and 11 a.m. Worship

When Jesus Drops In *Luke 24:13-35*
Pastor Doug Dent *Baptism of Arthur Schlepp (11 a.m.)*

Dates to Remember

SUNDAY, APRIL 2
Home Communion

10 a.m. - Communion offered to our at-home members

MONDAY, APRIL 3
Easter Flower orders due

TUESDAY, APRIL 4
Salad Luncheon & Bake Sale

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
All you care to eat | \$7
Proceeds go to Federated Church's Local Mission Fund

THURSDAY, APRIL 6
United Way Backpack Program
2 p.m., United Way Office

SUNDAY, APRIL 9
First Sunday Bible Study -
Class Warfare in the Bible
11:30 a.m. (note time and date change)

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
Senior Brunch
10 a.m. Worship
11 a.m. Brunch

THURSDAY, APRIL 27
United Way Backpack Program
2 p.m., United Way Office

FRIDAY, APRIL 28
Federated Friday at the Food Shelf
12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m., FF Food Shelf



Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen indeed!

The celebration of Easter is absolutely central to the life of the church and to faithful Christians. Why? Without the new life of Christ touching every aspect of who we are and what we do, we are simply going through religious motions, playing religious games, and putting a religious veneer over lives that are just like anyone else's.

To live lives touched by the Resurrection means many things, but I'd like you to think about these two:

- It means that we **live unafraid of death and all that it brings with it**. Many live in such a way that they will do ANYTHING to avoid pain, aging, illness and death. They go to extraordinary lengths to deny the inevitability of it, fooling only themselves and a few select others who are in on the game. We use drugs to lessen the impact of what's coming, or we make life choices that are destructive, or we try to fool ourselves into acting or looking (sort of) much younger than we are, or we are simply paralyzed by fear into a kind of stupor that keeps us from doing or being anything.

- It also means that we **live free from sin's power**. Has someone done something to you that still controls your heart and mind? Have you done something that has clouded or affected your whole life? Have you taken a road of temptation that leads only to damage to you and others? Have you allowed prejudice or fear to warp your heart so that you cannot love and forgive?

Easter is so much more than eggs, bunnies, jelly beans, chocolate bunnies, and dressing up. It's about the **new life we have in Christ**, in which we are set free to love, forgive and serve, and thereby find a sense of peace and joy in all that we do. By grabbing hold of the cross, we share in Jesus' victory over sin, death and all that would destroy us.

Please join us as we prepare for and celebrate Easter. **Palm Sunday** is April 9th (10 AM), and during Holy Week we offer a **Maundy Thursday** service with communion (April 13th at 7 PM), and a **Good Friday** service (April 14th at 7 PM). On **Easter Sunday** (April 16th) we will sing God's praises and rejoice in Christ's resurrection at 10 AM.

Christ is Risen! Allelujah!
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 February, we were able to help **10** families or individuals with a total of **\$526.36**, used for food, household goods, rent or utilities. As of March 24, we have helped **5** families or individuals with **\$295.25** 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.



Salad Luncheon & Bake Sale

Tuesday, April 4
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
All you care to eat for \$7
Federated Fellowship hall

Proceeds from the luncheon & bake sale go to Federated Church's Local Mission Fund

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!



Doctoral Studies

I just finished my fourth course (March 31, 2017). This course, entitled "Missional Leadership," focused on the role of the pastor within a missional congregation. "Missional" is the term used to describe a congregation that is actively seeking the Spirit's call to follow God out into the community and to partner with what God is already doing in our neighborhoods. This term paper included the results of the Survey of Worship Preferences. Thank you to the 152 respondents! I am grateful for your input. I will publish my findings once the worship task force is able to review the results.

The completion of this course marks the halfway point in my doctoral studies. For the next eighteen months, my work will be focused on my final thesis – with its yet-to-be-determined theme – which is due in February 2019. If all goes according to plan, graduation will be in May 2019. Your continued prayers are appreciated: specifically, pray for the Spirit to help me identify my thesis topic (due July 2017!).

