



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN ARMS.

Federated
CHURCH

2023

Annual Report



At worship!



At work!

At play!



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I. Opening Prayer

II. The Call to Order

- Establishing a Quorum (10% of Active Membership or 35 members)
- Adopting the Agenda*
- Reviewing the minutes from Annual Meeting of Congregation (1/15/2023)

III. Pastor's Report

IV. Deacons & Elders

- Acknowledging our 50-year members
- Reviewing and adopting an amendment to Church Bylaws*
- Expressing thanks to the Clerk and the Treasurer

***Items requiring a congregational vote**

V. Nominating Committee Report

- Electing New Officers and Committee Members*
- Dismissing 2023 Nominating Committee with our thanks*
- Appointing the 2024 Nominating Committee*

VI. Committee Reports

VII. Financial Reports

- Reviewing the Proposed Budget for 2024
- Reviewing the Pastor's Compensation for 2024
- Approving of 2023 Annual Report & 2024 Budget including Pastor's compensation*
- Reporting on Benevolence & Denominational Giving in 2023

VIII. Hymn #733 – "We All Are One in Mission"

IX. Adjourn with Prayer

Minutes from Annual Meeting of the Congregation 2023

Sunday, January 15, 2023

Sanctuary Moderator: The Rev. Dr. Douglas Dent

Clerk of Session: Jean Bowman

- I. **Opening Prayer** (The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.)
- II. **The Call to Order**
 1. Quorum was declared (10% of Active Membership or 35 members). There were 56 members in the sanctuary.
 2. **Motion #1:** To approve the agenda. Motion carried.
 3. We reviewed the minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting (1/23/22). These were approved by D&E on February 17, 2022.
- III. **Pastor's Report** A written report was included in the annual report. In three weeks it will have been 20 years since Doug answered the call to serve as our pastor. He thanked the congregation for the many blessings they share. Last year we celebrated our 150th anniversary. "Let us not grow weary of doing good," said Doug. He shared that he continues to be blessed by the energy and enthusiasm of this congregation and looks forward to the new year, as we continue to do God's work.
- IV. **Deacons & Elders**
 1. A written report was included in the annual report. There were no questions.
 2. **Motion #2:** To revise the bylaws changing the composition of the board from 12 to a range of 9-12 officers. There was discussion about whether or not it should be a set number (9). There was a call for the vote. Motion carried. **Motion #3:** To revise the bylaws to allow officers to serve two consecutive three-year terms. There was no discussion and a call for the vote. Motion carried.
 3. We thanked our outgoing D&E Members: Janet Knapp, Anne Weinrich, Char Zielin and Jeremy Jensen.
- V. **Nominating Committee Report**

Nominations were presented by the nominating committee with two updates. There are still three open positions. Doug opened the floor to any additional nominations. There were none. **Motion #4:** To elect slated officers/committee members as presented by the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

Deacons & Elders (3-year)

Ingrid Morgan
Sonja Johnson
James Michael
Jeremy Jensen

Audit Task Force (3-year)

_____*
Personnel (1-year)
_____*

Worship (3-year)

Sondra Lee
Tessa Nord

Board of Managers (3-year)

Dave Nord
 Steve Lockhart
 Skip Zielin

Fellowship (3-year)

Bonnie Stock
 Nancy Garner
 Sheila Rodning
 _____*

Caring Ministry & Outreach (3-year)

Mindy Christianson
 Anne Weinrich

Mission (3-year)

Char Zielin
 Bonnie Bergerud
 Melissa Davenport

Christian Education (3-year)

Karen Bush
 Mary Jones Olson
 Marjan Schuetze

Stewardship (3-year)

Thea Fransen
 Troy Stenstrom
 Greg Truax

Endowment (3-year)

Gerry Worner
 Mark Rodning
 Marcus Meder

**Indicates position needs to be filled*

Motion: #5: To dismiss the 2022 Nominating Committee with thanks. Motion carried.

Motion #6: To elect the 2023 Nominating Committee (5 members and 2 alternates). Motion carried.

Members

1. Donna Solin
2. Cindy Holte
3. Karen Hauck
4. Ingrid Morgan
5. Bev Richter

Alternates

1. Mark Rodning
2. Janet Knapp

VI. **Ordination and Installation of Officers**

Ingrid Morgan and James Michael were ordained as officers. Jeremy Jensen and Sonja Johnson were previously ordained. All four were installed as officers on the D&E board.

