



Union Avenue News

KEEPING MEMBERS UP TO DATE

DECEMBER 2018

December Worship

DECEMBER 1 4:00p.m.

Christmas Cantata

Images of Adoration

DECEMBER 2 9:30a.m. Worship

God's Emoji
Pastor Doug Dent

Jeremiah 33 Matthew 25:31-40
The Lord's Supper
ADVENT 1

DECEMBER 9 9:30a.m. Worship

The God Who Completes
Pastor Doug Dent

HONORING DORIS
Philippians 1:3-11
The Rich Man and Lazarus
ADVENT 2

DECEMBER 16 9:30a.m. Worship

Sunday School Christmas Pageant
The Federated Kids will present the message for the morning

ADVENT 3

DECEMBER 21 7:00p.m.

Blue Christmas
Speaker: Maria Willits

A Service of Hope

DECEMBER 23 9:30a.m. Worship

When Fear Gives Way to Joy
Pastor Doug Dent

HONORING KAREN & GLORIA
Zephaniah 3:14-20
ADVENT 4

DECEMBER 24 Worship

5pm Amahl and the Night Visitors
6pm Christmas Potluck Supper
11pm The Case of the Missing Baby

CHRISTMAS EVE
Telling the Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-20
The Lord's Supper

DECEMBER 30 9:30a.m. Worship

Two Boys in Church
Pastor Doug Dent

1 Samuel 2 and Luke 2:22-40

Dates to Remember

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

4:00pm Christmas Cantata

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

9:30am Recognizing Doris Enderson

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

6:30pm Ministry Nite

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

Newsletter Deadline

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

9:30am Kid's Christmas Pageant

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:30pm D&E Meeting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:00pm Blue Christmas Service

SUNDAY DECEMBER 23

9:30am Recognizing Karen Hauck and Gloria Ronning

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE: OFFICE CLOSED
5:00pm Amahl And The Night Visitors
6:00pm Potluck Supper
11:00pm Candlelight and Communion Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY: OFFICE CLOSED



Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem...and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:1, 9-11

Growing up near New York City had some nice perks, especially around Christmastime: the decorations and the giant Christmas tree in Rockefeller Plaza, the smell of roasted chestnuts available from food vendors, street musicians singing carols, the Radio City Music Hall Christmas show with the Rockettes. So many things to see and experience!

But my favorite Christmas tradition was going to Lincoln Center to see *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Amahl is a children's operetta designed for television. Gian Carlo Menotti wrote the libretto for Amahl and the NBC Opera Theatre premiered it on December 24, 1951. Menotti took his inspiration from Heironymus Bosch's painting, Adoration of the Magi, which shows three kings offering their gifts to the Christ Child who sits on his mother's lap. Every December, my family would sit in Avery Fisher Hall, surrounded by lots of other families, and watch the story of Amahl unfold.

Amahl is a crippled shepherd boy who walks with the aid of a crutch. He is a dreamer and prone to exaggerate the truth a little too often! His poor, widowed mother is at the end of her rope trying to make ends meet. She is harried and short-tempered with Amahl for most of the operetta, which causes some very comedic moments (Amahl is filled with funny one-liners!).

For many nights, Amahl sees a giant star in the winter sky. Of course, his mother doesn't believe him. Then, late one night, there is a knock at the door. Amahl answers and tells his mother that there are three kings waiting outside. Again, she doesn't believe him. So, imagine her surprise when the three kings and a page boy enter her house asking for a place to rest!

When his mother goes to gather firewood, Amahl is left alone with the kings. He peppers them with questions. King Kaspar, who is quite deaf, takes a liking to Amahl and shows him the special things he carries with him in a special box: precious stones, colored beads, and black licorice!

The kings also show Amahl and his mother the wondrous gifts they bear for the Christ child: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They describe the kingdom he will establish, a kingdom of equality, peace, and justice. Amahl's mother admits she has waited her whole life for such a king.

Having nothing in the house, Amahl's mother sends him to rouse the neighbors who will provide food and entertainment for the kings. The villagers arrive (with live animals inside the theatre!) and offer the kings food and wine. They dance and sing for the kings late into the night. At last, the kings send them home and everyone rests.

