



FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

April 2026; Volume 60; Issue 4

A decorative border featuring white lilies and purple lavender flowers on green stems, framing the central text.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2 - Maundy Thursday; Communion
April 3 - Ecumenical Good Friday Service
at Grace Episcopal Church at noon;
Church office closes at noon
April 5 - Easter Sunday; Communion
April 6 - Church office closed
April 11 - Men's Fellowship
April 12 - Jazz Sunday
April 24 - Family Fellowship Gathering

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Not long ago, I heard this song that struck me. It begins with a horrific description of a friend's roadside death. Then there is a person who is battling not only illnesses but also the effects of medical treatment. These are examples of how difficult life can be. Yet, interspersed is the refrain sung with a voice straining to muster courage to profess: "Oh I believe, though it's hard sometimes. You are the resurrection and the life."

I would like to share this song by Andy Gullahorn. Lyrics are below. If you can, listen to the song titled "Resurrection" (can find on YouTube). It is a sung prayer, offered to the One who said "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25).

Grace and peace,
Edward

"Resurrection" by Andy Gullahorn

My good friend Paul was lying in the back seat of a station wagon
Headed to New Mexico
Somewhere in the middle of the night the driver fell asleep
And hit the wall beside the road
My friend went through the window like a bullet through the glass
Dead before he ever hit the ground
Oh I believe, Though it's hard sometimes
You are the resurrection and the life

Jody is a queen reigning prone upon a couch
For the past few years of numbered days
Because the virus in her body and the cancer in her brain
Are buying up the real estate
The medicine they gave her trades nightmares for her dreams
Of memories too tragic to describe
Oh I believe, Though it's hard sometimes
You are the resurrection and the life

I know the words of life to come are true
But sometimes they feel like salt upon the wound
When I'm asking in these moments where are You
Where are You?
Oh I believe, Though it's hard sometimes
You are the resurrection and the life

Sometimes it's like Lazarus, You come to roll the stone away
And watch him walk back out alive
Sometimes it's like my good friend Paul, breathless on the interstate
Mother weeping at his side
Either way it's something I will never understand
But I trust enough to take You at Your word
Oh I believe, Though it's hard sometimes
You are the resurrection and the life

MESSAGE FROM OUR GOVERNING COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Federated family,
As we celebrate Easter together, we rejoice in the foundation of our faith: that Jesus Christ, crucified and buried, is risen from the dead and alive among us. His resurrection proclaims that God's love is stronger than sin, fear, and even death itself, and it invites us to live as a people of hope, mercy, and renewal. As a congregation, we see this Easter promise in our worship, in the ways we care for one another, and in our service to the wider community. May this season deepen our trust in God's grace, strengthen our life together, and send us out as witnesses to the risen Christ in all we say and do.

A blessed Easter to all!

Bob Arp Governing Council President

MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR

As we enter April, we arrive at the heart of our church year: Easter. This season invites us into a journey that moves from reflection to celebration, and music plays a vital role in helping us experience that story in a deeper way.

Over the past weeks our Chancel Choir, Bells of Joy, Children's Bells, and instrumentalists have been faithfully preparing for this season; filling the sanctuary and our hearts with beautiful music. Their dedication and care are evident in every rehearsal, and I am continually grateful for the time and commitment they give in service to Federated's worship. What they offer is more than music—it is an expression of faith.

As we celebrate Easter and move through the remainder of April and May, we also begin to approach the close of our regular music season. This is always a meaningful transition; the steady rhythm of weekly rehearsals begins to shift, marking the conclusion of another wonderful season of shared music-making.

At the end of May, we will move into our summer Special Music season, where worship continues to be enriched by music in a more flexible format. I will be sharing more details in our next newsletter, but for now, I invite you to begin considering how you might participate. Music has a way of carrying the message of Easter with us long after the day itself has passed. It reminds us of hope, renewal, and the joy of new life. My prayer is that the music you hear, and perhaps take part in, continues to speak to you throughout this season.

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Easter.

Stuart Gausman
Director of Music Ministry

GOVERNING COUNCIL SUMMARY

The Governing Council met on Tuesday, March 25 at 7 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President, Bob Arp.

Meeting highlights include:

February GC meeting minutes were approved. Several topics were addressed: Communion servers, staff reviews, outside organizations using rooms at Federated, advertising, new website under construction, Finance & Property report, and vacation bible camp coordinator position.

Terry Norris reported the financials for the past couple months. Discussion of new projects for 2026 - refurbish hand bells, roof shingles for Sanctuary, Narthex and Bell tower, recarpeting west entrance and office, replace the marquee sign, cameras for the entrances of the building.

