

## May Worship

Sunday, May 3	9:30am	
<b>"Satisfaction Guaranteed"</b>		John 14:1-14
Pastor Doug Dent		<i>Celebration of The Lord's Supper</i>
Sunday, May 10	9:30am	
<b>"God's Stain Remover"</b>		1 Peter 3:13-22
Pastor Doug Dent		Choir Sings
Sunday, May 17	9:30am	
<b>"Still in the World"</b>		John 17:1-11
Pastor Doug Dent		
Sunday, May 24	9:30am	Pentecost Sunday
<b>"The God-Shaped Hole"</b>		Acts 2:1-21
Pastor Doug Dent		Choir Sings
Sunday, May 31	9:30am	Trinity Sunday
<b>"The Real Masters of the Universe"</b>		2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Pastor Doug Dent		

## Happy Mother's Day

Lord, on this day in which we honor mothers, may we love and cherish the special women who have born us, who have nurtured us, and who have prayed for our well-being. May our hearts overflow with gratitude to you, who formed and knitted each of us in a mother's womb. We pray you give each mom strength. We ask you to be the daily bread of tired mothers. May each mother find rest in you. Amen.

<https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/mothers-day/meaningful-mothe>

## Dates to Remember

### Sunday, May 3

Communion  
10:30am Muffins For Mission

### Sunday, May 10

Happy Mother's Day  
Choir Sings  
10:30am Congregational Meeting

### Tuesday, May 12

6:30pm Ministry Nite

### Friday, May 15

Newsletter Deadline

### Saturday, May 16

H4H Board Retreat

### Sunday, May 17

10:30am Last Day of Sunday School  
10:30am Ice Cream Social

### Thursday, May 21

6:30pm D&E Meeting

### Sunday, May 24

Choir Sings

### Monday, May 25

Memorial Day  
Church Office Closed



*"He is not here; for he has been raised."*  
Matthew 28:6

The fifty days after Easter and leading up to Pentecost Sunday (May 24, this year) are called the Easter Season, because Easter is not just one day: it is a journey, an adventure, a new life filled with light and grace.

Easter is the story of the Risen Christ coming and being with his bewildered and frightened disciples. Easter is about the resurrected Jesus coming to us. Could anything be more unexpected? Could anything be more surprising? Could anything be more evocative?

Michael Frost in his wonderful little, but profound book, *Surprise the World*, reminds us that "one of the primary acts of the evangelistic believer is the arousal of curiosity among unbelievers, leading to questions and faith sharing." God is always yearning for us, seeking us, coming to us, surprising us before we even begin to consider coming to God. This "prevenient grace," this awakening, arousing grace, solicits our curiosity and opens our hearts to Jesus.

The Risen Christ is serious about coming to us. The Gospel tells us: Jesus spoke to Mary Magdalene in the garden, "Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?" Jesus fell in with the men on the Road to Emmaus, opening the eyes of their hearts. Jesus walked through locked doors, embraced the disciples' fears and doubts, gave them his peace, and breathed the Holy Spirit on them. Jesus ate fish with his disciples on the seashore and instructed Peter to "feed my sheep."

Easter is about Jesus standing among us in every circumstance, in every place. Easter is about Jesus reaching out to us across the vast, dark abysses of despair, doubt, and death, and saying, "Peace be with you." Easter is about realizing that our story – our journey – with Jesus is beginning rather than ending. Easter is about God making it irrefutably clear that "God's dwelling place is here with humankind" (Revelation 21:2-3).

Because the Living Christ dwells with us and in us through the Holy Spirit, the victory is assured, and we are empowered, compelled to live the future in the present. Because God in Christ is alive and comes to us and dwells with us, the kingdom is now. Hallelujah!

The great preacher, Gardner Taylor, says the whole Bible can be summed up this way: God is out to get back what belongs to God. Easter is about the loving act in which God reaches out to get us back, to get back what belongs to God. God does it by having the resurrected Jesus come back to us and ask us who we are looking for; walk with us on the road; stand in our midst and touch his wounds; breathe on us the Holy Spirit; and commission us to "feed his sheep"

Our doubts are turned to belief. Our fear is turned to faith. Our slumbering is turned to passion. Our brokenness becomes healing. Our confusion is turned to a missional lifestyle, and, we are moved to speak the unflinching assertion of Thomas, "My Lord and my God!"

