

March Worship

March 2 9:30am Transfiguration Sunday
"Listening to Jesus" Luke 9:28-43
Pastor Doug Dent

A Celebration of The Lord's Supper & Trio Sings

March 5 7:00pm Ash Wednesday
"Bill Me Later" 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Pastor Doug Dent

March 9 9:30am Confirmation Sunday
"Christian Confelicity" Obadiah 1:15-18, 21
Pastor Doug Dent Romans 12:9-21

A Celebration of Baptism & Choir Sings

March 12 5:30pm
"Wilderness, Identity & Mission" Mark 1:9-15
Pastor Doug Dent

March 16 9:30am
"Intuitive Christianity" Philippians 3:17-4:1
Pastor Doug Dent Bell Choir Plays

March 19 5:30pm
"Doubting God's Provision" Matthew 4:1-11
Pastor Doug Dent

March 23 9:30am
"The Real American Idol " Isaiah 55:1-9
Pastor Doug Dent Choir Sings

March 26 5:30pm
"The Short Cut" Luke 4:1-13
Pastor Doug Dent

March 30 9:30am
"The Whole Truth" Joshua 5:9-12
Pastor Doug Dent Trio Sings

Dates to Remember

Sunday, March 2
Communion
Name Tag Sunday
Trio Sings

Wednesday, March 5
7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, March 9
Confirmation Sunday
Choir Sings

Tuesday, March 11
6:30pm Ministry Nite

Wednesday, March 12
5:30pm Lenten Service
6:00pm Lenten Supper

Saturday, March 15
Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, March 16
Bells Play

Wednesday, March 19
5:30pm Lenten Service
6:00pm Lenten Supper

Thursday, March 20
6:30pm D&E Meeting

Friday, March 21-26
Brianna On Vacation

Sunday, March 23
Choir Sings

Wednesday, March 26
5:30pm Lenten Service
6:00pm Lenten Supper

Sunday, March 30
Trio Sings



In my circle of Reformed folk, we like to talk about our “world and life view,” or a way of looking at life through the lens of faith – a faith that believes the Holy Spirit is at work in this world, claiming it for Christ and establishing God’s reign on earth.

As Abraham Kuyper famously said, “There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, ‘Mine!’”¹

Our is a faith that sings, “Every inch of this universe belongs to you, O Christ. For though you and for you it was made. Your creation endures by the order of your hand. So you must have in all things the first place.”²

Yet so often our professed faith and our lived faith don’t align. Instead of seeing our daily life as an expression of our faith and as part of the larger mission of building God’s realm on earth, we relegate our faith to an hour of corporate worship, a small group or Bible study, and maybe a few moments of daily prayer or personal devotions. But that’s not the way it’s supposed to be, nor does it need to be.

We need to understand that all of life is under the lordship of Jesus and should be lived for his glory. Our worship is intended to sing God’s praises, to hear God’s word, and to reinforce the idea that our whole

lives are an extension of our faith. As Ron Man says, “Worship as a church and worship as a lifestyle are in a mutually enriching relationship.”³

There is a rhythm to our work and worship. Our daily work should be an extension of our corporate worship. What we say and do outside of worship should be influenced by what we say and do at worship. The ebb and flow of work and worship informs our whole life.

As we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday (March 5), I invite you to worship with us on Sundays and Wednesdays, and then during the special days of HolyWeek with services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Let your praise resound! Let God’s Word be proclaimed! Let your life be a partner to your worship!

At our Wednesday Lenten services, we will focus on Jesus’ time in the wilderness, his temptations by the devil, and his preparation for his public ministry. May his experiences inform our own as we worship and work in God’s world and to God’s glory.

Blessings,
Pastor Doug



Church News

Church Office

The church office hours in March are from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm on Fridays.

Coffee Hour

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

Bible Studies

Women's - Tuesdays at 11:15am
Revelation - Sundays at 10:30am

Easter Flower

If you would like to purchase flowers for the Easter worship service, please contact the church office by Friday, March 31. Lilies are \$17, Tulips and Hyacinths are \$16 each. When you contact the church office, please specify if the flower(s) are in honor or in memory of an individual. Flowers can be picked up following the Easter Service.

Spring Forward

Don't forget to "Spring Ahead" (+1 Hour) on Saturday, March 8.



Confirmation

Confirmation Sunday is March 9, 2025! Please hold our confirmands in your prayers as they complete this journey and prepare to join our congregation: Easton Eckhoff, Van Krueger, Sean Rufer, Franklin Schierer, Celia Smith, and Syler Steinbrenner.

Brianna's Vacation

Brianna will be on vacation Friday, March 21-Wednesday, March 26. Roxane will be in the office answering the phone.

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, March 28. If you have questions about the dates, contact Brianna in the church office.

