

## April Worship

Wednesday, April 2      5:30pm  
**"Hope When Temptation Comes"**      Luke 4:1-15  
 Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, April 6      9:30am      Choir Sings  
**"Killer Résumé"**      Philippians 3:4b-14  
 Pastor Doug Dent      *A Celebration of The Lord's Supper*  
*Ellie Ann Lureen Baptism*

Wednesday, April 9      5:30pm  
**"Testing or Trusting?"**      Mark 1:9-15  
 Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, April 13      9:30am      Palm Sunday  
**"From Palms to Passion"**      Luke 19:28-40  
 Pastor Doug Dent      Amber & Trevor Gerstmann Sing

Thursday, April 17      7:00pm      Maundy Thursday  
**"He Loved Them to the End"**      John 13:1-17  
 Pastor Doug Dent      *A Celebration of The Lord's Supper*

Friday, April 18      7:00pm      Good Friday  
**"Witness for the Execution"**      Luke 23:26-49  
 Pastor Doug Dent      Hebrews 10:16-25

Sunday, April 20      9:30am      Choir Sings  
**"A Grave Situation"**      John 20:1-18  
 Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, April 27      9:30am      Trio Sings  
**"What Tempests Can Teach Us"**      Acts 5:27-32  
 Pastor Doug Dent

## Dates to Remember

**Wednesday, April 2**  
 5:30pm Lenten Service  
 6:00pm Lenten Supper

**Sunday, April 6**  
 Communion  
 Choir Sings  
 Baptism  
 Name Tag Sunday  
 10:30am Softball Pancake Breakfast

**Tuesday, April 8**  
 6:30pm Ministry Nite

**Wednesday, April 9**  
 5:30pm Lenten Service  
 6:00pm Lenten Supper

**Sunday, April 13**  
 Palm Sunday  
 Gerstmann Sing  
 10:30am Senior Brunch

**Tuesday, April 15**  
 Newsletter Deadline

**Thursday, April 17**  
 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service

**Friday, April 18**  
 7:00pm Good Friday Service

**Sunday, April 20**  
 Easter Sunday  
 Choir Sings

**Sunday, April 27**  
 Trio Sings



*Jesus said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. John 19:30*

Now, if this is where our story stopped, we would not be living as people of the resurrection. We would be stunted at the crossroads, having no clue where to go and what to do. We would not know who we are or where we were going. But thanks be to God, that is not where our story ends, that is just the beginning. God does something miraculous through Jesus Christ, so we can shout with joy-filled hearts on Easter Sunday, "CHRIST IS RISEN!"

*"He is not here; for he has been raised." Matthew 28:6*

This is what we proclaim on Easter Sunday and every day following. God, who is faithful, promised that he is not dead. Christ lives! Through Christ's life, death, and resurrection we are granted grace upon grace. Through this unfailing, unfaltering, unparalleled love, we are set free to be people of the resurrection, covered by grace and forgiven. No longer finding ourselves at a crossroads, but rather, covered in grace.

Therefore, in this grace we receive from Christ Jesus, we give God our praise and thanksgiving. For the light of Christ is found in the resurrection, we see Christ in his glory, and we receive the gift of grace. We sing and we trust the light of Christ will never burn out, it will never be dim, it will not let us stumble in the darkness, Christ's light will shine and guide our steps.

This is why Easter matters. We are never to be forsaken; we will never be left alone to wander in the darkness. True light has come, and God has done something extraordinary through Jesus Christ. God, the creator of the world and liberator of all people, has brought Christ to new life, and through the resurrection of Jesus we are freed from our fears, and ignited with the light of Christ. It is through Jesus Christ that we are forgiven, set free, and saved by grace. There is no greater love than this and nothing compares to this grace.

Almighty God has restored humanity and in God's mercy, we are called to share this love and grace with all whom we encounter. Let the light of Christ shine in your hearts, illumine your path, and guide your comings and goings so that you might always know the way, the truth, and the life. We know this only through Jesus Christ, who is, who was, and who will always be our Savior and Lord. Thanks be to God.

Remember the true meaning of Easter, which is the resurrection. As the world brings out fluffy bunnies, sweet treats, and colored eggs, be people rooted in the promises of forgiveness and grace that come from a crucified and risen Savior. Remember that we worship together, with trumpets and song, a God of unparalleled love. We worship a God who gave everything so we might know the comfort and promise of grace.