The next Governing Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28th at 7 p.m.

Kathy Zywiec, Secretary

CHILDREN & YOUTH APRIL 2026

CALENDAR

4/5

Easter
Egg Hunt following Worship

4/12

Fed@Fed
4 - 6 pm | 8th Grade & Up

4/19

Sunday FUNday
10 - 2 pm | 5th Grade & Up

5/10

Mother's Day Flower Sale

5/17

Grad Sunday/Teacher
Recognition
9 am Graduate Breakfast
10 Graduates & Teachers
Recognized
11 am Cake Reception at
Cafe-la-Fed

June 1st - 5th

Vacation Bible Camp
Methodist Church



Easter Sunday

April 5th
9 am Worship
10 am Egg Hunt



April 12th
4-6 pm Federated Kitchen
Grades 8th - 12th

SUNDAY
FUNday

April 19th
11-2pm Federated Church
Grades 5th - 12th
Food & Fun

RECENT EVENTS

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY



HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY/UCC LIVING WATERS PRAYERS

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Lincoln First**

We give thanks for all those who helped make our Welcome Center Remodel Project a success, and for all those wonderful volunteers in the church who show up and are at the heart of the ministry we do here in Lincoln and beyond. We pray for guidance for our Session as they ask what God is calling us to do this year, and for a vision of what is possible. We pray for strength for our immigrant neighbors near and far, and for courage for us to stand up when it matters.

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Lincoln Fourth**

As we begin 2026, we are excited for the many opportunities to continue to try to meet the needs of our community and our congregation. Most recently we received a grant from the American Heart Association for 2 AEDs as well as CPR certification for a handful of our leaders. In the coming months we will be working with the Lincoln Fire Department to offer several hands only CPR training events as well as sudden cardiac drills around our building. Continued prayers are appreciated for wisdom, faithfulness and energy as we continue to live into our calling!

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Lincoln Good Shepherd**

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Lincoln Good Shepherd 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: Lincoln Heritage**
Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Lincoln Heritage 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: Lincoln Korean**
Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Lincoln Korean 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:

- ◆ Plainview First Congregational UCC (Plainview, NE 68796)
- ◆ Ralston UCC (Ralston, NE 68127)
- ◆ Scribner First Congregational UCC (Scribner, NE 68057)
- ◆ Stanton New England Congregational UCC (Stanton, NE 68779)
- ◆ Tilden Peace UCC (Tilden, NE 68781)

JOYS & CONCERNS FOR MARCH 2026

- ◆ Pray for Val Rathje as she is recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- ◆ Pray for Herman Lauterbach as he had spinal surgery and is now recovering.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Ladonna Rathje, mother of Tim & Val Rathje and grandmother of Hailey Rathje. Ladonna passed on February 27. A memorial service will be held on March 21 in Marshall, Minnesota.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Margo Zywiec, sister-in-law to Kathy Zywiec. She was just diagnosed with a heart blockage, had open heart surgery and is at Madonna for rehabilitation.
- ◆ Pray for Judy Johnson, Stephanie Johnson's mother, she recently hurt her knee and has limited use right now.
- ◆ Pray for Loren Burnett. He fell and is now recovering from knee surgery.
- ◆ Pray for Joan Specht, she is recovering from repair surgery to a knee replacement she had done earlier.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Dale Brockhaus, uncle to Brianna Brockhaus. Dale passed away February 28.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Dennis Davis, brother-in-law to Doug and Randi Williams and uncle to Carrie Prokopec and family. Dennis passed away on Wednesday, March 25th in Atlantic, Iowa.

MARCH 2026 ATTENDANCE

Ushers/Liturgists & Attendance Report

Ushers: Bill Royer, Georgia Behlen, Stephanie Johnson

Liturgists: Jackie Marker, Kristen Gausman, Peg Meyer, Julie Graham

Average Attendance :

In-Person Thursday Service: 16

In-Person Sunday Service: 102

Online Average Weekly Views: 231

SOCIAL CONCERNS & MISSIONS

In April, May and June 2026 we are collecting paper towels and toilet paper for the Center for Survivors. Thank you in advance for your help.

Social Concerns and Missions Committee

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

CAKE PICNIC

Federated Church 1st Cake Picnic!

