



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN ARMS.

Federated
CHURCH

2024 Annual Report



At worship!



At work!



At play!

Federated Church Annual Meeting - January 26, 2025

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Agenda

** Requires a congregational vote*

- I. **Opening Prayer**

- II. **The Call to Order**
 - Establish a Quorum (10% of Active Membership or 34 members)
 - Adopt the Agenda*
 - Review the minutes of the Annual Meeting on 1/28/2024

- III. **Pastor's Report**

- IV. **Board of Deacons & Elders Report**

- V. **Nominating Team Report**
 - Elect New Officers & Team Members*
 - Dismiss 2024 Nominating Team*
 - Appoint 2025 Nominating Team*

- VI. **Ordination & Installation of New Officers**

- VII. **Recognize 50-Year Members**

- VIII. **Team Reports**

- IX. **Financial Reports**
 - Proposed Budget for 2025
 - Pastor's Compensation 2025
 - Approve 2024 Annual Report & 2025 Budget with Pastor's compensation*
 - Benevolence Giving Report (2024)

- X. **Adjourn with Prayer**

Minutes from 2024 Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 28, 2024 – Fellowship Hall

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Doug Dent

Clerk of Session: Jean Bowman

I. **Opening Prayer** - The meeting was called to order at 10:35 AM

II. **The Call to Order**

- Quorum was declared (10% of Active Membership or 34 members).
There were 69 members present in the fellowship hall.
- **Motion #1:** To approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- We reviewed the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting (1/15/23).
These were approved by D&E on February 16, 2023.

III. **Pastor's Report** - While COVID allowed us to initiate worshipping from the comfort of our homes through online streaming, we are stronger and healthier in person. Please consider in-person worship in 2024. The average weekly attendance at worship is a minimum of 150 (in person and online together). This exceeds our pre-COVID worship numbers.

IV. **Deacons & Elders**

- We recognized our 50-year members – (1973) Lori Beske, Love Ell Hultin, Dennis Frye, Donna Solin, Beth Strom, Joan Tester; (1974) – Kathy Truax, Laurie Skogen
- A written report was included in the annual report. There were no questions.
- We thanked our clerk and treasurer for their service.

V. **Nominating Committee Report**

Nominations presented by the nominating committee. There are still two open positions. Doug opened the floor to any additional nominations. Jon Fransen was nominated to serve another term on the D&E board; as chair of the nominating committee his nomination needs to come from the floor. **Motion #2:** To elect the slate of officers/committee members as presented by the Nominating Committee and with the addition of Jon Fransen to serve on D&E. Motion carried.

Deacons & Elders - Mary Bressler, Jon Fransen, Chad Nelson, Kerian Stenstrom

Audit Task Force - John MacFarlane (3-year), Beth Schlepp (2-year)

Board of Managers - Glenn Bressler, Mariah Davenport, Terry Haas

Caring Ministry & Outreach - Barb Becker, Tami Collins

Christian Education - Jona Brown, Samantha Ebert, Molly Stoddard

Endowment - Carolyn Anderson, John Erickson, Donna Hendel

Fellowship - Chelsea Cruz, Judy Friedrich, Kristi Rufer, Vanessa Whipple, Jacki Knapp Raaen (2-year)

Mission - Carol Bischoff, Jane McLandress,, Tessa Schierer, Mike Shol

Personnel - Michelle Loomer (3-year), Erin Smith (1-year)

Stewardship - Thea Fransen, Troy Stenstrom

Worship - Ruth Aulds, Craig Jorgensen

Motion: #3: To dismiss 2023 Nominating Committee with thanks. Motion carried.

Motion #4: To elect 2024 Nominating Committee (5 members, 2 alternates). Motion carried.

Members: Mary Bressler, Michelle Loomer, Ingrid Morgan, Donna Solin, Greg Truax

Alternates: Cindy Holte, Janet Knapp

VI. **Committee Reports**

Committee reports are included in the annual report. There were no questions. Comments from members present – the nursery looks fantastic; thanks to William Nuss for renovating that as part of his Eagle Scout Project. Flood mitigation is done; thanks to Pete for completing that and managing the clean-up and damage/repairs. We now have a French drain and a sump pump to prevent future issues. The new pew cushions are appreciated and wonderful.