Christ is Risen, indeed!  
Pastor Doug Dent



# Christian Education and Youth

Rev. Karen Anderson

Kidz Club ended on April 29 with a Bible challenge trivia game, fun crafts and gym. We had a great year studying God's promises to His people, meaning US! The children are like sponges in their learning and recall of stories and people in the Bible. They are such a delight to work with each week. We had a great team of volunteers. Carolyn Anderson, Siri Anthonisen-Brown, Claire Carlson, Melissa Davenport, Kai Ebert, Lu Echelberger, Barrett Eifert, Maura Fransen, Claire Gutzmer, Hayden Heruth, Peg Kalar, Sheila Rodning, Sean Rufer, Frank Schierer, Beth Schlepp, and Char Zielin all helped with crafts, gym, and just hanging out with the kids; as well as Roxane Nereson and Jane Nelson providing snack and dinner. There were several congregation members who also contributed time and effort into making additional meals for our Wednesday children and families. Everyone's hard work contributed to making this an incredible year! Please thank these generous people for their love and service to our kids.

Kids Club 2026-2027 kicks off on September 16 with the theme **"Paul's Excellent Adventures!"** We will be studying Paul and Peter's missionary journeys in the formation of the church, as well as learning about Christianity in different parts of the world.

Our middle school and high school youth groups had a great year as well. Our youth really enjoy spending time together on Wednesdays—we continue to add to our numbers through friends inviting friends. These two groups will continue to meet in May, with a few weeks off for choir and band concerts. We stay connected through group texts, so everyone knows when we are meeting. We will also plan some activities over the summer (VBS, Community Garden, Lake Day, etc).

Rather than have the bus run for our middle school youth in May, we will pick them up at Kennedy after school each Wednesday. I will provide information to the middle school youth and their parents.

If you have a graduating senior in your home, please remember to apply for the Federated Church college scholarship! Please have your student send in their letter of request to the church office or [church@federatedff.org](mailto:church@federatedff.org).

Sunday school continues through May 17, and we will celebrate with ice cream during the fellowship hour. We will also honor our amazing volunteers for all their hard work this year.

Vacation Bible School is set for June 22 through June 26, so be sure to mark your calendars! Our theme this year is "Hot-line to Heaven! Learning to Talk with God!" We will be discovering ways in which we can talk with God as Jesus taught us. We once again hope to encourage our older youth to be a part of the leadership for this special week—their participation not only helps support the on-going ministry of VBS, but the children really look up to them and consider that a big part of the week. This is truly a highlight for the summer!

Camp Scholarships are available! If you have a child or youth planning to attend a church-related camp this summer, please remember to apply for the Federated Church's partial camp scholarship. Forms are available outside the church office. Deadline for submission is June 15, and the amount awarded depends upon the number of people who apply.

## Mark Your Calendars!

May 17 - Last day of Sunday School

June 15 - Camp Scholarship deadline to the office

June 22-26 - VBS 9am-noon

September 16 - Kidz Club & Sr. High Youth begin

September 20 - Sunday School begins

September 18-20 - Confirmation Retreat



# Church News...

## Church Office

The church office hours in May are from 10am-2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm on Fridays.

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day.

## Congregational Meeting

There will be a brief congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, May 10, to elect a new officer to the Board of Deacon & Elders. All members are cordially invited to attend.

## Brianna's Vacation

Brianna will be on vacation **Thursday, June 11 - Monday, June 15**. If anyone is willing to help answer the phones in the office, please let me know. Friday would be from 9am-noon and Thursday & Monday from 10am-2pm.

## Coffee Hour

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

## Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible study will continue meeting on Tuesdays at 11:15am through June. We are studying the Gospel of Luke.

## New Church Website

Our new church website is now live. You can check out the redesigned website at [www.federatedff.org](http://www.federatedff.org). Same address, easier navigation, modern design and new graphics.

## Summer Edition

The next newsletter you receive is the Summer Edition including both June and July. If you have news for either month, please submit this information to the church by May 15. The next submission date will be July 15 for the August Newsletter. Committees and D&E will not meet in July.

## 2025 Synod School

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies is hosting Synod School from July 26-31, 2026 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA. This is a great event for anyone seeking a fun and faith-based learning experience during the summer. There are activities for children, teens, and families. The workshop catalogue and registration materials are available in the church office or [www.lakesandprairies.org](http://www.lakesandprairies.org).

