



FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service Dec. 8th
 - ◆ Children's Christmas Pageant Dec. 11th
- ◆ Committee & Staff Annual Reports Due Dec. 15th
 - ◆ Lessons & Carols Service Dec. 22nd & 25th
 - ◆ Family Service 5pm, Dec. 24th
- ◆ Communion, Choir & Candlelight Service 8pm, Dec. 24th
 - ◆ Christmas Dinner after service Dec. 25th
 - Take out and delivery only!
 - ◆ Church Office Closed Dec. 26th
- ◆ Last Deposit of 2022 - Morning of Dec. 30th

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. January 2023 Newsletter deadline will be December 20th, 2022.

PASTOR'S REPORT

“What are you thankful for?” This question has been asked around countless dinner tables with a bountiful thanksgiving meal. I have thought about this question while preparing a message for this year’s Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service and would like to use this opportunity to share a summary of that message.

Thanksgiving is more than a long holiday weekend. God calls us to be thankful people. Several psalms exhort us to “give thanks to the Lord.” Of course, we can thank God for good things we have received. Yet, the Scriptures seem to go further. We are called to thankful even when things are not going so well. The Apostle Paul, speaking to the church in Philippi, wrote, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4) We might assume that everything was going well for Paul with these cheerful words. However, Paul wrote his letter from an uncomfortable prison while likely being tortured for his faith in Christ. Paul was not rejoicing in his circumstances. Rather he was able to rejoice despite his circumstances because his joy did not depend on them.

Likewise, Paul wrote, “in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (Philippians 4:6b, emphasis added). We are instructed to give thanks in every situation. Our thankfulness (like joy) does not have to depend on our circumstances. Instead, we begin with thankfulness. Diana Butler Bass’ book, *Grateful*, has been helpful in understanding this distinction. She argued against the common view of thanksgiving as a transaction. In this model, one gives thanks (whether as an appreciation card, a favor, or a reciprocal gift) in exchange for receiving a gift. One way of describing this exchange is with the Latin phrase <quid pro quo>: “something for something.” (As a side note, Bass was not arguing that the transactional model is wrong. In other words, one does not need to stop writing thank you cards or reciprocating gifts. Rather there is a better approach to thankfulness.)

Bass offered an alternative model based on another Latin phrase <pro bono>, which we understand in legal work as “free of charge.” Instead of being thankful FOR..., she encouraged her readers to consider other prepositions: for example, how are we thankful THAT..., who are we thankful WITH..., and who are we thankful TO... With this model, our focus is not on our circumstances (which will change) but on God (who thankfully does not change). When our thankfulness is centered on God, we can be more thankful for our circumstances.

Once again, we are called to be thankful people. For such purpose, Henri Nouwen described the spiritual work of gratitude: “To be grateful for the good things that happen in our lives is easy, but to be grateful for all of our lives—the good as well as the bad, the moments of joy as well as the moments of sorrow, the successes as well as the failures, the rewards as well as the rejections—that requires hard spiritual work. Still, we are only truly grateful people when we can say thank you to all that has brought us to the present moment.”

Grace and peace,
Edward Yang

NOVEMBER 2022 GOVERNING COUNCIL SUMMARY

The November meeting of the Federated Church Governing Council was held on November 22, 2022. Members present were Jesse Abrego, Donna Augspurger, Katie Claus, Julie Graham, John McPhail, Renee Norris, Alison Wagner, Mark Weeder, Rev. Edward Yang, and President Wayne McCormick. Mimi Ernst, John McClure, and Louise Moran were absent.

Mark Weeder gave the Finance and Property Committee report.

The following motions were made and approved:

- To approve the October Governing Council meeting minutes.
- To receive the Finance and Property report.
- To receive the October 30, 2022, Congregational meeting minutes
- To receive the emailed Standing Committee reports.
- To receive Pastor Edward's written report

The following Committee motions were approved:

-Membership and Growth Committee: A motion to create a new membership category entitled "Homebound Heritage Members", and approve the movement of member status to the appropriate categories according to our constitution of "Active", "Reserve", "Dropped", and "Homebound Heritage"

-Christian Ed/Youth Ministries Committee: A motion to approve the new Child Safety Policy as presented.

