



# Union Avenue News

THE SUMMER EDITION

JUNE/JULY 2025

## June/July Worship

June 1 9:30am  
"Keep the Change" Revelation 22:12-21  
Pastor Doug Dent

*A Celebration of The Lord's Supper*

June 8 9:30am  
"God's Antidote to Gloom and Doom" Romans 8:14-17  
Pastor Doug Dent

June 15 9:30am Trinity Sunday  
"Humility and the Trinity" John 16:12-15  
Pastor Doug Dent

June 22 9:30am  
"It's Not All About You" 1 Kings 19:1-15  
Pastor Doug Dent

June 29 9:30am  
"Should I Stay or Should I Go?" 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14  
Pastor Doug Dent

July 6 9:30am  
TBD  
*A Celebration of The Lord's Supper*

July 13 9:30am  
"The Bystander Effect" Luke 10:25-37  
Pastor Doug Dent

July 20 9:30am  
"Jesus vs Galactus" Colossians 1:15-25  
Pastor Doug Dent

July 27 9:30am  
"The Happiest Place on Earth" Luke 11:1-13  
Pastor Doug Dent

## Dates to Remember

Sunday, June 1  
Communion  
Name Tag Sunday

Sunday, June 8  
Muffins for Mission

Monday, June 9-Friday, June 13  
Brianna on Vacation

Tuesday, June 10  
6:30pm Ministry Nite

Sunday, June 15  
Happy Father's Day

Monday, June 23-Friday, June 27  
9am-noon Vacation Bible School

Thursday, July 3- Monday, July 7  
Pastor Doug on Vacation

Friday, July 4  
Church office Closed

Sunday, July 6  
Communion  
Name Tag Sunday

Tuesday, June 15  
Newsletter Deadline

Monday, July 28-Friday, August 1  
Pastor Doug on Vacation



I am a HUGE fan of pastor and theologian, N. T. Wright. He is the author of over seventy books on theology and Christian life and the relationship between them. Wright advocates a biblical re-evaluation of theological matters such as justification, women's ordination, and popular Christian views about life after death. His books are thoughtful, biblically based, and relevant to life today. I recommend him to you, but beware: Wright's arguments will challenge your assumptions and drive you to the dictionary to reveal the meaning of the big words he uses!

Wright, unpacking The Trinity for us, writes this:

"In the church's year, Trinity Sunday is the day when we stand back from the extraordinary sequence of events that we've been celebrating for the previous five months — Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost — and when we rub the sleep from our eyes and discover what the word 'god' might truly mean. These events function as a sequence of well-aimed hammer-blows which knock at the clay jars of the gods we want, the gods who reinforce our own pride or prejudice, until they fall away and reveal instead a very different god, a dangerous god, a subversive god, a god who comes to us like a blind beggar with wounds in his hands, a god who comes to us in wind and fire, in bread and wine, in flesh and blood: a god who says to us, 'You did not choose me; I chose you.'

The doctrine of the Trinity, properly understood, is as much a way of saying 'we don't know' as of saying 'we do know.' To say that the true God is Three and One is to recognize that if there is a

God then of course we shouldn't expect him to fit neatly into our little categories. If he did, he wouldn't be God at all, merely a god, a god we might perhaps have wanted. The Trinity is not something that the clever theologian comes up with as a result of hours spent in the theological laboratory, after which he or she can return to announce that they've got God worked out now, the analysis is complete, and here is God neatly laid out on a slab. The only time they laid God out on a slab he rose again three days afterwards.

On the contrary: the doctrine of the Trinity is, if you like, a signpost pointing ahead into the dark, saying: 'Trust me; follow me; my love will keep you safe.' Or, perhaps better, the doctrine of the Trinity is a signpost pointing into a light which gets brighter and brighter until we are dazzled and blinded, but which says: 'Come, and I will make you children of light.' The doctrine of the Trinity affirms the rightness, the propriety, of speaking intelligently that the true God must always transcend our grasp of him, even our most intelligent grasp of him."

If you have difficulty comprehending The Trinity, that's okay. You are not meant to understand God fully. Just know that God knows you intimately and calls you passionately to be in relationship.

May the Blessing of Creator, Christ, and the Holy Comforter be with you always!

Pastor Doug



# Church News...

## Church Office

The church office hours in June and July are from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm on Fridays. The church office will be closed on Friday, July 4.

