

March Worship

Sunday, March 6 9:30am Confirmation Sunday
Worship will be in-person and streamed online
"Welcome to Church" Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 Pastor Doug Dent A Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Sunday, March 13 9:30am
Worship will be in-person and streamed online
"Your Future Self" Luke 13:31-35
 Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, March 20 9:30am
Worship will be in-person and streamed online
"R.S.V.P" Isaiah 55:1-9
 Pastor Doug Dent
 Commissioning For Paul Shol as he is deployed with the U.S. Air Force Reserves

Sunday, March 27 9:30am
Worship will be in-person and streamed online
"The Embassy of Heaven" 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 Pastor Doug Dent

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."
 Genesis 3:19



Dates to Remember

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2
 7:00pm Ash Wednesday

SUNDAY, MARCH 6
 Confirmation Sunday

TUESDAY, MARCH 8
 6:30pm Ministry Nite

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9
 5:30pm Lenten Service
 6:00pm Supper

SUNDAY, MARCH 13
 Daylight Saving Time Starts
 Bells Play

TUESDAY, MARCH 15
 Newsletter Deadline

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
 5:30pm Lenten Service
 6:00pm Supper

THURSDAY, MARCH 17
 6:30pm D&E Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23
 5:30pm Lenten Service
 6:00pm Supper

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30
 5:30pm Lenten Service
 6:00pm Lent Supper

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6
 5:30pm Lenten Service
 6:00pm Supper



"...but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:7

Coming off the winter Olympics in Beijing, China, I am thinking about some of the "wins" we've experienced at Federated Church recently. Here are a few:

- 12 potential new members
- 6 confirmands joining our fellowship
- Increased attendance at worship (both in-person and online)
- A successful hybrid annual meeting
- 20 senior high youth on Wednesday nights
- 23 senior highs and chaperones attended the winter retreat at Clearwater Forest Camp
- 60 increased pledges for 2022
- 9 new pledges for 2022
- \$50,000 donated to the church's endowment fund
- Increased attendance at weekly Bible studies
- Preparations for hosting the Lenten services and suppers
- Several small groups forming around shared activities (cooking, sewing, singing)

Overall, I sense a collective sigh of relief as the recent Omicron pandemic wanes and a genuine desire to get back to the business of ministry in our community. There truly is a "sweet, sweet spirit in this place" these days.

As we begin the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday (March 2nd), it is a good time to reflect on our faith. We've been largely dormant for two years, but it is time to re-engage, come back to worship, and put our faith into action again.

Speaking of engagement, I am inviting you to attend a series of Federated Family Meetings on Wednesdays following the Wednesday Lenten service and suppers. At our first meeting (March 9th), we will discuss two questions:

- I am most proud of Federated Church when...
- My wish for Federate Church is...

These conversations will help me, and the Deacons & Elders make plans for our church's future. And our future is BRIGHT, because God has already given us the victory in Jesus Christ! Hallelujah! Amen.

Blessings on your Lenten journey this year!
Pastor Doug

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!



I remember learning about March “coming in like a lion and going out like a lamb” when I was growing up, but in North Dakota that saying never quite came true. The same sentiment usually goes for Minnesota as well. We are always very thankful when March brings warmer temperatures, because they are never a guarantee. What is guaranteed, however, is lots of activity here at Federated Church!

Kidz club

We are continuing our unit on Psalms this spring, focusing mainly on Psalm 23 during March and April. We hope to memorize this beloved psalm and study different parts of it so that we can carry these special words from King David to God in our hearts. The beautiful words of this psalm make me think of spring, and so we pray that spring will arrive quickly! We are also working on some music we plan to share during worship on Palm Sunday. You can't study the psalms without singing praises to God! Kidz Club will run through Wednesday, April 27.

Sunday School

Sunday school continues to meet each week with a faithful core of students and teachers. We love spending time together each week talking about ways that God is working in our lives, learning Bible stories, singing, and doing crafts. We hope to partner with our Kidz club kids and sing in worship at some point this spring!

Middle School Youth Group

Middle school youth group began meeting on Wednesday, February 23, in place of confirmation class, and will run each Wednesday after school through the beginning of May. We will be doing lots of games, fellowship, learning, and some service projects during this special time together. It is fun to have the opportunity to grow as a group each spring. We enjoy being able to get to connect when confirmation class is finished for the year!

