

The Union Avenue News

www.federatedff.org

church@federatedff.org

September 2016



Federated
CHURCH

Fall Rally Day

Sunday, September 11

Worship at 10 am

including a children's
Blessing of the Backpacks

**Outdoor fun
follows until 1 pm**

- Carnival games—with prizes!
- Kids' bounce house
- Free lunch and treats
- Fabulous fellowship

**PLEASE
JOIN US**

Open to the entire
community

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
August 31

Worship Schedule through Sept. 11th

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Coffee Hour

Worship Schedule starting Sept. 18th

9:00 am Contemporary Worship
9:45 am Education Hour
10:00 am Coffee Hour
11:00 am 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 6:30 pm.

Reminder: Committees do not meet in July

Other Meetings

Men's Bible Study meets every Monday at noon in the parlor. Resume in September.

Women's Bible Study meets every Thursday at 10:30 am in the parlor. Resumes in September.

Deacons & Elders meet the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Stephen Ministry meets the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm.

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



"Covenant" is Bible-speak for "promise." Covenants are agreements between two parties. Covenants always contain promises on the part of each to the other.

There are five great covenants between God and God's people in the Bible:

God's Covenant with Noah (Genesis 9). God planned to destroy the earth and its evil inhabitants, but promised never to do so again if Noah would be faithful, build an ark and save two of each creature.

God's Covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12). God promised to bless Abraham and his descendants, and to make them God's own special people. Abraham, in turn, would be faithful to God and serve as the channel through which God's blessings could flow to the world.

God's Covenant with Moses (Exodus 24). After saving the Hebrew slaves from Pharaoh, God forges this people into the nation of Israel, giving them the law (The Ten Commandments) and promising to be their God if they will be God's faithful people.

God's Covenant with David (2 Samuel 7). God promises to establish David's line as kings of Israel forever. David promises to be faithful to God. This covenant reached its fulfillment with Jesus (a descendant of David) who reigns forevermore.

The Covenant of Promise in Christ (Galatians 4). The New Testament makes a clear distinction between the covenant of the Mosaic Law and the covenant of Promise in Christ. The apostle Paul speaks of the first covenant as the "ministry of death" and "condemnation," and of the second as the promise of new and eternal life. God, who is faithful, offers us grace and mercy and life eternal through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Did you notice the word "faithful" in all of the covenants? Did you notice the switch in the last covenant? In the Covenant of Promise the faithfulness is God's, not ours. God, who is ever-faithful, will achieve God's ultimate purpose – the redemption of the world – by Christ's actions alone and not by our actions.

I got to thinking about covenants in light of our recent visioning process and our congregation's pledge to be more involved in our community. As children of God in the Covenant of Promise, and by living the new life offered by Christ, we are making a covenant with our neighbors. In effect, we are saying to them, we have discovered something wonderful – God's grace, mercy, forgiveness, love – and we'd like to share it with you.

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Arms. Our new church slogan expresses our intent to be part of this Covenant of Promise: to be Christ-like in our care for our neighbors, to be attentive to the Spirit's prompting, and to be partners with God working for the redemption of the world.

God is already working out this promise in the world. The promise of Christ makes us partners in this work. The Holy Spirit of God prompts us to act on this promise. This Rally Day we celebrate not just the return to school and church activities, but the eternal Covenant of Promise which gathers us in and sends us out as agents of God's will into all the world.

May God bless what we do in Christ's name, with the help of The Spirit!
Pastor Doug



Youth News

Karen Anderson, Director of Christian Education

During the week of July 18th-23rd, Jordan and I had the opportunity to attend Triennium, the Presbyterian youth conference, at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. Imagine a gathering of around 5,000 young people and youth leaders, learning and worshipping together! It was a great week, and I hope some of our youth will be able to go when it comes around again in three years. The theme for the week was "GO!"; we looked at different places in the Bible where God's people were told to "go" and "do" things: the angels telling the shepherd to "go" and share the good news of Jesus' birth, God telling Moses to "go" and speak to Pharaoh, and Jesus commanding us to "go" and make disciples. We heard some wonderful preachers, learned some great songs, (which we plan to share with the congregation), and met lots of awesome people from our Presbytery and from all over the world!

