

## November Worship

Sunday, November 3	9:30am	All Saints' Sunday "Pillar of Fatih" Deuteronomy 6:1-9 & Mark 12:28-34 <i>Pastor Doug Dent</i>
		<i>A Celebration of The Lord's Supper</i>
Sunday, November 10	9:30am	"God's Balance Sheet" <i>Pastor Doug Dent</i>
		Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Sunday, November 17	9:30am	"Are We "De-Churching?" <i>Pastor Doug Dent</i>
		Mark 13:1-8
Sunday, November 24	9:30am	Christ the King Sunday "Now Introducing..." <i>Pastor Doug Dent</i>
		Revelation 1:4b-8

*Worship is live-streamed and in-person*



## Dates to Remember

- Friday, November 1**  
1:00pm Federated Food Shelf Day
- Sunday, November 3**  
All Saints' Sunday  
Communion  
Choir Sings
- Sunday, November 10**  
Trio Sings  
Fellowship Church Potluck
- Tuesday, November 12**  
6:30pm Ministry Night
- Sunday, November 17**  
Amer & Trevor Gerstmann Sing
- Thursday, November 21**  
6:30pm D&E Meeting
- Sunday, November 24**  
Choir Sings  
Trio Sings
- Wednesday, November 27**  
No Youth Activities  
No Bell Choir or Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, November 28**  
Happy Thanksgiving  
Church Office Closed
- Friday, November 29**  
Church Office Closed  
No Men's Coffee Hour



As we roll into November, the election is on everyone's mind. Once again, this election cycle proved to be contentious and unpleasant with emotions running high and candidates spouting unhealthy rhetoric. Sadly, this is nothing new in American politics.

In his book, *1920: The Year of the Six Presidents* (2007). David Pietrusza chronicles how six former, present, and future presidents vied for their party's nomination.

Former President **Theodore Roosevelt**, (1901-1909), declared his candidacy to the Progressive Party (or Bull Moose Party), hoping for a third term in office, but died before election day.

The sitting President **Woodrow Wilson** (1913-1921) suffered a debilitating stroke during his last year in office, but his condition remained unknown to the public. Wilson also desired a third term, but the Democratic Party nominated James M. Cox of Ohio, who chose **Franklin Delano Roosevelt** as his vice-presidential running mate. Cox lost the election, but FDR would be elected president in 1932 and serve until his death in 1945.

The Republicans nominated **Warren G. Harding**, who won the election and served as president from 1921-1923. (He died in office of cardiac arrest.) Harding's Vice-President, **Calvin Coolidge** then served as president from 1923-1929.

The last candidate was **Herbert Hoover**, a successful businessman, well-known to the public for chairing the relief efforts in Europe after World War I. Hoover lost this election but would serve as president from 1929-1933.

Why the history lesson? Because much like today's candidates, these six men disliked one another, disagreed over policies, had their own agendas (not all in America's best interests), and tried to discredit their competitors. They filled their speeches with hateful slurs and character assassinating innuendoes. They called on their followers to rally to their cause, even suggesting violence, all the while staying out of the fray themselves. The comparisons to modern candidates are obvious.

So, what are we – as Christians – to do? How should we vote? I've read many articles on the subject, but none better than "Anticipating the Election" (July 24, 2024), by Dr. Walter Brueggemann, a retired professor of Old Testament. Brueggemann stresses that "the central insistence of the gospel for the body politic...is that the public enterprise be properly ordered as a covenant." That is, we choose people who will "rule" in such a way that it benefits everyone.

Brueggemann writes that "Christians will do well to have our political choices informed, not by habit or tradition, or by partisan zeal, or by self-interest, but by elemental claims of our covenantal faith." Our job as citizens is to translate these definitional claims of our faith into practical realities as we choose candidates who refuse "conformity to conventional social practice," and who represent instead "transformed social practice" that derives from God's grace. So, as we head to the polls, let me offer five verses that may help inform our decision-making.

## God is Sovereign - Isaiah 40

*Isaiah 40:28 says, "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. God will not grow tired or weary, and God's understanding no one can fathom." Three verses later we hear: "those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (v. 31). God is sovereign. God is good. God is in control. God is not surprised. God will be here long after this, and every other, election. What if we really believed and acted as if God reigned supreme?*



What if we accepted that God is in control? What if we banked on the fact that God is not surprised by any of what happens? What if we trusted that God is still moving in our country? What we believe about God's sovereignty directly impacts our internal peace and our outward actions.

