

## January Worship

Sunday, January 2 9:30am

*Worship will be in-person and streamed online*

**"Our Moral Compass"**

Ephesians 1:3-14

Pastor Doug Dent

A Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Sunday, January 9 9:30am Baptism of the Lord

*Worship will be in-person and streamed online*

**"In Good Company"**

Isaiah 43:1-7

Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, January 16 9:30am

*Worship will be in-person and streamed online*

**"Uncensored Libraries"**

Nehemiah 8

Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, January 23 9:30am Annual Meeting

*Worship will be in-person and streamed online*

**"The Extended Mind"**

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, January 30 9:30am

*Worship will be in-person and streamed online*

**"Lost Apples"**

Luke 4:21-30

Pastor Doug Dent



## Dates to Remember

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 2**

No Sunday School

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5**

No Kidz Club, Confirmation or Youth Group

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 9**

Chili Cook-off

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 11**

6:30pm Ministry Nite

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 12**

Kidz Club, Confirmation and Youth Group start again

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 13**

6:30pm D&E Meet

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 15**

Newsletter Deadline

**MONDAY, JANUARY 17**

Church Office Closed  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 23**

10:30am Annual Meeting

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 28 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 30**

Ice Fishing Outing



Did you know that the practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years to the ancient Babylonians? Each new year gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. There really is no difference between December 31 and January 1, nothing mystical occurs at midnight on December 31, but somehow life feels different on January 1.

Common New Year's resolutions are commitments to quit smoking, to stop drinking, to manage money more wisely, and to spend more time with family. By far, the most common New Year's resolution is to lose weight, in conjunction with exercising more and eating more healthily. These are all good goals to set. However, 1 Timothy 4:8 instructs us to keep exercise in perspective: "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." Most New Year's resolutions, even among Christians, relate to physical things. All well and good; but we can think bigger!

Many Christians make New Year's resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, and to attend church more regularly. These are fantastic goals. However, these New Year's resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions because there is no power in a New Year's resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity. For example, why do you want to read the Bible every day? Is it to honor God and grow spiritually, or is it because you have just heard that it is a good thing to do? Why do you want to lose weight? Is it to honor God with your body, or is it for vanity, to honor yourself?

Philippians 4:13 tells us, "I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength." John 15:5 declares, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." If God is the center of your New Year's resolution, it

has a greater chance for success. If it is God's will for something to be fulfilled, God will enable you to fulfill it. If a resolution is not God-honoring or is not in agreement with God's Word, we will not receive God's help in fulfilling the resolution.

So, what sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make? Here are some suggestions:

- Pray to the Lord for wisdom regarding what resolutions, if any, God would have you make.
- Pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you.
- Rely on God's strength to help you.
- Find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you.
- Allow setbacks to motivate you further.
- Always give the glory to God.
- Find a way to help a neighbor or volunteer in the community.
- Speak only kind, uplifting, and enriching words to one another.
- Forgive someone and let go of the hurt.
- Seek reconciliation.
- Reach out to someone you have not spoken to for some time.
- Allow someone to do something nice for you or help you (it's not a gift until it is received!)

Psalm 47:5-6 says, "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in God and God will do this: God will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun." That sounds like a pretty good way to start out the new year!

Blessings,  
Pastor Doug



## A Season Of Giving

THANK YOU to all that supported the Otter Tail County foster care bags. Thank you to the volunteers for packing 40 bags of essential (and fun) items for children. Your hearts, prayers and generosity for this mission makes a difference.



Pictured from left to right: Ingrid Morgan, Rebekah and Johanna Meder, Char Zielin, Lu Echelberger, Barb Becker, and Bev Richter.

## Welcome Heath and Hunter

Federated Church is pleased to welcome Heath Sershen and Hunter Evans as Audio-Video Technicians supporting our worship services! Heath works at M-State in Fergus Falls and brings over 25 years of audio and video experience. Hunter is a student at Kennedy High School in Fergus Falls and brings considerable audio and video experience. This talented team is working with Bill and Mary Ann Nead to enrich our worship offerings. What a blessing! Welcome Heath and Hunter.

## 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!





Hallelujah! It's 2022 and God is good! We look forward to a new year of opportunities for spiritual growth and a deeper relationship with God!

## Kidz Club

We are kicking off 2022 with a series on the Psalms! Beginning on Wednesday, January 12 and continuing for several weeks, we will be learning about King David and some of the Psalms he wrote. Psalms are songs and prayers directed to God, and so we will be expressing our praise and worship through music, games, and art. Kidz Club is a great place to get to know your church family. We have great kids, wonderful volunteers, and awesome kitchen help. Feel free to add your children to our weekly gathering. We meet on Wednesdays from 3:45-5:30pm, with a supper following for children and families.

