

## May Worship

Sunday, May 4 9:30am  
**"Empty Net Syndrome"** John 21:1-19  
 Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, May 11 9:30am Mother's Day  
**"The Winter of Our Apocalypse"** John 10:22-30  
 Pastor Doug Dent Choir Sings

Sunday, May 18 9:30am  
**"Mysterious Manuscripts"** Revelation 21:1-6  
 Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, May 25 9:30am  
**"Beyond the Stained Glass"** Acts 16:9-15  
 Pastor Doug Dent Choir Sings

## Happy Mother's Day

"Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of motherhood. Today, we celebrate the loving sacrifice of mothers, both biological and spiritual, who nurture and guide us in Your ways. Bless them with joy, strength, and love to continue their selfless devotion. May they feel deeply appreciated and honored not just today, but every day. Amen."

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/prayer/beautiful-prayers-for-moms-this-mothers-day.html>

## Dates to Remember

**Thursday, May 1**  
 Doug out at meetings

**Friday, May 2**  
 Doug out at meetings

**Sunday, May 4**  
 Communion  
 Name tag Sunday

**Sunday, May 11**  
 Happy Mother's Day  
 Choir sings

**Tuesday, April 13**  
 6:30pm Ministry Nite

**Thursday, April 15**  
 Newsletter Deadline  
 6:30pm D&E meeting

**Sunday, May 18**  
 Ice cream social  
 Last day of Sunday School

**Monday, May 26**  
 Memorial Day  
 Church office closed

**Sunday, June 1**  
 Communion  
 Name tag Sunday

**Sunday, June 8**  
 Muffins for Mission



*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1*

I think it's finally safe to put the snowblower away. As May approaches, I certainly hope we don't see any more snow for many months! The season has dramatically changed in the last few weeks, and for many of us, it is a most welcome change.

The changes in our weather aren't the only seasons that we experience in our life. In fact, King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes that "for everything there is a season." I encourage you to read the whole chapter of Ecclesiastes 3 along with this article. Solomon gives many examples of "changing seasons" in that chapter. Our life in its entirety is but a season in the greater concept of God's time. There is a planting season and a harvest season, times of sadness and times of laughter, seasons to save and store, and there are times to spend and give.

The warmer weather isn't the only change of season happening right now. There are members of our church family getting married in the next few months. Marriage begins a new season of life! Some of our families may be expecting babies, which means baptisms, and you know how much I love baptisms! Many of you are entering the time of year called "lake season." We have graduating seniors in our congregation who are ending one season of life and heading off to college in the fall, and we have college seniors who are graduating and taking jobs. We even have a few lucky souls who are retiring, to begin a less stressful and slower-paced season of life. These are just a few of the ways that our lives change over the course of time, and these kinds of things happen all through life!

At the end of his list of seasons in Ecclesiastes 3, Solomon says that this is the business God gives to humankind and that God has made everything beautiful in its time. These kinds of changes are often wonderful, but there are also changing seasons that are painful and filled with sorrow. There are seasons of illness and grief. There are seasons of heartache and loss. There are seasons of transition and change. Those seasons can last days or weeks, months, or even years! Ecclesiastes reminds us that God is in control through all these seasons and that God is good to us. It may not always look like it, but God sees things from a different angle, a better and eternal perspective, and God makes everything beautiful in its time!

So, says Solomon in Ecclesiastes 3:12-13, the best thing for us to do in every season is to be joyful, to "do good" as long as we live, and to take pleasure in our toil or work, whatever it is. God says that this is God's gift to humanity. In other words, since God is in control, find a way to enjoy yourself!

Sometimes changes in our life cause fear. By nature, we don't always like change. If that's you, whether you're graduating from high school or college, getting married or having a baby, moving or retiring, remember that God is in control, God is good to you, and God will take care of you, so enjoy whatever God has in store for your next season of life!

In Christ,  
Pastor Doug





# Christian Education and Youth

Rev. Karen Anderson

May is the wrap-up of our 2024-2025 children's and youth activity schedule. Kidz Club ended on April 30 with Bible challenge trivia game, fun crafts, and gym. We had a great year studying two important Old Testament people: Joseph and Moses! The children know a lot about these men who were used by God to preserve the Israelite people. We had a great team of volunteers; Caroline Anderson, Siri Anthonisen-Brown, Melissa Davenport, Jonathan Dent, Lu Echelberger, Claire Gutzmer, Sheila Rodning, Beth Schlepp, and Char Zielin; as well as Roxane Nereson, Jane Nelson, and Gail Green, providing snack and dinner. Their hard work helped to make this an incredible year. Please thank these generous people for their love and service to our kids! Kids Club 2025-2026 kicks off on September 10!

