

## December Worship



Sunday, December 1	9:30am	
<b>"Reviving Isaiah"</b>		Isaiah 40:1-8; Luke 3:1-6
<i>Pastor Doug Dent</i>		<i>Celebrations of Baptism &amp; The Lord's Supper Federated Choir</i>
Wednesday, December 4	5:30pm	
<b>Thoughts "The First Nowell"</b>		
<i>Pastor Doug Dent</i>		
Sunday, December 8	9:30am	
<b>"The Produce Section"</b>		Luke 3:7-18
<i>Pastor Doug Dent</i>		<i>Handbell Choir &amp; Federated Trio</i>
Wednesday, December 11	5:30pm	
<b>Thoughts on "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"</b>		
<i>Pastor Doug Dent</i>		
Sunday, December 15	9:30am	Kids' Christmas Pageant
Wednesday, December 18	5:30pm	
<b>Thoughts on "Joy to the World!"</b>		
<i>Pastor Doug Dent</i>		
Sunday, December 22	9:30am	
<b>"Why Not Me?"</b>		Luke 1:39-55
<i>Pastor Doug Dent</i>		<i>Federated Choir</i>
Tuesday, December 24	5:00pm	Christmas Eve
<b>"The Impossible Possibility"</b>		Isaiah 9:1-7
		<i>Federated Choir &amp; Trio</i>
<b>"Royal Births"</b>	11:00pm	Luke 2:1-20
<i>Pastor Doug Dent</i>		<i>A Celebration of The Lord's Supper &amp; Federated Trio</i>
Sunday, December 29	9:30am	
<b>A Service of Lessons and Carols</b>		

### Sunday, December 1

Get To Know Your Neighbor  
Scarlett MacFarlane Baptism  
Communion

### Wednesday, December 4

5:30pm Advent Service  
6:00pm Advent Supper

### Monday, December 9

4:00pm Advanced Health Care  
Directives Workshop

### Tuesday, December 9

6:30pm Ministry Nite

### Wednesday, December 18

5:30pm Advent Service  
6:00pm Advent Supper

### Sunday, December 15

9:30am Children's Christmas Pageant

### Wednesday, December 18

5:30pm Advent Service  
6:00pm Advent Supper

### Thursday, December 19

6:30pm D&E Meeting

### Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve  
Church Office Open Till Noon  
5:00pm Worship  
6:00pm Potluck Supper  
11:00pm Candles & Communion

### Wednesday, December 25

Church Office Closed

### Thursday, December 26

Church Office Closed



*This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:18-21*

I'm going to briefly talk about Easter and its relationship to Advent. You maybe think I've gone off the rails: Advent relates to Christmas, not Easter. Bear with me!

Christmas, and the massive thing it is culturally, has become the central event of the Christian year. It is certainly a time to celebrate. We celebrate the birth of our Savior, but I think also we are celebrating much more.

Advent is a time of waiting. Advent belongs to the Old Testament as we await the birth of the one God promised would come to save us all. But while we wait for the spontaneous in-breaking of grace into the world with Jesus, we should not be afraid to take time and remember the fact that the grace experienced in his birth, life, ministry, words, death, and resurrection is always reflected in the church not simply when it celebrates the miracle of Christmas, but when it experiences God's justice rolling down like never ending waters.

That justice, brought to us in Jesus and begun at Christmas, is what we seek everyday as we work to usher in God's reign. This happens in small ways as well as large, It happens in the building of relationships, the integration of grief into our lives, the budding signs of hope in a broken world, giving a gift. The small, local experiences are just as capable of telling the world about Jesus as any wide scale church program or policy can do.

A Christmas birth leads us to Bethlehem, then to a cross, and to an empty grave.  
It leads us to one another and new ways of living in grace, peace, and love.  
Have a wonderful Advent season!  
Do not forget what Jesus came to do. Remember that Jesus came for you!

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Hallelujah, Christ is risen!

Pastor Doug Dent

*The holidays are often difficult for anyone who has experienced the death of someone loved. Rather than being times of togetherness, sharing, and thanksgiving, holidays can bring feelings of sadness, loss and emptiness. Many grieving people wish that they could just skip the holidays and move right into January.*

*While society encourages you to join in the holiday spirit, the best solution may be to find ways to honor and remember your loved one while honoring yourself, your needs, and your feelings. Be gentle with yourself, and do only as much as you feel like doing. The following guidelines may be of some help to you now:*

