

January Worship

JANUARY 5 9:30a.m. Worship Epiphany
 The Fault in Our Stars Matthew 2:1-12
 Pastor Doug Dent Celebrating the Lord's Supper

JANUARY 12 9:30a.m. Worship BAPTISM OF THE LORD
 What's Your Why? Isaiah 42
 Pastor Doug Dent

JANUARY 19 9:30a.m. Worship ANNUAL MEETING
 Jesus and Airbnb John 1:29-42
 Pastor Doug Dent

JANUARY 26 9:30a.m. Worship
 Healing Divisions Over Dinner 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
 Pastor Doug Dent

FEBRUARY 2 9:30a.m. Worship
 God's Protest Movement 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
 Pastor Doug Dent

*Happy
New Year* ★★

Dates to Remember

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1
 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
 NEW YEAR'S DAY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8
 Kidz Club, Confirmation and Youth
 Group start again

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12
 10:30am Chili Cook-Off
 4:30pm Hymn Sing at Union Pizza

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14
 6:30pm Ministry Nite

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15
 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16
 6:30pm D&E Meeting

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
 10:30am Annual Meeting

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21
 10:00am Coffee At Pioneer Care

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28
 1:00pm Coffee at Village Co-op

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
 6:30pm Ministry Nite



"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it?"
Isaiah 43:18, 19a

One disadvantage to writing an old-fashioned paper newsletter is that it throws off a person's inner clock. It means trying to convey certain feelings on paper before you (the writer) have really gotten ready for them in real life. For example: I write about Thanksgiving well before Halloween, before the autumn turns its annual corner from bright yellows and oranges to somber grays and browns. Then I write about the extravagant joy of Christmas before I've even had a chance to truly sit with my Thanksgiving thoughts. Even today, as I write — having pushed the newsletter deadline to its allowable limit, and still days before Christmas — I've got to think and talk about a world I haven't seen yet: the New Year, 2020. "Life comes at you fast," the Nationwide Insurance ads claim. And as we look back over the days we've been given, or even just the 365 days of the year now ending, we would have to agree. Something new is always upon us. "Do you not perceive it?"

One problem with welcoming a new year is that it comes at a time when nothing feels new. The Christmas decorations look ragged and maudlin in January's merciless light. Taking them down is a tiresome task. And not to knock a much-loved carol, but if Christmas takes place "in the deep midwinter" then by New Year's Day, winter's iciest, coldest two and a half months are still ahead of us, with precious few holidays to break up the tedium. According to Dent Family legend, it always snows on

my mid-February birthday. You'll know I'm another year older on the day you see a snowplow stuck in a snowdrift.

Yet, even amid all the sameness of things, we can sometimes feel the moments passing. Their constant rumble is like a subway train beneath the ground. If we stop to listen to the rhythm of our hours and days, if we pay attention to the sometimes-monotonous march of seconds and minutes, we'll catch echoes of their footfalls drawing nearer, stomping past us, receding into the distance. When did that hair go gray on the head of the one you love? When did that wrinkle form on the familiar brow? Time passes, bestowing gifts richly with one hand and stealing them with the other.

In every season of life, God is doing something new, if we will open our hearts and spirits to its unfolding. Whatever time it is in your life, whatever your age or occupation, God's voice still calls out to you again. "Follow me." Or, as the God of Isaiah declares, "I am about to do a new thing... Do you not perceive it?" As a congregation we need always be on the lookout for the "new things" that we sense the Spirit is doing in our midst and the directions they might lead us. In this season of New Years' resolutions, I encourage you to ask: What new thing am I being called to? What new thing is our church being called to? It is my joy and privilege to be making new discoveries with you.

Blessings for the 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 and December, we were able to help 8 families or individuals from the local mission fund. We gave \$600.00 for utilities, rent and housing.





Meet New Members

Titus Christianson

Hi! I'm Titus. I enjoy time with my family and going for walks with our dog, Maddy. I grew up in Fergus Falls, graduating in 2000. I later went on to college and graduated from SCSU. I spent roughly 5 years living and working in the Twin Cities. Now, we (my wife Mindy and sons Leif and Finn) have lived in Fergus Falls for the last 9 years. I work for LB Homes primarily with Hospice but also assist some long term care residents. I am an active member of the Noon Kiwanis group. I am also one of the High School Tennis Coaches. I enjoy being a member of "Feds" softball team and look forward to building more memories with church members.