Except Amahl's mother. She is awake, obsessed by the treasures of the kings. She steals some of the gold to ease her poverty and to feed Amahl. But she gets caught by the page who never trusted her or liked Amahl. As the page struggles with Amahl's mother, Amahl rushes to her defense and pleads with the kings to release her. He confesses that he is the one who lies and cheats – not his mother – and he should be punished, not her.

Amahl's mother gives back the gold, but Amahl believes they should send a gift to the newborn king. He offers his crutch, the only thing he owns, because "Who knows, the child may need it!" As he hands over his crutch he is miraculously healed, his lameness gone, and he begins to jump and dance! The kings believe this is a sign that the Christ Child is born, and they hurry to leave. Amahl wants to go with the kings, to thank the Christ Child, and his mother lets him go. The operetta ends with Amahl on the back of Kaspar's camel, waving goodbye to his mother, and following the star to the Christ Child.

That story never gets old! The coming of Jesus is a special story, filled with wonder and miracles. The hope for a better world is a promise fulfilled in the birth of Christ: it is a promise both here and now, and not yet.

This year we are telling the story of Amahl and the Night Visitors at Federated Church. Join us at 5 PM on Christmas Eve as actors bring the timeless story to life! Share some hospitality and cheer with us at the 6 PM potluck supper. Then, join us again at 11 PM as we ring in Christmas with candles around Christ's Table. This is a story we need to hear again and again. It never gets old, it only gets better!

Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!
Pastor Doug



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 November, we were able to help 2 families or individuals from the local mission fund. We gave a total of \$200.00 for food, rent and utilities.

LOCAL
Mission

Box of Blessings

Together we can cope, together we can hope. Federated is packing more Boxes of Blessing for the cancer center in Fergus.

Those receiving treatments are given a box that is stuffed with items they need and items they don't know that they will need. This list of needed items for the boxes was compiled by a nurse and a chaplain from the hospital. Items included in the box are: lip balm, cough drops, hard candy, chewing gum, back scratcher, non-scented lotion, Aquaphor healing ointment, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, thermometer, notepad & pen, game book, socks, pocket calendar, Federated reusable water bottle and ear buds. When the last boxes were delivered, we were told that they are GREATLY appreciated!

However, we are needing funds to pack more boxes. If you would like to donate a monetary gift to this local ministry, please contact the Federated Church office. The boxes truly are a blessing to those receiving them!



Christmas Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/prayers/12-christmas-prayers-experience-joy.html>





Christian Education

December is here along with our annual Children’s Christmas Pageant! Letters went out to Kid’s Club and Sunday School youth (ages K-6) encouraging everyone to participate in this special worship event. Practices occur during regular Kid’s Club time as well as during Sunday School, with the pageant scheduled for December 16th during the 9:30am worship service. If you have any questions or would like to help in any way, please contact Karen at kmad@prtcl.com.

This Advent season, we are trying something new! As a way to continue the “Acts of Random Kindness” we did this fall, we are encouraging youth to bring in a non-perishable food item each week on Sunday morning collected during Sunday School. These donations go to the Fergus Falls Food Shelf and will be distributed to families in need during the holiday season. Let’s help our neighbors have a Merry Christmas!

In other news, our K-1 Sunday school classroom had a great transformation recently (thank you, Pete!) with a larger space, bright colors, and the addition of the children’s library. Come take a look at their classroom—it gives the kids and their teachers (Jona and Maddie) much-needed space for creative energy!

Guatemalan Mission Team Update

The Guatemala Mission team wants to thank EVERYONE who supported the Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction this past month! We raised a little over \$3500 during the event! The youth did a great job serving and our kitchen help made a delicious meal! Soup sales in mid-November raised approximately \$440, and with the popularity of this sale, we plan to do another soup sale, selling more Roasted Tomato Bisque, on December 16th during the Fellowship hour! We are so appreciative of our church family for getting behind our efforts!

Our stove funds are growing as well, with money raised for seven stoves. During the months of December and January we will continue to collect

the “Noisy Offering”. On Christmas Eve, we will take in a special offering for stoves as well.

