



# FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming Events

Dec. 3: First Sunday of Advent

Dec. 14: Ecumenical Blue Christmas @ Federated

Dec. 17: Children's Pageant during Service

Dec. 21: Lessons & Carols

Dec. 24: 10am Lessons & Carols

5pm Family Christmas Service

8pm Choir, Communion & Candlelight Service

Dec. 25: Christmas Day; Church office closed;

Christmas Meal, take out and delivery only

starting at 11:00 am

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. January 2024 Newsletter deadline will be December 20th, 2023.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Federated Church's "In Ministry Together: A Centennial History" offers the following information for our annual service project:

"The Community Christmas Dinner was started [in 1974] by the Rev. Lee Hicks and Barbara Hicks who brought the idea to Columbus. Chris and Laretta Dixon and Charles and Lorena Rogers and their families provided the help for that initial dinner and have been integral part of it for the past forty years. The idea behind the Christmas dinner was to provide a meal and Christian fellowship for Christmas Day travelers or Columbus area residents who may have been alone at Christmas.

Several Columbus restaurants prepared and donated food as did individuals and families who attended. Several church members delivered meals to shut-ins, organized fellowship activities, and cleaned up."

Since the above statement was written nearly a decade ago, there is some updating needed. Before that, I would like to thank the Dixon and Rogers families for all their dedicated service to organizing the Community Christmas Dinner; they have done more than what was asked of them.

One update is that we need to re-organize this service project in order to make it sustainable. Leadership for the service project has been handed back to our church from the Dixon's and Rogers'. Governing Council will discuss after the new year how to re-organize. In the meantime, I am thankful that we can continue the tradition of serving a meal this year.

Another update is that the Community Christmas Dinner has become the Community Christmas Meal. After a two year pause (2020 & 2021), we resumed last year by preparing meals for pick-up and delivery – as opposed to dining in our Fellowship Hall. This change made the service project much more manageable in terms of time and energy needed to provide a Christmas meal. This year will continue as a Community Christmas Meal, with pick-up and delivery via order placed with church office by Dec. 15th. There is possibility of returning to a dine-in in future years, but it would require many more volunteers.

It is essential to have volunteers on Christmas Day. If you are available on Christmas morning, there are various ways to assist. Cooking starts early (I think we began at 6am last year). Lunch boxes will be assembled later in the morning. Then we need help with delivering and organizing pick-up meals. Last year, we served about 160 meals. Thankfully we had enough volunteers for the service project to go smoothly. I hope we will have enough volunteers again this year. Just as the meals are available to anyone, we welcome volunteer help from anyone. If you know a family member, friend, neighbor, co-worker... (anyone) who is available to help, please let them know about this year's Community Christmas Meal.

Grace and peace,  
Edward

## GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

It is easy to get lost in the rush and excitement of the changing seasons- Winter, Advent, Christmas, and the New Year. Keep taking time for daily reflection and devotion.

The Governing Council met on November 29<sup>th</sup>:

