

## Camp In A Bag?!

- Karen Anderson Dent

Greetings to our Federated family! What a spring this has been! I have so missed seeing all of you for Kidz Club, youth groups, Sunday school, and worship! As we look to the summer I have been weighing the pros and cons of various programming opportunities we traditionally provide at Federated Church.

Vacation Bible School is, by far, the most exciting and energetic week of our year, and so it is with great sadness I share with you that Clearwater Forest Camp cancelled ALL summer programming, including Camp-in-a-Van, for Summer 2020. When taking into consideration the fact that our VBS relies HEAVILY on adult and older youth volunteers, I have concerns that we would not be able to properly "staff" the program this year. With all of the restrictions and challenges before us this summer, I am developing a new approach to Vacation Bible School for Summer 2020: Camp-in-a-Bag!

Camp-in-a-Bag is literally a bag with contents guiding families through Bible stories, crafts, music, and outdoor activities of VBS while at home on a schedule that works for them. I am creating a five-day program which will be available for pick-up at church, hopefully by the last week of June (when we traditionally hold VBS), but contingent upon the arrival of any materials needed for crafts. It isn't the "ideal" Vacation Bible School we love, but it will give families a chance to do something faith-based during summer.

Our theme is "Hope Rises" and will focus on God's care for us through challenges. We will study people from the Bible who grew in faith and love while encountering crisis. I am excited to provide this opportunity for families to do together! You will receive notification through postcard, email, and text notification when the bags are available, and we will have set times when individuals can come to the church to pick up their bags. If you would like a bag but are unable to come to the church to receive one at the set time, please contact the church office and let us know.





Dear Federated Family:

As Bob Dylan famously sang, "The times they are a changin'!" We live in extraordinary times. A world-wide pandemic. Stay-at-home orders. School and work at kitchen tables. Businesses and churches closed. Necessities in short supply. We are adapting to a new way of living.

At Federated Church, we are adapting to new ways of worship and working, too. Fortunately, we live in an age when there is technology available to keep us connected. We are using electronic means to offer our worship to God and conduct the business of the congregation.

So, to business! The Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys recently advised us that to legally conduct meetings electronically (internet, telephone, video conferencing), we need to include a provision authorizing those means in our corporate bylaws.

The Deacons & Elders met (via ZOOM) on May 21, 2020 to discuss and recommend to the congregation an addition to our bylaws authorizing electronic meetings. The proposed bylaw addition is printed in this newsletter (XVI. Electronic Meetings).

Changes to the Federated Church bylaws require approval by the congregation. Since we are unable to meet due to spatial distancing, the Deacons & Elders are providing ballots for you to vote and return by mail. Please read the proposed bylaw addition. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Doug Dent (218-205-5795) or Clerk Jean Bowman (218-205-1251).

When you are ready to vote, print and sign your name, check the appropriate box on the enclosed card, and return it to the church office. Please have all voting members in your household (including confirmed students) use the same voting card.

Your vote matters: we need a minimum of 55 affirmative votes (10% of our membership) for this bylaw to pass. Results of the vote will be published in a future newsletter and reported at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation in January 2021.

Blessings! Thank you for your continued support of our mission and ministries.

The Rev. Dr. Douglas Dent, Pastor

## Proposed Addition to Bylaws

MOTION: to recommend to the Federated Church congregation the following addition to the bylaws:

### XVI. Electronic Meetings

The Federated Church and any of its committees, task forces, employees, or other entities are authorized to meet by electronic means (i.e., internet, telephone, or video conferencing) at such time and means as determined by the moderator or chairperson of the particular entity, provided the following conditions are met:

- The technology employed provides the opportunity for simultaneous communication (listening and speaking) among all participating members.
- The meeting notice includes adequate description for how to participate in the meeting (i.e., voting procedure), including telephone numbers and codes to be used, links to meeting rooms, and technical accessibility.

- Arrangements satisfactory to the member can be made for the participation of any member who lacks the necessary equipment without incurring personal expense.
- All members may participate fully and can be recognized when they wish to speak/comment.
- A quorum must be present throughout the meeting. Any member has the right to demand a roll call at any time if they doubt the presence of a quorum, unless the technology employed can determine the number present in another way.
- Minutes shall be taken, and all votes recorded. Voting procedures are deployed with adequate instructions for use of the technology and in accordance with the Book of Order.

## Church News

### Thank you, Ada!

Ada Erlandson, our Administrative Assistant, is leaving on July 17, 2020 to complete the training to become a Veterinary Technician at Ridge-water College in Willmar, MN. Ada served our faith family faithfully, graciously, and dependably for the past three years, and we will miss her (and Tryg)! Since we are unable to meet in person and thank her properly, please consider sending Ada a card to thank her and to wish her well in her studies. Cards may be sent to the church (224 N. Union Avenue). We wish Ada God's richest blessings!

### Thank you, Federated!

I have thoroughly enjoyed working as the secretary at Federated Church. Thank you for your encouraging words and for making me feel welcome over the past three years. I feel truly blessed.

