

January Worship

Sunday, January 7 Baptism of the Lord
 "Cleaning Tips from John" Mark 1:4-11
Pastor Doug Dent *A Celebration of The Lord's Supper*

Sunday, January 14
 "Eli's Gift" 1 Samuel 3:1-20
Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, January 21
 "Wayfinding with Jesus" Mark 1:14-20
Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, January 28 Annual Meeting of the Congregation
 "Recipe for Divinity" Corinthians 8:1-13
Pastor Doug Dent

*Happy
new
Year*

Dates to Remember

Monday, January 1
 New Year's Day
 Church Office Closed

Friday, January 5 - Sunday, January 7
 Clearwater Forest Winter Retreat

Tuesday, January 9
 6:30pm Ministry Nite

Thursday, January 11
 10:00am Sewing & Coffee

Thursday, January 18
 6:30pm D&E Meeting

Sunday, January 28
 10:30am Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 4
 Communion
 10:30am Pre-K Sunday School w/ Parents

Thursday, February 8
 10:00am Sewing & Coffee

Tuesday, February 13
 6:30pm Ministry Nite

Wednesday, February 14
 Ash Wednesday

Thursday, February 15
 6:30pm D&E Meeting



Grace and peace to you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
It is in Him that we live, move, and have our being.

In ancient Roman religion and Greek mythology, they worshipped a mythical god named Janus, the god of beginnings and transitions. Janus represented the facilitation of gates, doorways, passages, and endings. Janus presided over the beginning and ending of conflicts. Janus was a god with two faces on one head, looking backward as the other face looked forward.

Since we do not consent to the belief in many gods, the mythical Janus serves only to represent the passing of the old year and the beginning of the new. This is a time to look ahead and set a course for 2024 that leads to an expected end. It is a time to commence some things, and also a time to conclude some things. My prayers for you in 2024 are these:

I pray that as God is beginning some things, you will walk in God's strength to end other things. As you press towards the mark, do not forget those things which are behind you. Make a conscious choice to end those things that distract and deter you from God's plan for your life.

I pray that 2024 will be a year for 'next level preparation'. You may carry within you a gift, ability, calling, vocation, or aspiration that will catapult your life forward. If that's you, do not worry about how God will manifest what is already within you. Focus on pushing yourself to a greater level of preparation that is comparable to your level of expectation and ability. If you do things the same way, you'll get the same results; but, if you prepare on another level, you'll produce different results.

I pray that 2024 will be a year for 'increased discipleship'. Make this a year that you will make a personal commitment to God to magnify your walk with God through a greater commitment to Christian service, bible study, ministry participation, personal witness, and stewardship. We often want more out of God without giving God more of us. Commit to give God more of you in 2024.

I celebrate God's provision over your life and family during 2023, but I'm also excited about God's will being manifested in your lives in 2024. With all that's going on in the world today, what a refreshing word it is to know that your life is in God's control; and it will flourish and be sustained by God's authority! May the Lord do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think in 2024; as we raise our commitment to Him both individually and corporately as the Federated Church family!

God's richest blessing on you in this new year!

Pastor Doug Dent



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—light! Sunbursts of light! Isaiah 9:2 from “The Message”

The prophet Isaiah speaks of light as the Israelites make their way back to Israel after years in captivity. Isaiah tells them of the joys that they will experience when they return to their homeland and that there will be a light shining in the midst of their darkness.

While the exact circumstances of the Israelites may be unfamiliar to us, many of us are very familiar with living in a world where the light seems dim or gone and darkness has control. But there is a revelation for us—an epiphany—an aha moment—into our world comes light.

