

## December Worship

December 4      9:30am      Second Sunday of Advent  
**"Repentance in the Parking Lot"**      Matthew 3:1-12  
 Pastor Doug Dent

*A Celebration of The Lord's Supper*

December 11      9:30am      Third Sunday of Advent  
**"Advent Magnification"**      Luke 1:46b-55  
 Pastor Doug Dent

December 18      9:30am      Fourth Sunday of Advent  
 Pastor Doug Dent      Children's Christmas Pageant

December 24      5:00pm      Christmas Eve  
**"On Them Light Has Shined"**      Isaiah 9:2-7; John 1  
 Pastor Doug Dent

**Join us for a Christmas Eve potluck dinner at 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall**

December 24      11:00pm  
**"On Them Light Has Shined"**      Isaiah 9:2-7; John 1  
 Pastor Doug Dent

December 25      9:30am      Christmas Day  
**"A Baby Changes Everything"**      Luke 2:1-20  
 Pastor Doug Dent



## Dates to Remember

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Communion  
 Choir Sing  
 10:15am Pre-K Sunday School

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

5:30pm Advent Service  
 6:00pm Chili Cook-Off

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

10:00am Sewing & Coffee

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

11:30am H4H Family Cmte. Meeting

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

6:30pm Ministry Nite

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

10:00am H4H Board Meeting  
 5:30pm Advent Service & Trio Will Sing  
 6:00pm Supper

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

Newsletter Deadline  
 6:30pm D&E Meeting

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Annual Reports Due

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

No Youth Activities  
 5:30pm Advent Service & Choir Will Sing  
 6:00pm Supper

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve  
 5:00pm Worship, Choir Sing & Trio Sing  
 6:00pm Potluck Supper  
 11:00pm Candlelight Service w/Communion

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day  
 Trio Will Sing



*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-5, 14*

I've been thinking a lot about LIGHT lately. I don't like it when the days get shorter, and the nights get longer. But I realized something: it is only in the darkness that we clearly see the lights. And there are a lot of lights appearing these days. I love to see the Christmas lights on homes.

All this made me think of John 1, one of my favorite Advent-Christmas texts, especially verse 5: *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* John spoke of Jesus – the Word – who was with God from before time began and in whom all things are created. *"In him was life, and that life was the light of all humankind"* (v. 4). God sent Jesus, the light, to shine on our darkest days, and nothing that happens can ever extinguish that light.

This is truly hopeful news! The world can be a dark and terrifying place. There are many things that happen to us that try to darken our life's light. We know heartache and sickness. Sometimes we feel lonely and afraid. We can be anxious and unsettled. We can be uncertain about the future. But when we remember that Jesus came to be the light of the world, and when we put our trust in him, we fight back against the darkness a little.

Light is often used as a symbol for hope. We put lights on our homes and Christmas trees and in our windows to remind ourselves that spring will come after the winter, to affirm that hope abounds, and proclaim that the darkness is temporary.

I challenge you to be bright, shining lights to and for one another. Be bright, shining lights to your family, friends, and neighbors in this cold, dark world. Use your light to help others to see their way forward in life and in faith. Be warmth for those who are cold, lonely, sick, or oppressed. Share your energy with those who need it.

May the light of your love never go out or grow dim.  
May you burn brightly together, encouraged by Jesus, the light of the world.

Blessings for your Advent! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

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*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*  
Luke 2:10-12





# Committee News

## Fellowship Committee

### Chili Cook-Off

Join the Fellowship Committee for a Chili Cook-off on December 7, 2022, at 6pm for the Advent Supper. Please sign up if you would like to bring a pot to be judged and to share with everyone. If you are interested in being a judge, please email Jaime at [Jaime.brause@gmail.com](mailto:Jaime.brause@gmail.com). If you are unable to sign-up physically at the church, please email Jaime for that as well. We can't wait to see what you come up with!

## Mission Committee

### Christmas Church Offering

Federated will be participating in the Christmas Joy offering until December 18. Your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. 50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Envelopes are available in the newsletter or in the pews at church. Thank you for your consideration in giving to this important organization.

