Federated CHURCH
OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN ARMS.

Union Avenue News

KEEPING MEMBERS UP TO DATE | NOVEMBER 2026

November Worship

Sunday, November 1 9:30am All Saints' Sunday
"The Elephant in the Room" Matthew 23:1-12
Pastor Doug Dent
A Celebration of The Lord's Supper
Trio Sings

Sunday, November 8 9:30am
"The Wise Can Wait" Matthew 25:1-13
Pastor Doug Dent
Trio Sings

Sunday, November 15 9:30am
"Unexpected Angels" Judges 4:1-7
Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, November 22 9:30am Christ the King Sunday
"The View from the Tower" Ephesians 1:15-23
Pastor Doug Dent

Sunday, November 29 9:30am
"When the Stars Begin to Fall" Mark 13:24-37
Pastor Doug Dent
Trio Sings



Dates to Remember

Sunday, November 1
All Saint's Sunday
Communion

Tuesday, November 10
6:30pm Ministry Nite

Wednesday, November 11
Veteran's Day

Sunday, November 15
Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, November 19
6:30pm D&E Meeting

Thursday, November 26
Happy Thanksgiving
Church Office Closed

Friday, November 27
Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 2
5:30pm Advent Supper
6:30pm Advent Service

Sunday, December 6
Communion

Tuesday, December 8
6:30pm Ministry Nite



Pastor's Pen

Pastor Doug Dent

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. For me, everything about it emphasizes its theme: a day to give thanks. Family gathers. We watch football or movies. We prepare and serve a feast. We eat pumpkin pie. We work together (hopefully) to clean up the giant mess we made. Every year, I am simply overwhelmed by all that I have for which I can be thankful.

Yet, somehow, I can get so caught up in the togetherness, television, and treats that I forget the Giver. The Scriptures tell us we need to be thankful all the time. However, as a tradition, we set aside this one day each year that we celebrate God's provision with a gathering and feast. This is good. The provision is wonderful. But the provider is even better. So, here is a prayer I will be praying this Thanksgiving to remember the God who gave us Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit so that we may have abundant life in him.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. - 1 Chronicles 16:34

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created. - James 1:17-18

Gracious God, thank you for your love that endures forever. In your Spirit, we give thanks every day. But, this one day each year, we gather to celebrate your goodness, your gifts, and your provision. We pause to praise you that every good and perfect gift comes from you, that we have so much for which we are thankful. Above all, thank you for your gift of salvation through your Son Jesus Christ, from whom we receive forgiveness of our sins and life everlasting.

Amazing God, thank you for giving us life in Christ Jesus. This Thanksgiving, we ask you to continue to strengthen us in Jesus Christ, driving roots deep into the soil of who he is, your Son. In the days following this celebration of your awesome provision, may the Holy Spirit well up thankfulness in our hearts to overflowing every day. Thanks be to God through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Faith-FAM-ily Ministry

On Sunday, October 18, 2026, members of the Ashby, Maine, and Federated congregations met to discuss a shared ministry between the three churches. After the presentation and time for Q&A, the three congregations voted (separately, by ballot) and UNANIMOUSLY agreed to join this new partnership.

Next steps include:

- Forming a Pastor Nominating Committee to identify new pastoral leadership for Ashby and Maine,
- Establishing a Shared Ministry team to facilitate communication and administer the common work of the churches, and
- Creating a 3-church newsletter to stay up to date on what is happening with our ministry partners.

In the short term, before a new pastoral leader is hired, Pastor Doug Dent will continue to serve as the moderator of the Ashby and Maine Sessions and teach confirmation at Ashby. He will also provide emergency pastoral care (hospital visits, funerals) for those churches. Pastor Dent's contract with Federated Church will not change; he remains committed to serving our congregation.

This is an exciting way to reach out and serve our communities in new ways.



