



FEDERATED NEWSLETTER



All in-person worship services and church activities are cancelled until April 30th.

We will let you know if further cancellations are needed.

In the meantime, worship services will be recorded for viewing on Spectrum broadcast (channel 1304 on Mondays 12noon, Saturdays 12noon and Sundays 8pm) or online at our church website: federatedcolumbus.org

DVDs are also available upon request. Please call the church office 402-564-2812 and we can send one to you.



From the Pastor's Desk

"Beware the Ides of March!" This phrase takes me back to high school English class when we read Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. I learned that "Ides of March" referred to March 15th when Caesar's life was eerily predicted to end. For the past two years, mid-March have not been favorable to us. Last year, we had historic flooding in the Midwest. This year, worship service was cancelled for March 15th.

My family and I were planning a road trip for our vacation (from March 9th – 15th). Providentially, we were not able to get away (let's say, one of our kids suddenly had group projects to work on), so we had a staycation in our home. It worked out that we did not travel and risk getting infected with COVID-19. Unfortunately, I was not ready for a backup plan to our service cancellation.

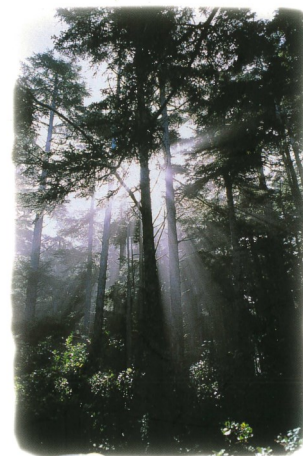
Our church president (Marcia Grant), vice president (Tim Warren) and I met on March 17th to discuss how we will move forward while following guidelines from our health and government authorities. We agreed to cancel all in-person worship services and activities at church until April 3rd (which was the end date for school cancellations but it's likely to go beyond). I shared that I would like to record worship services, especially since we have some homebound members who rely upon these services broadcast on Spectrum 1304 (Mondays 12noon, Saturdays 12noon and Sundays 8pm). These pre-recorded services can also be watched on our church web/Facebook/vimeo pages. Both Marcia and Tim supported the idea of recorded services while we practice social distancing. Thankfully, we have a large enough sanctuary for the slightly more than handful of people to participate in the recordings.

We recorded our first service for a purely online audience at the end of last week. It was a service for the 4th Sunday in Lent. While it did not include all the elements that go into our regular worship service, it had many of the familiar elements to feel like what we normally have in our corporate worship. We will do our best to record the worship services as long as in-person gatherings are restricted.

While worship is a major activity of Christian churches, it is not its sole activity. I am hoping we can continue our lectionary Bible study as online meetings (if you are interested in joining, please call the office). There may be other activities that meet on zoom, like confirmation lessons and committee meetings. Our church leaders and I will continue thinking of ways for our congregation to connect with one another.

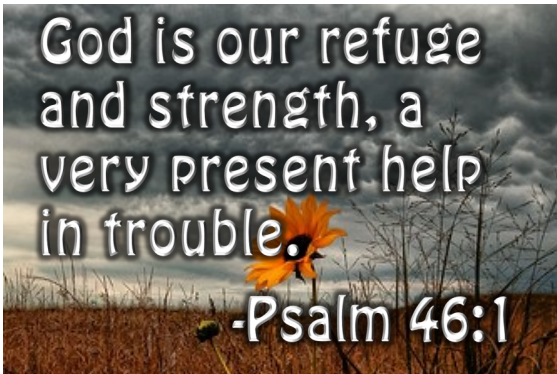
We recently read Henri Nouwen's *Reaching Out* for our all-church book read (by the way, if you are interested, the office has free copies available for pickup or delivery). Nouwen spoke about the possibility of being in solitude while in a crowd of people. In our current situation, I wonder about the possibility of being together while socially isolated. We have to think anew about how to be church.

HENRI J. M. NOUWEN
AUTHOR OF *THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON*



REACHING OUT
...
THE THREE MOVEMENTS
OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

From the Pastor's Desk (continued from pg. 2)



I wonder how you all are doing. There may be some in our congregation who are facing financial difficulties. If that is you, please let us know. There is a designated fund to help church members in need. As we are talking about finances, I would kindly ask that as you are able, to continue your financial support for our church's ministries. We are in the process of setting up online contributions. In the meantime, you can mail a check to the church office.