## Worship Committee

### Handbells

Please contact Tessa Nord if you would like to play with the Bell Choir on December 11th. Rehearsals will be Thursday nights at 6pm on December 1 & 8.

## Choir

The Choir will be singing during worship on December 4, 21, and the 24. The choir practices on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the choir room. If you are interested in joining the choir you can contact the church office or Jack Raen. 218-367-0021

## Midweek Advent Services

### Wednesday Advent Services at 5:30pm and Suppers at 6pm.

December 7th – Fellowship chili cook off

December 14th – Kitchen Ladies serving Home-made Chicken Noodle Soup

December 21st – Christian Ed/Youth serving soup (flavor TBD)

## Stewardship Committee

Thank you to all who have submitted their 2023 pledge! As of November 22nd, we have 95 households pledging a total of \$335,570.44. This puts us 81.56% toward our \$411,455 goal. We truly appreciate your generosity!

Pledge information helps us properly budget for next year's needs and the ways in which we'll shine God's light in our community.

There's still time to return your pledge card! Simply drop it in the church office or mail it as soon as you can. Or, if you need a new card, just let Brianna know.

Thank you for your support of our mission and ministries.

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## 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!



# Christian Education and Youth

Rev. Karen Anderson

December has arrived, and with it the annual Christmas pageant! We are so excited to embark on this tradition once again after a two-year hiatus! Our K-6 and several middle school youth are working together to bring us a classic re-telling of the birth of Jesus, along with Christmas carols, angels, and shepherds. The children and youth are very enthusiastic to be able to present this special event for our faith family.

Please join us on Sunday, December 18 during our regular worship service for our program, and stay afterward as the Christian Education committee provides Christmas treats in Fellowship Hall.

The Christian Education Team and youth will be making and serving the fourth Advent supper on Wednesday, December 21. Any donations will go towards completing the amount of the cost of an Octoball court!

## Kidz Club

During the month of December we will be spending time preparing for the Christmas pageant. We will be working on songs and the script, along with blocking out the story. We plan to continue doing a short craft-time each week, as well as gym time (much needed after a day at school!). If your child is unable to participate in the pageant on December 18, please encourage them to continue attending Kidz Club, as we will still be having lots of fun and learning every week!

There will be no Kidz Club on Wednesday, December 21 and December 28. We will resume our weekly fellowship time on Wednesday, January 4 after school.

## Sunday School

Our Sunday School time during December will be focusing on learning the pageant songs, lines, and blocking. This provides the children who are unable to attend our mid-week pro-

gramming the opportunity to participate in the pageant.

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day) and January 1 (New Year's Day!) We will begin the new Sunday school year on Sunday, January 8 after worship.

## Pre-K & Parents

Join us the first Sunday of every month with teacher Cindy Spidahl. Cindy is developing a rich and meaningful lesson and fellowship time with children and parents. Our next class is Sunday, December 4 after worship.

## Confirmation

Our confirmation youth continue to meet each week for lessons and occasionally for a youth group meeting. Several of our 7th and 8th grade students have graciously offered to be a part of the Christmas pageant this year. This is a real blessing and it gives some of them the opportunity to be a part of this tradition that they missed out on for the past two years! We are so thankful they are willing to be leaders with our younger people, who look up to them and enjoy being able to work with them!

There will be no confirmation on Wednesday, December 21 and 28. We will resume on Wednesday, January 4.

## Senior High Youth Group

Our senior high youth continue to be a consistent, supportive crew, many of whom bring along friends who decide to stay and become a part of our group. We have engaged in some difficult and deep topics lately, and there is always thoughtful discussion and understanding. During the "snow months" we plan to do some outdoor activities, such as skating, sledding and watch some thought-provoking movies. Coming in mid-January we plan to hold a senior high youth retreat at Clearwater Forest-our second annual winter adventure!







