

April Worship

Wednesday, April 5 9:30am Easter Sunday
"Easter Emojis" Matthew 28:1-10
 Pastor Doug Dent

A Celebration of The Lord's Supper
 Choir & Trio Sing

Sunday, April 12 9:30am
"But the Bible Says..." Acts 2:14a, 22-32
 Pastor Doug Dent

Wednesday, April 19 9:30am
"Traveling Companion" Luke 24:13-35
 Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, April 26 9:30am
"The Shepherd's Voice" John 10:1-10
 Pastor Doug Dent Choir Sings



Dates to Remember

Thursday, April 2
 7:00pm Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 3
 Church Office Closed
 7:00pm Good Friday

Sunday, April 5
 Easter Sunday
 Communion
 Choir Sings
 Trio Sings

Sunday, April 12
 10:30am Softball Pancake Breakfast

Tuesday, April 14
 6:30pm Ministry Nite

Wednesday, April 15
 Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, April 16
 2:00pm Moments of Hospice Presentation
 6:30pm D&E Meeting

Sunday, April 19
 10:30am Sr. Brunch

Sunday, April 26
 Choir Sings



Christ is risen! April 5th marks the most celebrated day on the Christian calendar; the day we commemorate the resurrection of Jesus. Though we call it Easter, most of the world knows it as *Pascha*, which is related to the Hebrew *Pesach*, or Passover, commemorating the day God freed the Hebrew slaves from their bondage.

The resurrection of Jesus is the foundational truth of the Christian scriptures and faith. Without the resurrection of Jesus, the rest of Christianity not only falls apart, but it also has no real meaning beyond a moralistic view of life. The resurrection of Jesus bears witness to our sinfulness and to God's great love for us. The resurrection testifies that God accepted the sacrifice of God's own son. The resurrection assures us that we can have a relationship with our Creator because Jesus has taken away the sin that separated us and that we are reconciled to God.

When Easter dawns I hope, your heart will be filled with joy. In fact, I hope it will be filled with so much joy that you cannot keep it to yourself. I encourage you to bring others with you to worship on Easter Sunday so they can hear the good news of Christ's resurrection and God's offer of salvation to anyone who will believe in Him. Invite coworkers, neighbors, family members, friends, anyone and everyone who needs to hear the good news of salvation in Jesus. This news is too good to keep to ourselves! This news is lifechanging! This news is the best news the world has ever heard!

It's just not right to celebrate Easter by ourselves. It's not even consistent. If we really believe that God came to earth to live among us, to bear the effects of our sin, and to set us free through his death and resurrection, then we really believe that this news is for everyone and that it would be wrong to keep it to ourselves. If we had the cure for cancer, or the unlimited resources to end poverty, or the means to end addictions, wouldn't it be wrong to be silent about it and to keep it to ourselves? We have something far better: the means to change a person's eternity, to give them unending joy and delight with God forever!

So, I am praying that you will bring lots of people to church who need to hear the good news of Jesus' resurrection. I am praying that when they come, that together we will faithfully deliver the Gospel message clearly and Easter powerfully. Most of all, I am praying that God will do what only God can do: change hearts and minds with the truth of the resurrection love of Jesus.

I am praying for a great day on Sunday, not just numerically, but spiritually. May the Lord do a great work of salvation, encouragement, and blessing. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

In the truth and power of the resurrection,
Pastor Doug Dent

Heavenly Father, on this Easter day, we are grateful for the gift of your Son, who sacrificed Himself for our sins. Thank you for the love that triumphs over death and the hope Easter brings to our hearts. Amen.

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/prayer/easter-prayers.html#blessings>



April is here, and we are going strong. We have had a wonderfully rich and busy year in our children’s and youth programs. As we look ahead to warmer weather and all the blessings of springtime, we have some important events and dates to share with you.

Senior Brunch--Sunday, April 19

We will be celebrating our graduating senior high school students with our annual Senior Brunch. Our graduating seniors are Siri Anthonisen-Brown, Claire Gutzmer, Drew Johnson, and Holden Stenstrom. Come join us as we bless our graduates on their journeys. EVERYONE is invited and welcome to attend this church family celebration!

Kidz Club—last day Wednesday April 29

Kidz Club will continue to meet during the entire month of April, with our last day set for April 29. We have had a GREAT year with lots of wonderful kids and volunteers of all ages. We have covered the promises of God—both those promises He gives to the whole world and those promises He gives to His children. We have had a fun year of great crafts and gym time.

Middle School Youth Group—Last day Wednesday May 13

Now that confirmation is over for the 2025-2026 season, we set aside Wednesdays after school (during the same time that confirmation met) for our middle school youth to have some regular “youth group” gatherings. It is so much fun to spend time with these awesome young people. We cover special topics of interest as they pertain to our faith, and we play lots of games.

