

The Union Avenue News

www.federatedff.org

church@federatedff.org

May 2016

Ice Cream Social

Sunday, May 15th \ \ 11AM

Join us as we celebrate the end of a great Sunday School year with ice cream sundaes at 11AM in the fellowship hall!



**Summer Worship
| S c h e d u l e |
Begins May 15th
Worship 10AM
Coffee Hour 11AM**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, May 4th

7:30PM—Youth Groups packing promise packs

Wednesday, May 11th

Last Day of Jr High Youth Group

Sunday, May 15th

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

Wednesday, May 18th

Last Day of Sr High Youth Group

Sunday, May 22nd

10AM—Worship
11AM—Coffee Hour
Discovering Our Future
Congregational Event
(during coffee hour)

Sunday, June 5th

10AM—Worship in the Park
(Roosevelt Park)
11AM—Coffee Hour hosted by
the Mission Committee

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Time Sensitive
Information
Please deliver by
April 30th

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

The Pastor's Pen...



When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:1-4

Pentecost is generally considered the birthday of the Church. The Holy Spirit descended on the people of God, inspiring and empowering them to speak God's Word to the world.

Pentecost Sunday is May 15th this year. Pentecost comes 50 days after Easter. It reminds us that Easter (The Resurrection) is not the end of the story. There is a reason why Scripture doesn't end with the resurrection. There is a reason why the Christian year doesn't end with Easter. That may be the climax of the story, but we need to hear the conclusion in order to understand the significance of that resurrection event. Without it we are left with a half-baked story. We need the Ascension and Pentecost, followed by the return of our awaiting Christ's second coming in Advent, in order to get the full story.

The ascension of Jesus assures us of Christ's place in heaven. It assures us that because Christ has risen, we will too. It affirms that the risen Christ is not inactive but continues to rule as our Sovereign Lord. And while Christ is absent from us physically, he sent the Holy Spirit to us at Pentecost to be our comforter and guide. The events of Pentecost themselves teach us much about how we are to live between Christ's resurrection and his second coming, and how we are to worship.

We know how this story ends: one day we will rise from the dead and live eternally with God. But until that day, we need the message of Ascension and Pentecost to help us live with hope and boldness in the here and now.

Blessings for this Pentecost season. And happy birthday, Federated Church!

Pastor Doug

Timothy Fellowship

Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, VA) generously bestowed The Katherine Hawes Award (\$1,000) to our congregation to support the Timothy Fellowship. In the notification letter, Kenneth J. McFayden, the Academic Dean, quoting a selection panel member, said of our program:

"An innovative approach toward fostering young men and women in their initial period of discernment of a call to ordained ministry or Christian education. The congregation is to be commended for their active, systematic approach to supporting the discernment process. The current Fellow, Jordan Schiefert, has not only benefitted from the program but added significantly to the mission of the congregation."

In addition to receiving the award, our program will also be featured on Union Presbyterian Seminary's website (www.upsem.edu) and will be announced at the next Union Presbyterian Seminary Board of Trustees Meeting.

Please continue to hold our program and our intern, Jordan, in your prayers as he discerns his call to ministry.

Christian Education



Karen Anderson, Director of Christian Education

May is a month of transition for Christian education every year as we move from the academic year programming to the planning and visioning for the following year. That doesn't mean, however, that nothing will be going on during the summer months! We hope that everyone is planning to participate in Vacation Bible School this summer, July 11-15th! Sign up forms for K-6th graders are available in the church office. Once again we have counselors coming from Clearwater Forest to help implement the program for the week. The theme this year is *Community*, which will give us the opportunity to incorporate some additional activities unique to Fergus Falls. I am looking at having a day at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center and doing a week-long offering to share with a community organization of the kids' choice as a way to support OUR community. We will provide more information in the following weeks as we get closer to this awesomely fun week!

May is also the time when families begin thinking seriously about summer camp. If you are planning to send your child(ren) to a summer camp this year, stop by the church office for a scholarship form. Every year our church commits to assisting families in the cost of summer Bible camp. The deadline generally falls at the end of May, but if you are a little late, still fill one out! We do our best to honor all requests.

