

## February Worship

Sunday, February 2 9:30am  
**"The Stare Scare"** Jeremiah 1:4-10  
*Pastor Doug Dent*

*A Celebration of The Lord's Supper*

Sunday, February 9 9:30am  
**"The Funnel of Misbelief"** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
*Pastor Doug Dent*

Sunday, February 16 9:30am  
**"Dorito Theory & the Deceptive Heart"** Jeremiah 17:5-10  
*Pastor Doug Dent*

Sunday, February 23 9:30am  
**"In Each Other's Shadows"** Luke 6:27-38  
*Pastor Doug Dent*



## Dates to Remember

Sunday, February 2  
 Communion  
 Federated Friends Sunday

Friday, February 7-9  
 Winter Retreat

Sunday, February 9  
 Choir Sings

Tuesday, February 11  
 6:30pm Ministry Nite

Friday, February 14  
 Valentine's Day

Saturday, February 15  
 Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, February 16  
 Bells Play  
 Birthday Cake Sunday

Monday, February 17  
 Presidents' Day  
 Church Office Closed

Thursday, February 20  
 6:30pm D&E Meet

Sunday, February 23  
 Choir Sings

Friday, February 28  
 1-4pm Federated Food Shelf Day



*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

It's February, the month of Valentines and heart-shaped boxes of candy. So, what else is a pastor to write about in the newsletter, but love? Thanks to the mass commercialization of Valentine's Day, love is everywhere. Love is all around us!

Is it really, though? I mean, sure, our culture is highly proficient in and dedicated to promoting romance. I've lost count of the number of jewelry commercials on TV today, and I tip my cap to the advertising folks.

But while romance is as abundant as ever, it seems that genuine love is something else, something harder to come by in the public sphere. Violence always leads off the news broadcasts. Public discourse is evermore hostile to the extent that political differences drive wedges between close friends.

As people united in Christ, we are called by God to love others even if it's not the easy or the popular thing to do. Fortunately, the Bible is a great resource to help us do this! One of the best descriptions of love in the Bible is the passage from 1 Corinthians 13, written by the Apostle Paul. These words to the Corinthians are some of the most enduring words in the Bible and are familiar to many people because they are often read at weddings.

The implications of the kind of love described in 1 Corinthians 13 are wide-ranging. Loving with this sort of patience and gentleness invites others into our lives, providing fertile ground for relationships to grow. Strangers, whom we may at first lump into a category, become individual people we truly see, know, and appreciate. Love like Paul describes can topple the walls of fear and discord that seem to be so effectively separating people right now.

This is the kind of love God calls us to offer to the world this February. Let this kind of love be our Valentine to everyone, showing the love God has for us in Jesus Christ by offering that same love to others.

Pastor Doug



## Church News

### Church Office

The church office hours in February 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, February 28. If you have questions about the dates, contact Brianna in the church office.

### Coffee Hour

Women's - Tuesdays at 10am  
Men's - Fridays at 10am

### Bible Studies

Women's - Tuesdays at 11:15am  
Revelation - Sundays at 10:30am

### Confirmation

Confirmation Sunday is March 9, 2025! Please hold our confirmands in your prayers as they complete this journey and prepare to join our congregation:

Easton Eckhoff, Van Krueger, Sean Rufer, Franklin Schierer, Celia Smith, and Syler Steinbrenner.

### Brianna's Vacation

Brianna will be on vacation Friday, March 21-Wednesday, March 26. If anyone is willing to help answer the phones in the office please let me know. Friday would be from 9am-noon and Monday-Wednesday from 10am-2pm.

### 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.

## Up Coming Evets:

**Federated Friend Sunday & Communion**  
February 2 @ 9:30am

**Youth Winter Retreat**  
February 7-9

**Choir Sings During Worship**  
February 9 @ 9:30am

**Bells Play & Birthday Cake Sunday**  
February 16 @ 10:30am

**Choir Sings During Worship**  
February 23 @ 9:30am

**Federated Food Shelf Day**  
February 28 @ 1pm



We are well on our way into 2025 now! We are looking ahead at a busy winter-into-spring with great opportunities for every age. Here is the line-up of activities at the beginning of February.

### Kidz Club

We continue to meet each week on Wednesdays after school for learning and fellowship. This winter-into-spring we are learning about the life of Moses. After the success of our series on Joseph, I think this group will be able to challenge anybody on Old Testament trivia. They are so inquisitive and ask incredible questions every week. We will continue to meet each week through April 30, with one week off on March 5.

### Sunday School

After a wonderful pageant at Christmas, our Sunday school kids are continuing our study of the most important lessons about God. Once this series is completed, they will begin exploring how Jesus calls us to love and serve one another.

### Confirmation & Middle school youth group

In early February, our confirmation students will have the opportunity once again to help church members who deliver Meals by Wheels. This is a meaningful service event for our youth, who get to participate in an important ministry of our church and community. As we move closer to March, we are getting our 9th grade students ready to be confirmed-on Sunday, March 9 during worship. Please join us on this special day to support our young people as they profess their faith and become full members of our faith family. Our 7th and 8th grade class are also continuing in their faith development, meeting after school on Wednesdays for fun and learning. This younger group will continue to meet for class and youth group throughout the spring.

