

January Worship

JANUARY 6 9:30a.m. Worship	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Epiphany Glory is Good for You <i>Pastor Doug Dent</i>	Isaiah 60 <i>Lord's Supper</i>
JANUARY 13 9:30a.m. Worship	BAPTISM OF THE LORD
God Didn't Say That! <i>Pastor Doug Dent</i>	Isaiah 43
JANUARY 20 9:30a.m. Worship	ANNUAL MEETING
Stead-fast-love <i>Pastor Doug Dent</i>	Psalms 36
JANUARY 27 9:30a.m. Worship	
Disaster Maps <i>Pastor Doug Dent</i>	Luke 4:14-21

Happy
New Year

Dates to Remember

- TUESDAY, JANUARY 1**
OFFICE CLOSED: NEW YEAR'S DAY
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2**
NO KIDS OR YOUTH ACTIVITIES
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 8**
6:30pm Ministry Nite
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9**
KIDS AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES RESUME
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 13**
10:30am Chili Cook-Off
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 15**
Newsletter Deadline
- THURSDAY, JANUARY 17**
6:30pm D&E Meeting
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 20**
10:30am Annual Meeting
- THURSDAY, JANUARY 22**
12:10pm Week of Prayer at Federated
- SATURDAY, JANUARY 26**
6:00pm 80's Mystery Prom/Party
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 27**
9:30am Ordination and Installation of Officers



I heard that someone actually tried to calculate how much it would cost to give the gifts named in the classic Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas." The grand total came to about \$15,000. Some items were affordable, like a partridge in a pear tree for \$34.99. Six turtledoves will run you somewhere around \$50. Six geese-a-laying will cost around \$150.

But the price takes off when you add 11 pipers piping. That is \$1,000 right there. Then there are the 12 drummers drumming. With current union scale for musicians, they will run you another \$1,000. The price really soars when you get 12 lords-a-leaping. We are talking \$3,000 for them. Granted, I don't know where you would find them, but they are very expensive.

Still, the real message of Christmas is not the gifts we give to each other. Rather, it is a reminder of the gift that God has given to each of us. It is the only gift that truly keeps on giving, so I want to point out four things about it.



First, it is surprising. When Christmas rolls around, you often try to figure out if certain people have bought that gift you really wanted. Maybe, you already know what they bought, because they didn't hide it very well. Or maybe you uncovered it by accident-or maybe not. But when the day comes, and you open the present, you pretend you're surprised. Yet all along, you knew what it was. God's gift to us, however, was a complete surprise. It was not expected, and as you examine it more carefully, you realize how great a gift it is.

Second, God's gift came to us in the humblest of wrappings. What would you think if you saw a gift under your Christmas tree that was wrapped in newspaper and tied up with string? At first, you would probably assume a guy wrapped it. But think about God's gift to us. Jesus was not born in a palace of gold;

He was born in a stable. He was clothed with rags. He was laid in a feeding trough. Yet these things do not, in any way, diminish the story of Christ's birth. If anything, they help us realize the great sacrifice God made for us. God's gift to humanity, the ultimate gift of eternal life through God's Son, Jesus Christ, came in the simplest and humblest of wrappings.

Third, we don't deserve this gift. At Christmas, we give gifts to those whom we care about, who have been kind to us over the past year, or who have given us a gift first. We don't give gifts to the person who has been slandering our name or to the angry neighbor who never has a kind word to say. Yet God gave us God's gift when we were God's enemies. God didn't give this gift to us because we deserved it. In fact, it was just the opposite. The Bible tells us, "But God demonstrates God's own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8 NKJV).

Fourth, the gift tells us something about the giver. When you want to give someone a gift, you start thinking about it ahead of time. Hopefully, you try to find what that person wants or needs. When God decided to give us the gift of eternal life, it wasn't something that God just thought of on the fly. Long before there was a town called Bethlehem, a garden called Eden, and a planet called Earth, a decision was made in eternity that God would send forth God's Son, born of a woman, made under the law, to redeem those that are under the law. The Bible says that Jesus was slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). Make no mistake about it: this gift that God has given to us was the most sacrificial thing God possibly could have offered.

So, Christmas isn't about those gifts that you received under the tree this year. All those things will be gone one day. All that will be left after this life is the human soul, and that will live forever. We will put so much stock in what we have, but this is all going to pass away. Life is about what happens beyond the grave. Life is about knowing the God who made you and who gave you the greatest gift you will ever receive.

May you be blessed in 2019!

Pastor Doug



Blessings to you this New Year! As we take down the Christmas trees and pack away our nativity scenes and ornaments, I am reminded that Christmas is not just a day or a season. I want to be intentional and mindful of this feeling and carry it throughout the year. This new year, I want to see with my heart. And I challenge you to do the same. You may be asking...."What does that look like?" It's like the song that the praise band sings during worship. It goes something like this "Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart. I want to see you, I want to see you." It's also the banners you see when you are welcomed through the front doors of our church—Open hearts, open minds

and open arms. It is noticing someone, and it is praying for them. It is giving. It is being thankful all year long- for even the smallest of things. It means looking at circumstances through the lens of His truth, His perspective and His assurance.