# Church News

## Church Office

The church office hours will remain the same in December. Phones and emails will be answered from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm of Fridays. The Church office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2, 2023

## A Season of Giving

I invite you to share this giving season with children in the Otter Tail County Foster Care. We are collecting items for children in our community and surrounding communities. These kids need new and unopened personal care items and body products such as shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, etc. We will also be collecting sizes for newborn to adults like new hats, gloves, socks, and underwear. Gift cards are also a great option. If you would like to donate money you can leave a check in the church office with foster care donations in the memo line. Items can be dropped off in the church Narthex. Let all that you do be done in love. If you have any questions, please contact Rebekah Meder at 218-205-3384.

## Newsletter Deadline

The Holiday season can be busy. Please don't forget to get your newsletter information to the church by December 15th for January.

## Annual Reports

Chairs of Committees need to get their Annual Reports in by December 18. Contact the church, if you have questions on how to create an annual report. Please, type your report. Thank you!

## Christmas Eve Services

Join us on Saturday, December 24th for our Christmas Eve service. The Faith Family Worship will be at 5pm and the Candlelight with Communion will be at 11pm. Join us for the potluck supper at 6pm.

## Poinsettias

If you ordered a Poinsettia, you may take it home after the Christmas Eve services or come in the next week Tuesday-Thursday 10am-2pm. The church office is closed on Monday, December 26.

## Vacation

Pastor Doug will be on vacation Tuesday, December 26 - 30 and will return on Sunday, January 1, 2023.

## Coffee Hours

Women: Tuesdays, 10am

Men's: Fridays, 10am

Sunday Morning: 10:15am

## A Note About Pre-pledging

As we approach the new year, please remember the following when pre-pledging. If you prepay your pledge, by law it must appear on the statement in the year it is received. For example, 2023 pledges received in 2022 will appear on 2022 statements.

## Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held in person Sunday, January 15, 2023, at 10:30am. At the meeting we will elect new officers and committee members, discuss the budget, and review the pastor's contract. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.



## **JAIL Inc.**

JAIL Inc is seeking to hire a part-time female Chaplain to minister primarily to the females incarcerated in the Otter Tail County Detention Center. This position is 10-15 hours per week, consisting of a church service on Sunday afternoons, weekday Bible Study, and availability for one-on-one visitation. These hours are subject to change and at the discretion of the Jail Program Coordinator. Those interested in applying should send a letter of interest and resume to JAIL Inc, PO Box 164 Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

## **Women's Bible Study**

Women's Bible study spent the autumn and early winter studying 1 and 2 Peter, letters the Apostle Peter wrote to his congregations as he neared the end of his life. We will be discussing what our next book of the Bible will be in December and starting that up in January. Look for signs and updates in the next newsletter and weekly memo's.

## **Deacons and Elders**

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

- Reviewed the minutes, e-votes, and financial reports
- Received an update on baptisms (2), weddings (1) and funerals (2) since the last meeting
- Approved Federated Church to host worship and lunch on January 23, 2023, a part of the ministerium's Week of Christian Unity
- Approved per capita payments of 2023: PCUSA = \$44.00 per member; UCC = \$10 per member
- Received a report on the Presbytery of MN Valleys meeting on October 8, 2022, at which members elected Pastor Doug Dent to serve as Vice-Moderator in 2023
- Appointed Jean Bowman as Clerk for 2023
- Appointed Jerry Nuss as Treasurer for 2023
- Approved Pastor Doug Dent's remaining

vacation time (5 days; December 26-30, 2022)

- Awarded \$20,000 in Heritage Grants using undesigned endowment funds (\$10,000) and a private grant (\$10,000):
  - A Place 2 Belong: \$3,500
  - BIO Girls: \$500
  - Clearwater Forest Camp: \$500
  - Habitat 4 Humanity: \$2,500
  - Jail, Inc.: \$4,000
  - Matthew House: \$4,000
  - Mill Street Chapel: \$1,000
  - Welcome House: \$4,000
- Accepted, with grateful thanks for her wonderful service, the resignation of Rebekah Meder as Director of Pastoral Care
- Hired Pastor Ali Haugerud (Hope Lutheran Church, ELCA) as Director of Pastoral Care, effective December 1, 2022.
- Reviewed the final expenditures for the 150th anniversary celebrations
- Received an update on the Stewardship campaign: \$335,570.44 pledged by 95 households; 81.56% to goal of 411,455.00
- Received and update from the Nominating Team
- Received a report from the Personnel Team on staff evaluations