Remember that when the fanfare fades and the work week resumes that we are still covered in God's abundant grace. Remember that as we go about our daily lives and the glorious nature of Easter Sunday fades in your memory, God is still loving us, and Christ still died and rose again so we might know this AMAZING GRACE! Savor the sacred moments of Holy Week and let the Holy Spirit wash over you as you worship on Easter Sunday and know that God's love is why Easter matters. Thanks be to God.

Peace, Pastor Doug Dent





# Christian Education and Youth

Rev. Karen Anderson

April is here! Spring sports, concerts, and hopefully warmer weather have arrived! I want to highlight some springtime church programming information:

- With the end of confirmation for the year 2024-2025, I am excited to begin Wednesday afternoon middle school youth group from 3:45-5:30. We began on February 26th and plan to meet through mid-May, depending on school concert schedules. This is a fun time to be together for fellowship, mission, and to explore interesting topics of faith.
- Kidz Club will continue through April 30th. During the Wednesdays of Lent, we will provide dinner at 6:00 pm following a short worship service in the sanctuary. On April 16 we will resume our 5:30 dinner schedule.
- The senior high youth group continues to meet on Wednesdays through the end of May. We will let youth and parents know which Wednesdays in May we do not meet due to end-of-year school concerts.

## Dates to put on your calendar:

- April 13th is the Senior Graduate Brunch. Come join our faith family as we celebrate our graduating seniors! Our seniors include Jonathan Dent, Shelby Eckhoff, Kristian Fransen, Dane Hastings, Sophia Rufer, Beatrice Schierer, Sam Sundberg, and Preston Weinrich.
- May 18th is the last day of Sunday school and the Ice Cream Social. Let us celebrate another fun year of learning together with ice cream!
- June 23-27 is Vacation Bible School! We are looking forward to seeing everyone here for VBS! Our theme this year focuses on kings and queens in the Bible. Let us learn what they have to teach us about living faithfully for God.

## Clearwater Forest Camp:

It is time to sign up for Clearwater Forest Camp! Our church has a long history of participation at this beautiful camp, for summer camp and fall/winter retreats. Every summer we have several young people of all ages who come home with great stories and memories of their time there. Feel free to ask other campers about their experiences if you have not attended this or another summer camp! Please check out the Clearwater Forest website for information and sign-up.

## Camp Scholarship:

Federated Church is committed to helping every young person get to camp, regardless of financial ability. We are happy to provide partial camp scholarships to the church camp of your choice. Scholarship forms are available outside the main office or on our website under resources and forms. Please fill out the form and return it to Karen by June 1st. Feel free to contact the church office with any questions.

---

*Christian Education and Youth*





# Church News

## Church Office

The church office hours in April 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

## Caring Ministry & Outreach

Name Tag Sunday

Get to Know Your Neighbor! Connecting names with faces and introducing ourselves, opens an invitation to talk with others. It can help to make others feel comfortable and welcome. On Sunday April 6, you will have the opportunity to sign your name on a name tag.

## Easter Flowers

If you ordered Easter Flower, you may take them home after the Easter service or come in the next week between 10am-2pm.



## 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 2. If you have questions about the dates, contact Brianna in the church office.

## 2025 Synod School

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies is hosting Synod School from July 20-25, 2025 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](http://www.lakesandprairies.org).

## 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. We include lotions, chapstick, hand sanitizer, a word search book, a water bottle, socks, a back scratcher, a notepad, chewing gum, lemon drops, an eye mask, and earbuds. Most importantly, we want all those who must walk through the doors of the Cancer Center to know that they are not alone, so most importantly, these boxes are a tangible sign of our prayers and presence with those who are facing a difficult time in their lives.

If you would like to contribute to this caring ministry, please write "Boxes of Blessing" in the memo line of your check. Thank you!



## Mornings with Jesus

I enjoy reading a daily devotion from Mornings with Jesus, which is a publication of Guideposts magazine, another great source of comfort. Here is a recent devotion written by Becky Alexander.

With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh let me not wander from Your commandments! Psalm 119:10

The word HEART is mentioned more than 500 times in the Bible. I keep a “Heart List,” regularly jotting down verses as I discover them. I write the word heart in capitol letters and red ink.

Perhaps my interest in the heart developed during my Dad’s four decades of procedures—two open-heart surgeries, a pacemaker, twenty-eight stents, and a defibrillator. Each time, the doctor drew a diagram to explain the plan for repair. I learned about the four chambers of the heart, and asked questions about the atria, the aorta, and the pulmonary artery. I added the “V” terms to my vocabulary: ventricle, vein, valve, and vessel.

