

December Worship

DECEMBER 1 9:30a.m. Worship

The Songs of Advent: Benedictus
Pastor Doug Dent

Luke 1:68-79
Celebrating the Lord's Supper

DECEMBER 8 9:30a.m. Worship

The Songs of Advent: Magnificat
Pastor Doug Dent

Luke 1:47-55

DECEMBER 15 9:30a.m. Worship

Kid's Christmas Pageant

DECEMBER 22 9:30a.m. Worship

The Songs of Advent: Gloria
Pastor Doug Dent

Luke 2:1-20

DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve

5:00pm The ABC's of Christmas: A family friendly recreating of
the Christmas story

6:00pm Potluck Supper: All Welcome!

11:00pm Candlelight and Communion: The Unexpected Gift!

DECEMBER 29 9:30a.m. Worship

In the Public Domain
Pastor Doug Dent

Hebrews 2:10-18

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!
2 Corinthians 9:15

Dates to Remember

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

5:30pm Advent Service: Expectation

6:00pm Advent Supper

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

4:00pm Christmas Choir Concert

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

6:30pm Ministry Nite

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

5:30pm Advent Service: Anticipation

6:00pm Advent Supper

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

9:30am Kid's Christmas Pageant

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

5:30pm Advent Service: Revelation

6:00pm Advent Supper

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:30pm D&E Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE: OFFICE CLOSED

5:00pm Worship Service

6:00pm Potluck Supper

11:00pm Candlelight and Communion

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY: OFFICE CLOSED



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5

There's truly nothing better than hearing a favorite Christmas song right around the holidays. One of those classic hymns is 'O Holy Night.' It brings up such great memories and thoughts of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It was truly a glorious night when Jesus was born. The angels rejoiced and the whole world received their King. God granted us eternal salvation when He sent His Son to die for our sins.

Placide Cappeau, a poet and author who showed no interest in religion, wrote 'O Holy Night' in 1843 at the request of the local parish priest. The prolific French composer and music critic, Adolphe Adam composed the music in 1855. John Sullivan Dwight translated the song was translated from French to English. The song premiered in 1857.

Verse 1
is my favorite verse, especially the last two lines:

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.



"A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn." The world sure feels weary these days. Wars and rumors of war abound. Our political situation is nasty and divisive. Fear and fighting, hunger and

homelessness, disease and depression stalk the worlds' peoples. The daily news is bad and getting worse. Hope seems hard to find. The world is weary.

The world was just as weary when Mary and Joseph set off for Bethlehem. Just imagine Mary weary from giving birth and Joseph weary from the journey. Imagine the shepherds weary from tending their flocks all night. Imagine the Wise Men weary from trekking after the star. Imagine the world, weary from the daily grind.

Into that weariness, God sent a Son, and a thrill of hope rippled across the world. In her weariness, Mary felt the thrill of being a mother. In his weariness, Joseph felt pride at having a son. In their weariness, the shepherds sensed something world-changing happening. In their weariness, the Wise Men knelt down and paid homage to the Savior of the world.

The star that guided the Wise Men to Jesus, began to beat back the darkness. The weariness of the world, the darkness of human life, could not overcome this new light. The song of the angels began to infuse joy into the dark, cold, weary world. The new and glorious morn that God promised for humankind appeared in a manger. The Light of the World was born to transform the world's weariness: "to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair" (Isaiah 61:3).

Two thousand years later, the world is still weary, and the nights are long and dark. But God's light still shines brightly, undimmed by time or human foolishness. The promise that "yonder breaks a new and glorious morn" still beckons us on, inviting us to experience anew the wonder and the transformation possible with our God.

May the weariness of your world be lifted this Advent-Christmas season with the promise of the "new and glorious" morn that dawned when Jesus was born.

- Pastor Doug

Wednesdays in Advent

Wednesday Advent Services & Suppers!

Join us on three Wednesdays this Advent for services (5:30 PM) and lite suppers (6:00 PM).

