



# Union Avenue News

KEEPING MEMBERS UP TO DATE

AUGUST 2025

## August Worship

August 3 9:30am

**"Encrypted in Christ"**

Pastor Doug Dent

Colossians 3:1-11

*A Celebration of The Lord's Supper*

August 10 9:30am

Chaplain Pete Konrad

Pete serves as the Chaplain at the Otter Tail County Detention Facility (since 2019) and is the maintenance man at Federated Church.

August 17 9:30am

Amber Gerstmann

Amber is a frequent worship leader at Federated Church, playing the piano and singing with her husband, Trevor.

August 24 9:30am

**"Collision Course"**

Pastor Doug Dent

Jeremiah 1:4-10

August 31 9:30am

Teen Challenge Choir

Choir members will share their testimonies, sing, and share a hope-filled solution to the intimidating statistics behind addiction. There will be an opportunity to support this ministry financially.

## Dates to Remember

Sunday, August 3  
Communion

Sunday, August 10  
Chaplain Pete Konrad Preaching

Tuesday, August 12  
6:30pm Ministry Nite

Friday, August 15  
Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, August 17  
Amber Gerstmann Preaching

Thursday, August 21  
6:30pm D&E Meeting

Sunday, August 31  
Teen Challenge Choir Leading  
Worship

Sunday, September 1  
Labor Day  
Church Office Closed

Sunday, September 7  
Name Tag Sunday  
Communion  
Rally Day



For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

(This is a re-print of pastor Tim Keller's article "God's Work; Our Work" originally published in the *Redeemer Report*, January 2007.)

Human beings were put into paradise and given work to do before there was anything wrong with us or with the world (Genesis 2:15.) Work, then is not a curse — it is something God designed us to do.

Human work means being partners with God in God's work. God's Spirit does not simply save souls, but also cares for, sustains, cultivates, and renews the material world God delights in (Psalm 104:30; 145, 147.) Therefore, God not only sends ministers into the world to preach sermons, but also doctors to give medicine, and teachers to impart wisdom, and so on. Making clothes, practicing law, tilling fields, mending broken bodies, advancing science, or nurturing children all participate in God's work. The view, then, that an artist or a banker is doing 'secular work' while a minister is doing 'spiritual work' does not fit with the Biblical understanding. God is also an artist and an investor in the material world.

God made us interdependent creatures. We need the work of others to live, and they need our work as well. For example, I do not know how to make or repair shoes, so I am dependent on the work of someone else. If I pay shoemakers \$100.00 for a pair of shoes, it is a marvelous bargain for me. In \$100.00 worth of my time, I could never make such a thing. On the other hand, if I am a farmer, I do something for the shoemaker that she couldn't do. All work, then, according to God's design, is service. Through work we enrich one another and become more and more interwoven.

But what work should we do? Many people choose their work based on status — which work will bring the biggest cultural rewards? Others choose their work based on self-fulfillment — which work will make me feel good about myself? But we are not the product of society or of our own choices, but we are created by God. Work is God's appointed way to care for creation and be useful to others, and you have God-given abilities and aptitudes for doing so.

So, we must discover our aptitudes and abilities and work within our giftedness.

First, consider your affinities. This is the existential aspect to determining your calling. It asks the question: "What people/needs do I vibrate to?"

Second, consider your abilities. This is the empirical aspect to determining your calling. It asks the question: "What kinds of tasks am I good at doing?"

Third, consider your opportunities. This is the 'providential' aspect to determining your calling. It asks the question: "What actual doors are opening for me? What needs to be done?"

Ultimately it takes the deep rest in Christ's finished work for your salvation (Hebrews 4:1-10) to avoid over-work. Only then will work cease to be an idol, a means of self-definition. Only then will you be free to work according to your gifting and according to the needs of others rather than according to social pressure. Only then will you periodically be able to regularly 'walk away' and rest from your vocational work.

God's richest blessings as you work,  
Pastor Doug





Summer is moving quickly! Our Minnesota summers are so beautiful and full of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, visit family, go to fairs, watch baseball and softball and other sports, see concerts, relax on the lake, or read good books! I pray you are all enjoying your time with family and friends.

Summer at Federated started off with a fantastic Vacation Bible School week! We had a large group of very enthusiastic participants and an energetic and highly capable crew of older youth leaders here each day to make it a memorable experience. The adult volunteers created wonderful craft ideas and shared delicious snacks, making for a complete and enriching week. Our theme focused on "God's Royal Family," so we studied a Bible story each day that featured different "good" kings and one queen from the Old Testament. Every story revealed how individual rulers in the Bible lived out their faith and sought after God during their reign. What we discovered is that EVERY good king and queen in the Bible did some great things for God and their people, but the only perfect king is the One True King, Jesus! Because He is our "brother," we learned that when we put our faith and trust in Him, WE too become a part of God's Royal Family! It is my hope that everyone involved in VBS places their full trust in the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ and sees themselves as part of God's royal family! We made inspired crafts, learned some new songs, played lots of games, and enjoyed one another's company. Truly a successful week of worship, learning, and fellowship.

