



FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Holy Week - March 28th - April 3rd
- ◆ Good Friday - April 2nd (office closes at Noon)
 - ◆ Easter Sunday - April 4th, 10am service
 - ◆ Easter Monday - April 5th (office closed)
 - ◆ Confirmation Sunday - May 2nd
 - ◆ Mother's Day - May 9th
 - ◆ Graduation Sunday - May 23rd
- ◆ Memorial Day - May 31st (office closed)



From the Pastor's Desk

Churches are messy. I do not mean “messy” as in untidy and lacking neatness – the way my wife would describe my office. Rather, there is something about the group of people that we refer to as a church that is prone to be harmony-challenged. Those who have served in a church leadership role likely know what I am talking about. Members of a church do not always see eye to eye; disagreements are inevitable.

However, the idea of messy churches may be counterintuitive to what we would expect. Since the Church is described as the Body of Christ, we might expect churches to always be reflective of Christ. Unfortunately, that is not often the case. Bringing together imperfect people will always lead to an imperfect group, in other words, a messy church. Sometimes, the mess could lead to unresolved conflicts and ultimately division within a church.

The reason for sharing this realistic description is that I thought the messiness of churches – and specifically, our church – might rear its head and cause some disappointing results. I felt this way at our recent Governing Council meeting (on March 23rd). There was tension in the air as various elders of the council shared their thoughts on how we should go about loosening restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It seemed like there was at least an hour worth of discussion before the realization that we could talk about this topic all night long. Rather than continuing the back-and-forth debate, motions were made, seconded, amended after more discussion and unanimously passed. The approved motions are listed in this newsletter.

While every Governing Council elder agreed with the amended motions, I would not assume that each of them fully agreed with every motion. There was a compromise among the various views on loosening restrictions with a fair amount of give and take. When it was over, I felt relieved that our council was able to work together.

As I reflect on the recent Governing Council meeting, I am reminded of a statement by the late Presbyterian pastor/seminary professor/General Assembly moderator, Jack Rogers (who grew up in Lincoln, NE): “Unity does not mean uniformity.” In other words, we do not have to agree on everything to be united. There will be disagreements that we should learn to live with. There should be compromises. When compromise happens, the various parties need to focus more on what was gained as opposed to what felt like a loss. There also needs to be a greater focus on what is held in common over and against what was disagreed.

In terms of COVID-19, I think we all agree that we want the pandemic to be over. I look forward to seeing people without a mask so that I can see their smile. I look forward to handshakes during our passing the peace and after worship. I look forward to Café la Fed and potlucks. Yet, I also respect the views of our church leaders and the decisions they have made. Please review the approved motions that are listed. If you are troubled by or disagree with any of the motions, please share your thoughts by speaking with myself or an elder currently on our Governing Council.

From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

I will conclude with the statement that I began with: churches are messy. Thankfully, God is able to make something beautiful from our mess. And I am reminded of this song, "Beautiful Things" by Gungor (song video can be found on YouTube):

[Verse 1]

All this pain

I wonder if I'll ever find my way

I wonder if my life could really change, at all

All this earth

Could all that is lost ever be found?

Could a garden come out from this ground, at all?

[Chorus]

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of the dust

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of us

[Verse 2]

All around,

Hope is springing up from this old ground

Out of chaos life is being found, in you

[Bridge]

You make me new,

You are making me new

Grace and peace,

Edward

Following motions were approved by Governing Council on March 23, 2021:

Effective May 24, 2021

1) Masks are recommended for all the facility/all functions.

Effective immediately

2) Sanctuary has open seating with a designated area to accommodate 6ft rule for those who wish.

3) Continue with availability of masks and hand sanitizer at entrances.

4) Remove roped area in narthex.

5) Bulletins available for services/take home when done.

6) Committees/groups will set their own guidelines for meetings/gatherings for masks/distance.

7) All other restrictions will remain in effect until further notice from Governing Council.

8) A congregation hymn may be sung at the end of service.



Children's Ministry

Thank-you Federated Children's Bell Choir and their director, Stuart Gausman, for the beautiful bell performance on Palm Sunday.

Thank-you to the children who collected money in their fish banks for One Great Hour of Sharing. Your donations will be used to fight poverty around the world.

Thank-you to the Christian Education Committee for hosting an Easter Egg Hunt following worship on Easter Sunday.



