

The Union Avenue News

www.federatedff.org

church@federatedff.org

August 2014

INSIDER REPORT FROM FEDERATED BIBLE INVESTIGATIONS

The week of July 7th-11th was filled with laughter, learning and fun!

We learned about how to be a friend like Jesus; how to be a healer like Jesus; how to build a strong foundational faith; how we can use our gifts to positively affect the communities around us, and how to bring all of what we learned back home and to our other communities outside of church.

We had fun playing games with the junior and senior high youth; we played with bouncy bubbles, marshmallow creations, warm fuzzies, finger weaving and more! We also had a water day that included a monkey attack (not a real monkey, don't worry)!

We want to thank everyone that was involved in making FBI a huge success—the youth that led activities and built relationships with the children, the volunteers in the kitchen, the bringers of the delicious snacks and meals, and those that were willing to give us their children and grandchildren for the week. We had a blast with them and hope to see them in the future!

See the back of the August calendar for more scenes from the week!



The Federated Church is bringing Sunday morning worship outside to Roosevelt Park. Join us at the park shelter at 10am on August 24th for a worship service in the park. The Mission Committee will provide coffee and treats after the service and will be accepting free-will donations to go towards school fees for the kids at House of Hope in Guatemala.

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

Worship Schedule

10:00am Blended Worship
11:00am Fellowship

Worship Schedule Starting Sept. 14th

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

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



We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

2 Corinthians 4:7

We have a sterling silver coffee set at home that came from my Grandmother's house. It's quite old and beautifully made. It is easily the most expensive serving item in our home. We rarely use it, however, because it's no fun removing the tarnish that covers the silver with a black film.

Once the tarnish is removed, the coffee set gleams brighter than any container in the house. But left alone in the cupboard it is not long until the shiny silver set is hidden behind another layer of tarnish. The sad commentary of our valuable silver coffee set is that it sits on a shelf and gets very little use.

God is not looking for sterling silver coffee sets. God is looking for rough-and-tumble clay pots – the kind that can be used every day. God is looking for the kind of pots that don't need to be tucked away in a china closet, but can be set out into a crash-bang world, carrying with them the life of Christ. The church was meant to be a working kitchen, where well-worn pots are filled again and again to dispense their life-giving contents to a thirsty world.

As summer eases into autumn, The Federated Church is gearing up to offer you opportunities to be clay pots in a workaday world. This year there will be lots of educational events to help you discern God's will for your life (Bible studies, topical studies, marriage enrichment classes, parenting classes). We'll offer opportunities to serve at Salvation Army, Food Shelf, and around the church. We'll invite you to make a greater commitment to our faith family through your giving, your participation, and your service. We'll provide events to bring your friends and share with them the joy of being part of our family. And we'll have a lot of fun along the way!

Clay pot Christians are meant to be filled and used.

Tarnished silver coffee sets sitting idle are neither useful nor beautiful to God.

See you in September!

Pastor Doug



2014 Mission Initiative

The Mission Initiative for 2014 is House of Hope in Zacapa, Guatemala. The House of Hope (Casa de Esperanza) is home to 26 children and youth. The aim of the House of Hope is to raise these children of God in a safe, loving, Christian environment, to educate them, and then send them out prepared for higher education or employment.

Funding for the House of Hope comes entirely from private donations. The need is great, the wish list is long. The Mission Committee has chosen to focus on school fees as our Mission Initiative for 2014. The House of Hope provides quality, Christian education through a combination of printed and online resources. The annual school fee for one student is \$330. Together, we can raise enough to cover the annual school fees for all 19 students – a total of about \$6300. We will be collecting donations all year long.



Doug Snaza, Director of Christian Education

August Events:

Thursday, August 21st— Evening at Thumper Pond Waterpark 5:30PM Meet at Thumper Pond Waterpark in Ottertail for an evening of fun in the water! Tickets are buy-one, get-one free; one ticket is \$12.95; 2 and under—free. Not planning on swimming? Ticket is \$4.95. Ticket prices subject to change; prices on August 21st may be less. **The whole church family is invited!**

Friday, August 29th-30th—Jr/Sr High overnight to ValleyFair and the State Fair

YOUTH GROUP

Trip to ValleyFair and State Fair

August 29th and 30th, the Jr/Sr high youth (including incoming 7th graders) will take a 2-day trip to the Twin Cities. We will leave Fergus on Friday morning and spend the day at ValleyFair; we'll spend the night, and hit the State Fair and Como Zoo on Saturday. If there is extra time, we will make a trip to the Mall of America. There will be photo scavenger hunts along the way!

