

March Worship

MARCH 4 9:30a.m. Worship

God's Nagware
Pastor Doug Dent

Exodus 20
*Celebration of the
Lord's Supper*

MARCH 11 9:30a.m. Worship

A Piece of Work
Pastor Doug Dent

Ephesians 2
A Service of Appreciation
for Connie Seltz;
Parish Nurse

MARCH 18 9:30a.n. Worship

Exit Lines
Pastor Doug Dent

John 12

MARCH 25 9:30a.m. Worship

Jerusalem March Madness
Pastor Doug Dent

BAPTISM MADELYN WHIPPLE

Mark 1:9-15

MARCH 29 7:00p.m. Worship

Passover Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 30 7:00a.m. Worship

Reversible Errors
Pastor Doug Dent

GOOD FRIDAY

John 18-19

APRIL 1 9:30a.m. Worship

The April Fool
Pastor Doug Dent

EASTER SUNDAY

John 20



Dates to Remember

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

5:30pm Stephen Minister's Meeting
6pm Human Trafficking Awareness
#2 Event @ Center for the Arts

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

5:30pm Lenten Service
6:00pm Lent Supper

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

9:30am Recognition for Connie Seltz

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

6:30pm Ministry Nite

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

5:30pm Lenten Service
6:00pm Lent Supper

THURSDAY, MARCH 15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

6:30pm D&E Meeting

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

10:30am Softball Pancake Breakfast
and Silent Auction Fundraiser

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

5:30pm Lenten Service
6:00pm Lent Supper

SUNDAY, MARCH 25 PALM SUNDAY

WEDNESDAY MARCH 28

NO KID'S CLUB OR YOUTH ACTIVITIES



I don't usually use other people's articles in my newsletter article, but this piece by the Rev. Emily C. Heath (UCC) on the importance of Holy Week is excellent and worth reading...

"Holy Week is, as suggested, the holiest week of the Christian year. It's also the busiest. The week starts on Palm Sunday with the commemoration of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It continues on Maundy Thursday with a retelling of the story of the Last Supper, and Jesus' betrayal by a disciple. On Good Friday the church gathers to remember Jesus' death on the cross. And on Easter we proclaim the Resurrection and celebrate the assurance that not even death could separate us from God's grace.

It's a long week with added church services that leave even those who gain renewed energy from worship tired at times. Clergy often take one of their vacation weeks the following week in order to recover. And we pastors, regardless if we admit it or not, know that when we announce the additional Holy Week services some people are groaning a little inside.

I get it. We're all busy. Sunday morning feels hard enough for many good Christians. Thursday night, after a long day at work, is even tougher. You just want to go home, have dinner, and either tackle the pile of laundry or have a few precious hours to yourself. You probably don't want to take the car out one more time, drive to church, and sit through another service.

No one will blame you if you don't. No pastor I know takes attendance, and, truth be told, we clergy all have our own Netflix queue and stack of unfinished novels that we might longingly look at on our way out of our own doors. But the occupational hazard of being clergy means we can't call out on Holy Week. Which means the messages of the stories we hear on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday can't go unheard by us.

That's good because what we hear about Jesus on those two nights is the same as what we hear every day in our offices. We don't talk about that much. That's too bad. Most churches are good at doing Sundays. But sometimes we are not so good at acknowledging what comes between Sundays.

On Sunday mornings we often focus on the joy. We sing uplifting hymns. We hear hopeful sermons. We smile. We shake hands. We dress up. We talk about grace and blessings and gratitude. That's not a bad thing.

But when many of our parishioners leave on Sunday, they step into a different world. Between Sundays I visit with people who are facing a struggle that few in their lives understand. They're sick or injured. Dying or bereaved. Depressed, heart-broken, betrayed, alone, or wrestling with doubt. And if you come to church on Palm Sunday and Easter, you might not think we in the church know anything about that.

But if you come between Sundays, you'll find a faith that knows what that is like. More than that, you'll find a God who knows what that is like. To me, the most comforting part of Holy Week is not the waving of triumphal palms on one Sunday morning, or the flowers and joyous hymns on the next. It's what happens in between.

It's Jesus on Maundy Thursday sharing a table with the people he loved the most. It's him washing their feet and showing that the mark of a true leader is whether they can serve others. It's Jesus still loving those disciples even though he knew that, at best, they would abandon him, and at worst, they would betray him. And it's Jesus in the garden, alone, heart-broken, and struggling between what he wanted to do and what he knew he had to do.

And on Good Friday, it continues. The world turns against him, and the ones who cheered his entry in Jerusalem instead cheer his death. He suffers. He calls out to a God who does not seem to answer. He doubts. He feels pain, and loss, and grief. And in the end, he loses the life he knew.