### **Pray for our Leaders - 1 Timothy 2:1-2**

This can be tough work, especially if the leader is someone we did not vote for, do not agree with, or do not like. But hear Paul's words to Timothy: *"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."* Those of us who claim the name of Jesus need to pray that God draws our leaders closer, fills them with God's Spirit, and transforms them into the leaders who work for the good of all God's people.

### **Honor our Leaders - Romans 13:1**

This one can be even harder than the last one. Paul writes: *"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."* Without an unwavering trust in the sovereignty of God and a willingness to pray for all our leaders, this one is impossible. Put another way: If our trust is in whomever is in leadership and we're not willing to pray for them, we will only honor the leaders we voted for or like. Again...this is not easy. But we are not called to do what is easy. We are called to do what is right. The two rarely go hand-in-hand.

### **It Is OUR Job to Love our Neighbors - Luke 10:27**

The command to love our neighbor will not be impacted in any way by the person who occupies the White House. Luke records: *"Jesus answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" How much impact does the President of the United States or any elected leader have on our ability to live out Luke 10:27? Zero Impact. Will the outcome of the election change how we view our neighbor or care for them? Not if we follow Jesus' command to love them unconditionally.*

### **The Lord is Near - Philippians 4:5-7**

Paul reminds us: *"The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* The. Lord. Is. Near. Four words that change everything. God's "near-ness" is the only hope we have of not being anxious. To leave those four words out of the equation is to give a command without hope of success. Unless we know the Presence of the Anxiety-Squelcher we have no other choice than to be fearful! But...God does not leave us alone. God is right here. God does not give up. God is still with us. God is still for us. God is still...near.

From the outset, American democracy proposed to be a "city set on a hill" (Matthew 5:14), and an embodiment of welcoming wellbeing that specializes in human dignity, freedom, security, and justice. We opt for one or the other of these visions every time we vote.

Please, exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, November 5th.  
Pastor Doug



Wednesdays at The Federated Church are full of fun and energy! Our after-school and evening programs are running smoothly and drawing in an inquisitive bunch of young people. From Kidz Club and confirmation to senior high youth group, we have a great time being together and exploring issues of faith.

## Kidz Club

We are continuing our study of Joseph from the book of Genesis this month. Each week we study a new part of his incredible journey of faith, from beloved son to persecuted slave to “savior” of his people. It is fascinating to observe the similarities between Joseph and Jesus. God foreshadows His plans throughout the Bible. It is hard to believe that by the end of November we will be finished with our study of Joseph, and we will begin working on the Christmas pageant, which is set for December 15 during worship. This year is flying by!

## Sunday School

Our Sunday school classes meet each week (K-1, 2-6, 7-12) for study and fellowship. Each section is studying a slightly different variation on the idea of the “most important” stories/lessons/ideas of our faith. Although our class sizes vary from week to week, the groups enjoy getting together to learn together. Beginning at the end of November we will be spending a few weeks preparing for the Christmas pageant.

## Confirmation

Confirmation classes for young people in grades 7th - 9th continue each week. After sharing the retreat experience, we are back to classes most weeks. We try to take one week off for “youth group” with the after school 7th – 8th grade students. It gives us the opportunity to continue building up our group connections and make our faith experience more personal. Looking ahead

to winter, we will take a Thursday or Friday at noon to help church members with Meals by Wheels. A VERY popular activity with the youth!

## Senior High Youth Group

Our weekly gatherings continue to challenge and connect one another. Thus far we have explored subjects such as: checking into our personal relationship with God, the implications of human cloning, stereotypes, living in community, and an episode of the Simpsons that touched on several issues of faith. Our weekly topics are generated from what the youth are interested in discussing from a perspective of faith. It always proves to be an evening of interesting discussions, and fun games.

## Women’s Bible Study

Our Tuesday 11:15am Women’s Bible Study group is slowly working our way through Paul’s letter to the Colossians. There is so much to reflect on and rest on within each verse that we are finding it difficult to move quickly, which is absolutely great! Feel free to join us for this time of intense study.