VII. **Committee Reports**

Committee reports are included in the annual report. There were no questions.

VIII. **Financial Reports**

The budget committee, board of managers and D&E prepared and approved the balanced budget being presented this morning. Doug presented the budget with the following highlights: **Revenue Notes:** An increase in pledges (over 2022) with 57 households that raised their pledge amount, 42 held at the same level and three households pledged for the first time. We have some savings compared to 2022 in staff

(AV technician and director of pastoral care) as well as reduced costs for snow removal and copier rental, among other things. **Expense Notes:** A 3.5 percent salary increase is recommended for staff who met/exceeded performance. Additional expenses include a new computer for the office, pulpit supply (this is a sabbatical year, so there are more dates to cover), increased utilities, a request from the mission team and the new position of choir director.

Proposed Budget for 2023

Budget

Total Revenues	\$402,166.44
Total Expenditures	\$402,166.44

Pastor Doug left the room and Jerry Nuss presented the pastor's compensation package

Pastor/ Head of Staff	2023
Salary	\$70,176
Housing Allowance	15,502
Cash Salary	\$85,678
Medical	23,133
Pension	7,283
Death/Disability	857
Temporary Disability	428
SSi	5,368
Books	500
Continuing Education	1,000
Mileage	750
Total Compensation	\$124,997

Motion #7: To approve the 2022 Annual Report and the 2023 budget, including the Pastor's compensation. Motion carried.

We reviewed a report of benevolence and denominational giving which totaled \$43,756.31. Thank you for being generous on behalf of our neighbors.

There being no further questions or comments, the meeting adjourned with prayer at 11:20 a.m.

The following motions were made and approved.

Motion #1: To approve the agenda.

Motion #2: To revise the bylaws, changing the composition of D&E from 12 to a range of 9-12 officers.

Motion #3: To revise the bylaws to allow officers to serve two consecutive three-year terms.

Motion #4: To elect the officers/committee members as presented by the Nominating Committee.

Motion #5: To dismiss the 2022 Nominating Committee with thanks.

Motion #6: To elect 2023 Nominating Committee (5 members and 2 alternates)

Motion #7: To approve the 2022 annual report and the 2023 budget, including the Pastor's compensation package.

Respectfully Submitted, Jean Bowman Clerk of Session

The fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. was a tragic turning point in Israel's history. It was also the climax of Jeremiah's prophetic ministry. God's judgment had come to pass. Jeremiah obeyed God and spoke the truth, but the fulfillment of his messages grieved him deeply. In response, he wrote the book of Lamentations. These poems connect the justice, sovereignty, and love of God and ultimately affirm that God's mercies are "new every morning."

The Babylonians heard of Jeremiah and his prophecies, which turned out to be a mixed blessing for him. He wasn't forced into exile but was set free to go wherever he liked. Jeremiah's ministry continued. The word of the Lord continued to come to him. The Babylonians thought they were in control, but it was the Lord. The pagan superpower was following God's plan exactly. This is why Jeremiah could continue to trust in the Lord even while lamenting the loss of all he'd ever known.

The COVID pandemic turned out to be a mixed blessing for the church. While we shut down for a time and did not meet in person, our ministry to the community continued. We found new ways to be faithful witnesses to God's goodness and sovereignty over our lives. The pandemic tried to stop us, but God proved – yet again – that God is greater than the powers of this world.

One of those mixed blessings is online worship. Had it not been for the pandemic, we might not have tried this new form of ministry. But we did, and it is proving to be a blessing to many. The initial headaches of updating our equipment, finding a streaming service, and navigating copyright law have given way to an evangelistic tool that reaches people around our community, around our country (Arizona, California, Florida, Maine, and Pennsylvania), and around God's world (Canada and Guatemala!).

In 2023, our in-person attendance averaged 90 people, and our online attendance averaged 61 households. Each time a household logs on to watch our service, it counts as one "view" on the streaming service ticker. But what if there are two people in the household, or a family of five? We still only able to record one "view" per household. I am confident that our online presence is reaching at least as many people as our in-person worship services. And that means *more* people are worshipping with us now than worshipped with us prior to 2020. What a blessing!

Other benefits of online worship include being connected with your church family from wherever you are, turning the volume up or down to suit your comfort level, watching worship at your convenience, watching worship again if you really enjoyed it, and posting a worship service for friends to enjoy on social media.

