

FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

February 2025; Volume 59; Issue 2

Upcoming Events

February 1 - Youth Ski/Snowboard Trip
February 2nd - Hymn Sing, Communion, Fed@Fed
February 8 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast
February 9 - Souper Bowl of Caring
February 23 - Annual Congregational Meeting

FROM PASTOR'S DESK

Happy New Year (again)! In case you missed it, January 29th marked the beginning of year in the lunar calendar. In many Asian countries, birthdays are celebrated based on a lunar date. This made it confusing for me while growing up. I didn't know when to say "Happy Birthday" to my parents since their lunar birthday would vary each year on our solar calendar. Being older (and hopefully wiser), I appreciate knowing that there are different calendars. It also helps that converting dates between the two calendars can now be easily done with an internet search.

If you are looking ahead for activities this year, there is information in this newsletter regarding summer camps for children and youth at Calvin Crest (in Fremont) and Kamp Kaleo (in Burwell). You can register your child/grandchild (or even great grandchild) for camp and our church has a special fund to cover half the cost.

On the last Sunday of February, we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting. During that week's worship services, we will have the Necrology Report as we remember those who passed away last year. As for the Annual Congregational Meeting after Sunday worship, it will be a time to celebrate God's faithfulness (reminder to last year's committee chairs and ministry leaders to send annual report, if you haven't done so already). Annual Report and Church Directory will be available in the coming weeks.

Hope you are doing well and staying warm,

Edward

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

New Governing Council members Linda Wheatley, Marilyn Vrana, Terry Norris and Vice-President Bob Arp were welcomed.

We were updated on the new office staff member, Antoneea Kriewald. She and Kathy Zywiec will be co-office administrators.
Welcome Antoneea.

The Council approved a contract with Linda K. Price, CPA for financial bookkeeping services.

Governing Council President, Georgia Behlen

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY



Calvin Crest Camp Conference & Retreat Center

2870 County Road 13 Fremont, NE 68025 phone: 402.628.6455 toll free: 877.795.7635

fax: 402.628.8255

email: calvincrest.org

your child's growth
Missing out on enriching
summer experiences
can lead to missed
friendships, faith
development and lasting
memories for your children.

- Unstructured days lead to boredom
- Missed opportunities for new friends
- Lack of outdoor activities and exercise
- Too much screen time without real-life engagement
- Finding safe options can be overwhelming
 - Want your child to grow



SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE 2025

WEEK 1 MAY 27-JUNE 5	WEEK 2 JUNE 8-15	WEEK 3 JUNE 15-22	WEEK 4 JUNE 22-29	WEEK 5 JUNE 29-JULY 5
SUMMER STAFF TRAINING APPLY AT CALVINGREST.ORG/ JOB	<u>JUNIOR CAMP</u> #21 JUNE 8-13 \$599/\$449/\$365	JUNIOR CAMP #22 JUNE 15-20 \$599*/\$449*/\$365* SEE BELOW FOR OPTIONS	JR. HI CAMP #32 JUNE 22-27 \$599/\$449/\$365	SR. HI WORK #41 JUNE 29-JULY 5 \$499/\$425/\$345
	<u>JR RANCH CAMP</u> #25R JUNE 8-13 \$724/\$574/\$49 0	JUNIOR OPTIONS	JR. HI RANCH CAMP #35R JUNE 22-27 \$724/\$574/\$490	MIDDLER CAMP #12 JUNE 29-JULY 2 \$399/\$349/\$269
	MIDDLER CAMP #11 JUNE 8-13 \$499/\$429/\$325	JR. HI CAMP #31 JUNE 15-20 \$599*/\$449*/\$365* SEE BELOW FOR OPTIONS		
	FAMILY CAMP #52F JUNE 14-15 \$369/\$299/\$215	JR. HI OPTIONS • UKULELE (+95) • SCIENCE (+125) • RANCH (+125)		
		EXPLORER CAMP #01 JUNE 20-22 \$299/\$225/\$199		
	EXPLORERS 1ST AND 2ND GRADERS WITH AN ADULT	MIDDLERS 2ND AND 3RD GRADERS FULL WEEK AND SHORT WEEK OPTIONS	JUNIORS 3RD-6TH GRADERS* PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CAMP IS GEARED FOR YOUNGER CAMPERS	
	JR. HIGH 6TH-8TH GRADERS	SR. HIGH 9TH-12TH GRADERS	FAMILY CAMP YOUR SMALL FAMILY GROUP	

Why Three Prices?