I'm sometimes asked by those who are going through a difficult time whether God is angry when they have doubts, or when they wonder why God doesn't seem to be answering prayers. They ask if God understands when we suffer, or when we feel alone. When they do, I point first not to the Christ of Palm Sunday or Easter, but to the Christ of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The one who lived as one of us. Who loved as one of us. Who doubted as one of us. Who suffered as one of us. And who died as one of us.

And only then do I point to the Christ who rose again and overcame the worst that the world could throw at him. I sometimes worry that we are forgetting the lessons of Holy Week. As more churches cancel mid-week services due to low attendance and over-scheduled members, and instead roll all the stories into a Passion Sunday service on Palm Sunday, I wonder if we are losing that time we once had to sit with Christ in his own human struggles? And I wonder if when we lose that time, do we then lose our ability to learn to sit with others in their struggle, and with ourselves in our own?

But what would Christian life look like if we took that time? What if we became known not just as the people who knew what to do on Sundays, but the ones who knew how to stay with you when your life was falling apart, just as Christ asks us to do on Maundy Thursday? Or the ones who could stand by and still love and respect you even when you call out your doubts, as Jesus did on the cross? What would happen if we weren't just known for our Easter Sunday celebrations, but for our Thursday night solidarity? Our Friday afternoon compassion?

We have the capacity to be those people. We have it because Christ has called us to be those people. All we have to do is be willing to make the journey with him. Not just on Sundays, but on the days between. The world has plenty of Sunday morning Christians. It needs a few more of the weekday ones."

Emily's words remind us not just of the significant events of Holy Week, or that how Jesus lived and died for us, but what it means to be an "Easter people," a people filled with hope, a people willing to help.

Blessings on your Holy Week!
Pastor Doug

Rev. Heath's article is found at: https://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-emily-c-heath/holy-week-importance-weekday-christians_b_1394354.html



It is a bittersweet time as I write this, my last newsletter as the Parish Nurse Coordinator. My retirement begins on March 16th. The past 11 ½ years have been enriched by the work here with you. Pastor Doug has been wonderfully supportive of the nursing ministry and words are not sufficient to say how grateful I am to have been a part of his team. The people I've visited have been welcoming

and gracious. They made every "work" day a joy to be anticipated. Thank you. What now? This I know: Our Shepherd Lord and Savior takes care of his sheep! I have often noted that when there is a need in The Federated Faith Family, God has provided willing servants with all the gifts needed to provide care. We are richly blessed by the God who loves us so. We know he loves us "Because he gave his only Son

so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." I am grateful for the opportunities to grow and serve you and my Lord and Savior. May God bless you all! ~Connie



Thank you, Connie

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health. (3 John 2)

For the past twelve years, Connie Seltz lived out this prayer among us as our Parish Nurse Coordinator. She provided compassionate care, spiritual guidance, and wise counsel so that things might go well for us and we all might be in good health.

So, it is with genuine sadness, but also with deep appreciation, that the Deacons & Elders accepted Connie's retirement, effective March 16, 2018. We invited you to join us on Sunday, March 11, 2018 as we honor Connie during the morning worship service and with a special fellowship hour. The Deacons & Elders will present Connie with a gift on behalf of the congregation, and we encourage you to show your appreciation for Connie's faithful pastoral care through cards and notes. We are blessed by Connie's ministry and now we wish her God's peace in her well-deserved retirement.

Doug Dent, Pastor and Jean Bowman, Clerk of Session

Remind Text Alerts

The Federated Church is now using Remind, a text alert system to send out reminders, schedule updates, cancellations and other time-sensitive announcements. If you would like to receive text updates from Federated Church, please **text the message @federated to the number 81010**. You will receive a confirmation text, followed by a text asking if you are a parent, student, or teacher. There's no need to respond to this text. You'll receive another text telling you about the app available to use with Remind. You can use the app, but it is not essential to have the app in order to receive text alerts. Feel free to contact the church office with any questions!



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!

During February, we were able to help 3 families or individuals from the local mission fund. We gave a total of \$200.00 for food, rent and utilities.





Events Spring is just around the corner and with it comes some special events to highlight...