Pastoral Care

Joyce Peterson

Next in line for our senior spotlight is Joan Ebbinghausen

Joan was born in Madison, South Dakota, and attended elementary school and high school there. Her father was Norwegian, and her mother was English, German, and Dutch. Joan had one brother.

Memories of her childhood include playing dolls with her friends and taking such good care of them. One day, Joan almost lost a friend, when she decided her friend's bunny needed its tonsils taken out. Tonsil surgery was common in those days, so Joan performed the surgery (pretended) and finished with a good application of 'Mercurochrome.' Remember how ORANGE/RED it was?! Well, her friend was very upset. When Joan was a teenager, she had newspaper routes and delivered them on her bike. Maybe the bunny incident was an early sign that Joan should pursue nursing.

She took nurses' training at Mitchell, SD, and did some Psychology training at our State Hospital in Fergus Falls. She spoke highly of Dr. Patterson, who worked and lived at the State Hospital.

Joan met her future husband, Vince, and their wedding was in the chapel at Federated Church. The chapel is now our choir room. Joan remarked how the Federated Church always had their WELCOME mat out. She expressed how very involved everyone was, and the Christmas concert was really special. Pastor Van Dyken and his wife were awesome leaders and very active with the kids.

Joan and Vince had three children: twins Vaughn and Charles, and daughter Kaya. Vince worked for Otter Tail Power, while Joan worked full-time nursing. They rented for a short time, and then bought the house on East St. Charles. Joan and Vince enjoyed camping with the family, and keeping the yard and flowers looking beautiful. When the children were grown, Joan and Vince were able to visit Germany four times, and spend some winters at South Padre Island. East St. Charles is still Joan's home.

Joan enjoyed being a part of the Quilters Group at Federated. Joan has fond memories of the quilting ladies, and described how there was like a "pecking order" of how the different parts of the job were assigned. Some ladies cut 4 inch squares of fabric with a tile as a guide, others were good at choosing the colors to put together, and others did the sewing. Some of the ladies Joan remembers are: Dorothy Worner, Delores Duncan, Ruby Whipple, Bev Bach, Blanche Arneson, Ruth DeYong and Cora Knackendoffel (who also was busy as the Kitchen Lady). Dennis Bergerud was very handy at making things, so he built the shelves to hold all the fabric and supplies. They were very proud of making at least a dozen quilts each year to give out to people in the community who needed them.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving!



Christian Education and Youth

Rev. Karen Anderson

What a beautiful October we have had this year! Blue skies, outstanding autumn colors, and easy warmth in the air. It is hard to believe that winter is knocking at the door. Hopefully, it will hold off for a bit so we can continue to enjoy the fall, while knowing that Advent and Christmas are right around the corner.

We have a great new opportunity for our middle school and high school! Trevor and Amber Gerstmann are creating a youth praise band. Currently, they are gathering with interested people on Wednesdays after dinner to start learning some songs, discovering people's giftings, and making some music. We hope any young person who sings, plays guitar, bass, drums, or keyboards will check out this exciting worship group.

Sunday School: Our Sunday school classes (K-2, 3-6) continue to meet each week. Feel free to join at any time! We always enjoy adding new faces to our groups. After Thanksgiving we will begin working on our Christmas pageant, which is set for December 13 during the worship service. Our Kids will tell the story of Jesus's birth, sing some favorite Christmas carols, and share what we have learned this fall about Christians around the world.

Kidz Club: Our Kidz Club crew continues to study stories about the early church from the book of Acts. This fall our focus has been on the adventures of Peter, and after Christmas we will begin to learn about Paul. It is exciting to discover all the challenges they had while bringing the gospel to people, and to find out how they got through these encounters. One fun addition of our time together, the kids have started acting out skits that tell the story that we are studying each week. We have some incredibly talented young actors!

Confirmation: Our confirmation class continues to study questions of faith with Pastor Doug. Every four or five weeks we have a "youth group" gathering instead of regular class, led by Pastor Karen. It is a fun break for everyone and an opportunity to do faith talk and games with this age. Our 7-8th grade students are working on their sermon notes and can also take opportunities to help in worship as part of their confirmation time.

