

November Worship

Sunday, November 5 9:30am All Saints' Sunday
"No Faking It with God" Matthew 23:1-12
Pastor Doug Dent

A Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Sunday, November 12 9:30am Psalm 145
Praise Team

Sunday, November 19 9:30am Matthew 25:14-30
"Take a Chance"
Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, November 26 9:30am Matthew 25:31-46
"Whose Harvest?"
Pastor Doug Dent

Give
thanks
to the LORD
for He is good

His love endures
f o r e v e r

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, November 1
9:00am H4H Church Faith Build Day

Sunday, November 5
All Saints' Sunday
Communion

Thursday, November 9
Doug Out Of The Office
10:00am Sewing & Coffee

Friday, November 10
Doug Out Of The Office

Sunday, November 12
Praise Team Leads Worship
No Bible Study
Church Potluck

Tuesday, November 14
6:30pm Ministry Nite

Thursday, November 16
D&E Meeting

Wednesday, November 22
No Wednesday Kidz & Youth Activities

Thursday, November 23
Church Office Closed
Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 24
Church Office Closed



Jesus saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5

Timothy Keller, the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, once wrote, "The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope."

He is right, of course. We like to believe that we are basically good people. We tend to downplay our faults and hide our shortcomings from others. We always try to put our "best foot forward" and present a good face to the world. But, in truth, we are deeply flawed creatures who, left to our own devices, will turn inward, and become selfish.

Based on our own merit, none of us deserves any mercy from God. Yet God, in God's infinite capacity to love and forgive, extends us God's grace. Because we could not correct our human nature without help, God sent Jesus to teach us a better way to live, to die on the cross to forgive our sins (as only God can do), and then offer us new and eternal life with him.

While it may not take too much convincing for us to accept that we are "more sinful and flawed... than we ever dared believe," many of us struggle

mightily with the fact that we are "more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope." It's a little sad, really, that we can more readily admit our imperfect nature than we can acknowledge God's love for us. We claim we are not worthy of such love. We say we do not deserve such forgiveness. And we aren't. We can never be good enough to demand God's love and acceptance. But the good news of the gospel is that we don't have to be good enough. Titus writes: "Jesus saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

Jesus, of his own free will, decided to lay down his life for ours. Jesus, with his deep love for humanity, chose to do what we could not do: make us right with God. By his death and resurrection, we are reborn, not to the life we had before, but to a new and better life. We may now, with the Holy Spirit's help, live free from sin. We have the chance to be the people God meant for us to be. Whatever happened before, is over. Whatever happens now, is up to us.

November is a good time to give thanks for God's many blessings to us. The greatest blessing is that Jesus thought us worth saving. Thanks be to God for God's love and acceptance in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Doug

"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." Psalm 107:8-9





I am a runner. For most of my adult life, I have found the rhythm of my feet on the asphalt step after step an important habit. It is the time when I have nothing to focus on except putting one foot in front of the other and on my breathing—both things that sometimes come easy, without much thought and other times are a more labored taking a bit more mental strength to complete. It was during those miles that I have the most honest and focused conversations with God.

Now, I am not talking about running because I think everybody should be a runner to connect with God. I completely respect those who think that running is only for gym class and when you are being chased by a bear. I used to be that person. Running is something which I came to accidentally and I see it as one of the mysterious graces of my life. I am talking about running because I think running has provided lessons for the journey of faith.

I recently read a blog on the habits needed to become a lifelong runner. I expected to read things about nutrition and stretching and ways to increase your endurance. Instead, I read that the number one thing needed to be a lifelong runner, is to be a lifelong learner. If I am going to run until my body won't let me anymore then I need to never think that I know everything

there is to know about running. I need to keep learning—from others in the running community, the evolving science about our bodies, from my body, from my injuries and the pain I endure.

As I read that blog, I couldn't help but think that faith is a journey of never being done learning. We come to God like a child, a beginner's mind, never thinking that we know everything there is to know. We keep learning—from the people around us, from the new things discovered about language and the Bible and God's ongoing conversation with the world. We learn to navigate injury and doubt, how to get broken and bruised and to come through it not the same but changed. We learn how not to be alone and to lean on others for support and encouragement and prayer—learning that we don't and won't have everything figured out in this life. We live and learn in the mysterious grace of God.

Just as I continue to learn to keep my feet hitting the asphalt year and after year, I am called as a Christian to keep learning. And so are you. We can hope. We can believe. But we should always remain unfinished, ready to be challenged, open to hearing, seeing, experiencing and learning something new.

Adult Bible Study

Faith Among the Faithless: Learning from Esther How to Live in a World Gone Mad
Based on the book by Mike Cospers

Can Christianity survive a secular age? Can Christians live without compromise in an increasingly hostile society? What if a Christian gives in to society's vision and values?

Mike Cospers answers these questions by pointing out the parallels between our world and the story of Esther. A tale of sex, ego, and revenge, the book of Esther reveals a world where God seems absent from everyday life: a world not unlike our own. The story of Esther is a brutal saga of people assimilated into a pluralistic, pagan society, embracing its standards. Yet when threatened with annihilation, they find the courage to turn to God in humility. This is a call to spiritual awakening and to faith in an age of malaise and apathy. This is an invitation to remember the faithfulness of God who, even in dark times, may be hidden but is never absent.