But remember, online worship is a mixed blessing: it can become all too easy for us to sit at home and worship in our pajamas. The Body of Christ, the church, needs you to show up from time to time. We are better together, and our ministry is diminished without you.

My challenge to you for 2024: keep worshipping with us but be intentional about worshipping in person as often as you can.

Blessings, Pastor Doug Dent

Board of Deacons and Elders

Jean Bowman, Clerk of Session

The Board of Deacons and Elders are the representatives of both the Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ (UCC) members. The Deacons and Elders constitute the governing body of the church. They are elected by the congregation and are ordained for life. Each member serves as a representative to one of the committees of the church. Deacons and Elders serve a 3-year term. The 2023 members of the Board of Deacons and Elders were:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Committee Assignment</u>
Jean Bowman		Clerk of Session
Mary Bressler	2024	Fellowship
Jon Fransen	2024	Nominating
Chad Nelson	2024	Board of Managers
Kerian Stenstrom	2024	Stewardship
Erik Anthonisen	2025	
Hollis Davenport	2025	Personnel
Patty Lindholm	2025	Christian Education & Youth
Jerry Nuss	2025	Treasurer, Endowment
Jeremy Jensen	2026	Board of Managers
Sonja Johnson	2026	Worship and Music
James Michael	2026	Mission
Ingrid Morgan	2026	Christian Education & Youth

The following motions were made, seconded, and approved:

- Appointed Jerry Nuss as Treasurer and Jean Bowman as Clerk of Session.
- Approved the baptisms of Andrew Shepherd Thill and Auden Foster Link.
- Recommended for membership by profession of faith confirmands Drew Johnson and Holden Stenstrom.
- Removed from the roles due to death: Dolores Duncan, Eunice MacFarlane, Bev Lambert, Brad Meder (2022) and Pam Phillips (2022).
- Accepted memorials in memory of Eunice MacFarlane, Mary Anderson, Brad Meder, Roger Nelson, and Joyce Youngren.
- Welcomed into membership Jane McLandress and Linda Schultz.
- Directed operations that included: appointing committee chairs and D&E liaisons, setting the dates for communion and home communion, and approving the year-end statistical reports to the PCUSA and UCC.
- Managed financial items that included: approving the 2023 budget and audit, setting the 2024 apportionments for PCUSA (\$7,500) and UCC (\$10/member), approving heritage grants as recommended by the endowment committee, agreeing to a lease agreement for Federated Church to serve as the official address for Jail Inc. with zero rent due, allowing Federated Church to be a covenant partner with Habitat for Humanity.

- Approved and managed personnel including: Developing and approving a sabbatical plan for the Director of Christian Education; approving Pastor Doug's training (Moderator's Training, Anti Racism Training, Boundary Training); authorizing the treasurer and another D&E member to be trained on the ICON software; hiring Tara Johnson (bookkeeper) and Saxon Enders (part-time AV); and recognizing Bill Need for his years of volunteer service.
- Managed details and plans related to Pastor Doug's sabbatical that included: appointing an executive committee, granting Pastor Ali Haugerud permission to administer home communion (together with another officer), and hosting summer guest speakers.

Acknowledging Our 50-Year Members

The following individuals have faithfully served as members of Federated Church, participating in the worship and work of the congregation for 50 years. We celebrate them and recognize their contributions to our ministry!

1973

Lori Beske
Dennis Frye
Love Ell Hultin
Donna Solin
Beth Strom
Joan Tester

1974

Laurie Skogen
Kathy Truax



**The Federated Family thanks you
for your devotion to God and
for sharing Christ's love
with God's people.**

*Acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord...
hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work.*

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

2024 Nominating Committee Report

Jon Fransen

I am very grateful for those who served on the Nominating committee this year. We had a great time contacting individuals, asking them to serve on committees. We appreciate all who stepped forward, providing their time and talents to keep our committees running. Thank you all!