Summer Fest

June 14th, 2025

For anyone interested, wanting to hear about, talk about the possibility of Federated Church participating in the Summer Fest Parade. There will be an informal meeting following the Service on Sunday March 16th in the library. This could be a fun opportunity to share with the Fergus Falls area about our Federated Church Community. Grab a cup of coffee and let us talk.

Nursery

Hey, Federated Youth!

Would you like to help the church family and make a little money? We have an exciting opportunity for you!

Starting Sunday, March 16, 2025, we are inviting youth in grades 7-12 to care for our youngest members (up to age 5) in the church nursery on Sundays during worship and Sunday School hour (9:15 AM-11:15 AM).

Youth will work in pairs (two each week). A sign-up sheet will be available in the nursery, or you may contact Pastor Karen at 218-205-4879 or KMAD@prtel.com. Nursery attendants will be paid \$15 per hour for a maximum of two hours each week.



After a stretch of REALLY cold weather, we are gearing up for spring! Let us hope March can bring us warmer temperatures and the promise of beautiful days to come! This time of year, always harkens to mind the words from Song of Solomon: "Arise, my love! My fair one and come with me. Winter has passed, the rain is over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth, and the season of singing has come." (Song of Solomon 2: 10-11). It is a little early for some of these images of spring, but one can hope!

Kidz Club

We are continuing the story of Moses this spring, which we began in January. Once we finish our study we will move into the lead-up to Jesus's death and resurrection. It is our hope to begin to make the connection between the Passover story and Easter. God is so amazing to foretell our salvation in the story of the Exodus! And it is never too early to begin connecting the dots. There will be NO Kidz Club on March 5 due to the school break. Kidz Club will run through Wednesday, April 30.

Middle School Youth Group

The Middle school youth group began meeting on Wednesday, February 26, in place of confirmation class, and will run each Wednesday after school through the beginning of May. We will be doing lots of games, fellowship, learning, and some service projects during this special time together. We recently had the opportunity to serve alongside Federated Church volunteers delivering Meals by Wheels. Everyone had a great time! We enjoy continuing to get to connect when confirmation class is finished for the year. As with Kidz Club, there will be no middle school youth group on March 5 due to the school break.

Senior High Youth Group

This past month we had our annual Winter Retreat at Clearwater Forest, and it was a WONDERFUL time! It was the perfect setting to take a break from our regular routines and rest and study and play together! We read the story of Esther and found how it spoke to us as people seeking our

God-given purpose. We also enjoyed the outdoors and played LOTS of games. Our older youth are so busy, and yet they love getting together for learning and fellowship with one another. As we move into this time of the year it always occurs to us that our seniors are getting close to graduating. We are planning a Senior Brunch for graduates on Sunday, April 13, after worship. We will share more details in our April newsletter. Our middle school and high school students, along with the Christian Education committee, are planning to host the Lenten supper on March 19. We are looking forward to this annual tradition.

Sunday School

Sunday school continues to meet each week with a faithful core of students and teachers. We love spending time together each week talking about ways that God is working in our lives, learning Bible stories, singing, and doing crafts.

Women's Bible Study

We are currently working our way through the Gospel of Luke during our Tuesday, 11:15 am Bible study. Our group loves to spend a lot of time and attention to God's Word and so we do not move at a fast pace. We also love the opportunity for fellowship and support. Please feel free to join us now or as we begin our next session—this is a group that LOVES to dive deep and seek God's guidance and wisdom from His word.

Revelation Bible Study

The Revelation Bible study group continues to meet each Sunday after worship in the parlor. We are in the second half of the book, which describes the events leading up to the day of judgement, Jesus's return, and the final heaven. We genuinely enjoy tackling this challenging book of the Bible and often joke that as soon as we finish, we could start over again and learn and see new things within it. We hope to finish it before the end of May, but we have no definite timeline. It is difficult to speed through this revealing and engaging study.





Committee News

If your committee is having an event at the church during fellowship hour, please stop by the church office the week prior to the event to pick up instructions for opening and closing the church from Brianna. We will have a key, alarm code and check list for you.

Mission Committee

FoodShare Month

March is Food Share Month, the month when our donations to the Fergus Falls Food Shelf have an even greater impact than usual due to special support from Minnesota FoodShare and the Feinstein Foundation. In keeping with our tradition, the Federated Church Mission Committee has committed to match the first \$900 in donations from the congregation during March.

The food shelf is a valuable resource for local families, but support is especially critical this year as its grocery costs have soared from a previous average of \$12,000 to \$15,000 a month to nearly \$20,000, and the number of clients in need is increasing. All donations are appreciated!

In all of 2024, the food shelf served nearly 4,000 families and distributed 500,000 pounds of food. Volunteers, including many members of Federated Church, gave 4,000 hours of their time and talent.