One thing that I would like to share with the whole congregation is the impression I got about Presbyterian churches in the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys as well as throughout the country. After talking with many people—youth and adults—I realized that we are doing a lot of things really well here at Federated Church! Our worship IS creative and dynamic, with great music (both Praise and traditional), our vacation Bible school had a great turn out, and our youth programs are solid and are developing growing disciples! This isn't to say that there isn't always room for new and different ideas and challenges, but it is affirming to step back and see things from a distance sometimes. What I see is a vibrant, loving, and dedicated church family who seeks to find real ways to grow closer to God and each other. It felt so good to come home again, to my immediate family AND my church family! Triennium renewed my excitement for the possibilities before us, as well as grateful for all we have already accomplished!

Senior High Youth Group

Our regular senior high youth group gatherings begin on September 14th, at 7:30. This fall we will be doing a video series called "The Gospel Journey", as well as learning some new games and just enjoying fellowship time together. I am so looking forward to seeing everyone regularly again! We will be setting up a special events calendar in the next few weeks, so look in your mailboxes, check Facebook, and talk to each other!

Sunday School

Sunday school starts on September 18th, the week after Rally Day. We will continue to use the curriculum we started last year entitled "All in One Sunday School". The teachers and kids seemed to enjoy the change and found it easy to use for any age group. We look forward to music time again and seeing all your faces as a new Sunday School year begins!

Kids Club

Kids Club begins on Wednesday, September 21st after school. This fall we will be focusing on "character qualities" as they are found through the people of God. Abraham Lincoln said, "*Reputation is the shadow. Character is the tree.*" Our character is much more than just our reputation, what we try to display for others to see. It is who we are even when no one is watching. Having a good character means doing the right thing just because it is the right thing to do! When we live our lives with good character, we are living the way that God calls us to act out our faith in the world with each other. Some of the qualities that we will be learning about include: respect, cooperation, patience, forgiveness, truthfulness, perseverance, humility, and boldness. As before, we will look at individuals in the Bible and learning Bible verses as they relate to each session. We will also learn some new songs and work on some new crafts and games. Plan to spend your Wednesdays with us!

Confirmation *Karen Anderson, Director of Christian Education*

This fall we are excited to try something new as a kick-off to our confirmation year. We have reserved Eagle Lodge at Clearwater Forest for the weekend of Oct. 7-9th. We will be spending the weekend together learning and playing together, utilizing some of the themes and concepts from the Triennium Youth Gathering this summer. I am so excited to have the chance to spend some quality time with our confirmands, and to provide them with the opportunity to be together as a group. The schedule of events will be mailed out to confirmation families in the next few weeks. If you don't receive one and believe you should have, or if you know of someone who is confirmation age who would benefit from this time, let me know!

I am happy to get the information out to all who seek it!

Parent/Student meeting – Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 5:30 pm

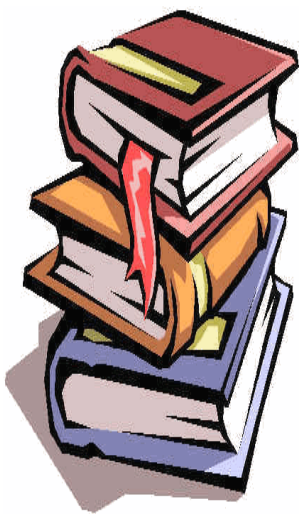
Confirmation classes begin Wednesday, October 5th after school: 7th/8th grades (3:30-5:30 pm) and 9th grade (6:30-7:30 pm).

Confirmation Retreat will be at Clearwater Forest Camp (Deerwood, MN) on October 7-9, 2016.



Rally Day!!

Rally Day is set for Sunday, September 11th! You don't want to miss this! Games, food, and fellowship are in the works and require YOUR presence!! In addition, we will be having a "BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS" during the one-worship service that day, so be sure to bring either your backpacks or something that represents the school year —no matter what your age or stage in life! Students (kids and adults alike), teachers, administrators, homeschool families, Sunday school, confirmation, and adult church teachers, and ANYONE whose life includes teaching others are encouraged to come receive God's blessing for your important role in our community!



Doctoral Studies—*Pastor Doug*

In July, I completed the classroom portion of the "Missional Church" course for my doctoral program, and am now in the process of writing the final paper. For this paper I will be developing an "ecclesial theology" for our congregation (How do we understand our role as partners with The Holy Spirit in God's redemptive work in the world?), and apply that to the new mission statement and the four priorities developed during our recent visioning process. I continue to covet your prayers during this process, as I am now halfway through the coursework with three classes remaining and then a thesis.

Also, a big shout-out to my reading group: Karen Anderson-Dent, Elizabeth Hatling, Mark Rodning, Connie Seltz, Terri Skretvedt, Marian Wasvick and Jim Worner. They participated in two roundtable forums and read my papers. Their assistance and input is much appreciated.