Our middle school and senior high youth played a big part in Vacation Bible School. We had tremendous young people excited to lead small groups, help with music leadership, and organize our gym activity time. Our adult volunteers designed unique crafts that had the children creating beautiful art projects. We did our annual tie-dye t-shirt day! On Tuesday, our student

leaders stayed after to help put Boxes of Blessings together, a mission project that we do annually during VBS. On Thursday, all our volunteers went out to eat at Fiesta Brava as a "Thank you!" for your time and love.

Our youth group members have had a busy summer with camps, sports, fishing, and vacations. Many middle school and high school youth helped with VBS. We loved spending the week together enjoying the kids and activities! We have also met for an ice cream/softball game night. Looking ahead, we have a mission day on August 7 from 9-11am at the Lake Region Community Garden to help with harvesting. We will pick up some lunch afterward together. If you have not visited this great community mission you need to make plans to see it. What an impressive and meaningful project for the Fergus Falls community. We go there annually to support the work. Later in August we hope to have a game night at the Dent home (date to be finalized by text!), as well as a highly requested lock-in.

These are some important dates to highlight as we look to autumn:

- September 10: Kidz Club kicks off after school with bus transportation from Kennedy! We will be studying God's promises to His people!
- September 10: Senior High youth group begins at 7:30 pm. We look forward to seeing everyone again each week!
- September 17: Confirmation begins, with 7-8th grade students meeting after school (bus transportation provided) and 9th grade students meeting at 6:30.
- September 19-21: Our annual Confirmation Retreat at Clearwater Forest is set for this weekend. We always look forward to this truly special weekend together!

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*Christian Education and Youth*



# Church News

## Church Office

The church office hours in August are from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm on Fridays. The church office will be closed on Monday, September 1 for Labor Day.

## Vacations

Pastor Doug and Karen will be on vacation August 9 through August 17. Pastor Doug and Karen will be at a conference Sunday, August 31 through Wednesday, September 3.

Join us with our guest preachers on Sunday, August 10, 17, and 31 at 9:30am!

## Boxes of Blessings

During Vacation Bible School, our youth packed Boxes of Blessings for cancer patients in Fergus Falls. This ministry shows love and support to individuals battling cancer in our community. Each box contains items of comfort and necessity for cancer patients. Because of generous donations and volunteers, we will be giving 25 boxes to the cancer center. Thank You!

## Bible Studies

Tuesday women's Bible study will begin again at 11:15 in the parlor on September 9. We will be continuing our study of the Gospel of Luke. Luke's gospel tells the story of Jesus as He moved and interacted with people during his life and ministry. We love to see how God speaks to us today through His Word. Feel free to join us when we kick off again this fall!

Our Revelation Bible study will commence in September. I will be reaching out to the group to find the best Sunday (or other day) to meet. We are up to chapter 18 and so we are reaching the culmination of God's plan for the end of this age and the beginning of His eternal plan for the world. Feel free to join us as we dig deep into God's Word and seek to understand how it fits into our lives and world today.

## Kids Club Snack & Supper

It won't be long before Kids Club starts up again in the fall. If you would like to donate towards Kids Club meals, you can drop your check off in the church office or in the offering with Kids Club meals in the memo line. Thank you

## Pete Konrad

As you know, we've been praying for Pete Konrad, our maintenance man, who is suffering with ruptured discs in his back and intense pain down his leg. Pete will need surgery to correct this and to relieve the pain. Please pray for Pete: that his pain is manageable and that he can have the surgery soon.

In response to requests from several congregants, D&E approved Federated Church as the financial host for anyone wishing to help with Pete's medical costs. All donations made will appear on your giving statements.

You may make a donation in one of the following ways:

1. Online through Tithe.ly - go to the church website ([www.federatedff.org](http://www.federatedff.org)) and click GIVE (upper right corner) to reach the Tithe.ly giving site. Enter the donation amount, then click the drop-down box and select "**Pete Konrad Medical Bills.**" Complete the online form and click the give button at the bottom.
2. Cash/Checks will be accepted through the church office. Please write "Pete Konrad" on the memo line.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office (739-3227).

Thank you for your concern and your prayers for Pete!







# Committee News

## Mission Committee

The Mission Committee would like to spread the word about an opportunity to help support the mental health and suicide awareness initiatives of the Never Alone organization in Fergus Falls.

Never Alone, a 501(c)3, was formed in response to several suicides involving area teens. This nonprofit organization aims to help equip individuals with some of the tools needed to navigate life's difficult circumstances. The founders created a unique approach for this outreach. They provide a place on Tuesday nights for youth and volunteer adults to gather without peer pressure as they work together on race cars, and learn the ins and outs of racing. This is also a time for fun, food, and fellowship.