Youth News

On April 17th we honored our graduating seniors with a special worship service and brunch. Our nine seniors are: Austin Barry, Luke Barry, Wesley Darville, Lexi Davis, Sam Nelson, Emily Stoddard, Anna Sundheim, Austen Tabbut, and Tayler Thompson-Eckhoff. Please keep these individuals and their families in your prayers as they transition to the next stage in their lives! (See the back of the calendar for a picture from the Senior Brunch.)

All seniors are invited to apply for a scholarship provided through the generous gift of Rev. William and Marjorie Van Dyken and other memorials. If you are a graduating senior, but did not receive a scholarship letter, please contact the church office. Please submit completed applications to the church office by May 8, 2016.

On May 4th our junior and senior high youth groups will be putting together the World Vision "Promise Packs" we raised money for during Lent. Altogether, we raised enough money to purchase 67 backpacks! As part of the graduating seniors' parting gifts, a pack was purchased by the Christian Education committee in their honor to share the blessing of education with another child around the world! On May 8th we plan to bless the backpacks during worship and then send them off!

The last official days of Youth Group will be May 11th for Jr High and May 18th for Sr High. This doesn't mean youth group stops getting together, though!! More summer event info to come—stay tuned!



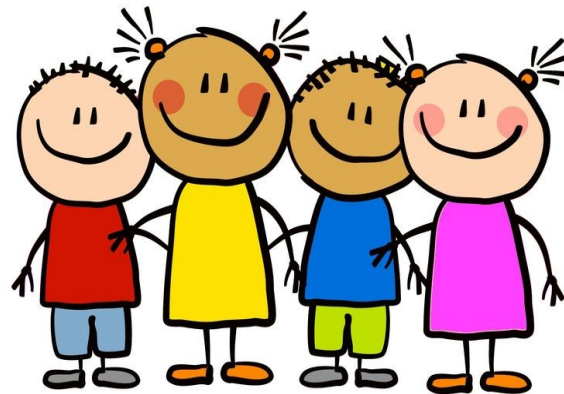
Weekly Schedule

3:30PM—Jr. High Youth Group
7:30PM—Sr. High Youth Group

Wed. 5/11—Last day of Jr High Youth Group
Sun. 5/15—11AM Ice Cream Social and last day of Sunday School
Wed. 5/18—Last day of Sr High Youth Group

Sunday School

On May 15th we will be honoring and thanking the Sunday school teachers for the 2015-2016 year: Jona Brown and Madalyn Dent, K-1 teachers; Paige Westra and Abby MacFarlane, 2nd-4th grade teachers; and Karen Bush, 5th-6th grade teacher. They worked hard, dug deep with our students this year, and created warm environments for learning about God and each other. I hope you will take the opportunity to personally thank them for all that they do for our church family. It is no small task to share the Gospel with young people, and I can assure you that they all did a wonderful job this year! We also hope to have the Sunday school students, along with Kids Club kids, sing during the May 15th worship service. Please plan to have your child attend worship that day! Over the summer we hope to review the curriculum and plan a training/support event for Sunday school teachers and Kids Club workers. Keep watch for more information!



Kids Club

On April 13th, we wrapped up our spring session of Kids Club. Our theme was *Where in the World is Jesus*, and we explored Jesus' journey from the crucifixion on the cross to the ascension to the heavens. Our crafts and songs illustrated the theme and scripture verse for each day. We had great fun being together and learning more about Jesus. Looking ahead to fall, I am planning a fall and early winter session to begin in mid-September. More information will follow over the summer. If you are interested in being a part of Kids Club, either as a participant or as a volunteer, feel free to contact me at kmad@prtel.com! And a huge THANK YOU goes out to all our volunteers who help each week with crafts and gym, story/music time and crowd control! We couldn't have done it without your willingness to share time and love! On May 15th we will be formally thanking all helpers for Kids Club this year along with our Sunday school and confirmation teachers. We have quite a team of committed people!