Psalm 100:1-3 says "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is GOD. It is He who made us, as we are his; we are his people, the sheep of His pasture."

God, we can't help but respond with excitement to your promises!

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!

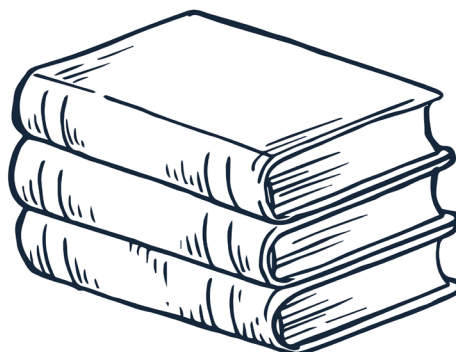
During December, we were able to help 5 families or individuals from the local mission fund. We gave a total of \$400.00 for food, rent and utilities.



Doctoral Studies

I'm in the final stages of this doctoral journey. I submitted a draft of my conclusions chapter in early December. I will be in St. Paul, MN from January 6-11, 2019 for a series of meetings as my professors and peers review my thesis. Then I will make revisions, submit the final thesis on March 1st, and sit for an oral examination in early April. If all goes according to plan, graduation will be May 19, 2019. I am profoundly grateful for Federated's support, prayers, and understanding as I work through the end of this process. This was a wonderful learning experience and a real stretch for me. But the goal is in sight. Keep me in your prayers a little longer...

-Pastor Doug





Christian Education and Youth:

It's hard to believe Christmas and New Year's is behind us! We are looking at the "second half" of our program year already! Our first winter Kids Club session begins on January 9th and will continue through February 27th, with the week of February 20th off due to the Guatemala mission trip. We will continue with our theme of "The Year of Jesus" and look at specific events in Jesus' life and ministry. We are always adding new kids to our group, so feel free to jump in at any time! If you have questions, contact Karen at kmad@prtcl.com

Guatemala Mission Team:

Our mission trip is coming up quickly! With most of our fundraising behind us and warm weather ahead, we need to take time to talk about expectations, concerns, and hopes for our group. We plan to hold three Sunday morning team meetings before our trip in February. Please plan to attend on **January 6th, January 27th, and February 10th** at 10:45am in the parlor. Doug and Karen will provide information and guidance as we gear up for service and fun!

Youth Group News:

Senior high youth group continues to go strong; meeting each week to discuss current events in light of our faith, to encourage one another, and to find ways to serve others in our community. We will start back up on January 9th. We look forward to many great talks and games during the winter and spring. Our specific activity calendar will be passed out and sent in early January. We have so many youth in sports and music activities, and they LOVE knowing that their church family is cheering them on! We will do

our best to get game and concert info out to congregation members in Monday memos—if you know of upcoming events in the lives of our youth, please let the church office know so that we can keep everyone informed!

Confirmation/Jr High News:

Our 2019 confirmation students are coming close to the "end" of this part of their faith journey. With Confirmation Sunday, March 3rd, we will soon have several new members in our faith family. Our 7th and 8th grade confirmation students have the opportunity, beginning on March 6th, to continue coming on Wednesdays after school for Jr High youth group. This is a great time to meet together for fun and fellowship after several months of classes. It is always a joy to connect during this time and get a taste of youth group as spring approaches!

See page 5 for Christian Education Events



Christmas Pageant 2018



Christian Education Upcoming Events:

January 9th—Kids Club, Confirmation, and youth activities resume

January 13th at 10:30am— We will have a special Sunday school session to learn about baptism on Baptism of the Lord Sunday!

February 16th-23rd—Guatemala Mission trip
February 20th—No Kids Club, Confirmation, or Youth Group

March 3rd—Confirmation Sunday

March 6th at 3:45pm—Jr High youth group begins

April 18th—Passover Seder service with Federated Church family

April 28th at 10:30am—Graduating Senior Brunch during fellowship

May 15th—Camp scholarship deadline

June 15th—Graduating senior scholarship deadline

June 24th-28th--Vacation Bible School with Clearwater Forest Camp Counselors!

October 4th-6th—Confirmation Retreat at Clearwater Forest!



Church News

Annual Reports

Church Committees, if you did not submit your annual report in December, please do so the first week in January. Reports can be emailed to or dropped off at the church office.

Wednesday Activities

Remember, Kids and Youth activities resume on January 9th, 2019 at our regular times!

Sunday Morning Bible study

There will be no Sunday morning Bible study in January-February 2019. Pastor Doug is in a scramble to finish his dissertation by March 1st. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Committee Meetings

Ministry Nite is January, 8th and D&E meets January 17th.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting for Federated Church is Sunday, January 20th following worship. Everyone is invited to this meeting at 10:30am for information about church operations throughout 2018

Week of Prayer

Churches in the Fergus community are gathering for prayer January 21st-25th at 12:10pm. Federated is hosting a short service of prayer January 22nd. Abundant Life hosts the 21st, Grace UMC hosts the 23rd, Calvary Free Lutheran hosts the 24th and Bethel Church hosts the 25th. A lunch follows the services. Perfect for a lunch break from work!

