

## February Worship

FEBRUARY 2 9:30a.m. Worship

God's Protest Movement  
Pastor Doug Dent

1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Celebrating the Lord's Supper

FEBRUARY 9 9:30a.m. Worship

ORDINATION OF NEW OFFICERS

TBA  
Pastor John Lindholm

FEBRUARY 16 9:30a.m. Worship

TBA  
Pastor John Lindholm

FEBRUARY 23 9:30a.m. Worship

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Sharing the Transfiguration  
Pastor Doug Dent

Matthew 17:1-9

FEBRUARY 26 7:00p.m. Worship

ASH WEDNESDAY

PIT Maneuver  
Pastor Doug Dent

Romans 5:12-19



## Dates to Remember

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

1:00pm Coffee at Village Co-op  
6:30pm Ministry Nite

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

VALENTINES DAY

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

10:30am Birthday Cake Sunday

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

10:00am Coffee at Pioneer Care

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

6:30pm D&E Meeting

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

9:30am Kids Sing During Worship

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

NO KID OR YOUTH ACTIVITIES

7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

12:30pm Federated at Food Shelf

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

9:30am Confirmation Sunday



*The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride.*  
Ecclesiastes 7:8

I find it very hard to let things go. I'm the type of person who will try everything possible to keep something from failing. The more personal and important the venture, the harder I work to keep it going. But some things I can't change or fix, and so I must let them go.

Federated Church supported The House of Hope orphanage in Zacapa, Guatemala for sixteen years. In that time, we sponsored 13 mission teams, sent 70 people, and spent nearly 2,200 hours in country. We visited dozens of mountain villages and installed stoves to improve the lives of 30 families. We've deepened relationships within our own faith family, met some remarkable Guatemalans, and played with some amazing kids. We've also seen first-hand how tough life can be in Central America.

People for Missions, the parent organization for House of Hope, responding to changes by the Guatemalan government, sold the House of Hope mission to a new organization, Horizons. I know nothing about this new parent company, except that they will not accept mission teams. It's hard to let go of this important mission. It's heartbreaking to think I won't see the HOH kids again. It's painful to admit that, after 14 trips, I might not visit Guatemala in the foreseeable future.

The writer of Ecclesiastes says that "the end of the matter is better than its beginning." We ended well at House of Hope. This chapter of our congregation's life is over now, and I must accept it, and I am comforted by the knowledge that we

did GOOD work there. We made a DIFFERENCE to those mountain families. We RECEIVED so much from our trips, more than we gave, I know. We DID as Christ commanded: we went and worked with our brothers and sisters in Guatemala. For all these things, I am thankful.

The writer also says, "patience is better than pride." I'm not much good at being patient, but I know that God will provide another opportunity for us to do good work - God's work - where it is needed.

I want to thank all who:

- Traveled to House of Hope for their time, their hard work, and their faithful witness
- Purchased stoves to ease life for families in the mountains
- Supported our youth so that they could experience a new culture and share their faith abroad
- Listened as the teams told their life-changing stories
- Prayed for the teams' safety
- Explored ways to send needed supplies (uniforms, laptops) to the House of Hope school
- Sponsored a child at House of Hope

Federated Church is a hard-working, faithful group of people. I know it won't be long before we find new people to serve.

Blessings,  
Pastor Doug



HOUSES OF HOPE  
INTERNATIONAL

## 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!

LOCAL  
mission



# Meet New Members

## Glenn and Mary Bressler

In 2013 Mary and Glenn Bressler moved to Fergus from Duluth Minnesota to be closer to family. Glenn is retired from Minnesota Power and Mary is soon to be retired from LRHC where she is a nurse practitioner. We have two daughters who live in Duluth and in New York, no grandchildren, no sons in laws but we have grand pets! Our hobbies are plentiful including travel, RV camping, hiking, reading, gardening, hanging with friends and family and just exploring. It is important to both of us to have a church family, and Federated Church has really been a wonderful surprise and gift.



Pictured: Titus Christianson, Glenn Bressler, Mary Bressler and Brenda Iacono.

## Breathing With God

### A Spiritual Formation Course

An Adult human breathes 12-20 times per minute, or between 17,000-30,000 times per day. Such breathing typically occurs without conscious thought or our willing it to happen.

Breathing with God, however, is not so automatic. Breathing with God means living in communion with God, acting in partnership with God for the redemption of the creation, and aligning our human will with God's purpose. When human beings find themselves out of step, out of sync, and out of breath before God, this breathlessness leads to a sense of alienation from God and an empty existence. We constantly struggle to breathe with God.

