



FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

December 2024; Volume 58; Issue 12

Upcoming Events

**Dec. 5 & 8: Service of Wholeness
and Healing, Communion**
Dec. 12: Ecumenical Blue Christmas
Dec. 15: Children's Christmas Pageant
Dec. 19 & 22: Lessons & Laughter Service
**Dec. 24, Christmas Eve: 5 pm - Family Service,
8 pm - Traditional Service**
**Dec. 25: Community Christmas Meal,
Church office closed**

FROM PASTOR'S DESK

Happy New Year! It might seem premature to make this announcement in December, but we are in a new year in the liturgical calendar. Every liturgical year begins with Advent; we are now in the season of Advent, Year C (of the three year Revised Common Lectionary cycle).

With it being December, there are a lot of things happening... We postponed our monthly communion and quarterly Service of Wholeness and Healing to Dec. 5th & 8th (2nd Sunday of Advent); main reason for postponing was the fact that Thanksgiving was the Thursday before first Sunday of the month (when we normally have communion at both services). For the Service of Wholeness and Healing, we will have a time of anointing with oil (a practice in the early church as recorded in James 5:14). If there is anyone who would like to receive oil for anointing but cannot attend either service, please let me know and we can schedule a visit.

On Thursday Dec. 12th, 6:30pm, we will host the ecumenical Blue Christmas service. The holidays can be a difficult time when we are reminded of loss, specifically of those who are no longer with us. This service provides space to bring our sadness and griefs before God. We will have Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander from St. John's Lutheran Church, Shell Creek preaching.

During Sunday Dec. 15th morning worship service, children will present this year's Christmas pageant with performance titled "Campfire Carols." It is fitting that this will happen on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, also known as "Gaudete Sunday" (Gaudete is Latin for "rejoice"; we light the pink candle this Sunday). I would like to thank all the students, teachers and staff for their work.

For the 4th (and final) Sunday of Advent, we will have "Lessons and Laughter" services on Dec. 19th & 21st. This is somewhat like our usual Lessons and Carols service, but the emphasis will be on listening for, singing with and practicing JOY.

Our Christmas Eve services will be at 5:00pm and 8:00pm. Communion will be served at both services, although done differently at the 5:00pm "Family Service" as people are invited to come forward to receive the elements (bread and grape juice). The 8:00pm "Traditional Service" will include Chancel Choir and other musicians. Both services will conclude with singing Silent Night with candlelight.

I am delighted to share that Stuart & Kristen Gausman have agreed to chair our annual Christmas community meal (Thank you Stuart & Kristen!). If you are available on Christmas morning, please help with cooking or delivering meals.

With joy for Christ's birth,

Edward

Fed @ Fed

The high school students met in the church kitchen on 11/3 for Fed @ Fed. This month we made three versions of Chicken Enchiladas and then hosted a taste test. The results...all three versions were YUMMY! Following the meal, Meg and Tessa received a lesson in playing pool from Pastor Edward. The next Fed @ Fed will be on December 8th and we will make Runzas.

*Sunday Funday*

The youth were back in the kitchen on Sunday, 11/17, for our monthly Sunday Funday. With the help of our middle school students, we made candy cane cookies for Cookies-n-More. The cookies were taste-tested by the students to ensure quality control! The next Sunday Funday will be December 15th following worship.

*Christams Pageant*

The annual Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, 12/15, during worship. All students who attend Sunday morning Education Hour, will participate in the pageant &/or worship service.

*Calendar of Events*

12/8

Fed @ Fed(9th – 12th Grade)

4 – 6 pm Fellowship Hall

12/14

Christmas Pageant Practice

(all students participating in pageant)

10 am – Sanctuary

12/15

Christmas Pageant

9 am Practice during Ed Hour

10 am Performance during Worship

12/15

Sunday Funday(5th – 12th Grade)

Christmas Party

11 – 2 pm – Fellowship Hall

COOKIES 'N MORE 2024

Cookies 'N More sold out! \$3,695 was raised! What fun it was to see 120 people scrambling to fill containers with cookies and candy and to select among many pies! A huge thank you to so many in the congregation for baking, candy or pie making, for the Baking Day ladies, and for generous cash donations. Thanks for the many workers who made this event a success and thank you to Mark and Kathy for all the extra work they did for this event. On to next year! Chris Warren and Katie Claus



GOVERNING COUNCIL MONTHLY REPORT

Governing Council met Tuesday, November 26, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.