## Thank you!

- Chad Nelson who is retiring from the Fergus Falls Fire Department after 30 years on the force. Thank you, Chad, for your devoted service to our community.
- Roxane Nereson and Jane Nelson for shopping, preparing snacks, and cooking the meals on Wednesdays every other week for Kidz Club and Confirmation.
- Our volunteer chefs: Peg & Bill, Michelle, Cindy, Dana, Beth, Tami & Pat, Mary & Glenn, Sheila & Mark, Samantha, and Becca for delivering delicious meals on Wednesdays to our students.
- Heath Sershen for updating the church website, and to Becca Michael and Brianna Schneeberger for helping with the redesign.

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Here are some easy hacks you can take to protect birds where you live from Joyce Peterson.

1. Let your yard get a little messy! Leave snags for nesting places and stack downed tree limbs to create a brush pile, which is a great source of cover for birds during bad weather.
2. Plant native plants. Native flora provides birds with food in the form of fruit and seeds and is home to tasty invertebrates such as bugs and spiders.
3. Attract hummingbirds with sugar water, made by combining four parts hot water to one part white sugar, boiled for one to two minutes. Never use honey, artificial sweeteners, or food coloring. Clean feeders with a solution of one part white vinegar to four parts water once a week.

Sources from Audubon Society.



# 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.

## Deacons & Elders

This month we said, “goodbye & thank you” and “welcome & thank you”!

First, the Deacons & Elders accepted Jean Bowman’s resignation as Clerk of Session. Jean has been our Clerk for eleven years. She brought a high degree of professionalism to the role, and we are grateful for her dedication to our congregation and her commitment to keeping Federated Church involved in the greater community. We wish Jean and Dennis every blessing as they relocate to Alexandria, MN. Thank you, Jean! We will miss you!!

Then, we welcomed Becca Michael as our new Clerk of Session. Among other duties, the Clerk is responsible for maintaining accurate membership records for our church, taking minutes at D&E and Congregational meetings, handling official correspondence with other churches and our denominations, and compiling the annual statistical reports. Thank you, Becca, for taking on this opportunity to serve the Federated Family in a new way.

## 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 May 10 & 24.

## Ministry Nite

Please make sure to email your meeting minutes to the church office ([church@federatedff.org](mailto:church@federatedff.org)).

## Fellowship Committee

### *Ice Cream Social*

Let’s celebrate the Sunday School year! On Sunday, May 17 at 10:30am, we will gather in the fellowship hall to enjoy delicious ice cream treats!

### *Church Softball*

We would love to see lots of fans pack the stands on Monday nights. Let’s cheer on our softball team. Go Federated! To see the schedule, check the bulletin boards, text app, weekly memos, and Facebook.

## Mission Committee

### *Muffins for Mission*

Here’s your chance to enjoy muffins or donuts and help a good cause!

Muffins for Mission is coming up during the Sunday coffee hour May 3. The Mission Committee will provide the treats, and your freewill offerings will benefit Boxes of Blessings.

### *Boxes of Blessing*

As a part of the caring ministry of Federated Church, we give “Boxes of Blessing” to the Cancer Center for those who are receiving treatment there. These boxes are packed by the youth group and delivered to the center by Federated staff regularly. In consultation with the doctors and the nurses who work directly with the patients, the boxes contain items that will be helpful to people as they begin their journey with treatment.

These patients are really appreciating the gift of Boxes of Blessings. We receive many THANK YOUs in the mail from these patients.

## Board of Managers

Thank you to everyone who helped with Federated spring cleanup on Saturday, April 25. The Board of Managers really appreciate it. We got a lot done from general cleaning and dusting in the sanctuary. They got the wood door frame painted by the north entrance and cleaning out the flower beds and other outdoor areas.



## *Our 9th Oldest Member of Federated is Millie Pearson* ★

Millie is 92 years of age and describes herself as a displaced Iowan. She grew up in Iowa on a farm south of Rochester, MN. Her parents were of Czechoslovakian descent and Millie was the youngest of three daughters. Her father was a grain farmer, and her mother was a farmer's wife. Millie wonders how her father farmed the 200 acres in the early years with just 2 horses and no sons to help him.

Each fall, they would butcher a cow and a pig, and her mother would spend days canning all of the meat. This was the way for the family to eat all winter, as they did not have a freezer. Preserving food this way allowed them to not need trips to town to buy groceries for the whole winter.

