



Union Avenue News

KEEPING MEMBERS UP TO DATE

NOVEMBER 2025

November Worship

Sunday, November 2 9:30am All Saints' Sunday
"What Should We Let God Do?" Luke 14:25-33
Pastor Doug Dent

A Celebration of The Lord's Supper
Trio Sings

Sunday, November 9 9:30am
"Fresh Courage Take" Haggai 1:15n-2:9
Pastor Doug Dent
Choir Sings

Sunday, November 16 9:30am
"Rethinking Old Age" Isaiah 65:17-25
Pastor Doug Dent
Bells Play & Amber & Trevor Gerstmann Sing

Sunday, November 23 9:30am
"Benedictus" Luke 1:68-79
Pastor Doug Dent
Trio Sings

Sunday, November 30 9:30am
"Fragile Virtue for a Fragile Age" Isaiah 2:1-5
Pastor Doug Dent
Choir Sings

Happy
Thanksgiving

Dates to Remember

Sunday, November 2
All Saints' Sunday
Communion
Trio Sings

Sunday, November 9
Choir Sings

Tuesday, November 11
6:30pm Ministry Nite

Sunday, November 16
Bells Ring
Trevor & Amber Gerstmann Sing

Thursday, November 20
6:30pm D&E Meeting

Sunday, November 23
Trio Sings

Thursday, November 27
Happy Thanksgiving
Church Office Closed

Friday, November 28
Church Office Closed

Sunday, November 30
Choir Sings
Advent Begins



Our family has a Thanksgiving tradition: we go around the table, and each person says one thing for which they are thankful. Like you, our family is thankful for family, for jobs, and for health; we are thankful for another year together; we are thankful for having enough; we are thankful for a country with freedoms, and we are thankful for a church that feels like family.

I like this tradition. There is something powerful about group gratitude. Not only do we learn a little bit more about the people we are related to, but it also has the power to shift the dynamic of the room. Everyone stops. Everyone listens. Everyone shares in the thankfulness of the other.

The Apostle Paul wrote: "Thanks be to God for God's indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15). We have a lot to be thankful for each year, and it is good and right for us to thank God for spouses, kids, jobs, and health. But when Paul says, "We thank God for God's indescribable gift!" he is talking about something specific, someone specific. Paul is not thanking God for things (though he could, and in other places in the New Testament, he did); rather, he is thanking God for Jesus. Or to say it another way, Paul is thanking God for God.

The greatest gift God ever gave the world was Jesus Christ, who was and is God in the flesh.

This is really what Christmas is about: the idea that God became a human ("the incarnation"). As C.S. Lewis put it in *Mere Christianity*, "The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God." And although Paul knew nothing of our American holiday on the fourth Thursday of November, I think it is right for us to talk about Christmas at Thanksgiving. Not because I'm trying to rush past this holiday and get on to the next one; but because our gratitude on this holiday is informed by the next one.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage you to thank God for all the people and things in your life. Be specific in your gratitude; articulate and enumerate all the blessings God has given you, because "Every good and perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17). I also encourage you to thank God for God; thank God for who God is. The purpose of all earthly blessings is not that we become infatuated with the gift as an end to itself, but rather, to draw our eyes to the Giver. God was the one who gave a Son so that you and I could be rescued from sin and restored to relationship with God. God did all of this to reach us.

We have so much for which to be thankful.
Happy Thanksgiving!
Pastor Doug

Federated Church 101

Do you want to learn more about Federated Church? Do you want to discuss whether membership is right for you? Pastor Doug will host an information session about Federated Church's mission and ministries after worship on Sunday, November 9, 2025, in the fellowship hall. All are welcome!



Pastoral Care

Joyce Peterson

Our Senior Spotlight this month is on our 3rd oldest member of Federated...Loran Johnson

When I visited Loran recently, his daughter, Lori Beske, happened to stop by. She was helpful in prompting some of his attributes and memories. Loran, who is now age 94, was born to Clara and George Johnson June 7, 1931. He was the youngest of three boys and grew up on his grandparents farm near Orwell Dam. Clara, his mother, was German, while George, his father, was Swedish. Loran spent much of his time doing all of the farm chores with his brothers Harlan and Elton. "I milked lots of cows," Loran expressed, but in their spare time, they played baseball and yard games.

As many kids did in those days, he attended Country School for 8 years, which was a mile to walk from his home. Then he attended 4 years of high school in Fergus Falls. Being there were no school busses in those days, he stayed in town with an aunt and uncle. After high school, he attended the Wahpeton State School of Science for two years to receive an electrical trade degree. From there, Loran joined the Army and served our country in Korea.