VII. **Financial Reports**

The budget committee, board of managers and D&E prepared and approved the balanced budget presented this morning. Treasurer Jerry Nuss presented financial highlights.

Revenue Highlights: Stewardship campaign reached 95.08% of goal, 109 households pledged. 74.46% of our annual budget is provided by just 30 households, 25.54% of our budget is provided by 79 households, 100 households made no pledge. Please consider pledging as it helps us plan and manage our budget. We made investments in CDs this year.

Expense Highlights: The personnel committee recommends a 3.5% cost of living increase for all full-time staff, including the pastor. The budget includes a new part- time nursery staff person and utility rate increases.

Proposed Budget for 2024

Total Revenues
Total Expenditures

Budget

\$427,444.27
\$427,444.27

Pastor Doug left the room and Jerry Nuss presented the pastor’s compensation package

Motion #5: To approve the 2023 Annual Report and the 2024 budget, including the Pastor’s compensation. Motion carried.

We reviewed a report of benevolence and denominational giving which totaled \$38,907.18. John MacFarlane noted we strive to give 10% of our budget (which would be \$42,744). Thank you for being generous on behalf of our neighbors.

| Pastor/Head of Staff | 2024 |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Salary | \$72,632 |
| Housing Allowance | 15,502 |
| Cash Salary | \$88,134 |
| Medical | 23,796 |
| Pension | 7,491 |
| Death/Disability | 881 |
| Temporary Disability | 441 |
| SSI | 5,556 |
| Books | 500 |
| Continuing Education | 1,250 |
| Mileage | 750 |
| Total Compensation | \$128,799 |

We joined in singing a hymn and the meeting adjourned with prayer at 11:15 AM.

The following motions were made and approved.

Motion #1: To approve the agenda.

Motion #2: To elect the officers/committee members as presented by the Nominating Committee.

Motion #3: To dismiss the 2023 Nominating Committee with thanks.

Motion #4: To elect 2024 Nominating Committee (5 members and 2 alternates)

Motion #5: To approve the 2023 annual report and the 2024 budget, including the Pastor’s compensation package.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Bowman

This is what Yahweh says: Stand at the crossroads and look. Ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies and walk in it and find rest for your souls. ~ Jeremiah 6:16

Jim Davis and Michael Graham wrote a compelling book entitled, "The Great De-Churching" (2023). In the book, Davis and Graham seek to answer the questions: Who is leaving? Why are they going? What will it take to bring them back?

Who is leaving? Simply stated, there is a mass exodus from all Christian churches since the 1990s, a trend that accelerated during the pandemic. No denomination is exempt from this migration. There is a generational component to this exodus: newer generations are less engaged with churches and more apt to support causes which align with their personal views.

Why are they going? Some members leave due to apathy: kids grew up and they were less engaged, or they got out of the habit during the pandemic. Other left because the church became too politicized, or their beliefs diverged from that of the pastor or congregation. Still others, tragically, left because the church caused them physical or emotional or spiritual harm. Davis and Graham also identified the proliferation of views on the internet as a cause for de-churching.

What will it take to bring them back? There is good news, however. Davis and Graham found that *more than half of those who de-churched would be willing to come back if invited and made to feel welcome.* Did you get that? Over half...would come back...if invited...and made welcome. Friends, those seem like simple and easy things to do!

Davis and Graham identify three themes in which healthy, thriving congregations may re-engage with the de-churched: Belief, Belonging, and Behavior.

- **Belief:** In the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the church has something unique and hope-filled to offer the world. Christians, as children of God, forgiven and redeemed, and called to serve others, must maintain that identity amid the world's competing claims. This is counter-cultural, but it offsets the negativity and self-centeredness of the world.
- **Belonging:** Jesus was known for his radical hospitality, welcoming outcasts and sinners to his table. Jesus invited people from all walks of life into God's realm. He talked with them and made them welcome. A church that presents this kind of radical welcome will become a safe space to which de-churched people may return.
- **Behavior:** A church whose words and beliefs do not correspond to their actions is deceitful. But a church that lives out its faith by engaging in acts of love and service will be a church that entices people to re-engage.