Senior High Youth Group

This past month we did a lot of fun things! We went ice skating on Lake Alice and held a lock-in on a Wednesday night. Our older youth are so busy, and yet they love getting together for learning and fellowship with one another. As we move into this time of the year it always occurs to us that our seniors are getting close to graduating. We are planning a Senior Brunch for graduates on Sunday, April 24, after worship. We will share more details in our April newsletter!

Both our middle school and high school students, along with the Christian Education committee, are planning to host one of the Lenten suppers this spring. We are looking forward to getting back to this annual tradition!

Christian Education and Youth





Committee News

Mission Committee Meals By Wheels

Federated Church is scheduled to deliver Meals-by-Wheels Monday-Friday, March 28 - April 1. 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).

Food Share Month

March is Food Share Month, the month when our donations to the Fergus Falls Food Shelf have an even bigger impact than usual. In keeping with our tradition at Federated Church, our Mission Committee will match food shelf donations from the congregation - up to \$500 - during March.

The food shelf is always a valuable resource for local families, but that's especially true during the ongoing pandemic. Last year, it served 12,000 people, including children, and already this year demand is increasing due to higher energy and food prices.

It's easy to contribute during Food Share Month: You can put your donation in one of the special envelopes you'll find in the pews during March; donate online through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly); or mail a check to the church with Food Shelf in the memo line.

If you're curious about the food shelf and its operation, consider this:

- In 2021, the Fergus Falls Food Shelf handed out 300,000 pounds of food.
- Ninety percent of the food shelf's clients live in Fergus Falls, but it also serves families from Pelican Rapids, Erhard, Elizabeth, Ashby, Underwood, Dalton and Battle Lake - there are no restrictions on who is served.
- The food shelf is open to the public from 1-4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

- The food shelf is ALL-volunteer - neither the board members nor the workers (including many from Federated) are paid. Last year, volunteers donated 6,000 hours to keep the food shelf operating.
- The food shelf receives NO funding from the federal government, state, county or city.
- While donations of food are appreciated, cash donations are encouraged because the food shelf can purchase food at discount prices from regional food banks.
- During Food Share Month, a portion of donations are matched by Hunger Solutions and the Feinstein Foundation. That means your donation will go even further!

Fellowship Committee Softball Pancake Breakfast

Join us on Sunday, March 27 after worship for our annual Softball Pancake Breakfast and Auction. During breakfast we will auction off donated items. If you have something that you would like to donate, please drop it off in the church office, bring to church on the 27th, or contact Dennis Bowman at (218-332-0776).

Worship Committee

NEW! Sing-a-long before worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays!

Come early for worship and sing-a-long with the Praise Team to some favorite praise songs and hymns on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month (beginning March 13, 2022). We'll start singing about 9:15 AM. If you have a favorite song you'd like to sing, let us know!

Summer Worship

This summer we will once again worship at 10:00 AM, beginning Sunday, June 5, 2022. We will worship in Kirkbride Park on the SECOND SUNDAY each month (June-September). So, pray for nice weather on June 12, July 10, August 14, and September 11 (Rally Day). Doughnuts will be served after worship!



Deacons & Elders

At their meeting on February 17, 2022, the Deacons & Elders:

- Welcomed into membership the 2022 confirmation class: Siri Anthonisen-Brown, Shelby Eckhoff, Kristian Fransen, Beatrice Schierer, Sam Sundberg, and Preston Weinrich
- At a subsequent meeting, representatives of the Deacons & Elders welcomed into membership confirmands Beatrice Schierer and Sam Sundberg.
- Installed Elder Patty Lindholm (PCUSA) to active service on the Board of Deacons & Elders.
- Reviewed the COVID-19 safety protocols and removed the mask mandate. Masks are still recommended for all persons, especially when singing.
- Approved worship in Kirkbride park on four Sundays this summer: June 12, July 10, August 14, and September 11 (Rally Day).
- Reviewed the results of the 2022 stewardship campaign.
- Appointed committee chairpersons and

assigned D&E liaisons to committees.

- Approved the Softball pancake feed and auction fundraiser for Sunday, March 27, 2022.
- Received the dates for future Presbytery meetings and the annual meeting of MN Conference (UCC).

Stewardship Committee

As we focused on our theme of "Praising God's Faithfulness" for this year's stewardship campaign, we saw 123 total pledges toward our campaign goal of \$394,876. This includes 9 new and 60 increased pledges! We exceeded last year's total pledges, though we were approximately \$29,500 short of meeting our budget goal for our 150th anniversary year.

Thank you to everyone who committed funds in this way! Our budget is an important piece of planning our ministries and outreach in 2022 and beyond.