Senior High Youth Group

Our senior high youth group will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings through May—with a few evenings off due to concerts and end-of-year school activities. Our last day is INTENDED to be May 20, but as we get closer the date will be determined.

Adult Bible Studies

Our women’s Bible study, continuing our study of the Gospel of Luke, will continue to meet through the spring and early summer months. We meet on Tuesdays at 11:15am in the parlor.

Our Revelation Bible study plans to complete our study of this challenging book during the month of April. We meet on Sundays after worship in the parlor.

Vacation Bible School 2026

We are planning our annual VBS week for June 21-26 from 9am - noon. Our theme this year is on prayer—Talking with God. We will be diving into the Lord’s Prayer and Jesus’s teachings on prayer. We will learn about different ways to pray and listen to God. As always, we have great crafts and games planned. We know summer is so busy with theatre, sports, and camps, and so we are excited that so many of you are making the effort to come be a part of this special time. Our volunteers and helpers are getting ready to make this a memorable week for everyone!

Christian Education and Youth



Church News

Church Office

The church office hours in March are from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm on Fridays. The church office will be closed on Good Friday, April 3.

Coffee Hour

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

Bible Studies

Women's - Tuesdays at 11:15am
Sr. High - Sundays at 5:30pm

Easter Flowers

If you ordered Easter flowers they can be picked up following the Easter Service.



Moments Hospice Presentation

Do you wish you could be more helpful and supportive to people who are grieving?

Please plan to join us for a presentation on this topic by Cami Richter, volunteer coordinator from Moments Hospice in Alexandria. Cami will have a free, hour long presentation, and will offer people better tools for supporting the bereaved.

"Grief is uncomfortable, and most people would like to be able to offer more comfort and support."

Join us at Federated Church fellowship hall on Thursday, April 16th at 2:00pm. Refreshments will be served. Any questions, please call Joyce Peterson at 218-731-4447, or Marjan Schuetze at 218-205-0672.

The Academy

Would you like to grow in your faith and knowledge?

Would you like to gain experience as a leader?

Would you like to have more opportunities to serve God as needed in your area?

We invite you to consider joining The Academy, a unique learning community. The Academy is a series of 12 courses designed to develop well-equipped, thoughtful people to better serve local churches in a variety of ways. For some, this may lead to becoming commissioned ruling elders (CREs). For others, delight in learning and growing as a leader is the goal.

Courses include Old Testament, New Testament, Reformed Theology, Spiritual Development, Proclamation, and much more! Beginning in 2025, in collaboration with the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation (OPSF), courses will be shared as a part of heir Lilly Endowment grant. This enables Academy participants to also earn a Certificate in Compelling Preaching.

Interested? Want more information? Talk to Pastor Doug Dent or visit the Synod of Lakes & Prairies website: www.lakesandprairies.org/the-academy

On Thursday, April 9, 2026 (12:00-1:00 PM), the Rev. Dr. April Davis Campbell from Omaha Seminary, will be our guest on a Zoom event, along with the Rev. Dr. Michael Hartwell, the Presbytery of MN Valleys liaison to The Academy, to offer more information about the program. You are cordially invited to attend and learn more about the Academy.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978564850?pwd=b00kpAzHL5DIZpWpnbG7ajuwWloQ1D.1>

Meeting ID: 859 7856 4850

Passcode: 880175



★ *Our 8th Oldest Member of Federated is Don Davenport* ★

Many of you may first have known him as “Hollis’s Dad” or “Vivian’s Dad.” Don is 92 years old and the only person I know who has lived on a family farm for 91 years. His great grandfather first bought it from the railroad in 1883. Don’s ancestors came from New York State to find rich, fertile farmland. This family farm is south of Orwell Dam; 15 miles southwest of Fergus Falls.

Don remembers driving horses at age 5 and driving a tractor when he was 6. Don attended Country School #49 through the 8th grade, just down the road a mile from his home. Everyone walked to school in any weather, and sometimes they walked on snow drifts as high as the power posts. Don and his older sister Charlotte needed to rest at times by sitting on the cross bars of the posts.

Don, who was the youngest of six children, went on to West Central School of Agriculture in Morris, MN. The school year was 6 months long instead of 9, to accommodate students to be at home for spring planting and fall harvesting. By age 15, Don knew that he wanted to become a farmer.

Don met his future wife, Marion, while in chorus singing 8 part acapella harmony. They were married in 1955 and sang together at their wedding ceremony. They raised five children: Valerie, Vivian, Lyle, Hollis, and Mark. Hollis is now farming the Davenport farm and Vivian is our church pianist.

