

May Worship

May 5	9:30am	
"How to Conquer the World"		1 John 5:1-6
Pastor Doug Dent		
<i>A Celebration of The Lord's Supper</i>		
May 12	9:30am	Mother's Day
"You Have the Power"		Luke 24:44-53
Pastor Doug Dent		<i>A Celebration of Baptism</i>
May 19	9:30am	Pentecost Sunday
"How to Spell CHURCH"		Acts 2:1-21
Pastor Doug Dent		
May 26	9:30am	Trinity Sunday
"The Cure for Zombie Mode"		Romans 8:12-17
Pastor Doug Dent		



Dates to Remember

- Saturday, May 4**
Church Directory Photos
- Sunday, May 5**
Communion
10:30am Pre-K Sunday School w/
Parents
- Sunday, May 12**
Mother's Day
Baptism
- Tuesday, May 14**
6:30pm Ministry Nite
- Thursday, May 16**
6:30pm D&E Meeting
- Sunday, May 19**
Last Day of Sunday School
Ice Cream Social
- Friday, May 24**
Church Office Closed
Brianna on Vacation
- Monday, May 27**
Memorial Day
Church Office Closed
- Sunday, June 2**
Communion
Muffins for Mission
- Sunday, June 9**
9:30am Worship in Kirkbride Park



What does Memorial Day mean to you? The beginning of summer? Barbecues in the backyard? Family get-togethers at the lake? In many churches, Memorial Day is forgotten because it is not one of the "holy days"; but it is good for us to consider what Memorial Day means, its very name calls us to remember.

The ability to remember is a wonderful gift from God. In a flash we can be a child again, skipping rocks across a pond or walking in a meadow. We call to mind the images of parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors. Through memory we fall in love, get married, and enjoy our children all over again. All this is possible through the blessing of memory.

Not all memories are happy, of course; some are sad, and we may weep as we remember the death of a loved one or the loss of a job or an unpleasant encounter with a bully.

Memories are also very practical. If we could not remember that a red light means "stop," we would all be in trouble. If we could not remember what day of the week it is or remember the date of our anniversary we would be in big trouble.

The problem is that, being human, memory fails us. Sometimes we forget things. So, we create special days or events to help us remember. In America, we observe Memorial Day (or Decoration Day) with parades, speeches, flags, and flowers placed on veterans' graves. We remember all who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy.

2 Timothy 2:3 says, "Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." Memorial Day is a great time to remember the "good soldiers of Jesus Christ," who paved the way for you and for me in our Christian lives. Here are four marks of a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

A Good Soldier is a FOLLOWER. No one can be a good leader who cannot first be a good follower. In the military, there is almost always someone in rank above you, whose orders you obey. Following Jesus is not an option; it is a command. In the military, refusal to obey an order is not allowed; yet we take obedience to Jesus so very lightly in our daily lives (see Mark 8:34).

A Good Soldier is a FIGHTER. Soldiers are trained and taught to be aggressive when necessary. They will not cower or retreat in the face of the enemy. They will defend their honor and that of their country. The Bible tells us to "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Timothy 6:12). In Greek, the verb "fight" is in the present tense (suggesting we never let up) and is in the imperative mode (meaning it is a command, not a suggestion).

A Good Soldiers are FAMILIAR. A soldier is familiar with the strategy of the enemy (2 Corinthians 2:11). A soldier is familiar with the skills concerning weaponry (Ephesians 6:10-18). A soldier is familiar with the shadows of their friends (Hebrews 10:25). The good soldier is not just looking out for themselves, but also for their friends; there is a mutual need to be close to other soldiers as you fight the good fight.

A Good Solider is FAITHFUL. A soldier remains true even when they must "endure hardness" as a good soldier of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 2:3). That expression means, "to take one's share of rough treatment; to suffer or endure affliction together." It also means "to suffer hardship in company with" others. A good soldier is faithful and loyal.

To those veterans in our midst: thank you for your service!

To the good soldiers of Jesus Christ in our midst: thank you for your service!

We remember you.

Blessings,
Pastor Doug



May is here! It is hard to believe that our year is moving along so quickly! The school-year children and youth programs are ending, and the summer schedule is just around the corner. Let's see what is happening in our educational ministries:

Vacation Bible School

We are excited to get ready for Vacation Bible School, June 24-29 from 9:00am-12pm. Our theme is "God of Wonders!" and we will be exploring the wonders of God's creation in the Milky Way! We will learn what the Bible has to say about the heavenly bodies in our universe and begin to see just how perfect God's design is for our world and solar system. It is always thrilling to encourage kids to "look up!" and see what God has placed in our beautiful sky! We are actively recruiting older youth and adult volunteers to help make this week extra special for our kids! Make plans to join us!