Christian Education and Youth

Rev. Karen Anderson

As I write this it is a beautiful October day with blue skies, amazing autumn colors, and an easy warmth in the air. It is hard to believe that winter is just around the corner! Hopefully it will hold off for a bit and give us all a little more time to enjoy the season. With November beginning we have some things to look forward to in our Christian Education programming.

Sunday School

We will be holding our monthly Pre-K and Parent class, beginning on Sunday, November 5th after worship in the youth room. The group will be led by Cindy Spidahl and Jill Iverson. This will be a time for fellowship for children and parents. Please feel free to join the class if you are a parent or grandparent of a child or children ages 0-5.

Our K-6th classes are finishing up studying the Fruit of the Spirit, and as we get to the end of the month, we will begin working on our Christmas pageant, which is set for December 17th during the worship service. We join forces with our Kidz Club crew to share the story of Jesus's birth and sing some favorite Christmas carols.

Kidz Club

Our Kidz Club crew is continuing our focus on Jesus, hearing several of His parables during October and November. We will, along with Sunday school youth, begin working on the Christmas pageant as we near the end of November. Our group LOVES to make creative crafts and spend time in the gym. The group has grown a bit this year, making it a fun time for everyone!

Confirmation

Our confirmation class continues to study questions of faith with Pastor Doug. Every four or five weeks we have a "youth group" gathering instead of regular class, led by Pastor Karen. It is a fun break for everyone and an opportunity to do faith talk and games. Our 7-9th

grade students are working on their sermon notes and can also take opportunities to help in worship as part of their confirmation time.

Senior High Youth Group

Senior high youth group continues to meet each week for a time of fellowship, learning, prayer, and games. We have a diverse gathering of individuals from all walks of high school life—it is tremendously enjoyable to spend quality time with these wonderful people! Our recent topics include analyzing a Simpson's episode (there is a lot of faith material in the show!). Current events in the Middle East and how they relate to the Bible. Does God punish His people? What if today was your last day, and the supernatural war going on around us. We try to go into deep topics in order to get our young people thinking about the intersection of their faith with the world around them. As you might imagine, we have an enlightening and invigorating conversation.

Women's Bible Study

Our group continues to work through Paul's letter to the Philippians—which he wrote while in prison. We are continually amazed by his focus on living with joy amid difficult circumstances, knowing that he truly lived what he wrote. It is a necessary reminder for all of us that we are to find our joy in the unchanging Lord! Feel free to join us at 11:15am on Tuesdays in the parlor.

Pastor Karen Anderson is planning to begin a Bible study on the book of Revelation during the month of January. It will likely be on Mondays in the early evening—6:30-8 pm. With the current situation in our world, it may be a very timely endeavor. More information will come in the December and January newsletters. I hope that all who wish to dive into this compelling revelation of Jesus to the Apostle John will join us!

Christian Education and Youth



Church News

Church Office

The church office hours in November are from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm on Fridays. The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th.

All Saints' Sunday

During worship on Sunday, November 5th, we will honor members who passed away during the last year.

Doug Out Of The Office

Doug is out of the Office on Monday, November 6th and will return for a half day for meetings on Tuesday, November 7th. Doug will also be out at a conference from Thursday, November 9th-12th and will return on Monday, November 13th. The Praise team will lead worship on Sunday, November 12th.

Poinsettias

It is that time of year! Poinsettia forms should appear in your bulletin around the 2nd week of November. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the poinsettia form and return it to the church office or call the church office. We will also be sending out an event link through Tithe.ly. You will be able to choose red or white and pay through Tithe.ly.

Jail, Inc. Service and fundraiser

Jail, Inc. is hosting a worship service and fundraiser on Sunday, November 19th, 2023, at the Church of the Nazarene in Fergus Falls, MN. Refreshments will be served from 6:30-7:00 PM, followed by the service. Chaplain Pete Konrad will speak about his ministry at the Otter County Jail, and some members of the Matthew House will share their testimonies. You are invited to worship with us and support this important ministry in our community.

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!

Fergus Falls Food Shelf

The food shelf is requesting donations to purchase ham or turkeys for the holiday season. \$20 will purchase a turkey breast or boneless ham for people who come to the food shelf. They have a goal to purchase 150 hams and turkeys. Donations can be sent to the food shelf at PO Box 136, Fergus Falls, MN 56537. Enclose a note saying meat for the holidays.

A Note About Pre-pledging

As we approach the new year, please remember the following when pre-pledging: If you pre-pay your pledge, by law it must appear on the statement in the year it is received. For example, 2024 pledges received in 2023 will appear on 2023 statements.

Annual Reports

Chairs of Committees need to get their Annual Reports in by December 4th. Contact the church, if you have questions on how to create an annual report. Please, type your report. Thank you!