## Coffee Hour

Women's - Tuesdays at 10am

Men's - Fridays at 10am

## Bible Studies

Women's - Tuesdays at 11:15am

Revelation - Sundays at 10:30am

## Brianna's Vacation

Brianna will be on vacation Monday, June 8-Friday, June 13. The office will be covered for phones Monday-Thursday from 10am-2pm and Friday from 9am-noon.

## Pastor Doug's Vacation

Pastor Doug will be on vacation July 3, 6 and 7 and July 28-August 1.

## Federated Food Shelf Day

Federated Food Shelf Day is the Friday after the 4th Sunday of every month from 1-4pm. They will meet next on Friday, June 27. If you have questions about the dates, contact Brianna in the church office.

## SummerFest

The Fergus Falls SummerFest is June 13 and 14. On Friday, June 13, events take place at the RTC from noon-9pm. On Saturday, June 14, events occur from 9am-6pm at the RTC. The parade is at 6pm on Saturday.

## 2025 Synod School

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies is hosting Synod School from July 20-25, 2025 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA. This is a great event for anyone seeking a fun and faith-based learning experience during the summer. There are activities for children, teens, and families. The workshop catalogue and registration materials are available in the church office or [www.lakesandprairies.org](http://www.lakesandprairies.org).

## D&E & Ministry Nite

D&E and committees will not meet in July. Ministry Nite will meet again on Tuesday, August 12. D&E will meet again on Thursday, August 21.

## Christian Ed Important Dates

First Day of Kidz Club and Sr. High Youth Group  
Wednesday, September 10

First Day of 7/8th Grade Confirmation  
Wednesday, September 17

First Day of Sunday School  
Sunday, September 21

Fall Confirmation Retreat  
Friday-Sunday, September 19-21

Blessings to everyone and have a wonderful summer! Take time for yourself and God!





*"The flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come; the cooing of doves is heard in our land."* –  
**Song of Solomon 2:12**

After some serious weather-related ups and downs we are ready for our beautiful Minnesota summer! Most of us agree that summer is the best season to experience God's glory here, and so I pray that you all dig deep into all that it offered in our gorgeous area. I am sure you are all gearing up to revel in the warm weather. Make sure you save sometime for fishing, swimming, gardening, hiking, spending time with family and friends, and any other activity that celebrates and praises our great God who created all of this for us to enjoy! If you are looking for something new, we have some great opportunities here at Federated as we move into the summer months.

## Vacation Bible School

We are gearing up for VBS 2025, set for June 23-27 from 9am-12pm. Our theme this year is "God's Royal Family. We will be learning about the qualities and challenges of different kings (and a queen!) In the Bible, discover who the Ultimate King is, and understand that as believers in Jesus, we are ALL a part of God's royal family. We have songs, crafts, games, and snacks planned to make this a special week for everyone! VBS is available for children in grades K-6, and we also offer leadership opportunities for students in grades 7-12. Refistration for VBS and the student application assistant positions are available in the church office and the narthex, as well as online. Come join us during this fun-filled week!

## Middle School/High School Youth

During the summer months we meet in our individual groups two to three times each month, doing activities such as bowling, game night, a lake day at Pebble (or someone's lake cabin), going out for ice cream, hiking, kayaking, working at the Community Garden, etc. We tend to make plans and get the word out in advance by text group. The middle school group is hoping for a lock-in

sometime in August, and the senior high youth are still developing some specific ideas. Parents and youth will be getting information directly.

## Women's Bible Study

Our women's Bible study meets at 11:15am on Tuesdays in the parlor, and plans to meet through June. We are slowly working our way through the Gospel of Luke, which tells the story of the life of Jesus through the relationships He had and the lives that He impacted. We enjoy studying God's word and seek ways to apply it to our everyday lives. We also deeply appreciate the fellowship and support we give and receive.

## Revelation Bible Study

Our Sunday morning Revelation Bible study plans to continue meeting through the month of June. We are working our way through this challenging and convicting book written by the Apostle John. It is good to study Revelation with a community of believers who are committed to finding how it can apply to our lives here and now as well as how it can inform the future.

## Camp scholarships

If you are interested in applying for a camp scholarship, the applications are in a folder outside of the main church office. Please fill out the form for this partial scholarship and return it to the church office by June 20. We will process the applications once the deadline has passed and promptly disburse the scholarship funds directly to the camp.

