

May Worship

MAY 7 9 and 11 a.m. Worship

The GO-CHRIST Challenge
Pastor Doug Dent

COMMUNION SUNDAY

1 Peter 2
*Celebration of the
Lord's Supper*

MAY 14 9 and 11 a.m. Worship

Travel Plans
Pastor Doug Dent

MOTHER'S DAY

John 14

MAY 21 10 a.m. Worship

The Whole World in His Hands
Pastor Doug Dent

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Acts 17
*We will celebrate Winnie
Clambey's 100th Birthday!
Ice Cream Social during
fellowship hour*

MAY 28 10 a.m. Worship

Remember to Remember
Pastor Doug Dent

Joshua 4



Dates to Remember

FRIDAY, MAY 5

Camp Scholarship applications due

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

Card Shower for Winnie Clambey's 100th Birthday

(see back of newsletter for more details)

SUNDAY, MAY 21

Last Day of Sunday School

Ice Cream Social

Celebration of Winnie Clambey's 100th Birthday

10 a.m. Worship

11 a.m. Ice Cream Social

SUNDAY, MAY 28

Summer Worship Schedule Begins

10 a.m. Worship

11 a.m. Coffee Hour

MONDAY, MAY 29

Memorial Day

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

12:30 p.m. Federated Friday
at the Food Shelf

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

Worship in the Park

10 a.m. Worship at Roosevelt Park

MONDAY - FRIDAY, JULY 10-14

Vacation Bible School

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Daily

See the Christian Ed column for more details



"Weep not for me, Mother, in the grave I have life."

So begins the poem "Crucifixion" by Russian poet Anna Akhmatova (1889-1966). "In the grave I have life." Yes, but...We feel compelled to interject that "but." But Christ didn't stay in the grave; we don't stay in the grave; there is life on the other side of the grave, not in it. This is all true. Yet maybe Akhmatova was correct in calling our attention to the grave itself.

We are people who shun the funeral service and its casket pall in favor of the memorial service complete with slideshow and shared remembrances. Not that slideshows and remembrances are inappropriate; they're just incomplete if we don't allow for the grave.

"In the grave I have life." We join with Christ in his death and resurrection, but you can't resurrect something that hasn't first died. The grave, like a seed, holds the promise of life. We can't have Easter Sunday without the tomb. Yet many, even those who consider themselves faithful disciples of Christ, overlook Ash Wednesday, Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. We much prefer the branch-waving children of Palm Sunday and our joy-filled Easter celebrations.

But if we haven't experienced the darkness, we miss the brilliance of the light. Without the death - and not a peaceful death, a painful excruciating death, along with the mental, emotional, and spiritual anguish of feeling deserted - without the death, there is nothing to celebrate.

"Weep not for me, Mother." Is it possible to stare the full weight of death in its face, in all its raw honesty, and not weep? How can a mother watch her son die and not weep? But in this case, Akhmatova suggests, the weeping cannot be for the one departed. Mary doesn't weep for Jesus, but for herself. Her loss, her grief. The truth is that we'd prefer not to feel or see that grief either. But if we don't feel that grief, we shut our hearts off from love and joy as well.

The Lenten season is now past. Together we acknowledged our sinfulness on Ash Wednesday, we shared each other's triumphs and tragedies during our Wednesday Lenten services, we reflected on Christ's holiness and brokenness on Maundy Thursday, and we grieved Christ's death on Good Friday. We contemplated the grave, but not as people without hope: for we know that our hope is birthed in the grave. We grieved, but not as people without tears: for if we truly look at the grave, we are moved to tears of gratitude for the immense gift Christ gave in his death and tears of joy for the miracle that is the resurrection!

Once we begin to fathom the mystery of the grave, then we can begin to join with creation in celebrating Christ's resurrection. For Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again! Hallelujah! Amen.

Blessing this Easter season.
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. 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 March, we were able to help **9** families or individuals with a total of **\$495.25**, used for food, household goods, rent or utilities. As of April 24, we have helped **7** families or individuals with **\$370.00** 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 brought in close to \$1700 for the local mission fund! Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed! Our friends and neighbors in need are grateful for the extra help they receive because of your generosity.





Things to know from the DCO

Rev. Ed Morgan

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you." (Philippians 1:3)

This statement from the Apostle Paul still relates how I feel about my work with all of you during my time as Director of Church Operations. It has been a privilege to work alongside such talented and dedicated people. You are truly a blessing.