Other items discussed:

- Reminder to committee chairs to submit End of the Year Reports to the office by Dec 15
- Rev. Yang gave an update on the 2022 Christmas Dinner. Plans are to serve only take out and delivery meals this year. Chris Dixon has indicated that he wants someone or a committee to take over the Christmas Dinner in the future.
- President McCormick presented a certificate of gratitude to outgoing council members: John McClure, Renee Norris, and Alison Wagner. Rev. Yang presented a certificate of gratitude to outgoing President Wayne McCormick.
- Rev. Yang reported that training for new Council members will be held on December 11, here at Federated Church, combined with new Elder training for the Presbyterian Church of North Bend.
- There is no Governing Council meeting in December, so the next regularly scheduled meeting will be January 23, 2023.

Submitted by Wayne McCormick, President

SOUND SYSTEM UPDATING PROJECT

This past May the Finance and Property Committee approved the purchase and installation of equipment to improve the sanctuary's sound system. This includes adding some new speakers and amplifiers, eliminating some old speakers, and has greatly improved sound quality. The project was finished on November 1st. Many thanks to Tim Rathje, Marv Zoucha, Roland Augspurger and Pastor Edward for lending a hand and their expertise!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Federated's annual Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 11th. The program is titled "The First Christmas" and is a traditional telling of the story with a few twists.



YOUTH MINISTRY

October's Youth Funday was a trip to Skinny Bones pumpkin patch by Blair, NE. Some highlights were the corn maze, jump pillows, pumpkin plunge, and roasting hot dogs and smores in the bonfire.



November's Youth Funday took place in the Federated kitchen where the youth baked cookies for the Cookies & More fundraiser. Thank you for

PUPPET MINISTRY

As part of our annual stewardship campaign, HIS Puppet Ministry performed a skit featuring the musical number, "Paying the Tithe" set to the tune of "Staying Alive."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 12/4 – Christmas Pageant Practice
During Education Hour 9:00 am
- 12/10 – Christmas Pageant Practice
Check email for time
- 12/11- Practice During Ed Hour 9:00 am
Christmas Pageant 10:00 am
- 12/21 – Youth Christmas Party time TBD
- 12/24 – Christmas Eve Family Service 5:00 pm
- 12/24 – Christmas Eve Service 8:00 pm
- 12/25 – Christmas Morning Worship 10:00 am
No Education Hour
- 1/1 – No Education Hour
- 1/8 – Education Hour Resumes

Columbus Symphonic Strings 2022 Christmas Concert

Friday, December 2, 7:00 PM & Saturday December 3, 2:00 PM

Federated Church, Columbus, NE

Join us in sharing the joy of Christmas through music!

Our program will include the following:

- Favorite Christmas works played by the orchestra
- Carols which you will sing with orchestra and organ
- Selections from Handel's *Messiah* – yes, you will sing along with orchestra
- A festive Christmas work played on the Federated Church organ
- An opportunity for children to play real sleighbells with orchestra

Hot cider and Christmas cookies will be served following the program!

Free admission – just bring your best smiles!



Teresa Carr, Founder and Artistic Director; James Sharpe, Conductor

Appreciation extended to Federated Church for use of their facilities

Presented by *Columbus Symphonic Strings* (www.CSStrings.org)



Advent & Christmas Poinsettias



Name:

Poinsettia Color	Qty	Price (\$10.00 each)	Amount
Red			
Pink			
White			
Total:			

Poinsettias are given to God's glory, and may also be designated as a memorial and/or given in honor of special persons.

To God's glory and in Memory of:

To God's glory and in Honor of:

Please return this form and payment to church office by December 4th.

Make checks payable to Federated Church.

Please note 'Poinsettia' on the memo line.

Plants purchased elsewhere are welcome.

Please label it with your name if you wish to collect it after the service.

All plants left after service will be donated to local retirement homes.