## College/Trade scholarships

If you are applying for the college/trade scholarship, please send your letter to the church office as soon as possible. We review the application letters and send out the scholarship funds directly to the financial office at the individual college or university by mid-August. If you have any questions, please contact Karen at [kmad@prtcl.com](mailto:kmad@prtcl.com).

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*Christian Education and Youth*





## Are you drinking enough water each day?

Dehydration occurs when the body uses or loses more fluid than it takes in. Then the body doesn't have enough water and other fluids to do its usual work. Not replacing lost fluids leads to dehydration.

Anyone can become dehydrated. But the condition is more serious for infants, children, and older adults.

The most common cause of dehydration in young children is diarrhea and vomiting. Older adults have a lower volume of water in their bodies to begin with. And older adults might have conditions or take medications such as water pills, that increase the risk of dehydration. Plus - they often don't feel the sense of being thirsty until they are in danger.

Dehydration also can occur in anyone who doesn't drink enough water during hot weather. It's more likely in people who are active in the heat.

Drinking more fluids usually fixes mild to moderate dehydration, but severe dehydration needs medical treatment right away. **Get to a Walk In Clinic or the Emergency Room ASAP.** The symptoms of dehydration can differ by age.

### Infant or young child

- Urinating less than usual or no wet diaper.
- Dry mouth.
- No tears when crying.
- Rapid heart rate.
- Sunken eyes, cheeks or soft spot on top of the head.
- Lacking energy or being cranky.
- Skin that doesn't flatten back right away after being pinched.

### Adult

- Extreme thirst.
- Urinating less.
- Dark colored urine.
- Tiredness.
- Dizziness.
- Being confused.
- Skin that doesn't flatten back right away after being pinched.
- Sunken eyes or cheeks.

From the Mayo Clinic website

**FREE-CYCLING IS COMING TO FEDERATED CHURCH!** Otherwise know as the Give and Take Table or the Blessings Table.

We will soon have a place to give away items we no longer need or never used to someone who can use them. Have you ever received a gift that you didn't use, or never liked? Do you have a great book that others would like? Do you have gently used items that you don't need or use anymore?

Some examples would be: picture frames, books, a special bowl or plate, wall decor, decorative item, nice household items, outgrown toys, or tools.

No clothing or shoes please!

Everyone benefits - you will feel better knowing someone will use it and it gets items out of your home. It helps you let go of things, it increases the space in your home, and someone else will benefit!

A table for these items will be set up in the corner of the Fellowship Hall. A volunteer or two will be needed to manage the table to keep it neat looking, and after something has been there two weeks, to donate it to the Blessing Closet.

**Let's Get This Started!**





# Committee News

## Fellowship Committee

### Softball

Join us on Tuesday nights and cheer on both Federated teams in softball. Please check your weekly memos for the softball schedule and you can also find them on the church calendar and weekly memos. GO FEDS! Playoffs start Tuesday, July 29.

## Mission Committee

### Unused benefits can support Local Mission Fund

Looking for a new way to support Federated Church's Local Mission Fund? This suggestion comes from a member of our Mission team.

Many congregation members who have Medicare Advantage insurance receive what are commonly called OTC (over the counter) benefits. Customers of Blue Cross and Blue Shield, for example, receive up to \$50 a quarter (or \$200 a year) to spend on everyday drugstore items such as toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, lotion, shampoo and body wash.

If you (or you and your spouse) have trouble spending the full \$50 every three months, please consider ordering items that could be donated to the church and shared with clients who request help from the Local Mission Fund. Some of the most welcome items, according to Pastor Doug, are toothpaste and brushes, lotion, soap, laundry soap, shampoo and hair care items.

This is a benefit you're paying for through your Medicare Advantage program, so don't let it go to waste!

For anyone not familiar with the Local Mission Fund, this fund helps members of the community who need assistance with rent, utilities, food or other household expenses (not gas or phone bills). Clients provide a copy of their bill, and checks are made payable to the vendor or landlord. Clients may receive \$100 up to three times in a 12-month period.

While the fund is not intended to provide clients with personal care items, they are sometimes offered to clients when they are available. Any donations would be appreciated!

## Muffins for Mission

Support a Federated youth with 'Muffins for Siri'. During the June 8 Muffins for Mission Sunday, we all will have the chance to support one of our Federated youth members as she carries a message of hope and help to the Dominican Republic.

Siri Anthonisen-Brown will be in a study abroad program with the Council on Intercultural Education Exchange, and she'll be in the Dominican Republic from July 10-30. While there, her focus will be on helping vulnerable youth in Santiago.