1. Renovations to the north side of the Education Center have been completed and renovations to the south side will begin in December.
2. Updating the door locks continues. Please contact the Church office if you are having issues with keys or the scheduled automatic unlock/lock after office hours.
3. The Pipe Organ Task Force continues to meet regularly to bring a recommendation to Finance & Property.
4. Property and Finance Committee is putting together a list of building maintenance projects and costs that will be needed in the next few years.
5. 5 days of vacation leave for Pastor Yang was approved December 26<sup>th</sup>-January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pulpit supply will be used for December 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.
6. "Fed at Fed" is a new intergenerational gathering with a meal and worship that is being planned once a month starting in February. Brenda Sand and Pastor Yang brainstormed this idea of the Youth working together to prepare a meal and help with a worship afterward the meal. All can attend. The first Fed at Fed is being planned for Sunday February 4, 2024.
7. November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 3 services will include a service of Wholeness and Healing.
8. Social Media Coordinator duties were added to Kathy Zywiec's job description. This is an exciting adventure into social media. Part of Kathy's job will be to respond to the Facebook Live Church Service's comments on Sunday mornings. Kathy will also be able to use work time to upload reels/videos/announcements, and develop other information into the social media platforms. Thank you, Pastor Edward, Kathy Zywiec, The Personnel Committee, and The Membership and Growth Committee, for your work on providing Federated Church with a social media coordinator.
9. Gene Hahn has agreed to be Federated Church's point of contact for the Boy Scout Troop 212 Charter. This will eliminate the Church Vice President- incoming Church President- as the point of contact which changes every year. Thank you, Gene, for your service to Federated Church and Boy Scout Troop 212.
10. Community Christmas Dinner at Federated Church: Mark Weeder has agreed to co-chair the Christmas Dinner. If you would like to help co-chair, or help with this wonderful event, contact Mark. Thank you, Mark, Chris Dixon and Family, and all other church members and non-members who make this such a great Christmas event every year.
11. Committee chairs were reminded to contact their newly elected committee members to give information on meeting times, duties and to provide them with last month's minutes.
12. Outgoing Council members were recognized and thanked for their time, work and giving as Governing Council members: Jesse Abrego, Katie Claus, and Parker Grant. Thank you, Jesse, Katie, and Parker. Your commitment to Federated Church is outstanding! Jesse and Katie will continue to serve Federated Church on other committees and Parker will continue to serve Federated Church in the production sound booth.
13. Louise Moran was recognized and thanked for her time, work and giving as Governing Council Secretary. Thank you, Louise! You kept me and the meeting on track, and you did a wonder job of providing minutes and documentation of the Church work.

There is no regular Governing Council meeting in December- Next meeting January 23, 2024, with Alison Wagner and Georgia Behlen leading as Church President and Church Vice President. Thank you, Alison and Pastor Yang, for always being available with support, advise, and help.

It has been my pleasure as Church President working with the Church Committees and The Governing Council, Office Staff, and congregation members this past year.

In Christ's Love and Peace  
Julie Canaday Graham  
Federated Church President





### *Cookie Baking*

The November Sunday Funday was held on November 12 in the Federated Church kitchen. Youth baked “Grinch” cookies which were donated to the Cookies ‘N More fundraiser. The cookies were yummy and adorable! Thanks kids, for sharing your baking skills with us! And thank you to the youth who worked the night of the Cookies ‘N More fundraiser.



### *Christmas Pageant*

The annual children and youth Christmas Pageant will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> during worship. Our students will be working hard to prepare for this program during education hour each week in December. There will be an additional practice on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. This year the pageant is titled, The Night the Animals Spoke.

### *Upcoming Events*

12/3

9:00 am Pageant Practice

12/10

9:00 am Pageant Practice

12/16

10:00 am Pageant Practice

12/17

9:00 am Pageant Practice

10:00 am Pageant

12/24

Christmas Eve Services

10:00 am Lessons and Carols

5:00 pm Family Service

8:00 pm Choir, Communion and Candlelight



## COOKIES 'N MORE

So many people came together to make this event happen! Thank you to the folks who placed the yard signs, the people who posted flyers, the callers, the many people who worked the event, the office staff, the Yangs, the people who donated money, and of course the bakers, who brought beautiful cookies and candy. Special thanks to the Baking Day Crew: Sue Mares, under the direction of Sue Mares, Barb Olson, Linda Wheatley, Linda McPhail, Peg Rupprecht, Marilyn Peterson, and Barb Sanderson, the tree decorators Tim Warren and Cyndi Jarecke, and the overall decorators Tammi Gotschall and Jeanne Johnson. It was wonderful to work together for a common cause! ~ Chris Warren and Katie Claus



## SOCIAL CONCERNS & MISSIONS COMMITTEE COLLECTIONS & EVENTS



In October, November, December we will be collecting new items - gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats for the Angel Tree.

"The Son of Man did **not** come **to be served, but to serve**," Matthew 20 : 28  
Social Concerns and Missions Committee

## S.A.L.T. ADULT SUNDAY CLASS

"Study and Learn Together"

Who: All adults!

