



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN ARMS.

Union Avenue News

KEEPING MEMBERS UP TO DATE

OCTOBER 2021

October Worship

Sunday, October 3 9:30AM World Communion Day

Worship will be in-person and streamed online

"Joining the Paul O'Sullivan Band" Genesis 2:18-24

Pastor Doug Dent *A Celebration of The Lord's Supper*

Sunday, October 10 9:30AM

Worship will be in-person and streamed online

"Separation Anxiety" Psalm 22:1-15

Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, October 17 9:30AM Stewardship Sunday

Worship will be in-person and streamed online

"Master Class" Mark 10:35-45

Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, October 24 9:30AM

Worship will be in-person and streamed online

"Smart Glasses" Mark 10:46-52

Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, October 31 9:30AM Reformation Sunday

Worship will be in-person and streamed online

"Spiritual Security" Ruth 1:1-18

Pastor Doug Dent



Dates to Remember

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

COMMUNION

WORLD COMMUNION DAY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

6:30PM MINISTRY NITE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

NO KIDZ CLUB, CONFIRMATION, OR SR.
HIGH YOUTH GROUP

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21

6:30PM D&E MEETS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

KIDZ CLUB, CONFIRMATION, AND SR.
HIGH YOUTH GROUP RETURN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
COMMUNION
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

6:30PM MINISTRY NITE



"...if [God] did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others...then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trial..." (2 Peter 2:5, 9a)

"The world is opening up," said the headlines. After 18 months of the pandemic, I really wanted that to be true. We've all wondered, "What will life look like on the other side?"

Centuries ago, Noah had a crisis, forcing him into "lockdown" on a boat filled with animals. When the boat finally came to rest on dry land, Noah received a brand-new introduction to his world.

As we look at ways to safely "get back to God's business," we can take a few lessons from Noah's experience in lockdown.

1. REFLECTION: *empathize rather than analyze.* Four million dead from COVID-19 around the world is a devastating tragedy! Yet, like Noah, we remain people of hope and preachers of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5). Jesus said that sin and suffering allow us to see God working miracles (John 9:3,). A crisis is not the time to debate God's involvement; it is the time to help your neighbor. Maybe the pandemic offered you the chance to be somebody's miracle.

2. GLORY: *give thanks and an offering to God.* Noah's first act when opening the ark was to offer God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, acknowledging God's rainbow of grace. "In everything give thanks" (2 Thessalonians 5:18) may be difficult to do in a pandemic, but God always deserves our praise for God's faithfulness to us.

3. REALISM: *recognize anticipation and apprehension.* When the floodwaters abated, Noah sent out a raven, then a dove. When the dove returned with a branch in its beak, then it was safe to open the doors. We may feel a rush to reopen, but we need to proceed with caution,

reopening slowly and safely, balancing our excitement and our anxiety.

4. TRUTHTELLING: *present the Gospel.* The miracle of deliverance lingered with the descendants of Noah, but it did not take long for faithlessness to set in (think, the tower of Babel). "As the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matthew 24:37). Now, more than ever, it is time to present a Christ-centered approach to life which can offset a fearful world and its divisiveness.

5. INNOVATION: *use digital platforms for God's glory.* Noah had never built a boat before. Why would he need one living in the desert? So, he learned how, adding new skills to his resume. The pandemic forced us to update our audio-video equipment and to figure out how to offer online worship. This unanticipated blessing kept us connected, even as we stayed safety apart. With that success, we are feeling bold enough to offer online giving. Check out the Stewardship information about Tithe.ly on page 6 and how you can support or ongoing ministries.

6. VICTORY: *stop wanting to go back to normal.* "So the LORD scattered them abroad from there [the Tower of Babel] over the face of all the earth" (Genesis 11:8). Now they could replenish the earth, as God commissioned them to do. From setbacks come springboards. Church buildings, so long closed to members, now yield new church ministries opened to the world. God's rainbow of grace shines again!

We cannot go back to what we had or did before. Pre-pandemic ministry no longer works. Intentional interaction must replace silent spectators. New ways of being Christ to the world must replace passive bystanders. Let's give our world a brand-new introduction to Jesus. Let's give the word a reason to smile again.