Committee News

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee is Looking for music students to do some holiday music for preludes. Piano, instruments or vocal. Preludes do not stream, so no worries of copyright information. Please contact Brianna in the church office with names and contact information if interested in sharing talent with your church family. Dates that are available are Sunday, November 26th- Sunday, December 24th.

Praise Team Rehearsal

The praise team practices on Tuesdays at 6pm.

Bell Choir Rehearsal

The Bell Choir practices on Tuesday nights at 7:30pm. If you are interested in joining, please contact Tessa Nord at 218-205-8627.

Choir Rehearsal

Choir Rehearsal will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. If you are interested in joining or know someone who might be interested, please contact Jack Raaen at 701-367-0021 or by email: jackraaen@yahoo.com. The choir will sing during worship on Sunday, November 5th (All Saints Sunday) and November 26th (Christ the King Sunday).

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday Advent Services are at 5:30pm and supper at 6pm.

December 6th - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

December 13th - Angels From the Realms of Glory

December 20th - From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come

Fellowship Committee

Church potluck

Mark your calendar... Federated Church Potluck is Sunday, November 12th following the church service. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Plan to enjoy delicious food, and great fellowship.

Ice Fishing Trip

The Annual Ice Fishing Trip will be held Friday-Sunday on January 26th-28th. It will take place on Upper Red Lake at Rogers Resort (Kelliher, MN). The cost per fisherman will be around \$150 for a 2-night stay in the fish house or about \$200 for a 2-night stay at a resort cabin. The cost is based on 4 fishermen. A \$50 down payment is requested from each fisherman in advance. If you have any questions, contact Dennis Bowman at 218-205-8147.

Stewardship Committee

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Commitment Sunday, October 22, and for returning your 2024 estimate of giving card. Returning your card allows us to appropriately budget for what we need, what we want, and what we wish for. Your support helps put our faith into action both in our church and in our community.

Our stewardship theme for this year was rich with reminders of how we are blessed by God and how God invites us to respond. What we believe matters. What we do about what we believe matters even more. Our congregation is committed to putting our faith into action and this is one opportunity to measure what really matters to us.

As we budget for 2024, we're blessed by your support of the ministries of Federated Church.

"I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.

For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return.

May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation — the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ — for this will bring much glory and praise to God."

Philippians 1:9-11 (New Living Translation)



Greeters

November 2023

Sunday, November 5
*Worship @ 9:30am w/
Communion*
TBD

Sunday, November 12
Worship @ 9:30am
Del & Kathy Zimmerman

Sunday, November 19
Worship @ 9:30am
Jacob & Karoline Gustafson

Sunday, November 26
Worship @ 9:30am
Ed & Ingrid Morgan

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.

December 2023

Sunday, December 3
*Worship @ 9:30am w/
Communion*
TBD

Sunday, December 10
Worship @ 9:30am
Jan & Gary Nelson

Sunday, December 17
*Worship @ 9:30am / Christ-
mas Pageant*
TBD

Sunday, December 24
Worship @ 9:30am
Matt & Donna Solin
Worship @ 5:00pm
Matt & Donna Solin

Sunday, December 31
Worship @ 9:30am
TBD



Ministry Nite:

November 14 - 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	\$36,854.32
Expenditures	\$38,217

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$284,039
Actual Received	\$297,807

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food

October	\$15,602.31
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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 or parish nursing needs. Please call 218-739-3227 or email church@federatedff.org

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.

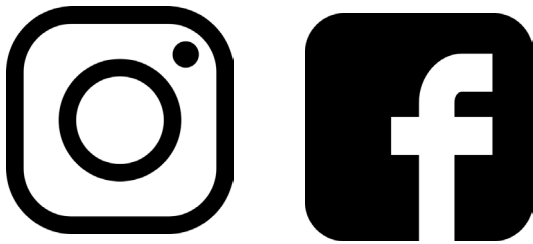




224 North Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time sensitive information
Please deliver by November 1st



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



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.

November Birthdays

11/01 Sammy Ebert	11/16 Terry Harrington
11/02 Andrew MacFarlane	11/16 Charlie Schlepp
11/02 Addison Davenport	11/18 Donna Solin
11/02 Koven Ebert	11/19 Tessa Becker
11/04 Maximillian Jensen	11/20 Maury Skogen
11/07 Brandon Truax	11/22 Ross Johnson
11/07 Mike Walls	11/22 Molly King
11/08 John MacFarlane	11/23 Landon Link
11/09 Matthew Beske	11/24 Brayden Aasen
11/09 Lance Nygaard	11/24 Michelle Loomer
11/10 Ann Porter	11/24 Katelyn Sperling
11/10 Laurie Skogen	11/25 Elaine Snyder
11/11 Mark Sundberg	11/25 Keira Thompson-Ohren
11/12 Austen Tabbut	11/26 Meg Garrahan
11/12 Nathan Hoff	11/26 Franklin Schierer
11/13 Bill Nead	11/27 Lydia Meder
11/14 Dennis Bergerud	11/29 Duane Rose
11/14 John Lindholm	11/29 Erik Loomer
11/14 Erik Lindholm	
11/14 Alexandria Haas	
11/15 Karen Hauck	
11/15 Rick Schara	



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

224 N. Union Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
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