

October Worship

Sunday, October 5 9:30am World Communion Sunday
"In Christ" Ephesians 1:1-14

Pastor Doug Dent

A Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Sunday, October 12 9:30am
"Would You Rather..." 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, October 19 9:30am
"The Children's Book" Luke 18:1-8

Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, October 26 9:30am
"It's a God Thing" Joel 2:23-32

Pastor Doug Dent



Dates to Remember

Sunday, October 5
Name Tag Sunday
World Communion Sunday
Choir Sings
Stewardship Sunday
10:30am Pie Social

Sunday, October 12
Trio Sings
Bells Play

Tuesday, October 14
6:30pm Ministry Nite

Wednesday, October 15
Newsletter Deadline
No Youth Events

Thursday, October 16
6:30pm D&E Meeting

Sunday, October 19
Choir Sings

Sunday, October 26
Gerstmann's Sing
10:30am Mission Brunch

Sunday, November 2
All Saints' Sunday
Communion

Tuesday, November 11
Veteran's Day
6:30pm Ministry Nite



Last Spring Karen was planting vegetables, and I noticed the slogan printed on the wrapper of a tomato plant: "Deep roots produce abundant fruits." As I reflected on this claim, I thought about the deep roots of our Reformation heritage and how grateful we should be for this heritage; how it has shaped us in the past, continues to bear fruit in the present, and gives us reason to look ahead in hope to future harvests.

Five hundred years ago Martin Luther nailed a series of objections to church abuses on the castle church door at Wittenberg, sparking a movement that spread across Europe. This act renewed the church and recovered the original forms of the church's ministry and missional purposes as set forth in Scripture and practiced by the Early Church.

The Medieval Church had neglected the Bible. Most church members were illiterate. For those who could read, the Bible was not available. Luther himself, though well educated, had not seriously encountered the Bible until he entered the monastery. Luther translated the Bible into the vernacular and insisted that ministers preach sermons based on Scripture, and not on whatever happened to come into their heads. This required that ministers be trained. Such training transformed the way ministers preached. Such preaching transformed congregations. Such congregations transformed their communities.

As the Church, we remain united by one Spirit to one Lord, Jesus Christ, through one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and in and through all (Ephesians 4:5-6). We Protestants are part of God's one, holy, catholic and apostolic church which is being reformed continually by God's Word, which makes us part of a vast company of witnesses that spans the ages.

The Reformation continues to shape our life together. We confess that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone and not by works

(Ephesians 2:8-9), however good we may think them to be. This is evident in the way we go about our work and live our daily lives. Rather than trying to earn our salvation or justify ourselves, we live lives of grateful service because of what Christ has done for us.

The Reformation also promoted the priesthood of all believers. We are members of one body, the Church, and united in one hope, and each of us is given gifts to use and duties to perform. Each of us is called to a particular type of service. The priesthood of all believers does not mean full-time ministers are unnecessary; rather it means the task of ministry is shared by all. Deacons care. Elders lead. Pastors preach and teach. Every Christian is, in some way, called to minister.

The Reformation called us to be "a people of the Book," gathered by God's Word and invited to respond in joyful obedience. The Word of God creates the church, and so long as the Bible remains open and we remain open to the Bible, and seek to hear and obey its message, we have God's promise that we will be transformed and renewed.

The church lives by the passionate conviction that Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh, full of grace and truth (John 1:14), that in his death on the cross our sins are forgiven, that God raised him from the dead for our salvation. No technique, skill, or wisdom can substitute for this passionate conviction.

The Reformation reminds us today that tons of clever techniques are not worth one ounce of truth. And the truth is this: Jesus builds the church, and He promised that nothing can prevail against her. If we are rooted in Jesus, we will produce abundant fruit to the glory of God alone.

Reformation blessings,
Pastor Doug



Committee News

Stewardship Committee

The I'm 'IN' Stewardship INitiative focuses on our individual commitment and responsibility in managing God's gifts. We are called to be good stewards with our lives and resources. The I'm 'IN' Stewardship INitiative emphasizes gratitude, Christian discipleship, and sharing our gifts to serve others and support God's mission.

As the I'm 'IN' Stewardship INitiative suggests, we are all:

Included - Accept one another, as Christ accepted you. Romans 15:7

- We welcome everyone with our Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Arms.

Involved - Encourage one another and build each other up. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

- We gather to encourage one another in our worship and work.

Invested - Whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 2 Corinthians 9:6

- We invest in our faith, in one another, and in the mission and ministries of the church.

Inspired - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

- We are energized and empowered for discipleship.

Influential - Let your light shine before others. Matthew 5:16

- We have much to share with the world as faithful disciples of Jesus.

Be sure to join us October 5 for Stewardship Sunday. During our pie social we'll have a short presentation about the I'm 'IN' Stewardship INitiative and an opportunity to share budget priorities for 2026.