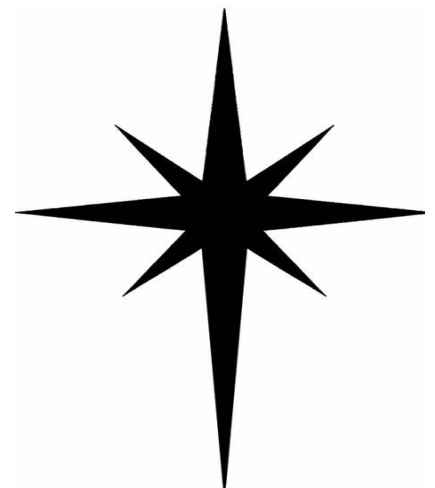
The light of God, particularly as it is expressed through Christ, brings us good news. It points us to the hope that God gives us. It does not tell us that everything is alright. There is darkness and shadows and there will continue to be, but it is not everything, it is not complete. It does not consume us or our world. There is light to help us see that God is with us, that God loves and that we are not forgotten and in God there is a way through.

That light is Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us...Whose birth we celebrate at Christmas and who is revealed to us as God's Son during the season of Epiphany, the season of light. It is the motif of light that I love so much about the Epiphany season—the light shining in the darkness showing us the way. It is the light we seek to spread across the world, sharing with all we meet...Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us.

As we move into the season of Epiphany, lift your head, keep your lamps lit (or your holiday lights up!), and dig deep in your heart to bring whatever trust you can muster and lay your troubles at God's feet. Remind yourself that God is the creator, and God loves you and in Jesus, Emmanuel, God is with us.

Here is a prayer I found for you in this season of beginnings and transformation:

*God-with-us, you are our north star.
Continue to be with us in this new year, with all the big changes ahead,
Through all the things we can see coming,
And those yet to be named.
We're really good, God, at thinking we know how things need to go.
Relieve us of the burden of control.
Remind us of who we are –
beloved, wanted, intentionally created.
Help us to know when to hold tight, and when to let go.
Give us the gift of blessings we didn't know we needed.
Like this one.
Amen.*





Wow! It is 2024, the beginning of a brand-new year! How time flies when we are having fun! After a wonderful busy autumn, our winter activities are going strong. May we all have God's favor and blessings in the New Year! We can hold onto God's promise that *"those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."* Isaiah 40:31. Let us press on to serve our children, youth, and one another! In creativity and God's grace and love!

Kidz Club

Our Wednesday after school children's ministry will continue through the end of April. We are in the middle of our "Year of Jesus" which is taking us through Jesus's life, ministry, parables, and miracles. By the time we finish, we will be real experts on all things Jesus—although the very best way to know Jesus is to invite Him into our hearts. Come join us as we learn, craft, sing, and play together!

Sunday School

Our K-6th Sunday school kids are back to studying the Fruit of the Spirit now that they have finished the Christmas Pageant. We will wrap this series up during the month of January. We are currently reviewing our next theme and look forward to seeing everyone each week. The middle school/high school class continues to meet with Hollis after church in the narthex. Join them for great discussions!

Our Pre-K and Parent class continues to meet the first Sunday of each month, with Cindy Spidahl and Jill Iverson. We like to call this class one of "purposeful fellowship", as we strive to foster connections between parents and create opportunities for our littles to begin to enjoy being together in ministry. This group meets after worship in the youth room.

Confirmation

Our confirmation classes continue to meet each Wednesday, with 7-8th grade students gathering after school at 3:30pm and the 9th grade students meeting at 6:30pm. Confirmation Sunday has been moved to Sunday, March 17 during 9:30am worship. Please pray for our confirmation youth as they take sermon notes, participate in worship, and maintain VERY busy lives!

Senior High Youth Group

We are hoping to hold our annual senior high winter retreat at Clearwater Forest during the weekend of January 5th -7th. The theme is "Who Does God Say I Am? Discovering Why We Were Created". This is a great age to begin discerning our gift of the Spirit and what God has placed within each of us to be used in the body of Christ and the world. Winter is an awesome time to be on the retreat. This weekend always promises to bring adventures and good memories.

Christian Education and Youth

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



Church News

Church Office

The church office hours in January are from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm on Fridays. The church office will be closed on Monday, January 1st (New Year's Day).