### Senior High Youth Group

We are gearing up for our annual Senior High Winter Retreat at Clearwater Forest, set for the weekend of February 7-9. Our topic is the book of Esther, the Jewish girl who became Queen of Persia alongside King Xerxes. Esther's story highlights that God truly has a purpose for each of us to serve others and Him; and when we seek His guidance, He will place us in the right places at the right times. We also hope to enjoy taking a "winter break" by spending time outside, drinking hot chocolate, playing games, and taking time for rest. Our group continues to meet each Wednesday at 7:30pm to tackle topics of faith and current events.

### The Senior Brunch is set for May 4 after worship!

### Bible Studies

Our women's Bible study meets each Tuesday at 11:15am in the parlor. We continue to study the Gospel of Luke, which tells the story of the life and ministry of Jesus in a deeply personal and detailed manner.

The Revelation Bible study group, now halfway through the book, meets on Sunday mornings after worship. This group is for adults, and we are slowly making our way through this fascinating and timely book. Please feel free to join either group for an opportunity to dig into God's word with other believers.

### VBS is set for June 23-27.

Mark your calendars!

A prayer shawl envelops the recipient in the warmth and prayers from the community of Federated Church. As the craftsperson created the shawl, a prayer of healing is literally woven into the yarn.

We have a number of prayer shawls in the church office. Anyone who attends Federated Church may give a shawl. If you are aware of someone you feel could benefit from the warmth and prayers that come with a shawl, please stop by or call the church office at 218-739-3227.



*So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13





# 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.

### Deacon & Elders

At their meeting on January 16, 2025, the Deacons & Elders:

- Reviewed the church's financial position as of 12/31/2024
- Amended the proposed budget for 2025
- Appointed Erin Smith to the Personnel Team
- Approved the wedding of Matt Solin and Sarah Miller on June 14, 2025
- Expressed thanks to outgoing officers Erik Anthonisen and Hollis Davenport
- Approved a special offering to assist relief efforts related to the California wildfires
- Identified chairpersons for 2025
- Received committee reports

### Ministry Nite

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

### Fellowship Committee

Birthday Cake Sunday is February 16. If you would like to bring a cake a sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, or you can let Brianna in the church office know. Please sign up next to the month you want to bring for. All extra cakes will be auctioned off.

### 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 sing during worship on Sunday, February 9.

Ash Wednesday is on March 5. Worship will be at 7pm in-person and livestreamed.

#### Lenten Services

Join us on Wednesday during Lent. Worship will be at 5:30pm and suppers at 6:00pm. Worship will be in-person and livestreamed.

- March 12
- March 19
- March 26
- April 2
- April 9

#### Holy Week

- Palm Sunday, April 13 (9:30am)
- Maundy Thursday, April 17 (7pm)
- Good Friday, April 18 (7pm)
- Easter Sunday, April 20 (9:30am)

# Greeters

## February 2025

### Sunday, February 2

Worship 9:30am w/ Communion  
Denny & Lu Echelberger

### Sunday, February 9

Worship 9:30am  
Wayne & Patti Link

### Sunday, February 16

Worship 9:30am  
TBD

### Sunday, February 23

Worship 9:30am  
Kurt & Sonja Johnson

**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:

### February 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	\$33,394
Expenditures	\$46,607
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$404,044
Actual Received	\$397,596

## Grocery Receipts

### THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food	
January	\$5,554.59

## 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





# Federated CHURCH

224 North Union Avenue  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Time sensitive information  
Please deliver by February 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**.




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

## February Birthdays

02/02	Robin Andrews	02/18	Finn Christianson
02/03	Donna Hendel	02/19	Love Ell Hultin
02/03	Karen Orcutt	02/19	Marjan Schuetze
02/03	Jona Brown	02/20	Ashlynn Eckhoff
02/03	Trevor Undseth	02/20	Shana Johnson
02/04	Norma Loomer	02/21	Barb Flom
02/05	Olivia Jensen	02/21	Sean Rufer
02/06	Tanya Westra	02/22	Maura Fransen
02/08	Patty Lindholm	02/22	Norma Worden
02/08	Ida Gustafson	02/22	William Johnson
02/10	Luke Collins	02/24	Madilyn Michael
02/10	Kurt Johnson	02/25	Harvey Beske
02/10	Andrew Link	02/27	Dove Schierer
02/10	Rylee Rodning	02/27	William Nuss
02/11	Kitt Schara	02/28	Gary Nelson
02/12	Greg Truax	02/28	Mark Thompson
02/12	Alicia Paulzine	02/28	Ruby Schmidt
02/14	Doug Dent		
02/14	Jon Fransen		
02/14	Kristi Rufer		
02/14	Josie Buchfink		



PREBYTERIAN CHURCH  
(USA)



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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