Deacons & Elders

Mary Bressler (PCUSA)
Jon Fransen* (PCUSA)
Chad Nelson (PCUSA)
Kerian Stenstrom (UCC)

Personnel

Erin Smith 1-year term
Michelle Loomer 3-year term

Board of Managers

Glenn Bressler
Mariah Davenport
Terry Haas
_____ 2-year term

Stewardship

Troy Lee
Becca Michael
Connie Seltz

Caring Ministry & Outreach

Barb Becker
Tami Collins

Worship

Ruth Aulds
Craig Jorgensen

Christian Education

Jona Brown
Samantha Ebert
Molly Stoddard

Audit Team

Beth Schlepp 2-year term
John MacFarlane 3-year term

Fellowship

Chelsea Cruz
Judy Friedrich
Kristi Rufer
Vanessa Whipple
_____ 2-year term
_____ 2-year term

Endowment Team

Carolyn Anderson
John Erickson
Donna Hendel

Mission

Carol Bischoff
Jane McLandress
Tessa Schierer
Mike Shol

Your 2023 Nominating Committee: Jon Fransen (chairperson and D&E representative), Karen Hauck, Cindy Holte, Ingrid Morgan, Beverly Richter, and Donna Solin. Our Alternates are Mark Rodning and Janet Knapp.

Board of Managers

John MacFarlane & Skip Zielin

The Board of Managers provides oversight of all property of the church (maintenance and repairs), the payment of bills, and oversight of Federated's finances.

This year continued to be challenging as our Grand Old Building continues to need care. Excessive utility use caused us to exceed our 2023 budget.

MAIN PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2023

Financial Review: The Board of Managers contracted with Smith and Sem CPA to handle payroll functions. After our last bookkeeper resigned, we found an overwhelming number of issues that had to be corrected. This resulted in additional hours for our new bookkeeper and expense for the church. Jerry Nuss and Mariah Davenport from this committee have given so much effort in helping with this.

Heating system: The heating system continues to make a lot of money for the Boiler Repair Company.

Balcony Repair: A part of the south ceiling and wall were removed to repair a condensation problem.

The Parking Lot: A large crack between the mall building wall and the parking lot was filled again.

Fellowship Hall. This area again suffered water leakage during heavy rain last summer. A basement type water drain system and sump pump was installed that will correct the problem.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2023

Pew Cushions: Thanks to several generous donations we were able to replace all the pew cushions in the sanctuary. We are grateful to our donors!

Nursery: William Nuss renovated the church nursery as his Eagle Scout Project using volunteer labor and funds provided by the BOM and memorials IMO Carri Thompson. Thank you, William!

ANTICIPATED PROJECTS FOR 2024

Stucco: On the south side of the building was to have been repaired last summer. This project didn't get done but will be completed early summer 2024.

Parking Lot: Seal coat and restripe the parking lot.

Landscaping: the south side of the church with mulch and edging. Labor will be provided by the Men's Club.

Board Members in 2023: Skip Zielin & John MacFarlane (Co-Chairs), Matt Beske, Glenn Bressler, Mariah Davenport, Terry Haas, Steve Lockhart, Jane Nelson, Dave Nord and D&E Representatives Jeremy Jensen and Chad Nelson. Pete Konrad (Custodian) and Jerry Nuss (Treasurer) attended meetings to present financial reports.

Christian Education

The Rev. Karen Anderson

The Christian Education ministries at Federated Church continued to build after the challenges of 2020-2021. With great leadership, we are seeing more families engaging, young people bringing friends, and a new energy and purpose to our varied ministries.

Kidz Club

As we kicked off 2023, our Kidz Club group continued our 2022-2023 theme of “God’s Big Story”, which followed the movement of God throughout Bible history. Starting with the story of creation, we learned how God worked through people to tell His story of love and grace. We heard all the main Old Testament stories including Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, the Judges, the Kings of Israel, the Prophets, the life of Jesus, Paul, and the Apostles, and finally ended with US! We learned that we are an important part of God’s continuing story! This fall, we began the “Year of Jesus” which closely follows Jesus’s life and ministry. We began by learning His parables, and then as the season approached, we studied the story of His birth. We will continue this theme into 2024 by learning about Jesus’s life and ministry, the miracles He performed, and His death and resurrection. We have snack time, story and music time, crafts, and gym time. Our wonderful volunteer leadership includes Caroline Anderson, Siri Anthonisen-Brown, Melissa Davenport, Madalyn Dent, Jonathan Dent, Lu Echelberger, Kristian Fransen, Claire Gutzmer, Beth Schlepp, and Char Zielin. In the kitchen we have been blessed with the leadership of Roxane Nereson, Jane Nelson, Gail Green, and this past spring—Mary Ann Nead. This ministry requires a huge group effort, and we have developed a wonderful team! Please let me know if you would like to serve with us—we are always willing to welcome more help!