Youth Ministry

In February, the Federated Youth Group took their annual ski/snowboarding trip to Mount Crescent in Iowa. All 26 participants enjoyed a beautiful sunny day at the slopes. A special thanks to drivers Nicole Miller and Doug Williams.



Youth Events

4/27 - Confirmation Class of 2021 meet with Governing Council

5/2 - Confirmation Sunday

5/9 - Mother's Day Flower Sale

5/23- Graduation Sunday

Brenda Sand, Christian Education Director

THANK YOU!!!

Our grateful thanks to the "CURRY FAMILY" for sharing J.R.'s memorial funds to benefit Federated Church. Liquid paraffin oil candles now adorn the communion table in memory of J.R. Curry. This provides a beautiful and efficient way for GOD'S light to shine in the Sanctuary!

*Thank
You*

Thank you so much,
The Worship and Music Committee

Sunday Lunch Bunch Resuming!

We will be resuming our Sunday Lunch Bunch for those who are fully vaccinated. Please get in touch with Nell Burnham nburnham001@neb.rr.com to help make the plans.

Rescue Mission Meals for 2021

Meals for the Rescue Mission still need providers for November and December. If two or more families did this together it becomes less daunting. Meals can be simple ---sloppy joes, spaghetti and meatballs, soup, hamburgers or brats, casseroles, or whatever you feel like making. Some families order pizza. You may provide a vegetable or salad if you wish, or bread or rolls. Dessert is totally optional. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or call or text Katie Claus, 402-910-4479 --or email kayclaus50@gmail.com. Let's get the schedule filled!

Volunteers Needed!

Let your inner decorating talents shine!

Seeking creative volunteers to serve God by overseeing the seasonal decorating throughout the year of the Sanctuary, Narthex, Fellowship Hall, etc.

This could be (2-3) individuals, a husband & wife team or a family unit.

If you are interested, please contact Alison Wagner,
402-276-2585 for more information.

Meals on Wheels



Federated Church will be delivering Meals on Wheels the week of April 26-30. Don't be afraid to volunteer - the COLD weather should have passed. Tons of appreciation to all who said yes in Feb. Coordinator will be Charlotte Lambert 402-564-5834.

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, paper towels and men's deodorant.

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 easy 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.

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



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: Clumping cat litter, Clorox, Pine Sol, Copy Paper, Dog & Cat Toys, Collars & Leashes, Paper Towel, Old Towels/Washcloths/Blankets, Gently Used Pet Supplies, Gift Cards from Grocery, Hardware and Farm Stores.



They have a number of animals available, including Squirt, Jill, Mochi, and Molly.

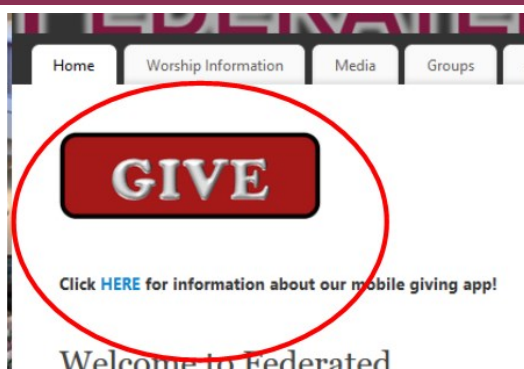


Finance at a Glance

Income - February 2021	
Contributions, Etc.	\$44,592.58
Contributions (2021)	\$43,952.58
Rent	\$350.00
Sale of Books	\$290.00
Designated Funds (Savings):	\$1,140.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$70.00
Food Pantry (Souper Bowl)	\$950.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$20.00
Building Maintenance	\$100.00
Memorials	\$205.00
Unrestricted	\$205.00
Interest Income:	\$5.71
Memorial	\$0.00
Checking	\$0.00
Savings	\$5.71

Expenses - February 2021	
General Fund Expenses:	\$27,970.48
Utilities	\$3,489.57
Other Budgeted Expenses	\$24,480.91
Designated Funds (Savings):	\$1,192.00
Food Pantry (Souper Bowl)	\$950.00
Helping Hands - Non-Members	\$242.00
Memorial Fund:	\$73.00
Undesignated - AV Room	\$73.00

Easy Online Giving Options Available



Give online for a quick and easy way to contribute without leaving the sanctity of your home!