I also wonder if anyone needs help with taking care of basic errands (like picking up groceries or medicine). We have numerous congregants who are willing to assist. In addition, if you have any prayer concerns, please inform the office. We want to pray for you.

We always need to beware of danger, yet we do not need to be afraid. We are not alone, God is with us!

Grace and peace, Edward



Information Needed Please!

We would like to know how our congregation is getting updated information, especially during uncertain times like these. If you did not go to the website or Facebook, get an email or a phone call regarding the service cancellations, we want to know how you found out.

Call the church office, 402-564-2812, and let us know the form of communication that worked best for you!

Also, we found that only 150 email addresses are in our database for our Active Members. If you have not received a bulk mail (Mail Chimp) or any other email from us, contact us with a working email so we can keep you updated too!

From the Church President

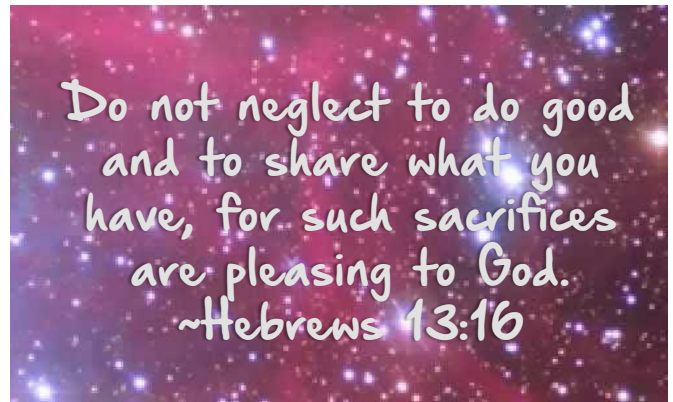
Dear members of Federated Church,

I hope this newsletter finds you well, healthy and practicing the new concept of social distancing.

Many of us have had some major changes in our lifestyle in the past month. My days now consist of going to work, doing different duties at work, occasionally going to the grocery store to look for toilet paper, bread and other necessary items and going home. On weekends, I stay home and watch church online. I think my highlight last week was talking to some friends on a group conference phone call.

My triplets are college seniors. Two of them have returned home and are taking classes online while the other lives in an apartment at UNK on campus. She works online for her internship, does her other classes online and still goes to work at Jimmy Johns. My oldest lives in New York City right in the epicenter for the Covid-19 virus. She is no longer permitted to work, is confined to her apartment and grocery shops once per week. Her boyfriend works and comes home. The only reason her boyfriend still works in that he is a social worker at a homeless shelter and his job is considered essential. I pray for all of them every day. They have all given up a part of their life to this virus prevention and its not always easy.

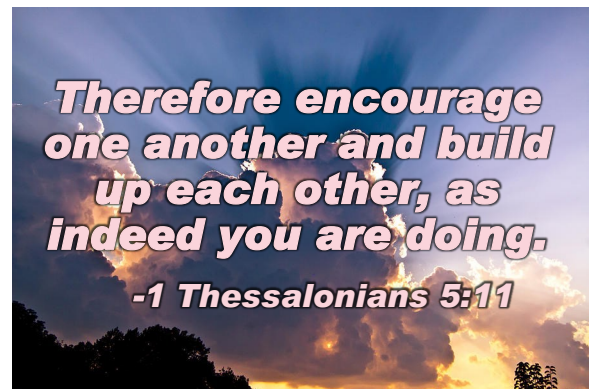
As all of us know, we are doing this to keep the spread of the virus as slow as possible so that our health care system can handle the volume and severity of the cases. I tell myself constantly to keep my focus on the bigger picture, which is doing this to protect those in our community and world who are most medically fragile. I'm telling you all this so that you know my story. All of us have different stories during this time.