Brenda Iacono

Hi! My name is Brenda. I like to dance, sing and hangout with Matt Solin, my little princess (my daughter), my friends and my roommate. I love to learn about God, all of his glory and the teaching of our Lord and Savior. I'm an outgoing person that loves to meet new people and try new things. I like to bowl and play for fun. I love to listen to music! My favorite music is Christian music. My church is Federated because your hearts are warm and friendly and because you know the true meaning of God.



Pictured: Titus Christianson, Glenn Bressler, Mary Bressler and Brenda Iacono.



Photos: December 2019



Readers During Advent



Praise Team at the Christmas Concert





Kidz Club

Kidz Club wrapped up its study of the Holy Spirit and the growth of Christ's early church. After doing a wonderful job presenting the "Christmas Around the World" pageant during worship, they celebrated with a Christmas party decorating cookies, making cards for our at-home members, and watching a movie. Our next session will explore the Fruits of the Spirit, the ways in which the Holy Spirit works within each of us to lead us to be more Christ-like. Be sure to join us after school each Wednesday, beginning on January 8th!

Sunday School

Sunday School elementary and middle school students did a great job presenting the Christmas pageant during worship on December 15th! The elementary students will be continuing to learn about the apostles' adventures in the New Testament. Middle school and High School students have class each week with Hollis Davenport in the gym and the narthex. Every class has a unique and interesting topic to explore!

Our littlest members, the Pre-K class, shared songs during pageant Sunday! They did such a wonderful job! We hope to hear from them again in worship this year! The Pre-K and parent class continues to meet on the first Sunday of each month in the youth room with Steve and Carri Thompson. All are welcome!

Confirmation

Our confirmation youth continue to meet each Wednesday after school (7th and 8th grade) and early evening (9th grade) for learning and fellowship. Each class is unique and energetic with lots of good faith questions. We will continue to meet through part of February, with Confirmation Sunday for 9th graders on March 1st during 9:30 am worship.

Youth Group

This past month we tried something new with our middle school and high school youth: They helped our Meals by Wheels' volunteers on the Friday delivery days! We picked them up at school and connected them with our volunteers. After they finished, we went to eat before heading back to school. It was a great experience for everyone, the youth, the volunteers, and the recipients! The youth enjoyed getting the chance to leave school in order to do service as well!



Christmas Pageant 2019
Pictures continue on the bottom of page 5



Church News

Coffee Time

Federated will meet for coffee at Pioneer Care on Tuesday, January 21st. We will gather in the Board Room at 10am. On Tuesday, January 28th, we will meet for coffee at the Village Co-op at 1pm in the Community Room. We would love to have you join us! All are welcome!

Adult Bible Study

During January and February we will be offering an adult Sunday School class that looks at religions around the world and how they are similar and different from Christianity. We will explore the central ideas of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism along with other less-familiar faith traditions through the lens of Christianity. Although I have taught this class to home school high school students, I have never taught adults! It will be a fun challenge that I am looking forward to trying out! Please join us on Sunday mornings in the parlor after worship!

-Karen Anderson, Dent

Chili Cook-off

After these cold weeks of winter, we need to warm up! Our chili cook-off is scheduled for Sunday, January 12th at 10:30am. If you would like to compete, make sure to sign up on the sheets passed around during church or contact the church office (218)739-3227. May the best chili win!

Hymn Sing

Join us at Union Pizza from 4:30pm-6pm on Sunday, January 12th for a Hymn Sing! Bring your own Christmas cookies to share! Sorry, no food will be served. However, beverages will be available for purchase.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation will be Sunday, January 19th, 2020 at 10:30am 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 is received. For example, 2020 pledges received in 2019 will appear on 2019 statements.