## Sunday School

After focusing on Advent, Christmas lessons, and crafts, we are continuing our series on "How to Live as Disciples of Jesus". In our weekly gatherings so far we've talked about topics such as forgiveness, peacemaking, and having a servant's heart. In the next few months we will be learning about humility, kindness, and cooperation. We have incredible Sunday school teachers who are always excited to add new children to their classes. Don't forget that we have a middle school/high school Sunday school class, as well as an adult Sunday school class. There are great opportunities to deepen your faith and understanding of God, the Bible, and grow closer to one another.

## Confirmation

Our confirmation classes (7th-8th grade are Wednesdays from 4:00-5:30pm and 9th grade from 6:30-7:30pm) will continue through February. We encourage our youth to keep up with their sermon notes and if they are having difficulty getting to them, check with Pastor Doug about alternatives for confirmation credit.

## Senior High Youth Group

Senior high youth group meets from 7:30-9:30pm on Wednesdays. This group continues to grow practically every week. Our youth enjoy telling their friends to join us, and our group is great at including new people, so we see new faces all the time. This has been a huge blessing during the past year and a half. Our group always starts with some sort of check in, introduction, and then we cover a specific topic for discussion. We end the evening with games. We are working on a winter retreat to be held at Clearwater Forest in mid-January. Our older youth have been asking for this for a few years. I would love for this to become an annual event, like the confirmation retreat. Pray for us that it will be a fun, fruitful time for all!

## Dates To Remember

Reminder, no Sunday School on January 2nd. See you on January 9th at 10:15am.

Remember, Kids and Youth activities resume on January 12th at our regular times!

## Women's Bible Study

We have a wonderful women's Bible study going strong each Tuesday at 11:15am in the parlor. We are working through the book of Hebrews, a letter written to a group of Jewish believers who were facing persecution and difficulty in pressing forward with their new faith. Feel free to join our class anytime.

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*Christian Education and Youth*

We hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and look forward to a Blessed, Happy, and Healthy New Year.





# Annual Meeting

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, January 23, 2022 (10:30 AM)

The Deacons & Elders cordially invite you to attend the Annual Meeting of the Federated Church Congregation on Sunday, January 31, 2021, at 10:30 AM, for the purpose of electing officers, reviewing the 2022 budget, approving the pastor's compensation, and conducting other routine business of the congregation.

### Meeting Format:

- This will be a hybrid meeting and members may participate in-person at Federated Church or online via Zoom.
- A link to the online meeting will be provided by email one week prior to the meeting.

### Meeting Spaces:

- Members attending the annual meeting in-person and masked will gather in the sanctuary, sitting spatially distanced.
- Members wishing to attend the annual meeting online will be sent a link to join via Zoom from their computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone.

### Annual Reports:

- The annual meeting reports and the proposed 2022 budget will be available on the church website ([federatedff.org](http://federatedff.org)) one week prior to the meeting (January 16, 2022).
- No paper copies will be provided.
- Reports will be shared on the screen during the meeting.

### Recording:

- For transparency and voting accuracy, the meeting will be recorded both by video (in-house) and by Zoom.
- The annual meeting will not be broadcast on [Boxcast.com](http://Boxcast.com) or YouTube.

### Voting Procedures:

- In-Person voting will be by hand for attendees in the sanctuary.
- Online voting will be by Zoom's voting feature at the bottom of the screen. Please note Zoom can only record one (1) vote per household. For multiple voters, use the chat feature.

### Recording Votes:

- Votes will be verified by D&E delegates and recorded by the Clerk.
- The minutes will reflect in-person votes, online votes, and the total number of votes cast.

**Safety Procedures:** For everyone's protection, members attending in-person are asked to wear a face mask, sanitize hands, and stay spatially distant (3-ft apart).

**Offer Grace:** We ask for your patience a measure of grace in the likely event that things do not go exactly as planned.





# Church News

## **Greeters! – Starting January 2, 2022**

Beginning in January, we will once again have friends greeting as people enter our church for worship. Greeters are asked to wear face coverings and refrain from contact (please do not shake hands or pass out bulletins).

Brianna Schneeberger will contact members of the service groups to line up greeters. If you are uncomfortable worshipping in person or serving as a greeter, please let her know. We understand the need for safety and respect your choice.

If you would be willing to be “on call” as a Greeter, in the event we are unable to find someone, please contact Brianna. She will create a list of volunteer greeters. We are grateful for your help.

## **Committee Meetings**

Ministry Nite is January, 11th and D&E meets January 13th.

## **A Note About Pre-pledging**

As we near the new year, please remember the following when pre-pledging. If you prepay your pledge, by law it will appear on the statement in the year it is received. For example, 2022 pledges received in 2021 will appear on 2021 statements.

## **Bell Choir**

The Bell Choir is practicing during January with safety measures put in place. If anyone is interested, they can meet at Federated on Tuesdays from 7-8pm. If you have any questions, please, contact Tessa Nord at 218-205-8627.