Meeting Highlights include:

October GC meeting minutes and November Committee Reports were received.

Communion will be served on: Dec. 5th & 8th, Dec 12th Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service; Dec. 24th at both the 5 & 8 pm Christmas Eve Services

December 15th will be the Children's Pageant.

December 22 will be the Service of Carols and Lessons.

Stuart and Kristen Gausman will Chair the Christmas Dinner on December 25th.

The Governing Council approved a Motion of Support for the Gausman's and this meaningful event

Approval of the purchase of an Electronic Organ.

The Distributions from the Garage sale are as follows:

Columbus Rescue Mission \$5000; Federated Helping Hands \$1000;

A Place at the Table \$1000; The Community Food Pantry \$1000,

Staff Christmas gifts \$500; and \$400 for Fellowship Hall Centerpieces

Outgoing Members Donna Augspurger, John McPhail and Mark Weeder were recognized and thanked for their service and dedication.

New Members to the Governing Council include Bob Arp as Vice President, Terry Norris, Marilyn Vrana and Linda Wheatley. Alison Wagner was thanked by the Council for her dedicated service as outgoing President.

Governing Council's next meeting will be January 28, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. in Room EC 8.

Alison Wagner, Church President and Barb Sanderson, Secretary

USHERS/LITURGISTS & ATTENDANCE REPORT NOVEMBER 2024

Ushers: Georgia Behlen, Mark Hegi, Bill Royer

Liturgists: Anjel Garcia Lopez, Julie Graham, Katie Claus, Nicole Miller

Average Attendance:

Thursday Service: 19

Sunday Service: 113

Online: 168

Weekly Attendance: 300

JOYS & CONCERNS FOR NOVEMBER 2024

♦ Please pray for Kelli Scheffler who had hip replacement surgery on Nov. 1.

♦ Please pray for Ron Novak who is on hospice.

♦ Please pray for the family of Ron Novak who passed away November 7, 2024. Funeral service will be Tuesday, November 12th at 2 pm at Federated Church. Visitation will be on Monday, 11th from 5-7 pm at Gas Haney Funeral Home and will continue on Tuesday at 1 pm until service time at our church. Interment will be in Columbus Cemetery. Luncheon to follow.

♦ Homestead Presbytery: Steele City As a small congregation, we continue to enjoy our partnership with Wymore, through joint services and activities. We find opportunities as a congregation for outreach in our small community, including a recent food booth and downtown worship service for the annual Steele City Flea Market. We hope that Christmas Eve will provide an occasion for families in the community to join in our worship. Pray that we rise to the task of loving our neighbors and offering the hand of Christ.

♦ Homestead Presbytery: Tekamah

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Tekamah 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: Thurston The John Huss Church in Thurston appreciates prayers for our general ministry. We're a tiny but faithful group. Thank you for your prayers.

♦ Homestead Presbytery: Wahoo Czech Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Wahoo Czech congregation. May they continue to grow as a caring and nurturing Christian community, as well as individuals, focusing on prayer, Bible study and worship.

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

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

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

• UCC Living Waters Association: Center Congregational UCC (Center, NE 68724)

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: Education Center Room 4

Fun facts about salt:



* Salt was once used as currency. During the Roman Empire and the Middle Ages, salt was a valuable commodity because it could preserve food. People would use salt as a method of trade and currency and would lick salt blocks to make sure they were real.

* Pouring salt into shoes and letting it sit overnight can help absorb excess moisture and odors.

* Sleep: Salt is a natural hypnotic that can help regulate sleep

If you think that information is interesting, just wait till you come to class!

Our structure is: one week we show an interesting video followed by discussion; the next week we discuss current news events (no political discussion, though!) and how these events relate to the Bible.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! COME JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY!

Meet in the EC4.

Coffee and goodies provided.