Easter Flowers

Orders due April 3

Lily \$14
Tulips \$12
Hyacinth \$12

If you would like to purchase a flower to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, please mail or drop off a check for the amount listed above to Federated Church. Please include whether you'd like the flower placed in memory or in honor of, the name of your loved one, who you would like it to be listed from, and the type of flower you'd like. Flowers may be picked up following the 10am Easter service.



Things to know from the DCO

Rev. Ed Morgan

One of my tasks was to lead our church through the Discovering Our Future Process. It has been several months since we completed the first phase of that process. I am reporting on what has been accomplished so far.

As you will remember, from the input of the congregation, four priorities were approved by the Deacons and Elders and the congregation. Four teams were established to follow up on the input from our congregation. I am excited about what these teams have accomplished in a very short time. Here is a report from each team:

- Community Engagement Team. This team has been responsible for the development of the vision statement that is guiding all aspects of our church's life – Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Arms. You might have noticed that this statement is on all our written pieces, our website and Facebook. The team has also worked hard to get our church out into the community. Now, they are developing written material to help committees and boards advertise their events in and outside the church. I am excited about their creativity and commitment.

- Inspiring and Dynamic Worship Team. This team has met several times and is analyzing and interpreting the results of the recent worship survey. From this survey and original input from the congregation, they will

be looking at ways to affirm the many things that are working and recommend ways to make our worship more dynamic and inspiring.

- Mutigenerational Fellowship Team. This Team has already organized events that have brought together people of all ages. From all accounts the events have been well attended and appreciated.

- Campus Enhancement Team. The team has met many times to consider if and how our facility can be enhanced to better serve our church and community. We have developed a working relationship with Comstock Construction to review our facility and make recommendations. Most importantly, we have received good and usable input from the recent Campus Enhancement Survey. If you have not returned yours, please send it via email or return to the church office. All suggestions will be considered.

All teams will continue to work on the priorities developed during the Discovering Our Future. We are moving forward to put into actions what we have discovered about God's will for our life together. Please continue to pray for the Priority Teams and our church as we grow into the future God has for us.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry,

Rev. Dr. Ed Morgan, DCO



Christian Education and Youth Rev. Karen Anderson

Spring is such a busy time in the life of the church! This is true of ALL churches, but here at Federated, there always seem to be much that keeps us busy! Lenten suppers, Kids Club, youth groups, lock-ins, Palm Sunday and Easter services, as well as the services in between; not to mention the Senior Brunch and impending graduation. It is easy to get overwhelmed with everything on our plates, at home, at work, in the community! That is why it is so important to stop once in a while to enjoy the divine breaking through of spring—in the budding flowers, the returning birds, the fresh rain, the greening of the grass and trees, the warming of the earth. God tells the story of resurrection with every breath of spring, and it is my prayer that all of us sense the glorious wonder of God's love for us in the signs He gives us in nature. Although everything appeared to have died, through the great mystery of life from death, beauty and grace burst forth into newness of life! Hallelujah! And Amen!

We have some things of note this month, including:

- **Sunday school and Kids Club kids** will be singing during the 10 a.m. service on **Palm Sunday, April 9th**.
- **Kids Club** will continue **April 5th through April 26th**. April 26th will be the last Kids Club for the 2016-2017 sessions!
- **The Senior Brunch** on **April 23rd** celebrates the milestone our high school graduates reach! Join us for brunch in the Fellowship Hall following the 10am worship service that Sunday.
- **Camp scholarship applications** will be reviewed at the May ministry night meeting, so be sure to turn in your child(ren)'s application(s) to the church office by **April 30th**. First priority is given to members or children of members.
- **Middle school and younger high school youth and parents** are invited to attend a short meeting on **Wednesday, May 3rd at 5:30 p.m.** concerning information about the **2019 Guatemala Mission Trip**. This is simply an "inquiry meeting" with no need to commit at this time. We would like to consider the best time to go and get a sense of who is interested in the trip.