I am eager to discover with you where the Holy Spirit will lead us in 2025. My prayer is that Federated Church will continue to be a community rooted in Christ, empowered by the Spirit, and committed to spiritual growth, deep relationships, and courageous action.

Blessings,
Pastor Doug

Board of Deacons and Elders

Jean Bowman, Clerk of Session

The Board of Deacons and Elders are the representatives of both the Presbyterian (PCUSA) and United Church of Christ (UCC) members. The Deacons and Elders constitute the governing body of the church. They are elected by the congregation and are ordained for life. Each member serves as a representative to one of the committees of the church. Deacons and Elders serve a 3-year term. The 2024 members of the Board of Deacons and Elders were:

| Member | Class | Committee Assignment |
|------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Jean Bowman | | Clerk of Session |
| Erik Anthonisen | 2025 | Fellowship |
| Hollis Davenport | 2025 | Personnel |
| Patty Lindholm | 2025 | Christian Education & Youth |
| Jerry Nuss | 2025 | Treasurer, Endowment |
| Jeremy Jensen | 2026 | Board of Managers |
| Sonja Johnson | 2026 | Worship and Music |
| James Michael | 2026 | Mission |
| Ingrid Morgan | 2026 | Christian Education & Youth |
| Mary Bressler | 2027 | Caring Ministry & Outreach |
| Jon Fransen | 2027 | Nominating |
| Chad Nelson | 2027 | Board of Managers |
| Kerian Stenstrom | 2027 | Stewardship |

The following motions were made, seconded, and approved:

- Appointed Jerry Nuss as Treasurer and Jean Bowman as Clerk of Session.
- Approved the baptisms of Bobby Baker, Henry Peter Thill, Robert Alton Karapetsas Link, Taylor Wynne Buchfink, William Charles Kugler, and Scarlett Marie MacFarlane.
- Welcomed into membership by profession of faith: Bobby Baker, Chloe Beske, Gabe Carlson, Chloe Cruz, Olivia Jensen, Madilyn Michael, Sully Rufer, Leo Schierer, and Jude Weinrich.
- Removed from the rolls due to death: Mae Reich, Iona Saunders, Ann Porter, Carol Rose, and Vaughn Ebbighausen.
- Accepted memorials in memory of Dorothy Porter, Wally Moe, Ann Porter, Mae Reich, Carol Rose, Vaughn Ebbighausen, and Lee Syverson.
- Approved the transfer out of membership at her request: Terri Skretvedt.
- Directed operations that included: Appointed committee chairs and D&E liaisons, set the dates for communion and home communion; approved the year-end statistical reports to the PCUSA and UCC; approved the 2023 UCC and PCUSA statistical reports; purchased hearing assistance devices, a new computer, a monitor for the AV system, a TV for the nursery and a condenser microphone; formed task forces to assist with committee restructuring and policy review; approved a fundraiser for hurricane disaster relief through the PCSA and UCC.
- Managed financial items: approved the 2024 budget and audit, set the 2025 apportionments for PCUSA (\$7,500) and UCC (\$750), approved heritage grant gifts as recommended by the endowment committee and managed the change in health care insurance for 2025.
- Approved and managed personnel including hiring Nevaeh Konrad as a nursery attendant, hiring David Kriesel-Koll as the Bookkeeper, accepted Pastor Ali Haugerud's resignation, hired Joyce Petersen as the Director of Pastoral Care. Added Section 6.14 on Emergency Safe & Sick (ESST) time to the Federated Church Employee Handbook.

Submitted by Jean Bowman, Clerk of Session

Acknowledging Our 50-Year Members – 1975

The following people faithfully served as members of Federated Church, participating in the worship and work of the congregation for 50 years. We celebrate and recognize their contributions to our ministry!

