



# FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

August 2025; Volume 59; Issue 8

## *Upcoming Events*

**August 3 - Hymn Sing Service**

**August 7, 7 am - Chamber of Commerce Christian Prayer  
Breakfast at Federated Fellowship Hall, tickets needed**

**August 7 & 10 - Communion**

**August 9 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast**

**August 14 & 17 Triennium Report**

**August 17 - Blessing of Backpacks**

**August 23 - Governing Council Retreat**

## PASTOR'S REPORT

August 2025

From Pastor's (Airport) Desk

Thinking about the idea: "life is a journey," I have been reflecting on how a journey can teach life lessons. Right now, I am sitting at a Chicago airport on the way to Louisville for Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Instead of boarding a plane, we are waiting for our delayed flight.

Last week while flying to Burbank, California, there was also a flight delay. My plan was to get to Los Angeles before midnight. Reasonable flights to LA's main airport would land at later times, but there was a flight to Burbank scheduled to land around 9:30pm. On our connecting flight to Burbank, the plane was about to take off the runway when the pilot announced that one of the engines was not working properly. This meant going back to the terminal and waiting for a replacement plane. We eventually arrived at Burbank around 12:30am. Consequently, the car rental office was closed by the time we landed.

Things did not work out as planned. But in some ways, it was better.

I can only imagine the logistical challenge of scheduling thousands of flights to land and take off from hundreds of airports, each day. Delays happen. Things do not always work out as planned. Yet there are reasons to be grateful. I am thankful: for air-conditioned airports to wait in comfort, for the invention of airplanes to drastically reduce travel times, and for the wise pilot who decided not to risk flying a faulty plane.

I am reminded of the following Proverb (16:9): "The human mind plans the way, but the LORD directs the steps."

May God bless your plans, even if it means an unexpected plan!

Edward

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Your Governing Council met on Tuesday, July 8.

Roberta Miksch from the United Way spoke to us about current projects and needs. One focus is food security and food rescue. She introduced Green Dot Bystander intervention training. Linda Wheatley reported the garage sale was a great success, more than \$10,000 was taken in. We are in search of a new person to staff the nursery on Sunday mornings. Anyone interested please contact the office.

Georgia Behlen, Council President

## MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR

As the summer days start to wind down, I find myself reflecting on the blessings we've shared in our music ministry here at Federated. It's been a joy to witness so many sharing their talents and enthusiasm, enriching our services and community. August will still bring more great special music, including our Men's Quartet, as well as the Consonaires.

Looking ahead, I'm excited about our upcoming fall programming. The Chancel Choir, and the Bells Of Joy will be starting back up in September, and I am also exploring new ways to involve more members/ groups in our musical offerings. Our first Sunday Hymn sings will continue as well, and we always like to see a special music offering on those Sundays too. Your ideas and participation are always welcome, please feel free to contact me or our office staff with any ideas/ suggestions.

On a personal note, I'm continually inspired by the dedication and spirit of our congregation. Music has a unique way of bringing us together, and I'm grateful to be a part of this journey with you. Let's continue to make a joyful noise together!

Stuart Gausman

Director of Music Ministry

## THANK YOU AND IN SEARCH OF

**Thank you** to Bev Fry, Anita Hahn, Val Rathje and Karen Paben for donating cookies to the July Thursday Midwest Region American Red Cross Blood Drive which is held at the Methodist Outreach Center.

We are in need of volunteers to help with Education Hour. Classes resume September 7th. Please let Brenda or the office know if you are interested. Thank you.

**We are in search of a new person to staff the nursery on Sunday mornings. Anyone interested please contact the office.** Library room will be open as nursery during the summer months. Please feel free to use this space for caring for your children as needed. Thank you.

We are looking for someone in the congregation who would be willing to **machine quilt**, or know someone who can, two throw sized quilts to be used as a fundraiser for the church. Please contact Elsie Ita at 402-538-4405 for more information. **Thank you.**



# Backpack Blessing

Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am

**STUDENTS and EDUCATORS**  
**are invited to bring their**  
**backpack to worship for a**  
**special back-to-school**  
**BLESSING!**



**FEDERATED CHURCH**

*Growing together in Christ*



This annual event is known as the area's "Biggest Block Party" and features a variety of activities including food, music, and fun.

This year's theme is "Peace, Love, & Columbus Days" with a 70s twist according to the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce.

