

The Union Avenue News

www.federatedff.org

church@federatedff.org

August 2015

Worship in the Park

Sunday, August 30

Roosevelt Park Picnic Shelter

Worship 10AM

Fellowship 11AM

Everyone is welcome!

Service will be moved to The Federated Church in the case
of
inclement weather

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 5th

Church family picnic @ Inspiration Peak
and Christ Hike at IPoint

Time: TBA

August 19th

Summer Concert @ The Federated Church
7PM

August 26th

Youth Group trip to Valleyfair

August 30th

Summer Worship
in Roosevelt Park
10AM @ the Roosevelt Park picnic shelter

September 8th

Red Cross Citizen's CPR and AED Review
5:30—6:30 PM @ The Federated Church

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS



**NEDERLAND, CO
MISSION TRIP**



**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
ft. Susie Sanner;
The Federated Choir; & Heart
of the Lakes Dixie**



CAMP IN A VAN

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #285
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Time Sensitive
Information
Please deliver by
July 31st

Summer Worship Schedule

10:00am Worship
11:00am Coffee Hour

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 (resumes in September)

Women's Bible Study meets every Thursday at 10:30am in the parlor (resumes in September)

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



My favorite cartoon strip of all time is "Calvin and Hobbes". Calvin is named after John Calvin, the reformer from the 16th century who was instrumental in the beginning of what we know as Presbyterianism. Calvin is a young boy who is playful and yet often thinks more deeply than many adults. Hobbes is Calvin's imaginary friend named after an English enlightenment philosopher. Hobbes happens to be a tiger. They are typical best friends who play, fight and yet are inseparable.

The cartoon is a scene where Calvin and Hobbes are sitting in the grass under a clear night sky looking up at the stars. Calvin says, "If people sat outside and looked up at the stars each night, I'll bet they'd live a lot differently." A week ago, Karen woke me up (well after midnight) to step outside and see the northern lights. There, among the stars, were reds and greens and yellows waving and wafting through space. It truly was awe-inspiring.

I thought about those lights: the starlight that hits my eyes has traveled trillions of miles and hundreds, even thousands, of years to reach me. Just thinking about the notion that I can still see the light whose origins are so old and so distant causes me to pause and think about the wonders of the universe. So I thought about what Calvin said to Hobbes as he gazed into the starry sky and I agree. "If people sat outside and looked up at the stars each night, I'll bet they'd live a lot differently."

So I came up with some ways we might live differently. We would be regularly reminded just how big our God is. Light has been detected by scientists that has traveled for over thirteen billion years at 186,000 miles per second. That is a distance that we have absolutely no ability to imagine or grasp as the creator God exists outside of our universe. The question is, "Who is this God who could create this vast universe that is on one hand very structured around mathematics, yet also seems so chaotic and often uncontrollably random?" If nothing else happens, just looking up at the stars and thinking of the long journey that the starry light has made, we are reminded that God is bigger than our ability to think or grasp. The magnitude of our universe, its size, its complexity, and the fact that it still is growing and changing points to the bigness of our God.

In theological terms we talk about God being sovereign or free to do as God chooses, because God is the creator of all we see on earth and in the skies. We might think about the words of Jesus that for God nothing is impossible. Yes, the stars speak to us, "not with words" but with the light of a distant star that our God is bigger than we can imagine. The second change in our lives might be that we would be humbled by our small status in the scope of our universe's existence. A light year, or the distance light travels in a year, is about 6 trillion miles. We live on a planet that is about 8,000 miles in diameter.

We are so small and in reality so insignificant to the happenings of this universe. Humility would be one of the ways we might be changed. We are not the center of the universe. We are way, way, way, way, way too small. We would live more humbly under the light of a starry sky. We would live more gratefully, too. As small as we are and as big as God is, we should join our voices to that of the psalmist who asks, "Who are we that you notice us and who are we, O God, that you care for us?" As small and insignificant as we are to the existence of the universe, God knows us, cares for us, and loves us because we know God created us. There would seem to be a lot bigger things than us to worry about in overseeing a universe, yet God focuses his love on us and becomes one of us. What love is this that God offers us? We would be more grateful to God as we look to the starry skies.

Maybe we would live with more faith. If the stars remind us of how big is our God and how wondrous is God's love for us, why won't we trust God more? The God who created this universe can certainly handle anything we face. God can be strong for us, even when we are weak. God has no reason to leave, even when we want to run. If God does love us, and promises never to leave us or abandon us, why not take the next step in our relationship with God. As Paul writes, let us "walk by faith, not by sight" or "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." We might be reminded from the gospel of John that the light of the world entered the darkness and the darkness could not overcome it. If we looked up into the stars each night and knew that the darkness could not overcome it, we would live in faith.

