

# The Union Avenue News

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

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

April 2016

## *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](mailto:church@federatedff.org)).

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

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Thursday, April 7th**

11AM—1PM Spring Fling  
at The Federated Church

**Sunday, April 10th**

Noon—New Member  
informational gathering

**Sunday, April 17th**

10AM—Worship  
11AM—Senior Brunch  
Celebration for High School Seniors

**Saturday, April 23rd**

12:30PM—4PM  
Spring Clean-up at Federated

**Sunday, May 15th**

10AM—Worship  
11AM—Ice Cream Social  
Last Day of Sunday School

## Senior Brunch

**Sunday, April 17**

**Worship at 10AM // Brunch at 11AM**

**All are invited to join the celebration!!**



Gift bags will be available in the narthex on April 10th and 17th for cards to congratulate our graduating seniors. This year's seniors are: Austin Barry, Luke Barry, Wesley Darville, Lexi Davis, Sam Nelson, Emily Stoddard, Anna Sundheim, Austen Tabbut, and Taylor Thompson-Eckhoff.



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

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Time Sensitive  
Information  
Please deliver by  
March 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



During a visit to Croatia 20 years ago, Pope John Paul II proclaimed, "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people, and Alleluia is our song." Are we really the Easter people? I think we should be. This is still the Easter season and it continues until Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2016.

What does it mean to be "Easter people"? Being an Easter person has much to do with how we view our faith and how we live it out. Jesus is so alive for us on Easter Sunday morning; he needs to be alive for us and in us every day, and certainly in these days which follow Easter so closely. At the time of His Resurrection, Jesus' followers did not whisper "He is risen," they shouted it and rejoiced! That is how we need to approach our faith as well.

During Lent leading up to Easter, we did not use the word "Alleluia" in our songs and liturgies. We put it away until Easter. Each year I'm surprised by how much I miss that word. It's so joyous to hear "Alleluia!" again when we shout it out on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday! We are not just an Easter people, we are also an Alleluia people. We are called to exemplify Alleluia in everything we do.

Who is an Alleluia person? Certainly people who seem to just brim over with the Good News, who constantly reflect the joy of being a Christian. It is also possible to be an Alleluia person in quiet ways, but others do need to see that God is alive in us in everything we do. Easter is so much more than just one day: that first Easter Sunday was just the beginning of Easter-life for God's Easter-people.

For many years, the Sundays which followed Easter during the Easter season were called the first, second or third "Sunday after Easter." When the Church adopted the new liturgical calendar that changed to the "Sunday of Easter." Thus, we are not winding down from Easter, we are in the midst of it. We became Easter people at our Baptisms. We should be Easter people every day and every week and during every season. Being an Easter person means acknowledging our call to discipleship and stewardship. We should begin and end everything with Alleluia. Alleluia (or Hallelujah) means "Praise to God," which is not just something we sing, chant, or say: it is something we live. By living our lives in praise of God we can truly be an Easter people.

Blessings to you on this Season of Easter!

Pastor Doug

Are you interested in learning more about The Federated Church and its ministries? Are you ready to make The Federated Church your spiritual home? Then join Pastor Doug Dent on **Sunday, April 10** at noon for an informal gathering. This will be a time for sharing, asking questions, and exploring if membership with our congregation is right for you.

### Newsletter Deadline

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



# Christian Education



**Karen Anderson, Director of Christian Education**

Following the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Lenten service which featured the plight of Christians around the world, I had several inquiries about books and sources of information. It is a very emotional and difficult topic to research, and we often cannot understand the profound danger that our faith incites around the world. As Western Christians who have access to on-line information, a free media, and numerous books and magazine articles on the subject of persecution, I believe we hold a special burden to learn about and educate others as to the great risks and stories of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Some books which I have read and authors I would recommend include: *Dreams and Visions* and *Killing Christians* by Tom Doyle; *I Am N* by the Voice of the Martyrs; *Persecuted: The Global Assault on Christians* by Paul Marshall and Lela Gilbert; *In the Lion's Den* by Nina Shea and Ravi Zacharias; *Never Submit* by Lt. Col. Robert Maginnis; *Christian Heroes* by Dave and Neta Jackson; *Jesus Freaks* by DC Talk; *Epicenter* by Joel Rosenberg.

