



Union Avenue News

KEEPING MEMBERS UP TO DATE

SEPTEMBER 2025

September Worship

September 7 9:30am Rally Day
"Look Busy" Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Pastor Doug Dent

*A Celebration of The Lord's Supper
Back to School Prayers and a Blessing of Backpacks*

September 14 9:30am Muffins For Mission
"Excessive Grace" 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Pastor Doug Dent

September 21 9:30am
"Making Cents of the Shrewd Manager" Luke 16:1-15

Pastor Doug Dent

September 28 9:30am
"Buy Low, Sell High" Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Pastor Doug Dent

*For everything there is a season, and a
time for every matter under heaven.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dates to Remember

Monday, September 1

Labor Day
Church Office Closed

Saturday, September 6

10:00am PMV Meeting - Luverne, MN

Sunday, September 7

Name tag Sunday
Communion
Rally Day

Tuesday, September 9

6:30pm Ministry Nite

Sunday, September 14

Muffins for Mission
10:30 Sunday School Starts

Monday, September 15

Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, September 18

6:30pm D&E Meeting

Friday, September 19-21

Confirmation Retreat

Tuesday, September 30

Committee Request Budget Deadline



"Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart." Joel 2:12

I've been working my way through the twelve minor prophets in the Old Testament this summer. Can you name all twelve? Hosea. Joel. Amos. Obadiah. Jonah. Micah. Nahum. Habakkuk. Zephaniah. Haggai. Zechariah. Malachi.

To date, I've completed studies on Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk and Haggai. (And yes, I started with some of the shortest ones first!) The message of all the minor prophets seems to be twofold: welcome back and welcome home.

Welcome Back. All the minor prophets address the faithlessness of God's people. Their inability to keep God's covenant distresses God and directly leads to their misfortune. There is a call to return to God and God's ways, and when they do, they are welcomed back with open arms.

Welcome Home. Many of the prophets speak of Israel's exile first under the Assyrians and later under the Babylonians. To weary and disheartened people, the prophets offer hope: you will come home again. The best part is that the words of the prophets – which are really God's words to God's people – come true. They return from exile. God welcomes them home.

Welcome back and welcome home seem like good messages for us as we begin the new church program year. Welcome back from your summer. Welcome back from vacation. Welcome back from hot dogs, and ball games, and swimming, and s'mores. Welcome home to your faith family. Welcome home to Federated Church where God greets you with open arms. Welcome home to worship that inspires and work and uplifts. You are welcome here!

I'll admit, it was a bit quiet around church these past few months. It will be good to be together again. I look forward to lifting my voice with yours in prayer and praise. I look forward to joining you in the purposeful work of our congregation on behalf of the community. I look forward to sharing stories about our summers (I have some great fish tales!), eating together, and learning more about God's purpose for our faith family.

Join us on Sunday, September 7th for Rally Day!

Welcome back and welcome home.
Pastor Doug





SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Let's get to know our oldest member of the Federated congregation...

VERN YOUNGREN

I met with Vern recently at his home at the Senior Apartments in Battle Lake. I had expected to find him in the Good Samaritan Nursing Home, but his daughter, Judy, had directed me to go beyond the nursing home to the apartments. His own apartment—impressive for someone who is 96 years old.

Vern and Judy invited me in, and they were open to sharing about his long life. Vern was one of five children, with two brothers and two sisters. He was born at home on a farm near Willmar. Remembering that his parents always had eggs and milk to sell. He explained that is how they made it through the Depression.

Vern attended the University of Minnesota for two years and was in the US Army during the Korean War.

Vern's very first job was in Minneapolis at a confectionery firm. Not only did they sell candy, but also cigars and cigarettes. Everybody smoked back then.

He met his future wife—another woman named Joyce Peterson at Crookston Agriculture School. She was staying with a family where the husband sold State Farm Insurance. So, Vern got the position in Fergus Falls selling insurance. They had three daughters: Judy, Karen, and Mary.

Joyce taught Home Economics at the high school in Fergus for 30 years.

Vern spent many years selling State Farm Insurance in Fergus Falls. He was proud to share that State Farm was the first insurance company to offer homeowners' insurance and life insurance, as well as car insurance.