Some of the highlights include a Foam Dance Party, Bed Races, Cutie Crawl, Kids Power Wheels Races, Women United Flower Power Hour, and Music Bingo according to the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce.

August 7 - 10 Peace, Love Columbus Days!  
August 8 - 10 Diaper Changing & Nursing Station  
August 8, 8:30 am Parade Float Construction  
August 8, 9:30 pm Night Parade  
August 10, 2:00 pm Parade





## ANNUAL GARAGE/BAKE SALE REPORT



The 2025 Federated Church Garage sale is in the books. Well, almost. There are still a few loose ends to tie up, and money is still dribbling in. Money raised has topped \$10,000, but we don't yet have a final total.

We received a very large donation of mostly new, hard bound books this year, and although we did sell a bunch of books, there are still quite a few left. You can browse the books in Room EC8 and if you find any you want, just take them and leave a donation in the office.

Many, many volunteers worked together to make this sale happen. If you donated, thank you. If you helped with sorting and pricing, thank you. If you came to the sale and shopped, thank you. If you told people about the event, thank you. And if you helped with clean-up, thank you.

The money raised will stay in our community to help those in need. The team will be meeting soon to determine how those funds are dispersed.

Linda Wheatley



## JOYS & CONCERNS FOR JULY 2025

- ◆ Congratulations to Stuart and Kristen Gausman on their 25th wedding anniversary!
- ◆ Prayers requested for Nell Burnham. Nell fell on Monday and broke her pelvis.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Laura Porter. Laura passed away on May 20th. Celebration of Life was Thursday, May 29th.
- ◆ Pray for Dennis Davis and family. Dennis, from Atlantic, Iowa is the brother-in-law of Doug & Randi Williams. Dennis's cancer is advancing and prayers are needed.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Charles Brockhaus of Port Lavaca, TX. Charles is the father of Brianna Brockhaus. He passed away during the week of May 25th.
- ◆ Chancel flowers were given by the family of Laura Porter.
- ◆ We thank God for Marek Griffith's surgeries going well last week. Please pray for continued healing for Marek, son of Michael & Rachael Griffith and grandson of Annette & Bob Griffith
- ◆ Pray for continued recovery for Nell Burnham. Nell is in the swing bed unit of Winner, SD hospital. She would love to get mail, her current address is fine.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Margaret Trew. Margaret passed away on June 13th and service will be held at Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home at a date to be determined.
- ◆ Congratulations to Paula and Janice Timperley! Paula and Janice were married on April 6, 2025!
- ◆ Pray for Judy Woitaszewski, mother of Nicole Miller. Judy is recovering from a rare infection from a tick bite (not Lyme disease). She is on antibiotics and on the road to recovery.
- ◆ Pray for Mike Sand who will be having hip replacement surgery on July 2nd. Mike is Brenda's husband. Pray for a fast and full recovery.
- ◆ Congratulations to Cola Hahn on her retirement from Columbus Public Schools after 18 years. Cola will retire the end of June.
- ◆ Congratulations to Lauretta Dixon, she will be celebrating her 90th birthday on July 17. There will be a birthday celebration in the Fellowship Hall, 2-4 p.m., July 19th. All are welcome.
- ◆ Congratulations to Harold & Rogalyn Stevens who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 13th.
- ◆ Pray for Tony Grabowski, brother of Karen Grabowski. Tony was in a serious accident and has multiple surgeries on his leg.
- ◆ Pray for Guy Wheatley as he is recovering from a heart procedure.
- ◆ Pray for Brenda Berry as she recovers from knee surgery.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Dan Wolfe, father of Drew & Kristi Wolfe and grandfather to Gunnar, Brielle and Alyse Wolfe. Dan passed away and funeral services will be August 4th in Schuyler.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Rev. Dorsie Ivy, husband of Pat Ivy. Dorsie passed away and funeral services will be August 6th at Federated.



## HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY & UCC LIVING WATERS PRAYERS JULY 2025

### **Homestead Presbytery: Nebraska City**

First Presbyterian Church in Nebraska City enjoyed a blessed Easter season and now we are transitioning into Pentecost. Many blessings were felt this spring. The choir under the direction of Abby Reese continues to bring excellent music to our weekly worship services. We also have been having special music for the summer months. For example, the Apple Corp Barbershop Chorus will grace our service on June 22nd. We place a high value on quality worship each Sunday. We invite you to come to Nebraska City and visit us. There's lots to do here.