Harold (Butch) Loomer

Norma Jean (Punki) Loomer

Gary Nelson

Amy Underdahl

Nominating Team Report

Jon Fransen

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for committee positions. We appreciate everyone who stepped up to serve!

Deacons & Elders Jean Bowman (U), Tami Collins (P), Patty Lindholm (P), Jerry Nuss (P)

Board of Managers Jane Nelson (1-year), Kayla Larson (1-year), Gerry Worner

Caring Ministry Barb Meder, Gail Welle

Christian Education Amy Donoho, Lu Echelberger, Jill Iverson

Fellowship Carolyn Anderson, Jeanette Haas, Cindy Holte, Matt Solin

Mission Peg Kalar, Jane McLandress (2-years), Cindy Spidahl

Personnel Erin Smith

Stewardship Grant Davenport, Donna Hendel, Wayne Link (1-year)

Worship Saxon Enders, Vivian Whipple

Audit Team James Michael

Endowment Team Lori Beske, Jodie Nuss, Kathy Truax

Your 2024 Nominating Team: Jon Fransen (chairperson), Mary Bressler, Michelle Loomer, Ingrid Morgan, Donna Solin, Greg Truax, and alternates Cindy Hotle and Janet Knapp.

Board of Managers

John MacFarlane & Skip Zielin

The Board of Managers provides oversight of all property of the church (maintenance and repairs), the payment of bills, and oversight of the church's finances. This year our Grand Old Building continued to need care.

Main Projects Completed in 2024:

- Fellowship Hall: A storm water drainage system was installed.
- The parking lot: The parking lot was seal coated and restriped.
- South side of the church: The stucco on the south side of the building was repaired and repainted.
- Landscaping: The south side of the church with mulch and edging.
- Elevator: We had problems with the elevator for several weeks. The service company spent several days working on it and finally figured it out. This was covered by our service contract with them.
- Brick Facia and Sidewalks: We had to make emergency repairs to the south side brick facia and repaired both north sidewalks to the church.

Contingencies/Wish List for 2025

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. New Parlor chairs | \$2,000 |
| 2. Re-do the mulch on the west and north sides of the church | \$600 |
| 3. Boiler Repairs | \$4,000 |

Your 2024 Board Members: Skip Zielin & John MacFarlane (Co-chairs), Matt Beske, Glenn Bressler, Mariah Davenport, David Nord, Terry Haas, Bill Kalar, Jane Nelson. D&E Representatives: Jeremy Jensen and Chad Nelson. Pete Konrad (Custodian) and Jerry Nuss (Treasurer).

Caring Ministry & Outreach

Barb Becker

Our mission is to build community within the congregation, to coordinate the pastoral care ministries of the congregation; and to reach out to those without a church home, inviting them to join our fellowship.

We completed a New Church Directory. A Big Thank you to Heath Sershen, Brianna Schneeberger, and volunteers for all the behind the scenes planning and helping in putting this together. Directories can help us stay connected.

Once a month we have "Get to know you Neighbor Sunday" with name tags. It sure helps to put names to faces. Nametags offer a form of welcome and comfort to newcomers and visitors to Federated Church.

Our committee served dinner following an Advent service. Your donations supported the "Boxes of Blessings" to Patients at Lake Region Cancer Center. Patients who receive these blessings are thankful to have them. A great example to others of how Federated Church provides, supports, and encourages our community.

Looking into 2025, the Committee hopes to look at avenues to further integrate/ promote/ raise awareness of our Federated Church Community.

Connecting with Joyce Peterson, Federated Church's new Director of Pastoral Care, and learning what her long-range goals and plans are, and working alongside her.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Becker Committee Chair

Your 2024 CM&O members: Mary Link, Mindy Christianson, Anne Weinrich, Tami Collins, Kathy Zimmerman, Barb Becker, Mary Bressler (D&E representative)

This past year brought many fresh faces and great energy to the Christian Education programs here at Federated. Our children's and youth ministries continue to grow in number, matched by an increase in volunteers and support. We are encouraged by these trends and pray that they continue in coming years.

