



Federated CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN ARMS.

March 25, 2020

Dear Federated Family:

*Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them,
for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.*
Deuteronomy 31:6

Moses speaks these words to the Israelites as they prepare to cross the Jordan River and enter hostile Canaanite territory. They face an unknown future, but because God is with them, there is hope.

Like the ancient Israelites, our future is unsettled. We are living day to day. The coronavirus is spreading, and our new “normal” looks very different than it did just a few weeks ago. But with God, there is always hope and we are finding new ways to “be the church” at present.

Palm Sunday and Holy Week services are cancelled. Unfortunately, we will not be able to gather on Palm Sunday (April 5) or Maundy Thursday (April 9) or Good Friday (April 10) for worship. We need to be cautious and be safe. We will offer online services during these important days. Enclosed is a palm leaf for you to use on Palm Sunday!

Communion. We are offering an “at home” option for communion on Palm Sunday (April 5) and Maundy Thursday (April 9). We have communion kits available. If you would like your household to receive communion kits, please return the enclosed postcard.

Weekly Worship. Until we can meet again, we will provide online worship opportunities. Links will be sent to devotions on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and a link for the Sunday worship service on the weekend. We appreciate the positive feedback on our first attempts at online worship; we are finding our way and hope to make these meaningful worship moments for you.

Easter Sunday. We are still holding out hope that we can worship together on Easter Sunday (April 12). What a celebration that will be! We will let you know...

Daily Prayer. I am asking each of you to join me in prayer every day at 2:24 PM. This is another way we can “gather” as the church family. Please pray for those who are sick, our medical personnel and first responders, our families and communities, and our government leaders. Pray that God’s healing and Holy Spirit will carry us through this crisis – quickly! (I chose 2:24 PM because 224 is Federated Church’s street address!)

Families and Youth. Karen is providing devotions for everyone to use. They will be emailed out weekly. Karen is also “meeting” with Jr. and Sr. High youth via ZOOM. If you know someone who did not receive the link and wants to be included, please contact the church office.

Church office may be closed to the public. If we hear of documented cases of COVID-19 in Otter Tail County, the church office will be closed to the general public. Staff will still be at work and will answer phones/emails from 10AM-2PM (M-Th) and 9AM-12PM (F). If you need access to the church, please call ahead for an appointment.

Food Shelf Donations. Federated Church is now accepting donations on behalf of the Community Food Shelf. You can mail checks to 224 N. Union Avenue or donate through the church website (click “resources,” click “donate”) or make donations at Security State Bank or at the drop box outside City Hall. Thank you for supporting your neighbors during this crisis.

Photo sessions cancelled. Lifetouch is suspending operations for several months. There will be no directory photo sessions in April. When Lifetouch resumes operations, we will let you know.

If you need anything, please contact us: church@federatedff.org or 218-739-3227.

Blessings and be safe!

The Rev. Dr. Douglas Dent