Fellowship Events

Federated is hosting two events in January: Our Chili Cook-Off and an 80's Mystery Prom/Party. See page 6 under committee news for more details.

Ordination and Installation of Officers in Federated Church is Sunday, January 27th at 9:30am.

Meals By Wheels

If you would like to volunteer with Federated's Meals by Wheels team, please contact the church office. We are needing more people to drive meals to those in need. This outreach provides nutritious meals to older adults and people with disabilities who are unable to prepare the food for themselves or travel to a site where a meal is provided.





Committee News

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank all of you who sent in your pledge cards. It really helps the Budget Committee in making plans for 2019.

We hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and look forward to a Blessed, Happy, and Healthy New Year.

Fellowship Committee

Federated has 3 fun upcoming events!

1. Chili Cook-Off

Our annual Chili Competition is Sunday, January 13th at 10:30am. If you would like your Chili to compete, sign up sheets can be found on the bulletin boards around the church. Everyone will get a chance to sample the chilies. Winner receives a prize!

2. 80's Mystery Prom Date Murder

We are excited to host another Mystery "Dinner." On Saturday, January 26th from 6-9pm, you are invited to bring your Big hair,

Boom Boxes, Leg warmers and thinking caps. We will enjoy appetizers and beverages and solve a (fictional) Murder Mystery! Cost is \$15 a person. Those attending will pay the night of the event. Please RSVP with the church office. Don't forget to invite a friend!

3. Birthday Cake Sunday

On Sunday, February 10th, we are celebrating everyone's Birthday! During fellowship hour, we will have a cake for each month of the year. You will enjoy cake with other's born in your birthday month. Want to bring a cake? Sign up sheets will be available around the church.



Photos from 2018



Habitat Build (Federated Crew)



Confirmation 2018





Business as usual

Service Groups

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 Kathy Zimmerman

February SERVICE GROUP Group #7

Mark and Tami Anderson
 Jim and Robin Andrews
 Erik Anthonisen and Marna Brown
 Dennis and Bonnie Bergerud
 Norma Loomer
 Chuck and Linda MacFarlane
 John and Eunice MacFarlane
 Jay and Cindy McDougall
 Roger and Jane Nelson
 Jo Schmidt

Ministry Nite: January 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.

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

JANUARY 2019

Sunday, January 6th

9:30am Fred and Linda Harthen
 Del and Kathy Zimmerman

Sunday, January 13th

9:30am **Greeting Only** Matthew Solin
 and Donna Solin and Paul and Tina Eckhoff

Sunday, January 20th

9:30am **Greeting Only** Dave and
 Tessa Nord and Duane and
 Carol Rose

Sunday, January 27th

9:30am James and Rebecca Michael
 Jason and Kristi Hastings



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	N/A
Expenditures	N/A
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	N/A
Actual Received	N/A

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food	
November	\$3,360.19

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

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

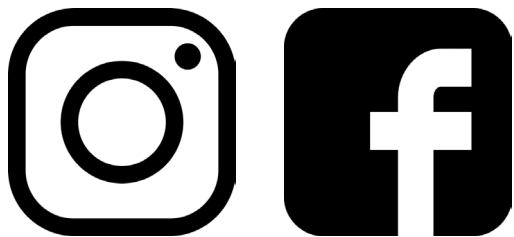
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Time sensitive information
Please deliver by JANUARY 2nd

Congratulations to

Michelle Loomer on the birth of her grandson,
Jackson Michael, born Dec 14th.

Pete and Carol Konrad on the birth of their
grandson, Arthur, born Dec 18th.





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

January Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 01/01 | Wayne Link | 01/22 | Mindy Christianson |
| 01/01 | Cheryl Anderton | 01/23 | Molly McDougall |
| 01/03 | Megan Grover | 01/25 | Vivian Whipple |
| 01/04 | Arlene Worner | 01/25 | Pam Phillips |
| 01/06 | Walter Gondrez | 01/25 | Dale Anderson |
| 01/08 | Bill Borowski | 01/26 | Shelby Tabbut |
| 01/08 | Janie Lee | 01/27 | Robert Dent |
| 01/09 | Jude Weinrich | 01/30 | Linda Wolfe |
| 01/09 | Ella Sundheim | 01/31 | Gladys Carlson |
| 01/10 | Roxane Nereson | 01/31 | John Collins |
| 01/10 | Cheryl Harrington | 01/31 | Beth Schlepp |
| 01/10 | Tori Bult | 01/31 | William Haas |
| 01/14 | Chloe Beske | | |
| 01/15 | Dana Schlepp | | |
| 01/16 | Mark Rodning | | |
| 01/16 | Bob Wolfe | | |
| 01/20 | Karoline Gustafson | | |
| 01/21 | Judy Friedrich | | |



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

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