

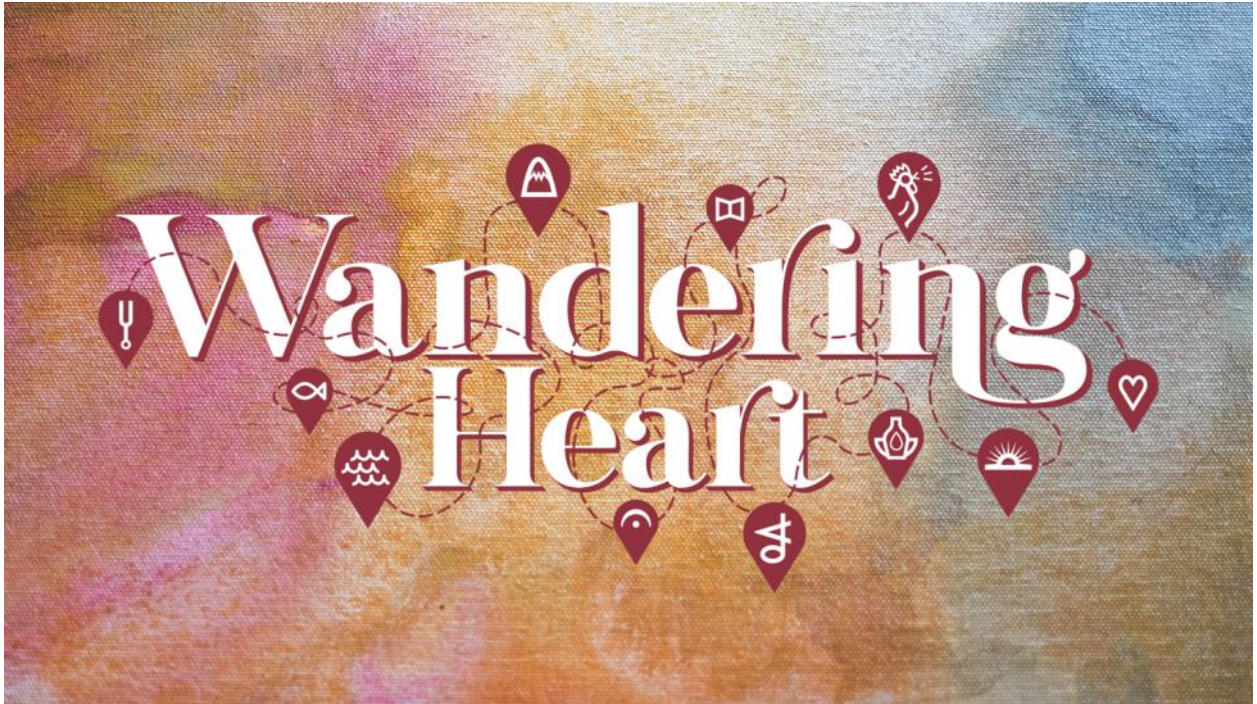


FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

- ◆ April 1: Easter Monday; Church office closed
- ◆ April 7: Jazz Sunday, 2nd Sunday of Easter
 - ◆ April 21: Youth Pizza Fundraiser
- ◆ April 28: Children's Sunday with Potluck
 - ◆ May 5: Confirmation Sunday
- ◆ May 12: Mother's Day - Youth Flower Fundraiser
- ◆ May 19: **Pentecost (wear red!)**; Graduation Sunday
- ◆ May 26: Trinity Sunday; No Education Hour until Fall
 - ◆ May 27: Memorial Day; Church office closed

If you have articles, events or other information you would like included in the newsletter, you can email it to fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org. The deadline for submitting information for Newsletters is the 20th of the prior month, e.g. May 2024 Newsletter deadline will be April 20th, 2024.



Throughout the season of Lent and the first two Sundays of Easter (n.b., Easter is a season with seven Sundays), we have been utilizing a resource from A Sanctified Art titled “Wandering Heart.” We have been looking at the faith journey of one of Jesus’ most famous disciples. I have appreciated learning about Peter, from his eagerness to follow Jesus by dropping his fishing net to his boldness in walking on water and conviction in proclaim Jesus as the Messiah. Despite these faith-filled experiences, Peter also stumbled. He tried to prevent Jesus from his earthly mission and infamously denied (3 times) knowing his leader. Thankfully, God loves imperfect people. God worked through Peter who was restored to lead the nascent church. And God continues to work in us.