The Clown Club was one of Vern's activities, so he spent three years as a clown in many area town parades.

Judy shared that whether her dad was working with the girls or playing a game with them, He always made everything FUN! Even when we were working, Dad always made it fun."

A lake home was bought in 1964 on Battle Lake, and that is where Vern was blessed to spend his recent birthday with all three daughters.

A good friend over the years has been Ruth Berg and her husband. Ruth is our second oldest member of Federated. So, of course we will be interviewing Ruth next month for this newsletter.

Blessings and good health to you all,
Joyce





Where did the summer go? If your household was like ours, it was a wonderful, constant stream of activity. With autumn approaching, we are looking forward to settling into a routine again. I am so excited about what we are organizing for fall! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming year.

Wednesday Family Meal

Over the last several years we have been blessed to have our Wednesday “kitchen ladies” with us to provide snacks and meals. Roxane, Jane, and Gail have faithfully served our young people and families, and we are so very thankful. The kitchen team plans to continue to help us on alternating Wednesdays. We are planning to fill in the other weeks with volunteers from the congregation. If you are interested in serving in this capacity or can help financially, please contact the church office. Doug will also have a clipboard sign-up during worship each week. We have a budget line for this ministry and so you would not need to pay for the dinner ingredients. This is a special time and ministry opportunity for families, middle school, and high school students (and other people who are at church during the dinner hour) to break bread together and have fun connecting with one another. Please prayerfully consider whether you would like to support the Wednesday night meals in some way—through financial support, picking up specific menu items, or even showing up to volunteer to help prep and or serve.

Kidz Club

Kidz Club begins on Wednesday, September 10 after school. Children may ride the bus from Kennedy School. Pastor Doug will be there to point everyone to the correct bus. This fall our Kidz Club series will feature God’s promises or covenants as found in the Bible. Each week we will learn about a different promise or covenant that God made with His people—covenants that still stand today. Our God is a faithful God who holds to His promises for us. This theme will build into our Christmas pageant in December, and so we hope to “teach” what we have learned!

"Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures." Psalm 119:90

We spend time each week learning, singing, doing crafts, and playing games in the gym. Our wonderful volunteers are there to help make this a favorite time for our kids!

Confirmation/Middle School Youth Group

Confirmation kicks off this fall with a parent meeting on Sunday, September 14, after worship. Class begins on Wednesday, September 17 after school. Youth are encouraged to ride the bus to church along with the Kidz Club kids. Our annual retreat is right away, September 19-21, at Clearwater Forest. Our theme for the retreat this year is “Grace! Growth! Glory!” A fun way to learn about justification, sanctification, and glorification, three steps in our faith journey. Please pray for our confirmation classes, our teachers, our retreat volunteers, and our retreat weekend as our youth grow closer to God and one another. As in the past few years, we will periodically hold a youth group gathering rather than confirmation class on a given Wednesday. It is beneficial to have opportunities for fellowship and an occasional mission activity along with attending class.

Senior High Youth Group

Our senior high youth group starts on Wednesday, September 10 at 7:30pm. We always assess the topics our youth would like to focus on, and I tend to throw in some topics that are related to current events and issues. We try each week to explore how we can live our faith in a world that does not look favorably upon being a Christian. With the wonderful volunteer leadership of Hollis Davenport and Molly Stoddard, we have rich conversations and times of encouragement and prayer with our awesome youth.

Christian Education and Youth Continue on pg. 5



Sunday School

Sunday school for children and youth grades K-12 is offered each Sunday beginning on September 14 after worship. We have a team of dedicated teachers committed to spending time each week learning alongside our children and youth. This fall our K-1 class will learn about the twelve tribes of Israel and what qualities each group has that help us to follow God. Our 2-6 grade students will be exploring God's truth through science with science-



Church News

Church Office

The church office hours in are from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm on Fridays.

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 1 for Labor Day.

The church office will be closed on Friday, September 12 for Brianna's PTO Day.

Continuing Education

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

Kids Club Snack & Supper

It won't be long before Kids Club starts up again. 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

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, October 3.