4H was an important part of family life, and Don started singing as a kid at 4H events and at Western Church. When an adult, he often sang at weddings and funerals. As a busy dairy and crop farmer, some of his spare time was spent singing with the Heart of Lakes Barbershop group (for 39 years).

He truly enjoyed the camaraderie of this group of fellows. Especially memorable to Don was the quartet delivering singing Valentines surprises around town.

Farming related positions included his serving on the Bois de Sioux Watershed Board (for 17 years) and operating the dynamometer at the Annual Dalton Steam Threshers Reunion (for 23 years). Don also shared his faith by being a Gideon.





Committee News

Mission Committee

One Great Hour of Sharing

The month of April 2026, join with Presbyterians worldwide in responding to Christ's call to ministries of compassion for the most vulnerable around the world. One Great Hour of Sharing provides aid in areas such as disaster relief hunger, poverty, climate change and support for refugees and migrants. The offering funds both immediate relief and long-term development programs including healthcare, education, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment.

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of three annual Churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the United Church of Christ. The goal is to work together with local communities worldwide to build a more just, resilient and sustainable future for those most in need across our world.

To support One Great Hour of Sharing, fill out the envelope in your pew, and on your check, please be sure to include One Great Hour of Sharing in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

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 (church@federatedff.org).

Worship Committee

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 sing during worship on April 5 & 26.

"The new classroom mural represents how we can withstand the storms of living through our trust in God. Within this version of the tree of life, I wanted to portray two scenes: the turbulent outside world and the safety within the tree. The tree is formed with several simple fish shapes striving toward the center. The fish tails represent the crown of thorns, warding off the coming storm. The fish bodies entwine together as branches and weave through the Celtic Trinity Knot (a symbol of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in the center. The golden halo brings us to the sturdy trunk where we find a tranquil scene; Jesus speaking with students. Finally, we come to the orderly and stable roots of the tree, forming a heart, a sign of love and faith."



Thank you, Jona, for this beautiful mural!

Greeters

April Greeters

Sunday, April 5

*Worship @ 9:30am w/ Communion, Easter
Skip & Char Zielin*

Sunday, April 12

*Worship @ 9:30am, Softball Pancake Breakfast
TBD*

Sunday, April 19

*Worship @ 9:30am, Sr. Brunch
Landon Link & Gerry Worner*

Sunday, April 26

*Worship @9:30am
Beth Schlepp & Melissa Davenport*

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.

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!

In February we gave out \$299.02 in assistance to five households.

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:

April 14 - 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	\$ 81,297
Expenditures	\$ 70,844
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$ 68,755
Actual Received	\$ 74,960

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food	
March	\$8,317.25

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

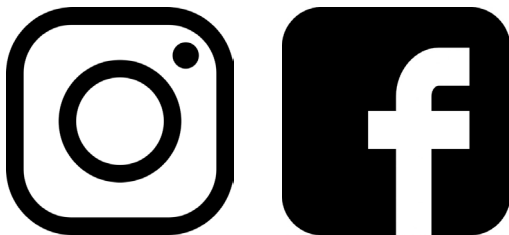
224 North Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Time sensitive information
Please deliver by April 1st

April Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------|-------|---------------------|
| 04/01 | Owen Runningen | 04/19 | Paul Undseth |
| 04/03 | Sterling Andrews | 04/22 | Siri Anthon- |
| 04/03 | Graham Meder | | isen-Brown |
| 04/04 | Kathy Truax | 04/23 | Sonja Johnson |
| 04/04 | Sam Sundberg | 04/23 | Jan Knackendoffel |
| 04/06 | Troy Stenstrom | 04/24 | Mike Shol |
| 04/08 | Steve Lockhart | 04/25 | Charles Ebbighausen |
| 04/09 | Emily Schlepp | 04/26 | Sheila Rodning |
| 04/11 | Adalynn Eifert | 04/26 | Ed Morgan |
| 04/12 | Kai Ebert | 04/28 | Millie Pearson |
| 04/12 | Paul Eckhoff | 04/29 | Carson Barry |
| 04/13 | Preston Weinrich | 04/30 | Christa Beske |
| 04/14 | Anders Anthon- | 04/30 | Samuel Nelson |
| | isen-Brown | 04/30 | Pete Konrad |
| 04/16 | Abigail MacFarlane | | |
| 04/19 | Reno Schierer | | |



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		<p>The Federated Church is a joint ministry of The Presbyterian Church (USA) and The United Church of Christ.</p>
<p>224 N. Union Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN 56537 Phone: 218-739-3227 email: church@federatedff.org</p>		