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, Sept. 4, 2016 10 AM	"The Christian Goo-Goos" Galatians 6:1-16 Celebration of the Lord's Supper	Pastor Doug Dent
Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016 10 AM Rally Day	"Ephphatha: Be Opened!" Mark 7:31-37 4 th Grade Bibles Blessing of Backpacks	Pastor Doug Dent
Sunday, Sept. 18, 2016 9 & 11 AM	"God's Covenant with Noah" Genesis 9	Pastor Doug Dent
Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016 9 & 11 AM	"God's Covenant with Abraham" Genesis 12	Pastor Doug Dent
Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016 9 & 11 AM	"God's Covenant with Moses" Exodus 20; Jeremiah 31 World Communion Sunday Celebration of the Lord's Supper	Pastor Doug Dent
Sunday, Oct. 9, 2016 9 & 11 AM	"God's Covenant with David" 2 Samuel 7	Pastor Doug Dent

Special Sundays!

On the following Sundays, we will worship together at 10 am to celebrate a special event in the life of our faith family. Please mark your calendars—you won't want to miss this!

September 11th	Rally Day	Picnic following worship
October 23rd	Dedication Sunday	Meal following worship
November 13th	Mission Dinner	Meal following worship
December 18th	Kids' Christmas Pageant	Coffee Hour following worship
December 25th	Christmas Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
January 22nd	Annual Meeting	Meal & meeting following worship
February 26th	Confirmation Sunday	Reception following worship
April 9th	Palm Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
April 16th	Easter Sunday	Coffee Hour following worship
May 21st	Ice cream social	Sundaes following worship

September Service Group Group #10

Doris Enderson
Joel Enderson
Gail Green
Terry & Cheryl Harrington
Gerri Hilden
Jim & Janet Knapp
David & Mary Lundeen
Millie Pearson
Paul & Bev Richter
Mark & Sheila Rodning
Heather Rundquist
Wade Ugstad
Randy & Marian Wasvick
Perry & Peg Werner
Linda Wolfe

October Service Group Group #1

Mark & Tami Anderson
Jim & Robin Andrews
Erik Anthonisen & Marna Brown
Dennis & Bonnie Bergerud
J. Pat & Tami Collins
Nathan & Stephanie Hoff
Jeff & Jo Kohlase
Norma Loomer
John & Eunice MacFarlane
Nick & Erika Mariotti
Jay & Cindy McDougall
Chad & Elizabeth Nelson
Roger & Jane Nelson
Jerry & Jodie Nuss
Clayton & Terri Skretvedt
Doug Sperling

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

September 2016

Sunday, September 4th

10AM—Jim & Janet Knapp

Sunday, September 11th

10AM—Skip & Char Zielin

Sunday, September 18th

9AM—Mark & Sheila Rodning

11AM—Wade Ugstad

Sunday, September 25th

9AM—Randy & Marian Wasvick

11AM—Perry & Peg Werner



****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.

S E R V I C E

Condolences to...

U Susan Clambey on the death of her mother, Mary.

UMyron Lenning & family on the death of Joanne.

"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." John 11:25-26

September Birthdays



Lucinda Dix Echelberger 09/04
Gene Porter 09/05
Teri Nygaard 09/05
Doug Sperling 09/05
Alex Jensen 09/05
Wade Ugstad 09/06
Lucille Sheldon 09/07
Mark Becker 09/07
Erika Mariotti 09/08
Iona Saunders 09/08
James Underdahl 09/10
Janice Borowski 09/12
Jessica Verhelst 09/12

Dorothy Sperling 09/13
Makiya Cavalier 09/13
Nicole Verhelst 09/14
Troy Anderson 09/14
Erin Smith 09/14
Max Wolfe 09/14
Peg Kalar 09/16
Chad Nelson 09/17
Lizzy Link 09/18
Amy Underdahl 09/18
Bill Ressler 09/19
Paige Undseth 09/19
Leo Schierer 09/19

Donna Ohe 09/20
Eleanor Carlisle 09/20
Ruth Aulds 09/23
Russell Larsen 09/23
Gail Green 09/24
Wesley Beske 09/25
Jean Bowman 09/25
Hal Collins 09/26
Amanda Mandelke 09/26
Tim Hunt 09/27
Christopher Anderson 09/28
Carolyn Anderson 09/29
Ben Schierer 09/30

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

Ministry Nite!

September 13th is Ministry Nite. Committees meet at 6:30 pm 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.