A neighbor girl he had known since country school was Geraldine Stock. He fondly remembers giving her rides to high school in his Model A car. They wrote letters to each other during his time in the Army. "I wrote to her every day," Loran remembers. After he returned home, they got married in September of 1954. They began their marriage in the house on West Linden, where Loran still lives today (with help from his adult children). There Loran and Gerry raised their four children: Lori, Lindsay, Lisa and Kurt. Loran worked in the meter department at Otter Tail Power for 39 years.

Geraldine was a good cook. Both Lori and Loran raved about her rosettes that she made at Christmas.

They also described to me what the Knipp (German) main dish was like: chopped up pork sausage mixed with oatmeal (like a gravy) on homemade bread. After the kids were grown, Gerry worked at Mid-American Dairyman for about 20 years. She went to her heavenly home 14 years ago.

Loran played Adult City Softball until he was 40 years old. It helped to have all of that practice earlier with his dad and brothers. Lori bragged that her «dad can fix anything» and is a «Do it Yourself kind of guy».

He has always had a beautiful lawn, and has a 7 year old pear tree in his front lawn that produces many, many pears each year. Loran gives them to friends and neighbors, and also to the Salvation Army and the Food Shelf.

In his later years, Loran took on the craft of wood carving. He makes very detailed pieces, such as his golfing figurines which represent his years of golfing, which Lori showed me.

Loran is most proud of his "Four good kids!" Family and fun are important to him. What a pleasure it is to visit with him.





Christian Education and Youth

Rev. Karen Anderson

Wednesdays at the Federated Church are always buzzing with energy! Our children's and youth activities are continuing into our third month of the season, and we are going strong. We always want to remind our families that dinner is provided for those kids and parents in our Wednesday programs. It is a great way for parents and kids to take a break and share fellowship. If you would like to participate in helping to serve/provide a meal, please contact the church office. This is a wonderful way to share in the ongoing ministries with our faith family.

As we finish in the month of November, our Kidz Club and Sunday School children will begin to prepare for a Christmas pageant. The pageant will be Sunday, December 14, during the worship service. More details to come.

KIDZ CLUB

This fall we are studying the covenants, or promises, that God gave/gives His people in the Old Testament. We spend each week learning one of the unique promises God made through the people He called for His purposes: Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Daniel, and ultimately—Jesus our Messiah. We are working our way to Jesus, seeing how God prepared the world and people's hearts for His plan of salvation through Jesus. Our Christmas pageant will be an opportunity for the congregation to see what we have learned and how God moved through His people to bring us Jesus.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school meets each week after worship and goes to about 11:15am. We have wonderful teachers for our different classes, and we all look forward to seeing our kids. Come join our classes each week

and get to know: K-1 teachers are Jona Brown and Madalyn Dent, 2-6th grade students have Sam and Kai Ebert and "older youth" teacher is Hollis Davenport. The topic for the 2-6th grade this year is how science and faith intersect—what does the Bible say about science. Our younger crew covers several great topics, and Hollis is always prepared with a thought-provoking subject. During the later part of November, we will use Sunday school time to work on our Christmas pageant.

CONFIRMATION

Our after-school 7th and 8th grade class continue to meet each week on Wednesdays, with snacks, games, and confirmation lessons. Once a month or so we take a break and hold a "regular" youth group gathering, where we tackle issues of faith and simply spend time having meaningful fellowship with one another. We have some incredibly inquisitive young people who enjoy digging into important issues and wrestling with tough topics.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

We have such a great group of young people coming to our youth group. It is a strong mixture of those who grew up in the church and friends who were invited and continue to return each week. We are blessed to have such a faithful group even though they are BUSY PEOPLE! Most of them work, many of them are in sports, and a lot of them have other after-school activities. It is a special time for all of us to step out of "the world" and see how God is working in our lives and the lives of those around us.

Christian Education and Youth





Church News

Church Office

The church office hours are from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm on Fridays. The church office will be closed on November 27 and 28 for Thanksgiving.

All Saints' Sunday

During worship on Sunday, November 2, we will honor members who passed away during the last year.

Poinsettias

It is that time of year! Poinsettia forms should be available around the 2nd or 3rd week of November. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the poinsettia form and return it to the church office or call the church office. We will also be sending out an event link through Tithe.ly. Make sure you choose red or white and if it is in memory or honor of someone.

Sr. High Bible Study

We are excited to share that we began a Bible study with our senior high youth. We created a Sunday early evening study that highlights major parts of the Old Testament. It is a growing group of thoughtful people who are seeking to deepen their faith through the study of God's Word. Doug and Karen lead this study in the parlor, which meets at 5:30pm.

Women's Bible Study

Our dedicated Bible study group continues to work our way through the Gospel of Luke. Luke's writing is known for his rich detail and descriptions of Jesus's life and ministry. Jesus is shown reaching people on a deeply intimate level, meeting their needs and teaching truth. Each week we encourage one another to live in His Word and allow Him to transform our lives.

