

FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

Blast from the Past!

Pastor Adam from St. Luke's found this entry on the Platte County Historical Society's Facebook page; the laying of the cornerstone for Federated Church from 100 years ago!



If you have articles, events or other information you would like included in this newsletter, please call the Church Office at 564-2812 or email us: fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org. The deadline for submitting information for Newsletters is the 20th of the prior month, e.g. June deadline will be May 20th.

From the Pastor's Desk

As continuation of sharing my experience from Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), here's my sixth reflection:

SITTING – The act of sitting was significant for week seven of CPE. Many of my thoughts on sitting are in relation to the time I spent with a particular family. This family belongs to the high schooler who had a heart attack and was brought to the Emergency Room. Before the patient was transported to the hospital, I helped a nurse prepare two chairs and boxes of tissue for the parents of the young man. The chairs were set up to prepare for the worst-case scenario. Fortunately, those chairs were not used. Nonetheless, I remember many other chairs that day.

When I met the patient's mother for the first time, she was seated in a chair facing another chair in the ER Triage Room. A short time later, I took the seat that was previously occupied by the policeman. I was sitting face to face with the patient's mother. It was somewhat of an uncomfortable position because of the intense pain on the mother's face.

About an hour later, I was still with the patient's mother. This time we were both standing outside the patient's room in the ER. We were waiting for a test on the patient. A social worker came over to us and recognized the fatigue in the mother's body. When I saw that she was looking for a chair for the mother, I found one for them. Watching the mother, I could see her relief to sit down – like an overdue rest during a long hike. There was something peaceful about the mother sitting, as opposed to anxiously standing or pacing.

Later that day, the patient's family and I were in one of the CCU [Critical Care Unit] waiting rooms. There were plenty of chairs. It was interesting to observe where people were seated at various times that night: part of the family in one area, other family members in another area and school staff in another. Near the end of my chaplain visit, I was alone with the patient's parents in the waiting room. We sat along one row with all of us facing the same direction – like sitting in a car and looking out the front windshield. It felt like we were on a journey together. During that time, the father looked over to me and shared that he appreciated me being there. In that moment, all the time that was spent with that family felt worth it.

While reflecting on these various instances of sitting, I was reminded of this verse in regards to the suffering Job and his friends: "Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was." (Job 2:13) One of the best things that Job's friends did for Job was to sit with him. The act of sitting powerfully communicated their willingness to share Job's pain. Although I can't stay silent as long as Job's friends did – seven days! – I can try to find a seat during my patient visits. By sitting down, I hope to communicate my willingness to stay for a while and be a companion to those on a difficult journey.

Here are some questions for your own reflection:
Do you have a favorite chair? How would you describe that chair and the way it makes you feel?
Have you been in a situation of sitting with someone (or having someone sit with you) for a lengthy duration? How was that experience?

**The sat with him on the ground
seven days and seven nights,
and no one spoke a word to him,
for they saw that his suffering
was great.**

Job 2:13

Please feel free to share your thoughts and/or questions with me, via email/text/call.

Grace and peace,
Edward

A Letter From the Church President

Hello Federated members & friends,

This edition of the newsletter finds our congregation following the recommended guidelines for social distancing until we are told differently by East Central District Health Department and the local medical community. The church staff are working diligently to provide meaningful worship services. I have encouraged committees to meet by Zoom or email, whichever is appropriate for the individual committee.

One committee that has stepped up their frequency of meeting times is the Mission Study Committee. They are meeting weekly per Zoom. My personal calendar is almost nothing, so I have been joining most committee meetings. The Mission Study committee is working on an assessment of congregational needs to help in their determination of a recommendation for a staffing plan. The staffing plan must then be approved by the Governing Council and the congregation. The Mission Study also looks at needs of the church and its ministries to help determine staffing in line with those needs.



I have been asked the question: why haven't we just hired Pastor Edward as our senior pastor? I will try to explain that to the best of my ability. First of all, we are doing the process or Mission Study committee work that is required by both the PCUSA and UCC denominations. Pastor Edward would also prefer that we complete this task prior to opening a search for a senior pastor. We will determine our staffing needs: one pastor, two pastors, one pastor with lay assistance or some other arrangement. Once we open our search for the senior pastor position, Pastor Edward can then decide if

this is God's calling for him and continue to minister our congregation. We all have feelings of attachment to our ministerial staff and they have feelings toward us as a congregation and members of that congregation. God also has a plan for us as a congregation. We need to pray about this as members of this congregation and trust that God has a plan for us. The Mission Study Committee has decided that it is not in the best interest of a congregation with a history of turmoil to rush through this process. Instead they have decided to take their time and see if they can look at some of the factors that have caused our previous turmoil and find a staffing solution that will work for the best of our church.

If this doesn't make sense, please ask me Pastor Edward or any of the Mission Study members.

One other thing that I would like to address is to keep exercising both for your health and as help for the stress that a pandemic can cause. If I can help you in anyway, please don't hesitate to ask.

Blessings for your safety during this time. Remember that those on the Mission Study, Governing Council, Pastor Edward and myself are here if there is something that you need from the church.

