



FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

December 2025; Volume 59; Issue 12

Upcoming Events

December 4 & 7 - Wholeness & Healing,
Communion, Hymn Sing

December 11 - Blue Christmas

December 13 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast

December 14 - Children's Christmas Pageant

December 18 & 21 - Lessons & Carols

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services;

5 pm Family Service/Young at Heart,

8 pm Candlelight, Communion & Choir

December 25 - Community Christmas Dinner,
Church office closed

December 31 @ 12 Noon - deadline for 2025
contributions



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Christ is born! God became human for us. In this season of Advent, we recount the stories related to the first Christmas. This year, we are using a resource from A Sanctified Art titled "What Do You Fear?" as a way of considering God's hope-filled presence in our world.

There are several services to highlight. For Dec. 4 & 7, we'll have our quarterly Service of Wholeness and Healing with oil anointing (along with monthly communion and hymn sing). On Dec. 11 (Thurs), we will host the Ecumenical Blue Christmas service at our usual 6:30pm worship time; this is service to bring our griefs and sorrows before God. On Dec. 14 (Sun), children will be performing for our annual Christmas Pageant; it is fitting that Sunday we light the pink Advent candle for Gaudete (Latin for "rejoice") Sunday. Dec. 18 & 21 will be our Lessons and Carols service. There will be two services on Christmas Eve: 5:00pm (which will be more family oriented, while including communion and candlelight) and 8:00pm (more traditional with brass prelude and vocal choir, with also communion and candlelight). On Christmas Day, we will host the 51st year for the Community Christmas Dinner (please read info below for more details). While there will be no Thursday evening service on Dec. 25th, we will have the final service of 2025 with the First Sunday of Christmas on Dec. 28th.

Merry Christmas!

Edward



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER 2025

Federated Church will be hosting the Community Christmas Dinner again this year, on Christmas Day. This long standing outreach project has impacted the lives of many Columbus residents over the years, and we're excited to keep the tradition going! Our needs are very much the same this year as in years past, and we look to our congregation and community members

to help fulfill these needs again. We need volunteers; to help set up, for food prep, to pack take out and delivery orders, serve our dine-in guests, deliver orders, and help with clean-up. We're also looking for food donations; turkeys, potatoes, bulk size green beans and corn, and deserts, to name a few... We will be having a mashed potato prep day as well, which we hope will be a great way to get some youth members involved!

Be on the lookout for sign up sheets in the Narthex, and please feel free to contact Kathy or Antoneea in the office. We look forward to continuing this wonderful ministry of Federated Church, and welcome all who wish to be a part of it! Please feel free to contact any of the Chairpersons as well:

Stuart Gausman 402-910-3964

Kristen Gausman 402-910-5854

Patricia Engel 402-606-8832



Christmas

COMMUNITY DINNER

December 25th Federated Church

Everyone is welcome!

**Dine In, Pick Up, or
Delivery**



Dine in from 12:00 - 1:30
Deliveries starting at 11:00 Pick Up starting at 11:30

Please Call for Reservations

by 3:30 on December 19th

Federated Church

402-564-2812

Full dinner with all the trimmings!



There is no charge for the meal,
free will donations are accepted and appreciated
Federated Church 2704 15th Street Columbus, NE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Your Governing Council met for the final time in 2025 on November 25th..

We decided to proceed with a presentation on the Green Dot Bystander Intervention Strategy. We approved a motion to not hold the Christmas Day Thursday service and to hold a New Year's Day service. Youth fundraisers for 2026 were approved along with the Souper Bowl of Caring.

The president thanked Pat Anderson, John Lohr, and Brenda Sand who are going off the council. Barb Sanderson also leaves as GC secretary. We thank her for her years of dedication.

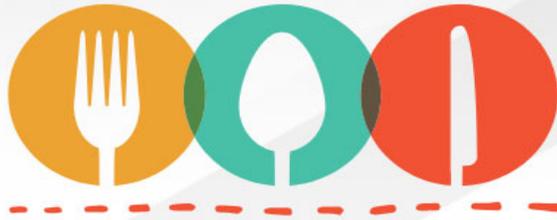
I would personally thank all of you for allowing me to be your president. It has been a privilege and a joy.