Kids Club

Kids Club is going strong in its 4th session of the 2016-2017 school year. It is hard to believe that we are in the final month of this fellowship and learning time! We have had a GREAT year, with new friends and old, new

and challenging games, and interesting Bible stories! Our last Kids Club this spring will be on April 26th. As we Kids Club comes to an end, we look forward to Vacation Bible School this summer, which runs during the week of July 11TH -15TH! All kids K-6th grade are welcome to come!

Sunday School

Sunday school and Kids Club kids are learning a song they'll be singing during Palm Sunday worship (April 9th) called *Everywhere I Go!* We hope your child is able to attend this worship service as the kids do a wonderful job singing! It is fun for the congregation to see and hear the children, and it is a great way to bring enthusiasm and joy to the worship service!

Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and Senior Brunch Sunday are all one-service Sundays, so there will be NO Sunday School on April 9th, April 16th, and April 23rd. Sunday school will resume on April 30th and continue through May 21st.

Youth Group

Middle school and high school youth groups will continue to meet each Wednesday during April. We have been considering the message that Paul gave to his young friend, Timothy, particularly the words in 1 Timothy 4:12-14: *"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity. Until I come, devote yourselves to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you."*

We have been talking about EXPECTATIONS—from our parents, our teachers, our friends, our church, and our culture; and seeing how expectations affect our efforts. Our time together has been very fruitful, with great insights and encouragement shared with one another. We also continue to have fun playing games and having time just to hang out and fellowship with one another. I hope you all know what a great crew of young people we have here at Federated! One BIG highlight for me with these kids happened on March 17th-18th, when we had a senior high lock-in. Games, deep discussions, and a midnight run to Perkins were some of the activities we managed to squeeze into the night. And I think everyone actually got A LITTLE sleep—including me!



Bible studies and discussion groups

Adult Bible Study

SUNDAY MORNINGS 10 a.m.

Join us on Sunday mornings (10 AM in the parlor) as we work through Lee Strobel's *The Case for Easter: A Journalist Investigates the Evidence for the Resurrection*. As an investigative journalist for the Chicago Tribune, Strobel sought to discredit Christianity; but the more he studied and learned about Christ, the more he began to believe. His first book, *The Case for Christ*, continues to be a worldwide best-seller and now a major motion picture (in theatres April 7th). Strobel's recent release, *The Case for Grace*, just won the 2016 Nonfiction Book of the Year from the EPCA. For the last twenty-five years, his life's work has been to share the evidence that supports the truth and claims of Christianity and to equip believers to share their faith with the people they know and love.

Women's Bible Study

THURSDAYS 10:30 a.m.

Women's Bible Study meets every Thursday at 10:30 AM. All women are invited! Yes, bring your friends. On February 21st we started studying the Epistles of John, that's I, II, III John. John is elderly as he writes these letters to "My Dear Children." He is concerned that false teaching has crept into the fellowship and teaches about authentic Christianity.

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!

April 9 Class Warfare in the Bible
Date change! This is Palm Sunday, with one worship service at 10am. First Sunday Bible Study will meet at 11:30am on April 9.

May 7 The Tomb of Jesus

Special Sundays

Certain Sundays 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

National Day of Prayer Gathering

May 4, 2017

Noon to 12:30pm at City Hall

Meet at the flagpole to pray
 (In the Council Chambers in case of inclement weather)



Parish Nursing Notes

Connie Seltz
 Parish Nurse Coordinator

The calendar tells us it is spring and daylight saving time has begun. Time to file away those comfort food recipes. Time to think Salad Luncheon. How about considering the benefits of adding more green foods to your diet? Calorie for calorie, dark green leafy vegetables are the most concentrated source of nutrition of any

food group. They are considered super foods because they contain a high amount of antioxidants which boost the immune system and help protect the body against certain stressors. They are also a rich source of vitamins A, C, E, K, and many B vitamins. Vitamin K is a nutrient that provides a variety of health benefits, which may help

prevent diabetes, protect bones from osteoporosis, and reduce inflammation and regulate blood clotting. And if that was enough, there's more good news!: green foods are low in calories and almost carb-free so one can eat as many of them as one likes without gaining weight. Time to think about bathing suit weather?