We are trying something new! We'll be sending out a weekly Monday Memo via email to let you know what's happening at Federated. If you are not receiving these emails, or other emails from the church, please check your spam and adjust filters. We've had several people, especially those with prtel email addresses, experience this problem. Or, please contact the church office to make sure we have your email address.

All ladies are invited to coffee hour Tuesdays at 10AM in The Fellowship Hall! Come for coffee, treats, and conversation.



Newsletter Deadline

Articles and announcements for the monthly newsletter are due on the 15th 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.



Worship at The Federated Church

Sunday, May 1, 2017

9AM and 11 AM

“The Lord’s Lawn Work”

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper at both services

Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, May 8, 2017

9AM and 11 AM

Mother’s Day

“Jesus on Mergers & Acquisitions”

John 17:20-26

Blessing of the backpacks for refugee children

Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, May 15, 2017

10AM

Pentecost Sunday

“Happy Birthday to You, Church!”

Acts 2:1-21

Teacher Recognition

Ice Cream social after worship

Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, May 22, 2017

10AM

Trinity Sunday

“The Shepherd and the Circle”

Psalms 23

Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, May 29, 2017

10AM

“Fire Mission”

1 Kings 18:20-21 (22-29), 30-39

Pastor Doug Dent

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

In this newsletter, you will read an article from the Discovering Our Future Team. I draw your attention to the priorities the team has discerned from the hundreds of comments from you, the congregation. We still have lots of work to do, as the article shares, but I am excited about the direction we are seeing and the enthusiasm I sense from our congregation. From the beginning, we have emphasized that this process is Spirit-led and congregation-centered. So, on Sunday, May 22 we will have one worship service and following worship we will meet again as a congregation to review the priorities, have an opportunity to share any more insights you might have and vote on the final priorities recommended by the Deacons and Elders. Once our congregation has decided on the priorities that will lead us into the next five years, we will begin the implementation phase.

We now have an Endowment Committee in place. That committee is John Erickson, Stephanie Hoff, Donna Hendel, Russ Larsen, Mark Rodning, and Evan Westra. Members without vote, Rev. Ed Morgan and Rev. Doug Dent. The committee has met and fulfilled one of their responsibilities by recommending an investment manager to the Deacons and Elders. The firm of Edward Jones (Marcus Meder) was approved. We are now moving forward on consolidating all the church’s investments with one manager to receive the best return. We will be working on providing our congregation with ways we can all leave a legacy to move our church into the future.

I am encouraged by the willingness of our church members and friends to use their talents and resources to do Christ’s ministry in and through our church. We are truly blessed to have such a talented and willing congregation. I am going to use one of my favorite verses once again, 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.”

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.



May Service Group

Group #6

Dennis and Jean Bowman
 Dennis and Lu Echelberger
 Paul and Tina Eckhoff
 Cindy Holte
 Love Ell 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

June Service Group

Group #7

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

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

May 2016

Sunday, May 1st

9AM— Paul & Tina Eckhoff
 11AM— Dennis & Lu Echelberger

Sunday, May 8th

9AM— Dennis & Jean Bowman
 11AM— Al & Connie Seltz

Sunday, May 15th

10AM— Love Ell Hultin and Jan Knackendoffel

Sunday, May 22nd

10AM— Gary & Roxane Nereson and
 Lee Syverson

Sunday, May 29th

10AM— Gerry & Anne Worner and
 Cindy Holte

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.

Condolences to...

- U Wayne Link on the death of his father.
- U Char Zielin on the death of her father, Milton Moen.

Thank You to:

- ☺ Thank you for your willingness to gather donations. The colored pencils were greatly appreciated for VBS. The remainder of the donations were given to the church we partnered with to be disbursed. Also, thank you for the prayers throughout our mission trip. We saw God do great things while we were in Belize. Blessings, Holy Hungry Hippos (Caitlyn Nygaard's team to Belize)
- ☺ Jona Brown for framing all the historical photos in the fellowship hall.