One thing I know that has changed in the way I live is the wonder and awe in which I worship God. Each time I look up and think about how big our God is, how small we are, and how much God loves us there are only two words I can say. Thank You. Maybe it's the birth of a child, the news of a clean bill of health, or of an experience where words cannot express the good news or gift received. How can one express God's majesty and grace offered to us? That is my experience as I look into the stars. Looking up into the sky should remind us of God with awe and wonder and worship. The nice thing about summer is that we are not rushing to get into a warm house. We can pause and linger for a while as we look up and spend time gazing at the light of the stars. If we listen to their witness, they will change us. God will use them to change us. See you in worship on Sunday.

Pastor Doug

Consecration Sunday is October 25, 2015

To "consecrate" something means to declare it sacred or holy. It can also mean to set something aside for a special purpose. Last year, our stewardship campaign was about consecrating our lives and our resources to the service of God. This year, we are setting aside Sunday, October 25, 2015, as the day to rededicate ourselves to God's holy calling.

We will have one worship service that morning (10AM), followed by a congregational brunch (11AM). Reverend Dr. Ed Morgan will be our guest preacher that day; he will speak to us about being good and faithful stewards in God's kingdom.

This is a different kind of stewardship campaign, designed to foster discipleship, not just reach a financial goal. We will not be sending you a pledge card; instead we will provide an Estimate of Giving card at the brunch on October 25th. We will be asking each household to make a pledge as a sign of their renewed commitment to God's missions and ministries at The Federated Church.

Your participation is critical. We pray that you will join us on October 25th as we celebrate our past and commend ourselves to God's future.





K-12 Youth

Camp-in-a-Van

Karen Anderson, Interim Director of Christian Education

It is hard to believe that VBS 2015 is now over! We had such a great week—with about 30 participants, three counselors from Clearwater Forest, 10 of our older (middle school/high school) youth as helpers, and so many volunteers who brought food and shared time! The theme was “Power up! Living in God’s Holy Spirit”, and each day focused on a different component of living for God. As always, there was music, games, Bible time, crafts, and fellowship! The kids memorized 2 Timothy 1:13-14, “Hold onto the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me—a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.” Several of the kids were able to repeat it from memory and were thus given the opportunity to “win” the chance to paint a counselor’s face, make one act as a servant for them, dress them in funny hats, etc. It was truly good fun! See the back of the August calendar for some fun pictures from the week!

Kids Club

We are beginning to plan the theme and activities for our fall Kid’s club time! We are so looking forward to seeing all of you and getting back to the learning, fun, and fellowship that comes with being together! Look for more information in our next newsletter!



Sunday School and Nursery

Sunday school curriculum is currently being reviewed for the fall. We will be seeking Sunday school teachers for our wonderful kids, and a class time schedule is being developed, with music and worship time as part of the hour. I will be holding a Sunday school teacher/kids club helper training in late August or early September.

During the month of August we plan to set up a nursery team for the fall and winter. Details will be coming out online and during worship. If you are interested, please contact Karen at the church office or at kmad@prtel.com.



Youth Upcoming Events

We have set a tentative schedule of events for the remaining summer months, and we will also let people know of more spontaneous events (biking, fun in the park, etc.) through Facebook/e-mail/text!

The schedule includes:

Aug. 5th—Church Family Picnic/Christ Hike at Inspiration Peak/Inspiration Point (Everyone!)

Aug. 26th—Valley Fair (Youth Groups)

Sept. 4th-6th—Life Light (Youth Groups)

Colorado Mission Trip 2015

On June 12th, our mission team left Fergus Falls bound for Nederland, CO! That evening, we saw the lighting ceremony at Mount Rushmore and stayed in Keystone, SD. When we arrived on the 13th, it was notably cooler and the elevation was a bit different from what we are used to! Our trip leader, Wes, was



a church member whose special calling includes running mission trips—he was awesome! The girls (8 of us) slept in the church's sanctuary (we pushed pews together—it was pretty comfortable!) and the boys (4 of us) slept in a classroom. We sang and read as part of their outdoor church service, and heard an interesting sermon—one that we discussed for the rest of the week!