Two organizations which report on persecuted Christians are the Voice of the Martyrs and Open Doors USA. I encourage all of us to learn more about what is happening to the faithful around the world. Here are some of the statistics I provided at the Lenten service:

- More Christians were martyred in the 20<sup>th</sup> century than in all other centuries combined [Christianity.com]
- It is claimed that 105,000 Christians are martyred for their faith each year [Deseret News, 2011]
- Currently, over 100 million Christians are being persecuted worldwide [Reuters, 2013]
- 70 percent of the world's population lives in a religiously intolerant environment [Pew Forum, 2011]
- North Korea: in 2014, it continues to be the worst country in the world for persecution
- Nigeria: In 2010, Christians suffered terror from Muslim extremists. Whole villages were massacred
- Iran: Its parliament believes Muslims who change their faith should be put to death
- India: Up to 70,000 in Orissa have been forced to flee their homes in riots against Christians
- Indonesia: Between the years of 2000-2002, Muslims slaughtered 10,000 Christians
- Iraq: half of Iraq's Christians have fled the country since the fall of Saddam Hussein
- Egypt: Under Islamist pressure, Coptic Christians are being forced from their homes
- Syria: By 2012, most of the 80,000 Christians in Homs had been 'cleansed' from their homes
- Europe: persecution is coming in by stealth through EU equality directives



## **Weekly Schedule**

**3:30PM—Kids Club**

**3:30PM—Jr. High Youth Group**

**7:30PM—Sr. High Youth Group**

**Wed. 4/13—Last day of Kids Club**

**Sun. 4/17—11AM Senior Brunch**

It is time once again for our Senior Brunch—celebrating our graduating seniors. Our church family is invited to share brunch with the graduates and their families on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 11AM, following a 10AM worship service. Please plan to attend—we are blessed to have the opportunity to wish our students well and hear their plans for the future!

# Senior High Youth Group

March was a busy month for our youth groups! Junior high youth group began with the close of confirmation in February, and we have a faithful and growing crew. We meet right after school on Wednesdays for snack, game time, and a faith-based lesson. It is a great time of fellowship and developing relationships. Please spread the word—we are hoping to get in some fun activities this spring! I am excited to start this group—middle school kids are so full of energy and questions and insight!

Both the junior and senior high youth groups participated in the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Lenten dinner, which featured Middle Eastern foods (prepared by Elizabeth Hatling) and raised money for 52 Promise Packs through World Vision. We will be assembling the backpacks later this month, and we hope to bless them during a worship service and get the word out to the Fergus Falls community about this worthwhile mission!

The senior high group had a lock-in in early March, with twelve participants—a great number for games and relationship-building. We began by attending a showing of the movie “Risen” and then came back to the church for “Mission Impossible” and food - lots of food! Our church can be proud of our youth—they are great fun and always make these events positive and inclusive. It is a pleasure to spend quality time with them and with the friends who accompany them!



## Kids Club

With the beginning of March came the start of our second session of Kids Club. This six-week session, entitled “Where in the World is Jesus”, looks at the places where Jesus appears from the crucifixion to the resurrection and beyond. Some of our crafts include: empty tomb rolls, Calvary gardens, shamrock pins (which teach the trinity), and crosses to decorate the church walk on Easter Sunday! We have a great group of kids and volunteers, and Pastor Doug is enjoying the opportunity to spend the teaching time with this energetic group during this session! The Kids Club and Sunday school members sang on Palm Sunday during worship, and they did a wonderful job leading us in shouting “HOSANNA!”