Sunday School

Sunday school continues to slowly gain momentum again after the pandemic pause. We are adding numbers as we grow—both with families who can reconnect as well as new families to our ministry. We have a monthly Pre-K and Parent class run by Cindy Spidahl and Jill Iverson. This younger group gathers for fun learning and purposeful fellowship. During the spring months, our K-6 students, led by Jona Brown/Madalyn Dent (K-1), Kristian Fransen/Sam Ebert (2-4), and Karen Bush/Karen Anderson-Dent (5-6) studied the Ten Commandments, going through each in an age-appropriate fashion. This fall we began learning about the Fruit of the Spirit, which we will continue after our annual pageant practice times. In the spring, our middle school/senior high school class, led by Hollis Davenport, addressed which sayings that we hear are in the Bible, and this fall they have looked at how science factors into the Bible and our faith. I can honestly say that we have an incredible dedicated teachers who really love to share their faith and knowledge with our young people. We are very blessed to have the teaching team that we have!

Confirmation

Our confirmation classes continue to meet each Wednesday 7-8th grade after school, 9th at 6:30 pm) under the leadership of Pastor Doug, with assistance from Char Zielin, Molly Stoddard, Hollis Davenport, and occasionally a parent. They cover the Old/New Testament and topics of theology and faith as laid out in the curriculum written by Pastors Doug and Karen. Once a month or so our 7-8th grade students get to have a “break” by engaging in a youth group time rather than confirmation class. This is led by Pastor Karen and gives them a chance to exercise their faith in various discussions, and they get to do some traditional “youth group” activities and games. We had our annual fall retreat at Clearwater Forest in early September. It was our largest group yet (we barely had car space for everyone!) and the weekend was great! Our theme was “Jesus Christ-Divine Man of Mystery, and we

covered Old Testament prophecies and manifestations of Jesus as well as His earthly ministry and Second Coming. In addition, we enjoyed being together for games and fellowship. Our leadership included Karen Anderson-Dent, Hollis Davenport, Madalyn Dent, Barb LaPlante, Becca Michael, and Molly Stoddard. As always, it was a wonderful way to kick off the fall!

Senior High Youth Group

Our senior high youth group met each Wednesday night (weather-permitting this past winter/spring!), under the leadership team of Karen Anderson-Dent, Hollis Davenport, Madalyn Dent, and Molly Stoddard. Every week we try to address a topic identified as “interesting” by our youth—who are polled at the beginning of the year. We do our best to encourage one another to find ways to live out our faith in Jesus Christ while discussing current issues and challenges we face in the world. Our group really grew over the last two years, reaching around thirty weeks when everyone was present! This past spring, we celebrated nine graduates. It is so exciting to see where God is taking our young people! We held our annual senior high winter retreat January 20-22 at Clearwater Forest, with Hollis Davenport, Madalyn Dent, and Molly Stoddard leading along with Pastor Karen. Our topic focused on the importance and gift of Sabbath from God to His people. We did our best to rest and have fun as a means of practicing Sabbath! It was a great weekend with beautiful weather.

Women’s Bible Study

Our women’s Bible study meets each Tuesday morning at 11:15 am for a time of prayer and study. This past spring, we studied 1, 2, and 3 John as well as the book of Jude. Due to Pastor Karen’s sabbatical took a break during the second half of the summer, and then started back to study Paul’s epistle to the Philippians. After completing Philippians, we began 1 Samuel, which we will continue well into the 2024 year. Our group adds new members periodically, which is great! We are an open and supportive group who loves to study God’s word together.

Vacation Bible School

We had our annual Vacation Bible School during the week of June 19-23. We had a great turnout—our numbers continue to grow as we add families and friends to our group. Our theme this year was on the Armor of God. Each day we learned about a different part of God’s armor for us, and why He provides this for His believers. We played games, did fun crafts, had good snacks, and just generally had a wonderful time together! The participants raised money for Jail Inc, and Chaplain Pete shared a bit about his ministry with us. We had great adult and youth leadership, including most of our confirmation youth, many of our high school youth, and Lu Echelberger, Melissa Davenport, Caroline Anderson, Jona Brown, Molly Stoddard, Char Zielin and her granddaughters Claire and Ava, and our wonderful snack person Roxane Nereson. If I forgot anyone, I am so sorry! It was a wonderful week, and it could not have happened without such amazing help!

I also want to personally thank the congregation for blessing me with a sabbatical this past summer. It was a wonderful time to rest and reboot after a few challenging years. I am so grateful to serve such a loving and generous and energetic faith family! I’m look forward to seeing where together God takes us next!