In peace and health,

Marcia Grant

Meals on Wheels

At this time volunteer delivery is suspended due to the pandemic. The hospital is using their employees as a way to further control coming in and out of the hospital as well as reducing risk to the volunteers.

Watch for further information as it is received from the hospital.



~Renee Bellum

T-Shirts Needed!

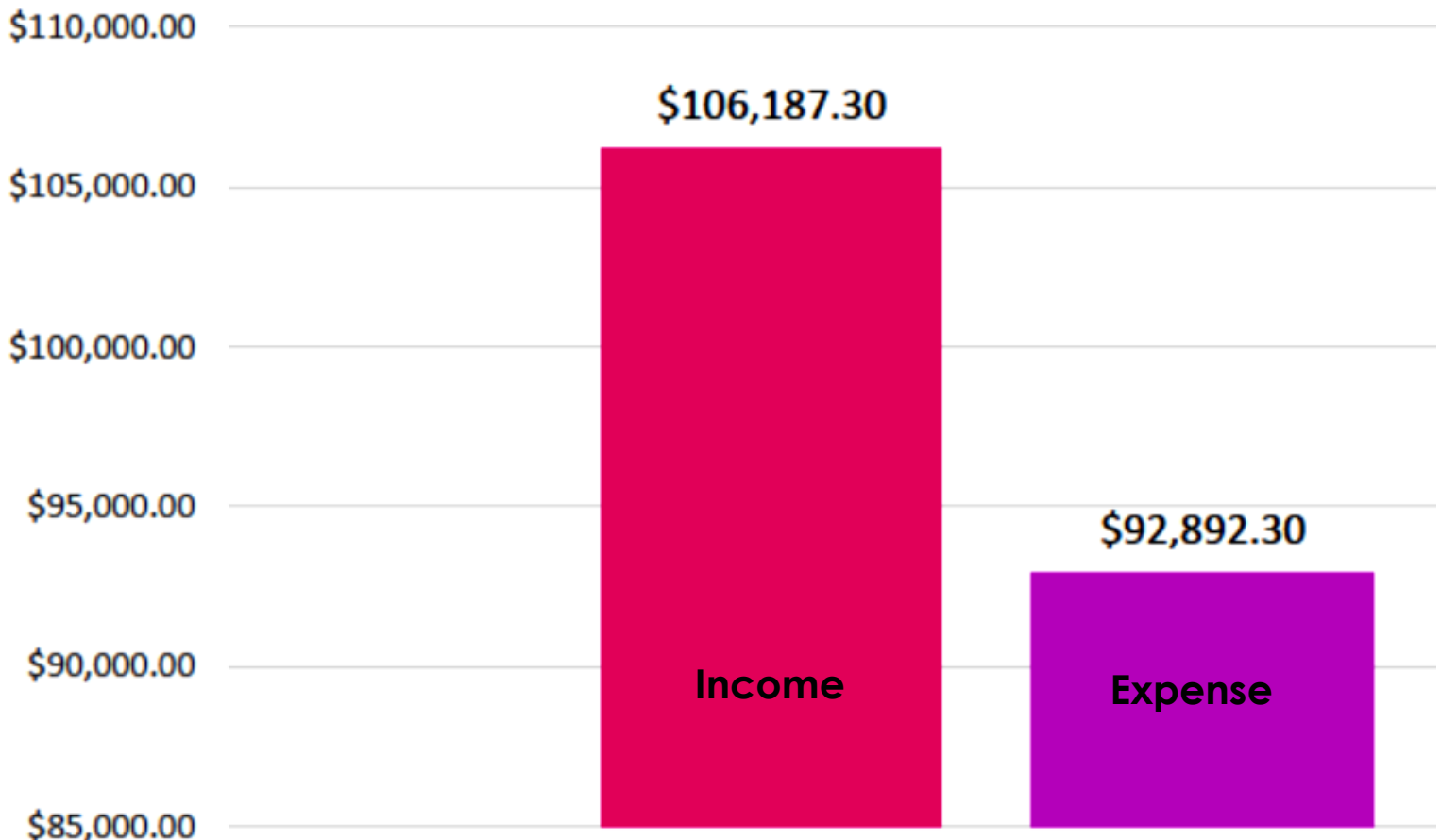
Needlecraft Ministry is looking for good, used adult T-Shirts to make diapers. Please leave in the office. Any questions, contact Louise Moran.



Finance at a Glance

This graph shows cumulative 2020 income and expenses from all bank accounts up to March 31, 2020.

2020 Income and Expenses



DVD Players and Laptops Requested

Do you have a portable DVD player or laptop that you are no longer using? If so, can we take it off your hands? We have church members who are not able to view worship services on TV or internet, so these devices can help to provide a portable viewing machine. Please let the office know if you have a device to donate or need a device to watch services.



Gift Card Email Scam!

If you receive an email or text requesting gift cards or a “favor” from the church pastor or staff, feel free to delete or call the office to verify. Unfortunately, this is a common scam as explained by the

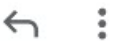
Federated Trade Commission: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2019/07/worshippers-targeted-gift-card-scam> . The example was an email received by one of our congregants, but be weary of any similar emails! The church office and staff will NOT email you requesting gift cards!

