



# FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming Events

- \* February 10: Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- \* February 10: Ski/Snowboard Trip to Mt. Crescent
  - \* February 11: Souper Bowl of Caring
  - \* February 14: Ash Wednesday  
First United Methodist, 7p,m
  - \* February 18: First Sunday in Lent
- \* February 25: Annual Congregational Meeting

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. February 2024 Newsletter deadline will be January 20th, 2024.

## PASTOR'S REPORT

(I should mention that my article for the February 2024 newsletter is the same as my annual report for 2023)

With the first month of 2024 wrapping up, it feels a bit late to be looking back at last year. However, it has been good to review what has happened as we consider where we are headed.

One of the first things that came to mind was the fact that 2023 was my first full year as simply “pastor” at Federated Church. In prior years I was “associate pastor” or “acting head of staff” (It was in April 2022 that I was installed as pastor). There was a strong sense of being where I need to be. Last year, we recovered former ministries and started new ones.

We restarted our youth summer mission trip, which had been on hiatus since 2020. Our Christian Education Director, Brenda Sand, and I led a group of four youth to the Quad Cities for a week-long trip with YouthWorks. It was encouraging to see our youth give their time and energy to serve others. In the midst of their service, there was a profound sense of God working in our youth. I am thankful for our church's support of youth mission trips and look forward to continuing this ministry of transformed lives.

A new ministry in 2023 was our services of wholeness and healing. I learned about other churches that had these special services emphasizing God's power to heal. I also learned that Federated Church held healing services in the past. With a significant number of church members who were in need of healing of physical illness and/or emotional pain, it was vital to offer these services of wholeness and healing. Our initial plan was to have these quarterly services on Sunday afternoons. Yet, after a couple times, it seemed more beneficial to bring our wholeness and healing emphasis to our regular Thursday evening and Sunday morning worship services. Using liturgies from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and United Church of Christ, many elements of the wholeness and healing services were familiar. One new element may have been the anointing with oil, which was offered to anyone who would like to receive (If you participate in our worship online and would like to receive anointing of oil, please let me or the church office know to schedule a visit).

## PASTOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

As head of staff, I would like to highlight the addition of new staff in 2023. We hired Mark Baumann in January 2023 as custodian to maintain our facilities and take on minor repair projects. After Bob Arp stepped down as longtime vocal choir director last spring, it was uncertain whether we could find a new director. Serendipitously, Reagan Gausman moved back to Columbus after college and agreed to be our vocal choir director. Recognizing a need for more engagement with online audience for our church's worship and activities, the Governing Council added a new staff position of social media coordinator. This position was filled by our office assistant, Kathy Zywiec. I am thankful for our new staff members and the gifts they bring to our church's ongoing service to God and to our community.

Thank you all for your support and partnership in ministry throughout last year and the years to come.

Grace and peace,  
Edward



YouthWorks Mission Trip to Quad Cities:  
Tessa Miller, Brenda Sand, Meg Weeder,  
Brinlee Klevemann, Edward Yang, Eliot Yang



Mark Bauman,  
Custodian



Quarterly Wholeness and Healing Service  
will be announced through the weekly  
emails and bulletins.



## GOVERNING COUNCIL MONTHLY REPORT

Governing Council met Tuesday January 23, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.

New members welcomed to the Governing Council include: Vice President, Georgia Behlen; Governing Council Secretary, Barb Sanderson; Governing Council Representatives, Chris Dixon, Nila Novotny and Max Porter.

Meeting Highlights include:

- November and December financials were presented and received.
- Committee Reports were received.
- The Education Center renovations are progressing.
- Approval of Youth fundraisers to support the Youth Summer Mission Trip include: January/February Book Sale; an April Fundraiser to be determined and the Mother's Day Flower Sale; the Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser will support the Platte County Food Pantry.
- Appointments for Head Usher, Church Historians, Governing Council Secretary and Presbytery Commissioner were approved.
- Lee Augustin is joining the Federated Church Staff as an Organist/Pianist and will be playing at least one Sunday per month. This position was approved by the Governing Council.
- The agenda for the upcoming Congregational meeting, which will be held February 25th after the 10:00 A.M. church service was approved.

The next Governing Council meeting will be February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.