I hope you have been encouraged through this series. If you missed a worship service, all are available on our church website. You might have noticed that poems from A Sanctified Art were read during our Lenten services. Please let me know if you would have a printout of any poem.

Below are poems that I did not get to share during our services. May they offer you words of encouragement.

Easter blessings, Edward

All poems by Rev. Sarah A. Speed “Easter Morning” (for Easter Sunday)

“Tune My Heart” (for Ash Wednesday)

Tune my heart.
Like an old violin,
like a worn down piano,
I have been left out in all manners of weather;
I have been left alone for far too long.
So like a concertmaster
with a steady hand,
tune me up.
Listen and learn
the cracked keys,
the broken strings.
Memorize the forgotten intervals
that even I did not know.
And then, when we’re ready,
When this creaky heart is tuned,
teach me a new song.

“The Next Line” (for Good Friday)

There are some truths that are like the sun,
if you look at them too long they may burn
you.
You may never see the same again.
And yet, nothing can grow without the sun.
So we summon our courage
and speak the truth of our lives.
We sing, *prone to leave the God I love.*
We let the honesty of those words crack our
hearts in two.
We admit it to our fight-or-flight, boomerang
nature,
and before the grief even begins to pass,
God is there.
God is turning toward us,
closing the distance,
inviting us to sing
the next line of the song.

I cannot stay away on Easter Morning.

Like Peter,
I would run if I could.
Stop the car,
pump my arms,
take the church steps two at a time,
all to know—
Did it happen?
Did it *really* happen?
Is evil no match for love?
I’d slide down the center aisle.
I’d grab the mic to ask
the angels,
the heavens,
the children,
Were the stories true?

And in response, the choir would sing,
“*Alleluia.*”

The children would flower the cross.
The preacher would tell me the stone was
rolled away.

The people would pass the peace,
and welcome strangers,
and make room in the pews.
And with faith over doubt,
I would hope.

For I imagine that all of that ordinary holiness
would be enough for Peter,
and it would be enough for me.

GOVERNING COUNCIL MONTHLY REPORT

Governing Council met Tuesday March 26, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.

Meeting Highlights include:

- * Federated Church will be featured in the Homestead Presbytery Prayer Calendar for April
- * Rev. Connie Stone, a daughter of our church, will be installed as pastor at North Bend United Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 7th at 3:00 P.M.
- * Affirmed Electronic vote on the Baptism of Mack William Irby.
- * Approval of Ruth Lind to serve on Membership & Growth Committee for 2024.
- * Approval of membership transfers from Federated.
- * Approval of upcoming Baptism for Makenna Griffith, Meg Weeder, Theo Weeder and Myla Hope Bender.
- * February financials were presented and received.
- * GC meeting minutes and March Committee Reports were received.
- * Confirmation will take place Sunday, May 5, 2024.

The next Governing Council meeting will be April 23 at 6:30 P.M. to meet with the confirmands prior to the business meeting.

Alison Wagner, Church President and Barb Sanderson, Council Secretary

EDUCATION CENTER UPDATE AND REQUEST

Good news, the ceilings, painting, and lighting have been completed. The work installing the remainder of the doors and windows is almost finished. We are looking forward to the installation of all bathroom flooring and the upgrading of all bathroom fixtures which should begin at any time. So now it is time to get moving on the cleaning of all cabinetries, shining all the windows, and removing all the dust.

As most of you know, I broke my wrist 4 weeks ago and it is true that the older we get the slower we heal. I'm going to need help getting those rooms ready to move back in and so I am asking for eight volunteers to chair the cleanup of each room. One chair for each room. Once I have those people identified we will meet to put a plan together. Chairs and their workers are welcome to work mornings, afternoons, or evenings.

Please contact me at 402-910-4233 or email wilmalu@neb.rr.com if you would be willing to help. Once the chairs are in place, there will be another announcement asking for volunteers to assist in the actual clean-up. The projected start update is April 22.

Palm Sunday Celebration

THANK YOU TO THE CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR FOR SHARING THEIR MUSICAL TALENTS WITH THE CONGREGATION ON PALM SUNDAY.

Youth Ministry Book Sale

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE YOUTH MINISTRY BOOK SALE BY DONATING OR BUYING BOOKS. WE COLLECTED \$550 FOR THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP FUND THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Sunday Funday

THE MARCH YOUTH SUNDAY FUNDAY CONSISTED OF THE YOUTH DELIVERING AND HIDING EASTER EGGS OUTSIDE THE HOUSES OUR YOUNG FAMILIES. THIS EGGING INCLUDING AN INVITATION TO JOIN FEDERATED CHURCH FOR OUR PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES.