Dec. 4th "Anticipation"

Supper provided by Federated Friends group; offering to benefit Boxes of Blessings

Dec. 11th "Expectation"

Supper provided by Kitchen Ladies; offering to purchase items for church kitchen

Dec. 18th "Revelation"

Supper provided by Federated youth; offering to benefit future mission trip



Christmas Concert:

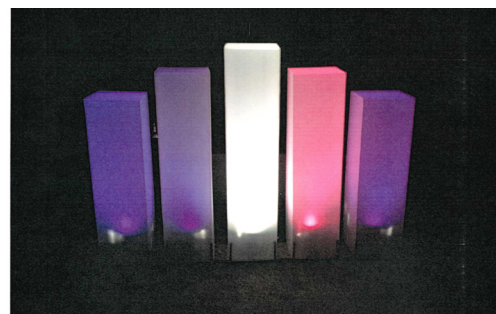
A Night of Wonder: Dec. 8th at 4pm

To celebrate the Christmas season, the Choir, Handbell Choir, and Praise Team come together to present *A Night of Wonder: The Christmas Story in Song and Word*. The concert will consist of songs from each of the groups, readings from scripture, selected writings, and familiar Christmas favorites for the audience to sing. *A Night of Wonder* delivers the story of Jesus' birth, and challenges us to carry into our daily lives the hope and promise of the coming of our Savior. Please join us in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 8th at 4pm for this message of the joy and wonder of Christmas. A time for fellowship will follow with coffee and treats.



NEW! ADVENT LIGHT BOXES

This December we are adding light boxes to our Advent display. Thanks to Skip Zielin and Pete Konrad who created this array of lights. We will light one additional box each week to complement our Advent candles. As the light grows, so does our excitement about the coming of Jesus on Christmas. These light boxes are dedicated in memory of Marna Brown.



Local Mission

Thank you for your continued generosity with the Local Mission Fund! 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. 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!

LOCAL
mission



Christmas Pageant: Our annual Sunday school/Kidz Club Christmas pageant is set for Sunday, December 15th at the 9:30 am worship service. This year we invite the congregation to hear the traditional story of Jesus' birth and see how the Christian faith has spread around the earth. During our fall session of Kidz Club and Sunday school we have been learning how the Holy Spirit worked through the apostles to tell others about Jesus, and we hope to give you a better glimpse of the Christian faith around the world.

Older Youth Meals by Wheels: We are excited to try a new service venture with our middle school and high school students this December! During the first and second week of the month the Federated Church will be delivering Meals by Wheels, and each Friday (December 6th and 13th) our youth will have the opportunity to work alongside church members to assist in bringing meals. Details were mailed to families and permission forms must be provided in order to participate. Inspired by the middle school student participation last summer during VBS, we wanted to try opening it up to our older youth as well!



Older Youth Sunday School: We want to offer a gentle reminder to families of middle school and high school students that we have a brand-new Sunday school class for this age group! The teacher, Hollis Davenport, comes to us with vast Sunday school teaching experience, a lot of wisdom and humor, and a willingness to encourage young people in their walk of faith. Class meets in the narthex or the gym after worship.

Winter Kids Club Session: January is coming up fast and with it a new venture in Kidz Club! During our winter session, we will be learning about the Fruits of the Spirit. It seemed like a natural topic to explore after learning more about the Holy Spirit this fall. Come learn and grow with us! Our session will run from January 8th through February 19th.



Dates to remember:

Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st: NO Wednesday children or youth activities

Jan. 8th: Kidz Club, confirmation, and senior high youth group resumes

Mar. 1st: Confirmation Sunday

Sept. 18-20: Confirmation Retreat Weekend



Church News

Coffee Time

Federated will not meet for coffee hour at Pioneer Care in December. We WILL gather at the Village Co-op on Tuesday, Dec. 17th. Join us in the community room at 1pm.

Adult Bible Study

"The Songs of Advent" is a four-week Bible study that focuses on the first carols: Zechariah's *Benedictus*, Mary's *Magnificat*, the Angels' *Gloria*, and Simeon's *Nunc Dimittis*. Join us as we explore some of these hymns of prayer and praise to the newborn king. Sunday mornings at 10:45am in the church parlor.

In January, the adult class will be doing a comparative religion class. Each week we will focus on a different major world religion and lining it up with Christianity, in an effort to understand others better as well as be better prepared to speak about our own faith. We will explore a time line of when different religions emerged on the world scene, beginning with pre-Judaism and ending with some of the major religions of the East. Karen Anderson-Dent will lead this class.