I am continuing my education in Willmar this fall. I am excited to start this new chapter in my life, but I will miss my time at Federated.

- Ada Erlandson

### Administrative Assistant Position

Federated Church seeks an Administrative Assistant for reception, communications, staff & committee assistance, and website maintenance. 30 hours/week. The application and full job description are at [www.federatedff.org](http://www.federatedff.org). Applications are due by June 5th.

## Worship In June

We are closed to the public for the month of June. The church doors will remain locked during office hours.

Please continue to join us for worship online in June! Visit our YouTube channel (FF Federated Church) or our website [www.federatedff.org](http://www.federatedff.org) to watch recent sermons.

## Youth Groups

Summer is traditionally a time for our youth groups to be more active in fellowship: we often go to Valley Fair, help with VBS, and gather periodically for games and lake days. This year it seems impossible to create a "normal" calendar with so many on-going changes and restrictions. I am contacting parents of our middle school and high school youth to see what is feasible and safe to plan. We hope to provide opportunities for game nights, and lake days as the summer unfolds. We also understand that there are families who will be uncomfortable attending any events. Our active youth groups are not HUGE in number, and so it is possible that we will be able to meet within the "safe number" guidelines. I know that I really miss being able to see everybody in person! Zoom meetings are great as an alternative, but with beautiful summer weather and the option to be outside, that would be my preferred way to interact with our awesome youth! I feel very strongly, however, that parental guidance must be considered in these unusual circumstances.

-Karen Anderson Dent

## Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study continues on Zoom each Tuesday at 11:30 am. We are studying Paul's Letter to the Romans and will go through the entire book this summer. Feel free to join us! Contact the church office to receive a link to ZOOM.

## Church Directory

Photo sessions for our new church directory are rescheduled for September 22nd-23rd and September 29th-30th. Scheduling will be available soon.





# Federated CHURCH

224 North Union Avenue  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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FERGUS FALLS, MN  
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Time sensitive information  
Please deliver by June 1st

## June Birthdays

06/01	Jerry Nuss	06/16	James Michael
06/02	Cindy McDougall	06/17	Peg Werner
06/03	Gary Snyder	06/18	Kristen Kugler
06/03	Ken Garrahan	06/18	Kathy Hatling
06/04	Shane Harthun	06/19	Valerie Haavig
06/04	Ayla Hoff	06/19	Marianne Stone
06/05	Matyas Sundheim	06/20	John Erickson
06/05	Jackie Gondrez	06/22	Colin Dethlefsen
06/05	Harrison Saurer	06/24	David Nelson
06/05	Jordan Salgat	06/24	Jim Andrews
06/06	Maryjane Westra	06/25	Mary Bressler
06/07	Loran Johnson	06/25	Lois Tassler
06/07	Eunice MacFarlane	06/25	Melissa Saurer
06/09	Deb Tabbut	06/25	Elizabeth Hatling
06/10	Kindree Ebert	06/28	Yvonne Marts
06/10	Clyde Schlepp	06/28	Hannah Nelson
06/10	Dustin Lien	06/30	Lisa Anderson
06/10	Delaney Schara	06/30	Erik Anthonisen
06/12	Bonnie Bergerud		
06/12	Danielle Anderson		
06/12	Anna Schlepp		
06/16	Nancy Malchert		

## July Birthdays

07/02	Jodie Nuss	07/18	Mary Link
07/03	Leila Allen-Ugstad	07/19	Ruth Anderson
07/03	Cameron Haas	07/19	Stephanie Kohlhase
07/03	Rebecca Michael	07/19	Bill Rodning
07/03	Jean Schmidt	07/21	Timothy Olson
07/05	Jeanette Haas	07/21	Gloria Ronning
07/05	Mary Westra	07/21	Sarah Bowman
07/05	Ben Dulski	07/23	Hollis Davenport
07/07	Anne Worner	07/23	Hayden Westra
07/09	Lori Kugler	07/24	Kim Erickson
07/09	Emily Stoddard	07/26	Joanne Styve
07/09	Benjamin Rundquist	07/26	Piper Andrews
07/10	Jean McKenzie	07/27	Dominic Facio
07/11	Joel Enderson	07/27	Alan Haavig
07/11	Charles MacFarlane	07/27	Nicole Tabbut
07/11	Emma Michael	07/28	Linda MacFarlane
07/11	Emily Nuss	07/28	Tina Jo Kohlhase
07/12	Kristian Fransen	07/29	Adam Schlepp
07/13	Jacki Knapp-Raaen	07/30	Wally Moe
07/13	Tom Gehring	07/30	Wayne Ronning
07/13	Fiona Rundquist	07/30	Mark Becker
07/15	Jozee Lee	07/31	Ken Schuetze
07/16	Patty Link	07/31	Kym Nygaard
07/18	Kenneth Anderson	07/31	Lorna McCabe



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

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