God's blessings,
Georgia Behlen

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION / YOUTH



FED@FED



Once a month, Federated students 8th grade and up, meet in the kitchen to make and share a meal. This month we made some air fryer wings & fries and baked biscotti. Our youth love trying new foods and learning new recipes. If you have a recipe you would like to share, please contact brenda@federatedcolumbus.org.

SUNDAY FUN day

The Federated Youth Group road tripped to Lincoln on Sunday, November 16th. We enjoyed brunch at **Breakfast Unhinged**, worshiped at **First Plymouth Church**, and played 18 holes at **Prehistoric Putt**.

Congrats to Hunter & Edward on their Hole In One shots!!!



FINDING CHRISTMAS

AN UNDER THE SEA

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 14th | 10 am

Children & Youth Upcoming Events

December

DEC 13	Pageant Practice @ 10 am For children/youth participating in the Christmas Pageant. Meet in the sanctuary at 10 am.
DEC 14	Christmas Pageant Practice at 9 am Performance 10 am during Worship Service
DEC 14	Sunday FUNday: Christmas Party Youth grades 5 th & up, bring a \$10 grab bag gift.
DEC 21	All Ages Art Sunday - EC 3 Join us during Ed Hour for a Christmas themed art project. All ages welcome!
DEC 24	Christmas Eve Worship Services 5:00 pm & 8:00 pm
DEC 28	No Education Hour
JAN 4	No Education Hour

MERRY and BRIGHT

ANNUAL COOKIES 'N MORE BAKE SALE



THANK YOU

Cookies 'N More sold out! Thank you SO MUCH to the congregation for baking, candy, or pie making, and for the generous cash donations. Many thanks to Tammi Gottschall and Jeanne Johnson for the colorful, creative decorations and to Cyndi Jarecke and Tim Warren for putting up the tree and decorating it so beautifully. Thanks for the many workers who made this event a success and thank you to Mark, Kathy, and Antoneea for all the extra work they did for this event. There is not a total amount available yet but look for it in the near future. It is wonderful to see everyone working together at Federated!

Chris Warren and Katie Claus



JOYS & CONCERNS FOR NOVEMBER 2025

- ◆ Pray for the family of Cec Bartholomew. Cec passed away November 1.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Richard Klein, brother to Jeff & Marie Bruegger. Richard lived in Grand Island and passed away November 1.
- ◆ Congratulations to Dustin and Lily Jelinek on the birth of Waylon Allan Jelinek. Waylon was born on November 5, 2025 and is the great grandson of Jan Pickrel.
- ◆ Pray for Brenda Berry as she recovers from surgery.
- ◆ Pray for Kathy Leischner, she is having knee replacement surgery.

HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY/UCC LIVING WATERS PRAYERS NOVEMBER 2025

◆ Homestead Presbytery: York

Lord, we ask that you be with First Presbyterian Church in York, Nebraska. We are still searching for a pastor and we need your comfort and guidance during this trying period. We know you have a plan for us, but please help us to be patient and humble as we wait for your plan to unfold. We ask for prayers for our congregation and for our PNC as they faithfully continue their search. We ask you to lead and guide us in the coming months and thank you for the many blessings you have bestowed on this church. Amen.

◆ Homestead Presbytery: Alexandria

The Alexandria Presbyterian Church thank you for your prayers for our congregation. We thank God for the blessing of 6 Sunday School children who are learning about Jesus - and the teacher who makes it possible. We ask God for blessings on several from our congregation who have long-term illness. We pray that we may continue to spread God's love and share God's grace with our congregation, our community and beyond.

◆ Homestead Presbytery: Auburn

We are still searching for a pastor so prayers are appreciated in this endeavor.

◆ Homestead Presbytery: Bancroft

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Bancroft 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: Beatrice

First Presbyterian Church of Beatrice continues to follow its call as a Matthew 25 Church. Members continue to stock a Little Pantry located on its lawn on a daily basis, deliver bed 98 for Sweet Dreams Bed Ministry, and serve 140 meals every other month at Warren's

Table. The congregation is also co-hosting a Nativity Display at the Beatrice Public Library as a part of a newly formed Art & Faith community group. Each Sunday when members leave church they pass under a banner which reads, "The Worship is Over, Now the Service Begins." Members take this seriously throughout the week.