## Sunday School

We have just about two months left of Sunday school this spring. I hope you all have had a great time hearing the kids practice singing on Sunday mornings and playing in the gym at the end of classes! It seems that students and teachers alike have had a good year learning more about great people in the Bible as well as each other! Our last day of Sunday school is May 15<sup>th</sup>, and we will be having a teacher appreciation and ice cream social!

## Nursery

The nursery continues to be staffed each week by volunteers. We will be reviewing how the nursery has been used and explore the best options for our future. If you have any questions or ideas, please don't hesitate to speak to Karen or any of the Christian Education committee members.

# Worship at The Federated Church

**Sunday, April 3, 2016**

9AM and 11AM

“The Seventy Minute Miracle”

John 6:16-21

Pastor Doug Dent

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper at both services

Home Communion offered to at-home members

**Sunday, April 10, 2016**

9AM and 11AM

“Never Say Never Again”

John 9:1-11

Pastor Doug Dent

**Sunday, April 17, 2016**

10AM

“The Law of Entropy”

John 11:32-44

Pastor Doug Dent

Senior Brunch following worship

**Sunday, April 24, 2016**

9AM and 11AM

TBA

Pastor Doug Dent

## 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 use this verse from Philippians again because I think it accurately relates what is going on in our church. I see a lot of people using their gifts and abilities to do Christ’s work. There is also a lot of joy expressed as we work together. Last month, I reported on an exciting new project to convert the kitchenette off the narthex to a bathroom. That project is complete. Many people worked, but I especially want to thank Randy Wasvick, Skip Zielin, John MacFarlane, Linda MacFarlane, and Pete Konrad for many hours of their time and their talents. Please stop by and see the whole narthex and say thanks to those who worked on it.

On March 8, we completed a ministry assessment as part of the visioning process we have begun. The Discovering Our Future Team is analyzing all your input and will use it as part of our overall process. After worship on Palm Sunday, we enjoyed a brunch and spent time dreaming together about the kind of church God wants us to have by the year 2021. The results of that meeting will also be used by the Discovering Our Future Team to determine four priorities that will guide our ministry into the future. We will report back to you when we complete that phase of the process. The final phase will be to interview community leaders and use their input to form recommendations to the Deacons and Elders. Remember, this whole process is congregational based, so your input and your prayers are very important.

The Deacons and Elders have approved a new Endowment Plan with all the supporting documents. Now, we will finish recruiting the committee and make a decision about which investment firm will handle the fund. Soon, you will receive information about how you can leave a legacy to carry on Christ’s work through The Federated Church.

Partners in Christ’s Ministry,  
Ed

The 54th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ is June 10 -12, 2016 at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN. If you are interested in being the delegate from The Federated Church, please contact Pastor Doug.





## April Service Group

### Group #5

Jim and Phyllis Behrends  
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

## May Service Group

### Group #6

Dennis and Jean Bowman  
Dennis and Lu Echelberger  
Paul and Tina Eckhoff  
Cindy Holte  
LovEll Hultin  
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

## Greeters and Coffee Hosts

April 2016

### Sunday, April 3

9AM— Jeremy & Jen Jensen  
11AM— Steve Lockhart and Donna Ohe

### Sunday, April 10

9AM— Duane & Carol Rose  
11AM— Mary Jones Olson & Dave Loeks

### Sunday, April 17—Senior Brunch

10AM— Kathy, Elizabeth & Maren Hatling

### Sunday, April 24

9AM— Greg & Kathy Truax  
11AM— Jim & Phyllis Behrends and Ann Porter



# SERVICE

**\*\*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.

## Condolences to...

U Michelle Loomer and family on the death of Mike.

UDonna and Matt Solin and Dale Anderson and families on the death of Mary Anderson.

UTanya Westra and family on the death of Tanya's dad, Ken Williams.

UMarian Wasvick and family on the death of Marian's niece, Nikki Moore.

UDonna and Matt Solin and Dale Anderson on the death of their sister-in-law/aunt.