Was held on March 22, 2026 in the Fellowship Hall

All proceeds will go to church missions. (40+ cakes donated)

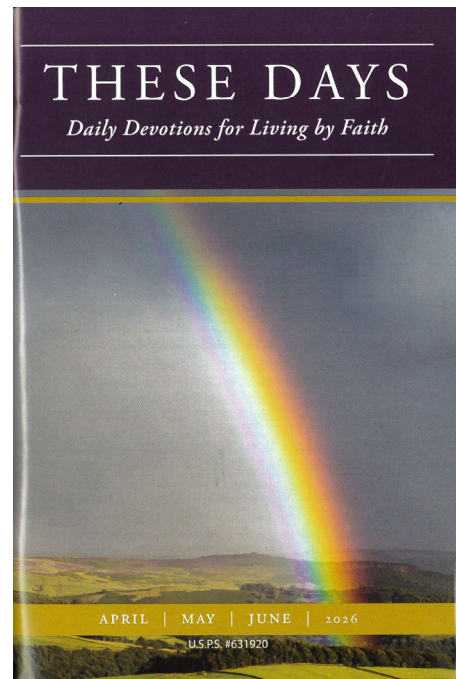


THESE DAYS

Daily Devotions for Living by Faith

April, May and June

Copies will be available in the office or in the Narthex before/after services.



ACTIVITY SPOTLIGHT

Federated Church has many activities during the year that are sponsored by congregants - planning, setting up, attending, clean up, promoting, going above and beyond to do something for Federated Church.

We have many beautiful banners throughout the Sanctuary and the Narthex. Alison Wagner makes sure the banners are clean, welcome everyone and coincide with every church holiday. Thank you Alison.

If you would like to send your “activity” suggestion to the church to be added to our monthly newsletter, please send to fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org, call the office at 402-564-2812 or just stop in the office and visit.



2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEETING DAYS/TIMES

In the table below you can find the 2026 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	Tentative Meeting Day/Time
Christian Education Committee	Brenda Sand	1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Endowment Committee	Marcia Grant	Will meet as necessary
Finance & Property Committee	Terry Norris	3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Membership & Growth Committee	Nila Novotny	2nd Monday of the month, 6:30pm
Nominating Committee	Bob Arp	<i>To be determined</i>
Order of St. Andrew	Peg Meyer	1st Monday of the month, 4:30pm
Personnel Committee	Marilyn Vrana	3rd Monday of the month, 5:00pm
Social Concerns & Missions Committee	Katie Claus	2nd Monday of the month, 5:00pm
Stewardship Committee	Linda Wheatley	Will meet as necessary
Worship & Music Committee	Steve Heinisch	1st Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm
Youth Ministry Committee	Max Porter	2nd Sunday of the month, 11:00am
Foundation	Doug Williams, President	Quarterly/as Necessary
Governing Council	Bob Arp, President Steve Heinisch, 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!

MEMBERSHIP & GROWTH 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.

S.A.L.T. ADULT SUNDAY CLASS

S.A.L.T classes every Sunday before service
"Study and Learn Together"

Who: All Adults!

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

Where: Education Center Room 4

FUNERAL COMMITTEE #3

Funeral Committee 3 Co-Chairs: Katie Claus, Barb & Paul Sanderson, Rick Porter
Committee Members will be contacted by the Co-Chairs.

2 X 4 GATHERINGS - MEETING FELLOW CONGREGANTS

Thank you for your interest in the 2 x 4 gatherings.

Groups have been created and the schedule is set for 2026.

Please reach out if you have questions or would like to be involved.

The office can provide you a copy of the 2 x 4 schedule and all details.

Thank you, Nila Novotny, Chair of Membership & Growth Committee

GARAGE SALE TIME COMING UP THIS SUMMER

The date for the Garage Sale has not been set yet.

But you can start collecting your items now and **KEEPING** them at home
until we have the date that you can start dropping off items.

Remember there are some items we do NOT accept: televisions of any kind,
computer monitors, mattresses & box springs, air conditioners, dehumidifiers,
refrigerators, freezers, firearms, ammunition and baby car seats.

FEDERATED CHURCH'S HELPING HANDS FUNDS

Did you know... “In the spring of 1975 Federated Church hosted and helped organize the Helping Hands Organization of Columbus...”¹ This gathering collaborated the efforts of a number of community groups and created low-cost housing, as well as a number of other wonderful outreaches to our community. This is where our “Helping Hands” funds were started!

¹ Excerpt from ‘In Ministry Together; Federated Church - A Centennial History; July 2, 1914 - July 2, 2014’; pg. 38-39



2026 COLUMBUS RESCUE MISSION

Federated Church prepares 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.

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.

PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX if you can prepare a meal.

Katie Claus, Chair of Social Concerns & Missions Committee

June, July and August are still open.

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.



WEEKLY EMAIL TO CONGREGANTS

Do you receive our weekly MailChimp email? If you don't, but would like to, please contact the office and we will get you added to the list!