Senior High Youth Group: Senior high youth group continues to challenge and grow everyone who participates—students and leaders combined. We meet each week for a time of fellowship, learning, prayer, and games. We have such a wonderful group of young people. It is a tremendous blessing to spend time with them. Some of our recent topics include: what is God's purpose for me, the implications of AI, and the Antichrist. We try to go into deep topics to get our young people thinking about the intersection of their faith with the world around them. As you might imagine, we have enlightening and invigorating conversation!

Bible Studies: Our women's Bible study group continues to work through the Gospel of Luke. We enjoy savoring God's Word as we go through Luke's recorded experience of Jesus. Feel free to join us at 11:15am on Tuesdays in the parlor.

We are also beginning an adult Bible study on Sunday mornings after worship exploring 1st Peter. We are still in the early stages of this study and we will need to take a break during Christmas pageant sea-

Church News

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

The church office will be closed on November 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving.

The Church office will be closed Christmas Day, New Years' Eve, and New Years Day.

Thank You
Jan and Gary Nelson would like to express their sincere gratitude to everyone who has shown such kindness and generosity by providing meals over the past several weeks. The meals, thoughtful visits, and caring support have meant so much to them. Thank you for being such a blessing!

All Saints' Sunday
During worship on Sunday, November 1, we will honor members who passed away during this past year.

Poinsettias
It is that time of year! Poinsettia forms will be available the first Sunday in November. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the poinsettia form and return it to the church office or call the church office by Friday, December 4. Make sure you choose red or white and if it is in memory or honor of someone. $15 for a red or white poinsettia.

Vacation
Brianna will be on vacation Tuesday, December 8 – Monday, December 14. Roxane will be in the office during office hours.

Pastor Doug will be on vacation after Christmas Eve worship and will return on Sunday, January 3, 2027.

Newsletter Deadline
The Holiday season can be busy. Please don't forget to get your newsletter information to the church by December 15 for January.

Annual Reports
Committee chairs are asked to submit their annual reports by Monday, December 21. If you have questions or need assistance preparing your report, please contact the church office. Please, type your report.

Men's Club
Men's coffee will not meet the Friday after Thanksgiving. They will not meet Christmas Day or New Years' Day. The church office will be closed for the holidays.

A Note About Pre-pledging
As we approach the new year, please remember, when pre-pledging: If you prepay your pledge, by law it must appear on the statement in the year it is received. For example, 2027 pledges received in 2026 will appear on 2026 statements.

If you would like your 2027 pledge to be credited in 2026, please submit it by December 30, 2026, by 2pm. This will ensure year-end processing; Brianna must deposit all funds with the bank by their deadline. Thank you!

Mobile Text Alerts
Scan the QR code and sign up for mobile texting. No fees, no data rates, and no app. Federated uses the text messaging service for reminders on events, worship services, and closures. This is a great resource right now with Advent and winter approaching. Contact Brianna in the church office with any questions or if you want her to subscribe you 218-739-3227.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Committee News

Stewardship Committee

The "I'm IN" stewardship initiative is going well. THANK YOU to everyone who has made their pledge for 2027. We so appreciate your continued support of Federated Church's mission and ministries.

As of Stewardship Sunday, October 27, 2026, we have pledges from 82 households totaling $357,670 (as compared to 103 households pledging $395,705 last year). That leaves $79,425 to reach our goal of $437,095.

- 33 households increased their pledge, equaling $38,290 in "new" money.
- 5 households decreased their pledge.
- 39 households kept their pledge the same as 2026.
- 6 are new pledges.

If you haven't made your pledge yet, we encourage you to do so soon. Your pledge will help us set realistic ministry goals and prepare a reliable budget for 2027.

Thank you for your support of Federated Church's mission and ministries.