## Birthdays

We are looking to update our database with birthdates of members of The Federated Church. Please call or email the church office with the birthdates of you and your family members. Thank you for your help in this!!

## April Birthdays



Breanna Stout 04/03  
Sterling Andrews 04/03  
Kathy Truax 04/04  
Sam Sundberg 04/04  
Mike Donoho 04/05  
Steve Lockhart 04/08  
Carri Thompson 04/08  
Emily Schlepp 04/09  
Lily Sundheim 04/10  
Frances Johnson 04/11  
Al Seltz 04/12  
Shane Garrahan 04/14

Matt Donoho 04/14  
Anders Anthonisen-Brown 04/14  
Randy Wasvick 04/15  
Abigail MacFarlane 04/16  
Reno Schierer 04/19  
Deb Ferguson 04/21  
Siri Anthonisen-Brown 04/22  
Joe Cooper 04/22  
Logan Stout 04/22  
Sonja Johnson 04/23  
Jan Knackendoffel  
Michael Shol 04/24

Charles Ebbighausen 04/25  
Vaughn Ebbighausen 04/25  
Brett Garrahan 04/25  
Sheila Rodning 04/26  
Duane Tabbut 04/26  
Jaden Brown 04/27  
Mildred Pearson 04/28  
Carson Barry 04/29  
Christa Beske 04/30  
Kole Nygaard 04/30  
Samuel Nelson 04/30

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

## Ministry Nite!

April 12th 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.



# 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 women's Bible study group is currently going through the study *The Wise & The Foolish*. The study is a nine-session Bible study on Jesus' Discipleship parables. All women are welcome!

## First Sundays

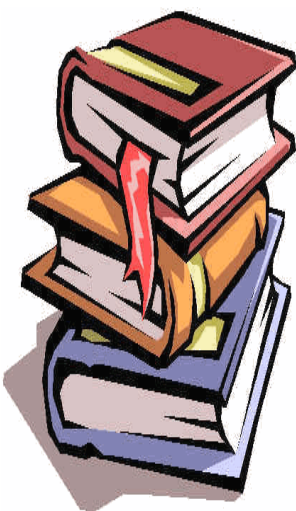
'First Sundays' is a monthly forum for biblical and topical studies led by Pastor Doug Dent. We begin with a light lunch after worship (Noon) followed by the study. All are welcome!

Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Does God Demand Blood?

May 1<sup>st</sup>

Pentecost



## Doctoral Studies—Pastor Doug

Recently, someone asked me: "Where do you hope to go once you get your doctorate?" The question surprised me because I'm not planning to go anywhere! I hope to be working with all of you at The Federated Church for a long, long time to come. I come from a family of long-term, hard-working pastors: my Grandfather served his congregation for 42 years; my father served his congregation for 31 years. I believe in the power of long-term pastor-congregation relationships: it takes time to build strong relationships, and I am committed to serving you. My purpose in pursuing another degree is to gain new insights and skills so that I can better lead this congregation into the future that God has prepared for us. I know God expects great things from us. I know, too, that we will rise to the challenge. I want to be ready, prepared, and equipped to help guide us along the path God lays out for us. So, to answer the initial question: I plan to go wherever God leads us together. Keep me in your prayers during this course of study - I need them.

## Board of Managers – Donna Hendel

The Board of Managers invites anyone who can spare some time to join us Saturday afternoon, April 23, from 12:30-4:00 to spiff up our building. There are several areas that need attention. Examples: The window blinds in the classrooms, the toys in the nursery, and several projects in the kitchen. We will have a "to do" list ready and promise to make use of any time you can offer that afternoon. We will not take time for a meal, but the coffee pot will be on. Please consider joining us!

## 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 January 31, 2016

Revenue—\$48,944

Expenditures—\$44,152

#### Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted — \$59,464

Actual received—\$112,634



**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

##### February

3 families or individuals helped with \$130 towards food, rent or utilities

##### As of March 23<sup>rd</sup>

7 families or individuals helped with \$560 towards food, rent or utilities