Pastor Doug



Committee News

Mission Committee: Meals by Wheels

Federated Church is scheduled to deliver Meals-by-Wheels Monday-Friday, Oct 25th-29th and Nov 1st - 5th. 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 Peg Kalar (218-205-5028) or Sonja Johnson (218-205-7741).

2022 Stewardship Campaign

The Stewardship Campaign for 2022 kicks off on Sunday, September 26, 2022.

Our theme in this 150th year of Federated Church's ministry in the community is "Praising God's Faithfulness." Drawing on Hebrews 10:23, we are "holding fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for God who promised is faithful."

We are asking each household to consider a 15% increase to their pledge in honor of our 150th year of ministry. This equates to an additional \$15 for every \$100 pledged or an additional \$150 for every \$1,000 pledged in 2021. Will you accept our anniversary challenge? If everyone accepted, it would mean an additional \$60,000 for our ministries.

We are also asking households who did not pledge in 2021 to consider a pledge for 2022. As we emerge from the pandemic and re-start active ministry in the community again, we need everyone's support.

Stewardship Sunday is October 17, 2021.

Please make your pledge by that date.

Thank you for your continued support of Federated Church's mission and ministries.

Board of Managers

Our bell tower is getting a face lift! Straightline Roofing is hard at work cleaning the stonework, tuck pointing the bricks, and ensuring that the tower is structurally sound. This is the beginning of a two-year project to tuck point the entire church building.

Endowment Committee

Heritage Grant Applications being accepted through October 31, 2021

Statement of Purpose: Federated Church honors the gifts and bequests of those who have gone before us by dedicating the spirit and income of the Endowment to the mission and needs of our church, our community, and our world.

Who may request funding? The Board of Deacons and Elders; committees of the Federated Church; a special Church committee or task force; ministerial or professional staff members; or a group, agency or charity not affiliated with the Church, if sponsored by any of the above.

Grant Criteria: Distributions from the Endowment shall be used to advance the presence and mission of the church in the lives of people within out:

- **Local church and congregation**, including the maintenance, repair, renovation, and new construction of facilities; and the acquisition of special equipment and supplies;
- **Local and regional community**, including support for the victims of natural disasters, relief for the poor and destitute, and assistance to ecumenical needs and projects;
- **Global community**, with special emphasis on responding to poverty, neglect, abuse, homelessness, illness, malnutrition, exploitation, and crime; education, including Christian education; recognizing and nurturing gifts and attributes; and nurturing the faith.

Forms and Deadlines: The Heritage Grant application form and information is available on the church website (under "Resources") or in the church office. Requests for funding should be submitted by October 31, 2021.





We are into our fall schedule already, and it's been GREAT so far! We have new and returning children and youth, as well as wonderful volunteer leadership, coming together to learn God's word each week!

Kidz Club

Kidz Club began on September 15 and will run through December 15, with the weeks of October 20 (MEA) and November 24 (Thanksgiving) off. Our theme for the fall is "God's Promises to Us!" Each week we hear a Bible story illustrating a promise that our Faithful God makes to us, and we make a craft to remind us of that promise. When we finish our craft, we store it in our individual "God's Promise Box", and when we are done with the fall season, we will have a box FULL of God's promises!

Sunday School

Sunday school began on September 19. Classes started at 10:15am (or when church is done!). We have classes for k-6 meeting in the Christian Education wing. K-1-Jona Brown and Madalyn Dent, 2-4 Rebekah Meder and Sam Ebert, 5-6 Karen Bush and Karen Dent, Shelby Eckhoff—assistant as needed across classes. Our older youth class meets in the narthex with Hollis Davenport. Come join us for learning and fellowship!

Youth Group

Senior high youth group began on September 15 and runs throughout the year with school/holiday-related breaks. We always start the year polling people on the topics they most want to cover, and then the discussions are developed out of that survey. We will also be doing various service projects such as care packages for our newly-graduated seniors in college, Boxes of Blessings, and other community-based missions.