## **Audio-Video Technician**

Federated Church is hiring an Audio-Video Technician to be responsible for operating the audio and video systems for worship and rehearsals, and for maintaining these systems in good working order. This would be a part-time, ten hour per week position (averaged across the year). Applicants must be 16-years age or older. Please go to website for employment application and more on the job description. ([www.federatedff.org](http://www.federatedff.org)) under the resources tab and employment opportunities.

# Greeters

## December 2022

Sunday, December 4

Worship @ 9:30am

Jodie & Jerry Nuss

Sunday, December 11

Worship @ 9:30am

Arlene Worner & Cindy Spidahl

Sunday, December 18

Worship @ 9:30am

Gary & Jan Nelson

Saturday, December 24

Worship @ 5:00pm

Matt & Donna Solin

Sunday, December 25

Worship @ 9:30am

TBD

**REMINDER:** Greeters are also passing the offering plate for that Sunday. Check your email for reminders on greeter duties. 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.

## Caramel Rolls

2 loaves frozen bread dough	1 (5-oz.) pkg vanilla pudding
1 stick margarine	1 T. cinnamon
1 c. brown sugar	1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Thaw dough and do not let it rise. In a 9X13-inch pan, grease with margarine, and spray. Tear one loaf into pieces and toss in the pan. In a medium pan, melt margarine. Add brown sugar, pudding, and cinnamon. Stir on low heat until mixed and smooth. Pour the caramel sauce over the bread dough. Tear the second loaf of bread and toss on top. Let sit and rise for 1/2 hour. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes. Flip on foil lined-pan.

A recipe from Brianna Schneeberger

## 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 the church office. Also contact us for pastoral care needs. Please call 218-739-3227 or email [church@federatedff.org](mailto:church@federatedff.org)

## Ministry Nite:

December 14 - 6:30PM

Please email your minutes to [church@federatedff.org](mailto: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	\$24,986
Expenditures	\$48,076

### Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$292,801
Actual Received	\$303,825

## Grocery Receipts

### THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

#### Service Food

November	\$8509.81
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## Newsletter Deadline

Articles and announcements are due the 15th of each month. Please send them 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

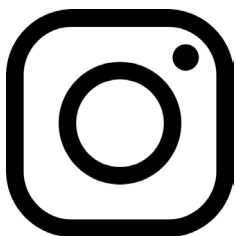
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time sensitive information  
Please deliver by December 1st

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.



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



## December Birthdays

12/01 Dave Loeks	12/24 Iyla Iverson
12/02 Sophie Rufer	12/25 Jesus Christ
12/03 Patty Shol	12/28 Amber Underdahl
12/05 Aaron Link	12/28 Courtney Meder
12/05 Kason Sytsma	12/29 Molly Stoddard
12/09 Jamie Brause	12/29 Jonathan Collins
12/10 Tami Anderson	12/29 Jonathan Dent
12/11 Carolyn Fransen	12/29 Jacob Hatling
12/13 Doris Davis	12/30 Mary Olson
12/16 Rorey Rodning	12/30 Daniel Anderson
12/18 Syler Steinbrenner	12/30 Camen Andrews
12/19 Perry Werner	12/30 Daxton Thompson
12/21 Amy Donoho	12/31 Don Davenport
12/21 Jacob Gustafson	
12/21 Jessica Steinbrenner	
12/21 Mara Braaten	
12/22 Lori Beske	
12/22 Makenna Stenstrom	
12/24 Phil Link	
12/24 Ronnie Becker	



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

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