Thank You

Matthew Solin would like to thank everyone for all the phone calls, visits, and prayers for when he was in the hospital and had surgery the past couple of months.

Coffee Hour

based Bible lessons. Topics include light, air, water, earth, weather, the laws of nature, plants, the human body, sound, and electricity. I always get excited when we can bridge faith and science, and this looks like a great opportunity to do just that. Our older youth will have a similar opportunity to study the fundamentals of faith along with a variety topic as they relate to our Christian faith. Come check out our Sunday school classes! We love spending time together learning how best to live out our faith.

Christian Education and Youth

Women's - Tuesdays at 10am

Men's - Fridays at 10am

Fellowship Hour - Sundays at 10:30am

Bible Studies

Women's Bible Study

Our Tuesday women's Bible study will begin on September 9 at 11:15 am in the parlor. We will start off the year continuing our study of the Gospel of Luke. We paused for a time over the summer, and I can say I am eager to get back to studying God's Word together and having fellowship with one another! Luke's gospel gives us a rich picture of the life and work of Jesus—how he interacted with others, healing, teaching, and saving. Jesus's life gives us direction as to how we should strive to live out our daily lives.

Revelation Bible Study

After a summer hiatus our Revelation Bible study group will resume meeting this autumn. As for the writing of this article, we are still determining the best date to start. We will continue working our way through this challenging book of the Bible, trusting God to bless our understanding and application. People are often afraid to study this book for fear of what it says. But God loves His people so much that He provided us with a blueprint for the future. Our attempt to appreciate and comprehend this book together is an act of faith in Jesus, the True God, Who WINS!





Committee News

If your committee is having an event at the church during fellowship hour, please stop by the church office the week prior to the event to pick up instructions for opening and closing the church from Brianna. We will have a key, alarm code and check list for you.

Worship Committee

Choir

The choir rehearses on Wednesdays 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). All are welcome to join!

Bell Choir

The bell choir rehearses on Wednesdays 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!

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

Caring Ministry & Outreach

Name Tag Sunday

Get to Know Your Neighbor! Connecting names with faces and introducing ourselves, opens an invitation to talk with others. It can help to make others feel comfortable and welcome. On Sunday September 8, Rally Day as you enter church you will have the opportunity to sign your name on a name tag. Let others know who you are! Name tag Sunday will continue the first Sunday of every month. You are encouraged to continue to reach out and connect with our Federated Church community each Sunday of the month. Get to know your Neighbor!

Committee Chairpersons

To assist the Stewardship Team with their fall campaign, we are requesting your budget information be submitted by September 30, 2025. Brianna will be sending out an email to the committees sharing what they were budgeted for in 2025.



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 can 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. **The Local Mission Fund is extremely low, and I have had to turn people to other resources. If you can help in any way that would be appreciated.**



Greeters

August 2024

Sunday, September 7

Worship @ 9:30am w/ Communion & Rally Day
James & Becca Michael

Sunday, September 14

Worship @ 9:30am & Muffins for Mission
Dave & Ann Weinrich

Sunday, September 21

Worship @ 9:30am
TBD

Sunday, September 28

Worship @9:30am
Troy & Kerian Stenstrom

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: September 9 - 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 For June

General Fund Report	
Revenue	\$267,008
Expenditures	\$243,228
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$231,294
Actual Received	\$250,074

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 September 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.

September Birthdays

09/01	Heather Rundquist	09/20	Donna Ohe
09/04	Lucinda Dix Echel berger	09/23	Ruth Aulds
09/05	Alex Jensen	09/23	Russell Larsen
09/06	Wade Ugstad	09/24	Gail Green
09/09	Nora Link	09/25	Wesley Beske
09/09	Jim Iverson	09/25	Jean Bowman
09/10	James Underdahl	09/25	Jill Iverson
09/12	Janice Borowski	09/27	Tim Hunt
09/13	Makiya Cavalier	09/29	Carolyn Anderson
09/13	Thatcher Iverson	09/30	Ben Schierer
09/14	Erin Smith		
09/16	Peg Kalar		
09/17	Chad Nelson		
09/18	Amy Underdahl		
09/19	Paige Undseth		
09/19	Leo Schierer		



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

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