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!

October 2nd	Meet Martin Luther
November 6th	Making End of Life Decisions
December 4th	The Gift of Friendship
January 8th	Books that Didn't Make the Bible (and Why?)
February 7th	Books Between the Testaments
March 7th	Compassion as Spiritual Discipline
April 2nd	Class Warfare in the Bible
May 7th	The Tomb of Jesus

Adult Bible Study

Sunday mornings @ 10 am

For most of us, Confirmation was a long, long, long, long time ago. Perhaps we've forgotten some of what we learned. Perhaps we didn't pay all that much attention the first time around...Well, beginning September 18th join Pastor Doug for a Confirmation refresher course with an informal discussion about important aspects of our faith and witness.

Advent Study (Nov. 20th – Dec. 11th) we'll take four weeks out of our Confirmation study to consider the four "buzz words" of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study will meet on Mondays at noon in the church parlor starting September 12th. All the men are invited!

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet every Thursday at 10:30 am in the church parlor starting September 15th. All women are welcome!

Grocery Receipts *Ruth Aulds*

The totals as of **August 1st:**

Service Foods - \$2,622.00
SunMart - \$1,090.42

Total for SunMart
to date:
\$57,301.68



Stewardship Report

General Fund Report
Revenue—\$24,780
Expenditures— \$38,459

Year to Date Pledge Offering
Budgeted — \$208,124
Actual received—
\$232,956



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

July
7 families or
individuals helped
with \$400 towards
food, rent or
utilities

August 24th
7 families or
Individuals helped
with \$475.25
towards food, rent
or utilities

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

Many of our big projects have been completed – gym floor and lights, handicap accessible curbs, parking lot resurfaced, security lights installed, new security system with a “panic button” for Elizabeth. Before the end of the summer we will have a new sound system. What I am most excited about all these accomplishments is the number of people involved in making them happen. Many talented people from our congregation have shared their time and abilities and have produced great work and saved the church thousands of dollars. We are real partners in Christ’s ministry.

We are now entering a new time in our church’s life when we see the work of the Discovering Our Future Team being put into action. Please mark your calendars and set aside, Sunday, September 11, Rally Day Sunday. You will find many more people who will share their talents in different ways. You will hear and experience some new and exciting news about our vision and mission. I hope everyone will enjoy the rest of the summer and be refreshed for all the work we will do together as we start a new program year.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry,
Pastor Ed

Here are the members of the Discovering Our Future Priority Teams:

Inspiring and Dynamic Worship

Jim Worner, Elizabeth Hatling, Cindy Holte, Terri Skretvedt, Pam Phillips,
Staff - Rev. Doug Dent

Multigenerational Learning and Fellowship

Renee Larson Karen Bush, Carolyn Anderson, Lu Echelberger,
Patty Shol, Terry Harrington,
Staff – Rev. Karen Dent, DCE.

Community Engagement

Stephanie Hoff, Jean Bowman, Linda Macfarlane, Ben Scheierer, Jess Steinbrenner,
Staff – Rev. Ed Morgan, DCO

Campus Enhancement

Nathan Hoff, Donna Hendel, Linda MacFarlane, Skip Zielin, Bill Nead,
Staff - Rev. Ed Morgan, DCO

Please pray for these team members and our entire church.

Parish Nursing Notes – *Connie Seltz, Parish Nurse Coordinator*



I Thessalonians 5: 17-19 "pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." It is a wonderful comfort to be invited to pray, to make our requests known to God, and trust that God's plans for us are for our good (Jeremiah 29:11). That said, prayer time takes thoughtful discipline and for some of us giving thanks in all circumstances requires even more trust and discipline.

I've been "cleaning out" and have come across some lovely thank you notes. Re-reading them was truly an uplifting experience and reminded me of the joy of having positive and grateful people in my life! There are many ways to "give thanks in all circumstances." Review the good things. I can ask, "What is the best thing that happened to you today?" I can create a "Blessings" jar to store the phrases about the blessings I see each day. I can enter positive thoughts on my "Notes" board on my phone. I can maintain connections by sending a note or text encouraging someone. Most of all I can de-stress and wipe away the assault of negativity that sometimes seems to be all around. Take time to pray. Take time to be grateful. That's a healthy thing to do.

Happy Birthday!



You are invited to an Open House 90th Birthday Party for Gene Porter!

Monday, September 5th

10:00 AM - Noon

Fergus Falls YMCA (1164 Friberg Ave.)

Good wishes make the best gifts.