Since each ethnic group lived among others of the same descent, Millie remembers not learning English until she and her sisters went to school. Their grandmother, who was blind, also lived with the family during these years. The girls helped grandma get around, and she never did learn English. The girls went to country school and later attended high school in town. At that age, Millie thought of becoming a surgical nurse even though chemistry was not her best subject. But one day while she was in Home Ec. Class, she was asked to "substitute teach" for a Kindergarten class, when the teacher suddenly had to leave for the rest of the day. This is when Millie found her passion for teaching Kindergarten youngsters.

Millie played board games and paper dolls with her sisters, but one day they came up with a surprise for their parents. While their mother and father were gone for the whole day, the girls figured they could make a complete chicken supper by the time their parents arrived home. It was a start to finish project starting with chopping the head off of the chicken—which none of them had done before. They had only been observers. You may ask Millie about the gory details, but the meal eventually turned out fine.

When Millie's dad retired, they sold the farm and moved into the town of Cresco. There they joined the Congregational church. Millie attended two

years of college and started teaching in a small town. There she met an eligible bachelor, Jim Pearson, and they were married in the Methodist Church. A humorous aspect was that the organist forgot her eyeglasses at home, so there was a long delay before the wedding ceremony began. The bride and groom were in different rooms at opposite ends of the church, so no one knew who or what was holding things up.

Jim was in the hybrid corn business with his father and brother for 10 years. He later sold fertilizer on the road. Millie taught school for 17 years, and then was required to have her B.A. Degree, which she received at Moorhead State University.

Their daughter, Marjorie, was born and she was named after Jim's mother. When Marjorie was in 6th grade, in 1972, they moved to Fergus Falls for Jim to take the position of manager of the fertilizer plant here. Jim passed away in 1976 from cancer.

As parents to Marjorie, they instilled the value of "thinking for herself" as an adult would to solve a situation or problem. Marjorie married John Wittenberg after they completed college, and their children are James and Elizabeth. James and wife Shelby provided Millie with two great-grandchildren, Amelia and Brooks. Amelia is affectionately called "Millie." They all live in the Twin Cities area, so Millie enjoys trips there to see everyone.

Millie is proud of her 43 years of teaching and believes in furthering one's education whenever possible. For hobbies, Millie enjoys reading, knitting, oil paint, and traveling. In fact, she has traveled to all 50 states and several countries. She enjoys living at Pioneer Pointe and likes the staff and friends who live there.



# Greeters...

May 2024

**Sunday, May 3**  
*Worship @ 9:30am w/ Communion*  
Kurt & Sonja Johnson

**Sunday, May 10**  
*Worship @ 9:30am*  
*Happy Mother's Day*  
Pete Konrad & TBD

**Sunday, May 17**  
*Worship @ 9:30am*  
*Ice Cream Social & Last Day of Sunday School*  
Mark & Tami Anderson

**Sunday, May 24**  
*Worship @9:30am*  
TBD

**Sunday, May 31**  
*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 or parish nursing needs. Please call 218-739-3227 or email [church@federatedff.org](mailto:church@federatedff.org).

## Ministry Nite: MAY 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. Reminder: Committees do not meet in July.

## Stewardship Report

### General Fund Report

Revenue	\$137,103
Expenditures	\$111,481

### Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$103,132
Actual Received	\$123,740

## Grocery Receipts

### THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

#### Service Food

April	\$4,386.61
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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 May 1st

## Connect with Federated




## May Birthdays

05/02	Melissa Loomer	05/18	Janet Knapp
05/02	Henrik Gustafson	05/18	Ashley Rodning
05/03	Nic Ebert	05/20	Dennis Echelberger
05/03	Jan Nelson	05/22	Carol Anderson
05/04	Ingrid Morgan	05/22	Thomas Buchfink
05/06	Mariah Davenport	05/23	Mary Lundeen
05/07	Paige Westra	05/23	Kim Anderson
05/08	Susan Johnson	05/25	Thea Fransen
05/08	Arianna Hedrick	05/26	Terry Harthun
05/08	Vivian Olson	05/26	Lisa Johnson
05/10	Shelby Eckhoff	05/26	Ben Sundberg
05/11	Rebecca Buchfink	5/26	Emily Rodning
05/12	Gerald Worner	05/27	Desta Hunt
05/12	Conner Brause	05/28	Barbara Becker
05/14	Vern Tabbut	05/28	Mackenzie Schara
05/15	Jennifer Maanum	05/29	Coleman Eifert
05/17	Truman Steinbrenner	05/30	Mae Harthun
05/17	Steve Thompson	05/30	Matthew Solin



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
(USA)



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
UNITED WE MAY ALL SERVE

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

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