COLUMBUS RESCUE MISSION

Rescue Mission Meals

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.

Sign up for 2025 now. Please be a part of this important ministry and sign up in the Narthex!

Katie Claus, Chair of Social Concerns & Missions Committee

SOCIAL CONCERNS & MISSIONS COMMITTEE COLLECTIONS & EVENTS

In October, November and December we are collecting NEW mittens, scarves, gloves, socks and hats for the Angel Tree. 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*

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.

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!

For the year of 2024, we have received donations equaling \$1,890.00!

As of September 30th, we have helped sixteen people with fuel, one member with food, one person with rental assistance, one member with an anxiety vest, and donated \$350 to the Brian Marker Benefit that was held in January, for a total of \$828.92.

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



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.



CHRISTMAS MEAL 2024

****The Community Christmas Dinner was started (in 1974) by the Rev. Lee & Barbara Hicks... Chris & Laretta Dixon, and Charles & Lorena Rogers and their families provided the help for that initial dinner...***

The church has been hosting this meal for the last 50 years. This meal feeds around two hundred every year! We will need people to help shop, gather donations, cook, box, serve, and deliver the meals to the members of the community. Please contact the church office if you want to help with this significant annual event!

Thank you in advance for helping our community!

**excerpt from In Ministry Together the Federated Church history book produced for the church's Centennial celebration in 2014*

2 X 4 GATHERINGS - MEETING FELLOW CONGREGANTS

Remember, you don't have to be a couple. You can sign up as a single and bring a friend or come alone if that doesn't work for you.

If you've requested to not be a host or only host a particular time of the year, please just arrange the dinner at a restaurant or set your date whenever you want and don't feel obligated to have it during the exact dates — please, just follow through and let your people know the plan. Please don't just skip it completely. And if you haven't heard from you host, don't be afraid to contact them and ask what they have in mind so you can plan in advance.

ALSO we are concocting a progressive dinner. It will be a separate thing from 2x4s. We would need 3 hosts for one dinner - appetizer & drinks, main course, dessert at 3 different homes in one evening. A co-host would be good and participants may be asked to bring something, (e.g., appetizer, etc.) to help out with the meal. We'll see how many people are interested and go from there. I already have 2 of the 3 homes lined up.

Please reach out if you are interested or have questions.

Thank you, Membership & Growth, Nila Novotny

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! We have volunteers for the remainder of 2024. 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!>



Dollie



Heidi



Bugsy



December Birthdays

Malyonn Slizoski, Brenda Sand, John Curry	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
Chris Warren	12/7	Emma McHugh, Margaret Nyffeler, Elyena Perrin,	12/21
Charlotte Lambert	12/11	Barb Olson, Elizabeth Miller	12/29
Randy Kaspar	12/13		

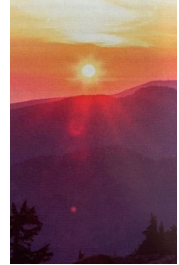
**If you see a mistake or missing information on the birthday list,
call the church office so we can update our records.**

FUNERAL COMMITTEE 2

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

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

These Days for the 4th quarter of 2024
(December) is available in the Narthex and office.



Advent daily devotions “The Weary World Rejoices” are available on the church website and hardcopies in narthex/office.

INCLEMENT WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENT

In the event of dangerous weather during a church service, you will be instructed where to go for shelter at that time. If you are attending an event at the church outside of worship, please go to the Fellowship Hall to the storage area, or the restrooms right off the Narthex.

These areas are marked as Severe Weather Shelter Area signs.