- Talk about your grief with caring friends and family who will listen--without judging you--and find those who can listen again and again.
- Feelings of loss will probably leave you fatigued and slow you down. Pick and choose which activities you wish to participate in, with whom you want to spend time, and what you want to do. Planning ahead can help keep others from assuming you want to do everything and in the same ways activities were done in the past. You may want to continue some family traditions and start some new ones. Talking over your wishes with a trusted friend will help you clarify what you want to do during the holidays. Then, communicate this to your family and friends.
- Include the loved one's name in your holiday conversation and find ways to recognize and acknowledge that individual. This may be done in a number of ways: lighting a special candle, creating a ritual, placing a memento on the tree, observing a moment of silence, a holiday toast, cooking his/her favorite food, or even buying a gift that person would have liked and giving it to a local charity for someone who could use it. One could also buy a gift for each family that reflects the loved one's interests or hobby, such as a special bird feeder, or a favorite book. If you see something your loved one would have purchased for you--buy it! We need to treat ourselves too and it can feel like he/ she actually gave it to us.
- Embrace your memories of the person and share them with family and friends. You may want to bring some photo albums to the family gathering. Keep in mind that memories are tinged with both happiness and sadness. It is okay to laugh and cry. By your bringing up the loved one's name, others will receive your permission to go ahead and reminisce about him or her. Memories that were made in love--can never be taken away from us.
- Use items that belonged to that person: special dishes, ornaments for the tree, something they made (such as wood crafted items, or a crocheted afghan) or wear that person's jewelry or coat. One family of sons and grandsons wore his ties to the funeral service and then later during the holidays. You may want to play his or her favorite music on the stereo.
- This family gathering may also be a good time to give out his or her personal items to family and friends. Hang that person's stocking or put out a special bowl, and write personal notes or memories on little slips of paper and put inside. They may be read to one another later in the day or next year...Whatever feels right to you.
- Spend some time thinking about the meaning and purpose of your life. Take an inventory of your life--the past, present, and future. Make the best use of this time to define the positive things in life that surround you. Start a gratitude journal listing a simple joy or two each evening before going to sleep. Think of a few goals for the new year, such as making a few new friends, taking a community education class, or volunteering someplace where you are needed in your community.
- Plan something fun to do in January: tickets to the theatre or a concert, a trip to somewhere warmer, or a potluck supper with friends. Only you can decide how best you can take care of your needs.

Blessings,  
Joyce Peterson



*"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulders. And His name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'" Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end."* Isaiah 9: 6-7

## **Kidz Club and Sunday School**

We have again arrived at that special time of year when we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! Our children are working hard on the Christmas pageant to share during worship with our faith family on Sunday, December 15. Our pageant will be traditional in form, giving the whole congregation the opportunity to hear the Christmas story and sing carols. Come join us on this joyful day!

Our Kidz Club crew will meet on the Wednesday after the pageant, December 18, for a special time to watch the movie "Joseph: King of Dreams". We studied his story this fall and we wanted to see the whole movie together! We will take a two-week break after this gathering and begin again on Wednesday, January 8.

Sunday school will take a few weeks off on December 22 and December 29, and then begin again, on January 5.

## **Senior High Youth Group**

Our senior high youth continue to meet each week for fun, learning, fellowship, and food. Many of our young people arrive at church during the late

afternoon to help at Kidz Club or to simply hang out and have a "break" in the middle of the week. It is wonderful that our youth find the Federated Church to be safe, warm and welcoming place to spend time together. We love having them here!

We are looking forward to our annual winter retreat, to be held during the weekend of February 7-9 at Clearwater Forest. Our group will enjoy the great outdoors and play lots of fun games as well as study the book of Esther from the Old Testament. Esther's story is always significant, but it is SO powerful and meaningful for young people as they are finding their way in the world. It is important to hear the message that God is working through our lives for His good and glory and that He chooses us to live in this time and place! Pray for our youth and for this special weekend!

## **Bible Studies**

Our women's Bible study continues to work through Paul's letter to the Colossians. We are enjoying the slower pace and the opportunity to really dig into God's Word.

The Revelation Bible study continues to review what we covered this past spring and plan to begin working on new chapters in December. This is a challenging book to soak in and so, it is great to be able to go through previously covered material. We learn new things every time! God's Word is definitely ALIVE!



# Church News

## Church Office

The church office hours in December are from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm on Fridays. The church office will be open from 9am-12pm on Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve). The church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th (Christmas Day), Thursday, December 26 and Wednesday, January 1st (New Year's Day).

## A Season Of Giving

If you took a mitten and purchased a gift for a child in the Ottertail County please bring your wrapped gifts to the church no later than Sunday, December 8 with the red ID mitten taped to the top. If you have questions contact Brianna in the church office.

## Lighting The Advent Candles

Dec. 1

Bill & Mary Ann Nead

Dec. 8

Kurt & Sonja Johnson & Family

Dec. 15

Michelle Loomer & Friends

Dec. 22

Troy & Sondra Lee & Family

Dec. 24 (5pm)

Hollis & Melissa Davenport

Dec. 24 (11pm)

Glenn & Mary Bressler

## Newsletter Deadline

The Holiday season can be busy. Please don't forget to get your newsletter information to the church by December 15 for January.

