

Sunday, March 7 9:30a.m.
Worship will be in-person and streamed online
"Should You Stop 'Shoulding'?" Exodus 20:1-17
Pastor Doug Dent *A Celebration of The Lord's Supper*

Sunday, March 14 9:30a.m.
Worship will be in-person and streamed online
"Moving to Jesus" Ephesians 2:1-10
Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, March 21 9:30a.m.
Worship will be in-person and streamed online
"Magnetic Jesus" John 12:20-33
Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, March 28 9:30am Palm Sunday
Worship will be in-person and streamed online
"Donkey Sunday" Mark 11:1-11
Pastor Doug Dent

Thursday, April 1 5:30pm Maundy Thursday
Worship will be in-person and streamed online
"No Safety for a Savior" John 13:1-17; 31b-35
Pastor Doug Dent *A Celebration of The Lord's Supper*

Friday, April 2 5:30pm Good Friday
Worship will be in-person and streamed online
"The Old Rugged Cross Revisited" John 18:1-19; 42
Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, April 4 9:30am Easter Sunday
Worship will be in-person and streamed online
"Jesus is Dead?" Luke 24:1-12
Pastor Doug Dent *A Celebration of The Lord's Supper*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3
5:30PM ONLINE LENTEN SERVICE - LANDON LINK

SUNDAY, MARCH 7
3:30PM KIRKBRIDE FELLOWSHIP OUTING

TUESDAY, MARCH 9
6:30PM MINISTRY NITE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10
5:30PM ONLINE LENTEN SERVICE - JERRY NUSS
NO CONFIRMATION OR ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, MARCH 14
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

MONDAY MARCH 15
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17
5:30PM ONLINE LENTEN SERVICE - HAILEY BRENDEN

THURSDAY, MARCH 18
6:30PM D&E MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24
5:30PM ONLINE LENTEN SERVICE - TBA

SUNDAY, MARCH 28
PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

THURSDAY, APRIL 1
5:30PM MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE



Isaiah is my favorite prophet. In Isaiah's words we find many of the prophecies of the promised Messiah and the familiar words we hear during Advent and Christmas. But Isaiah also has a lot to say to us about our daily living.

The portion of Isaiah assigned to Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, begins this way: "Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins" (vv. 1-2). Yikes! Imagine having your shortcomings shouted from the rooftops, blared like a trumpet for all to hear, or broadcast on social media! Yet, this is exactly what God intends: our sins must be brought into the light to be resolved; not hidden, or forgotten.

Then, it gets worse. God accuses us of falsely seeking God's favor, as if we were "a nation that practiced righteousness" (v. 2). God reproaches us for pretending to follow God's Word, while serving our own interests (v. 3). God condemns us for picking fights with one another, while fasting and performing other pious acts (v. 4). God says that under such false and unfaithful conditions, nothing we do will ever be acceptable. God-through-Isaiah does not pull any punches here. God lets us know that God is angry, frustrated, and disappointed by our actions.

Think about this passage as we begin our Lenten journey. Ash Wednesday is traditionally a time of repentance and soul-searching. It is as day for laying all our sins bare before the light of God. We put ashes on our foreheads as a sign of our sinful and mortal condition. We pledge to do right by God and neighbor going forward.

But do we really mean it? If you read God's words in Isaiah 48, they hit a little too close to home. We are no longer a nation that practices righteousness. We seek excuses for our behaviors without remorse and without seeking God's forgiveness. We serve our own interests and the weak, the poor, and the powerless suffer. We practice pious acts expecting God will be mollified. Like putting ashes on our foreheads.

Ashes are not able to cleanse us of our sins. Ash Wednesday is a day to atone for our sins, but it does not give us a clean slate. Lent is a season of introspection, but it does not have the power to make us whole.

Only Jesus can do all this. His death on the cross washed away our sins. His sacrifice atoned for our sins. His resurrection made us whole. Jesus did not give us a clean slate; he gave us a whole new life. We are called to live this new life much better than we did the old one.

Ash Wednesday is an important day in the annual cycle of the church calendar. It is the day we have our sins shouted out, trumpeted aloud, and announced before God and one another. Ashes mark our repentant nature on this day. But for this day to be truly significant, it must signal the beginning of our new life. Penitence today is meaningless if we commit the same sins again tomorrow.