When I think of seeking Jesus with my whole spiritual heart, I like to picture the parts of my physical heart. The right atrium takes in oxygen-poor blood; I tell Jesus I am depleted of energy, direction, patience, and love. The right ventricle forces the blood into the lungs to receive oxygen; I ask Jesus to replenish me with those things that I need. The left atrium, like a reservoir, holds the oxygen-rich blood; I thank Jesus for refreshing me and sheltering me in His care. And finally, the left ventricle pumps the blood throughout the body; I pray for Jesus to send me out in His name, sharing His offer of rescue, proclaiming His restoring love.

Someday, my Heart List may inspire me to write a heart devotional book. But for now, I’ll continue adding scriptures and following Jesus with all my heart.

Faith Step: Grab a red pen and begin a Heart List with Psalm 119:10. Find two more heart verses today.

Then watch for others in the future.





# 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.

## 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: jack.federated@hotmail.com. The choir will sing during worship on Sunday, April 6 and 20.

### Trio

Join us on Sunday, April 27 and listen to Karen Anderson Dent, Cindy Holte, and Sondra Lee sing during worship.

## 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 April 2 and April 9.

### Suppers

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)



## Fellowship Committee

### Softball Pancake Breakfast

Join us on Sunday, April 6 after worship for our annual Softball Pancake Breakfast and Auction. During breakfast we will auction off donated items of value. If you have something that you would like to donate, please drop it off in the church office or contact Dennis Bowman at 218-205-8147.

### Softball

Federated Church is recruiting players for the Federated teams. Players of any skill are accepted. Federated will play on Tuesday evenings from mid-May to early August. Contact Dennis Bowman for more information at 218-205-8147.

---

*The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Matthew 28:5-6*



# Greeters

## April Greeters

**Sunday, April 6**

*Worship @ 9:30am w/ Communion, Choir Sings*  
Steve & Melinda Wienbar

**Sunday, April 13**

*Worship @ 9:30am, Palm Sunday, Senior Brunch*  
Jake & Karoline Gustafson

**Sunday, April 20**

*Worship @ 9:30am, Easter, Choir Sings*  
Skip & Char Zielin & Lu & Denny Echelberger

**Sunday, April 27**

*Worship @9:30am, Trio Sings*  
John MacFarlane & Gloria Ronning

**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: April 8 - 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 as of 3/31/25

General Fund Report	
Revenue	\$47,619
Expenditures	\$33,968
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$33,042
Actual Received	\$45,830

### Grocery Receipts THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food	
March	\$4,909.01

### 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

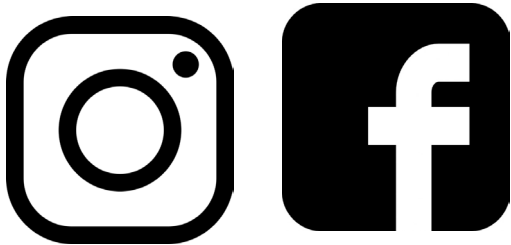
224 North Union Avenue  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time sensitive information  
Please deliver by April 1st



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



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

## April Birthdays

04/01	Owen Runningen	04/19	Paul Undseth
04/03	Breanna Stout	04/22	Siri Anthon-
04/03	Sterling Andrews	isen-Brown	
04/03	Graham Meder	04/22	Joe Cooper
04/04	Kathy Truax	04/22	Logan Stout
04/04	Sam Sundberg	04/23	Sonja Johnson
04/06	Troy Stenstrom	04/23	Jan Knackendoffel
04/08	Steve Lockhart	04/24	Mike Shol
04/09	Emily Schlepp	04/25	Charles Ebbighausen
04/11	Adalynn Eifert	04/25	Brett Garrahan
04/12	Kai Ebert	04/26	Sheila Rodning
04/12	Paul Eckhoff	04/26	Duane Tabbut
04/13	Preston Weinrich	04/26	Ed Morgan
04/14	Shane Garrahan	04/27	Jaden Brown
04/14	Anders Anthon-	04/28	Millie Pearson
isen-Brown		04/29	Carson Barry
04/15	Bella Rude	04/30	Christa Beske
04/16	Abigail MacFarlane	04/30	Samuel Nelson
04/19	Reno Schierer	04/30	Pete Konrad



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