I ask all of you, how is your spiritual life these days? Last week Parker was thrilled to get to leave the house to help with the televised church service. His comment when I saw him after work was that it was weird without the people. Emily and I watched the service together Friday night. Every day I pray for the best possible outcome regarding the virus. I know that God is here for all of us during this stressful time of social isolation and waiting.

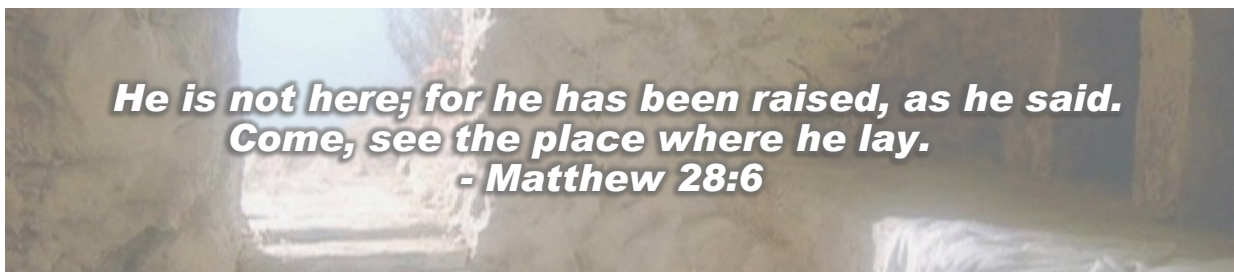
From the Church President (continued from pg. 4)

There are no committee meetings or services at this time. I hope that things resume by May 1st, but if that doesn't happen, the members of Governing Council will make another announcement by individual phone call. Those phone calls have been a way to reach out and connect with all of you. I encourage all of you to let your caller, the church office, Pastor Edward or myself know if there is anything you need at this time. We will gladly make phone calls to those that need someone to talk to. We have members who have volunteered to run errands for those that can't at this time.



Most of all, remember that we are a church family and we are here for each other. I miss seeing each and every one of you and look forward to worshipping together again soon!

Marcia Grant
Church President



Walk to Jerusalem

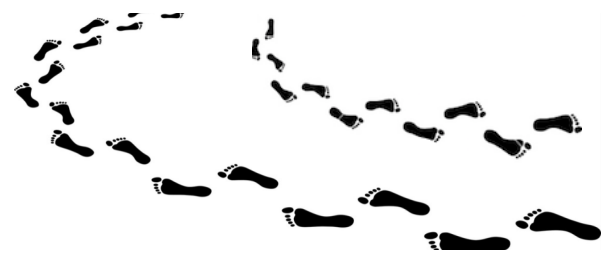
Do you keep track of your steps each day? Do you attend an exercise class? Great! All of these activities count to *Walk to Jerusalem* in 2020! You can find more information on the flyers that are available in the church office!

- **2000 steps = 1 mile**
- **20 minutes of any kind of exercise = 1 mile**
- **Our Gym is open** Mon. through Fri, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., so you can get your steps indoors when the weather is cold!
- **We will track our miles as a congregation** using a world map in the Narthex
- **Two ways to report** your miles

—> Visit www.federatedcolumbus.org

Click on the footprints at the top of the page,
an email to the church pops up,
enter your miles or minutes, and send!

—> Email fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org or call 402-564-2812



I MISS YOU! I miss the smiling faces of our kids as they find their way to their classrooms on Sunday mornings. I miss our teachers as they cheerfully welcome the kids! I miss our confirmation students and our interesting discussions. I miss the antics of the youth group kids on Wednesday nights. And I miss all of the smiling faces and warm handshakes from our congregation on Sunday mornings.

We are very blessed to be living in a time and place where we have access to all the necessities of life, as well as, many luxuries. Now, we find ourselves without church, school, sports, social activities, and maybe even toilet paper! These are unprecedented times for us, but not for God's children who came before us. They lived with plagues, famine, and natural disasters without the conveniences of modern medicine, grocery stores and online shopping. They relied on God. And so can we. God's promises to God's people are the same today as they were in biblical times. **"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."** Deuteronomy 31:8. As we will not be able to meet in person at this time, we are coming up with new ways to stay connected to one another. Please find below, some ways that we can stay connected and continue to grow in faith. If your family needs ANYTHING during this time, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Pastor Edward or the church office.