## Revelation Bible Study

Our Monday evening 6:30pm Revelation Bible Study began again mid-way through October. We are happy to reconvene after a several month hiatus, and we plan to continue slowly working our way through this complex but incredibly important book of the Bible. If you are interested in challenging yourself and your knowledge and understanding of God’s word in this book, feel free to join this inquisitive group.



# Church News

## Church Office

The church office hours in November are from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm on Fridays. The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29.

## All Saints' Sunday

During worship on Sunday, November 3, we will honor members who passed away during the last year.

## Poinsettias

It is that time of year! Poinsettia forms should appear in your bulletin around the 2nd 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. You will be able to choose red or white and pay through Tithe.ly.

## A Note About Pre-pledging

As we approach the new year, please remember the following when pre-pledging: If you prepay your pledge, by law it must appear on the statement in the year it is received. For example, 2025 pledges received in 2024 will appear on 2024 statements.

## Coffee Hour

Women's - Tuesdays at 10am

Men's - Fridays at 10am - No coffee hour on Friday, November 29.

Fellowship Hour - Sundays at 10:30am

## Bible Studies

Women's - Tuesdays at 11:15am

Revelation - Mondays at 6:30pm

## Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys

The Presbytery of MN Valleys met at Federated Church on Saturday, October 12, 2025. Approximately 67 people attended. We structured our meeting around Hymn #312, "Take Us as We Are, O God," highlighting the four words that Jesus used whenever he shared a meal - Take, Bless, Break, and Give - to guide our worship and work. Elder Connie Seltz served as our voting commissioner and served communion with the Rev. Leanne Thompson (Willmar).

Vivian Whipple provided music throughout the morning. The Trio of Karen Anderson, Cindy Holte, and Sondra Lee provided music in the afternoon. The Kitchen Crew served chicken-asparagus hot dish, side salad, and dessert at noon. Thanks to our incredible core of volunteers: Ruth Aulds, Glenn Bressler, Tami Collins, Lu Echelberger, Gail Green, Thea & Maura Fransen, Jeanette Haas, Janet Knapp, James & Madilyn Michael, Ingrid Morgan, Jane Nelson, Roxane Nereson, and Connie Seltz.

The Presbytery welcomed:

- Paige Kappes (Willmar) who is beginning the process of ordination.
- The Rev. Elizabeth Tot (PCUSA) and members of her South Sudanese fellowship in St. Cloud as a new worshipping community under care of the Presbytery. The women sang praise songs in Nuer.
- Thijin Gatewech (Elizabeth's Tot's son) who runs the Nuer Professional Network in St. Cloud serving the Sudanese population living there.
- Mission partner the Rev. Candace Adams who runs The Compassionate Way ministry in Brainerd-Baxter to reach underserved populations (inmates, immigrants, troubled youth).
- New pastors Eric Garner (Mankato), Jill Emery (Winnebago), and Velda Maine (Pipestone).
- The Presbytery recognized Elder LeRoy Ennenga (Worthington) for his 40 years of service to the Presbytery.

The Presbytery received reports from the Executive Presbytery Beth Buckwalter-Miller, Stated Clerk, Pam Prouty, General Assembly representative David Lick. Synod representatives Scott Prouty and Bev Raske, and the chairperson of Operations Patty Brandts.

The Presbytery proposed amending the terms of its moderators but decided to keep the current leadership in place pending further discussion, which means that Pastor Doug continues to serve as Moderator of the Presbytery for the foreseeable future...





# 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.

## Ministry Nite

Please make sure to email your meeting minutes to the church office.

## 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).

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 November 3 and November 24.

Advent Services & Suppers are coming up soon! Join us on Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18 for Advent services (5:30 PM) and suppers (6:00 PM). These will be light soup/chili suppers. Free will offerings will benefit Boxes of Blessings at the cancer center and Kidz Club meals.

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024

We will have our traditional lineup of services and suppers:

5:00 PM – Lessons & Carols

6:00 PM – Potluck supper

11:00 PM – Communion and Candlelight

## Fellowship Committee

Church Potluck

Mark your calendar... Federated Church Potluck is Sunday, November 10 following the church service. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Plan to enjoy delicious food, and great fellowship.