Thank you for your continued support for the Federated Church's mission and ministries.

Fellowship Committee

The annual Pie Social will be held after worship on Sunday, October 5. If you would like to donate a pie the Fellowship Committee will have sign-up sheet with the bulletins on Sundays. All pies can be brought that morning or dropped off in the kitchen at the church prior to the event. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Anderson at 218-205-9626 and leave a message if nobody answers. All extra pies will be auctioned off and all the donations will go towards the Local Mission Fund.

Mission Committee

Please join us for the Mission Committee's annual Mission Brunch! This year's fall favorite is a (free will) fundraiser for Fergus Falls Meals by Wheels. You'll hear from Meals by Wheels board members and enjoy egg bake, sausages, breakfast breads and fruit following the service on Sunday, October 26. Meals by Wheels provides a much-needed service in our community, with volunteer drivers (including volunteers from Federated Church) delivering more than 15,000 meals to senior citizens in 2024.

Heritage Grant Applications

The Endowment Committee is authorized by the Board of Deacons & Elders to offer up to \$10,000 in Heritage Grants from the income earned on unrestricted endowment funds in 2025. Funds may be designated for new projects or ministries within our church, support for charitable organizations in our community, or support for global missions focusing on education, nutrition, or spiritual development. The deadline for applications is October 31, 2025. Information and application forms are available on the Federated Church website (www.federatedff.org). Click the "Resources" tab (top right) "Heritage Grants". Contact Pastor Doug at (218-739-3227) if you have questions.





"Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! Let the sea resound, and all that it is in! Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them! Let all the trees of the forests sing for joy!" Psalm 96:11-12

What a beautiful fall season! I pray you have been able to enjoy the warm weather and the autumn colors exploding in their glory! We just returned from our annual fall confirmation retreat, which turned out to be a truly blessed weekend. Our 7th-9th grade confirmation students, along with several wonderful older youth and adult leaders, spent the weekend relishing the incredible grounds at Clearwater Forest. We studied the three stages of our faith journey (Grace-Growth-Glory), played endless outdoor and indoor games, shared food and fellowship, and ended it all with a lakeside worship service on Sunday morning. We had eager learners, committed leaders, and thankfully, the energy required to create an encouraging and thoughtful weekend. Thank you to the leaders who helped make it possible: Hollis Davenport, Madalyn Dent, Sam Ebert, Becca Michael, James Michael, Molly Stoddard, Siri Anthonisen-Brown, Gabe Carlson, Chloe Cruz, Claire Gutzmer, and Tyler Heruth. What a wonderful time.

Kidz Club

Kidz Club began on Wednesday, September 10 with an enthusiastic crowd! Our theme this fall is "God's Promises for the World" and so we have been going through the covenants God established between Him and His people in the Old Testament. We will be learning a new covenant promise each week until we reach the GREAT-

EST Promise and covenant—Jesus Christ! It is our plan to share with the congregation what we have learned during this session as we lead worship during Advent in our Christmas pageant. These young people ask SUCH amazing questions and think VERY deeply about God and their faith. You should be very excited for them! Our craft crew (Lu Echelberger, Carolyn Anderson, Beth Schlepp, Sheila Rodning) and our gym crew (Claire Gutzmer, Siri Anthonisen-Brown, lots of older youth!) contribute to make this a special day each week for our kids.

Confirmation/Middle School Youth

On the heels of our fall retreat, we kicked off our confirmation year with our Wednesday classes. We will periodically have a youth group session rather than a confirmation class. This is a super inquisitive group who bring super questions and insights. Keep praying for them that their faith will continue to blossom and grow.



Senior High Youth Group

Our senior high group began meeting on September 10 with our annual “topic survey”. It is fascinating to see what issues of faith our young people are interested in digging into during our time together. This year is no exception! We will spend time seeking a better understanding of our faith while exploring subjects such as: aliens and ufos (fallen angels?), drugs and alcohol, death, the Simpsons (yes, they have LOTS of faith references in this show), internet addiction, the supernatural world, abusive and healthy relationships, anxiety, stereotypes, the list goes on. . . .

This generation is very interested in making their faith relevant in their lives, and so we try to engage them in discussing the challenges they may face. Hollis Davenport and Molly Stoddard (along with Feather and Tello) share their faith and insights with these awesome young people each week, helping to make this an enriching and faith-deepening time. Keep praying for our older youth as they take on more in their lives. Pray that they will be able to grow closer to Jesus as they mature.

Sunday School

We continue to offer Sunday school classes for K-6 each week. Jona Brown and Madalyn Dent share teaching the K-1 students, and Sam Ebert and Kai Ebert teach the 2-6 grade students. The younger group is studying stories and people of the Bible, and the older elementary students are studying how science and the Bible are connected. It is important for young people to understand that science REVEALS God's glory, and so we thought

this would be a great topic for class this year. Hollis Davenport is ready and available to teach our older youth and always has a fascinating way of teaching God's truth.