Ice Fishing Day-Trip

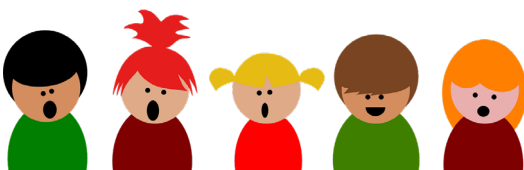
Head out to Otter Tail Lake on Dec. 14th for our annual Ice Fishing Trip! We'll be fishing from 7am-7pm in heated fish-houses provided by Meister Guide Services. Please contact Dennis Bowman (218)205-8147 if you plan to go! Cost is \$25 per person.

Chili Cook-off

After the first cold weeks of winter, we'll need to warm up! Our chili cook-off is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 12th at 10:30am. May the best chili win!

Hymn Sing

Join us at Union Pizza from 4:30pm-6pm on Sunday, Jan. 12th for a Hymn Sing!



Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation will be Sunday, January 19, 2020 after worship in the fellowship hall. At the meeting we will elect new officers and committee members, discuss the budget and review the pastor's contract. Please plan to attend this very important meeting. A light meal will be served.

A Note About Pre-pledging

As we near the new year, please remember the following when pre-pledging. If you prepay your pledge, by law it will appear on the statement in the year it was received. For example, 2020 pledges received in 2019 will appear on 2019 statements.

Mission Brunch raised \$1,760 for Jail, Inc.!

Federated Church's annual mission brunch raised \$1,760 to assist the Jail, Inc. ministry of the Otter Tail County jail. Chaplain Pete Konrad spoke of the hard but hope-filled work being done to help men and women re-start their lives. He told the crowd about his own experience as an inmate, and how knowing you are not alone is vital to an inmate's success. He also shared that upon their release, inmates face two major challenges: finding work and housing, without which inmates are quickly in violation of their parole and likely to be re-incarcerated. Two former inmates who worked with Chaplain Pete and benefited from his ministry also spoke.

If you would like to help the jail chaplains reach out to inmates with the good news of God's love for them, there are several ways you can contribute:

- Blue jeans and work boots (men's and women's) for inmates on work release programs
- Donations for Bibles and other supplies
- Mentoring an inmate
- Assisting inmates in finding work and housing on their release

Finally, a HUGE 'thank you' to the Mission Committee for serving up a delicious brunch and for matching donations up to \$500 for Jail, Inc. If you have any questions, please contact Chaplain Peter Konrad through Federated (739-3227).



Committee News

Stewardship Committee

Our stewardship campaign is winding down. Thank you for the generous, open-hearted support for Federated Church's mission and ministries. We received 118 pledges totaling \$336,307.36 as of November 24th. Our goal is \$385,000, so if you have not yet made your pledge, please respond soon and help us make it to that goal!

Our 20-in-20 goals are really sparking excitement in the congregation, and we've had some tremendous successes already!

Faithful Worship

- **Goal: 20 new worship opportunities**
 - Thanksgiving service to benefit Jail, Inc. (Nov. 24th)
 - Wednesday Advent services (Dec. 4, 11, 18)
 - Hymn Sing at Union Pizza (Jan. 12, 2020, 4:30-6:00 PM)
- **Goal: 20% increase in worship attendance**
 - Sept. avg: 122
 - Oct. avg: 149
 - Nov. avg: (#)
- **Goal: 20% increase in praise band musicians**
 - 3 new musicians and a new keyboard
 - IMO Terry Nelson

Open-Hearted Generosity

- **Goal: 20 new pledges**
 - 10 new pledges!
- **Goal: 20 increased pledges**
 - 42 increased pledges!

Courageous Mission & Service

- **Goal: "200 Club" for community service**
 - Ongoing...
- **Goal: 20 new mission participants**
 - Habitat Build Day – 13 volunteers
 - Mission Brunch – 120 attended
- **Goal: 20 youth involved with mission projects**
 - 1 youth helped with Meals-by-Wheels (Oct.)