Confirmation

We kicked off our year with the Confirmation Retreat on the weekend of September 17-19 at Clearwater Forest Camp. We had an incredible turnout with 23 youth and 7 adults. The biggest number yet! I think everyone was ready to get away and enjoy the outdoors together on a beautiful weekend! The theme was "Why Follow Jesus?" And we looked at the HOW, the WHAT, and the WHY we should consider becoming disciples of Jesus Christ. It was an incredible weekend and I pray that everyone came away with wonderful memories and new ideas.

I want to say a HUGE shout out THANK YOU to our fearless adult leaders, who braved the challenges of teenage angst and energy! Thank you to Hollis Davenport, Madalyn Dent, Becca Michael, Jerry Nuss, Tessa Schierer, Molly Stoddard, and Tanya Sundberg!! It could not have happened without their generosity of spirit, love, and time!



We asked everyone to choose a rock during their Saturday free time and bring to Sunday worship. During worship we talked about why it is important to live out our faith as Christians in the world. That is how God uses us.

Hollis Davenport read this poem.

Hollis Davenport read this poem.

WHEN I SAY I AM A CHRISTIAN

When I say I am a Christian
I'm not shouting I've been saved
I'm whispering I get lost at times
That's why I chose this way

When I say I am a Christian
I don't speak with human pride
I'm confessing that I stumble
Needing God to be my guide

When I say I am a Christian
I'm not trying to be strong
I'm professing that I'm weak
And pray for strength to carry on

When I say I am a Christian
I'm not bragging of success
I'm admitting that I've failed
And cannot ever pay the debt

When I say I am a Christian
I don't think I know it all
I submit to my confusion
Asking humbly to be taught

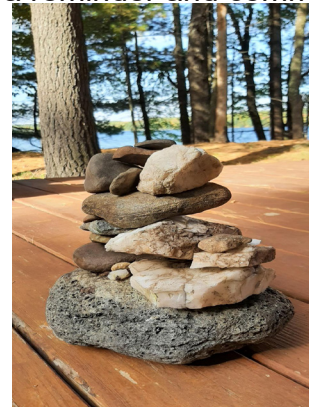


When I say I am a Christian
I'm not claiming to be perfect
My flaws are all too visible
But God believes I'm worth it

When I say I am a Christian
I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartache
That's why I seek God's name

When I say I am a Christian
I do not wish to judge
I have no authority...
I only know I'm loved

As he read the poem the youth created the Cairn Stone formation as a reminder and commitment to live our faith.



Church News

Updated Safety Protocols at Federated Church

With the uptick in COVID-19 cases in Otter Tail County, the Deacons & Elders made the decision to update the safety protocols as follows:

- Face coverings are required inside Federated Church for all persons.
- Face coverings will be provided for those who desire one.
- Face coverings are required for anyone engaging in public singing.
- Spatial distancing of 3-feet is recommended.
- The Church nursery is closed.
- Persons who are sick or who have flu-like symptoms are requested to stay home.
- Hand sanitizing stations are available at every entrance.
- Wash hands frequently.
- Keep face coverings on when not eating at coffee hour or at meals.
- Four persons per table in Fellowship Hall.
- Power Point for worship instead of bulletins or hymnals.
- Pre-packaged communion cups instead of passing communion trays.
- A donation box in the narthex instead of passing offering plates.
- Proper ventilation of all inhabited spaces (AC and open windows when possible).

Pie Social

Would it feel like fall without the taste of homemade pie? Our annual Pie Social is Sunday, Oct 24th at 10:15am. After worship, we will share some delicious slices of pie. We'll also auction off any extra pies during the event! If you would like to bring a pie, please let Brianna know in the church office.



Online Worship

To access Federated Church's online worship services, visit the church website (www.federatedff.org). There are three ways to retrieve worship videos:

1. Click the worship slide on the homepage.
2. Click the YouTube or Facebook icon at the bottom of the homepage.
3. Click the "Resources" tab (top right), click "Live Stream Worship," and click a service to view.



Communion Cups Available

We celebrate communion on the first Sunday each month. If you plan to worship from home, you may pick up prepackaged communion cups (bread and juice included) at the church office between 10AM-2PM, Monday-Thursday or 9AM-12PM on Fridays. A gluten free option is available. Call Brianna (218-739-3227) to reserve your communion cups.