We will be spending the night at a local church to keep the cost down as much as possible. The cost will include admission to ValleyFair, the State Fair, and meals. State Fair tickets are \$13 (\$10 if you pre-purchase before August 20th). ValleyFair tickets are \$45 at the door (\$34 if you pre-purchase more than 3 days in advance; it's possible to find coupons around town as well). Everyone is responsible for purchasing their own tickets, so feel free to pre-purchase at any time. Meals will typically run \$6-10 per meal. Total cost will be about \$100 for the weekend (more if you plan on trying every food offered at the State Fair; less if you pre-purchase tickets). If money is a hindrance, please contact the church office.

Youth will need to bring a sleeping bag and pillow, a change of clothes, sun-screen(!), money and a water bottle. We are also in need of a couple chaperones/drivers. Please contact the church office if you are interested.



Senior High youth group will start September 17th, from 7:30-9:00pm. We will have service opportunities again this year on the first Wednesday of each month; the whole church family is invited to join us on these evenings!

Note: No youth group on the following Wednesdays:
10/15, 11/26, 12/24, 12/31, 2/25, 3/25

Confirmation - Pastors Doug Dent & Karen Anderson-Dent

Confirmation classes begin October 1st!

7th and 8th grades come right from school (3:30 PM – 5:30 PM).

9th grade meets from

6:30-7:30 PM.



KIDS

Sunday School

Sunday school will officially start September 14th at 9:45am; but before that, there will be a Blessing of the Backpacks on Rally Day, September 7th. We encourage all school aged children (K-12) to bring their backpacks to the 10AM worship service on the 7th to receive a blessing for the coming school year!

Sunday School registration forms for ages pre-K through 6th grade are available outside the church office.



Kids Club

The fall session of Kids Club will be on Wednesdays, September 17th through November 19th. Kids 1st through 6th grade are invited to come to The Federated Church after school, from 3:30-5:30 for an afternoon of games, crafts, a snack and a lesson. Registration forms are available outside the church office.

There will be no Kids Club on October 15th for MEA. We would love to have more people involved with the children at church! If you would like to help out with crafts, food, music, or just being present with the children and being a role model, please contact the church office.

Worship at The Federated Church

August 3, 2014 10AM	Brian Bopp preaching "Joseph: Works in Wood and Stone"	
August 10, 2014 Communion 10AM	"Five Smooth Stones" David killed Goliath with a stone. What did he do with the other four stones?	The Rev. Douglas Dent
August 17, 2014 10AM	TBA	The Rev. Douglas Dent
August 24, 2014 Worship in the Park 10AM	TBA Worship at Roosevelt Park	The Rev. Douglas Dent
August 31, 2014 10AM	TBA	The Rev. Douglas Dent

Consecration Sunday is October 19, 2014.

To "consecrate" something means to declare it sacred or holy. It can also mean to set something aside for a special purpose. This year our stewardship campaign is about consecrating our lives and our resources to the service of God. So we are setting aside Sunday, October 19, 2014 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). Designated Executive Presbyter Rick Carus from the Presbytery of MN Valleys 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 19th. We will be asking each household to make an increase in their 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 19th as we celebrate our past and commend ourselves to God's future.

Bell Choir begins on Wednesday, August 27th at 6PM. If you're interested in joining the bell choir, please contact Doris Enderson (218-770-4692). All are welcome!



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.

S E R V I C E

August Service Group (Group #5)

Jim and Phyllis Behrends
Joel and Dawn Dulski
Elizabeth Hatling
Kathy Hatling
Jeremy and Jen Jensen
Cleo Langseth
Steve Lockhart and Donna Ohe
Tiny Macheel
Jacinta Macheel
Mary Milton
Ann Porter-Nelson
Mary Jones Olson
Duane and Carol Rose
Debbie Rose
Melissa Saurer
Jim and Donna Solin
Joan Tester
Greg and Kathy Truax

September Service Group (Group #6)

Dennis and Jean Bowman
Dennis and Lu Echelberger
Paul and Tina Eckhoff
Cindy Holte
Love Ell Hultin
Karen Johnson
Ross and Lisa Johnson
Bev Lambert
James and Wendy Metcalf
Mark and Marianne Murphy
Gary and Roxanne 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 August 2014

Sunday, August 3rd

10AM— Ann Porter-Nelson & Jean
McKenzie

Sunday, August 10th

10AM—Steve Lockhart and Donna Ohe

Sunday, August 17th

10AM— Jeremy and Jen Jensen and
Tiny Macheel

Sunday, August 24th

10AM—Mission Committee

Sunday, August 31st

10AM— Greg & Kathy Truax



****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.**

Congratulations to...