### **Homestead Presbytery: Niobrara Verdel**

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Niobrara Verdel 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: Norfolk**

First PC, Norfolk is involved in a number of local and ecumenical ministries, and we continue a long-time mission interest in Malawi, supporting 3 different missions in the country: Norfolk Schools, Malawi, a private Christian school founded by one of our members, Joe Mtika; the ministry of Tyler and Rochelle Holms, who are building a capability for Malawians to drill their own water wells; and a sister church relationship with the Kaphuta Church in Mzimba. Right now, First PC is in negotiations to lease some of our church space to a childcare organization. We covet your prayers as we work through the details of a potentially new ministry in Norfolk.

### **Homestead Presbytery: North Bend**

Please keep the North Bend United Presbyterian Church in your prayers as we organize a Relay for Life with the American Cancer Society for the last Saturday in September. As anyone who has ever done this is aware, it requires a lot more organization and hard work than one might suspect. Cancer is very prevalent in this part of the state of Nebraska, so we are striving to make this a community event. We are thankful, and give praise to God, for the many blessings our church has, and love serving our community and the surrounding communities to the best of our ability.

### **UCC Living Waters Association:**

Hartington First Congregational UCC  
(Hartington, NE 68739)

Neligh First Congregational UCC (Neligh, NE 68756)

UCC Living Waters Association: Newcastle Congregational UCC (Newcastle, NE 68757)

UCC Living Waters Association: Norfolk First Congregational UCC (Norfolk, NE 68701)

## ATTENDANCE THROUGH JULY 28

### **Ushers/Liturgists & Attendance Report**

**Ushers:** Bill Royer, Stephanie Johnson, Georgia Behlen

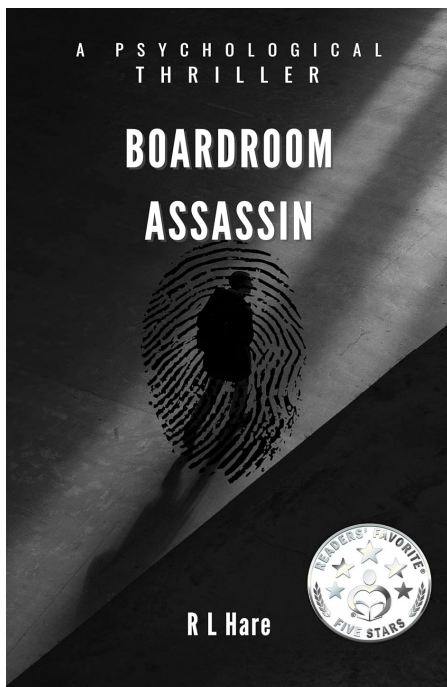
**Liturgists:** Kristen Gausman, Katie Claus, Nila Novotny, Alison Wagner

### **Average Attendance :**

In-Person Thursday Service: 17

In-Person Sunday Service: 86

**Online Average Weekly Views:** 190



R.L. Hare - 1981 graduate of Columbus High School has recently published a novel. Boardroom Assassin is a psychological thriller. Ron never ceases to amaze his parents Roger & Catherine Hare.

## REQUEST FOR DONATED ITEMS

In July, August and September 2025 we are collecting leashes, pine sol and bleach for the Paws & Claws Center. There is a box for these items in the north entry off the parking lot. 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*

## 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 2025.

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

## FUNERAL COMMITTEE 2

Funeral Committee 2 Co-Chairs: Steve & Marcia Dewald, Sue & Larry Mares, Linda Wheatley, Barb Olson.

Committee Members will be contacted by the Co-Chairs.