- **Goal: 20 people going to House of Hope, Zacapa, Guatemala**
 - 5 signed up to go in February 2020
- **Goal: 20 Boxes of Blessings each quarter**
 - Advent supper fundraiser (Dec. 4th)

Unconditional Hospitality

- **Goal: 20 intentional invites to Federated**
 - Ongoing...
- **Goal: 20 new members**
 - 4 new members
- **Goal: 20 inactive members re-engaging**
 - Contacts being made now...
- **Goal: 20 members at church workdays**
 - No workday schedule yet...
- **Goal: 20 people at fellowship events**
 - 100+ at Rally Day (Sept. 8)
 - 100+ at Pie Social (Oct. 27)
 - Advent suppers... (Dec. 4, 11, 18)

Strategic Faith Development

- **Goal: 20 new kids in Sunday school**
 - 4 new kids this fall
- **Goal: 20 new kids in Kidz Club**
 - 7 new kids this fall
- **Goal: 20 new kids in Vacation Bible School**
 - Scheduled for June 2020...
- **Goal: 20 Jr/Sr highs in youth group**
 - 26 Jr. highs in Confirmation
 - 17 Sr. Highs in youth group (avg. 12 / week)
- **Goal: 20 people in "Breathing with God"**
 - 9 in Oct-Nov. 2019 group
 - Next BWG course scheduled for March-April 2020

This is a tremendous start to our FOCUS on Discipleship campaign!





Business as usual

Service Groups

December SERVICE GROUP Group #4

Charles Ebbighausen
 Vaughn Ebbighausen
 Terry Harthun
 Kathy Hatling
 Mary Ann Nead
 Gary and Jan Nelson
 Steve Lockhart and Donna Ohe
 Wade Ugstad
 James and Amy Underdahl
 Steve and Melinda Wienbar
 Del and Kathy Zimmerman

January SERVICE GROUP Group #5

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

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday, December 1st

9:30am Kathy Hatling, Mary Ann
 Nead and Wade Ugstad

Sunday, December 8th

9:30am Gary and Jan Nelson and
 Steve Lockhart and Donna Ohe

Sunday, December 15th

9:30am Steve and Melinda
 Wienbar and Terry Harthun

Sunday, December 22nd

9:30am James and Amy Underdahl
 Charles Ebbighausen and Vaughn
 Ebbighausen

Sunday, December 29th

9:30am Mary Ann Nead and
 Kathy and Del Zimmerman

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 needs. Please call 218-739-3227 or email church@federatedff.org

Ministry Nite:

December 10 - 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. Church committees do not meet in July.

Stewardship Report

General Fund Report

Revenue	\$26,129.65
Expenditures	\$26,563.42

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$299,936.50
Actual Received	\$299,170.00

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food

October	\$1,900.77
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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.





224 North Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Time sensitive information
Please deliver by December 1st

House of Hope

Our mission team is five strong for February 8-16, 2020: Larry Bethel, Doug Dent, Karoline Gustafson, Linda MacFarlane, and Becca Michael. Once again, we will be working at the House of Hope (Zacapa, Guatemala), playing with the kids, sharing worship and installing cook stoves in mountain villages.

Stoves are prefabricated: concrete blocks for the base, with a cast iron cook-top and aluminum piping to vent the smoke. Most families cook and heat their homes on open fires which is both a fire and a health hazard. Properly ventilated cook stoves can add a decade of life for the women who prepare the meals. Stoves cost \$170 each. Checks may be made payable to Federated Church with "stoves" on the memo line. Or leave change in the buckets by the narthex display. Thank you for continuing to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of our Guatemalan brothers and sisters.

December Birthdays

12/01 Shannon Wilson	12/23 Jean Giles
12/03 Patty Shol	12/23 Marianne Murphy
12/05 Aaron Link	12/24 Phil Link
12/05 Kason Sytsma	12/24 Ronnie Becker
12/09 Jamie Brause	12/24 Iyla Iverson
12/10 Tami Anderson	12/25 Jesus Christ
12/15 Annie Murphy	12/26 Ron Henely
12/17 Cris Styve	12/28 Amber Underdahl
12/17 Rebecca Thanel	12/28 Courtney Meder
12/17 Riley Peterson	12/29 Wendy Leidal
12/18 Karen Johnson	12/29 Molly Stoddard
12/18 Syler Steinbrenner	12/29 Jonathan Collins
12/19 James Worner	12/29 Jonathan Dent
12/19 Perry Werner	12/29 Jacob Hatling
12/20 Carol Hoivik	12/30 Myron Lenning
12/21 Amy Donoho	12/30 Mary Olson
12/21 Jacob Gustafson	12/30 Daniel Anderson
12/21 Jessica Steinbrenner	12/30 Camen Andrews
12/21 Mara Braaten	12/31 Don Davenport



HOUSES OF HOPE
INTERNATIONAL



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

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