Just as important as raising funds for our trip, we ask for you to pray for our mission team as we get closer to leaving. We have a wonderful crew going, with several youth making their first journey to a country like Guatemala. Prayers for deepening faith, openness to others, willingness to participate in hard work, team harmony, and definitely safety will be necessary for the success of our exciting journey!

Confirmation

Confirmation is going strong! We have a terrific group of youth this year learning Bible stories and asking deep questions of faith. Please hold our confirmation students in prayer.

7th Grade (Old Testament): Harvey Beske, Jonathan Dent, Ariana Hedrick, Nevaeh Konrad, William Nuss, Fiona Rundquist, and Kellen Stenstrom.

8th Grade (New Testament): Nicholas Flugstad, Dagny Gerhardson, Ava Hastings, Alex Jensen, Reno Schierer, and Ben Sundburg.

9th Grade (Faith Matters): Anders Anthonisen-Brown, Grace Olson, Tate Preston, Ben Rundquist, Dove Schierer, Shelby Tabbut, and Zayne Weinrich.





Calling all Sunday School youth!
Let's help bring Christmas to others in our community!
Please bring a non-perishable food item each week to Sunday School during the Advent season.
Donations will go to the Fergus Falls Food Shelf.



Church News

Recognizing Our Music Directors

We will recognize our Bell Director, Doris Ender-son, Dec 9th and our Choir Director, Karen Hauck with Accompanist, Gloria Ronning, Dec 23rd during worship. Thank you for your service to the music ministries at Federated Church!

New Member Class

Interested in becoming a member at Federated Church? Join us for a New Member Class Dec 9th at 10:45am in the Parlor.

Annual Reports

Church committees, if you haven't submitted your annual report yet, please submit it by Dec 15th to the church office. Please type your reports. Thank you!

Office Closed

Please note that the church office will be closed on the following dates: Dec 24th, 25th and 28th

Wednesday Activities

Remember, there are no Kid's and Youth activities Dec 26th and Jan 2nd. Enjoy your Christmas Break! See you again Jan 9th at our regular times.

Are you a Veteran, Currently Serving or a First Responder in our congregation? Please let the church office know if you haven't already. We would love to be aware of who you are and how you serve(d).

Adult Bible Study (Sunday mornings)

There will be no Adult Sunday school during Advent – there are lots of things going on at church already! Class will resume in January. Stay tuned...

Poinsettias

If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, please let the church office know by Friday, December 7th. Order forms can be found in your church bulletins or in the church office. Both red and white poinsettias are \$14 each. Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve service.



Brad Childs will be ordained through the EPC (Evangelical Presbyterian Church) on Dec 2nd at Lawrence Presbyterian Church. Congratulations, Brad!

Birthday Celebration!

Join us in celebration of Carol Hoivik's 90th Birthday on Sunday, December 16th at 10:30am. Carol's family is bringing lunch to share with the congregation at coffee hour after worship. Happy Birthday, Carol!



Events: Federated and the Community

Christmas Cantata, Dec 1st

Federated Church invites you to kick off the Christmas season by attending the performance of "Images of Adoration," a Christmas cantata with choir and orchestra. The concert is on Saturday, December 1 at 4pm at Federated Church. It is free! Cookies and fellowship will follow the program.

Tree Lighting, Dec 1st

Community Tree Lighting at 6:30pm in Wright Park with fireworks to follow!



Service of Remembrance, Dec 1st

A time to pay tribute to those we have loved and lost at Olson Funeral Home. They welcome you to enjoy this special time of music, message and reflection. Refreshments to follow.

Dance and Dessert, Dec 1st-2nd

A show of delightful dancing at 2pm! Join us for delicious dessert after the show.

High School Band Concert, Dec 3rd

7pm in the KSS Auditorium

Holiday Service of Remembrance, Dec 6th

3pm at Glende-Nilson Funeral home. Remembering loved ones who died.

Hillcrest Christmas Concert, Dec 7th

7-9pm at Bethel Lutheran Church

M-State Winter Choir Concert, Dec 7th

7:30pm in Legacy Hall/Theatre at M-State Community College.