Kidz Club: Kidz Club began the year (our winter/spring session) continuing our theme of the year of Jesus. We focused on His life and ministry, the miracles He performed, and His death and resurrection. This fall we began a new series on the life of Joseph, studying his life journey from favored son to slave to pharaoh's right-hand man. We learned that no matter what our circumstances, God is present and working behind the scenes for His glory and our blessing. We capped off the year with our annual Christmas pageant, in which we told the story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, during Sunday worship. It was a wonderful year with church families inviting friends to join us! We have snack time, story and music time, crafts, and gym time. Our wonderful volunteers include Caroline Anderson, Siri Anthonisen-Brown, Melissa Davenport, Jonathan Dent, Lu Echelberger, Claire Gutzmer, Sheila Rodning, Beth Schlepp, and Char Zielin. In the kitchen we are blessed with the leadership of Roxane Nereson, Jane Nelson, and Gail Green. This ministry requires a huge group effort, and we have developed a wonderful team! Please let me know if you would like to serve with us—we are always willing to welcome more help!

Sunday School: Our Sunday School program serves a faithful group of children with a faithful team of dedicated teachers. Once again, our teaching team consisted of Jona Brown and Madalyn Dent with our younger group (K-1st), Sam Ebert, Kristian Fransen, and Karen Anderson-Dent with our older elementary group (2nd-6th). Our theme this fall was on the "13 Most Important Things About God". We covered topics such as "God as Triune," "God is good," "God as human and divine," "God is eternal," among others. It is good practice to begin the process of introducing these concepts at an early age, from which we can build upon during their time in confirmation and beyond. Our children have a wonderful capacity to understand ideas that are challenging.

Confirmation: Our confirmation classes continue to meet each Wednesday (7th-8th grade after school, 9th at 6:30pm) under the leadership of Pastor Doug and assistance from Char Zielin and Hollis Davenport. They cover the Old/New Testament and topics of theology and faith as laid out in the curriculum written by Pastors Doug and Karen. Once a month or so our 7th-8th grade students get to have a "break" by engaging in a youth group time rather than confirmation class. This is led by Pastor Karen, giving them a chance to exercise their faith in various discussions. They also get to do some traditional "youth group" activities and games, as well as occasionally assisting in preparing and serving church meals. This past spring we were able to resume our once or twice a year participation in Meals by Wheels with church members, which we follow by going out for lunch. This is a highly popular activity as the youth get to leave school for a few hours to do this important volunteer work. We had our annual fall retreat at Clearwater Forest in mid-September. Our topic this year was on the life of Joseph. His story is one of great challenges, and we related it to our own lives by recognizing that God is ALWAYS present to work through our circumstances for His glory and our blessing. We had a great leadership team with Madalyn Dent, Hollis Davenport, Sam Ebert, Molly Stoddard, Jennifer Jorde (my sister), and older youth leaders Gabe Carlson, Chloe Cruz, Jonathan Dent, Claire Gutzmer, and Siri Anthonisen-Brown. It is such a fantastic way to kick off the year on this annual retreat.

Senior High Youth Group: Our senior high youth group met each Wednesday night under the leadership team of Karen Anderson-Dent, Hollis Davenport, Madalyn Dent, and Molly Stoddard. Every week we try to address a topic identified as "interesting" by our youth—who are asked at the beginning of the year. We do our best to encourage one another to find ways to live out our faith in Jesus Christ while discussing current issues and challenges we face in the world. Topics this year include human cloning, living in community,

what are demons, do giants exist, what is hell, what is satanism, who do you trust, etc. We have fun talking about these issues and we have fun playing lots of games! Our winter retreat in January 2024 had the theme “Who Does God Say I am? Discovering Our Purpose!” We spent time learning more about what gifts God has placed in each of us and exploring how He might want us to use those gifts as we serve others in the world. We also took time to rest, reflect, enjoy the outdoors, create walking sticks, and play lots of games. We were so excited that God provided a beautiful covering of snow for our weekend, in an otherwise not-so-snowy winter!