## 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 will start back up September 7, 2025

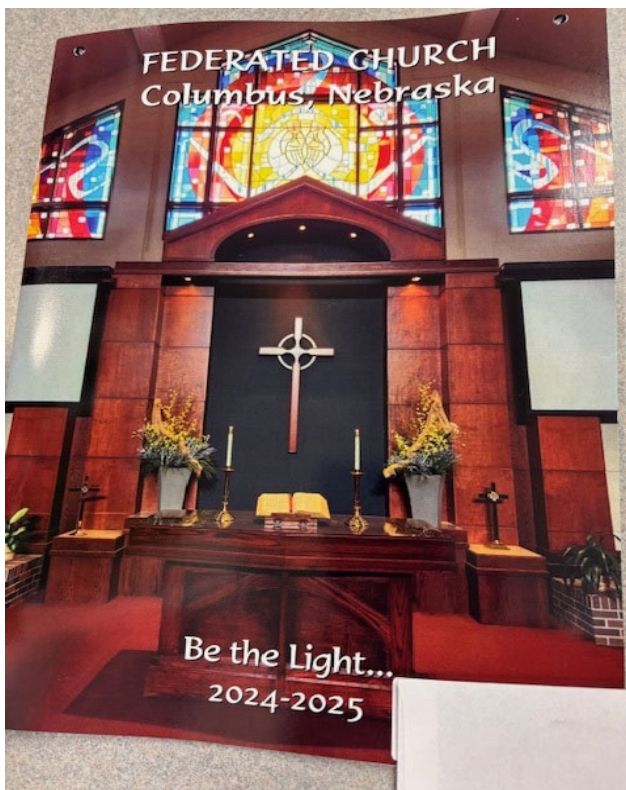
“Study and Learn Together”

Who: All Adults!

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

Where: Education Center Room 4

## PHOTO DIRECTORY



**2025 Photo Directory Books are  
here!**

Pick your book up in the Narthex  
before or after service. Or stop in  
the office for your copy.

Note. Each book is labeled with a  
members name - please only take  
your book so we can make sure  
everyone gets one.

## 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...”<sup>1</sup> 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!

<sup>1</sup> Excerpt from ‘In Ministry Together; Federated Church - A Centennial History; July 2, 1014 - July 2, 2014’; pg. 38-39



## 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. 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.

**November 14 is the last open meal slot.**

Please be a part of this important ministry and sign up in the Narthex!

Katie Claus, Chair of Social Concerns & 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.

Platte County Food Pantry  
Columbus, Nebraska



## 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](mailto:fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org), Phone: 402-564-2812, Mail: 2704 15<sup>th</sup> 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 2025 Meals on Wheels Schedule!

Thank you. 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>!



Rucker



Peppa



My Melody





|                               |      |                                           |      |
|-------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------------|------|
| Annie Lange                   | 8/02 | Claudia Kiser, Jon Kiser,<br>Kristi Wolfe | 8/17 |
| Raeya Curtis                  | 8/03 | Breanna Griffith, Ivy Hammans             | 8/20 |
| Jeanne Johnson, Kevin Meyer   | 8/09 | Dave Melick                               | 8/21 |
| Janet Lyon                    | 8/10 | Ashli Porter                              | 8/24 |
| Doris Augspurger              | 8/13 | Taylor Irby, Barbara Zoucha               | 8/25 |
| Spencer Swierczek, Tim Warren | 8/14 | David Marsh                               | 8/27 |
| Paula Lange, Glynette Smith   | 8/15 | Connie Spohn                              | 8/30 |

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

## GOVERNING COUNCIL, ORDER OF ST. ANDREW AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Please prayerfully consider serving a term on any church committee beginning in 2026. Below are summaries of the GC, OSA and Committees with openings.

### **Governing Council** (3 year term, meets monthly)

Manages the affairs of the church, policy makers of the congregation.

### **Order of St. Andrew** (3 year term, meets monthly)

Makes visits and assists with care ministry to congregation members and community.

### **Christian Education Committee** (3 year term, meets monthly)

Provides Christian educational opportunities for all who wish to grow in faith, spirit and discipleship.

### **Finance & Property Committee** (3 year term, meets monthly)

Develops & implements goals/procedures/policies for the financial wellbeing of the church and its properties.

### **Membership & Growth Committee** (3 year term, meets monthly)

Identifies status of members/potential members, provides fellowship opportunities, recruits and coordinates volunteers for church activities.

### **Nominating Committee** (1 year term, meets as needed)

Presents annual slate to the congregation at the Fall Congregation Meeting of recommended names for elected offices and committee members.

### **Personnel Committee** (3 year term, meets monthly)

Serves as relations liaison with staff and the congregation. Hears requests and concerns of all staff; seeks to build positive attitudes toward work of the church by both workers and members.

### **Social Concerns & Missions Committee** (3 year term, meets monthly)

Develop opportunities for the congregation to fulfill the work of the church in our community, country, and throughout our world, by utilizing their talents, time and treasures.