St. Lucia Celebration, Dec 15th

Join Augustana for a St. Lucia celebration 9am-noon. Brunch and other goodies will be served along with all sorts of fun!

Christmas Pageant, Dec 16th

Please support our kids by attending their Christmas Pageant during the 9:30am worship service.

Soup Sale for Guatemala, Dec 16th

Our Federated youth are selling soup during the 10:30am fellowship hour to raise money for the 2019 Guatemala Mission Trip.

Blue Christmas, Dec 21st

A service 7pm at the Federated Church acknowledging Christmas as a difficult time for those facing tough situations. This service offers a time of rest and respite during the frantic holiday season. Speaker: Maria Willits

Christmas Eve Services, Dec 24th

Join us at Federated 5pm for *Amahl and the Night Visitors* followed by a potluck supper at 6pm. We also invite you to attend our Communion and Candlelight service at 11pm.

Ice Fishing Day Trip, Dec 29th

We will be fishing on Otter Tail Lake all day! Portable fish-houses will be supplied by Dennis Bowman and Rick Schara. This event is FREE! Please bring your own ice fishing gear, sack lunch and snacks. Questions? Contact Dennis Bowman (218)998-0717.



From our last Ice Fishing Trip





Business as usual

Service Groups

December SERVICE GROUP Group #5

Wes and Lori Beske
 Marcus and Carol Bischof
 Nic and Sammy Ebert
 John and Kim Erickson
 Bob and Barb Flom
 Kathy Gilbert
 Steve Lockhart and Donna Ohe
 Brad and Barb Meder
 Marcus and Rebekah Meder
 Wally and Mary Moe
 Steve and Carri Thompson

January SERVICE GROUP Group #6

Paul and Tina Eckhoff
 Fred and Linda Harthen
 Jason and Kristi Hastings
 Dave and Tessa Nord
 James and Rebecca Michael
 Duane and Carol Rose
 Matthew Solin
 Donna Solin
 Troy and Kerian Stenstrom
 Vern and Deb Tabbut
 Del and Kathi Zimmerman

Ministry Nite:

December 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.

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

DECEMBER 2018

Sunday, December 2nd

9:30am Kathy Gilbert, Steve Lockart and Donna Ohe

Sunday, December 9th

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

Sunday, December 16th

Greeting Only 9:30am John and Kim Erickson Wally and Mary Moe

Sunday, December 23rd

9:30am Steve and Carri Thompson
 Wes and Lori Beske

Sunday, December 30th

9:30am Nic and Sammy Ebert
 Marcus and Carol Bischof

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.

Stewardship Report

General Fund Report

Revenue	\$33,458.00
Expenditures	\$33,404.00

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$275,000.00
Actual Received	\$282,377.65

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food

October	\$9,622.76
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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

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.





224 North Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. POSTAGE
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FERGUS FALLS, MN
PERMIT #285

Time sensitive information
Please deliver by December 1st

**His Name Will Be Called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6**

Merry Christmas!



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

December Birthdays

12/01 Shannon Wilson	12/22 Lori Beske
12/03 Dale Larson	12/23 Jean Giles
12/03 Patty Shol	12/24 Phil Link
12/05 Aaron Link	12/24 Ronnie Becker
12/05 Kason Sytsma	12/24 Iyla Iverson
12/10 Tami Anderson	12/26 Ron Henely
12/15 Annie Murphy	12/28 Amber Underdahl
12/17 Cris Styve	12/28 Courtney Meder
12/17 Rebecca Thanel	12/29 Molly Stoddard
12/17 Riley Peterson	12/29 Jonathan Collins
12/18 Karen Johnson	12/29 Jonathan Dent
12/18 Syler Steinbrenner	12/29 Jacob Hatling
12/19 James Worner	12/30 Myron Lenning
12/19 Perry Werner	12/30 Mary Olson
12/20 Carol Hoivik	12/30 Daniel Anderson
12/21 Amy Donoho	12/30 Camen Andrews
12/21 Jacob Gustafson	
12/21 Jessica Steinbrenner	
12/21 Mara Braaten	



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