If you're interested in helping to support the initiatives of Never Alone, you may do so by volunteering a bit of time to sell 50-50 raffle tickets during the Wisconsin 100 event at the I-94 EMR Speedway September 10-13.

There will be posters on our church bulletin boards beginning mid-August with a sign-up QR code. You can also sign up through the Never Alone website. There are flyers with the website and more details about the organization on the table in the narthex.



## Fellowship Committee

Get ready to kick off the Sunday School year with Rally Sunday on **September 7!!**

*At 9:30am*

- Worship
- K & 4th grade receive Bibles
- Blessing of the backpacks

*At 10:30am*

- Fellowship Committee will be hosting events and lunch



## Worship Committee

Choir

The choir will start rehearsal Wednesday, August 27 at 7pm. If you are interested in joining or know someone who might be interested, please contact Jack Raaen at (701-367-0021) or by email: [jackraaen@yahoo.com](mailto:jackraaen@yahoo.com)). All are welcome to join!

Bell Choir

The bells plan to start rehearsal Wednesday, September 3 at 6pm. If you have any questions or are interested in joining, please contact Tessa Nord at (218-205-8627). All are welcome to join!



## Loneliness and Isolation

Everyone needs social connections to survive and thrive. But as people age, they often find themselves spending more time alone. Being alone may leave older adults (especially) more vulnerable to loneliness and social isolation, which can affect their health and well-being. Studies show that loneliness and social isolation are associated with higher risks for health problems such as heart disease, depression, and cognitive decline (dementia).

If you are in poor health, you may be more likely to be socially isolated or lonely. This can put your physical and mental health at risk. Adults who are lonely or socially isolated tend to be less healthy, have longer hospital stays, are readmitted to the hospital more often, and are more likely to die earlier than those with meaningful and supportive relationships.

The number of older adults who are 65 and older is growing, and many are socially isolated and regularly feel lonely.

Loneliness is the distressing feeling of being alone or separated. Social isolation is the lack of social contacts and having few people to interact with regularly. You can live alone and not feel lonely or isolated, and you can feel lonely while being with other people.

Older adults are at a higher risk for feeling lonely and isolated, due to changes in health and social connections as we age, such as hearing, vision, and memory loss, disability, trouble getting around, and/or loss of family and friends.

People who are lonely or isolated may get too little exercise, drink too much alcohol, smoke, and sleep poorly. Too little social activity and being alone often make it more difficult to perform everyday tasks such as driving, paying bills, taking medicine, and cooking.

What are some ways you can get more socially connected, or help someone else get connected?

*Bear (support) one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2*

Be watching for news on a fundraiser event for Pete Konrad for his medical expenses and upcoming surgery. It's a great way to support Pete and socially connect with Federated members and others in our community.

"Senior Spotlight" starts next month! I will be visiting and interviewing our eldest members of Federated for our newsletter, starting with Vern Youngren and Ruth Berg.

Your friend in Christ,  
Joyce

Sources from: <https://www.nih.gov/>

# Greeters

August 2024

Sunday, August 3

Worship @ 9:30am w/ Communion

Mary Lundeen & Cindy Holte

Sunday, August 10

Worship @ 9:30am w/ Chaplain Pete Konrad

Molly Stoddard & TBD

Sunday, August 17

Worship @ 9:30am w/ Amber Gerstmann

TBD

Sunday, August 24

Worship @9:30am

TBD

Sunday, August 31

Worship @9:30am w/ The Teen Challenge Choir

The Nord Family

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.

## 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: August 12 - 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	\$240,153
Expenditures	\$209,122
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$198,252
Actual Received	\$225,582

## Grocery Receipts THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food	
July	\$2,745.62

## 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 August 1st

## Connect with Federated



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

If you would like to Text "give", please **text the message give to 855-235-5961**. Click on the link to the setup page and enter your information.

## August Birthdays

08/01	Rosemary Rundquist	08/22	Benjamin Kugler
08/03	Phyllis Behrends	8/22	Rayna Rodning
08/05	Barb Meder	08/23	Beverly Richter
08/07	Natalie Fransen	08/23	Jane Nelson
08/07	Johanna Meder	08/24	Titus Christianson
08/08	Jerry Hendel	08/26	Jen Jensen
08/09	Vern Youngren	08/27	Lynn Oxley
08/10	Arthur Schlepp	08/27	Ryndel Vogel
08/11	William Kalar	08/27	Xyola Macheel
08/12	Bonnie Gondrez	08/27	Easton Eckhoff
08/12	Taylor Thomp son-Eckhoff	08/27	Holden Stenstrom
08/13	Joan Ebbighausen	08/29	Connie Seltz
08/13	Emma Runningen	08/29	Tessa Schierer
08/14	Kim Dean	08/30	Renee Larsen
08/16	Rachel Westra	08/31	Emma Barry
08/17	Kathy Gilbert		
08/20	Paul Shol		
08/20	Darren Smith		
08/21	Paula Davenport		



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

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