UCC Living Waters Association:

- ◆ Blair Community UCC (Blair, NE 68008)
- ◆ Center Congregational UCC (Center, NE 68724)
- ◆ Coleridge Pilgrim Congregational UCC (Coleridge, NE 68727)
- ◆ Columbus Federated UCC (Columbus, NE 68601)
- ◆ Columbus St. Luke's UCC (Columbus, NE 68601)

ATTENDANCE

Ushers/Liturgists & Attendance Report

Ushers: Bill Royer, Mark Hegi, Georgia Behlen, Stephanie Johnson; Youth; Hudson Luedtke, Hadley McHugh, Cara Porter

Liturgists: Katie Claus, Julie Graham, Bob Arp, Paul Sanderson

Average Attendance :

In-Person Thursday Service: 11

In-Person Sunday Service: 94

Online Average Weekly Views: 180

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

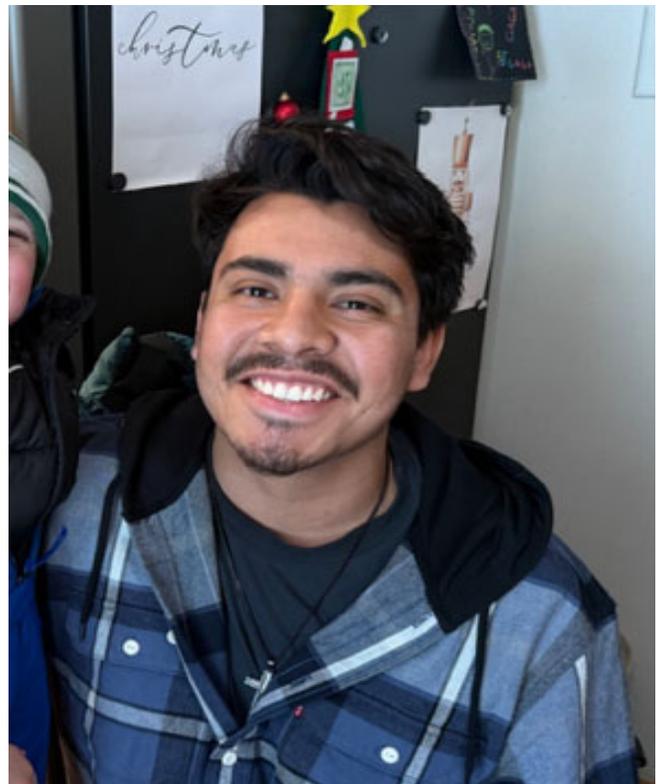


Deb Gaeth

I have lived in Columbus for 38 years. I have 2 grown daughters and 5 grandchildren. I have been a member of Federated Church for 37 years. I am currently working at First Steps and Immanuel Lutheran daycares. I work with children ages infant up to 5 years. I very much enjoy being in the Church nursery. I will also be serving on the youth ministries committee starting next year.

Anjel Garcia Lopez

I'm 23 years old. I graduated high school in 2021, and college in 2025. I've been coming to Federated since I was in preschool. I am currently working at Preferred Plumbing. I like to be busy, so either you'll catch me at work, or around the church helping out with landscaping, puppets, VBS, and in the nursery. I love to run, play pool, and listen to country music!



Advent & Christmas Poinsettias



Name: _____

Poinsettia Color	Qty	Price (\$12.00 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.

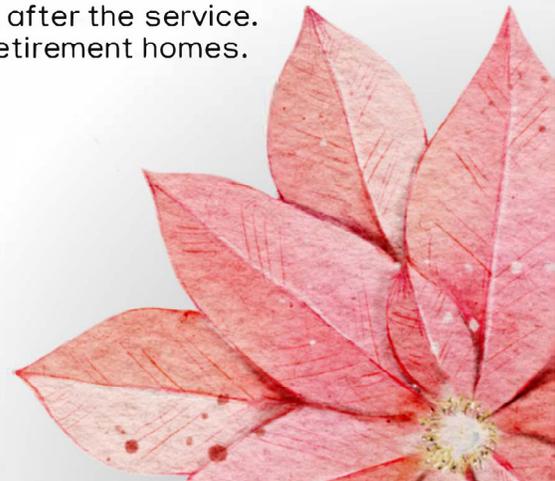
To God's glory and in Memory of:



To God's glory and in Honor of:



Please return this form and payment to church office by December 14th.
 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.



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 classes every Sunday before service
"Study and Learn Together"

Who: All Adults!