Events: Looking Ahead

Ash Wednesday, March 2

Service @7:00pm

Confirmation Sunday, March 6

Service @9:30am

Ministry Nite, March 8

@6:30pm

Lenten Services and Supper, March 9

@5:30pm on Wednesdays until April 6

@6:00pm Lenten Suppers

D&E Meets, March 17

@6:30pm

Meals By Wheels, March 28 - April 1

Palm Sunday, April 10

Service @9:30am

Maundy Thursday, April 14

Service @7:00pm with Communion

Good Friday, April 15

Service @7:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 17

Service @9:30am

Senior Brunch, April 24

@10:15am

Last Day Of Kidz Club, April 27

@3.45pm





Church News

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday is March 6, 2022. The 2022 Confirmation Class: Siri Anthon-isen-Brown, Shelby Eckhoff, Kristian Fransen, Beatrice Schierer, Sam Sundberg, Preston Weinrich

Commissioning for Paul Shol March 20, 2022

Calling all veterans! Paul Shol will deploy with the 148th Fighter Wing ("The Bulldogs") of the MN Air National Guard (Duluth, MN) in April 2022. We will be commissioning Paul and sending him off with our blessings during worship on Sunday, March 20, 2022. Veterans will be invited to join Paul at the front of the chancel for this time of prayer. Thank you, Paul, for your service!

Online Worship

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

Church Office

The church office hours will remain the same in March. Phones and emails will be answered from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm of Fridays.

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.

Easter Flowers

Brianna is still waiting for the information on Easter Flowers. She is hoping to have more information before the April Newsletter. When She gets all the information, she will send out an email.

Presbytery News

The Presbytery of MN Valleys will meet:

Tuesday, April 5 in person from 10:00-3:00 p.m. (location: Spicer, Hope)

Tuesday, June 7 via zoom from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 16 via zoom from 7:00-8:30 p.m. (typical meeting date)

Saturday, October 8 in person from 10-3:00 p.m. (location: St. Cloud)

Tuesday, December 6 via zoom from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

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.





Bible Studies & Fellowship

Adult Bible Study

Sunday mornings, after worship, in the parlor

Pastor Doug is leading a study on the trial narratives in the Gospels and the Book of Acts. Based on the book, *The Trial Narratives* by Matthew Skinner, these trials have much to teach us about conflict, power, and identity in the New Testament. It will be a fascinating study. Everyone is welcome!

Women's Bible Study

Tuesday mornings, at 11:15am, in the Parlor

We are nearing the end of our session on Hebrews, which we have all thoroughly enjoyed! We are working on which book of the Bible to tackle next. Please feel free to join us now or as we begin our next session. This is a group that LOVES to dive deep and seek God's guidance and wisdom from His word!

MARCH 2022 - GREETERS

Sunday, March 6

Donna Hendel

Sunday, March 13

Jake & Karoline Gustafson

Sunday, March 20

Mike & Patty Shol

Sunday, March 27

Landon Link

Greeters are asked to refrain from contact (please do not shake hands or pass out bulletins).

If you are uncomfortable worshipping in person or serving as a greeter, please let Brianna 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.

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 8 - 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.

Wednesday Lenten Speakers

March 9 - Bill Nead

March 16 - Pastor Bob
(Main Presbytery)

March 23 - Susan Clambey

March 30 - Jeremy Jensen

April 6 - TBD

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.





Federated CHURCH

224 North Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

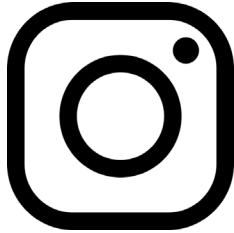
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time sensitive information
Please deliver by March 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.



March Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-------|------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 03/01 | Char Zielin | 03/19 | Martin Anderson |
| 03/01 | Natalie Vogel | 03/19 | Willow Sundheim |
| 03/02 | Douglas Becker | 03/20 | Cayden Hendrickson |
| 03/02 | Lisa Becker | 03/23 | Bonita Stock |
| 03/02 | Brian Rodning | 03/23 | Karen Bush |
| 03/02 | Benjamin Nuss | 03/25 | Madalyn Dent |
| 03/06 | Gabe Dean | 03/26 | Skip Zielin |
| 03/06 | Matthew Orcutt | 03/26 | Terri Skretvedt |
| 03/08 | Mark Anderson | 03/28 | Vanessa Whipple |
| 03/10 | M. Emilia Griego | 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 | | |

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

03/19 Marian Wasvick
224 N. Union Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Phone: 218-739-3227 | email: church@federatedff.org