May Birthdays



Melissa Loomer 05/02
 David Stoddard 05/02
 Henrik Gustafson 05/02
 Jan Nelson 05/03
 Codie Tabbut 05/03
 Alyssa White 05/03
 Ingrid Morgan 05/04
 Mariah Davenport 05/06
 Paige Westra 05/07
 Susan Johnson 05/08
 Arianna Hedrick 05/08
 Vivian Olson 05/08
 Mary Milton 05/09
 Shelby Eckhoff 05/10
 Rebecca Kalar 05/11
 Gerald Worner 05/12

Joyce Youngren 05/14
 Vern Tabbut 05/14
 Crystal Cavalier 05/15
 Maren Hatling 05/15
 Luke Barry 05/15
 Tucker Ugstad 05/15
 Winnie Clambey 05/17
 Truman Steinbrenner 05/17
 Steve Thompson 05/17
 Janet Knapp 05/18
 Ashley Rodning 05/18
 Dennis Echelberger 05/20
 Samatha Beck 05/20
 Bev Lambert 05/22
 Carol Anderson 05/22
 Mary Lundeen 05/23

Kim Anderson 05/23
 Abby Harthun 05/23
 Allie Murphy 05/23
 Christian Saurer 05/23
 L. Art Syverson 05/24
 Elizabeth Nelson 05/25
 Terry Harthun 05/26
 Lisa Johnson 05/26
 Ben Sundberg 05/26
 Desta Hunt 05/27
 Barbara Becker 05/28
 Mackenzie Schara 05/28
 Mae Harthun 05/30
 Matthew Solin 05/30
 Mae Reich 05/31

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

Ministry Nite!

May 10th 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.



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

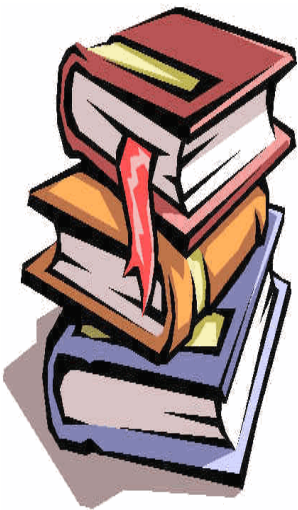
Women's Bible Study meets every Thursday at 10:30 AM in the church parlor. The women's Bible study group is currently going through the study *The Wise & The Foolish*. The study is a nine-session Bible study on Jesus' Discipleship parables. All women are welcome!

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. One Sunday remains in the 2015/16 series! On Sunday, May 1st, the topic will be **Pentecost**. All are welcome!

Doctoral Studies—Pastor Doug

I successfully completed the first year of doctoral studies on March 31, 2016. My final paper received an "A" rating and an overall course grade of "A". (Even though I am 47 years old, I still get excited when I get an "A" from my professor!) The first part of the paper required me to write about times in my life when I felt the Holy Spirit moving and guiding me, and how I experience the Holy Spirit in my ministry. The second part asked me to write a theology of the Holy Spirit – basically, my best understanding of the Spirit from biblical and secular sources and from my life experience. For the final part of the paper, I wrote about an adaptive challenge our congregation is facing: I chose to write about reaching out to inactive members and neighbors in the community to discover where the Spirit is leading us forward in our ministry. I continue to be challenged and enthused by this process: I am grateful for your support in this endeavor. The next class is already underway with new readings and papers, so please continue to pray for me. Thanks.



Board of Managers – Donna Hendel

Check out the new narthex with its welcoming seating area and new, fully functional bathroom. We've already seen many people and groups using this inviting space. (Pastor Doug even uses it as a study space!) We hope you will enjoy this gathering place. Our dream is to add a flat screen television so that families with young children can be part of worship while their little ones play back there.

Grocery Receipts

Ruth Aulds

The totals for March—April 9:

Service Foods - \$9,051

SunMart - \$3,696.94 this period

\$51,812.51 total as of April 9, 2016



Stewardship Report

General Fund Report—as of March 31, 2016

Revenue— \$82,979.48

Expenditures—

\$39,110.93

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted — \$133,328.28

Actual received—\$89,196



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

March

28 families or individuals helped with \$1811.90 towards food, rent or utilities

As of April 25th

14 families or Individuals helped with \$830.94 towards food, rent or utilities

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

ENGLISH, MATH, SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ALL LEARNER LEVELS

DO YOU HAVE A DESIRE TO HELP OTHERS LEARN?