Vacation

Pastor Doug will be out on Vacation December 25th – 30th and January 1st – 6th. He will still be preaching on Sunday, December 31st.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held in person only on Sunday, January 28, 2024, 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.

A Note About Pre-Pledging

Please remember the following if you paid your 2024 pledge in 2023. If you prepay 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.

Bible Study

Women's Bible study meets on Tuesday mornings at 11:15am in the parlor. We are continuing to work through 1 Samuel. It is a departure from our focus on the New Testament for the last few years, and yet it holds incredible relevance for today. Feel free to join us as we have only studied the first chapters thus far.

New! Revelation Bible Study

If you have ever wanted to study the book of Revelation, please consider joining us beginning on Monday, January 8th at 6:30pm in the parlor. We will plan to meet each Monday early evening

as we spend time in this controversial and sometimes confusing book of the Bible. With God's leading and discernment, we can gain a deeper understanding of what John witnessed in his revealing encounters with Jesus as recorded in this book.

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!

A Season of Giving

Thank you to everyone who helped spread love, comfort, and joy to the children in the Ottertail County Foster Care system. Because of your generosity 20 children were able to have a special Christmas and receive items that they needed and wanted.

Federated Food Shelf Day

Federated Food Shelf Day is the Friday after the 4th Sunday of every month from 1-4pm. They will meet next on Friday, February 2nd. If you have questions about the dates, contact Brianna in the church office.

Coffee Hour

Women's - Tuesdays at 10am
Men's - Fridays at 10am





Committee News

Fellowship Committee

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.

Our annual Chili Cook-off was on Wednesday, December 6th. Congratulations to our judge's choice winner James Michael and people's choice winners Heath Sershen and Saxon Enders. They all received a \$25 gift certificate to Social's.

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.

Worship Committee

Lenten Services

Join us on Wednesdays during Lent. Worship will be at 5:30pm and supper at 6pm.

February 21st

February 28th

March 6th

March 13th

March 20th



Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024 (9:30am)

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024 (7:00pm)

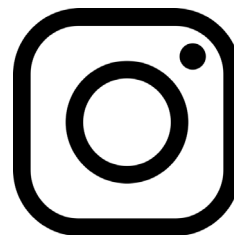
Good Friday, March 29, 2024 (7:00pm)

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024 (9:30am)

Follow Us On Facebook and Instagram for photos, events



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.



Greeters

January 2024

Sunday, January, 7th
Worship 9:30am w/ Communion
Pat & Tami Collins

Sunday, January, 14th
Worship 9:30am
TBD

Sunday, January 21st
Worship 9:30am
Donna Hendel

Sunday, January 28th
Worship 9:30am - Annual Meeting at 10:30am
Paul Shol

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.

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 9 - 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	\$43,802
Expenditures	\$32,801
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$347,157
Actual Received	\$367,356

Grocery Receipts THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food	
December	\$4,320.17

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 January 1st

January Birthdays

01/01	Wayne Link	01/14	Chloe Beske
01/01	Cheryl Anderton	01/15	Dana Schlepp
01/03	Megan Grover	01/16	Mark Rodning
01/03	Marcus Meder	01/20	Karoline Gustafson
01/04	Arlene Worner	01/21	Judy Friedrich
01/05	Sean Buchfink	01/22	Mindy Christianson
01/06	Walter Gondrez	01/23	Molly McDougall
01/08	Bill Borowski	01/25	Vivian Whipple
01/08	Janie Lee	01/25	Pam Phillips
01/08	Cindy Spidahl	01/25	Dale Anderson
01/09	Jude Weinrich	01/26	Shelby Tabbut
01/09	Emily Undseth	01/28	Kerian Stenstrom
01/10	Roxane Nereson	01/30	Linda Wolfe
01/10	Cheryl Harrington	01/30	Barrett Eifert
01/10	Tori Bult	01/31	John Collins
01/10	Lynn Wolters	01/31	Beth Schlepp
01/10	Celia Smith	01/31	William Haas
01/13	Jameson Eifert		



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
Phone: 218-739-3227 | email: church@federatedff.org