National Human Trafficking Hotline:

1-888-373-7888 or text INFO to 233733

Center for Survivors - Columbus NE 1-402-564-2155

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Hotline

call or text 988 (only 3 digits)

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45am SALT - Adult Sunday Class 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Sunday Worship Service 3:00pm El Buen Prayer Services	2 1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study 5:00pm Special Olympics 7:00pm Scout troop 212 meeting	3 10:00am Staff Meeting 1:30pm Cries of the Spirit 5:30pm Girl Scout Theater Club 5:30pm Consonaires 6:30pm Christian Education Committee Meeting	4 4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Puppets 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 12:30pm The Basket Cases Craft Group 6:30pm Worship Service	6 5:00pm Special Olympics 5:30pm Girl Scouts of America - movie & pizza 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service	7
8 8:45am SALT - Adult Sunday Class 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Sunday Worship Service 12:30pm Purinton Baby Shower 4:00pm Fed @ Fed	9 1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study 4:00pm Diamond Dancers 7:00pm Scout troop 212 meeting	10 10:00am Mediation - private 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Consonaires	11 4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Puppets 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 5:00pm Special Olympics - every Thursday 6:30pm Worship Service	13 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service	14 8:30am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
15 8:45am SALT - Adult Sunday Class 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Sunday Worship Service	16 1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study 4:30pm Order of St. Andrew Meeting 5:00pm Special Olympics 7:00pm Scout troop 212 meeting 7:00pm Circle 4	17 10:00am Staff Meeting 2:30pm Caregiver Support Group 5:30pm Consonaires	18 9:30am Circle 1 Meeting 1:00pm Circle 2 4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Puppets 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19 5:00pm Special Olympics - every Thursday 6:30pm Worship Service	20 8:00am Circle 1 - Call Sue - breakfast 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service	21
22 8:45am SALT - Adult Sunday Class 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Sunday Worship Service	23 3:00pm Prairie Village Service 4:00pm Diamond Dancers 7:00pm Scout troop 212 meeting	24 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Worship Service -5 pm Christmas - Communion 8:00pm Worship Service -8 pm Christmas - Communion	25 Christmas Meal Church office closed - Christmas Day	26 5:00pm Special Olympics - every Thursday 6:30pm Worship Service	27 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service	28
29 10:00am Sunday Worship Service	30 5:00pm Special Olympics 7:00pm Scout troop 212 meeting	31				

Deadline for 2024 contributions is December 31st, 12 noon.
Please plan to drop off you contributions prior to this time.

Income - November 2024		Expenses - November 2024	
General Funds:	\$27,855.72	General Funds:	\$29,550.82
Contributions	\$27,820.72	Utilities	\$1957.13
Rent	\$35.00	Other Budgeted Expenses	\$27593.69
Designated Funds	\$31,640.09	Designated Funds:	\$8,000.00
Interest Earned	\$399.69	A Place at the Table	\$1,000.00
Cookies 'N More	3695.00	Columbus Rescue Mission	\$5,000.00
Youth Mission Fund	\$124.40	Food Pantry	\$1,000.00
Future Year/2025 Pre-	\$26,750.00	Helping Hands	\$1,000.00
Operation Education	\$290.00	Memorial Funds:	\$ 0
Poinsettias	\$206.00		
Disaster Relief	\$175.00		
Memorial Funds:	\$305.00		
Undesignated	\$305.00		

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 2025 Newsletter deadline will be December 20th, 2024.

2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEETING DAYS/TIMES

In the table below you can find the 2024 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.

Committee or Group	Chairperson	Meeting Day/Time
Christian Education Committee	Pat Anderson	1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Endowment Committee	Donna Augspurger	Will meet as necessary
Finance & Property Committee	Mark Weeder	3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Membership & Growth Committee	Nila Novotny	2nd Monday of the month, 6:30pm
Nominating Committee	Alison Wagner & Georgia Behlen	<i>To be determined</i>
Order of St. Andrew	Peg Meyer	1st Monday of the month, 4:30pm
Personnel Committee	John McPhail	3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm
Social Concerns & Missions Committee	Katie Claus	2nd Monday of the month, 5:00pm
Stewardship Committee	Georgia Behlen	Will meet as necessary
Worship & Music Committee	John Lohr	1st Tuesday of the month, 7:15pm
Youth Ministry Committee	Max Porter	2nd Sunday of the month, 11:00am
Foundation	Doug Williams, President	Quarterly/as Necessary
Governing Council	Alison Wagner, President Georgia Behlen, 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 2024 NEWSLETTER

December 2024; Volume 58; Issue 12

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.

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 & 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 of stole is deemed appropriate based on the season.