### **Stewardship Committee** (3 year term, meets as needed)

Offers education and action to enable the congregation to give of their time, talents, and treasures for the work of the Church.

**Nominating Committee Members** are Georgia Behlen, Bob Arp, Roland Augspurger, Jill Miller, Anita Hahn, Sue McClure and Bill Royer. Please contact a member to voice your desire to serve on any of the above listed committees.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

| Income - July 2025                                |                    | Expenses - July 2025                    |                    |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Donations & Contributions                   | \$35,914.93        | <b>General Fund Expenses:</b>           | <b>\$29,777.26</b> |
| <b>Designated Funds (Savings): as of 07/28/25</b> | <b>\$11,354.47</b> | Utilities                               | \$2,446.23         |
| Garage/Bake Sale                                  | \$10,522.47        | Homestead Presb./UCC/Living Waters      | \$1,153.12         |
| Camp Calvin Crest                                 | \$10.00            | Ground/Bldg. Maint. /Custodial Supplies | \$4,197.93         |
| Pentecost Offering                                | \$10.00            | Office Expenses                         | \$1,010.10         |
| Youth Fund / Mission Trip                         | \$237.00           | Book-keeping/Consulting                 | \$1,025.00         |
| Helping Hands (Non-members)                       | \$100.00           | Pulpit Supply                           | \$225.00           |
| Disaster Relief (flooding)                        | \$475.00           | Platte County Food Pantry               | \$500.00           |
| <b>Memorials:</b>                                 | <b>\$0</b>         | Other Expenses                          | \$2,247.09         |
|                                                   |                    | Payroll                                 | \$16,972.79        |
|                                                   |                    | <b>Designated Funds (Savings):</b>      | <b>\$46,373.90</b> |
|                                                   |                    | Columbus Dump - garage sale             | \$ 15.00           |
|                                                   |                    | Operation Education Nairobi             | \$500.00           |
|                                                   |                    | Helping Hands - Members                 | \$1,550.00         |
|                                                   |                    | Triennium                               | \$1,308.90         |
|                                                   |                    | Organ                                   | \$43,000.00        |



## 2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEETING DAYS/TIMES

In the table below you can find the 2025 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.

| <b>Committee or Group</b>            | <b>Chairperson</b>                          | <b>Meeting Day/Time</b>          |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Christian Education Committee        | Pat Anderson                                | 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm |
| Endowment Committee                  | John Lohr                                   | Will meet as necessary           |
| Finance & Property Committee         | Terry Norris                                | 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm |
| Membership & Growth Committee        | Nila Novotny                                | 1st Monday of the month, 6:30pm  |
| Nominating Committee                 | Roland Augspurger                           | <i>To be determined</i>          |
| Order of St. Andrew                  | Peg Meyer                                   | 1st Monday of the month, 4:30pm  |
| Personnel Committee                  | Tim Rathje                                  | 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm |
| Social Concerns & Missions Committee | Katie Claus                                 | 2nd Monday of the month, 5:00pm  |
| Stewardship Committee                | Linda Wheatley                              | Will meet as necessary           |
| Worship & Music Committee            | Bob Arp                                     | 1st Tuesday of the month, 7:15pm |
| Youth Ministry Committee             | Max Porter                                  | 2nd Sunday of the month, 11:00am |
| Foundation                           | Doug Williams,<br>President                 | Quarterly/as Necessary           |
| Governing Council                    | Georgia Behlen,<br>President<br>Bob Arp, 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!

FEDERATED CHURCH  
2704 15<sup>th</sup> STREET  
PO Box 564  
COLUMBUS, NE 68602-0564

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## AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

*August 2025; Volume 59; Issue 8*

### DECODING THE LITURGICAL COLOR SCHEME

**Green** = Presence During the majority of the church year, which is commonly called “ordinary time”, the color that you will find is green. Because the color green is so often associated with life, the use of green during the seasons and the time where there is “nothing special” going on in the life of the church (no big festivals or holiday) reminds us that God is present among us , breathing life into us and into our church.

If you have articles, events or other information you would like included in the newsletter, you can email it to [fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org](mailto:fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org). The deadline for submitting information for Newsletters is the 20th of the prior month, e.g. September 2025 Newsletter deadline will be August 20th, 2025.