Revelation Bible study

The Revelation Bible study meets each Sunday after worship in the parlor. We are reaching the end of our study, which means we are getting closer to seeing how God WINS! This group jokes that we could quite literally begin the study over again and learn and see new ways that God is speaking to us in this fascinating book of the Bible. We find ourselves looking at events occurring in the world today and seeing how God is at work even now preparing the world for His return.

A Note About Pre-pledging

As we approach the new year, please remember, when pre-pledging: If you prepay your pledge, by law it must appear on the statement in the year it is received. For example, 2026 pledges received in 2025 will appear on 2025 statements.

Happy Birthday!

Donna Solin will be turning 70 on November 18. Matt will be having cake and cupcakes after worship on Sunday, November 16 after worship. All are welcome to come celebrate Donna!

Federated Food Shelf Day

Federated Food Shelf Day is the Friday after the 4th Sunday of every month from 1-4pm.

Federated Food Shelf will not meet on Friday, November 28. They will meet Monday, November 24 instead.





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.

Stewardship

The I'm IN Stewardship INitiative focused on our individual commitment and responsibility in managing God's gifts. It emphasized gratitude, Christian discipleship, and sharing our gifts to serve others and support God's mission—qualities we'll continue into 2026!

Thank you to everyone who returned your estimate of giving card, allowing us to appropriately budget for next year. As of October 28, we have 91 pledges totaling \$357,305. That is approximately 81% of the way to our goal of \$440,534

We're working to finalize our budget for 2026, and we appreciate your support of the ministries of Federated Church.

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.

Worship Committee

Bell Choir

The bell choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6pm. If you have any questions, you can contact Tessa Nord at (218-205-8627). The bells will play during worship on Sunday, November

Choir

Choir Rehearsal is on Wednesday evenings 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). The choir will be singing during worship on Sunday, November 9 and November 30.

Trio

Karen Anderson, Sondra Lee, and Cindy Holte will sing during worship on Sunday, November 23.

Mission Committee

Meals By Wheels

Federated Church is scheduled to deliver Meals-by-Wheels Monday-Friday, November 10-16. Drivers should gather at the Senior Center at 11am. It takes about an hour to deliver these meals.

Wednesdays In Advent

Advent Suppers (5:30 PM) & Services (6:30 PM)

New schedule; same great suppers and services!

Advent Suppers & Services will be on Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17, but the schedule will be a bit different this year. Supper will be first, at 5:30 PM, followed by worship at 6:30 PM. We are making this change to accommodate our youth, who need to be fed before their evening activities. This will impact on music rehearsals and confirmation classes, but we are committed to serving the needs of our families.

December 3: Fellowship Team's Chili Cookoff

December 10: TBD

December 17: Confirmation classes serving soup and bread

Annual Reports

Chairs of Committees need to get their Annual Reports in by Monday, December 22. Contact the church, if you have questions on how to create an annual report. Please, type your report.



Greeters

October 2024

Sunday, November 2

Worship @ 9:30am w/ communion

All Saints' Sunday

Wayne & Patti Link

Sunday, November 9

Worship @ 9:30am

Pete Konrad & TBD

Sunday, November 16

Worship @ 9:30am

Lu & Denny Echelberger

Sunday, November 23

Worship @9:30am

TBD

Sunday, November 30

Worship @9:30am

Doug & Barb Becker

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.

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.

Ministry Nite:

November 11 - 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	\$335,302
Expenditures	\$316,455
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$297,377

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.

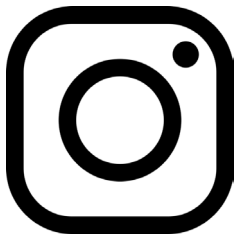


Federated CHURCH

224 North Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time sensitive information
Please deliver by November 1st



Follow Us On Facebook and Instagram
for photos, events and updates!



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.

November Birthdays

11/01 Sammy Ebert	11/16 Terry Harrington
11/02 Andrew MacFarlane	11/16 Charlie Schlepp
11/02 Addison Davenport	11/18 Donna Solin
11/02 Koven Ebert	11/19 Tessa Becker
11/04 Maximillian Jensen	11/20 Maury Skogen
11/07 Brandon Truax	11/22 Ross Johnson
11/07 Mike Walls	11/23 Landon Link
11/08 John MacFarlane	11/24 Michelle Loomer
11/09 Matthew Beske	11/25 Keira Thompson-Ohren
11/10 Laurie Skogen	11/26 Franklin Schierer
11/11 Mark Sundberg	11/27 Lydia Meder
11/12 Nathan Hoff	11/29 Duane Rose
11/13 Bill Nead	
11/14 Dennis Bergerud	
11/14 John Lindholm	
11/15 Karen Hauck	
11/15 Rick Schara	



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

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