BLESSINGS

Inbox



Edward Yang 10:07 AM
to me ▾



Be careful with this message.

Edward Yang has never sent you messages using this email address.

Good morning,how are you?

i need a favor from you,

please email me as soon as you get this message.

Blessings,
Rev. Dr. Edward Yang
Federated Church UCC-PCUSA
2704 15th St Columbus, NE 68601.

Center for Survivors



The Center's needs often change due to shortages or surpluses of certain items. Please call ahead if you have questions regarding needs, 402-564-2155. Here is a partial list of regularly requested items: Household and cleaning items, personal hygiene items, non-perishable food, children's items such as diapers/wipes, adult clothing (new), gift cards to Wal-Mart, Hy-Vee, Super Saver, gas cards, etc.

Platte County Food Pantry

The Platte County Food Pantry, located at 3020 18th Street in Suite 13 (Old Hospital) is currently open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the mornings. They have a no-contact drop off bin on the west side of the building on 32nd Avenue between 18th and 19th Streets, donations are needed daily! The current demand is starting to outweigh the supply. If you are in need of assistance, you can call at 402-563-4544, they are providing no-contact pick up as well!



When asked for suggested donations, I was told "If you like it, they will like it!" Some easy suggestions are: Canned and boxed foods such as soup, macaroni and cheese, ramen noodles, pasta and pasta sauce, veggies and fruits; Staple food items: peanut butter, jelly, pancake syrup, crackers. This is not an all inclusive list, any non-perishable food items are needed.

*****Please note: The Can-Care-A-Van donation drive has been postponed to this fall. More information will be available at a later date.***

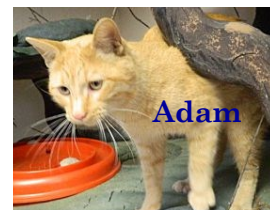
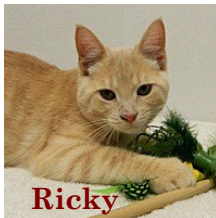
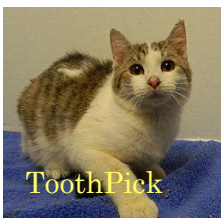
Platte Valley Humane Society



The Platte Valley Humane Society (Paws & Claws Adoption Center) is located at 2124 13th Street. The hours are Monday through Friday, Noon to 4:30pm, and Saturdays Noon to 3:30pm. However, they are only operating by appointment right now, so call 402-562-5683 before you go meet your future pet!

Currently, they are in need of the following donations: Bleach, Paper towels, Laundry detergent, Cat litter, cat food. *Volunteers are not needed at this time.*

They have a number of well-behaved, people-loving cats available, including Homer, Oreo, Toothpick, Adam, Ricky and Rusty. So, if you are a cat-lover, go downtown and pick one of these adorable, cuddly cats today!





If you see a mistake or missing birthday, call/email Chrissy at 402-564-2812 or fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org.

Donna Augspurger	5/1	Heather Curry	5/19
Fred Bellum	5/3	Brenda Berry, Kyle Royer	5/20
Jan Dannelly, Kristen Gausman	5/5	Elizabeth Sand	5/21
Tammi Hempstead, Joie Taylor	5/6	Georgia Behlen	5/23
Shaylynn Meyer	5/7	Katie Claus, Larry Mares	5/24
Gail Mead, Stacey Miller	5/10	Neal Petersen, Nolan Rine	5/25
Tammi Gotschall	5/11	Jake Gotschall, Herman Lauterbach	5/28
Dale Dannelly, Doug Williams	5/14	Richard Fry	5/29
Crystal Baldwin	5/15	Lee Augustin	5/31

Easter Flowers

A few people ordered lilies and begonias, some in memory of loved ones, some in honor of their families or the people working so hard to try to keep all of us as healthy as possible during this time. Below is a list of who ordered flowers:

Cyndi & Jerry Jarecki, in memory of Jim Uhlmann

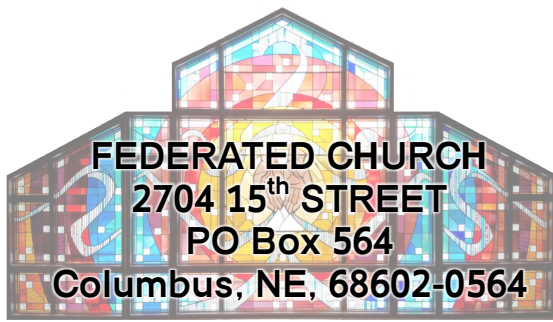
Bobbi Uhlmann, in memory of Jim Uhlmann

Chris & Gary Bock and Families, in memory of Eleanor Loshbaugh

Lloyd & Kay Castner, in honor of those on the front line of this Pandemic.

Walk to Jerusalem

The Walk to Jerusalem ended on Easter Sunday, April 12th. The total miles calculated this year was 3005 compared to 6622 last year. Thank you to all the congregants who sent in their miles!



May 2020 Newsletter

We understand that these are scary times right now,
but, please remember,
we are here to help you any way we can!