Please continue to pray for ALL our children and youth, as well as our whole faith family. God is moving in our world today as never before, and we can pray that His Spirit leads us to seek Him more fully in our daily lives!

Women's Bible Study

Our women's Bible study, which meets on Tuesdays at 11:15 in the parlor. We are continuing our study of the Gospel of Luke. This is a group that enjoys fellowship, learning, and prayer.

Revelation Bible Study

Revelation Bible Study

Our Revelation Study group meets on Sundays after worship in the parlor. We continue to work our way through this challenging book. It has taken us a year (less the summer) to get two-thirds of the way through Jesus Revelation to the Apostle John. We are enjoying spending time studying God's Word and seeing how it is playing out or may play out in our world.

Christian Education and Youth





Let us learn about our second oldest member of Federated Church—Ruth Berg...

Ruth is 95 and was born “in the middle of the pack with her twin brother Russell” in Wright Memorial Hospital in Fergus Falls. Her mother was Norwegian and her father was German. They lived on a dairy farm south of town on County Road 1. Her mother taught Country School before becoming a farmer’s wife/partner. So Ruth remembers her mom always being sure her kids knew proper English and grammar. Ruth and her twin brother both contracted whooping cough at 9 months old, and her brother spent time in the hospital with it. The twins were always together playing as they grew up, but Ruth “was always the boss.”

Ruth remembers her mom making both ethnic foods like lefse and sauerkraut. Since it was a complete dairy farm the kids had many chores to do before and after school. They would walk to country school across the fields (if there wasn’t too much snow) so it was about a mile, instead of walking on the road (2 1/2 miles).

In 9th grade, she went to town school and enjoyed being in speech and drama classes. In GAA, Ruth was a home run hitter, from all her experience playing baseball with her brothers. She met her future husband, Ken, in their freshman year. He was a “city boy.” They dated through high school and got married when they were almost 21. Their first apartment was in part of a house on Lake Alice and the rent was \$25 per month.

Ken joined the National Guard and was in for 5 years, and Ruth started teaching country school. They had four children: Tim, Debbie, Paul, and Lisa. Ken worked at Ottertail Power as a graphic artist. Ruth remarked that all their kids were also artistic.

When the kids were all in school, Ruth was looking for a part-time job. At the prompting of her neighbor, she started a job at the local radio station. She was there 18 years, and enjoyed talking about women’s issues and news, community events, interviewing famous people, and writing commercials.

Ruth is proud of the part she played in starting The Center for the Arts in the downtown theatre that had been closed for 5 years. In 1981, she was the first president of its board of directors. Ruth also was on the committee for building our public library.

In later years, she and Ken moved to Arizona because of his rheumatoid arthritis. Ruth more recently moved to Pioneer Pointe and that is where you can visit with her—which I always look forward to. As Ken used to say, “She likes to talk, even when she doesn’t get paid for it—(like at her radio job).”





Church News

Church Office

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

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.

Coffee Hour

Women's - Tuesdays at 10am
Men's - Fridays at 10am
Fellowship Hour - Sundays at 10:30am

Remind

If you would like to receive text updates from Federated Church, please text message federated to the number 81010. Now that activities have started this is a great way to stay in touch if you are away from your email. Please let me know if you need help with this.



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 or parish nursing needs. Please call 218-739-3227 or email church@federatedff.org Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

October 2024

Sunday, October 5

Worship @ 9:30am w/ communion

Jake & Karoline Gustafson

Sunday, October 12

Worship @ 9:30am

John McFarlane & Gloria Ronning

Sunday, October 19

Worship @ 9:30am

Skp & Char Zielin

Sunday, October 26

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.

Ministry Nite:

October 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.

Stewardship Report

General Fund Report

Revenue	\$303,227
Expenditures	\$271,369

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$264,336
Actual Received	\$281,751

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food

September	\$2,389.07
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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.





Federated CHURCH

224 North Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time sensitive information
Please deliver by October 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.

October Birthdays

10/00 Thea Undseth
10/01 Tami Collins
10/01 Zayne Weinrich
10/02 Terry Haas
10/03 Evan Westra
10/04 Tanya Sundberg
10/07 Doris Enderson
10/07 Grant Davenport
10/13 Madison Weinrich
10/16 Kathy Zimmerman
10/19 Phil Kugler
10/21 Dennis Bowman
10/23 Drew Johnson
10/26 Jon Steinbrenner
10/26 Viktor Gustafson

10/27 Jim Wolters
10/28 Ivy Iverson
10/28 Stephanie Hoff
10/29 Beatrice Schierer
10/29 Tessa Nord
10/31 Jack Cooper



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

224 N. Union Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Phone: 218-739-3227 | email: church@federatedff.org