JOYS & CONCERNS FOR NOVEMBER 2022

♦ Thank you from Beverly Fry for all the Sympathy and Get Well cards! “Your prayers and well wishes have helped with healing so much! Thank you all!”

♦ Pray for the family of Hazel “Lori” Eishen (nee Wadsworth). Lori was confirmed at Federated Church in 1947. She passed away in San Diego, CA on August 22, 2109 and her ashes were interred at Columbus Cemetery on November 3, 2022.

♦ Pray for Carol Marmo, Wayne McCormick’s mother-in-law, who is recovering from a broken ankle.

♦ Pray for Randa Lehr Hazzard, daughter of Clark & Robin Lehr, who is recovering from surgery and is healing.

♦ Pray for Linda McPhail who is recovering from cancer treatment.

♦ Pray for Jane Critser who is battling multiple myeloma.

♦ Pray for Kerry Krings and husband Russ. Kerry, daughter of Leroy and Brenda Kallweit, is receiving chemo-therapy and radiation treatment for colon cancer.

♦ Pray for Roberta Saalfeld who is recovering from a recent fall.

♦ Pray for Louise Moran as she awaits knee replacement surgery next week.

♦ Pray for two great-great-nieces (ages 5 months and 1.5 years) to Terry & Andree Hoeman, who are recovering from RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus).

♦ Pray for Ann Jeffrey who is recovering from a heart attack.

♦ A memorial service for Don Kiser, brother to Jeannie Kiser Jensen and Cliff Jensen, will be held at Wunderlich’s at 11am on Monday, November 28th.

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

♦ **UCC Living Waters Association: Arlington Community UCC** (Arlington, NE 68002)

♦ **UCC Living Waters Association: Albion Congregational UCC** (Albion, NE 68620)

♦ **Homestead Presbytery: Lincoln Heritage**
Please pray for energy and Spirit as we journey through the Vital Congregations program and try new things at our congregation. We recently planted new trees on our campus and hosted a neighborhood movie night. We wish to continue doing things like this to revitalize our congregation.

♦ **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.

♦ **Homestead Presbytery: Lincoln Southern Heights**

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Lincoln Southern Heights 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 Westminster**
Lincoln Westminster is grateful for a year of hope and joy as a congregation. As we look toward 2023, we ask for prayers that we may faithfully live into our calling as an inclusive faith family for all of Lincoln at Sheridan and South, and a church that seeks to “expand our lives in faith, connect people deeply, and make a difference through service,” all as our response to God’s grace in Christ!

H.I.S. PUPPETEERS



HEY, Puppeteers and Puppeteer wanna-bes!!!

Look for information soon on practice times and writing our own puppet script this Fall!

Let me know if you are interested.

juliegraham@frontier.com 531-218-4374

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN FOR 2023



Stewardship Update 11/28/22:

Pledge Cards Sent: 203

Pledge Cards Received: 90

Amount Pledged: \$307,503.00



Your talent is
God's gift
to you. What
you do with it
is your gift
back to God.
Leo Buscaglia



I give all the glory to God.
It's kind of a win-win
situation. The glory goes
up to Him and the
blessings fall down on me.
Gabby Douglas

FUNERAL COMMITTEE 2

Co Chairs: Steve & Marcia Dewald, Larry & Sue Mares, Linda Wheatley, Barb Olson

Members: Dana Augspurger, Diane Barbarglia, Nell Burnham, John & Deb Curry, JoAnn Dowd, Mimi Ernst, Stephen Fecht, Rita Mae Fuhr, Antonio & Trinidad Garcia, Jeff & Tammi Gotschall, Tom & Toni Gumm, Gene & Cola Hahn, Doug Hann, Whit Hanner, Cindy Hoadley, Terry & Andree Hoeman, Mike & Ann Jeffrey, Leroy & Brenda Kallweit, Ron & Charlotte Lambert, Herman & Berlydean Lauterbach, John Lohr, Janet Lyon, John McClure, Kevin & Mary Meyer, Byron & Peg Meyer, Hailey Rathje, Diane Scheffler, Ruth Schlobohm, Donna Shreve, Clark & Lori Smith, Gordon & Joan Specht, Joe & Marilyn Srb, George & Barb Sturgill, Kim Swierczek, Paula & Rebecca Timperley, Margaret Trew, Dave Veach, Riel & Lyle Whitney, Doug & Randi Williams, Drew & Kristi Wolfe, and Gail Wurdeman