Another Mission to Guatemala

by Kathy Gilbert

At about the same time that Mike and Michelle Loomer were praying about the mission to House of Hope in Guatemala, my husband Bill and I were also thinking that the Lord was calling us to make a mission trip. Unfortunately, we were not in communication with Mike or Michele, but Bill was involved with our Presbytery in Willmar. He heard that there were people that had a partnership arrangement with a presbytery in Guatemala. They had an ongoing relationship for almost 20 years at that time and were getting ready for another trip. They would be installing a water treatment system in one of the villages. This would be the 5th treatment system installed and the last one our Presbytery would be involved with. We learned that there is no safe water in Guatemala unless it is treated. The systems we installed would provide safe water for everyone in the village and a source of income for the people. It also included an educational segment that taught people why clean water was important and how to wash their hands to prevent illness. Bill and I talked about it, prayed about it and decided we would apply to be on the team. It was a life-changing and an eye-opening experience. We saw how the relationship between the people of MN and the Occidente Presbytery changed their (and our) lives, especially those of the women. I had the opportunity to go on another trip to Guatemala this year, and see the continued partnership. When partnership first began, women were second class citizens and had very little value. Now, women are leaders in the churches, two have been ordained (the first in Guatemala), and now there are several in seminary. Other projects that we from MN have been involved with are: 1) Supporting ministers (who have very little education) with seminars on Reformed Theology; 2) assisting to build homes that are not substandard (four were built), 3) sending scholarships to ministers'

children so that they can afford to attend school. There is no free education in Guatemala. 4) This year, we did classes for the women in three villages about health issues that affect women. Topics they asked for included diabetes, menopause, foot care, illness in the home and the Zika virus. The women had also asked to learn how to quilt. When I was telling some of the ladies from Federated about this, they said "take some of our supplies, we have so much." I ended up taking four small boxes of cut up quilt squares, cutters, scissors, and pins that translated into 55 pounds in the suitcase! Two others had also brought a similar amount and it was a good thing because instead of three villages, there were women representing 21 villages!! We had enough to send packages of supplies home with each village! Talk about loaves and fishes!!

The last project that I want to tell you about is one that you will be hearing more about in the coming weeks and months. It is a prayer partnership. About 14 of our churches in the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys have been partnered with 14 churches in the Presbytery of Occidente. Each church partner is committed to pray for their partner in the other country. Pastor Doug brought this opportunity to our session and they have unanimously approved it. What will happen is that each month our session will choose five prayer requests, we will translate it into Spanish and send it to our partner church and they will send us five prayer requests from their session each month also. We have been partnered with the Belen Church in Quetzaltenango or Xela (pronounced Shala). It is the largest church in the Occidente Presbytery with about 1000 members. I met their pastor Jairo Marti. He is on the provincial Board and is looking forward to hearing from us. What an opportunity for each of us to be involved in the missions in Guatemala even though we cannot all physically go there.



Committees

Mission

PEG KALAR

Mission Initiative for 2017

The Mission Committee is designating Habitat for Humanity as our Mission Initiative for 2017. The Federated Church is the first congregation in Fergus Falls to become a Covenant Partner with Habitat, which means we will support Habitat ministry with volunteers and funds. We appreciate Habitat's new plan to renovate homes in Fergus Falls, raising the standard of living for more of our residents, rather than always building new homes. Stay tuned for more information and opportunities about how you can get involved...