Alison Wagner, Church President, and Barb Sanderson, Council Secretary

## DECODING THE LITURGICAL COLOR SCHEME

Within the life of the church, color has long been used to give a visual indicator of what is happening in the life of the church. Whether it is marking of the rhythm and movement of the liturgical season, or the noting of a special celebration within the life of the church, the colors that we use in worship, whether it is in the cloths covering the tables or the stoles that the Pastor and the choir wears, have deep meaning.

**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 times when there is “nothing special” going on in the life of the church (no big festivals or holidays) 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 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 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.

**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.

In some tradition, the color blue is used interchangeably with purple during the season of Advent.

In February, the vestment colors will be **green** until Feb. 11th, the Transfiguration of the Lord, where it changes to **white**. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14th, the color then changes to **purple** for the duration of the season of Lent and will not change again until Holy Week in March.

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*Youth Ministry  
Book Sale*

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The youth are hosting their annual book sale in the Narthex. Congregants can support this event by donating books to the book sale or by “purchasing” books with a free-will donation. Proceeds will be used to support the youth on their annual mission trip.

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*Souper Bowl Of  
Caring*

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Join the youth at Federated Church as they Tackle Hunger in our community. Non-perishable food items and monetary donations will be collected and donated to the Plate County Food Pantry on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.




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*Calendar of Events*

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February 10<sup>th</sup>

**Ski/Snowboard Trip to Mt. Crescent**

Please RSVP To Brenda

February 11<sup>th</sup>

**Souper Bowl of Caring**

(Youth deliver donations to food pantry following worship)

February 14<sup>th</sup>

**Ash Wednesday Service 7pm**

(Youth will sit together)

February 18<sup>th</sup>

First Sunday in Lent

**One Great Hour of Sharing Begins**

March 17<sup>th</sup>

**Youth Sunday Funday**

(Youth meet in fellowship hall following worship)

March 24<sup>th</sup>

**Palm Sunday**

(Children play bells during worship)

March 31<sup>st</sup>

**Easter Sunday**

(Egg Hunt Following Worship)

## 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 JANUARY 2024

**Ushers** : John Lohr, Bill Royer, Tim Warren, Doug Williams

Youth Ushers: Anna Young

**Liturgists** : Wayne McCormick, Anjel Garcia, Beth Sharpe, Katie Claus

**Average Attendance** :

Thursday Service - 16

Sunday Service - 81

Online - 149

Weekly Attendance - 174

## JOYS & CONCERNS FOR JANUARY 2024

♦ Pray for the family of Bernie Moran, Louise Moran's husband, who passed away on December 24, 2023.

♦ Pray for the family of Gary Robertson, Gary passed away on December 24, 2023. Funeral services were held on January 4, 2024.

♦ Jason Kallweit turns 50 on 01/17/2024. Card Shower 50 cards for 50 years. Call the Church office for Jason's address.

♦ Pray for Rod Behlen as he begins radiation and chemotherapy treatments for cancer.

♦ Congratulations to Mitchell & Breanna Griffith, who welcomed daughter, Makenna Lea, born January 13, 2024. Grandparents are Annette & Bob Griffith.

♦ Pray for the family of Joyce Perrin, mother of Kevin & Lisa Perrin. Joyce passed away on January 10th. Services were held at the Kracl Funeral Chapel on January 17th.

♦ Pray for Rosie Heinisch, she is starting chemotherapy for her leukemia.

♦ Pray for Mark Bauman's father who is recovering in Omaha hospital. Mark is the custodian here at Federated.

♦ Pray for the family of Paul Mohr, Jr., brother of Michael Mohr. Paul passed away on January 17th. Michael's 6.5 year old terrier, Annie, also passed away that week.

♦ **Homestead Presbytery: Tekamah**

Prayers for our church that God will lead us to the right person to fill our pulpit in the coming year. We are all praying daily

this will happen for us soon. Only he knows how and when this will happen. We are anxiously awaiting their arrival!

♦ **Homestead Presbytery: Thurston John Huss**

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Thurston 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: Wahoo Czech**

The Czech Presbyterian Church asks for prayers that our church will continue to have the support of our congregation as we face maintenance and financial issues and also for help with our weekly services as time goes on. We're thankful for the service Vicar Gary Grinvalds has given to our church and wish him all the best as he prepares for his future.