COOKIES 'N MORE 2022

A huge THANK YOU to all who made this year's COOKIES 'N MORE a success. Thank you for providing cookies and candy, for working at the event, for distributing flyers, for advertising, for organizing and displaying yard signs, and in general, for saying YES and pitching in wherever needed. At the risk of leaving someone out, we won't name names except to thank Jeanne Johnson and Tammi Gottschall for the beautiful decorations and for Sue Mares and her fellow bakers Barb Sanderson, Linda Wheatley, Linda McPhail, Peg Rupprecht, Barb Olson, Sue Jacobs, and Marilyn Peterson for baking Christmas cookies to ensure there are enough. It takes a village! This year approximately \$2800 was raised. Chris, Katie and Deb



RESCUE MISSION MEALS 2023

Remember to sign up for 2023 with Katie Claus.

December 9 - Julie Graham

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.



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!

Federated’s Helping Hands funds helps individuals and families in our community with things like food, fuel, utilities and rent.

In October, we helped one individual with fuel, to help them get to a job interview.

Total donations directed to the Helping Hands -Non-Members fund in 2022: \$1,678.00

Total donations directed to the Helping Hands - Members fund in 2022: \$1,625.00

Total given to those in need from Jan. 1 through Nov. 23, 2022: \$1,744.54

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

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men’s Fellowship Group will be meeting
Saturday, December 10th at 8:30am
in the Fellowship Hall.
Men of all ages welcome!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER CHAIR NEEDED!

*“The Community Christmas Dinner was started in 1974 by Rev. Lee & Barbara Hicks who brought the idea to Columbus. Chris & Laurretta Dixon and Charles and Lorena Rogers and their families provided the help for that initial dinner and have been an integral part of it for the past forty years.” **

This year’s Annual Christmas Dinner will look a little different! This year we will only be doing carry home and delivered meals. Reservations will be needed, so make sure you get your name to the office staff before December 16th. Delivery of the meals will start around Noon. If you are able to help out, please contact Chris Dixon.

We are in need of a generous person (or people) to Chair (or Co-Chair) the Community Christmas Dinner. Some of the responsibilities would include procuring and organizing the food donations, organizing and collaborating with volunteers for deliveries, food prep and service of the meal.

**Excerpt from ‘In Ministry Together: Federated Church -- A Centennial History’*

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.



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, Sewing supplies, Medical supplies, Over-the-counter medications, Gallon-sized or Quart-sized zipping bags, Travel-sized soaps, shampoos/conditioners & lotions, pill bottles are accepted without labels

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

KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL



Keep Columbus Beautiful is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Their mission is to provide education and programs on litter reduction and recycling for the beautification of our community!

To find out where and what you can recycle, go to <https://kcbne.com>

MEALS ON WHEELS



Make sure to sign up for 2023 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 each month!

OPERATION EDUCATION NAIROBI



Operation Education Nairobi is now a
Local Benevolence and has been added to
the Federated Church Budget for 2023.
Watch bulletins and newsletters for
upcoming fundraisers and events!



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: Clumping Cat Litter, Clorox, Pine Sol, Paper Towels, Old
Linens, Stamps, Copy Paper, Dog & Cat Toys, Collars & Leashes, Wet Cat & Dog
Food, Kitten Food and Milk Replacer,
Gift Cards from Grocery, Hardware and Farm Stores.

They have a number of animals available, including the ones pictured below.