Donating and Retirement Accounts

As a reminder, the process of donating directly from retirement accounts to Federated church has a lot of tax advantages and is a convenient way of contributing to Federated Church. However, some of the contributions do not have a name on them. In fact, I currently have a check in the amount of \$200 from RBC investments and I have no idea who the contribution is from. When requesting a contribution from an investment firm, please remind them to put your name on it. -Mark Rodning





Committee News

Stewardship Committee Update

Our stewardship campaign ended really well! Thank you for the generous, open-hearted support for Federated Church's mission and ministries. We received 135 pledges totaling \$371,297.36 (about \$10,800 over last year). We did not reach our goal of \$385,000, but we came close. It's not too late to make a pledge!

Our 20-in-20 goals are really sparking excitement in the congregation, and we've had some tremendous successes already. Thank you for your support!

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: 139
- **Goal: 20% increase in praise band musicians**
 - 3 new musicians and a new keyboard
 - IMO Terry Nelson

Open-Hearted Generosity

- **Goal: 20 new pledges**
 - 17 new pledges!
- **Goal: 20 increased pledges**
 - 47 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.)
 - 5 youth packed care packages for 1st year college student (Oct.)

- 18 youth packed boxes of Blessings for the cancer center
- 11 youth helped with Meals- by-Wheels (Dec.)

- **Goal: 20 people going to 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 (Oct.)
 - 4 new members (Nov.)
- **Goal: 20 inactive members re-engaging**
 - 4 in Nov-Dec!
 - More contacts being made...
- **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)
 - 120 at Mission Brunch (Nov. 17th)
 - 82 at Advent Supper (Dec. 4)
 - 87 at Advent Supper (Dec. 11)
 - 70 at Advent Supper (Dec. 18th)
 - 80 at Christmas Eve Potluck

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



Business as usual

Service Groups

January SERVICE GROUP
Group #5

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

February SERVICE GROUP
Group #6

We are currently working on an updated list. Group #6 may be subject to change. Thank you for understanding.

Ministry Nite:

January 14 - 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.

Greeters and Coffee Hosts

JANUARY 2020

Sunday, January 5th
9:30am Carol Bischof and
Brad and Barb Meder

Sunday, January 12th
Chili Cook-off
9:30am Greeting Only
Marcus and Rebekah Meder
Wes and Lori Beske

Sunday, January 19th
Annual Meeting
9:30am Greeting Only
Kathy Gilbert and Nic and
Sammy Ebert

Sunday, January 29th
9:30am John and Kim Erickson
and Steve and Carri Thompson

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

Stewardship Report

General Fund Report

Revenue	\$31,339.00
Expenditures	\$33,771.00

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$329,086.00
Actual Received	\$327,024.00

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food

November	\$4,781.67
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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.



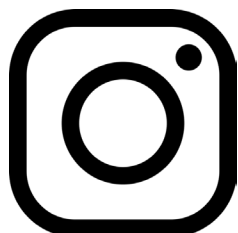


224 North Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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Time sensitive information
Please deliver by January 1st



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

January Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------|-------|------------------|
| 01/01 | Wayne Link | 01/23 | Molly McDougall |
| 01/01 | Cheryl Anderton | 01/25 | Vivian Whipple |
| 01/03 | Megan Grover | 01/25 | Pam Phillips |
| 01/04 | Arlene Worner | 01/25 | Dale Anderson |
| 01/05 | Sean Buchfink | 01/26 | Shelby Tabbut |
| 01/06 | Walter Gondrez | 01/27 | Robert Dent |
| 01/08 | Bill Borowski | 01/28 | Kerian Stenstrom |
| 01/08 | Janie Lee | 01/30 | Linda Wolfe |
| 01/09 | Jude Weinrich | 01/31 | Gladys Carlson |
| 01/09 | Ella Sundheim | 01/31 | John Collins |
| 01/10 | Roxane Nereson | 01/31 | Beth Schlepp |
| 01/10 | Cheryl Harrington | 01/31 | William Haas |
| 01/10 | Tori Bult | | |
| 01/14 | Chloe Beske | | |
| 01/15 | Dana Schlepp | | |
| 01/16 | Mark Rodning | | |
| 01/16 | Bob Wolfe | | |
| 01/20 | Karoline Gustafson | | |
| 01/21 | Judy Friedrich | | |
| 01/22 | Mindy Christianson | | |



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

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