Our mission work included sealing the outside of the town's unique carousel (we even met the man who carved every animal!), repairing a walking path washed out by recent rain, setting up a HAM radio emergency response center, painting fire hydrants, and feeding the homeless population that lives in the woods beyond the town. Each night we went through devotions designed by the pastor in Nederland, and then spent time playing games, singing, relaxing, sitting outside listening to the rushing river, and just generally enjoying each other's company. Elizabeth divided us into two teams that took turns preparing breakfast and dinner (and you can assume, since Elizabeth was the head chef, the meals were wonderful!), and a few nights we had meals courtesy of church members. On Wednesday

of the week we spent the day driving and hiking through the Rocky Mountains. It was so beautiful, with much of the winter snow intact and cooler temperatures. The youth enjoyed watching VERY TAME chipmunks and spotting elk and bighorn sheep along the way. That evening we were also treated with a karaoke night in the church's fellowship hall. Our team truly has talent!! On Friday, we started our journey back and stayed, once again, in Keystone, where we experienced a tremendous hailstorm (both of our cars sustained just a little damage—lucky since many cars at the hotel lost windows!). The next morning, at the kids' request, we visited the Cosmos, a strangely supernatural place with weird gravitational phenomenon and beauty. After that unique experience, we started our final day in the car. On the way through South Dakota we witnessed the amazing power of the storm we had been a part of the night before with overturned trucks and farm buildings lying across fields. What a blessing that we were all safe! It was a great trip—the team was hard-working and up for whatever came our way, the devotions and discussions were enlightening, and I can honestly say that all of us felt as though the week was a “church family work vacation!” Thank you for your prayers and support that made this trip a reality!



Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon for one hour. All the men of the congregation are invited.

Our first study will be *WWII: D-Day and the Providence of God*. This seven session, DVD based series will provide a thoroughly Christian overview of the men and the movements that led to D-Day, the commanders and soldiers who engaged in battle there, as well as the results of the invasion.

Sept. 14th	Episode 1: The Theological Significance of the Second World War
Sept. 21st	Discussion of Episode 1
Sept. 28th	Episode 2: The Strategic Overview
Oct. 5th	Discussion of Episode 2
Oct. 12th	Episode 3: The Theology of Leadership on D-Day
Oct. 19th	Discussion of Episode 3
Oct. 26th	Episode 4: Deception, Intelligence, and Spying for D-Day
Nov. 2nd	Discussion of Episode 4
Nov. 9th	Episode 5: The Decision to God
Nov. 16th	Discussion of Episode 5
Nov. 23rd	Episode 6: The Men of D-Day and the Meaning of Manhood
Nov. 30th	Discussion of Episode 6
Dec. 7th	Episode 7: The Aftermath
Dec. 14th	Discussion of Episode 7
Dec. 21st	No Men's Bible Study
Dec. 28th	No Men's Bible Study



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study begins Thursday, September 17th at 10:30 AM in the church parlor. Our first topic will be "One For All: Experiencing the Exclusive Claim of Christ." This study is open to all the women of our congregation and community.

Confirmation classes begin Wednesday, October 7th! Hope to see you there. 7th & 8th graders—come right from school, have a snack and some game time before class begins. 9th graders will meet at 6:30PM. Together we'll explore our part in God's great plan for the world.

**Parent/Student meeting on Sunday, September 27th at noon
(after worship) in the choir room.**



Newsletter



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.

August Service Group Group #7

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

September 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

August 2015

Sunday, August 2

10AM—Ross & Marianne Stone and
Yvonne Marts

Sunday, August 9

10AM—Ed & Ingrid Morgan and Shannon
Wilson

Sunday, August 16

10AM—Craig & Rebecca Jorgensen and
Loran Johnson

Sunday, August 23

10AM—Mike & Amy Donoho and Karen
Hauck

Sunday, August 30

10AM—Mission Committee—Worship in
the Park @ Roosevelt Park

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.**

Congratulations to...

- ☺ The Steinbrenner family on the birth of a healthy
baby girl, Hudson Woods, on July 10.

Our Condolences to...

- † The Family & friends of Blanche Arneson.

Thank you to...

- ☼ Everyone who helped make Camp-in-a-Van such a HUGE
success!
- ☼ Thank you for all the food provided by Federated family
left in the freezer at church and made available to
families going through difficult times. It is very much
appreciated! - Carol Hoivik and Kim Dean

August Birthdays

08/01 Rosemary Rundquist
08/03 Stella Fox
08/03 Phyllis Behrends
08/03 Joel Dulski
08/05 Barb Meder
08/05 Ashley Lien
08/08 Jerry Hendel
08/09 Vern Youngren
08/10 Laurie Hansen
08/11 William Kalar
08/12 Mary Pauline Haukos
08/12 Roger Nelson
08/12 Clayton Skretvedt
08/12 Bonnie Gondrez
08/12 Gail Childs

08/12 Mallory Skogen
08/12 Tayler Thompson-Eckhoff
08/13 Joan Ebbighausen
08/13 Mark Murphy
08/13 Emma Runningen
08/13 Michael Styve
08/14 Kim Dean
08/15 Kyle Garrahan
08/16 Virginia Adams
08/17 Kathy Gilbert
08/18 Amanda Bopp
08/18 Alexis Griego
08/20 Tyson Sperling
08/20 Paul Shol
08/20 Darren Smith

08/22 Benjamin Kugler
08/23 Beverly Richter
08/23 Jane Nelson
08/26 Jen Jensen
08/26 Austin Barry
08/27 Lynn Oxley
08/27 Xyola Holm
08/27 Easton Eckhoff
08/28 Lisa Shol
08/28 Connor Youngren
08/29 Connie Seltz
08/29 Tessa Schierer
08/30 Renee Larsen
08/30 Kelsey Nygaard
08/31 Emma Barry



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

Ministry Nite!