- ☺ Lorna McCabe on the celebration of her 90th birthday last month!
- ☺ Alicia Paulzine on the birth of twin boys, Lincoln Daniel and Harrison Jason!

Condolences to...

- ✦ Pam Phillips on the death of her aunt, Edie.
- ✦ Rick Schara on the death of his brother, Robert.
- ✦ The Hatling family on the death of John.
- ✦ Norma Bell on the death of her sister, Anna.
- ✦ Dennis Bowman on the death of his brother, Charlie.

Thank you...

- * Thank you so very much for all the greetings, thank you notes, hand-print messages, the beautiful "hand" blanket and the special hand-print necklace. So far I have been so busy and in summer mode, my retirement hasn't hit me and probably won't until Rally Sunday. It has been a wonderful and blessed journey all these years. God Bless. – Barb Flom
- * A huge thank you from the family of John Hatling to everyone who donated time, money, and resources for the memorial service; have given hugs, sent cards, spoken words of encouragement, given flowers, given gifts of money, and brought food these past weeks. We feel carried through this hard time by God's good hand, and cared for by you – the church. We are grateful.

August Birthdays



08/01 Rosemary Rundquist	08/12 Mallory Skogen	08/22 Benjamin Kugler
08/03 Stella Fox	08/12 Tayler Thompson-Eckhoff	08/23 Beverly Richter
08/03 Phyllis Behrends	08/13 Joan Ebbighausen	08/23 Jane Nelson
08/03 Joel Dulski	08/13 Mark Murphy	08/26 Jen Jensen
08/05 Barb Meder	08/13 Emma Runningen	08/26 Austin Barry
08/05 Ashley Lien	08/13 Michael Styve	08/27 Lynn Oxley
08/08 Jerry Hendel	08/14 Kim Dean	08/27 Xyola Holm
08/09 Vern Youngren	08/15 Audra Hintz	08/27 Easton Eckhoff
08/10 Laurie Hansen	08/15 Kyle Garrahan	08/28 Lisa Shol
08/11 William Kalar	08/16 Virginia Adams	08/28 Connor Youngren
08/12 Mary Pauline Haukos	08/17 Kathy Gilbert	08/29 Connie Seltz
08/12 Roger Nelson	08/18 Amanda Bopp	08/29 Phil Hintz
08/12 Clayton Skretvedt	08/18 Alexis Griego	08/29 Tessa Schierer
08/12 Bonnie Gondrez	08/20 Tyson Sperling	08/30 Renee Larsen
08/12 Gail Childs	08/20 Paul Shol	08/30 Kelsey Nygaard
08/12 Doug Snaza	08/20 Darren Smith	

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

Parish Nursing Notes

Connie Seltz, Parish Nurse Coordinator

Occasionally I get requests to find a driver to take someone to a medical appointment. There have been some willing drivers available, but recently I learned about a service in the community that can fill the need. There are volunteer drivers available through Productive Alternatives. For more information about scheduling and fees, call Stacy Stanley, Volunteer Driver Coordinator, at 218-998-3098.



We celebrated Blanche Arneson's 100th birthday in May with birthday cake during coffee hour in her honor. Blanche was unable to be with us in person that day, but her daughter and granddaughter celebrated with us. Blanche, we pray that you would be blessed in the coming year with more of God's grace and more of God's presence. We are grateful to have you as a part of our congregation!



Personnel Committee

Alicia Paulzine, our custodian, will be on leave of absence until October 6th. Please hold Alicia and family in prayer as they adjust to life with twin boys! Thanks to Roxane Nereson who has been performing custodial duties during the interim.