In January 2025 alone, the food shelf served 321 households with 711 household members, including 95 seniors and 158 children. Thirty-one families came to the food shelf for the first time as families struggle with increasing costs for necessities including groceries, insurance and gasoline.

It's easy to contribute during Food Share Month: You can put your donation in one of the special envelopes you'll find in the pews during March; donate online through [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly); or mail a check to the church with Food Shelf in the memo line.

Thanks to all who support this valuable mission! For those in need, the Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf distributes on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Worship Committee

Bell Choir

The bell choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6pm. If you have any questions, you can contact Tessa Nord at (218-205-8627).

Choir

Choir Rehearsal is 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, March 9 and 23.

Trio

Join us on Sunday, March 2 and 30 and listen to the trio sing during worship.

Ash Wednesday is on March 5. Worship will be at 7pm in-person and livestreamed.

Lenten Services

Join us on Wednesdays during Lent. Worship will be at 5:30pm and suppers at 6:00pm. Worship will be in-person and livestreamed on March 12, 19, 26, April 2, and April 9.

Suppers

March 12 - Dennis Bowman (Chili)

March 19 - Karen Anderson (TBD)

March 26 - James Michael (TBD)

April 2 - John MacFarlane (Stew)

April 9 - Rick Schara (Pork Loin)

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 13 (9:30am)

Maundy Thursday, April 17 (7:00pm)

Good Friday, April 18 (7pm)

Easter Sunday, April 20 (9:30am)



I listen to Amazon music with the help of "Alexa" and recently came across this song released in 1979 by BJ Thomas.

Do you remember him? I find the words are meaningful and comforting. What do you think?

You Gave Me Love (When Nobody Gave Me A Prayer)

You gave me time when no one gave me the time of day,
You looked deep inside while the rest of the world looked away,
You smiled at me when there were just frowns everywhere,
You gave me love when nobody gave me a prayer.

That's why I call you Saviour...that's why I call you Friend,
You touched my heart...You touched my soul,
And helped me start all over again.
That's why I love you Jesus...That's why I'll always care,
You gave me love when nobody gave me a prayer.

You gave me laughter after I cried all my tears,
You heard my dreams while the rest of the world closed its ears,
I looked in Your eyes, and found the tenderness there,
You gave me love when nobody gave me a prayer.

That's why I call you Saviour...that's why I call you Friend,
You touched my heart...you touched by soul,
And helped me start all over again.
That's why I love you Jesus...that's why I'll always care,
You gave me love when nobody gave me a prayer.

Do you each have some favorite hymns and songs that you find comforting? I like both traditional and contemporary hymns and songs. May you be blessed with a way to listen to them, sing, or just read the words.

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!

March Greeters

Sunday, March 2

Worship @ 9:30am w/ Communion, Trio Sings
TBD

Sunday, March 9

Worship @ 9:30am, Confirmation, Choir Sings
Dennis & Jean Bowman

Sunday, March 16

Worship @ 9:30am
William & Peg Kalar

Sunday, March 23

Worship @ 9:30am, Choir Sings
Bev Richter

Sunday, March 30

Worship @ 9:30am, Trio Sings
Ingrid Morgan

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.



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:

March 11- 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	\$55,208
Expenditures	\$36,996

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$33,042
Actual Received	\$52,460

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food

February	\$8,026.48
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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

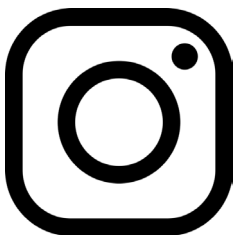
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time sensitive information
Please deliver by February 1st



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

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March Birthdays

03/01	Char Zielin	03/20	Cayden Hendrickson
03/01	Natalie Vogel	03/23	Bonita Stock
03/02	Douglas Becker	03/23	Karen Bush
03/02	Lisa Becker	03/25	Madalyn Dent
03/02	Brian Rodning	03/26	Skip Zielin
03/02	Benjamin Nuss	03/26	Terri Skretvedt
03/06	Melissa Davenport	03/28	Vanessa Whipple
03/06	Gabe Dean	03/28	Leif Christianson
03/06	Matthew Orcutt	03/28	Ryan Truax
03/08	Mark Anderson	03/29	Robert Hansen
03/08	Zachary Eifert	03/29	Tanner Johnson
03/11	Mark Davenport	03/29	Mary Ann Nead
03/12	Karen Anderson	03/31	Mackenzie Meis
03/12	Jordan Schiefert		
03/14	Carol Andstrom		
03/14	Sully Rufer		
03/15	Robert Flom		
03/16	Conner Cooper		
03/17	Ross Stone		
03/17	Cindy Holte		
03/18	David Whipple		
03/19	Martin Anderson		



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

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