Adult Bible Studies: Our women’s Bible study meets each Tuesday morning at 11:15 am for a time of prayer and study. This year we completed our study of 1 and 2 Samuel, and then we went through Paul’s letter to the Colossians this autumn. We deeply enjoy the fellowship, learning, and encouragement generated in this group! We are an open and welcoming group, adding new members and guests.

The Revelation Bible study began meeting on Mondays at 6:30pm in January of 2024. We made it through chapter 11 by the summer and chose to take a break until fall. This autumn we picked up several new people and decided to spend time in review of what we already studied (not a bad idea when going through this book of the Bible!) We will begin at chapter 12 in January of 2025 during Fellowship Hour on Sundays. Both groups are people hungry to have a better understanding of God’s word and how it applies to our everyday lives. It is a wonderful time to learn and support one another in our discernment of scripture!

Vacation Bible School: We had our annual Vacation Bible School during the week of June 24-28. We had a great turnout—our numbers continue to grow as we add families and friends to our group. Our theme this year was on the “God of Wonders.” Each day we focused on a different component of the heavenly realm—the sun, the moon, the stars, the planets, the earth—hearing Bible stories that reference it and creating art that reflect it. Our verse theme was “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven!” Matthew 5:16. We had wonderful youth and adult volunteers who helped make it a spectacular week.

2024 was a year filled with rich experiences, wonderful learning, fellowship, and lots of fun! The great activities and energy would not be possible without the faithful and creative volunteer leaders who help make this such a successful ministry! I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us in 2025!

Your 2024 Christian Education Team: Karen Anderson Dent (DCE) Jona Brown, Karen Bush, Amy Donoho, Samantha Evert, Lu Echleberger, Jill Iverson, Mary Jones Olson, Marjan Schuetze, Molly Stoddard, and D&E Representative Patty Lindholm & Ingrid Morgan.

Endowment Team

Jerry Nuss

Each year Federated Church offers Heritage Grants from our unrestricted endowed funds.

Typically, 4% or \$10,000 of our unrestricted funds are allocated for this purpose.

The Endowment Team considered five grant applications and D&E made four grants totaling \$10,000:

- A Place 2 Belong \$2,500 for operating expenses
- Habitat 4 Humanity \$2,500 for expenses with a home build
- Jail, Inc. \$2,500 for operating expenses
- Matthew House \$2,500 for building improvements

We are pleased to be able to support groups working to strengthen our community.

Your 2024 Endowment Team: Treasurer Jerry Nuss (chairperson), Carolyn Anderson, Lori Beske, John Erickson, Donna Hendel, Steve Lockhart, Marcus Meder (financial advisor), Mark Rodning, Kathy Truax, Gerry Worner, and Pastor Doug Dent.

Personnel Team

Hollis Davenport

The Personnel Committee supervises the employees of Federated Church, hires individuals as needed, and manages and resolves any issues with the staff.

This year we had two positions changing personnel:

- Bookkeeper: Tara Johnson stepped down and we hired David Kreisel-Koll.
- Pastoral Care: Pastor Ali Haugerud resigned, and we hired Joyce Peterson.

A special thank you to the church staff for their dedication to keeping the church functioning as it should. Doug Dent (Pastor), Karen Anderson-Dent (Director of Christian Ed), Joyce Peterson (Director of Pastoral Care), David Kreisler-Koll (Bookkeeper), Pete Konrad (Custodian), Brianna Schneeberger (Administrative Assistant), Heath Sershen (Audio-visual tech), and Saxon Enders (Audio-visual tech). Thank you all, your contributions to the church are noticed.

Your 2024 Personnel Team: Hollis Davenport (chairperson and D&E representative), Kurt Johnson, Michelle Loomer, and Erin Smith.

Fellowship Team

Dennis Bowman & Matt Solin

The Fellowship Committee organizes social events to help build community.