August 11th 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.



Parish Nursing Notes

Connie Seltz, Parish Nurse Coordinator

Here's an invitation to save an important date: September 8, 2015. It is the 2nd Tuesday of September and Ministry Nite will be at 6:30 PM. I hope it will be convenient for you to come early, for the Citizens CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) and AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) Review. The class will be in the Narthex beginning at 5:30 PM. Class is expected to be finished by the time your committee meeting starts. An American Red Cross instructor will be teaching. There will be no charge to the participants as a flat minimum fee will be charged to Federated. That fee will cover 17 participants—I'm hoping we can fill the class!

Citizen's CPR is a modified emergency measure that teaches an effective method of doing chest compressions only.

The Federated Church has been gifted with an AED which is available in the Narthex. These devices have saved many lives, they are located in many public places. Please come, be an informed citizen. Thank you in advance.



Box of Blessings

The Boxes of Blessings provided by The Federated Church have already been given to several people receiving treatment through Lake Region Cancer Care and Research Center. We received a thank you from one recipient showing how much these boxes are appreciated.

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for the kindness and compassion you showed in preparing the Boxes of Blessings. I was one of the first to receive one at the Cancer Center. I was overwhelmed by your generosity and thoughtfulness. Everything in the box was well-suited for a person undergoing treatment. You are certainly living out the faith and the call to be the light and the hands and feet of Christ. May God bless each one of you with all that you need to continue to bear fruit for His Kingdom and to live in His joy and peace. Thanks again for the Box of Blessings! It was a delight!

- Most sincerely, a grateful recipient



We are in the early stages of planning our next mission trip to the House of Hope in Zacapa, Guatemala in February 13-20, 2016. Trip cost is approximately \$1,600. We'd like to reserve the airline tickets by the end of August, so need a head count. Wherever you may be in the process, please look to the Holy Spirit for direction. If you would like to join us, spend time with some great kids, share God's word, and work for God's kingdom in Guatemala, talk to Mike or Michelle Loomer or to Pastor Doug. **Interested? Join us on Sunday, September 20, 2015 at noon in the parlor for an organizational and informational meeting.**



HOUSES OF HOPE
INTERNATIONAL

Stewardship Report

General Fund Report—as of

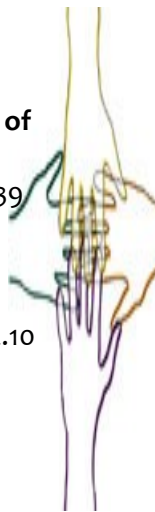
Revenue—\$193,446.83

Expenditures—\$195,816.39

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted —\$168,523

Actual received—\$160,322.10



Thank you for your continued generosity with the Local Mission Fund! Funds go out as quickly as they come in! There is much need in our community. 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

May—June
7 families or
individuals helped
with \$446.90
towards food, rent
or utilities

As of July 22nd
2 families or
individuals helped
with \$100
towards food, rent
or utilities

Worship at The Federated Church

August 2, 2015 10AM	"8:38" Romans 8:38-39	Jim Worner
August 9, 2015 10AM	"Eating for Eternal Life" John 6:35, 41-51 Celebration of the Lord's Supper	Pastor Doug Dent
August 16, 2016 10AM	"Big Time" Ephesians 5:15-20	Pastor Doug Dent
August 23, 2015 10AM	"Paul's Product Proposal" Ephesians 6:10-20	Pastor Doug Dent
August 30, 2015 10AM	TBA Worship in Roosevelt Park Baptism of Hudson Woods Steinbrenner	Pastor Doug Dent

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!

Oct. 5th	Seasons of the Church Year
Nov. 1st	What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe?
Dec. 6th	Serve, Not Rule: What is our role as human beings regarding nature?
Jan. 3rd	Meet George Washington: a look at the faith of our first President
Feb. 7th	Meet Abraham Lincoln: a look at our greatest President's faith
Mar. 6th	Does God Demand Blood?
Apr. 3rd	Listening for God's Call
May 1st	Pentecost