Three options are currently available:

- 1) Online Giving - press the "GIVE" button on the website
- 2) Mobile app - click the 'here' link underneath the "GIVE" button for instructions
- 3) ACH transfer - call Chrissy at the church office for information.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

If you see a mistake or a birthday missing, call the church office so we can get the correct information.

Brenda Kallweit	4/2	Kathy Orr	4/11
Brian Klevemann, Jessica Sand	4/7	Gary Sedlacek	4/14
Jan Pickrel	4/8	Marcia Grant	4/17
Lisa Perrin, Cara Porter, Ellie Porter	4/9	Mitchell Griffith	4/21
Beverly Fry, Sue Mares, Ervin Paben	4/10	Anjel Garcia Lopez, Ron Novak	4/23
Kathy Morris, Clint Scheffler	4/11	Sheila Arasmith	4/28

Happy Anniversary!

Bob and Annette Griffith will be celebrating
their 30th Wedding Anniversary on April 27th!
Congratulations!!

2021 Committee Chairs and Meeting Days/Times

In the table below you can find the 2021 Chairperson 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.

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Chairperson</i>	<i>Meeting Day/Time</i>
Christian Education	Renee Norris	2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Endowment	<i>To be determined</i>	<i>To be determined</i>
Finance & Property	Marv Zoucha	3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Membership & Growth	Nila Novotny	2nd Monday of the month, 6:30pm
Nominating	<i>To be determined</i>	<i>To be determined</i>
Order of St. Andrew	Laura Porter	1st Monday of the month, 5:15pm
Personnel	John McClure	3rd Tuesday of the month, 7pm
Social Concerns & Missions	Katie Claus	2nd Tuesday of the Month, 7:00pm
Stewardship	Roland Augspurger	<i>To be determined</i>
Worship & Music	Alison Wagner	1st Tuesday of the month, 7:15pm
Youth Ministry	Wayne McCormick	2nd Sunday of the month, 11am
Pastor Nominating Committee	<i>To be determined</i>	<i>To be determined</i>
Foundation	Larry Mares, President	Quarterly
Governing Council	Tim Warren, President Wayne McCormick, 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!

Social Concerns and Missions Committee Donations

The Social Concerns and Missions Committee is asking the congregation to participate in the monthly donations to the following agencies. There will be a box in the Narthex to collect these donations. Thank you for your help!

January February March

Peanut butter in **plastic jars** to be delivered to the Backpack program

April May June

Toilet paper or paper towels for the Center for Survivors

July August September

Clorox, Pine Sol and leashes to be delivered to Paws and Claws

October November December

Mittens, caps, socks to be put on an "Angel Tree" in the Narthex and delivered to the Rescue Mission

Submitted by Katie Claus

March Joys & Concerns

- ◆ Pray for the family of Elizabeth Boettcher, who passed away on Monday, March 1, 2021. A memorial service was held on Monday, March 8 at 11:00 AM, at the Federated Church in Columbus with Rev. Dr. Edward Yang officiating.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Sarah Wong, who passed away February 26, 2021. Sarah was the daughter of John and Carolyn Lippert. A private service will be held.
- ◆ Pray for Jason Stevens, who had a health scare Thursday, February 25. He is the son of Harold and Rogalyn Stevens and brother to Brenda Sand. He was released from the hospital Friday, February 26.
- ◆ Pray for Rosie Heinisch, who received a stem cell transplant on Thursday, February 11th and will be recovering in isolation for about 100 days.
- ◆ Please lift prayers up for Christopher and Melanie Wiegert, son and daughter-in-law of Bob and Wilma Arp. Chris' kidney transplant took place at the Mayo Hospital in Rochester, MN and his wife Melanie was the kidney donor.
- ◆ Matthew King, grandson of John and Anita Hahn married Kaitlyn Habrock on Saturday, March 13, 2021. in Elkhorn at Bethany Lutheran Church.
- ◆ Please pray for the family of Helen Gerber, who passed away on Monday, March 22, 2021. A funeral service was held at the Federated Church on Thursday, March 25 with Rev. Dr. Edward Yang officiating.
- ◆ Please pray for the family of Brian Beckner, who passed away on Saturday, March 20, 2021. Due to Covid memorial services will be held later this summer.
- ◆ Please pray for the family of Dean Lopour, father of Lacey Ternus, who passed away on Tuesday, March 23, 2021. Services are currently being planned.
- ◆ Pray for individuals and families affected by COVID-19.