One goal of Christian discipleship is to discover how to breathe more fully with God and God's purpose for our lives.

### Christian disciples:

- **INSPIRE**  
breathe in God, who is the source of our life
- **ASPIRE**  
breathe like Jesus and live in a Christ-like way
- **CONSPIRE**  
breathe with the Holy Spirit for the reclamation of the world

You are invited to work with Pastor Doug to discern how to better breathe with God, both as individuals and as a congregation.

### Together we will:

- Learn spiritual practices to enhance our breathing with God
- Discover how personality preferences shape how we breathe with God
- Explore the spiritual gifts with which we breathe most freely
- Consider the role of the Holy Spirit in our breathing
- Commit to be a people and a church who breathe out God's purpose!

Please use the enclosed brochure to register for this course.

There is a \$10 fee to cover the cost of materials.





## Summer Camp 2020!

It may be cold and snowy outside, but it is never too early to start thinking about summer camp! Clearwater Forest's theme is *This is Our Prayer* and will focus on deepening our spiritual connection and realizing blessings through prayer. As it states on the website, "For some, prayer is simply speaking their thoughts and feelings to God. For others, it is clearing their minds and settling their hearts to make space for God. Some pray through music, art, or the movement of their body in dance or exercise. Some pray out loud, while others' prayers are whispers of the soul.

From Bible studies to creative worship, to community building games, to creative arts projects, *This is Our Prayer* will educate and empower your camper to find their own style of prayer and face the challenges as well as realize blessings in their everyday lives."

Doug Snaza, our former program director at Federated Church, is the NEW Program Director at Clearwater Forest! Having spent most of his youth and adult life connected to this special camp, he will now put that experience to great use every summer and throughout the year! So be sure to plan a week at Clearwater this summer!

## Camp Scholarships:

With camp coming sooner than we think, we are asking families planning to send their youth to camp to fill out our summer camp scholarship forms as soon as possible! Available just outside the main office, please fill the forms out and turn them in to Ada or Karen! We hope to process the scholarships quickly in order to apply for additional funds from the Synod. The deadline for requests is June 1st!

## Kidz Club:

The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These are character qualities that, through the work of the Holy Spirit, Christians can grow throughout their lives. During our winter session of Kidz Club, we are spending each Wednesday learning about one of these fruits through stories, crafts, and activities! As part of our time, we will be sharing ways in which we have seen or

lived out the qualities in the previous week. It is our hope that we will encourage these children of God to begin to see the ways in which the Holy Spirit is working through our lives, and to notice the "fruit" that we are producing! Be sure to join us!

## Senior High Youth Group:

Our senior high youth group continues strong, meeting each week for fellowship and learning, with a lot of gym time and games thrown in! Our youth are incredibly talented and busy, with music, sports, LOTS of schoolwork, and jobs. It means so much that they make Wednesdays a priority in their week for time with each other, making space to learn more about how God is working in their lives and in the world. This winter season we hope to do Meals-by-Wheels again with our church volunteers. We plan to visit the Food Shelf and learn more about its ministry and mission and volunteer our time there. We also hope to get together for a game night and/or movie night, so keep watching for details and dates!

## Confirmation/Middle School Youth Group:

February marks the end of our confirmation session for 2019-2020. We will then begin to meet for middle school youth group, during the same time we met for confirmation: Wednesdays after school! If you are in 7th or 8th grade, come off the bus for snacks, games, and talks/activities! Feel free to bring friends, too! We try to keep our group momentum going as we head into spring and summer—the relationships we foster will take us through the next several years of adventure and fellowship! Confirmation Sunday is March 1st!

## Dates To Keep In Mind:

### Kids and Youth

Sunday School/Kidz Club singing—Feb. 23rd  
No Kid or Youth Activities—Feb. 26th  
Confirmation Sunday—March 1st  
Senior Brunch—April 19th  
Bible Trivia Sunday—May 17th  
Camp scholarship deadline—June 15th  
Vacation Bible School—June 22-26th  
Confirmation Retreat—Sept. 21-23rd



# Church News

## Adult Bible Study

We are now well into our two-month session on World Religions, having covered Judaism and Islam. The next few weeks will be filled out with Hinduism, Buddhism, and a few "class choice" faith traditions. In order to understand other peoples and cultures, it is paramount that we have a sense of their world views, which are deeply influenced by what religious traditions may be prevalent in their part of the world! If you are interested in learning more about religions from around the world, please come join us in the parlor on Sundays at 10:45am after worship!

-Karen Anderson, Dent

## Birthday Cake Sunday

Celebrate your birthday on February, 16th! During the fellowship hour (10:30am) you can share cake with other's from your birthday month. If you would like to bring a cake for the fellowship event, please sign up on the sheet passed around during worship. Or contact the church office (218)739-3227. We need cake for each month plus a few extras!