Vacation Bible Camp

Save The Date: June 3rd – 7th!



Calendar of Events

4/7

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT MEAL

4:30 PM FELLOWSHIP HALL

4/12

RESCUE MISSION MEAL

4/20

PIZZA MAKING

9:00 AM FELLOWSHIP HALL

4/21

PIZZA SALES

FOLLOWING WORSHIP/NARTHEX

MISSION TRIP PARENT/YOUTH MEETING

FOLLOWING CAFÉ' LA FED/FELLOWSHIP HALL

4/23

CONFIRMATION CLASS/GOVERNING COUNCIL

6:30 PM FELLOWSHIP HALL

4/28

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY/SUNDAY FUNDAY

BOUNCE HOUSES/GAMES/POTLUCK

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

5/5

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

9:00 AM PICTURES IN SANCTUARY

10:00 AM CONFIRMATION

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT MEAL

4:30 PM KITCHEN

5/12

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SALE

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

5/19

GRADUATION SUNDAY

9:00 AM BREAKFAST

10:00 AM GRADUATES HONORED

11:00 AM CAKE RECEPTION @ CAFÉ' LA FED

JOYS & CONCERNS FOR MARCH 2024

◆ Pray for Annette Bloom, Elsie Ita's niece, who had cancer surgery on Wednesday.

◆ Congratulations to Kristen and Jake Frederick. Their son, Henry Allen was born on March 7th, 2024. Grandparents are Roland & Doris Augspurger.

◆ Pray for the family of Roberta Saalfeld. Roberta passed away on February 28th. Funeral will be May 3rd at 11 a.m. Federated Church, with luncheon to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

◆ Pray for Jeannie Kiser Jensen as she deals with difficulties after surgery.

◆ Pray for the family of Harold Palmer, brother of Loretta & Chris Dixon. Harold passed away on March 22nd and funeral service was held March 27th in Lyons, NE.

◆ We celebrate with North Bend United Presbyterian Church in calling Reverend Connie Stone as their next pastor. Installation service for Rev. Stone will be April 7th at 3 p.m. in North Bend.

◆ Pray for Jeannie Kiser Jensen as she deals with difficulties after surgery.

◆ Pray for the family of Rod Behlen. Rod passed away on Thursday, March 28th. Funeral arrangements are pending. Rod had been placed in hospice in March.

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Alexandria**
Alexandria would appreciate prayers for our church as we look forward to a number of fellowship opportunities in 2024. Please pray for our Sunday School which is small but mighty in love of Jesus and our PW which is small but mighty in mission and faith. We ask for prayers from our families who have experienced loss in the past several months, and members who have health concerns. Please pray that we might continue to hear God's call and follow His will in our lives, our church and surrounding community.

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Auburn**

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Auburn congregation. May they continue to grow as a caring and nurturing Christian community, as well as individuals, focusing on prayer, Bible study and worship.

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Bancroft**

We pray for our members and their families health and happiness. Our church is in small town USA, we are a small congregation but we ask for prayers to keep our church's spirit alive, our appetite for God's word hungry and our hearts full with the love of Jesus Christ. Also we ask to pray for our traveling speakers and their families as they go the distance to tend to the Lord's sheep. Please join us in praying for the great country we live in, the United States of America, and all of God's children that are afraid, sad, mourning, disappointed, depressed, anxious, being harmed verbally, physically, emotionally and spiritually. We ask Father Son and Holy Spirit to wrap us in their comforting and compassionate presents to allow our bodies, minds and souls peace. God Bless you all and God Bless the USA.

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Beatrice**

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Auburn congregation. May they continue to grow as a caring and nurturing Christian community, as well as individuals, focusing on prayer, Bible study and worship.

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Belden Union**

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Auburn congregation. May they continue to grow as a caring and nurturing Christian community, as well as individuals, focusing on prayer, Bible study and worship.

◆ **UCC Living Waters Association:**

- **Pierce UCC, 68767**
- **Plainview First Congregational UCC, 68796**
- **Ralston UCC, 68127**
- **Stanton New England Congregational UCC, 68779**

S.A.L.T. ADULT SUNDAY CLASS

“Study and Learn Together”

Who: All adults!

When: 8:45 a.m. (So choir members can come!)