Federated Church is pleased to offer electronic giving through Tithe.ly!

Tithe.ly is an online giving platform designed for churches and non-profits which now supports over 30,000 congregation worldwide.

Tithe.ly offers multiple ways for giving one-time or recurring gifts, including a mobile app, online giving, and text giving.

Tithe.ly delivers instant receipts and timely giving statements to donors and provides Federated Church quicker access to funds and reports.

Best of all, Tithe.ly allows YOU to be in control of your giving!

Signing up is simple: create an online profile in just a few minutes.

Have questions about Tithe.ly?

Visit <https://help.tithe.ly/en/articles/1594047-common-faqs-for-donors> to see how easy and helpful online giving can be.

Ready to give Online or Text with Tithe.ly?

Follow the easy steps on the enclosed cards to create your online account.

Thank you for your support of Federated Church's mission and ministries.

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





Bible Studies

Adult Bible Study - Sunday's at 10:15am

Our study of Paul's letter to the Galatians continue. We will meet in the parlor (next to the kitchen). Everyone is welcome! We will re-cap the first part of Galatians to refresh our memories about Paul's theme: the Gospel and nothing else!

Women's Bible Study - Tuesday's at 11:30am

Our women's Bible study is finishing the Gospel of John after a summer break. We will NOT be starting the Book of Hebrews at the beginning of October. Stay tuned for our starting date, which will most likely be in mid-October! Contact Karen if you are interested at kmad@prtel.com.

Coffee Hour

Women's Coffee Hour

Women's coffee hour is on Tuesday's in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00AM.

Men's Coffee Hour

Men's coffee hour is on Friday's in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00AM.



Reminders

- 10/11 Columbus Day church office open
- 10/12 Ministry Nite at 6:30pm
- 10/17 Stewardship Sunday
- 10/20 No Kidz Club, Confirmation or Sr. High youth group
- 10/21 D&E meet at 6:30pm
- 10/24 Pie Social
- 10/27 Kidz Club, Confirmation, & Sr. High youth group return
- 11/7 Daylight savings time ends
- 11/9 Ministry Nite at 6:30pm
- 11/11 Veterans Day church office open
- 11/18 D&E meet at 6:30pm
- 11/24 No Kidz Club, Confirmation or Sr. High youth group

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:

October 12 - 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	\$28,580
Expenditures	\$24,876

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$242,941
Actual Received	\$244,064

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food

August	\$2,805.76
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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.

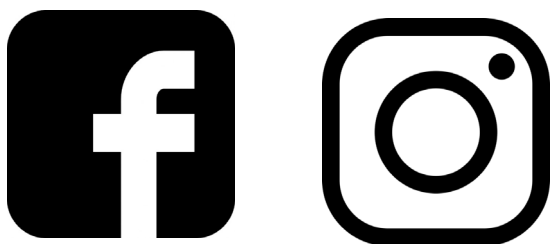


224 North Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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PERMIT #285

Time sensitive information
Please deliver by October 1st



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

If you would like to Text "give", please **text the message give to 855-235-5961.** Click on the link to the setup page and enter your information.

October Birthdays

10/00 Thea Undseth	10/25 Tyler Harthun
10/01 Dorothy Porter	10/26 Jon Steinbrenner
10/01 Tami Collins	10/26 Viktor Gustafson
10/01 Zayne Weinrich	10/27 Carol Rose
10/02 Terry Haas	10/27 Jim Wolters
10/03 Evan Westra	10/28 Joshua Whipple
10/04 Tanya Sundberg	10/28 Ivy Iverson
10/07 Doris Enderson	10/28 Stephanie Hoff
10/07 Grant Davenport	10/29 Beatrice Schierer
10/13 Kym Christiansen	10/29 Tessa Nord
10/13 Madison Weinrich	10/31 Jack Cooper
10/14 Austin Nygaard	
10/14 Caitlyn Nygaard	
10/16 Kathy Zimmerman	
10/16 Heidi Lien	
10/17 LaVane Ugstad	
10/19 Phil Kugler	
10/21 Dennis Bowman	



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

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