One pious show of righteousness does not fool God. If we are truly aware of our sins, truly repentant, and truly seek God's grace then we will live everyday according to God's Word. God tells us through Isaiah what a God-like life looks like: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?" (vv. 6-7).

If – when – we can do this God is glorified. "Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and God will say, Here I am" (vv. 8-9).

When our daily living corresponds to the penitent hearts we display on Ash Wednesday, when our actions match our words, when the needs of others outweigh our self-interest – every day – then we are doing the Lord's work and God is pleased.

May this Lenten season be a time of new beginnings for you: begin with a contrite heart (read Psalm 51), but end with a life re-dedicated to God and to your neighbor.

Blessings as you go!
Pastor Doug





Pastoral Care News

What a long, strange year this has been! During the COVID lockdown, we were not able to visit most of you in person. But we still held you close our hearts! As COVID restrictions ease and residences re-open, Rebekah and I will be redoubling our efforts to get out and visit. We are excited to reconnect with you.

Federated Friends

We have a dedicated core of caring people who make weekly contacts with members of our faith family. If you would like to have a Federated Friend, please contact Rebekah Meder. And a HUGE 'thank you!' to all our friends who continued to reach out during the pandemic.

Privacy Laws

Just a reminder that privacy laws prohibit care facilities from sharing information about their residents. If you change residences or phone numbers, would like communion or a pastoral visit, or become aware of a church member who has a need, please contact the church office (739-3227).

Home Communion

We are not able to provide home communion currently; but hope to be able to offer it soon. We will let you know just as soon as we can share this sacrament with you.

Give Us a Call!

If you have a pastoral care need, please reach out to us! Contact the church office (739-3227) or Pastor Doug (218-205-5795) or Rebekah Meder (218-205-3384).

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!

On March 14 Carol Andstrom will be 80 years old. Birthdays have always been important to Carol, whether they were her friends, relatives, or her own. Due to the pandemic an open house is not possible. If you would like to wish Carol a Happy Birthday on her special day cards may be sent to:

Carol Andstrom
210 East Bancroft
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Happy
Birthday!



“With God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26)

Children’s and youth activities are warming up here at Federated Church! Flexibility is definitely the word of the season as we continue to improvise, adapt, and overcome the obstacles before us! It is remarkable to reflect that just a year ago we were meeting in-person with large numbers and making plans for the summer and coming fall. I am thrilled to see doors beginning to open and the light of hope beginning to shine. We are blessed to begin making in-person plans again for the months to come, while maintaining a “wait-and-see” mentality at all times. As schools reopen more fully and more restrictions begin to lift, we hope to increase our opportunities to get together for our ministries. There are three important issues to highlight for Christian Education this spring.

With the possibility of middle school going back to five days a week schedule we will be making plans to begin holding in-person 7th and 8th grade confirmation and middle school youth group after school on Wednesdays. It will be a welcome change to be in-person, as opposed to seeing each other over Zoom as we have for the past several months. As we get more information we will be contacting families.

Confirmation Sunday (when our 9th grade students confirm their faith and become adult members of our church family) is usually held on the first Sunday of March. Due to the on going limitation of participants in worship we are planning this event for later in the spring, possibly Sunday, May 16th. We will alert the confirmands, families, and congregation as soon as the way is made clear!

The annual Senior Brunch is usually held as an all-church fellowship event in mid-April. We are committed to doing something special for our seniors, who have definitely NOT had a traditional senior year of high school! Therefore, we are looking at moving this event to a later date, perhaps on Sunday, May 23rd. Again, we will be in communication with our seniors, their families, and the church family as we know more about the future.

Kidz Club

The Kidz Club participants began a new series in February entitled “God is Speaking—Are You Listening?” We hear a different Bible story each week showing a unique way in which God communicates with His people. During the “lockdown”, learning pages for each week’s lesson continue to be made available on our church website in the Christian Education resources drop down.