As I look back, I am amazed at how much we have accomplished. Just to name a few:

- Established an Endowment Fund that now has a market value of \$411,000.
- Renovated the Gym with new floor, lighting and painting.
- Installed a restroom in the narthex
- Led a visioning process that has positively impacted our church.
- Installed security lighting and a new security system
- Many smaller projects

All these accomplishments have come about through the partnership we have experienced with individuals, Board of Managers, Stewardship Committee, Endowment Committee, and Deacons and Elders. I have also been blessed by the generosity and leadership of Pastor Doug and our church staff. God has blessed us with talented and generous people. Because of that generosity, we are able to serve our church family and go beyond our doors to make a difference in our community and our world.

I hope to continue to be involved as a volunteer with the Endowment Fund, Stewardship Committee and the Campus Enhancement Team. My time as a church staff member will end on April 30, and I will once again retire (for the fifth time).

May God continue to bless this church as we grow into the future God has for us.

Rev. Dr. Ed Morgan, DCO



Parish Nursing Notes

Connie Seltz
Parish Nurse Coordinator

Mother's Day is May 14th. It is a fine opportunity to give special attention to mom for all her care and devotion, and any mom is likely to appreciate it. The benefit to the son or daughter who honors mom and dad is

"Then you will live a long full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you." Exodus 20:12. My point is this: you don't need to wait for May 14th to make the direct connections mom so dearly appreciates. Make it a daily

commitment. Remember too, those who are lonely, isolated, widows, childless, ill, or have broken relationships. Thanks to God for creating the family and The Federated Faith Family.

Remind Text Alerts

The Federated Church is now using Remind, a text alert system to send out cancellations, reminders, schedule updates, and other time-sensitive announcements. If you would like to receive text updates from Federated Church, please **text the message @federated to the number 81010**. You will receive a confirmation text, followed by a text asking if you are a parent, student, or teacher. There's no need to respond to this text. You'll receive another text tell you about the ap available to use with Remind. You can use the ap, but it is not essential to have the ap in order to receive text alerts. Feel free to contact the church office with any questions!





Kids Club

We wrapped up our study on the Armor of God (Galatians 6) on April 26th. What a fun spring! Games, crafts, songs, Bible stories...it's a lot to pack into two hours each Wednesday. And we couldn't do it without our dedicated volunteers: Lu Echelberger, Colleen Kennedy, Renee Larsen, Abby MacFarlane, and Char Zielin. THANK YOU so much for all you do for our kids. Thanks, too, to everyone who provided the delicious and nutritious snacks and meals!



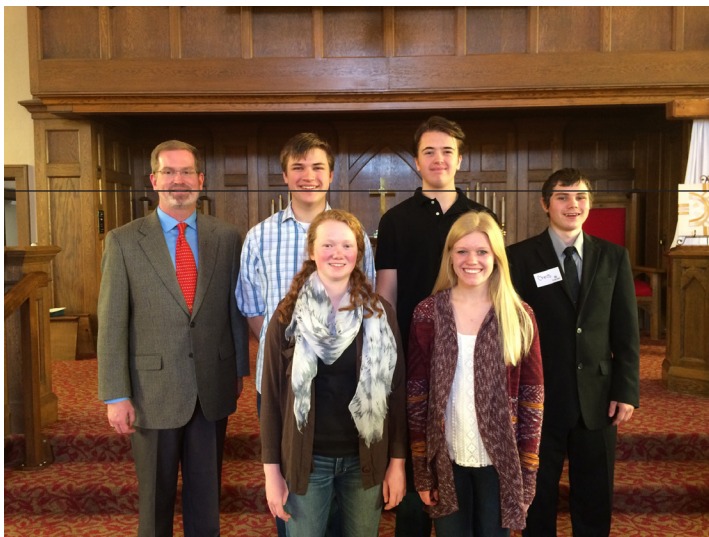
Vacation Bible School

MONDAY - FRIDAY, JULY 10-14 | 9AM - 3PM

Mark your calendars for July 10-14, 2017. Counselors from Clearwater Forest Camp will lead us in an awesome week of Bible School (9AM - 3 PM each day) with songs, Bible stories, and fun activities. Registration forms are available at www.federatedff.org/publications/forms/ or outside the church office. VOLUNTEERS are needed to help during the day, and to provide snacks and lunch. Call the church office if you can help with this exciting event.