**Our middle school and high school youth groups** had a great year. Our youth really enjoy spending time together on Wednesdays. I often hear that it is their favorite day of the week. It is a safe and enjoyable space for them to be after school, and we so appreciate their energy and fun personalities. We are sad to lose some of our members to college and trade schools, but we are hopeful for their futures and pray God's blessings upon each of them. These two groups will continue to meet in May, with a few weeks off for choir and band concerts. We stay connected through group texts, so everyone knows when we are meeting. We will also have some activities planned over the summer like VBS, Community Garden, and Lake Days.

If you are or have a graduate senior in your home, please remember to apply for the Federated Church college scholarship. Please have your student send in their letter of request to the church office or [church@federatedff.org](mailto:church@federatedff.org).

**Sunday school** continues through May 18, and we will celebrate with the Ice Cream social

during the Fellowship hour. We will also honor our amazing volunteers for all their hard work this year.

**Vacation Bible School is set for June 23 through June 27**, so be sure to mark your calendars! Our theme this year is "God's Royal Family!" We will be learning about some of the kings and at least one queen from the Bible and hopefully discover that WE are part of God's Royal Family as well. We encourage our older youth to be a part of the leadership for this special week and their participation not only helps support the on-going ministry of VBS, but the children really look up to them and consider that a big part of the week. This is truly a highlight for the summer!

**Camp Scholarships are available:** If you have a child or youth planning to attend a church-related camp this summer, please remember to apply for the Federated Church's partial camp scholarship. Forms are available outside the church office. Deadline for submission is June 15, and the amount awarded depends upon the number of people who apply.

**Adult Bible Studies continues:** Women's Bible study will continue meeting on Tuesdays at 11:15am through June. We are studying the Gospel of Luke. Revelation Bible study will meet on Sunday mornings during the month of May and then assess how we would like to continue.

## Dates to Remember:

**May 18:** Last day of Sunday School

**June 15:** Camp scholarship deadline to office!

**June 23-27:** Vacation Bible School 9:00 am-Noon

**Sept 10:** Kidz Club begins, Senior High Youth group begins

**Sept 14:** Sunday School begins

**Sept 19-21:** Confirmation retreat weekend





# 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 26 for 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 2 and 30. If you have questions about the dates, contact Brianna in the church office.

## Brianna's Vacation

Brianna will be on vacation Monday, June 8-Friday, June 13. If you are willing to help in the office answering phones that would be great. Monday - Thursday would be 10am-2pm and Friday from 9am-12pm. Thank you for giving your time so I can have some time off.

## Coffee Hour

Women's - Tuesdays at 10am

Men's - Fridays at 10am

Fellowship Hour - Sundays at 10:30am

## Bible Studies

Women's - Tuesdays at 11:15am

Revelation - 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.

## 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).

## Thrivent Grants Help Fill Boxes of Blessings

Are you a Thrivent member? Did you know your membership can help fund projects at Federated Church?

The financial services organization offers its members the opportunity to apply for \$250 grants that can be used to support fundraisers, service projects or organizations in their communities.

Thanks to Federated members Wayne and Patti Link, \$500 in Thrivent Action Grants are going to support our church's Boxes of Blessings at the Lake Region Healthcare Cancer Care Center.

Wayne says he first learned about the action grants from members of his Kiwanis club who were using the grants to buy books for the club's reading program at Adams School. When he saw a mention of Boxes of Blessings in the church newsletter, he realized the grants might be a way to support the church's mission at the cancer center.

The grant application is fairly simple, he says, and he'd be happy to talk about the process with anyone interested in applying.

He and Patti chose to donate to Boxes of Blessings, which provides requested comfort items to cancer patients, after Patti's treatment at the center.

"It's a cause that's near and dear to our hearts," Wayne said. "We know exactly what those people are going through, and we support anything that makes them more comfortable."

Thrivent members can apply for two \$250 grants a year, and associate members can apply for one grant. You can read more about it at <https://joyfullythriving.com/thrivent-grant/>.

If you're interested in other Federated Church missions that might benefit from a Thrivent Action Grant, Pastor Doug would be happy to talk with you.







# 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

### 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, May 11 and May 25. .

## Fellowship Committee

### Ice Cream Social

Let's celebrate the Sunday School year! On Sunday, May 18 at 10:30am, we will gather in the fellowship hall to enjoy delicious ice cream treats!

### Church Softball

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



## Mission Committee

Support a Federated youth with 'Muffins for Siri'. During the June 8 Muffins for Mission Sunday, we all will have the chance to support one of our Federated youth members as she carries a message of hope and help to the Dominican Republic.