## Ash Wednesday

Our Ash Wednesday service is February, 26th at 7pm.

## Confirmation Sunday

On Sunday, March 1st, our 9th grade students are confirmed during worship. Please join us in supporting these students.

## Address Change:

Jo Schmidt has moved! Her new address is:  
1131 S. Mabelle Ave. D 202  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

## New Service Groups

Check the back of the February calendar for an updated service group list. This new list will also be posted around the church. Please note there are now 10 groups instead of 13 groups. If you have questions or concerns about the list, please contact the church office.



## From the Church Office:

Effective immediately, church staff will be instituting changes to reduce the number of photocopies made and the amount of paper consumed. This is good stewardship of both your money and earth's resources. Some of the changes you will see right away include:

- Black & white bulletins and newsletters (color copies cost significantly more)
- Fewer bulletins on Sunday morning (we can share!)
- A limited number of "Taking Faith Home" sheets (check the narthex table)
- Increased use of the projection system during worship (instead of paper inserts)

We encourage all committees and groups to help us reduce our costs and protect our resources by limiting the number of copies they make.

Please give the staff time to implement these changes and evaluate their impact. If you have constructive suggestions, please share them with the staff. Thank you for helping us improve how we do business!

- Pastor Doug





# Committee News

## Stewardship Committee Update

Our stewardship campaign ended really well! Thank you for the generous, open-hearted support for Federated Church's mission and ministries. We received 135 pledges totaling \$373,657.36 (about \$13,000 over last year). We did not reach our goal of \$385,000, but we came close. It's not too late to make a pledge!

Thank you for your support!

## Faithful Worship

- **Goal: 20 new worship opportunities**
  - Thanksgiving service to benefit Jail, Inc. (Nov. 24th)
  - Wednesday Advent services (Dec. 4, 11, 18)
  - Hymn Sing at Union Pizza (Jan. 12, 2020, 4:30-6:00 PM)
- **Goal: 20% increase in worship attendance**
  - Sept. avg: 122
  - Oct. avg: 149
  - Nov. avg: 139
  - Dec. avg: 309 (with Wednesday services)
  - 2019 avg: 145
- **Goal: 20% increase in praise band musicians**
  - 3 new musicians and a new keyboard
  - IMO Terry Nelson

## Open-Hearted Generosity

- **Goal: 20 new pledges**
  - 17 new pledges!
- **Goal: 20 increased pledges**
  - 48 increased pledges!

## Courageous Mission & Service

- **Goal: "200 Club" for community service**
  - Ongoing...
- **Goal: 20 new mission participants**
  - Habitat Build Day – 13 volunteers
  - Meals by Wheel – 17 volunteers
- **Goal: 20 youth involved with mission projects**
  - 1 youth helped with Meals-by-Wheels (Oct.)
  - 5 youth packed care packages for 1st year college student (Oct.)
  - 18 youth packed boxes of Blessings for

the cancer center

- 11 youth helped with Meals- by-Wheels (Dec.)

- **Goal: 20 people going to Guatemala**
  - HOH sold! No more mission trips...
- **Goal: 20 Boxes of Blessings each quarter**
  - 20 boxes delivered (Nov.)
  - 20 boxes prepared (Dec.)
  - Advent Supper Fundraiser (Dec.): \$600

## Unconditional Hospitality

- **Goal: 20 intentional invites to Federated**
  - Ongoing...
- **Goal: 20 new members**
  - 4 new members (Oct.)
  - 4 new members (Nov.)
  - 5 new members (Jan.)
- **Goal: 20 inactive members re-engaging**
  - 4 in Nov-Dec!
  - More contacts being made...
- **Goal: 20 members at church workdays**
  - No workday schedule yet...
- **Goal: 20 people at fellowship events**
  - 100+ at Rally Day (Sept. 8)
  - 100+ at Pie Social (Oct. 27)
  - 120 at Mission Brunch (Nov. 17th)
  - 82 at Advent Supper (Dec. 4)
  - 87 at Advent Supper (Dec. 11)
  - 70 at Advent Supper (Dec. 18th)
  - 88 at Christmas Eve Potluck

## Strategic Faith Development

- **Goal: 20 new kids in Sunday school**
  - 4 new kids this fall
- **Goal: 20 new kids in Kidz Club**
  - 7 new kids this fall
- **Goal: 20 new kids in Vacation Bible School**
  - Scheduled for June 22-26th, 2020
- **Goal: 20 Jr/Sr highs in youth group**
  - 26 Jr. highs in Confirmation
  - 17 Sr. Highs in youth group (avg. 12 / week)
- **Goal: 20 people in "Breathing with God"**
  - 9 in Oct-Nov. 2019 group
  - Next BWG course scheduled for March-April 2020 (Sign up now!)