Senior Brunch

We celebrated our nine graduating seniors with a brunch in their honor on April 23rd, following the 10am worship service. Congratulations to Christopher Anderson, Daniel Anderson, Jaden Brown, Shane Harthun, Janie Lee, Abigail MacFarlane, Brandon Vogel, Paige Westra, and Amanda Woessner! We are proud of you!!



Youth Groups

Jr. High Youth Group continues to meet from 3:30pm - 5:30pm on Wednesday afternoons, and Sr. High from 7:30pm - 9pm on Wednesday nights. The last regular Wednesday youth groups for the school year will be on May 17th. Stay tuned for the Summer schedule!

A highlight from Jr and Sr High Youth Groups this month was an Easter blessings scavenger hunt. Youth divided into teams and were given a description of a person to look for, along with a Service Food gift card and invitation to our Easter services. Once the person who most closely matched the description given was found, the youth got to bless them with the gift card. We all had a blast going around town and blessing the people of Fergus Falls. We even ran into the Easter bunny along the way!

Camp Scholarships

Camp Scholarship applications will be reviewed at the CEY meeting on May 9th! Be sure to turn in your child(ren)'s application(s) to the church office by May 5th. Applications are available at www.federatedff.org/publications/forms/ or outside the church office.



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 for one more Thursday at 10:30 AM, before taking a break for the summer. We will be studying the book of Jude on May 4. All women are invited! (Yes, bring your friends!)

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 will resume in October, with a new line-up of discussion topics! '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!

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!

May 21 Ice cream social Sundaes following worship

Church News

House of Hope

We are looking for some intrepid, mission-minded travelers to join the House of Hope Team! Our next trip is tentatively scheduled for February 3-10, 2018. The approximate cost per traveler is \$1,500. We will have an informational meeting soon: stay tuned for details! Anyone interested in going should contact Pastor Doug (dougdent@prtcl.com) or 739-3227. Dios de Bendiga!



HOUSES OF HOPE
INTERNATIONAL

Federated Church Decals

We have Federated Church car decals available in the church office! If you didn't receive one the first time around, and would like one, please stop by to pick one up.

Federated Church Jewelry

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Arms. Local artist, Sarah Karsnia, has made designed a beautiful pendant for the Federated Church using the updated logo and vision statement. A limited number of these pendants are available in the church office for \$35 each. If you are interested, contact the church office!





Community News

National Day of Prayer

GATHERING

MAY 4, 2017 | NOON - 12:30PM | CITY HALL

On Thursday, May 4th, gather with other community members to pray for our town, our nation, and our world. Prayer will start at noon at the City Hall flagpole. Gather inside the Council Chambers in the case of inclement weather.

Graduation Party

FOR ABBY MACFARLANE

MAY 21, 2017 | 1PM - 4PM | PEBBLE LAKE PICNIC SHELTER

All are invited to an open-house graduation party for Abby MacFarlane on Sunday, May 21st from 1pm - 4pm at the Pebble Lake Picnic Shelter.

Volunteers Needed!

LAKE REGION RUN

JUNE 3, 2017 | MORNING

Volunteers are needed for the morning of Saturday, June 3rd, to help with the Lake Region Run. If interested, please contact Karoline Gustafson at kjgustafson@lrhc.org or 736-8451. All proceeds of the Lake Region Run go to the LRH Cancer Care & Research Center.



The Academy

JULY 2017 - AUGUST 2019

Would you like to grow in your faith and knowledge? Or grow as a leader? Would you like to have more opportunities to serve God as needed in your area? The Presbytery of MN Valleys, Presbytery of North Central Iowa, Presbytery of Prospect Hill and Synod of Lakes and Prairies are excited to be offering The Academy, an 11 course series starting July 2017 and ending August 2019. This series is designed to develop well-equipped, thoughtful people to better serve in a variety of capacities. More information is available in the church office or at <http://presbynciowa.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2016/09/The-Academy-Brochure.pdf>.

Minnesota Conference UCC ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 9-11TH, 2017 | COLLEGE OF ST BENEDICT

The Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ will be holding their 55th Annual Meeting June 9-11th, 2017 at the College of St. Benedict. If you are interested in being The Federated Church's delegate, please contact the church office for more information. All fees would be paid for by The Federated Church.



Committees

Caring Ministry & Outreach

KAROLINE GUSTAFSON

Bike to church on May 21st!

We invite your family to bike to church on Sunday, May 21st (10am worship)! The City of Fergus Falls will provide bike racks out front. And because we believe that God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105), all bikers will receive a bicycle headlight to help guide their way.

