



Union Avenue News

THE SUMMER EDITION

JUNE/JULY 2026

June/July Worship

June 7 9:30am Trio Sings
"No Maps, Just God" Genesis 12:1-9; Romans 4:13-25
 Pastor Doug Dent

A Celebration of The Lord's Supper

June 14 9:30am Trio Sings
"EPOCH Apostles" Matthew 9:35-10:8
 Pastor Doug Dent

June 21 9:30am
"Time for a Reboot" Romans 6:1b-11
 Pastor Doug Dent

June 28 9:30am
"What's Better Than Luck?" Genesis 22:1-14
 Pastor Doug Dent

July 5 9:30am
"Losing, Learning, and Launching" Romans 7:15-25a
 Pastor Doug Dent

A Celebration of The Lord's Supper

July 12 9:30am
"TBD"
 Amber Gerstmann

July 19 9:30am
"TBD"
 Amber Gerstmann

July 26 9:30am
"Your Spiritual Benchmark" Genesis 28:10-19a
 Pastor Doug Dent

Dates to Remember

Sunday, June 7
 Communion

Tuesday, June 9
 6:30pm Ministry Nite

Monday, June 15
 9:00am H4H Build Day

Thursday, June 18
 6:30pm D&E Meeting

Sunday, June 21
 Happy Father's Day

Monday, June 22-Friday, June 26
 9:00am-Noon Vacation Bible School

Friday, July 3
 Church Office Closed

Saturday, July 4
 Happy 4th of July

Sunday, July 5
 Communion

Monday, July 6-Sunday, July 19
 Pastor Doug on Vacation

Wednesday, July 15
 Newsletter Deadline



Well, summer is upon us! For most students and teachers another school year is over (or at least almost over). In the last couple of weeks, we've experienced the heat and humidity which is uncommon for us in Minnesota.

So, what is summer all about? Summer is a time for relaxation and rejuvenation. We look forward to some kind of change in our "regular" schedule. This is the time of year to look at doing more things outside. It's time to plan our summer schedules, including trips away from home. The enjoyment of getting away can be in both the planning, traveling, and experiences we have. It is a time for us to get away from our usual surroundings so that we can encounter something different.

When we take vacations, we refresh our **bodies**. Maybe we take the opportunity to go hiking, swimming, biking, explore a piece of history, visit an amusement park, go camping, or spend the day at a spa. Any of those activities allow our bodies to get some stretching, experience some activity that maybe hasn't been a part of us since last summer. After spending time doing these activities, we feel refreshed.

We can also take vacations for our **mind**. We can go to a museum, an art show, take a summer class, see a play, or push ourselves to try something new. This type of vacation allows our mind to be refreshed. We can stretch our minds just like the physical type of vacation stretches our body. Our mind can be renewed; to use parts of our brain we haven't used in quite a while or maybe have never used!

I want all of us to consider taking our **spirits** on vacation, too. To be clear: I am not suggesting that you take a vacation from worshipping with us on Sundays. On the contrary, being with our family of faith during the summer may provide the stability that we need when the rest of our schedule can be very fluid. But maybe we're finding ourselves stuck in the same spiritual place for years. Maybe we haven't been challenged to stretch our spirituality, or we just haven't taken the opportunity to do so.

I invite everyone to take some time this summer to talk with God. Take some time to increase the amount of time you spend in conversation with the Creator. In other words, spend more time in prayer! We all need to know that there is NOTHING in our lives that we cannot take to God. God understands, cares, accepts, and loves all of us! No matter how difficult, hurtful, or ugly something is; we can always take it to the Creator.

Spend some time in God's Word, too. Just reading the familiar stories of Jesus can be enlightening! God's Word is a Living Word: each time you read it you can learn new or hear something fresh for the first time.

Take some time to volunteer. It's good to get out and "do" for others. Serving is something Jesus commanded his disciples to do, but it has the added benefit of reviving our spirit and our faith in humanity.

I hope you have a wonderful summer! I hope you will be refreshed in mind, body, and spirit this season.

Blessings,
Pastor Doug



Church News...

Church Office

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

Coffee Hour

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

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible study is on Tuesdays at 11:15am in the parlor. They plan to meet through June. We are continuing to work our way through the Gospel of Luke, which tells the story of the life of Jesus through the relationships He had and the lives that He impacted. We enjoy studying God's word and seek ways to apply it to our everyday lives. We also deeply appreciate the fellowship and support we give and receive.

Brianna's Vacation's

Brianna will be on vacation June 11 - 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 and Monday from 10am - 2pm.

Brianna will also be on vacation August 31 - September 7. The office will need to be covered Monday - Thursday 10am-2pm and Friday 9am-noon. The church office will be closed Monday, September 7 for Labor Day.