Brenda Sand/Interim Christian Education Director/402.276.2080/
brendajsand@gmail.com



Children's Ministry

Preschool – 6th Graders: I am working on a way to share the weekly Education Hour videos, lessons and activity pages with the kids in an online format. I will email the details as soon as they become available.

Youth Ministry

Confirmation Students: Edward and I are working on a way to help you complete your confirmation requirements. We will be contacting you with instructions on completing your statement of faith, as well as, ways for you to continue your lessons from home.

High School/Youth Group: We have a ZOOM account! We will continue to have Wednesday night Club via ZOOM. I will be contacting you with the details.



Family Ministry

Families: Let's keep in touch! Please join the Federated Family Fellowship Facebook Group. It will be a great way for us to encourage and support each other. If you want to participate, but do not use Facebook, please contact me to make other arrangements.



Our Cen7ter Volunteer for Spring 2020!



That chipper, smiling young lady you see on Tuesday afternoons is our newest volunteer from Cen7ter! Lauren, 19, is a farm girl from the rural areas north of Columbus, where her family raises crops and cattle.

For her recent graduation from High School, her parents presented her with a new furry, best friend whom she named Bronco after, you guessed it, her favorite NFL team!

When she's not playing with her dog, she likes to hang out with her younger sister, that is, of course, when they aren't helping around the farm.

Lauren's family enjoys going to their cabin on a near by reservoir. They relax and regroup by socializing with the other families, swimming and fishing. This last year, our Master Angler, Lauren, even caught a larger fish than her father! What a proud moment that had to be!

If you see Lauren helping the office staff this Spring, make sure you greet her and we guarantee this young lady will not be shy about introducing herself, and, if you're lucky, she might just share a wonderful story with you as well!

Editorial Note: Currently, the Cen7ter Volunteers are not going to work sites due to EDHD and ESU7 suggestion.

Funeral Committee Teams 2020

#2 Funeral Committee Team 2020

Co-chairs	<i>Marcia & Steve Dewald</i>	<i>Linda & (Guy) Wheatley</i>	
	<i>Sue & Larry Mares</i>	<i>Deb & John Curry</i>	
Members	Augspurger, Dana	Hoeman, Andree & Terry	Scheffler, Diane
	Barbarglia, Diane	Kallweit, Brenda & Leroy	Shreve, Donna
	Boettcher, Liz	Lambert, Charlotte & Ron	Smith, Lori & Clark
	Dowd, JoAnn	Lange, Paula & Dave	Specht, Joan & Gordon
	Drobny, Melanie	Lauterbach, Berlydean & Herman	Srb, Marilyn & Joe
	Ernst, Mimi	Lind, Ruth	Swierczek, Kim
	Garcia, Antonio & Trinidad	Lohr, John (Kathy)	Timperley, Paula & Rebecca
	Gotschall, Tami & Jeff	McClure, John (Julie)	Whitney, Lyle & Riel
	Hahn, Cola & Gene	Meyer, Kevin (Mary Jo)	Williams, Randi & Doug
	Hanner, Whit	Meyer, Peg & Bryon	Wolfe, Kristi & Drew
	Hoadley, Cindy	Rosekrans, Eileen	Wurdeman, Gail

Meals on Wheels

Thank you to the volunteers that delivered March 2 - 6. Your willing responses to serve are appreciated.

At this time volunteer delivery is suspended due to 'the virus'. 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.

Our next date was to have been May 11 -15. Watch for further notice as it is received from the hospital.
~ Renee Bellum



Center for Survivors



We are reaching out to our amazing community and asking for donations of NEW simple clothing for children in crisis situations. Following is a list of what we need:

Boys and Girls new clothing: plain t-shirts, plain sweatshirts, leggings/sweatpants, shorts, underwear; sizes for both boys and girls will include: 2T, 3T, 4T, 5T, 6T, 7, 8, 9, 10-12

Platte County Food Pantry

We ask that you help support this ministry by bringing in the following items: Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, Tuna, Macaroni & Cheese, All Soups, Spaghetti Sauce, Jell-O, Canned Vegetables, Cereal, Ramen Noodles, Pancake Mixes, Bar Soap, Applesauce, Canned Pasta, Diced Tomatoes, Dry Pasta, Canned Fruit, Tomato Sauce, Pudding, Saltine Crackers, Jelly, Peanut Butter, Pancake Syrup, Toilet Paper



Platte Valley Humane Society



The Platte Valley Humane Society is privileged to have a donation receptacle in the northwest entrance of the Federated Church.