Highlights of 2024:

- **Rally Day (September 2024)** A large group of our congregation stuck around after church to enjoy home-made pulled pork sandwiches and baked beans. The people at the tables competed in bingo, and the younger children enjoyed the bouncy house outside.
- **2024 Potluck Meals (Palm Sunday 2024 and November 2024)** These have turned out to be highly anticipated events with lots of participation from chefs in our congregation. We would like to thank Pete Konrad for setting up serving tables for these meals.
- **Birthday Cake Sunday (February 2024)** Matt Solin has been a big influence to make this one of our bigger events of the year. Extra cakes were auctioned off to supplement our committee's 2024 budget.
- **Softball Breakfast and Silent Auction (April 2024)** The softball teams raised over \$1,000 to help finance team expenses and make progress to get the church softball account out of the red.
- **Softball Tailgating Event (August 2024)** A picnic lunch was provided before the last regular season game of the season for our softball players to enjoy brats and beans with their families and "rub elbows" with the Federated softball fans.
- **Pie Social (October 2024)** This has become one of our larger events with over 25 pies being contributed by our talented pie-bakers. The extra pies were auctioned off, raising almost \$600 for the Local Mission Fund.

As co-chairperson of the committee, I would like to thank all the committee members for their roles in coordinating events and doing their share to carry out each event to make sure it was a success. I could not have asked for a better group to work with this year.

Your 2024 Fellowship Team: Dennis Bowman & Matt Solin (Co-chairs), Chelsea Cruz, Judy Friedrich, Punky Loomer, Jenni Maanum, Jacki Knapp-Raaen, Sheila Rodning, Kristi Rufer, Bonnie Stock, Vanessa Whipple, and D&E Representative Erik Anthonisen.

Thanks to the generosity of congregation members through their financial giving, the Mission Committee was able to give \$8,000 to 13 local, national, and international organizations during 2024 and support three missions within Federated Church.

Highlights of the Mission Committee year were:

- Once again, the committee was responsible for recruiting and coordinating volunteer drivers to deliver Meals by Wheels throughout the year. Thank you to Char for her work in contacting volunteers, and a HUGE thank you to all the Federated members who so willingly delivered meals and brightened the days of recipients.
- During FoodShare Month in March, we continued the Mission Committee tradition of matching congregational donations, contributing \$700 to the Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf.
- Our two Muffins for Mission events in (June and August) raised \$397 for A Place to Belong and \$709 for Boxes of Blessings at the Cancer Care Center; the committee provided a \$100 match for each of these donations.
- The Mission Brunch was an overwhelming success! Representatives of Barbara House, a local sober house for women, shared their moving stories about impact that the non-profit organization has had on their lives. Congregational donations during the brunch totaled \$3,676, and the committee contributed an additional \$2,000 for a total donation of \$5,676.
- For needs within our own congregation, we provided \$500 in support of the Local Mission Fund; \$800 for meals for Kids Club; and up to \$700 for confirmand donations (\$100 per confirmand).
- One Great Hour of Sharing received a donation (match) of \$300, and the Christmas Joy offering in December (after the deadline for annual report articles) will receive a \$200 match from the Mission Committee.
- In response to hurricanes in the South during the fall, the committee donated \$500 for denominational disaster relief and \$400 for hurricane clean-up buckets through Church World Services.
- Also supported through the Mission Committee during the year were Bio Girls (\$500); YMCA Youth Development (\$500); Habitat for Humanity (\$125 for a lunch for hungry volunteers), Bible Bingo at the Pioneer Home (\$150); Salvation Army Food Program (\$325); and Clearwater Forest (\$100).

Our committee's goals in giving were 70% local, 20% state/national and 10% international.

Your 2024 Mission Team: Peg Kalar and Char Zielin (Co-chairs), Bonnie Bergerud, Carol Bischof, Melissa Davenport, Cindy Holte, Jane McLandress, Elizabeth Nelson, Tessa Schierer, Mike Shol, and D&E Representative James Michael.

Pastoral Care

Joyce Peterson

With the help of volunteer drivers (Renee and Russ Larsen, John MacFarlane, Dave Nord, Lu Echelberger, Char Zielen, Bill and Peg and Paul Shol) we delivered 87 porch bags/meals this year. This is a ministry that continues to share a meal with those that are at home, sick, healing, mourning, experiencing joy or just maybe need an extra “hug” from the congregation. This simple meal consists of soup, bread, a sweet treat, devotion, and a handwritten note.