Fellowship

DENNIS BOWMAN

Ice Cream Social | May 21st

We have much reason to celebrate!! We're wrapping up a GREAT Sunday School year and entering the Summer worship schedule, AND it's Winnie Clambey's 100th birthday! The Fellowship Committee invites you to come celebrate with ice cream sundaes! We'll gather for one worship service at 10am, followed by ice cream sundaes in the fellowship hall at 11am. Come celebrate with us!



Business as usual

Service Groups

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
 Jon and Jessica Steinbrenner
 Evan and Tanya Westra

JUNE SERVICE GROUP

GROUP #9

Dale Anderson
 Mark and Lisa Becker
 Grant and Mariah Davenport
 Tim and Desta Hunt
 Wayne and Patti Link
 Chuck and Linda MacFarlane
 Bill and Mary Ann Nead
 Lynn Oxley
 Mae Reich
 Ben and Tessa Schierer
 Jo Schmidt
 Beth Strom
 Matyas Sundheim
 Gail Welle
 Jim and Arlene Worner

Ministry Nite: May 9 - 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.

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

MAY 2017

Sunday, May 7

9 a.m. Jon & Jessica Steinbrenner
 11 a.m. Kurt & Sonja Johnson

Sunday, May 14

9 a.m. Terry & Jeanette Haas
 11 a.m. Evan & Tanya Westra

Sunday, May 21

10 a.m. Carolyn Anderson
 and Ruth Aulds

Sunday, May 28

10 a.m. Marcus & Rebekah Meder
 and Pam Phillips

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.

Stewardship Report

General Fund Report	
Revenue	\$26,005.00
Expenditures	\$29,225.00
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$85,076.00
Actual Received	\$95,753.00

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS FOR FEBRUARY

Sunmart	
April	\$656.00
Total as of 4/1/17	\$70,407.00
Service Food	
April	\$1,815.04

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 to 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

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

Time sensitive information
Please deliver by April 30th.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone involved in Noble Hatling's funeral service, for all those who attended and gave cards and words of support, and all those who baked lemon bars and helped serve following the service. We are grateful for our Federated Family! - The Hatling family

Happy 100th Birthday!



Winnie Clambey turns 100 on May 17th! Join Federated Family in celebrating Winnie on May 21st! Winnie is an amazing person - kind of a local celebrity! - and a long-time member of Federated Church.

Cards may be sent to Winnie at:

Park Gardens
Apt. #214
215 Skogmo Blvd
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

May Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-------|------------------|-------|---------------------|
| 05/02 | Melissa Loomer | 05/17 | Truman Steinbrenner |
| 05/02 | David Stoddard | 05/17 | Steve Thompson |
| 05/02 | Henrik Gustafson | 05/18 | Janet Knapp |
| 05/03 | Nic Ebert | 05/18 | Ashley Rodning |
| 05/03 | Jan Nelson | 05/20 | Dennis Echelberger |
| 05/03 | Codie Tabbut | 05/20 | Samantha Beck |
| 05/03 | Alyssa White | 05/22 | Bev Lambert |
| 05/04 | Ingrid Morgan | 05/22 | Carol Anderson |
| 05/06 | Mariah Davenport | 05/23 | Mary Lundeen |
| 05/07 | Paige Westra | 05/23 | Kim Anderson |
| 05/08 | Susan Johnson | 05/23 | Abby Harthun |
| 05/08 | Arianna Hedrick | 05/23 | Allie Murphy |
| 05/08 | Vivian Olson | 05/23 | Christian Saurer |
| 05/09 | Mary Milton | 05/24 | L. Art Syverson |
| 05/10 | Shelby Eckhoff | 05/25 | Elizabeth Nelson |
| 05/11 | Rebecca Kalar | 05/26 | Terry Harthun |
| 05/12 | Gerald Worner | 05/26 | Lisa Johnson |
| 05/14 | Joyce Youngren | 05/26 | Ben Sundberg |
| 05/14 | Vern Tabbut | 05/27 | Desta Hunt |
| 05/15 | Crystal Cavalier | 05/28 | Barbara Becker |
| 05/15 | Maren Hatling | 05/28 | Mackenzie Schara |
| 05/15 | Luke Barry | 05/30 | Mae Harthun |
| 05/15 | Tucker Ugstad | 05/30 | Matthew Solin |
| 05/17 | Winnie Clambey | 05/31 | Mae Reich |

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

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