Requested items are:

April: Dish Soap, Trash Bags

Rescue Mission Meals

Barb Olson and Jeanne Johnson have offered to help April 10th!

This volunteer opportunity takes place the second Friday each month. There are a number of months still waiting for you to sign up! (The sign-up sheet is on the easel in the Narthex.)

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.



****At this time we are not printing a calendar of events. There are a number of events and groups currently cancelled. If you have a question about an event you are interested in or plan to participate in, please contact the person in charge of the event or call/email the church office (402) 562-2812 or fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org and we can share any information that we have.**

Thank you for understanding!

Stay well, and God Bless!

Most in-person events have been cancelled due to the current pandemic situation and the 10 persons per gathering limit restriction.

Here is a current list of cancelled in-person gatherings at this time:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| * Thursday and Sunday
Worship Services | * "Sunday Lunch Bunch" | * Presbyterian Women's
Spring Gatherings |
| * Sunday Education Hour | * All Scouts Activities and
Meetings | * Lenten Lunches @
FUMC |
| * Easter Flower Sales | * MOPS Meetings | * Grace Episcopal -
Stations of the Cross,
April 10th |
| * Choir and Bell Choir
Rehearsals | * BIG PALS-LITTLE PALS | |
| * Puppets Rehearsals | * Columbus Tennis
Association Meeting | |
| * All Circles &
Needlecraft Ministry
Meetings | * Consonaires Rehearsal | |
| * Committee Meetings
and Governing Council
Meetings | | |
| * Open Prayer Times | | |
| * Tuesday Morning Book
Discussion | | |
| * Latino Prayer Service | | |
| * El Buen Pastor Worship
Service | | |

As more information comes in, we will gladly keep as up-to-date as possible on our website and Facebook. Feel free to call the church for more information.



Brenda Kallweit	4/2	Garrett Hahn	4/16
Skylar Dreesen, Brian Klevemann	4/7	Marcia Grant	4/17
Jessica Sand, Janalyn Pickrel	4/8	Elizabeth Johnson	4/18
Lisa Perrin, Ellie Porter, Cara Porter	4/9	Guy Wheatley	4/20
Beverly Fry, Connor Hahn, Sue Mares, Ervin Paben	4/10	Mitchell Griffith	4/21
Kathy Morris, Clint Scheffler	4/11	Evan Dewald	4/22
Pam Hahn, Lois Schultz	4/12	Anjel Garcia, Margo Hammans, Jacob Johnson, Ronald Novak	4/23
Kathy Orr	4/13	Alyse Wolfe	4/27
Gary Sedlacek	4/14	Libby Hammans	4/29
Norma Schaufelberger	4/15		

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



World Health
Organization

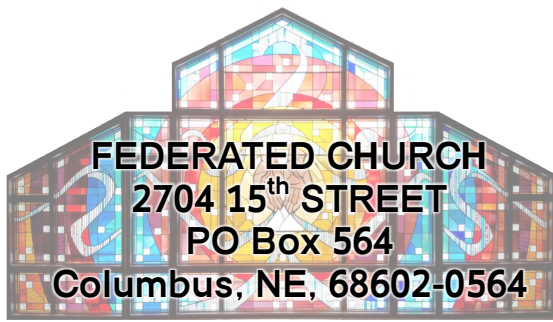


DO THE FIVE

Help stop coronavirus

- 1 HANDS** Wash them often
- 2 ELBOW** Cough into it
- 3 FACE** Don't touch it
- 4 FEET** Stay more than 3ft (1m) apart
- 5 FEEL** sick? Stay home

Public Service Announcement



April 2020 NEWSLETTER

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