Sunday School

Our Sunday school classes began in mid-January and continue each week for ages K-12. We are SO BLESSED to have wonderfully dedicated teachers who are committed to meet with their classes. Pastor Doug started up a new adult Sunday school class in February, with both in-person and Zoom participants. The children’s Sunday school lessons are available on our church website.

Senior High Youth Group

Senior high youth group is going great! It is so amazing to be able to meet in person again. Just as exciting is that we are adding new people nearly every week. As in the past, we often choose challenging topics of faith to discuss. Our youth are incredibly thoughtful people who are committed to learning how to live their faith.





Bible Studies

Adult Bible Study

Join Pastor Doug Sundays at 10:15am for Adult Bible Study. Together we will work through Paul’s letter to the Galatian Christians, making comparisons to our own day, and discovering how essential it is to cling to the Gospel of Jesus Christ – and nothing else! Join us in person (masks and other safety procedures apply) or by Zoom. Contact the church office to receive the Zoom link.

Women’s Bible Study

We began studying the Gospel of John in mid-January and will continue through the spring. Reading and exploring this poetic and moving account of Jesus’ ministry by the Apostle John points us to the truth of who Jesus is and why He came to dwell among us. If you would like to join the group, we are always happy to welcome new studiers of the Word! For more information about these ministries and any other Christian education questions, please contact Karen at kmad@prtel.com.



Events: Looking Ahead

Wednesday Lenten Services

Our Wednesday Lenten services will be ONLINE ONLY this year and no suppers will be offered after worship. We plan to offer personal testimonials from members of our faith family. Join us ONLINE as we “walk” together through Lent.

March 3	(5:30 PM)	Landon Link
March 10	(5:30 PM)	Jerry Nuss
March 17	(5:30 PM)	Hailey Brenden
March 24	(5:30 PM)	TBA

Van Dyken Book for Sale at Victor Lundeen’s

Th Rev. William “Bill” Van Dyken served as pastor at Federated Church for 35 years (1939-1974). Bill was a man of deep faith and firm beliefs. He is remembered fondly for his topical sermons and for his pacifist convictions during the second world war. Bill passed away in 1987.

Writing from a lifetime of experience and service in the church, Bill compiled his thoughts and memories into a short, easy-to-read book entitled, “My Faith: You Can Think...and Believe.” Bill left his manuscript with the Lundeen family for future publication. We are pleased to announce the publication of Bill’s book in 2021. Copies may be purchased at Victor Lundeen’s on Lincoln Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN for \$15.





Committee News

Mission Committee

Meals By Wheels

Federated Church is scheduled to deliver Meals-by-Wheels Monday-Friday, March 8-12 and 15-19. Drivers should gather at the Senior Center at 11:00am. It takes about an hour to deliver these meals. If you can help please contact Sonja Johnson (218) 998-2434 .

March is FoodShare month in Minnesota

Once again, March brings the opportunity for Federated Church to join with congregations and donors across Minnesota to support our much-needed community food shelves. FoodShare Month will look a bit different at Federated this year: Instead of having a Minute for Mission on Sundays during the month, we'll be relying on the donation envelopes that are included in this March newsletter. As in past years, though, the Mission Committee will match congregational donations of up to \$1,000 - what a blessing we can be to needy families in our community!

The Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf, which will be the recipient of 100 percent of our donations, has needed to alter its hours and routines due to the pandemic, but it is still serving about 50 families a week.

Fellowship Committee

Join us Sunday, March 7 at 3:30pm at the Kirkbride Shelter. Welcome Federated Church family to a fun filled outing of cross country skiing, snowshoeing, or hiking at Kirkbride. We will depart as a group, to enjoy traveling the trails of Kirkbride. We suggest, should you want to bring your young child along, bring a sled for them to ride in. We have 10 pairs of adult snowshoes which will be available for your use. Following our outing, at 5:00pm, you're welcome to join us for supper at Perkins. For questions contact Tami Collins at (736-4639) or Gail Welle at welle4ff@gmail.com.

Stewardship Report

Christian Stewardship refers to the responsibility that Christians have in maintaining and using wisely the gifts that God bestows. God wishes human beings to be partners with God in the work of restoring creation and humanity. Christians are encouraged to share their resources of treasure, time, and talent for this redeeming work.