## Mission Committee

Help with hurricane relief efforts:

Federated members have two opportunities to contribute to relief efforts for the thousands impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

First, we are supporting Church World Service in its collection of clean-up buckets filled with essential home recovery supplies. Also, we are accepting

donations for hurricane relief efforts by our two denominations, PUSA and UCC.

Through Nov. 24, you'll find envelopes marked "Hurricane Relief" in the church pews. To contribute to denominational fundraising efforts, put your donation in the Hurricane Relief envelope; make your check payable to Federated Church with "hurricane relief" on the memo line.

If you'd like to assemble a cleanup bucket, the desired supplies are listed in the Hurricane Relief pamphlet available in the church pews or in the church office. (The estimated cost of filling a clean-up bucket is \$78.) If you would prefer to make a donation toward the project, make your check payable to Federated Church and put it in the Hurricane Relief envelope with "cleanup bucket" on the memo line. We will use donations to assemble cleanup buckets.

Thank you for your support of this valuable mission. Our Federated Church Mission Committee has also donated \$500 toward denominational relief efforts and \$400 for cleanup buckets.

## 2024 Stewardship Campaign

Our Stewardship campaign, "Measuring What Matters," is going strong!

As of October 29, 2024, we have 83 pledges totaling \$304,073.08. That is approximately 78% of the way to last year's total pledges.

THANK YOU to everyone who pledged already. We are grateful for your continued support of Federated Church's mission and ministries.

We hope everyone will make a pledge. Your pledge will help us write a budget that supports our worship, mission, education, and facility needs.

You matter. Our ministry in this community matters. Our commitment to God's mission matters.

## Annual Reports

Chairs of Committees need to get their Annual Reports in by Monday, December 23. Contact the church, if you have questions on how to create an annual report. Please, type your report. Thank you!



# Greeters

## October 2024

**Sunday, November 3**

*Worship @ 9:30am w/ communion*

*All Saints' Sunday*

Char Zielin & Lu Echelberger

**Sunday, November 10**

*Worship @ 9:30am*

John MacFarlane & Gloria Ronning

**Sunday, November 17**

*Worship @ 9:30am*

TBD

**Sunday, November 24**

*Worship @ 9:30am*

Landon Link

**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.

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## 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](mailto:church@federatedff.org)

## Ministry Nite:

**November 12 - 6:30PM**

Please email your minutes to [church@federatedff.org](mailto: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	\$36,123
Expenditures	\$32,127

### Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$303,034
Actual Received	\$302,161

## Grocery Receipts

### THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

#### Service Food

October	\$10,326.57
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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.

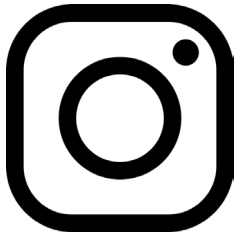


# Federated CHURCH

224 North Union Avenue  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time sensitive information  
Please deliver by 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 Charlie Schlepp      |
| 11/02 Andrew MacFarlane  | 11/18 Donna Solin          |
| 11/02 Addison Davenport  | 11/19 Tessa Becker         |
| 11/02 Koven Ebert        | 11/20 Maury Skogen         |
| 11/04 Maximillian Jensen | 11/22 Ross Johnson         |
| 11/07 Brandon Truax      | 11/22 Molly King           |
| 11/07 Mike Walls         | 11/23 Landon Link          |
| 11/08 John MacFarlane    | 11/24 Brayden Aasen        |
| 11/09 Matthew Beske      | 11/24 Michelle Loomer      |
| 11/09 Lance Nygaard      | 11/24 Katelyn Sperling     |
| 11/10 Laurie Skogen      | 11/25 Elaine Snyder        |
| 11/11 Mark Sundberg      | 11/25 Keira Thompson-Ohren |
| 11/12 Austen Tabbut      | 11/26 Meg Garrahan         |
| 11/12 Nathan Hoff        | 11/26 Franklin Schierer    |
| 11/13 Bill Nead          | 11/27 Lydia Meder          |
| 11/14 Dennis Bergerud    | 11/29 Duane Rose           |
| 11/14 John Lindholm      | 11/29 Erik Loomer          |
| 11/14 Erik Lindholm      |                            |
| 11/14 Alexandria Haas    |                            |
| 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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