The program costs \$4,950 plus airfare, and Siri is working to earn her remaining cost of \$650 and airfare. To support Siri, the Mission Committee has made her the beneficiary of its Muffins for Mission event during the coffee hour on June 8. The freewill offering that day will go to support Siri on her adventure.

You may know Siri from her work with children in the Federated nursery and at Kids Club and Vacation Bible School. As she wrote to the committee, "My family has appreciated the work that Federated Church has done in the local community and beyond. The desire to help others is in me as well, and will be carried with me throughout this journey."

If you'd like to support Siri but can't be there for the June 8 service, you're welcome to leave a check in the office or in the offering plate on any Sunday; make your check out to Federated Church with "Muffins for Siri" in the memo line.



# Greeters

**Sunday, June 1**

*Worship @ 9:30am w/ Communion*  
Glenn & Mary Bressler

**Sunday, 8**

*Worship @ 9:30am - Muffins for Siri*  
Wayne & Patti Link

**Sunday, June 15**

*Worship @ 9:30am - Happy Father's Day*  
TBD

**Sunday, June 22**

*Worship @ 9:30am*  
Jerry & Jodie Nuss

**Sunday, June 29**

*Worship @ 9:30am*  
TBD

**REMINDER:** Greeters are responsible for handing out the bulletins, taking worship attendance, and passing the offering plate. The worship attendance sheet can be dropped off in the offering plate. If you are ever interested in greeting a certain Sunday, please let Brianna know in the church office. Check your email for reminders on greeter duties.

**Sunday, July 6**

*Worship @ 9:30am w/ Communion*  
Matt & Donna Solin

**Sunday, July 13**

*Worship @ 9:30am*  
Carolyn Anderson & Jona Brown

**Sunday, July 20**

*Worship @ 9:30am*  
TBD

**Sunday, July 27**

*Worship @ 9:30am*  
TBD

## Ministry Nite: June 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. Reminder: **Committees do not meet in July.**

## Stewardship Report

General Fund Report	
Revenue	\$171,227
Expenditures	\$139,678
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$132,168
Actual Received	\$159,615

## Grocery Receipts

Service Food	
May	\$2,296.00

## 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.





# Federated CHURCH

224 North Union Avenue  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time sensitive information  
Please deliver by June 1st

## June Birthdays

06/01	Jerry Nuss	06/25	Mary Bressler
06/02	Cindy McDougall	06/25	Melissa Saurer
06/03	Gary Snyder	06/25	Elizabeth Hatling
06/04	Shane Harthun	06/25	Melinda Wienbar
06/04	Ayla Hoff	06/28	Yvonne Marts
06/05	Jackie Gondrez	06/28	Hannah Nelson
06/05	Harrison Saurer	06/28	Kellen Stenstrom
06/07	Loran Johnson	06/30	Erik Anthonisen
06/09	Deb Tabbut		
06/10	Kindree Ebert		
06/10	Clyde Schlepp		
06/10	Delaney Schara		
06/12	Bonnie Bergerud		
06/12	Anna Schlepp		
06/16	James Michael		
06/17	Peg Werner		
06/18	Kathy Hatling		
06/19	Marianne Stone		
06/20	John Erickson		
06/24	David Nelson		
06/24	Jim Andrews		

## July Birthdays

07/02	Jodie Nuss	07/19	Bill Rodning
07/03	Cameron Haas	07/19	Rebekah Meder
07/03	Rebecca Michael	07/21	Timothy Olson
07/04	Steve Wienbar	07/21	Gloria Ronning
07/05	Jeanette Haas	07/23	Hollis Davenport
07/07	Anne Worner	07/23	Hayden Westra
07/09	Lori Kugler	07/24	Kim Erickson
07/09	Benjamin Rundquist	07/26	Piper Andrews
07/10	Jean McKenzie	07/28	Linda MacFarlane
07/10	Hudson Steinbrenner	07/29	Adam Schlepp
07/11	Joel Enderson	07/30	Mark Becker
07/11	Charles MacFarlane	07/31	Ken Schuetze
07/11	Emma Michael	07/31	Jeremy Jensen
07/11	Emily Nuss		
07/12	Kristian Fransen		
07/13	Jacki Knapp-Raaen		
07/13	Fiona Rundquist		
07/16	Patty Link		
07/18	Mary Link		
07/18	Dave Nord		



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

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