83 Boxes of Blessing were delivered to the Fergus Falls Cancer Center. This continues to be an outreach and mission project for our congregation. A team of nurses and staff at the center put together a list of helpful items to gift those that are starting to receive treatments. We also delivered boxes of blessings to 2 people receiving treatment at other facilities. Thank you to the youth group who helped put together many of these boxes. Thank you for the generous monetary donations to keep this project going.

The Federated Mission Fund used \$507 as outreach for meals and those in need within our faith family.

The Local Mission fund used \$3,421 to help individuals in our community with food vouchers and utility bills. This is a wonderful mission that Federated can offer to our community and those that are struggling.

Stewardship Committee

Becca Michael

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)

This year we continued our stewardship theme of Measuring What Matters. Our theme helped us discern our investment in the mission and ministries of Federated Church. We pondered the power of PRAYER, reflected on the growing need for RESPECT, considered how our FAITH moves us forward, and affirmed our belief that SERVICE is at the core of Christian discipleship.

God has done and continues to do remarkable things with us: things that matter! As of this writing, our current pledges total just over \$361,000.

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

Your 2024 Stewardship Committee: Becca Michael (chairperson), Grant Davenport, Thea Fransen, Donna Hendel, Troy Lee, Wayne Link, Connie Seltz, Troy Stenstrom, Greg Truax, and D&E Representative Kerian Stenstrom.

Worship Committee

Ruth Aulds

The Worship/Music Team assists the pastor and staff in planning worship services utilizing the talents of the congregation and resources of the Church. The work of the Team is guided by Pastor Dent and assisted by Brianna Schneeberger, Jack Raaen (Choir Director), Vivian Whipple (Praise Team Director), Tessa Nord (Bell Choir Director) and Heath Sershen and Saxon Enders on the Audio-Visual equipment. This year we offered Sunday services were offered in person in the sanctuary and online via streaming. Worship in the Park was also offered during the months of June, July, and August on the second Sunday of those months. On Wednesday evenings, during the Lenten and Advent seasons, services were held. Pastor Doug took his annual leave in August and guest speakers and musicians led the worship service each Sunday.

Worship Team: Ruth Aulds (chairperson), Craig Jorgensen, Sondra Lee, Tessa Nord, Jack Raaen, Bev Richter, Vivian Whipple, Heath Sershen, and D&E Representative Sonja Johnson.

With Grateful Appreciation...

Thank you all who faithfully served and completed the terms of service on one of our ministry teams:

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Erik Anthonisen | Jill Iverson | Ingrid Morgan |
| Lori Beske | Kurt Johnson | Elizabeth Nelson |
| Matt Beske | Peg Kalar | Jane Nelson |
| Dennis Bowman | Janet Knapp | Jerry Nuss |
| Mary Bressler | Patty Lindholm | Bev Richter |
| Grant Davenport | Mary Link | Donna Solin |
| Hollis Davenport | Wayne Link | Matt Solin |
| Amy Donoho | Michelle Loomer | Greg Truax |
| Lu Echleberger | Punki Loomer | Kathy Truax |
| Jon Fransen | Jennifer Maanum | Vivian Whipple |
| Donna Hendel | John MacFarlane | Kathy Zimmerman |
| Cindy Holte | James Michael | |

Your commitment to the ministries of Federated Church is appreciated.

Your work is important and influential in our church and in our community.

Thank you to all our **volunteers** throughout the year. Every job is appreciated! We had lots of help with carpentry & woodworking, decorating, knitting, cooking, baking, serving, cleaning, chaperoning, organizing pageant costumes, delivering meals & home visits. Thank you to all who helped in the church office for vacations and time off. We are thankful for our Sunday school teachers, Kidz Club volunteers, and VBS volunteers. The list goes on and on!

Thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Federated Church benefits from your work here. Choosing to share your gifts influences others. You set the example and show us just how meaningful it is to give, to share and to grow through God's love.