♦ **Homestead Presbytery: Wahoo First**

We ask for prayers for our congregation as we move forward with a new pastor and say goodbye to Rev. Jon Noble who has served the Wahoo church for the past 5 years.

♦ **UCC Living Waters Association:**

- *Fremont First Congregational UCC, 68025*
- *Hartington First Congregational UCC, 68739*
- *Neligh First Congregational UCC, 68756*
- *Newcastle Congregational UCC, 68757*



## FEDERATED CHURCH'S HELPING HANDS FUNDS

Did you know... “In the spring of 1975 Federated Church hosted and helped organize the Helping Hands Organization of Columbus...”<sup>1</sup> This gathering collaborated the efforts of a number of community groups and created low-cost housing, as well as a number of other wonderful outreaches to our community. This is where our “Helping Hands” funds were started!



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

## FUNERAL COMMITTEE 4

Co-Chairs: Sharon Kuncel, Steve & Sue McClure, Brenda Sand, Rod & Cindee Wachter  
Committee Members will be contacted by the Co-Chairs

## MEALS ON WHEELS



Make sure to sign up for 2024 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.



## 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.



Kalvin



Old Man Jenkins



Flick



Goku

## RESCUE MISSION MEALS FOR 2024

### Columbus **RESCUE** Mission

The list for 2024 is in the Narthex.

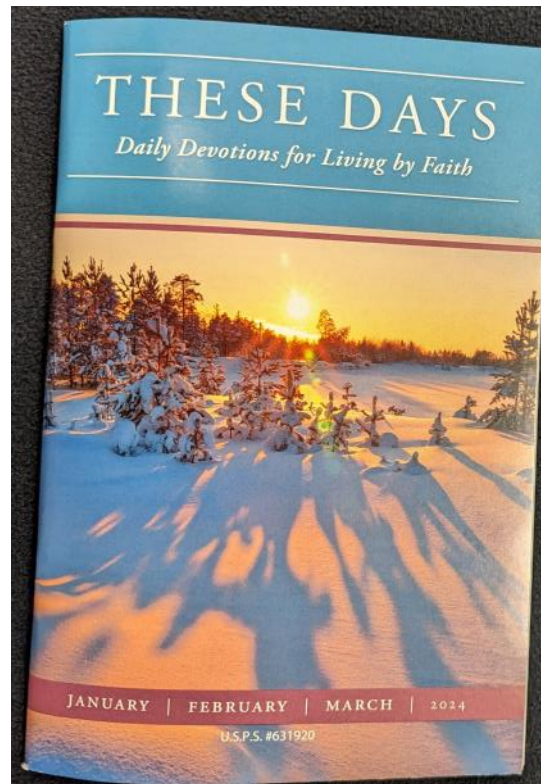
The Rescue Mission would like to have meat, potatoes or bread, and a vegetable. Dessert is fine, but not necessary. The Rescue Mission is now located at the former Mory's Haven, 1112 15th St.

Meals are served at 5:30 for women and 6:00 for men. The person/people bringing the meal are most welcome to stay and eat with the residents. If you would like to take a meal early, you may take it to the office right inside the building with instructions on how to bake it, etc. Otherwise, take the meal about 5:00 so it can be served at 5:30.

Plan for 20-25 people, and since this is a large number, it is best if two or three folks go together. Some meal suggestions are: pizza, tacos, lasagna, pulled pork or other sandwiches, chicken or beef casseroles, sloppy joes, soup, etc. If you would like to provide dessert, ice cream is always good as well as brownies, cookies, cake, etc.. Thanks for being part of this important ministry.

Social Concerns and Mission Committee

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



# Happy Birthday

Anita Kaspar, Beth Millard	2/1	Bruce Gartrell	2/18
Rogalyn Stevens, Alison Wagner	2/3	Mike Jeffrey	2/19
Cola Hahn	2/4	Pete Bennett	2/20
Robin Lehr	2/5	Marcia Dewald, Jane Ellefson	2/21
Bob Griffith	2/8	Clete Arasmith	2/22
John Lohr	2/11	Cindee Wachter	2/25
Clark Grant	2/12	Mike Slizoski	2/26
Meredith Gaeth, Linda McPhail	2/13	Theo Weeder	2/27
Cindy Wunderlich	2/14	Bob Arp	2/28
Megan Graybill	2/17		