Fellowship

DENNIS BOWMAN

Stumbeanos Coffee

We've been offering Stumbeanos Coffee (roasted right here in Fergus Falls!) for the last few weeks during coffee hour and other Federated gatherings. Let us know what you think - should we continue with Stumbeanos or switch back to Folgers? Submit your opinion to the church office, or a member of the fellowship committee. We want to hear from you!



Business as usual

Service Groups

APRIL SERVICE GROUP

GROUP #7

Walter and Bonnie Gondrez
 Karen Hauck
 Nathan and Stephanie Hoff
 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

MAY SERVICE GROUP

GROUP #8

Virginia Adams
 Carolyn Anderson
 Ruth Aulds
 Brent and Tara Barry
 Karen Bush
 Cy Grover
 Terry and Jeanette Haas
 Kurt and Sonja Johnson
 Brad and Barb Meder
 Marcus and Rebekah Meder
 Pam Phillips
 Wayne and Gloria Ronning
 Ted and Lois Rotenberger
 Jon and Jessica Steinbrenner
 Evan and Tanya Westra

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

APRIL 2017

Sunday, April 2

9 a.m. Craig & Rebecca Jorgensen
 11 a.m. Nathan & Stephanie Hoff

Sunday, April 9

10 a.m. Ross & Marianne Stone

Sunday, April 16

10 a.m. Ed & Ingrid Morgan
 and Shannon Wilson

Sunday, April 23

10 a.m. Bill & Peg Kalar

Sunday, April 30

9 a.m. Michelle Loomer and
 Loran Johnson
 11 a.m. Walter & Bonnie Gondrez

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.

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 to church office. Also contact us for pastoral care or parish nursing needs. Please call 218-739-3227 or email church@federatedff.org

UNION AVENUE NEWS

Ministry Nite: April 11 - 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	\$44,345.00
Expenditures	\$30,308.00

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$56,678.00
Actual Received	\$73,517.70

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS FOR FEBRUARY

Sunmart

March	\$675.00
Total as of 3/1/17	\$69,751.00

Service Food

March	\$9,112.55
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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.





224 North Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FERGUS FALLS, MN
PERMIT #285

Time sensitive information
Please deliver by March 31st.

Condolences

Doris Enderson on the death of her sister, Rebecca.

Tessa Schierer and family on the death of Tessa's father, Brad Stofer.

The Hatling family on the death of Noble Hatling.

Elizabeth Nelson and family on the death of Elizabeth's father, Arlo Hansen.

Patty Shol and family on the death of her father, Wes Tobin.

The Solin family on the loss of Gladys Larsen.

"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*

Thank you!

The "Funeral Crew" for the wonderful hospitality they offer our community.

The Men's Club and the Federated Youth for the delicious dinners during Lent.

April Birthdays

04/03	Breanna Stout	04/21	Deb Ferguson
04/03	Sterling Andrews	04/22	Siri Anthonisen-Brown
04/04	Kathy Truax		
04/04	Sam Sundberg	04/22	Joe Cooper
04/05	Mike Donoho	04/22	Logan Stout
04/08	Steve Lockhart	04/23	Sonja Johnson
04/08	Carri Thompson	04/23	Jan Knackendoffel
04/09	Emily Schlepp	04/24	Mike Shol
04/10	Lily Sundheim	04/25	Charles Ebbighausen
04/11	Frances Johnson	04/25	Vaughn Ebbighausen
04/12	Kai Ebert	04/25	Brett Garrahan
04/12	Paul Eckhoff	04/26	Sheila Rodning
04/12	Al Seltz	04/26	Duane Tabbut
04/14	Shane Garrahan	04/26	Ed Morgan
04/14	Matt Donoho	04/27	Jaden Brown
04/14	Anders	04/28	Millie Pearson
	Anthonisen-Brown	04/29	Carson Barry
04/15	Randy Wasvick	04/30	Christa Beske
04/16	Abigail MacFarlane	04/30	Kole Nygaard
04/19	Reno Schierer	04/30	Samuel Nelson



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

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