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

Where: Fellowship Hall

Come join us! Besides goodies and coffee, we have good discussions and great interaction. This year's curriculum will be:

Video series (every other week): **In the Footsteps of the Savior** by Max Lucado. The videos are always interesting and informative.

Every other week: **Today's news--Exploring relevance to our faith**

News is inevitable--whether it be good or bad. We'll look at the latest news events (no political discussions, though) and talk about linking our Christian faith and wisdom from the Bible to today's news. We will be sure to have stimulating discussions as we share our questions, opinions, and insights with each other.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! COME JOIN US SUNDAY MORNINGS!

## USHERS/ LITURGISTS & ATTENDANCE REPORT NOVEMBER 2023

Ushers : Georgia Behlen, Rod Behlen, Bill Royer

Youth Ushers: Meredith Gaeth, Annabelle Bender, Hadley McHugh,

Liturgists : Alison Wagner, Beth Sharpe, Nicole Miller, Marilyn Abrego

Average Attendance :

Thursday Service - 17

Sunday Service - 98

Online - 99

Weekly Attendance - 209

## JOYS & CONCERNS FOR OCTOBER 2023

♦ Chancel flowers are given by Jim & Beth Sharpe in honor of their 25th Wedding Anniversary, Nov. 8th.

♦ Pray for Gary Puckett, who has been placed on hospice.

♦ Pray for the family of Darrell Payne, brother to Donna Augspurger. Darrell passed away on Friday, Nov. 3rd. Funeral was Nov. 9th in Lakeville, Minnesota.

♦ Congratulations to Ethan, son of Clint and Kelli Scheffler & Abigail Fitzgerald who will be married on Nov. 18th in Sioux Center, Iowa.

### ♦ **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 continues 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. We are also involved in a number of local and ecumenical ministries that include youth. Prayers for the health of the church as a

whole and our youth ministries in particular would be very much welcome.

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

Our congregation is blessed to have many several generation families. We celebrated our 50 plus year members in September. We support Camp Calvin Crest and provided several baskets for their silent auction in August. Our Sunday School and Youth Group started up again this fall. We have about 20 active in the Youth Group. We have our annual Women's Banquet in October. We ask for prayers for our PNC who meet weekly as we continue to seek a new pastor. We appreciate prayers for our congregation as we strive to follow the example of Jesus Christ, who reaches out to all humanity with love.

### ♦ **Homestead Presbytery: Palmyra**

We praise God for his many blessings in our community of faith, both individually and corporately. We ask for his active presence among us and that he would empower us by his Spirit to be ambassadors of his peace in a world that is in dire need of peace. May our Lord put his words in our mouths and his love in our hearts, and may he make us wise as he is wise.

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

- **Norfolk First Congregational UCC, 68701**
- **Albion Congregational UCC, 68620**
- **Arlington Community UCC, 68002**
- **Blair Congregational UCC, 68008**

## 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!



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

In 2023, Federated has assisted 8 people with rent,  
38 families with fuel, 42 families with food  
and a bus ticket for a veteran who wanted to be with his family.

This assistance has totaled \$2,438.53

We have received donations totaling \$3,550.00.

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

## FUNERAL COMMITTEE 2

Co Chairs: Steve & Marcia Dewald, Larry & Sue Mares,  
Linda & Guy Wheatley, Barb Olson  
Committee Members will be contacted by the Co-Chairs

## A NOTE FROM THE CASTNER'S

Dear Federated Friends,

We have enjoyed our long membership at Federated Church. It seems like yesterday we walked in as visitors. It was the spring of 1976. Our kids were ages 9, 11, and 13. Rev. Lee Hicks was minister at the time. He wrote us a letter of invitation to visit the church, prior to our move, knowing we had been active in the Presbyterian Church in Bellevue. We were welcomed with open arms on that April Sunday morning. We developed lifelong friends who have all been instrumental in our faith journey. We appreciate all of you. We are moving to Omaha and will be transferring our membership to Dundee Presbyterian Church. Anna and Jack are active in the church, and we look forward to participating and being active. If you would like our new contact information, please contact the church office.