NEWSLETTER NEWS

Do you have something to share? We want to hear from you! If you would like an article added to our newsletter please contact us by email, phone, mail, or stop by in person. The deadline is the 20th of the month. Anything received after that date will go in the following months newsletter. Email: fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org, Phone: 402-564-2812, Mail: 2704 15th St. PO Box 564, 68602

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>

MEALS ON WHEELS



Make sure to sign up for 2026 Meals on Wheels Schedule!

Please contact Kathy Leischner

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

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.

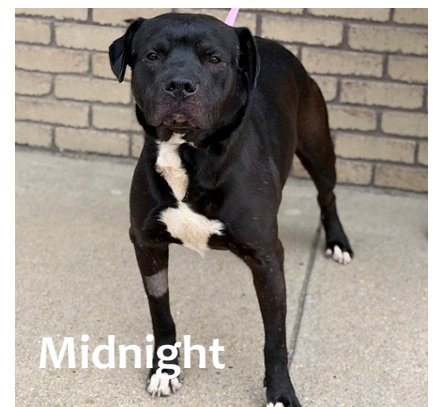
They have a number of animals available, go to <https://www.pawsandclawsne.org!>



Coco



SnapCat



Midnight

Happy Birthday



4/02	Brenda Kallweit, Barb Sturgill	4/16	Garrett Hahn
4/07	Brian Klevemann, Jessica Sand	4/17	Marcia Grant
4/08	Jan Pickrel	4/20	Guy Wheatley
4/09	Lisa Perrin, Ellie Porter, Cara Porter	4/21	Mitchell Griffith
4/10	Beverly Fry, Connor Hahn, Sue Mares	4/23	Loren Burnett, Anjel Garcia Lopez
4/11	Kathy Morris, Clint Scheffler	4/27	Alyse Wolfe
4/13	Kathy Orr	4/28	Shelia Arasmith
4/14	Gary Sedlacek	4/29	Jude Graybill
		4/30	Tom Gumm

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

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (FEB. 15 - MARCH 15, 2026)

Income	
General Funds (Checking):	\$21,479.58
Total General Fund	\$21,479.58
Memorials:	\$1782.50
Undesignated	\$1782.50

Designated Funds (Savings):	\$755.00
Christmas Meal (late donation)	\$20.00
Food Pantry	\$10.00
General Undesignated Savings	\$350.
Building Maintenance	\$50.00
Doane & Hastings College	\$50.00
OGHS - One Great Hour Sharing (partial contribution before Easter)	\$275.00

Expenses	
General Fund Expenses:	\$41,779.36
Homestead Presbytery/Hastings College	\$463.30
UCC NE Conference/Neighbors in Need, Doane College, Ghana	\$327.78
Living Waters Association	\$175.32
Chamber Membership	\$200.00
Church Windows Annual Renewal	\$529.00
VIMEO Renewal;	\$108.00
Aluminum Can rebuild	\$596.55
Equipment Maintenance & Upgrades	\$1,800.00
Snow Removal	\$1,174.68
State Fire Marshall	\$120.00
Advertising	\$99.00
Music Ministry	\$113.79
Youth Ministry	\$769.63
Necrology	\$92.83
Pulpit & Helping Hands (Sapp Bros.)	\$284.95
Insurances (Workmans Comp, Board of Pensions, Insurance Board)	\$13,122.97
Staff Salaries	\$22,086.51

Governing Council - Federated Church Elders 2026

Bob Arp, *President*
Steve Heinisch, *Vice President*

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Nila Novotny	Terry Norris	Marcia Grant
Max Porter	Linda Wheatley	Antonio Garcia
John Kiser	Marilyn Vrana	Placido Jorge

Order of St. Andrew - Federated Church Deacons

Tammi Gotschall	Peg Meyer	Doris Augspurger
Steve McClure	Joe Chin	Lori Rine
Jesse Abrego	Brenda Wardman	Georgia Behlen

Andree & Terry Hoeman, Co-Historians

Bill Royer, Head Usher

FEDERATED CHURCH
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COLUMBUS, NE 68602-0564

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APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

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DECODING THE LITURGICAL COLOR SCHEME

White = Holiness; We use white any time we are celebrating days that emphasize the divinity of Christ: Christmas, Easter, Baptism of the Lord, Christ the King, and so on. For the most part, if you find white paraments in the sanctuary, you are worshipping on a day that has great significance to our understanding of Jesus as God. Also, since white has come to symbolize holiness, it is also often used for the celebration of both sacraments (baptism & communion). You will also often see a pastor wear a white stole when officiating a wedding. Although there is no theological or liturgical reason, some pastors choose to do so as the colors white and black are so often associated with weddings. However, any color of stole is deemed appropriate