Kidz Club

Kidz Club finished its 2023-2024 season at the end of April. It was a great year to focus on the life and ministry of Jesus. Even though we took an entire school year to learn about Jesus we really could have covered so much more! All in all, we studied some of the most important highlights, miracles, and parables from the Gospels; and we did beautiful crafts, sang some fun songs, and played active games in the gym. This year would not have been possible without the help of our wonderful volunteers: Caroline Anderson, Siri Anthonisen-Brown, Melissa Davenport, Jonathan Dent, Lu Echelberger, Claire Gutzmer, Sheila Rodning, Beth Schlepp, Char Zielin; as well as our snack/dinner crew: Roxane Nereson, Jane Nelson, and Gail Green. This very important ministry to our younger youth is blessed by such a dedicated crew of individuals who are willing to share their time and love. We look forward to September!

Sunday School

We have just a few weeks left of Sunday school. Our last day is May 19, which is the same day as the Ice Cream Social. Our K-6 classes spent the year studying the Fruit of the Spirit as well as what makes someone a good friend to have and to be. During the spring season our kids had the opportunity to

learn to play the bells with Tessa Nord. Again, this crucial ministry couldn't happen without committed teachers: Jona Brown and Madalyn Dent (K-1), Sam Highland Ebert and Kristian Fransen (2-4), and Karen Bush and Karen Dent (5-6). Our older youth, with Hollis Davenport leading, covered a wide range of fascinating faith-and Bible-based subjects. Again, we look forward to the start-up again this autumn!

Middle School/High School Youth Group

Our youth groups will continue during the month of May. In early May our middle school youth will accompany church members along their Meals by Wheels routes to assist with deliveries. This is a highlight for the youth as they get to participate in an outreach mission of our community, and they get to miss a few hours of school. Our senior high youth have been learning about various cults and how to identify them. Important information and discernment as they prepare to go out into the world soon. We have 5 seniors graduating (Harvey Beske, Nevaeh Konrad, William Nuss, Fiona Rundquist, Kellen Stenstrom); and on April 21 the church held a brunch in their honor. Each senior received a towel with the church logo (God has your back), a laundry bag (to remind us that Jesus cleans us of our sins), and a devotion book (God gives us the Holy Spirit for discernment and guidance). Please continue to pray for our graduates and our middle school/high school youth.

Bible Studies

Our women's Bible study, which meets every Tuesday at 11:15am, is finishing up 1 Samuel and we are most likely going to begin 2 Samuel. The Monday evening Revelation Bible study is going to meet during the month of May at 6:30pm. We are going to decide whether to continue during the summer or start up again this fall. Both groups enjoy learning, asking questions, and discerning what God's message is for us from His Word. You are always welcome to join either group!

Christian Education and Youth



Church News...

Church Office

The church office hours in May are from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm on Fridays. The church office will be closed on Friday, May 24 and Monday, May 27 for Brianna's vacation and Memorial Day.

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, May 3 and 31. If you have questions about the dates, contact Brianna in the church office.

Brianna's Vacation

Brianna has some vacation days set for June and September. If you are willing to help in the office answering phones that would be great. Brianna will be out of the office on Thursday, June 6 and Friday, June 7. Brianna will also be gone Wednesday, September 11 - Wednesday, September 18. The office hours would be Monday-Thursday 10am-2pm and Friday 9am-noon. Thank you for giving your time so I can have some time off.

Church Softball

We would love to see lots of fans pack the stands on Tuesday nights. Let's cheer on our softball team. Go Federated! To see the schedule, check the bulletin boards, Remind app, and Facebook.

Coffee Hour

Women's - Tuesdays at 10am

Men's - Fridays at 10am

Fellowship Hour - Sundays at 10:30am

Summer Edition

The next newsletter you receive is the Summer Edition including both June and July. If you have news for either month, please submit this information to the church by May 15. The next

submission date will be July 15 for the August Newsletter. Committees and D&E will not meet in July.

2024 Synod School

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies is hosting Synod School from July 21-26, 2024 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA. This is a great event for anyone seeking a fun and faith-based learning experience during the summer. There are activities for children, teens, and families. The workshop catalogue and registration materials are available in the church office or www.lakesandprairies.org.

UCC-MN Conference Annual Meeting

UCC-MN Conference Annual Meeting – June 2-8, 2024, at St. Benedict's College, St. Joseph, MN Federated Church is invited to send a delegate to the UCC-MN Conference's Annual meeting. Anyone wishing to attend all, or a portion of this meeting, may contact Pastor Doug. There will be both online and in-person portions to this meeting.

June 2 (6:30-8:00 PM) – Panel discussions; online only

June 3 (6:30-8:00 PM) – Compensation guidelines; online only

June 4 (6:30-8:00 PM) – Resolution hearing; online only

June 5 (6:30-8:00 PM) – Budget hearing; online only

June 6 (9:00 AM – 3:00 PM) Clergy Anti-Racism (and) Power & Boundary Training; in-person only

June 7-8 (9:00 AM - ??) – Annual meeting, plenary sessions, workshops, exhibits.

Note: The annual meeting will be available online and in-person, but voting will only be available in-person.





Committee News

Worship Committee

Worship In the Park will be on the 2nd Sunday in June, July, and August. Join us on June 9, July 14, and August 11 at 9:30am. Worship will not be live streamed these Sunday's but will be available to watch later in the day.