Your 2023 Christian Education Committee: Jona Brown, Becca Buchfink, Karen Bush, Amy Donoho, Lu Echleberger, Jill Iverson, Mary Jones Olson, Marjan Schuetze, Molly Stoddard, D&E Representative Ingrid Morgan, and Karen Anderson (DCE).

Endowment Committee

Jerry Nuss

Each year Federated Church offers Heritage Grants from our unrestricted endowed funds. Typically, 4% or \$10,000 of our unrestricted funds are allocated for this purpose.

The Endowment Team considered seven grant applications and D&E made seven grants:

• A Place 2 Belong	\$1,000	for operating expenses
• BIO Girls	\$500	for operating expenses
• Federated Church	\$5,000	toward purchase of drain tile
• Habitat 4 Humanity	\$500	for expenses with a home build
• Jail, Inc.	\$1,000	for operating expenses
• Matthew House	\$1,000	for capital improvements
• Welcome House	\$1,000	capital improvements
• Total	\$10,000	

We are pleased to be able to support groups working to strengthen our community.

Endowment Team: Treasurer Jerry Nuss (chairperson), Carolyn Anderson, Lori Beske, John Erickson, Donna Hendel, Steve Lockhart, Marcus Meder (financial advisor), Mark Rodning, Kathy Truax, Gerry Worner, and Pastor Doug Dent.

Personnel Committee

Hollis Davenport

The Personnel committee supervises the employees of the Federated Church, hires individuals as needed, and manages and resolves any issues with the staff.

This year Personnel recommended, and D&E approved, a sabbatical for Karen Anderson-Dent (Director of Christian Education).

Many thank yous to Bill Nead for his years of service to the Federated Church. Bill developed our online presence as well as copyright questions. With Bill stepping away we need another Audio-visual person to be able to fill in at times as others take time away. A special thank you to the Federated Staff for your dedication and hard work. Doug Dent (Pastor), Karen Anderson-Dent (Director of Christian Ed), Ali Haugrud (Director of Pastoral Care), Tara Johnson (Bookkeeper), Pete Konrad (Custodian), Brianna Schneeberger (Administrative Assistant), Heath Sershen (Audio-visual Tech), and Saxon (Audio-Visual Tech). Again, Thank You, your efforts are noticed.

Your 2023 Personnel Committee: Hollis Davenport (chairperson and D&E representative), Kristi Hastings and Kurt Johnson.

Fellowship Committee

Dennis Bowman & Matt Solin

The Fellowship Committee organizes social events to provide opportunities for the congregation to build community.

Highlights of 2023:

- **Rally Day September 2023:** A large group of our congregation stuck around after church to enjoy home-made pulled pork sandwiches and baked beans. The people at the tables competed in team-trivia, and the younger children enjoyed the bouncy house outside.
- **Ice Fishing Adventure January 2023:** A small group of avid fishermen from our congregation spent a 3-day weekend in a sleeper fish-house at Lake of the Woods. All the weekend's catch ended up as the main ingredient of a fish chowder served to the congregation following one of the Wednesday Lent services.
- **Birthday Cake Sunday February 2023:** Matt Solin has been a big influence to make this one of our bigger events of the year. Extra cakes were auctioned off to supplement our committee's 2023 budget.
- **Softball Breakfast and Silent Auction April 2023:** Along with a fundraiser spaghetti feed during Lent, the softball teams raised over \$2,000 to help finance uniforms and equipment for two teams.
- **Softball Tailgating Event July-August 2023:** With two softball teams, this event was held twice so both teams can take advantage of sharing a picnic lunch with their families and "rub elbows" with the Federated softball fans before their 6:30pm game.
- **Pie Social October 2023:** This has become one of our larger events with over 25 pies being contributed by our talented pie-bakers. The extra pies were auctioned off to supplement our committee's 2023 budget.

Goals for 2024:

- We plan to continue to organize popular events like **Rally Day, Birthday Cake Sunday, Ice Cream Social, Pie Social**, etc.
- In 2023, we began to host church potlucks. We plan to continue hosting potlucks into 2024.
- In general, we expect to continue to take advantage of getting congregation participation by holding most of our events after the Sunday service.

As co-chairperson of the committee, I would like to thank all the committee members for their roles in coordinating events and doing their share to carry out each event to make sure it was a success. I couldn't have asked for a better group to work with this year.