Where: Fellowship Hall

Come join us! Besides goodies and coffee, we have good discussions and great interaction. This year’s curriculum will be:

Video series (every other week): **In the Footsteps of the Savior** by Max Lucado. The videos are always interesting and informative.

Every other week: **Today’s news---Exploring relevance to our faith**
News is inevitable--whether it be good or bad. We’ll look at the latest news events (no political discussions, though) and talk about linking our Christian faith and wisdom from the Bible to today’s news. We will be sure to have stimulating discussions as we share our questions, opinions, and insights with each other.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! COME JOIN US SUNDAY MORNINGS!

SOCIAL CONCERNS & MISSIONS COMMITTEE COLLECTIONS & EVENTS

"The Son of Man did **not** come **to be served, but to serve,**" Matthew 20 : 28

Social Concerns and Missions Committee is collecting peanut butter for the months of January, February and March. This peanut butter goes to the Methodist back pack program. The box for collecting is inside the north door to the Narthex.

Social Concerns and Missions Committee

USHERS/LITURGISTS & ATTENDANCE REPORT MARCH 2024

Ushers : Jesse Abrego, Byron Meyer, Bill Royer

Youth Ushers: Meredith Gaeth, Hadley McHugh

Liturgists : Nicole Miller, Katie Claus, Beatriz Garcia, Beth Sharpe

Average Attendance :
Thursday Service - 23
Sunday Service - 123
Online - 103
Weekly Attendance - 250

FUNERAL COMMITTEE 3

Co-Chairs: John & Katie Claus, Paul & Barb Sanderson, Rick & Laura Porter
Committee Members will be contacted by the Co-Chairs

MISSION HEART, INC.



Mission Heart, Inc. is located at 412 "G" Street in Central City.

Some donation suggestions include:

Clothing items , Linens , School supplies , Baby items ,
& pill bottles are accepted without labels

For more information, go to: missionheartworld.weebly.com

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.

At this time, the Center is in need and accepting donations for the following NEW personal hygiene products: shampoo, conditioner, liquid body wash, deodorant, makeup removing wipes, facial tissues, toilet paper, and paper towels.



KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL



Keep Columbus Beautiful is an affiliate of

Keep America Beautiful.

To find out more information go to <https://kcbne.com>

ERNA R. BADSTIEBER PAWS & CLAWS ADOPTION CENTER

Paws & Claws Adoption Center (The Platte Valley Humane Society) is located at 2124 13th Street. The hours are Monday through Friday, Noon to 4:30pm, and Saturdays Noon to 3:30pm.

You can call 402-562-5683 to meet your future pet! Regular needs include: Clorox, Pine Sol, Paper Towels, Old Linens, Stamps, Copy Paper, Gift Cards from Grocery, Hardware and Farm Stores.

They have a number of animals available, go to <https://www.pawsandclawsne.org!>



MEALS ON WHEELS

Make sure to sign up for 2024 Meals on Wheels Schedule!

Please contact Kathy Leischner,

402-276-7415, kathy.leischner@yahoo.com

if you can deliver for approximately one hour each day during Federated's scheduled week!



RESCUE MISSION MEALS FOR 2024

Columbus **RESCUE** Mission

Federated Church delivers meals to the Rescue Mission the second Friday of each month. The new Rescue Mission is located in the old Mory's Haven, on 15th Street and 12th Avenue. There are no steps there. Meals should consist of a main dish, a salad or vegetable and bread or rolls. Dessert is not necessary but always appreciated. Suggestions include tacos, soup, sloppy joes, casseroles, spaghetti, lasagna, pizza, burritos, enchiladas, or whatever you'd like to take. Because you need to plan for 25 people, it is a good idea to pair up with someone. The meal should be there by 5:00 p.m. There are several openings for this year. Please be a part of this important ministry and sign up in the Narthex!
Social Concerns and Missions Committee

PLATTE COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

The Platte County Food Pantry, located at 3020 18th Street in Suite 13 (Old Hospital).

If you are in need of assistance, you can call at 402-563-4544. Some donation suggestions are: canned and boxed foods: soup, macaroni and cheese, ramen noodles, pasta and pasta sauce, veggies and fruits; staple food items: peanut butter, jelly, pancake syrup, crackers, tuna, rice, flour, sugar.

This is not an all inclusive list, any non-perishable food items are needed.



M & G SMALL GROUPS

Do you enjoy concerts, plays, or any upcoming arts and events in Columbus? However do you stay home because you do not want to attend alone and would rather go with others?