Worship Committee

Wednesdays In Advent

Advent suppers and services will be on Wednesday, December 2, 9, and 16. Suppers will be at 5:30pm and services at 6:30pm. Services will be live-streamed at https://federatedff.org/live-stream-worship/.

Christmas Eve 5PM

Our Family-friendly worship will feature lively carols and songs, an upbeat message, and glow sticks to let our lights shine. Everyone is welcome!

Christmas Eve 11PM

Our traditional "midnight" service will feature carols, a hope-filled message, candles, and communion. Everyone is welcome!

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone who brought a pie for the pie social, attended the event, and everyone who helped. The event raised $325 and that will go towards Kidz Club meals. Thank you!

Join our "Black Friday" Coffee Drive!

We are stocking up on coffee for our fellowship hour, and we need your help to keep our cups full! To make our Sunday mornings extra bright, we are hosting our very own "Black Friday" Coffee Drive.

Bring:
Bags or cans of your favorite regular or decaf coffee
Designated collection bin in narthex
Now through the end of November.

Thank you for your generosity in helping us keep the warmth and conservation flowing during fellowship time.

Mission Committee

Christmas Joy

Federated Church members will have an opportunity during December to contribute to special offerings for the Presbyterian and UCC churches.

Donations to the UCC's Christmas Fund are used to care for active and retired clergy and lay employees, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "thank you" checks for low-income retirees.

The Christmas Joy offering provides assistance to current and retired Presbyterian church workers and their families in times of need, and develops future leaders at church-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Envelopes will be in the pews in December through Christmas. Please write your name on the envelope if you give cash or write Christmas Joy in the memo line of your check.

Mission Brunch - Rivers Area Memory Cafe

The Federated Church Mission Team hosted a delicious and successful brunch on Sunday, October 25, 2026, to support the work of the Rivers Area Memory Cafe. Karen Wulfekuhle and Jennifer Frank shared how the group formed, how they provide fun and fellowship for people struggling with dementia, and how they sustain caregivers. Members from the Maine Presbyterian Church joined us, and together we raised $4,106 to support this compassionate work in our community. Thank you!

Greeters

November 2026

Sunday, November 1
Worship @ 9:30am w/ communion
All Saints' Sunday
Matt & Donna Solin

Sunday, November 8
Worship @ 9:30am
Beth Schlepp & Carolyn anderson

Sunday, November 15
Worship @ 9:30am
TBD

Sunday, November 22
Worship @9:30am
Troy & Kerian Stenstrom

Sunday, November 29
Worship @9:30am
Landon Link & Gerry Worner

REMINDER: Greeters are responsible for handing out the bulletins, taking worship attendance, and passing the offering plate. The worship attendance sheet can be dropped off in the offering plate. If you are ever interested in greeting a certain Sunday, please let Brianna know in the church office. Check your email for reminders on greeter duties.

Ministry Nite:

November 10 - 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	$344,782
Expenditures	$309,929
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	$309,388
Actual Received	$321,636

Grocery Receipts

THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food	
October	$2,869.09

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.

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 November 1st

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

November Birthdays

11/01 Sammy Ebert
11/02 Andrew MacFarlane
11/02 Addison Davenport
11/02 Koven Ebert
11/04 Maximillian Jensen
11/07 Brandon Truax
11/07 Mike Walls
11/08 John MacFarlane
11/09 Matthew Beske
11/10 Laurie Skogen
11/11 Mark Sundberg
11/12 Nathan Hoff
11/13 Bill Nead
11/14 Dennis Bergerud
11/14 John Lindholm
11/15 Karen Hauck
11/15 Rick Schara
11/16 Terry Harrington
11/16 Charlie Schlepp
11/18 Donna Solin
11/19 Tessa Becker
11/20 Maury Skogen
11/22 Ross Johnson
11/23 Landon Link
11/24 Michelle Loomer
11/25 Keira Thompson-Ohren
11/26 Franklin Schierer
11/27 Lydia Meder
11/29 Duane Rose

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

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