APRIL 2021

1	Numbers 6 ☐	Numbers 7 ☐	Psalm 26 ☐	Psalm 27 ☐
2	Numbers 8 ☐	Numbers 9 ☐	Acts 16 ☐	
3	Numbers 10 ☐	Numbers 11 ☐	Acts 17 ☐	
4	Numbers 12 ☐	Numbers 13 ☐	Numbers 14 ☐	Psalm 28 ☐
5	Numbers 15 ☐	Numbers 16 ☐	Acts 18 ☐	
6	Numbers 17 ☐	Numbers 18 ☐	Numbers 19 ☐	Acts 19 ☐
7	Numbers 20 ☐	Numbers 21 ☐	Acts 20 ☐	
8	Numbers 22 ☐	Numbers 23 ☐	Psalm 30 ☐	
9	Numbers 24 ☐	Numbers 25 ☐	Acts 21 ☐	
10	Numbers 26 ☐	Numbers 27 ☐	Acts 22 ☐	
11	Numbers 28 ☐	Numbers 29 ☐	Psalm 31 ☐	
12	Numbers 30 ☐	Numbers 31 ☐	Acts 23 ☐	
13	Numbers 32 ☐	Numbers 33 ☐	Acts 24 ☐	
14	Numbers 34 ☐	Numbers 35 ☐	Acts 25 ☐	
15	Numbers 36 ☐	Deuteronomy 1 ☐	Psalm 32 ☐	
16	Deuteronomy 2 ☐	Deuteronomy 3 ☐	Acts 26 ☐	
17	Deuteronomy 4 ☐	Deuteronomy 5 ☐	Acts 27 ☐	
18	Deuteronomy 6 ☐	Deuteronomy 7 ☐	Psalm 33 ☐	
19	Deuteronomy 8 ☐	Deuteronomy 9 ☐	Acts 28 ☐	
20	Deuteronomy 10 ☐	Deuteronomy 11 ☐	Romans 1 ☐	
21	Deut. 12 ☐	Deut. 13 ☐	Deut. 14 ☐	Romans 2 ☐
22	Deuteronomy 15 ☐	Deuteronomy 16 ☐	Psalm 34 ☐	
23	Deuteronomy 17 ☐	Deuteronomy 18 ☐	Romans 3 ☐	
24	Deuteronomy 19 ☐	Deuteronomy 20 ☐	Romans 4 ☐	
25	Deuteronomy 21 ☐	Deuteronomy 22 ☐	Psalm 35 ☐	
26	Deuteronomy 23 ☐	Deuteronomy 24 ☐	Romans 5 ☐	
27	Deuteronomy 25 ☐	Deuteronomy 26 ☐	Romans 6 ☐	
28	Deuteronomy 27 ☐	Deuteronomy 28 ☐	Romans 7 ☐	
29	Deuteronomy 29 ☐	Deuteronomy 30 ☐	Psalm 36 ☐	
30	Deuteronomy 31 ☐	Deuteronomy 32 ☐	Romans 8 ☐	

Federated Church : Year of the Bible

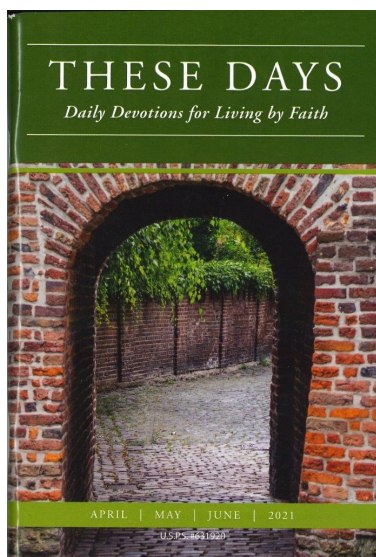
FEDERATED CHURCH
2704 15th STREET
PO BOX 564
COLUMBUS, NE, 68602-0564

April 2021 Newsletter

April Communion Pick-Up and Curb-Side Delivery!

Communion elements will be available March 31st through April 2nd, from the Narthex refrigerator by the church office. We will be doing a 'curb-side delivery' each of those days if you prefer. Call the church office when you are ready for your elements and we will bring them to you in the parking lot.

Communion will be available during in-person service on Maundy Thursday, April 1st and Easter Sunday, April 4th.



These Days Now Available

The April-May-June *These Days* is now available in the church office and Narthex. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact Jim or Chrissy.