## **Tornado Relief – Special Offering**

In the early hours of December 11th, several tornadoes ripped through multiple U.S. states, resulting in extensive damage and significant loss of life. Both the PC(USA) and the UCC established special funds through their relief agencies to support the victims. Donations will be accepted through January 16, 2022.

Check donations: Please donate using the envelope enclosed or one of the envelopes in the pews or in the offering box at church.,

Online donations: if you would like to donate online (through Tithely), go to the church website ([www.federatedff.org](http://www.federatedff.org)), click “GIVE” in the upper right corner.

- If you have a Tithely account, login, enter the donation amount, and then choose “Tornado Relief” from the dropdown box.
- If you do not have a Tithely account, click “Sign Up,” create an account, enter the donation amount, and choose “Tornado Relief” from the dropdown box

Note: creating a Tithely account to donate for tornado relief DOES NOT affect how you pay you pledge. Questions? Call the office.

## **Church Office**

The church office hours will remain the same in January. Phones and emails will be answered from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm of Fridays. The Church office will be closed on Monday, January 17th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## **Coffee Hour**

Women’s coffee hour is on Tuesdays at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.

Men’s Coffee hour is on Fridays at 10am in the Parlor.





# Committee News

## Fellowship Committee

Federated has 2 fun upcoming events!

### Chili Cook-off

The annual Federated Chili Cook-off following the church service is on January 9th. To promote social distancing, diners will be invited to the serving area one table at a time. In compliance with Federated COVID policy, masks need to be worn when not eating. Participants interested in entering a pot of chili should contact either Tami Collins (770-8474) or Gail Welle (736-3177) at their earliest convenience. Chili entries will need to be dropped off in the kitchen prior to the service. All competitors will receive a participation gift, with gift cards awarded for Judges' Choice and People's Choice winners. Judges are also needed to help determine cook-off winners. If interested please contact Tami or Gail.

### Ice Fishing Outing

The Annual ice fishing outing will be held January 28th-30th at Lake of the Woods. We will leave on Friday the 28th and rides can be shared. The fishermen will stay Baudette Friday night. We will have 2 days of fishing and a 2-night stay in a sleeper fish house. The cost is \$200 per fisherman. Non-members will need to have a \$50 down payment. If you have any questions, contact Dennis Bowman (218-205-8147).

## Mission Committee

### Meals By Wheels

Federated Church is scheduled to deliver Meals-by-Wheels Monday-Friday, January 10th-14th, & January 17th-21st 2022. Drivers should gather at the Senior Center at 11am. 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).

## Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank all of you who sent in your pledge cards. It really helps the Budget Committee in making plans for 2022.

## 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:

### January 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.

## Stewardship Report

### General Fund Report

Revenue	\$37,148
Expenditures	\$31,777

### Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$332,817
Actual Received	\$335,587

## Grocery Receipts

### THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

### Service Food

December	\$3,034.37
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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

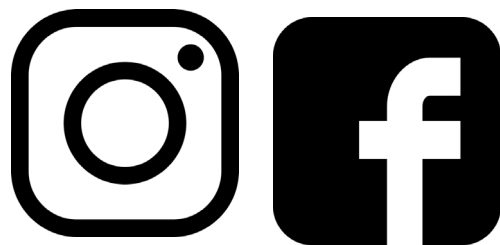
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FERGUS FALLS, MN  
PERMIT #285

Time sensitive information  
Please deliver by January 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.





Follow Us On Facebook and Instagram for photos, events and updates!

## January Birthdays

- |       |                    |       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 01/01 | Wayne Link         | 01/22 | Mindy Christianson |
| 01/01 | Cheryl Anderton    | 01/23 | Molly McDougall    |
| 01/03 | Megan Grover       | 01/25 | Vivian Whipple     |
| 01/04 | Arlene Worner      | 01/25 | Pam Phillips       |
| 01/06 | Walter Gondrez     | 01/25 | Dale Anderson      |
| 01/08 | Bill Borowski      | 01/26 | Shelby Tabbut      |
| 01/08 | Janie Lee          | 01/27 | Robert Dent        |
| 01/09 | Jude Weinrich      | 01/30 | Linda Wolfe        |
| 01/09 | Ella Sundheim      | 01/31 | John Collins       |
| 01/10 | Roxane Nereson     | 01/31 | Beth Schlepp       |
| 01/10 | Cheryl Harrington  | 01/31 | William Haas       |
| 01/10 | Tori Bult          |       |                    |
| 01/14 | Chloe Beske        |       |                    |
| 01/15 | Dana Schlepp       |       |                    |
| 01/16 | Mark Rodning       |       |                    |
| 01/16 | Bob Wolfe          |       |                    |
| 01/20 | Karoline Gustafson |       |                    |
| 01/21 | Judy Friedrich     |       |                    |



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

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