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



## NOVEMBER 2023 FINANCIALS

Contributions - November 2023	
<b>General Funds (Checking):</b>	<b>\$25,986.91</b>
Contributions	\$25,881.57
Rent	\$59.00
Analysis Fee Reversed	\$46.34
<b>Designated Funds (Savings):</b>	<b>\$12,999.49</b>
Interest Earned	\$524.21
Heifer	\$500.00
Christmas Joy	\$505.00
Poinsettias	\$190.00
Youth Fund	\$40.00
Landscaping	\$13.80
Pre-Pledge/Future Year 2024	\$6,038.55
Christmas Meal	\$1,359.47
Projects & Missions (Cookies 'N More)	\$3,828.46
<b>Memorials:</b>	<b>\$90.36</b>
Analysis Fee Reversed	\$25.36
Landscaping	\$65.00

Expenses - November 2023	
<b>General Fund Expenses:</b>	<b>\$29,162.75</b>
Utilities	\$1,938.04
Other Budgeted Expenses	\$26,924.71
Deposits Returned	\$300.00
<b>Designated Funds (Savings):</b>	<b>\$19,724.05</b>
Youth Fund - Pumpkin Patch	\$454.36
Building Mntc - Ed Center Project	\$16,745.91
Landscaping	\$1,813.80
Helping Hands - Non-Members	\$400.00
Projects & Missions (Garage Sale - Distribution)	\$309.98
<b>Memorial Fund:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

Income	\$37,121.38
Expenses	-\$48,886.80
Transfer for bills	\$19,724.05
Total	\$7,958.63

## DECEMBER 2023 FINANCIALS

Contributions - December 2023	
<b>General Funds (Checking):</b>	<b>\$41,498.98</b>
Contributions	\$41,316.98
Rent	\$182.00
<b>Designated Funds (Savings):</b>	<b>\$77,645.22</b>
Interest Earned	\$567.75
Christmas Joy	\$2,514.47
Platte County Food Pantry	\$100.00
Camp Calvin Crest	\$50.00
Ghana	\$10.00
Poinsettias	\$285.00
Building Maintenance	\$20,000.00
Future Year/Pre-Pledge 2024	\$51,500.00
Disaster Relief	\$500.00
Pastor's Discretion	\$1,050.00
Helping Hands -	\$150.00
Music Department	\$105.00
Christmas Meal	\$813.00
<b>Memorials:</b>	<b>\$765.00</b>
Undesignated	\$615.00
Landscaping	\$50.00
Kitchen/Funeral Supplies	\$100.00

Income	\$119,909.20
Expenses	-\$53,139.36
Transfer for bills	\$23,384.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$90,154.20</b>

Expenses - December 2023	
<b>General Fund Expenses:</b>	<b>\$29,754.97</b>
Utilities	\$3,027.27
Other Budgeted Expenses	\$26,727.70
<b>Designated Funds (Savings):</b>	<b>\$23,284.49</b>
Heifer Project	\$1,000.00
Christmas Joy	\$610.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$5.00
Kamp Kaleo	\$25.00
Platte County Food Pantry	\$431.38
Camp Calvin Crest	\$80.00
Ghana	\$550.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$50.00
Pentecost	\$35.00
Backpack Program	\$25.00
Neighbors in Need	\$30.00
Building Maintenance	\$16,295.22
Landscaping	\$380.00
Operation Education Nairobi	\$50.00
Helping Hands - Non-Members	\$219.99
Projects & Missions- Cookies 'N More	\$3,400.00
Christmas Meal	\$97.90
<b>Memorial Fund:</b>	<b>\$99.90</b>
Funeral Kitchen Supplies	\$99.90

## 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.

<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	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, 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	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 15<sup>th</sup> STREET  
PO BOX 564  
COLUMBUS, NE, 68602-0564

## FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

### 2024 FEBRUARY ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

This year, the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on February 25th, immediately after worship service. The packets and absentee ballots for the meeting will be available the first week of February. Please let the office know if you would like one to pick up or would rather have it emailed to you. Due to a situation from a previous year, these will NOT be available on the website in whole, the committee annual reports, however, will be readily available under the media tab the first week of February.