## 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 20234 statements.

## Annual Reports

Chairs of Committees need to get their Annual Reports in by December 15. Contact the church, if you have questions on how to create an annual report. Please, type your report. Thank you!

The annual meeting is set for Sunday, January 26 right after worship.

## Poinsettias

If you ordered a Poinsettia, you may take it home after the Christmas Eve services or come in on Friday, December 27 between 9am-noon.

## Pastor Doug's Vacation

Pastor Doug will be out on vacation from December 26-January 4. He will return for worship on Sunday, January 5.

## 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 are able to 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. 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, December 27. If you have questions about the dates, contact Brianna in the church office.





# 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.

## Stewardship Committee

Thank you to everyone who returned your 2025 estimate of giving card, allowing us to appropriately budget for what we need, what we want, and what we wish for. Your support helps put our faith into action both in our church and in our community.

As of November 26, we have 105 pledges totaling \$357,203.08. That is approximately 92% of the way to last year's total pledges.

As we finalize our budget for 2025, we're blessed by your support of the ministries of Federated Church.

*I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation — the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ — for this will bring much glory and praise to God. Philippians 1:9-11 (New Living Translation)*

## Worship Committee

Federated 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 on Sunday, December 8.

Federated 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, December 1, December 22 and Christmas Eve at the 5pm service.

Federated Trio

The Federated Trio, Karen Anderson Dent, Cindy Holte, and Sondra Lee will be singing during worship on Sunday, December 8, and Christmas Eve at the 5pm and 11pm worship service.

Advent Services & Suppers

Join us on Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18 for Advent services at 5:30pm and suppers 6pm. These will be light soup/chili suppers. Free will offerings will benefit Boxes of Blessings at the cancer center and Kidz Club meals.

Wednesday, Dec. 4

Caring Ministry Team will host and raise funds for Boxes of Blessings.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

Fellowship Committee will host the annual Chili Cook-off.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Confirmation students will host and raise funds for Kidz Club meals.

Christmas Eve, December 24

We will have our traditional lineup of services and suppers:

5:00pm – Faith Family Christmas

6:00pm – Potluck supper

11:00pm – Candlelight & Communion



# Greeters ~ December

**Sunday, December 1**

*Worship @ 9:30am w/ communion*  
Bev Richter, Doug Becker, & Connie Seltz

**Sunday, December 8**

*Worship @ 9:30am*  
Bill & Mary Ann Nead

**Sunday, December 15**

*Worship @ 9:30am*  
Christmas Pageant  
Skip & Char Zielin

**Sunday, December 22**

*Worship @9:30am*  
Pete Konrad & Luke Ledbetter

**Sunday, December 24**

*Worship @5:00pm*  
Matt & Donna Solin  
(TBD)

**Sunday, December 29**

*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.

## 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:

**December 10 - 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	\$35,467
Expenditures	\$28,616
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$336,704
Actual Received	\$334,610

## Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food	
November	\$ 58,665.06

## 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

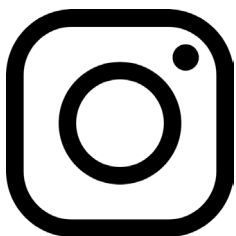
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time sensitive information  
Please deliver by December 1st

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.




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




## December Birthdays

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 12/01 Dave Loeks           | 12/24 Iyla Iverson     |
| 12/02 Sophie Rufer         | 12/25 Jesus Christ     |
| 12/03 Patty Shol           | 12/28 Amber Underdahl  |
| 12/05 Aaron Link           | 12/28 Courtney Meder   |
| 12/05 Kason Sytsma         | 12/29 Molly Stoddard   |
| 12/09 Jamie Brause         | 12/29 Jonathan Collins |
| 12/10 Tami Anderson        | 12/29 Jonathan Dent    |
| 12/11 Carolyn Fransen      | 12/29 Jacob Hatling    |
| 12/13 Doris Davis          | 12/30 Mary Olson       |
| 12/16 Rorey Rodning        | 12/30 Daniel Anderson  |
| 12/18 Syler Steinbrenner   | 12/30 Camen Andrews    |
| 12/19 Perry Werner         | 12/30 Daxton Thompson  |
| 12/21 Amy Donoho           | 12/31 Don Davenport    |
| 12/21 Jacob Gustafson      |                        |
| 12/21 Jessica Steinbrenner |                        |
| 12/21 Mara Braaten         |                        |
| 12/22 Lori Beske           |                        |
| 12/22 Makenna Stenstrom    |                        |
| 12/24 Phil Link            |                        |
| 12/24 Ronnie Becker        |                        |





PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
(USA)



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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