FINANCE AT A GLANCE

Contributions - October 2022	
General Funds (Checking):	\$60,647.28
Contributions	\$59,777.28
Rent	\$150.00
Misc. Income (Garage Sale) Shredder for Office	\$320.00
Misc. Income (Garage Sale) Flossy Watson	\$400.00
Designated Funds (Savings):	\$4,402.37
Ghana	\$25.00
Neighbors in Need	\$20.00
Triennium	\$400.00
Landscaping	\$308.37
PC(USA) Disaster Relief	\$250.00
Operation Education Fundraiser	\$6.00
Helping Hands - Members	\$1,500.00
Helping Hands - Non-Members	\$1,303.00
Education Hour	\$65.00
Music Department	\$25.00
Children's Defense Fund	\$500.00
Memorials:	\$580.00
Undesignated	\$260.00
Landscaping	\$25.00
Music Department	\$295.00
Interest Income:	\$231.52
Savings	\$231.52

Expenses - October 2022	
General Fund Expenses:	\$29,675.07
Utilities	\$2,322.15
Other Budgeted Expenses	\$26,387.62
Misc. Expense- Vanco Monthly Fees	\$15.30
Misc. Expense (Garage Sale) - Flossy Watson	\$400.00
Damage Deposits Reimbursed & AV help for wedding	\$550.00
Designated Funds (Savings):	\$1,670.49
Doane College	\$40.00
Kamp Kaleo	\$20.00
Hastings College	\$20.00
Camp Calvin Crest	\$30.000
Pentecost Offering	\$260.00
Neighbors in Need	\$25.00
Piano Tuning	\$105.00
Piano/Organ Expense	\$125.00
Landscaping	\$216.71
PC(USA) Disaster Relief	\$250.00
Family Choice (Sound System Upgrade Project)	\$325.79
Music Department	\$232.99
Helping Hands - Non-Members	\$20.00
Memorial Fund:	\$0.00



John Curry, Malynn Knoepfle Slizoski, Brenda Sand	12/2	Randy Kaspar	12/13
Joan Specht	12/3	Nancy Hegi	12/14
Julie Graham	12/4	Stuart Gausman	12/16
Melanie Knoepfle	12/5	Cindy Hoadley	12/19
Ryland Prokopec, Lacey Ternus	12/6	Kathy Leischner, Marv Zoucha	12/20
Ethan Scheffler, Chris Warren	12/7	Emma McHugh, Margaret Nyffler, Elyena Perrin	12/21
Charlotte Lambert	12/11	Rosie Heinisch	12/23
Kay Castner	12/12	Elizabeth Miller, Barb Olson	12/29

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

USHERS - NOVEMBER 2022

Ushers: Georgia Behlen, Rod Behlen, Rick Porter, Bill Royer

Youth Ushers: Emma McHugh, Ellie Porter, Otis Young

2022 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEETING DAYS/TIMES

In the table below you can find the 2022 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.

Committee or Group	Chairperson	Meeting Day/Time
Christian Education Committee	Renee Norris	2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Endowment Committee	Donna Augspurger	Will meet as necessary
Finance & Property Committee	Terry Norris and Mark Weeder	3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Membership & Church Growth Committee	Jesse Abrego	2nd Monday of the month, 6:30pm
Nominating Committee	<i>To be determined</i>	<i>To be determined</i>
Order of St. Andrew	Laura Porter	1st Monday of the month, 5:15pm
Personnel Committee	John McPhail	2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm
Social Concerns & Missions Committee	Katie Claus	2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm
Stewardship Committee	Elizabeth Grisham	4th Thursday of the month, 5:30pm
Worship & Music Committee	Alison Wagner	1st Tuesday of the month, 7:15pm
Youth Ministry Committee	John McClure	2nd Sunday of the month, 11:00am
Foundation	Doug Williams, President	Quarterly
Governing Council	Wayne McCormick, President Julie Graham, 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 15th STREET
PO BOX 564
COLUMBUS, NE, 68602-0564

DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

DECODING THE LITURGICAL COLOR SCHEME

Purple = Preparation Purple is the color that is used during our seasons of preparation: Advent and Lent. During both of the seasons (the four Sundays before Christmas and the 40 days before Easter, respectively), we are to dedicate ourselves for the preparation of our hearts and minds for welcoming Christ. Purple is also the traditional color of royalty, and so some give nod to this as a reason why we use purple during these seasons.

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 worshiping 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 and communion).