We have enjoyed having Lizzy Link here as our summer intern. She has planned creative and fun events with the youth, including a kids' craft afternoon, berry picking/pie making, lake days, and picnics. She also assisted in planning and running FBI the week of July 7-11, and even preached a sermon on Sunday, July 20th. Thank you, Lizzy, for your enthusiasm in loving kids to Jesus. We wish her well in the next year as she finishes her schooling in Illinois.

The Federated Church is in need of Nursery Attendants. The job would require working Sunday mornings, Tuesday Ministry Nite and during special holiday services. Please stop in or call the church office for more information - 739-3227.



House of Hope Mission Trip (February 2015)

Anyone interested in participating in the House of Hope Mission Trip (February 7-14, 2015) should contact Mike Loomer or Pastor Doug as soon as possible. The team is forming now! Join us and get a respite from the Minnesota winter while ministering to God's people in Guatemala. The approximate cost for the trip is \$1500.



Stewardship Report Millie Pearson and Greg Truax

General Fund Report—May
Revenue—\$26,807
Expenditures—\$25,768

General Fund Report—June
Revenue—\$21,263
Expenditures—\$37,071

Year to Date Pledge Offering
Budgeted — \$151,710
Actual received—\$146,521

2014 Pledge Drive
Status as of February 28, 2014
\$290,418



Thank you for your continued generosity with the Local Mission Fund! As always, funds go out as quickly 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

May/June	As of July 25th
19 families or individuals helped with	10 Families or individuals helped with
\$1,380 towards food, rent or utilities	\$600 towards food, rent or utilities

First Sundays - Pastor Doug Dent

First Sunday Bible Studies are designed to be one-time, one-topic programs. We gather after worship for a light lunch and discussion (which is not always so light!). Each spring, members of the bible study choose the topics; then Pastor Doug spends time researching and preparing. Here is the lineup for 2014-2015:

- Oct. 5th Why Go to Church?
- Nov. 2nd Appreciating Spiritual Gifts
- Dec. 7th Parables of the Lost
- Jan. 4th What is Heaven Like?
- Feb. 1st Does Hell Exist?
- Mar. 1st Simplicity as Spiritual Discipline
- Apr. 12th The Book of Revelation (Date changed due to Easter!)
- May 3rd James, the Brother of Jesus



Sunday Morning Bible Study - Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday Morning Bible Study, led by Pastor Doug, meets in the Parlor on Sunday mornings at 10AM. All are welcome!

- Sept. 14-21st Judaism (2 weeks)
- Sept. 28th – Nov. 16th The Fall Festivals of Judaism (6 weeks – no class Oct. 19th or Nov. 9th)
- Nov. 30th – Dec. 21st Held in God's Grace: an Advent Study About Waiting (4 weeks)
- Jan. 4th – April 26th Daniel: A Christ Centered Approach (12 weeks)
(No class on Jan. 25th, Feb 8th or 22nd, Mar. 29th or Apr. 5th)

Presbytery News

Your help is needed! The Presbytery office in Willmar is in need of volunteers to help upgrade the facilities with some long-overdue repairs. The various projects to be done include:

- Install new rain gutters and downspouts
- Install leveling pads under the two A/C units
- Install fencing around the A/C units
- Install a new front entrance door to the building
- Repair and repaint cedar siding on the front of the building
- Repaint round Presbyterian logo on front of building
- Re-shingle small roof over entrance to Presbytery building
- Repair, weatherize and repaint doors and entrances
- Replace outside light fixtures on front and side of building
- Repaint trim and former garage door opening on south side of the building

If you would be able to help with any of these projects, please contact Karen Lange at the Presbytery office. The work dates when we hope to meet and complete this work are August 13-15 (Wednesday through Friday).

Other aspects of the planned renovation project include addressing landscaping and water drainage issues around the building and grounds, as well as a new cement sidewalk and handicapped access to the building. A new sign is also in the works, to be installed following completion of all the other projects. Our hope is to complete this work before winter.

Your help is needed! Please join us in this unique and fun opportunity to serve!



Men of the church!

Men of the church! Join us Mondays at noon for prayer and bible study in the church parlor. On June 9, we began reading *New York Times* best-selling author Eric Metaxas's book 'Seven Men', which presents seven exquisitely crafted short portraits of widely known — but not well understood — Christian men, each of whom uniquely showcases a commitment to live by certain virtues in the truth of the gospel. All men are welcome.



Ministry Nite!

August 12th is Ministry Nite. 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. Reminder: Committees do not meet in July.