Your 2022 Fellowship Committee: Dennis Bowman (chairperson), Tami Collins, Chelsea Cruz, Punki Loomer, Jenny Maanum, Sheila Rodning, Kristi Rufer, Matt Solin (co-chair), Bonnie Stock, Gail Welle, and D&E Representative Mary Bressler.

Mission Committee

Peg Kalar & Char Zielin

Thanks to the generosity of congregation members through their financial giving, the Mission Committee was able to give \$8,000 to 13 local, national, and international organizations during 2023.

Highlights of the Mission Committee year were:

- Throughout the year, committee members recruited and coordinated drivers to deliver Meals by Wheels. Thank you to Patty, Jeanette, and Char for their work in contacting volunteers, and a HUGE thank you to all the Federated members who so willingly delivered the meals. At the committee's request, in 2024 Federated Church will be arranging volunteer drivers for one-week periods rather than two-week periods.
- During Food Share Month in March, we continued the Mission Committee tradition of matching congregational donations, contributing \$500 to the Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf.
- Our two Muffins for Mission events (in June and September) raised \$308 for A Place to Belong and \$267 for Boxes of Blessings at the Cancer Care Center; the committee matched these donations with \$308 for A Place to Belong and \$250 for Boxes of Blessings. We also contributed \$200 for garden supplies for A Place to Belong.
- We continued our ongoing support of Habitat for Humanity, recruiting two teams of volunteers to participate in Faith Build days in May and November and covering lunch costs for both days. We also financed the cost of ground insulation for the Habitat build with \$1,237 from the Mission budget (and an additional \$1,237 from the Mission savings account)
- The Mission Brunch was a great success! Caroline Clarin shared the story of Pillars of Friends and Allies. The local non-profit supports Afghan refugee families (who were American allies during the war in Afghanistan) in Pakistani refugee camps as they await legal immigration into the United States. Donations during the brunch totaled \$1,000, and the committee contributed an additional \$500.
- For needs within our congregation, we provided \$2,017 in support to the Local Mission Fund; \$500 for meals for Kids Club; and up to \$1,100 for confirmand donations (\$100 per confirmand).
- The Christmas Joy offering in December (after the deadline for annual report articles), will receive a \$250 match from the Mission Committee.
- Also supported through the Mission Committee during the year were Bible Bingo at the Pioneer Home (\$135); Salvation Army Food Program (\$500); denominational disaster relief (\$200); and Clearwater Forest (\$200).

Our committee's goals in giving were 70 percent local, 20 percent state/national and 10 percent international.

Your 2023 Mission Committee: Peg Kalar and Char Zielin (co-chairs), Bonnie Bergerud, Melissa Davenport, Jeanette Haas, Cindy Holte, Elizabeth Nelson, Tessa Schierer, Patty Shol and D&E Representative James Michael.

Pastoral Care

The Rev. Ali Haugerud

I joined the staff of Federated as the Director of Pastoral Care a little over a year ago. I've enjoyed getting to know many members of Federated and to hear the stories of your life and your faith. Thank you for inviting me into the sacred moments of your life where together we have dwelled in Christ's presence. And of course, the ministry of caring for one another is not something that I do alone. It is a ministry that involves the entire congregation of Federated Church as we walk together as a faith family holding each other in prayer and supporting one another in so many ways.

- Thank you to Millie Pearson, Nancy Gardner, and Norma Worden, for continuing to share your gift of knitting/crocheting prayer shawls and baptismal blankets. Your time and talents do not go unnoticed. The prayer shawls are given to members having surgery, going through treatments, or experiencing other events in their lives as a sign of God's comfort to them and the prayers of the congregation with them. We also deliver prayer shawls to the Cancer Center to be given to patients there.
- With the help of volunteer drivers (Renee and Russ Larsen, John MacFarlane, Dave Nord, Lu Echelberger, Char Zielen, Bill and Peg Kalar, and Paul Shol) we delivered 148 porch bags/meals this year. This is a ministry that continues to share a meal with those that are at home, sick, healing, mourning, experiencing joy or just maybe need an extra "hug" from the congregation. This simple meal consists of soup, bread, a sweet treat, devotion, and a handwritten note.
- 55 Boxes of Blessing were delivered to the Fergus Falls Cancer Center. This continues to be an outreach and mission project for our congregation. A team of nurses and staff at the center put together a list of helpful items to gift those that are starting to receive treatments. We also delivered boxes of blessings to 2 people receiving treatment at other facilities. Thank you to the youth group who helped put together many of these boxes. Thank you for the generous monetary donations to keep this project going.
- This year we (re)started a ministry of giving a bag of items to people who have transitioned to assisted living or long-term care facilities to help them feel more at home and cared for in their new place. These bags consist of some Federated items (bookmark, pen, magnet), self-care items (lotion, ChapStick, Kleenex), a cross and a handwritten note.
- In a joint ministry with Hope Lutheran, we offered a Bible Study during the Lenten season that focused on grief and the connections of our experience of grief with Scripture.
- The Federated Friends group continues to keep in contact with their friends through phone calls, letters, and in person visits.
- The Federated mission fund used \$507.02 as outreach for meals and those in need within our faith family.
- The local mission fund used \$3,614.06 to help individuals in our community with food vouchers and utility bills. This is a wonderful mission that Federated can offer to our community and those that are struggling.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your journey. The connections and visits in your homes, hospital rooms, over coffee and prayer, letters, text messages and phone calls have been a blessing.