We ended our 2021 Stewardship campaign with \$359,693.37 in pledges from 129 households. THANK YOU! Your generosity made it possible for us to write a budget that meets our staffing and operating costs, and which funds our ministries in the community. We are especially grateful for the 36 households who increased their pledge and for the 10 households who pledged for the first time in 2021.

We know, too, that some households do not pledge, but faithfully give to our mission and ministries. THANK YOU! Your support is appreciated. We encourage you to turn that faithful giving into a formal pledge for 2022 so that we can expand our ministries and reach more people with the good news of God's saving love for them.

The members of Federated Church represent 258 households, which means there are also 129 households that did not pledge this year. If you did not make a pledge this year, we ask you to consider what this faith family means to you, and to make a commitment to support our mission and ministries financially in the future?

If each of us contributes something, we can – collectively – make a great impact in our community.





Church News...

Easter Flowers

If you would like to purchase flowers for the Easter worship service, please contact the church office by Tuesday, March 16. Lilies are \$14, Tulips and Hyacinths are \$16 each. When you contact the church office, please specify if the flower(s) is in honor or in memory of an individual. Flowers can be picked up following the Easter Service.

Office Hours

The church office hours will remain the same in March until further notice. Phones and emails will be answered from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm on Fridays. If you absolutely need access to the church building, please call ahead of time to make an appointment.

The church office will be closed Friday, April 2 for Good Friday.

Worship Services

All our services are available online and may be accessed through the church website (www.federatedff.org). Updates and announcements will be posted on the church website, Facebook, Remind (text 81010 to join), email, and the office phone message.

Safety at Federated

Just a reminder that in order to make our sanctuary available for in-person worship, we need to be united in our mask-wearing and safety behaviors. To keep our worshipers and our community safe please abide by these safety procedures when visiting or worshipping at Federated church. Wear a face mask, sanitize your hands when you arrive, refrain from physical contact with others, stay spatially distant – 6 feet apart, sit in designated pews and at designated places around tables, allow our musicians to do the singing. Thank you!

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

Ministry Nite: March 9 - 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.

Stewardship Report

General Fund Report

Revenue	\$20,496
Expenditures	\$25,016

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$20,241
Actual Received	\$30,508

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food

February	\$8,197.58
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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

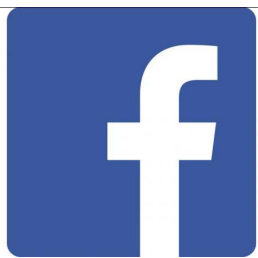
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FERGUS FALLS, MN
PERMIT #285



Time sensitive information
Please deliver by March 1st


Connect with Federated




If you would like to receive text updates from Federated Church, please **text the message @federated to the number 81010.**

March Birthdays

03/01	Char Zielin	03/18	Kayla Dean
03/01	Natalie Vogel	03/18	Leslie Wendland
03/02	Douglas Becker	03/19	Marian Wasvick
03/02	Lisa Becker	03/19	Martin Anderson
03/02	Brian Rodning	03/19	Willow Sundheim
03/02	Benjamin Nuss	03/20	Cayden Hendrickson
03/02	Grace Saurer-Olson	03/23	Bonita Stock
03/05	Sadie Carter	03/23	Karen Bush
03/05	Vanessa Westra	03/25	Madalyn Dent
03/06	Melissa Davenport	03/26	Skip Zielin
03/06	Gabe Dean	03/26	Terri Skretvedt
03/06	Matthew Orcutt	03/27	Cleo Langseth
03/08	Mark Anderson	03/28	Vanessa Whipple
03/10	M. Emilia Griego	03/28	Leif Christianson
03/11	Jim Behrends	03/28	Ryan Truax
03/12	Karen Anderson	03/29	Robert Hansen
03/12	Jordan Schiefert	03/29	Tanner Johnson
03/14	Carol Andstrom	03/29	Mary Ann Nead
03/15	Robert Flom	03/30	Dolores Duncan
03/17	Ross Stone	03/31	MacKenzie Meis
03/17	Cindy Holte		
03/18	David Whipple		



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(USA)



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THEY MAY KNOW US

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

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Phone: 218-739-3227 | email: church@federateddff.org