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

Where: Education Center Room 4

FUNERAL COMMITTEE #1

Funeral Committee 1 Co-Chairs: Tim & Chris Warren, Jesse & Marilyn Abrego,
Roland & Doris Augspurger, John & Anita Hahn, Carol Bottum
Committee Members will be contacted by the Co-Chairs.

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

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, Phone: 402-564-2812, Mail: 2704 15th St. PO Box 564, 68602

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!

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



COLUMBUS RESCUE MISSION

Federated Church prepares 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.

THANK YOU to everyone who has signed up to prepare a meal.

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



WEEKLY EMAIL TO CONGREGANTS

Do you receive our weekly MailChimp email? If you don't, but would like to, please contact the office and we will get you added to the list!

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 2026 Meals on Wheels Schedule!

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!>



Isla



Cereal



Kyler

Happy Birthday

John Curry, Hallie Luedtke, Brenda Sand, Malynn Slizoski	12/02	Nancy Hegi	12/14
Joan Specht	12/03	Stuart Gausman	12/16
Julie Graham	12/04	Joe Chin, Roger Spohn	12/17
Melanie Knoepfle	12/05	Cindy Hoadley	12/19
Ryland Prokopec	12/06	Kathy Leischner, Marv Zoucha	12/20
Chris Warren	12/07	Emma McHugh, Margaret Nyffeler, Elyena Perrin	12/21
Charlotte Lambert	12/11	Elizabeth Miller, Barb Olson	12/29
Randy Kaspar	12/13		

KAY CASTNER IS TURNING 90!

KAY'S DAUGHTER, ANNA, IS REQUESTING A CARD SHOWER.
PLEASE MAIL CARDS TO KAY AT
1330 S. 70TH ST
OMAHA, NE 68106

Governing Council - Federated Church Elders			Federated Church Clergy and Staff	
Georgia Behlen, <i>President</i> Bob Arp, <i>Vice President</i> Barb Sanderson, <i>Secretary</i>			Rev. Edward Yang, Ph.D. <i>Pastor/Head of Staff</i> edward@federatedcolumbus.org	Stuart Gausman <i>Director of Music Ministry</i>
<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	Brenda Sand <i>Christian Education Director</i> brenda@federatedcolumbus.org	Lee Augustin <i>Pianist</i>
Pat Anderson	Nila Novotny	Terry Norris	Kathy Zywiec <i>Co-office Administrator, Social Media Coordinator</i>	Amanda Weeder <i>Accompanist</i>
John Lohr	Max Porter	Linda Wheatley	Antoneea Kriewald <i>Co-office Administrator</i>	Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia <i>El Buen Pastor Fellowship</i>
Brenda Sand		Marilyn Vrana	Mark Baumann <i>Custodian</i>	Deb Gaeth Anjel Garcia Lopez <i>Nursery Attendants</i>
Order of St. Andrew - Federated Church Deacons				
Kathy Leischner	Tammi Gotschall	Peg Meyer		
Barb Olson	Steve McClure	Joe Chin		
Lori Rine	Jesse Abrego	Brenda Wardman		
Andree & Terry Hoeman, Co-Historians				
Bill Royer, Head Usher				

2704 15th St • PO Box 564 • Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0564 • Phone: 402-564-2812
Email: fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org • www.federatedcolumbus.org

DEMONINATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): www.pcusa.org
Synod of Lakes and Prairies: www.lakesandprairies.org
Homestead Presbytery: homesteadpres.org
United Church of Christ: www.ucc.org
Nebraska Conference: ucctcm.org/nebraska
Living Waters Association: livingwatersassociation.org

ECUMENICAL PARTNERS

First United Methodist Church: columbusfumc.com
Grace Episcopal Church: grace.episcopal-ne.org
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Shell Creek: stjohnlutheranshellcreek.weebly.com
St. Luke's United Church of Christ: www.saintlukescolumbus.org

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.

Committee or Group	Chairperson	Meeting Day/Time
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, President	Quarterly/as Necessary
Governing Council	Georgia Behlen, President 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 15th STREET
PO Box 564
COLUMBUS, NE 68602-0564

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Columbus, NE
Permit No. 60

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

December 2025; Volume 59; Issue 12

DECODING THE LITURGICAL COLOR SCHEME

Purple = Preparation Purple is the color that is used during our season 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 traditional color of royalty, and so some give not 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 worshipping 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.