# Business as usual

## Service Groups

### February SERVICE GROUP Group #6

Paul and Tina Eckhoff  
 Doris Enderson  
 Joel Enderson  
 Fred and Linda Harthen  
 Dave and Tessa Nord  
 James and Rebecca Michael  
 Duane and Carol Rose  
 Matthew Solin  
 Donna Solin  
 Troy and Kerian Stenstrom  
 Vern and Deb Tabbut  
 Evan and Tanya Westra

### March SERVICE GROUP Group #7

Mark and Tami Anderson  
 Jim and Robin Andrews  
 Erik Anthonisen  
 Dennis and Bonnie Bergerud  
 Terry and Cheryl Harrington  
 Kurt and Sonja Johnson  
 Norma Loomer  
 Chuck and Linda MacFarlane  
 John MacFarlane  
 Roger and Jane Nelson  
 Wayne and Gloria Ronning  
 Cindy Spidahl

## Greeters and Coffee Hosts

### FEBRUARY 2020

#### Sunday, February 2nd

9:30am James and Rebecca  
 Michael and Duane and  
 Carol Rose

#### Sunday, February 9th

9:30am Vern and Deb Tabbut  
 and Troy and Kerian Stenstrom

#### Sunday, February 16th

9:30am Greeting Only:  
 Matt Solin and Donna Solin and  
 Paul and Tina Eckhoff

#### Sunday, February 23rd

9:30am Doris Enderson and Joel  
 Enderson and Fred and Linda  
 Harthen

**REMINDER:** Greeters 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.



## 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 needs. Please call 218-739-3227 or email church@federatedff.org

## Ministry Nite:

### February 11 - 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. Church committees do not meet in July.

## Stewardship Report

### General Fund Report

Revenue	\$42,445.56
Expenditures	\$40,626.25

### Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$359,002.00
Actual Received	\$362,146.32

## Grocery Receipts

### THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

#### Service Food

December	\$6,157.38
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## 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.





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 February 1st



## Thank You

Federated Church Friends,  
This church family has so incredibly blessed me and my family with your many thoughtful words and acts of kindness as we have walked through the first couple weeks of life without Paul visibly among us. Pastor Doug, our former pastor, Ed Morgan, Ada in the office, Bill at the sound board, Gloria as accompanist, Pete (who does it all!), the singers who sang our requested hymn so beautifully, the amazing group of workers in the kitchen...and all you others giving support and encouragement, we thank you!!!  
May God bless each of you as we have been blessed,  
- Bev Richter and family: Mark Richter, Barbara Becker, Mary Beth Schindler and Heidi McLean

## February Birthdays

- |       |                 |       |                   |
|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|
| 02/01 | Ella Childs     | 02/14 | Jon Frasen        |
| 02/02 | Robin Andrews   | 02/14 | Kristi Rufer      |
| 02/03 | Donna Hendel    | 02/16 | Brennan Olson     |
| 02/03 | Karen Orcutt    | 02/18 | Carol Bopp        |
| 02/03 | Jona Brown      | 02/18 | Finn Christianson |
| 02/03 | Robert Stout    | 02/19 | Love Ell Hultin   |
| 02/04 | Norma Loomer    | 02/19 | Marjan Schuetze   |
| 02/04 | Anna Sundheim   | 02/19 | Ashlynn Eckhoff   |
| 02/05 | Olivia Jensen   | 02/20 | Shana Johnson     |
| 02/06 | Tanya Westra    | 02/21 | Barb Flom         |
| 02/08 | Patty Lindholm  | 02/22 | Bruce Bopp        |
| 02/08 | Ida Gustafson   | 02/22 | William Johnson   |
| 02/09 | Lee Syverson    | 02/24 | Madilyn Michael   |
| 02/10 | Luke Collins    | 02/27 | Benjamin Schierer |
| 02/10 | Kurt Johnson    | 02/27 | William Nuss      |
| 02/10 | Andrew Link     | 02/28 | Gary Nelson       |
| 02/11 | Kitt Schara     | 02/28 | Mark Thompson     |
| 02/12 | Greg Truax      | 02/29 | Ruby Schmidt      |
| 02/12 | Alicia Paulzine |       |                   |
| 02/14 | Doug Dent       |       |                   |



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

224 N. Union Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
Phone: 218-739-3227 | email: church@federatedfff.org