Here is your chance to go with others. The Membership and Growth Committee is getting a group of people together to attend these events.

If you are interested, please contact Ruth Lind and leave your name, phone number and email address. I will add your name or names to the list and will contact you when the next event comes up. If there is something you would like to see or attend, please give us your ideas. Please contact the church office if you need Ruth's contact information.

Happy Birthday!

Brenda Kallweit	4/2	Garrett Hahn	4/16
Brian Klevemann, Jessica Sand	4/7	Marcia Grant	4/17
Jan Pickrel	4/8	Guy Wheatley	4/20
Cara Porter, Ellie Porter, Lisa Perrin	4/9	Mitchell Griffith	4/21
Beverly Fry, Connor Hahn, Sue Mares	4/10	Loren Burnett, Anjel Garcia Lopez, Ron Novak	4/23
Kathy Morris, Clint Scheffler	4/11	Alyse Wolfe	4/27
Kathy Orr	4/13	Sheila Arasmith	4/28
Gary Sedlacek	4/14	Jude Graybill	4/29
		Tom Gumm	4/30

If you see a mistake or missing information on this page,
call the church office so we can update our records.



Happy 45th Anniversary!

Terry & Beth Millard
April 21, 1979

FEBRUARY 2023 FINANCIALS

Contributions - February 2023		Expenses - February 2023	
General Funds (Checking):	\$63,161.66	General Fund Expenses:	\$38,021.78
Contributions	\$63,062.66	Utilities	\$5648.03
Rent	\$99.00	Other Budgeted Expenses	\$32,373.75
Designated Funds (Savings):	\$28,013.70	Designated Funds (Savings):	\$14,259.32
Interest Earned	\$585.60	Youth Fund (Ice Skating Trip)	\$211.72
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$250.00	Building Maintenance (Ed Center Remodel)	\$13,502.60
Platte County Food Pantry	\$412.00	Disaster Relief	\$500.00
Youth Mission Trip (Narthex Book Sale)	\$390.10	Operation Education (Fundraiser)	\$25.00
Youth Fund (Ice Skating Trip)	\$260.00	Helping Hands - Non-Members	\$20.00
Building Maintenance	\$25,100.00	Memorial Fund:	\$3,329.75
Landscaping Fund	\$501.00	Kitchen/Funeral Supplies	\$15.97
Helping Hands - Non-Members	\$515.00	Undesignated to DA Davidson	\$3,313.78
Memorials:	\$420.00		
Undesignated	\$220.00		
Kitchen/Funeral Supplies	\$200.00		

Income	\$91,585.36
Expenses	-\$55,610.85
Total	\$35,974.51

Transfers	
General Fund Checking to General Fund Savings - Excess amount built up in Checking	\$49,000.00
Transfer of 2021 Memorials to Various Savings Accounts	\$14,904.60
Transfers from Savings for May bills	\$14,259.32
Transfer from Memorials for May bills	\$3,329.75

2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEETING DAYS/TIMES

In the table below you can find the 2024 Chairperson(s) and meeting days and times for each committee. If you belong to a committee and have not heard from your chair, please contact them for information. If you do not have any contact information for them, you can call the office for assistance.

Committee or Group	Chairperson	Meeting Day/Time
Christian Education Committee	Pat Anderson	1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Endowment Committee	Donna Augspurger	Will meet as necessary
Finance & Property Committee	Mark Weeder	3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Membership & Growth Committee	Nila Novotny	2nd Monday of the month, 6:30pm
Nominating Committee	Alison Wagner & Georgia Behlen	<i>To be determined</i>
Order of St. Andrew	Peg Meyer	1st Monday of the month, 4:30pm
Personnel Committee	John McPhail	2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm
Social Concerns & Missions Committee	Katie Claus	2nd Monday of the month, 5:00pm
Stewardship Committee	Georgia Behlen	Will meet as necessary
Worship & Music Committee	John Lohr	1st Tuesday of the month, 7:15pm
Youth Ministry Committee	Max Porter	2nd Sunday of the month, 11:00am
Foundation	Doug Williams, President	Quarterly/as Necessary
Governing Council	Alison Wagner, President Georgia Behlen, VP	4th Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm

Reminder to all Chairpersons: If, for any reason, your meeting has been postponed, rescheduled, cancelled or changed to a different day of the month or time, please contact the office staff regarding the new schedule. Thank you!