In Christ, Pastor Ali Haugerud

*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)

Our stewardship theme this year was Measuring What Matters. It 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.

We had a successful campaign, reaching 95% of our goal of \$408,614 with \$388,513.48 pledged.

Thank you to everyone who returned your 2024 estimate of giving card, helping 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.

Every pledge matters. Of the households that pledged for 2024, 38 households increased their pledge, and 50 households continued their support at 2023 levels. Nine households pledged for the first time. What a blessing!

The Deacons & Elders reviewed the results of the stewardship campaign and noted that:

- 30 households provide 74.46% of the annual budget.
- 79 households provide the remaining 25.54% of the annual budget.
- More than 100 households made no pledge for 2024.

We are truly grateful for the generosity of our members. Next year we hope to engage even more members with our mission through time and financial support for our important ministries.

Your 2023 Stewardship Committee: Becca Michael (chairperson), Grant Davenport, Thea Fransen, Donna Hendel, Wayne Link, Connie Seltz, Troy Stenstrom, Greg Truax, and D&E Representative Kerian Stenstrom.

Worship Committee

Ruth Aulds

The Worship/Music Team assists the pastor and staff in planning worship services utilizing the talents of the congregation and resources of the Church. The work of the Team is guided by Pastor Dent and assisted by Brianna Schneeberger, Jack Raaen, Vivian Whipple, and Heath Sershen and Saxon Enders on the Audio-Visual equipment. This year we offered Sunday services in person in the sanctuary and online via streaming. Additional services were offered on Wednesday evenings during the Lenten and Advent seasons. In September, Bill Nead resigned as AV Director, but remains as a consultant. For the months of June, July and August, Pastor Doug took his Sabbatical Leave but left in place a well-organized plan of services and speakers for the services during his absence.

The 2023 Worship Team: Ruth Aulds (chair), Craig Jorgensen, Sondra Lee, Tessa Nord, Jack Raaen, Bev Richter, Vivian Whipple, and D&E Representative Sonja Johnson.

With Grateful Appreciation...

Thank you to our church members that have faithfully served and completed the terms of service for our many committees.

Barb Becker	Becca Buchfink	Bev Richter	Carolyn Anderson
Chad Nelson	Chelsea Cruz	Cindy Holte	Connie Seltz
Craig Jorgensen	Donna Hendel	Donna Solin	Gail Welle
Glenn Bressler	Ingrid Morgan	Janet Knapp	Jeanette Hass
Jerry Nuss	John Erickson	Jon Fransen	Jona Brown
Karen Hauck	Kerian Stenstrom	Kristi Hastings	Kristi Rufer
Mariah Davenport	Mark Rodning	Mary Bressler	Molly Stoddard
Patty Sholl	Rebecca Michael	Ruth Aulds	Tami Collins
Terry Hass	Tessa Schierer	Vivian Whipple	

Your commitment to the ministries of Federated Church is appreciated. Your work is important and influential in our church and in our community.

Thank you to all our volunteers throughout the year. Every job is appreciated! We have had help with carpentry & woodworking, decorating, knitting, cooking, baking, serving, cleaning, chaperoning, organizing pageant costumes, delivering meals & home visits. Thank you to all who have helped in the church office for vacations and time off. We are thankful for our Sunday school teachers, Kidz Club volunteers, and VBS volunteers. The list goes on and on!

Thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Federated Church has benefited from your work here. Choosing to share your gifts influences others. You set the example and show us just how meaningful it is to give, to share and to grow through God's love.

**THANK
YOU**