- Kids Club and Youth Groups meeting on March 7th, 14th, and 21st (with the 28th off during Holy Week)
- Wednesday, March 14th –Lenten Youth Dinner with proceeds to go to the Guatemala Mission youth—all youth who plan to go on the 2019 trip should try to be there to help prep, serve AND clean up!
- Friday, March 16th—“Confirmation crew 2017-2018” lock-in. We hope to hold a lock-in as requested by our 7th-9th graders who had such an AWESOME retreat weekend this past fall. 8pm—8am Friday to Saturday!
- Thursday, March 29th at 7:00 pm--Passover Seder Service with the whole church family. This is a special service focused on the last supper that Jesus shared with his disciples during Holy Week.
- Kids Club and Youth Groups meeting every Wednesday during April.
- Wednesday, April 11th at 7:00 pm--We will have a special youth group night at the Food Shelf.
- Sunday, April 15th at 10:30 am--Cake Auction by the youth during Fellowship Hour. Proceeds to go to the Guatemala Mission trip youth.
- Sunday, April 22nd at 10:30 am--Graduating Senior Brunch during Fellowship Hour. Come and support our graduating seniors!
- Wednesday, April 25th—Last official day of Kids Club Spring 2018.
- Wednesday, May 9th—Last official day of youth groups Spring 2018.
- Sunday, May 13th—Last “official” day of Sunday school Spring 2018.
- Sunday, May 20th at 10:30am--In coordination with the Fellowship Committee, we are planning an Adult/ Youth Bible Trivia challenge during the Ice Cream Social at Fellowship Hour to highlight the topics covered by our kids this past year! We are SO excited to try this! And we are looking for some brave adults to go up against our kids!
- Vacation Bible School is JUNE 25th through JUNE 29th (9:00 am to 3:00 pm) this year!!

Kids Club

Kids Club continues this spring during the months of March and April, with March 28th OFF during Holy Week. During the March session, we will be looking at stories of Jesus on the path to the cross, with the special opportunity to hear and see places in Israel that Pastor Doug experienced! Each week we will hear part of Jesus’ journey and see pictures Pastor Doug took that correspond to the story. We hope that seeing the actual locations will be a faith-increasing and exciting session for the kids (and adults) who participate in Kids Club! Our last day of Kids Club this spring will be April 25th. Keep watch for Vacation Bible School, however! Dates for that are: June 25th through June 29th!

Passover Seder Service

This year we have decided to try a new approach to our Maundy Thursday (March 29th at 7:00pm) service during Holy Week. Instead of a traditional church service, we will be celebrating the Passover Seder in Fellowship Hall. Passover is the Jewish festival that celebrates the Jew’s freedom from slavery and their flight from Egypt. It is this tradition that Jesus shared with his disciples on the night that he was betrayed. It incorporates unleavened bread, bitter herbs, salt water, a lamb’s shank bone, roasted egg, and haroset (a paste of fruit and nuts), and wine (or juice). Each item holds meaning to the story of the Exodus out of Egypt, and amazingly, the words and ceremony itself point to the Messiah, Jesus Christ. It is often observed by Christians as a reminder that Jesus truly IS the Messiah the world awaited, and it honors the tradition that He Himself participated in. We will also incorporate communion into this event. Please plan to join us for this fresh view of the walk Jesus took during Holy Week.





Bible Studies and Fellowship Groups

Women's Bible Study

Thank you to all the ladies that came to Women's Bible Study. We finished on February 15th with the Book of John. I look forward to our next Bible Study!

Blessings ~ Sadie

Men's Bible Study

MONDAYS 12pm

Men's Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon for one hour. They will be diving into a study of Revelation. All men are invited! Friends of Federated are invited, too!

Coffee Hours

Sunday Mornings: 10:30am

Women's Coffee Hour: 10:00am Tuesdays

Men's Coffee Hour: 10:00am Fridays



Church News

Wednesday Lenten Services (5:30pm)

March 7th Mindy Christianson
March 14th Jake Gustafson
March 21st Carri Thompson

Doctoral Studies

I successfully completed my course week at Luther Seminary (January 29-February 2, 2018) and am now putting the finishing touches on the first four chapters of my thesis (due March 31, 2018). I will continue to work with a small group of congregation members through May 2018, and then begin writing up the results and findings of this research over the summer. The final thesis is due February 2019. I appreciate your continued support and prayers during this process - the goal line is in sight!

We need ringers!

The bell choir is looking for additional members. You don't have to commit to the whole year—join us for even a few weeks or a few months. We'd love to have you! We meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Contact Doris Enderson at 770-4692 with questions.

Photos





Events: Looking Ahead

Lenten Services, March 7, 14, 21

5:30pm on Wednesdays

Human Trafficking 2, March 6

Join together as a community for the second session on raising awareness and identifying Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in rural Minnesota: (What Can We Do?) will take place at A Center For The Arts from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Connie Seltz Recognition, March 11

@9:30am please visit page 3 for Connie's article

7th-9th Grade Lock In, March 16

Youth are invited to join us for a night of fun starting at 8pm.

Softball Fundraiser, March 18

@ 10:30am Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction

Palm Sunday, March 25

Join us for service @ 9:30am

Maunday Thursday, March 29

Service @ 7pm

Good Friday, March 30

Service @ 7pm

Easter Sunday, April 1

Service @ 9:30am



Holy Week



Committee News

Mission Committee

Minnesota FoodShare began its work in 1982 with a campaign advanced by congregations to restock food shelves in the 7-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The effort was so successful, and the need was so evident, the March Campaign became a statewide program just one year later.

The largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together various community organizations, businesses, and faith communities to help stock nearly 300 food shelves statewide. In 2017, over \$8 million dollars and 4.7 million pounds of food were raised by Minnesota food shelves and Minnesota FoodShare.



Minnesota FoodShare envisions a Minnesota where all residents have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity. The March Campaign addresses these issues directly and we invite you to join our efforts and advocate for long-term solutions to food insecurity and poverty in our communities.

March is Minnesota Food Share month. Donations made to local community food shelves during March are matched by grants, so your money goes farther. Please consider donating during March: your donations help to ensure that our neighbors have what they need for today. Look for FOOD SHARE envelopes in the pews. Checks may be made payable to "Federated Church" with "Food Shelf" on the memo line. Together we can make a huge impact for families in our community. Thank you for your generosity!



Business as usual

Service Group

MARCH SERVICE GROUP

Group #8
 Carolyn Anderson
 Ruth Aulds
 Brent and Tara Barry
 Karen Bush
 Cy Grover
 Terry and Jeanette Haas
 Kurt and Sonja Johnson
 Brad and Barb Meder
 Marcus and Rebekah Meder
 Pam Phillips
 Wayne and Gloria Ronning
 Jon and Jessica Steinbrenner
 Evan and Tanya Westra
 Mike and Amber Makovsky

APRIL SERVICE GROUP

Group #9
 Dale Anderson
 Mark and Lisa Becker
 Grant and Mariah Davenport
 Tim and Desta Hunt
 Wayne and Patti Link
 Chuck and Linda MacFarlane
 Bill and Mary Ann Nead
 Lynn Oxley
 Mae Reich
 Ben and Tessa Schierer
 Ross and Marianne Stone
 Beth Strom
 Ildi Sundheim
 Matyas Sundheim
 Gail Welle
 Jim and Arlene Worner

Ministry Nite: March 13 - 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	\$47,303.97
Expenditures	\$30,757.10
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$27,500.00
Actual Received	\$45,521.37

Grocery Receipts THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Sunmart	
January	\$995.00
Total as of 2/1/18	\$80,984.00
Service Food	
January	\$2,633.46

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.

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

MARCH 2018

Sunday, March 4th

9:30am Ruth Aulds
 Pam Phillips and
 Carolyn Anderson

Sunday, March 11th

9:30am Wayne and Gloria Ronning
 Terry and Jeanette Haas

Sunday, March 18st

9:30am Brad and Barb Meder
 Marcus and Rebekah Meder

Sunday, March 25th

9:30am Jon and Jessica
 Steinbrenner and Kurt and Sonja
 Johnson

REMINDER: Greeters are also the coffee hosts for that Sunday. If you are unable to do it the Sunday you are assigned, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Check your email for information on greeter and coffee host duties. Please add church@federatedff.org to your safe senders list. If you don't use email, please check the bulletin board in the narthex for the information.

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
 Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!





Federated CHURCH

224 North Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Time sensitive information
Please deliver by March 1st

Condolences

The family of Betty Larson
The family of Norma Bell
Molly Stoddard on the death of Molly's father.
Jeanette Haas on the death of her sister.
Lu Echelberger on the death of her mother,
Audrey Dix.
To the Sperling family on the death of
Dorothy Sperling

Thank You

A HUGE 'thank you' to Rebecca Jorgensen for her faithful work as one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders. Rebecca retired from this role in February. We are grateful for her pastoral care for our congregation and the Fergus Falls community.

March Birthdays

03/01	Char Zielin	03/18	Kayla Dean
03/01	Natalie Vogel	03/18	Leslie Wendland
03/02	Douglas Becker	03/19	Marian Wasvick
03/02	Lisa Becker	03/19	Martin Anderson
03/02	Brian Rodning	03/19	Willow Sundheim
03/02	Benjamin Nuss	03/20	Cayden Hendrickson
03/02	Grace Saurer-Olson	03/23	Bonita Stock
03/05	Sadie Carter	03/23	Karen Bush
03/06	Gabe Dean	03/25	Madalyn Dent
03/06	Matthew Orcutt	03/26	Skip Zielin
03/08	Mark Anderson	03/26	Terri Skretvedt
03/10	M. Emilia Griego	03/27	Cleo Langseth
03/11	Jim Behrends	03/28	Vanessa Whipple
03/12	Karen Anderson	03/28	Ryan Truax
03/12	Jordan Schiefert	03/29	Robert Hansen
03/14	Carol Andstrom	03/29	Tanner Johnson
03/15	Robert Flom	03/29	Mary Ann Nead
03/17	Ross Stone	03/30	Dolores Duncan
03/17	Cindy Holte	03/31	MacKenzie Meis
03/18	David Whipple		



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

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