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.

Fellowship Committee

Ice Cream Social

Let's celebrate the Sunday School year! On Sunday, May 19 at 10:30am, we will gather in the fellowship hall to enjoy delicious ice cream treats!



Mission Committee

Here's your chance to enjoy muffins or donuts and help a good cause!

Muffins for Mission is coming up during the Sunday coffee hours on June 2 and August 25. The Mission Committee will provide the treats, and your freewill offerings will benefit A Place to Belong and Boxes of Blessings.

The June 2 offering will help finance the annual fee that will allow APTB to sell at the downtown Fergus Falls Farmers Market all summer long. (APTB is a non-profit social club for adults who have been diagnosed with a mental illness.)

Boxes of Blessing will receive donations from the August 25 event. "Boxes," a long-time favorite of the congregation, provides a box of comfort care items for patients going through cancer treatment at Lake Region Hospital's Cancer Care Center.

The committee will be matching donations up to \$100, too, so your contributions will go even further! Thanks to all for your ongoing support of Federated Church's **mission projects**.

Boxes of Blessing

As a part of the caring ministry of Federated Church, we give "Boxes of Blessing" to the Cancer Center for those who are receiving treatment there. These boxes are packed by the youth group and delivered to the center by Federated staff regularly. In consultation with the doctors and the nurses who work directly with the patients, the boxes contain items that will be helpful to people as they begin their journey with treatment.

These patients are really appreciating the gift of Boxes of Blessings. We receive many THANK YOUS in the mail from these patients.

A THANK YOU form Nancy: A Box of Blessings was given to me during my first day of chemotherapy at the cancer center. Truly a blessing! Many of the items will be used and I didn't even think of some items. Thank you for making the world a better place.



Greeters...

May 2024

Sunday, May 5

Worship @ 9:30am w/ Communion
Doug & Barb Becker

Sunday, May 12

Worship @ 9:30am - A Celebration of Baptism
Mary Lundeen & John MacFarlane

Sunday, May 19

Worship @ 9:30am
Bill & Mary Ann Nead

Sunday, May 26

Worship @9:30am
Donna & Matt Solin

REMINDER: Greeters are responsible for handing out the bulletins, taking worship attendance, and passing the offering plate. The worship attendance sheet can be dropped off in the offering plate. If you are ever interested in greeting a certain Sunday, please let Brianna know in the church office. Check your email for reminders on greeter duties.

Brianna is going to start looking for greeters for summer worship. I know life gets crazy busy with weekends at the lakes and family vacations. If you are available for any of these dates, please let Brianna know if you are available for any of these dates. Thank you all for your help with this.

Sunday, June 2 - Communion

Sunday, June 9-Worship in Kirkbride Park

Sunday, June 16 - Father's Day and Baptism

Sunday, June 23

Sunday, June 30 - Baptism

Sunday, July 7 - Communion

Sunday, July 14 - Worship in Kirkbride Park

Sunday, July 21

Sunday, July 28



Connect with Federated



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



Tithe.ly

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.



The directory site is hosted by Instant Church Directory which will allow us to keep the information current and to offer helpful features like a phone app.

The church staff wants to know...

We rely on you to contact us with your email, phone or address changes. If you are not receiving our emails, but would like to, please contact to church office. Also contact us for pastoral care or parish nursing needs. Please call 218-739-3227 or email church@federatedff.org.

Ministry Nite: MAY 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. Reminder: Committees do not meet in July.

Stewardship Report

General Fund Report

Revenue	\$52,495
Expenditures	\$41,009

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$101,014
Actual Received	\$125,181

Grocery Receipts THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food

April	\$4,239.04
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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 May 1st



May Birthdays

05/02	Melissa Loomer	05/18	Janet Knapp
05/02	Henrik Gustafson	05/18	Ashley Rodning
05/03	Nic Ebert	05/20	Dennis Echelberger
05/03	Jan Nelson	05/22	Carol Anderson
05/04	Ingrid Morgan	05/22	Thomas Buchfink
05/06	Mariah Davenport	05/23	Mary Lundeen
05/07	Paige Westra	05/23	Kim Anderson
05/08	Susan Johnson	05/23	Christian Saurer
05/08	Arianna Hedrick	05/25	Elizabeth Nelson
05/08	Vivian Olson	05/25	Thea Fransen
05/10	Shelby Eckhoff	05/26	Terry Harthun
05/11	Rebecca Buchfink	05/26	Lisa Johnson
05/12	Gerald Worner	05/26	Ben Sundberg
05/12	Conner Brause	5/26	Emily Rodning
05/14	Vern Tabbut	05/27	Desta Hunt
05/15	Jennifer Maanum	05/28	Barbara Becker
05/15	Tyler Dahl	05/28	Mackenzie Schara
05/15	Maren Hatling	05/29	Coleman Eifert
05/17	Truman Steinbrenner	05/30	Mae Harthun
05/17	Steve Thompson	05/30	Matthew Solin



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

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