Thank You

Michelle Loomer would like to thank the church family for all your thoughts and prayers when she was going through a scary time. She is so grateful to you all. Michelle has a few more tests to do and she would appreciate continued prayers.

SummerFest

The Fergus Falls SummerFest is June 12 and 13. On Friday, June 12, events take place at the RTC from noon-9pm. On Saturday, June 13, events occur from 9am-6pm at the RTC. The parade is at 6pm on Saturday.

Pastor Doug's Vacation

Pastor Doug will be on vacation July 6-19. Amber Gerstamann will preach on Sunday's, July 12 and 19.

Summer Edition

No newsletter in July. The next submission date will be July 15 for the August newsletter.

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.

Mobile Text Alerts

Scan the QR code and sign up for mobile texting. No fees, no data rates, and no app.

Federated will be using the text messaging service for reminders on events, worship services, and closures.

Contact Brianna in the church office with any questions 218-739-3227.





“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

After the busy-ness of the school year, springtime activities, and preparing for summer, it is finally time for each of us to take a step back and enjoy God’s beautiful creation! Minnesota is SO breathtaking in the summer months, God desires us to find opportunities here to revel in His glorious world. Even though summer has many reasons for us to work hard and play hard, we can still find ways to receive God’s blessing of renewal. Read a book that deepens your relationship with Him. Seek out fellowship with other believers through Bible study, worship, or listening to music. Spend time outdoors noticing God’s hand in all of nature’s splendor. May each of us experience God’s promise of rest for our souls.

Vacation Bible School

We are gearing up for VBS 2026, set for June 22-26 from 9am-12pm. Our theme this year is “Hotline to Heaven.” Our week will be filled with fun activities geared to learning more about the way Jesus showed us to have a close relationship with God. Before Jesus came to tell us about God’s love for us, people did not always know how to talk to God. He seemed extremely far away. The disciples saw Jesus going away to be alone, and He was talking to someone! When they realized that He was praying to God, they wanted to know how He did it! Jesus taught them, and us, how we can have a close friendship with God, who is our Heavenly Father. We have songs, crafts, games, and snacks planned to make this a special time for everyone. VBS is available for all children in grades K-6, and we also offer leadership opportunities for students in grades 7-12. Applications for VBS and the student assistant positions are available in the church office and the narthex, as well as online. Come join us during this fun-filled week!

Middle School/High School Youth

During the summer months we typically meet in our individual groups a few times each month, doing activities such as bowling, game night, a lake day at Pebble or someone’s lake cabin, going out for ice cream, hiking, kayaking, working at the Community Garden. We tend to make plans and get the word out in advance by text group. The middle school group is hoping for a movie night, and the senior high youth are still developing some specific ideas. Parents and youth will receive information directly.

Camp scholarships

If you are interested in applying for a camp scholarship, the applications are in a folder outside of the main church office. Please fill out the form for this partial scholarship and return it to the church office by June 20 (the form itself may say May 31). We will process the applications once the deadline has passed and disburse the scholarship funds directly to the camp promptly.

College/trade scholarship

If you are applying for the college/trade scholarship, please send your letter to the church office as soon as possible. We review the application letters and send out the scholarship funds directly to the financial office at the individual college or university by mid-August. If you have any questions, please contact Karen at kmad@prtcl.com.

Wednesday, September 16

- First Day of Kidz Club and Sr. High Youth Group
- First Day of Confirmation

Wednesday, September 20

- First day of Sunday School

Friday, September 18-Sunday, September 20

- Confirmation retreat to Clearwater Forest

Blessings to everyone and have a wonderful summer! Trust in God’s promise of rest and renewal!



A Summer Bucket List

- attend a parade
- walk to the library, park, or ice cream store
- make lemonade
- read a book outside in the shade
- take a family bike ride
- watch a local baseball or softball game
- take a nature walk
- visit a friend who is ill or homebound
- make homemade popsicles with juice
- phone a friend
- teach kids outdoor games like we used to. Play, like “Kick the Can, Twilight Moonlight and Anti-I-Over.
- bring lilacs or other flowers to a neighbor
- fly a kite
- teach grandkids a bedtime or mealtime prayer
- make a movie/video
- teach a child to sew, crochet, knit, wood working,
- make chalk drawings on the sidewalk or driveway
- play board games or do crafts outside in the shade
- have a campfire and make s’mores
- watch night sky for shooting stars
- have a dance party with fun music
- watch fireworks
- jump rope
- go to a butterfly park and sit still to watch
- put on a play with your friends
- wash the car, inside and out
- learn a card trick
- make a new friend
- write a letter to a family member who lives at a distance
- have a picnic somewhere new
- write a poem
- learn origami (I can teach you)

Enjoy your summer—it always goes too fast!
Joyce

As I step into this summer season, I seek Your divine guidance. Lead me in the paths of righteousness and help me make decisions that honor You. May Your wisdom illuminate my mind and Your love guide my heart. Let this summer be a time of growth, reflection, and alignment with Your will.