If you are ever in Omaha with free time, we appreciate visitors and will always have the coffee pot on.

Kay and Lloyd Castner



## 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,  
pill bottles are accepted without labels

For more information, go to: [missionheartworld.weebly.com](http://missionheartworld.weebly.com)

## 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>

## 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, including the ones pictured below.



Hawk



Pookie



Tessa



Stanley



Cazu



## 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](mailto:kathy.leischner@yahoo.com)  
if you can deliver for approximately one hour each day  
during Federated's scheduled week!

## 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.

Platte County Food Pantry  
Columbus, Nebraska



## RESCUE MISSION MEALS 2023

Thank you for filling in all the 2023 slots for the Rescue Mission meals!  
Rescue Mission Meals take place on the second Friday of the month.

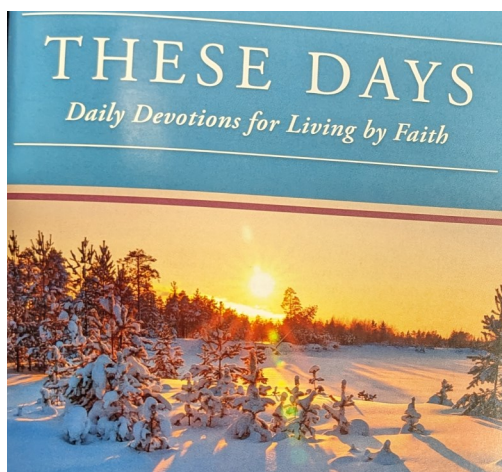
Columbus **RESCUE** Mission

The move of the Columbus Rescue Mission from 1471 25th Avenue to its current  
location of 1112 15th Street has been completed. We are still in need of financial  
donations to complete the work that must be done to finish painting, cleaning, etc.  
at the new facility as we will be opening the women's rooms and the family rooms in  
the very near future. If God puts it on your heart to make a donation or to volunteer  
with the cleaning or painting, please contact the mission at 402-563-1096  
and ask for Karen or Nathan.

# Happy Birthday!

John Curry, Brenda Sand, Malynn Slizoski	12/2	Nancy Hegi	12/14
Joan Specht	12/3	Stuart Gausman	12/16
Julie Graham	12/4	Joe Chin, Roger Spohn	12/17
Melanie Knoepfle	12/5	Cindy Hoadley	12/19
Ryland Prokopec	12/6	Kathy Leischner, Marv Zoucha	12/20
Dominic Oran, 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
Randy Kaspar	12/13	Julian Oran	12/31

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



The first quarter  
***These Days*** is now  
available for 2024

## 2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEETING DAYS/TIMES

In the table below you can find the 2023 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.

<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	Donna Augspurger	Will meet as necessary
Finance & Property Committee	Terry Norris and Mark Weeder	3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Membership & Growth Committee	Jesse Abrego	2nd Monday of the month, 6:30pm
Nominating Committee	Julie Graham	<i>To be determined</i>
Order of St. Andrew	Peg Meyer	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 Monday of the month, 5:00pm
Stewardship Committee	Georgia Behlen, Alison Wagner	Will meet as necessary
Worship & Music Committee	John Lohr and Sue McClure	1st Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm
Youth Ministry Committee	Parker Grant	2nd Sunday of the month, 11:00am
Foundation	Doug Williams, President	Quarterly/as Necessary
Governing Council	Julie Graham, President Alison Wagner, 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  
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PO BOX 564  
COLUMBUS, NE, 68602-0564

## DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

### DECODING THE LITURGICAL COLOR SCHEME

**Purple = Presence** Purple is the color that is used during our seasons of preparation: Advent and Lent. During both of these 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 color of royalty, and so some give nod to this as a reason why we use purple during these seasons. In some tradition, the color **BLUE** is used interchangeably with purple during the season of Advent.

**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). 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 stole is deemed appropriate based on the season.