OPEN MONDAY -THURSDAY 10AM-3PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL SARA AT: 218-998-0544 EXT. 9202



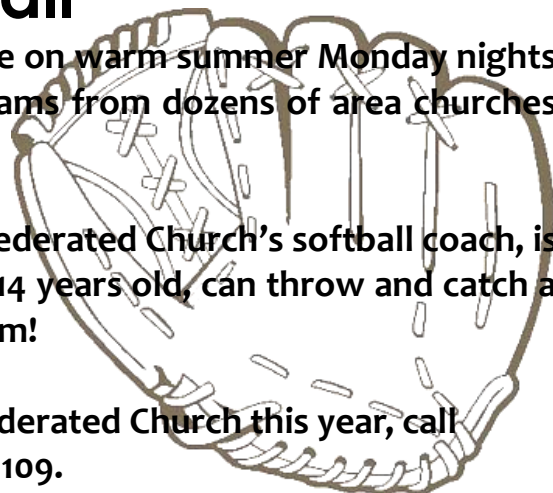
The Lake Region Run is right around the corner! Participate in the race by registering at www.lakeregionrun.com. If you do not want to participate, volunteers are needed on Friday, June 3rd and Saturday, June 4th (race day). Contact Mary at mlwalvatne@lrhc.org to volunteer. All proceeds for the Lake Region Run go to Lake Region Healthcare's Cancer Care & Research Center. Last year's race had 700+ participants. For more information, please go to www.lakeregionrun.com or talk to Karoline Gustafson.

Monday Night Church Softball

The DeLagoon softball complex has been the place to be on warm summer Monday nights for the past several years. That's when the softball teams from dozens of area churches battle it out for supremacy on the softball diamond.

Softball season starts in May and Mark Anderson, The Federated Church's softball coach, is looking for players to fill our roster. If you are at least 14 years old, can throw and catch a ball, swing a bat, and run bases, we want you on the team!

If you are interested in playing softball for The Federated Church this year, call Mark Anderson 218-736-6109.



Caring Ministry & Outreach – Connie Seltz

One of the responsibilities of this committee is “to provide a welcoming environment for all persons who enter our doors.” One of the ways our committee tries to promote this is by providing name tags on selected Sundays, usually a Sunday with one service. New members and some not so new really appreciate having the “visible reminder” of our names. It’s helpful to new visitors too. Our committee says a big “Thank you” to all who do this cheerfully! Also, if or when you change or discontinue your phone number, e-mail address, or home address it is helpful if you notify the church office. We’ve been told that some information in the new directory is already obsolete. Thank you in advance.

If you have not yet received your pictorial directory, please stop by the church office to pick yours up. Any remaining will be handed out by the Caring Ministry & Outreach committee members on Sunday, May 15th.

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!!



Parish Nursing Notes – Connie Seltz, Parish Nurse Coordinator

The increased hours of light and warmer temps seem to bring new energy. Several women have suggested that the women of the church should have a “gathering time” similar to the coffee time the men enjoy each Friday morning. I have an idea. Already, we have an active Women’s Bible Study meeting on Thursday mornings at 10:30AM. Sometimes we say, “Does anyone have time to go out for lunch?” Those who can, head to Cally’s arriving about noon. Always, each pays for their own lunch. It is a quiet place, making conversation quite comfortable. The women just began a nine week study on April 14th, so consider this as an invitation during the month of May. Consider coming to both the study of the parables and the lunch opportunity. See you there!

House of Hope Mission Trip

February 2017

It’s never too early to be thinking of our next mission trip to The House of Hope! If you are interested in this exciting and joy-filled opportunity to share God’s word with our brothers and sisters in Guatemala, plan to join our trip from February 11-18, 2017. Pastor Doug will host an information session for anyone interested on Sunday, May 15, 2016 during the fellowship hour. Come, find out what you can do for the people of Guatemala, get information on the anticipated costs, and have your questions answered.



HOUSES OF HOPE
INTERNATIONAL