<https://prayerlit.com/summer-prayers-and-blessings/>





Committee News

Caring Ministry

Instant Church Directory

With the Instant Church Directory app, you can quickly locate families or individuals, using the most up-to-date information, right from your mobile phone.

Make sure to contact the church office or sign into your account to update your information. Please keep your address, phone numbers, and emails up to date if you are listed.

How to Download the Instant Church Directory App:

- Open your phone's App Store
- Search: "Instant Church Directory"
- Download and Open the App
- Follow the prompts to create your free account
- Check that you are linked to the Federated Church directory

Be sure to use the same email you provided for the directory when creating your account!

Fellowship Committee

Softball

Join us on Monday nights and cheer on Federated! Please check your weekly memos for the softball schedule and you can also find them on the church calendar and weekly memos. GO FEDS! Playoffs tentatively start on Monday, July 27.

The Fellowship Committee is planning a picnic for the Softball Team in July. This will be a potluck, so you are welcome to bring a dish and share with everyone.

Ministry Nite

Committees and D&E will not meet in July. The next submission date will be July 15 for the August Newsletter.

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 April we gave out \$433.67 in assistance to five households.

Happy Father's Day!

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. Psalm 103:13



Greeters

Sunday, June 7

Worship @ 9:30am w/ Communion
Mark & Sheila Rodning

Sunday, 14

Worship @ 9:30am
Matt & Donna Solin

Sunday, June 21

*Worship @ 9:30am - **Happy Father's Day***
TBD

Sunday, June 28

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.

Sunday, July 5

Worship @ 9:30am w/ Communion
TBD

Sunday, July 12

Worship @ 9:30am
Jona Brown & Paul Shol

Sunday, July 19

Worship @ 9:30am
Beth Schlepp & Carolyn Anderson

Sunday, July 26

Worship @ 9:30am
TBD

Ministry Nite:

June 9 - 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. Reminder: **Committees do not meet in July.**

Stewardship Report

General Fund Report

Revenue	\$174,168
Expenditures	\$144,048

Year to Date Pledge Offering

Budgeted	\$137,508
Actual Received	\$160,030

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 June 1st


June Birthdays

- 06/01 Jerry Nuss
- 06/02 Cindy McDougall
- 06/04 Ayla Hoff
- 06/05 Harrison Saurer
- 06/07 Loran Johnson
- 06/09 Deb Tabbut
- 06/10 Kindree Ebert
- 06/10 Clyde Schlepp
- 06/12 Bonnie Bergerud
- 06/12 Anna Schlepp
- 06/16 James Michael
- 06/17 Peg Werner
- 06/18 Kathy Hatling
- 06/19 Marianne Stone
- 06/20 John Erickson
- 06/24 Jim Andrews
- 06/25 Mary Bressler
- 06/25 Melissa Saurer
- 06/25 Elizabeth Hatling
- 06/25 Melinda Wienbar
- 06/28 Yvonne Marts
- 06/28 Hannah Nelson
- 06/28 Kellen Stenstrom
- 06/30 Erik Anthonisen

July Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 07/02 Jodie Nuss | 07/19 Bill Rodning |
| 07/03 Cameron Haas | 07/19 Rebekah Meder |
| 07/03 Rebecca Michael | 07/21 Timothy Olson |
| 07/04 Steve Wienbar | 07/21 Gloria Ronning |
| 07/05 Jeanette Haas | 07/23 Hollis Davenport |
| 07/07 Anne Worner | 07/23 Hayden Westra |
| 07/09 Lori Kugler | 07/24 Kim Erickson |
| 07/09 Benjamin Rundquist | 07/26 Piper Andrews |
| 07/10 Jean McKenzie | 07/28 Linda MacFarlane |
| 07/10 Hudson Steinbrenner | 07/29 Adam Schlepp |
| 07/11 Joel Enderson | 07/30 Mark Becker |
| 07/11 Charles MacFarlane | 07/31 Ken Schuetze |
| 07/11 Emma Michael | 07/31 Jeremy Jensen |
| 07/11 Emily Nuss | |
| 07/12 Kristian Fransen | |
| 07/13 Jacki Knapp-Raaen | |
| 07/13 Fiona Rundquist | |
| 07/16 Patty Link | |
| 07/18 Mary Link | |
| 07/18 Dave Nord | |





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

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