Siri Anthonisen-Brown will be in a study abroad program with the Council on Intercultural Education Exchange, and she'll be in the Dominican Republic from July 10-30. While there, her focus will be on helping vulnerable youth in Santiago.

The program costs \$4,950 plus airfare, and Siri is working to earn her remaining cost of \$650 and airfare. To support Siri, the Mission Committee has made her the beneficiary of its Muffins for Mission event during the coffee hour on June 8. The freewill offering that day will go to support Siri on her adventure.

You may know Siri from her work with children in the Federated nursery and at Kids Club and Vacation Bible School. As she wrote to the committee, "My family has appreciated the work that Federated Church has done in the local community and beyond. The desire to help others is in me as well, and will be carried with me throughout this journey."

If you'd like to support Siri but can't be there for the June 8 service, you're welcome to leave a check in the office or in the offering plate on any Sunday; make your check out to Federated Church with "Muffins for Siri" in the memo line.

*Borning Cry is one of the hymns that has special meaning and comfort for me. I recently heard these testimonies from other women.*

**Carol Hampe, Gaithersburg, Maryland:**

“Borning Cry” is my favorite hymn. I’m a single mom who adopted two daughters from China. As I prepared to adopt my first daughter, Laura, this hymn took on a new depth of meaning. As a soon-to-be mom, I was focused on this little 11-month-old baby almost 8,000 miles away.

This hymn provided great comfort and reassurance, reminding me that God was with Laura when she was born and watching over her as I prepared to travel to meet her. I chose it as a hymn at her baptism to celebrate with God. It became a favorite of Laura’s, too, as she recognized that it talked about God being with her as she grew in faith.

Laura’s dear grandpa died after a long illness when she was 7, and we knew this hymn would be part of his funeral. Laura danced to it in a celebration of his life, knowing that Grandpa was with God. Two years later, when I was in the process of adopting her soon-to-be little sister, Laura gained a deeper understanding of the sentiment of the hymn. As she waited, Laura trusted in God’s care for her and her faraway sister, Annie, and she continued to do so later, as they grew in faith together.

Laura got married last summer—she found someone to join her heart with—and I pray this hymn will continue to be closely tied to her life. “Borning Cry” profoundly touches my heart because of the deep, personal connection it shows between God and the life of my family. The hymn is a beautiful reminder—especially to a single mom—of God’s ever-present love in every stage of our lives.

**Julie Jackson, Port Charlotte, Florida:**

I have been a Christian my entire life. As a child, I spent many hours at church. I would lie across the pews in the balcony with a blanket and coloring books, hidden from view as my mother led the choir. She had the voice of an angel. I never liked to sing very much, which I was sure hurt my mother. She never got to hear me explore the depths of my voice in my youth. However, I saw it make her cry, when as a grandmother, she watched me sing my babies to sleep.

This past July, I lost my dear mother to a swift battle with cancer. When I began planning the arrangements for her graveside burial, I kept remembering the hymn she sang at so many funerals over the years in our small South Dakota congregation—“Borning Cry.” For my mother, there was no other choice of hymn to celebrate Christian life.

I remember hearing my mother sing those words about creation that brought families to tears, remembering the faithful journeys of their loved ones as they were laid to rest. The hymn reminds me of every step of our life’s journey in a never-ending relationship with God.

As a child, I often wondered why my mother sang the same song all the time. I wondered if people were as tired of that song as I was. Today, all these years later, I will never tire of “Borning Cry.” I would give anything to hear my mother’s angelic voice sing that hymn just one more time. In my future life as a pastor, I’ll recommend it to those remembering the beautiful lives of their family members who have completed their baptismal journey.

My own mother had chosen “Borning Cry” to be sung at her funeral, which was 21 years ago.

Joyce

# Greeters...

May 2024

Sunday, May 4

*Worship @ 9:30am w/ Communion*

William & Peg Kalar

Sunday, May 11

*Worship @ 9:30am*

*Happy Mother's Day*

Landon Link & Matt Solin

Sunday, May 18

*Worship @ 9:30am*

*Last Day of Sunday School & Ice cream Social*

TBD

Sunday, May 25

*Worship @9:30am*

*Pete Konrad*

**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 or parish nursing needs. Please call 218-739-3227 or email [church@federatedff.org](mailto:church@federatedff.org).

## Ministry Nite:

**MAY 13 - 6:30PM**

Please email your minutes to [church@federatedff.org](mailto: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	\$135,050
Expenditures	\$ 110,903

### Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$ 99,126
Actual Received	\$ 125,753

## Grocery Receipts

### THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

#### Service Food

April	\$4,629.32
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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

## Connect with Federated



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

## 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
		05/30	Matthew Solin
05/17	Steve Thompson		



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

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