We offer tiered pricing to provide flexibility for your family's budget. The experience for the child is the same, but the lower tiers reflect subsidized funding by others. We want every child to be able to have the camp experience and feel this is a helpful way to do that. We also offer financial aid if needed.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY



One of the biggest gifts that we can give to our children and youth is an investment in their spiritual lives. Through small group Bible study, meeting new friends, living in cabins, sharing meals, worship, exploring nature, and play, summer church camp offers a unique opportunity for

learning and developing

healthy relationships with our

Creator and with each other.

Established in 1965, Kamp Kaleo is a place set aside to encounter God in nature and in community. The camping program is overseen by the Youth and Outdoor Ministries Committee (YOMC) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in

Nebraska and the

Nebraska Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The Youth and Outdoor Ministries

Committee mission statement is: **Inspired by God's Spirit**, we seek to create radically inclusive spaces and places for faith exploration.

You are invited to explore and experience your faith at Kamp Kaleo!

WELCOME ANTONEEA TO THE OFFICE



I was born in Omaha and raised in Palmer. After high school I moved to Maryland right outside Washington DC and lived there for two years. When I came back to Nebraska I moved to Monroe where I currently live with my husband, Casey, and our four children, Raeleigh, Kendalyn, Annorah, and Matthias. We also have a dog, Maya, and a bunny, Raven.

I spend most of my time outside of the office watching my kids participate in whichever activity is in season at the time whether it be softball, volleyball, basketball, or track. I also enjoy reading, gardening, puzzles, and air boating on the river.

I joined the Federated Church office as co-office administrator on January 6, 2025. After spending this past year at home with my son I am excited to be out of the house and working again. I am thrilled to be here and I look forward to meeting and getting to know everyone.

MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR

The Music Ministry at Federated Church has played an active role in my life for over 19 years now, and I have been honored to work with some great musicians, clergy and staff over that time. I feel a deep connection to Federated Church; Kristen and I were married here, our children grew up in this church, and my faith has grown dramatically as a result of being a member of this church community. I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity in 2005 to direct the Bell Choirs, and subsequently more blessed each time a new opportunity to expand the impact of the Music Ministry at Federated Church presented itself. Throughout these years those opportunities have been numerous, and have been received with an overwhelming attitude of grace, inclusivity, and love by all those involved, and by this extraordinary congregation.

I am beyond excited to be embarking on this "new" journey as the Director of Music Ministry at Federated. We are blessed with a great many individuals that are happily sharing their time and talent with us, and should be extremely grateful for that. Many thanks to everyone involved for their service and dedication to the Music Ministry at Federated. I anticipate many great things to come!

In Christ,

Stuart Gausman
Director of Music Ministry

JOYS & CONCERNS FOR JANUARY 2025

- Pray for Tim Warren who will be having
 Pray for the family of Jane heart surgery in January.
- Congratulations to Roland Augspurger as he retired from Behlen Manufacturing after 29 years of service.
- Pray for the family of Barb Jennings, she passed away on 01/08/2025. ◆ Chancel Flowers are provided by Memorial services will be on Monday, January 13th at Dubas Funeral Home in Osceola, NE.
- Pray for Tim Warren who is recovering from heart surgery.
- Pray for the family of Daniel Rathje, brother of Tim & Val Rathje. Daniel lived in Minneapolis and passed away.

- Ellefson. Jane passed away on January 20th. Celebration of Life will be in March.
- Pray for Doug Johnson, father of Stephanie Johnson. He is having a heart procedure at Lincoln Heart Institute.
- the Gausman family in honor of Reece Gausman.
- Pray for the family of Nancy Lyman, sister of Steve Heinisch. Nancy passed on January 3, 2025.

ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2025

Ushers/Liturgists & Attendance Report

Ushers: Bill Royer, Georgia Behlen, Anna Young, Stephanie Johnson, Theo Weeder

Liturgists: Wilma Arp, Brenda Sand, Alison Wagner, Katie Claus

Average Attendance:

Thursday Service: 18 Sunday Service: 83

Online: 252

Weekly Attendance: 353

HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY PRAYERS & UCC LIVING WATERS JANUARY 2025

- Homestead Presbytery: Alexandria The Alexandria Presbyterian Church asks for prayers for several of our members and their family members who are having health concerns right now. We share prayers of thanksgiving for the children we have in Sunday School who presented songs for us on Christmas eve. They are truly learning about what it means to have a relationship with Jesus, and to be God's children. Sadly, our PW has decided to fold, but that won't stop the church from carrying on some of the projects PW has traditionally done, such as funeral lunches and donation drives for organizations such as Blue Valley Community Action. Pray for guidance as we work to continue the outreach of the church that PW has done in the past. We pray for many opportunities for learning, fellowship and growth in 2025!
- Homestead Presbytery: Auburn Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Auburn congregation. May they continue to grow Hartington First Congregational UCC as a caring and nurturing Christian community, as well as individuals, focusing on prayer, Bible study and worship.
- Homestead Presbytery: Beatrice First Presbyterian Church in Beatrice is thankful for the support it has received for the Sweet Dreams Bed Ministry. During the past four years 59 children now have their own bed, new bedding, a blanket, and a book. Many individuals,

- including the Presbyterian Foundation support this ministry. As a member describes us, "We are small but mighty." We would appreciate prayers for several of our members that have experienced significant medical issues during the last year.
- Homestead Presbytery: Beatrice First Presbyterian Church in Beatrice is thankful for the support it has received for the Sweet Dreams Bed Ministry. During the past four years 59 children now have their own bed, new bedding, a blanket, and a book. Many individuals, including the Presbyterian Foundation support this ministry. As a member describes us, "We are small but mighty." We would appreciate prayers for several of our members that have experienced significant medical issues during the last year.

UCC Living Waters Association:

(Hartington, NE 68739)

Neligh First Congregational UCC (Neligh, NE 68756)

Newcastle Congregational UCC (Newcastle, NE 68757)

Norfolk Congregational UCC (Norfolk, NE 68701)

S.A.L.T. ADULT SUNDAY CLASS

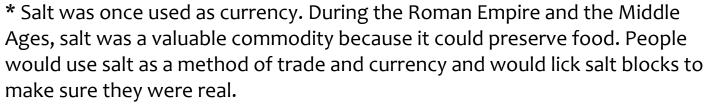


"Study and Learn Together" Who: All Adults!

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

Where: Education Center Room 4

Fun facts about salt:



- * 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

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, Membership & Growth, Nila Novotny

SOCIAL CONCERNS & MISSIONS COMMITTEE COLLECTIONS & EVENTS

In January, February and March 2025 we are collecting jars of peanut butter for the Methodist Backpack program. 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

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..." 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! As of January 30th, we have helped four people with fuel for a total of \$91.12 for 2025.

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

COLUMBUS RESCUE MISSION

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

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.

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, CENTER FOR 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!
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!







February Birthdays

Anita Kaspar, Beth Millard	02/01	Bruce Gartrell	02/18
Rogalyn Stevens, Alison Wagner	02/03	Mike Jeffrey	02/19
Cola Hahn	02/04	Pete Bennett	02/20
Robin Lehr	02/05	Marcia Dewald	02/21
Bob Griffith	02/08	Clete Arasmith	02/22
John Lohr	02/11	Cindee Wachter	02/25
Clark Grant	02/12	Mike Slizoski	02/26
Meredith Gaeth, Linda McPhail	02/13	Theo Weeder	02/27
Cindy Wunderlich	02/14	Bob Arp	02/28
Megan Graybill	02/17		

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.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

WHAT is the Souper Bowl of Caring and WHY it MATTERS!

It's an annual event where communities come together, inspired by the Super Bowl, to tackle hunger locally. For over three decades, the Souper Bowl of Caring has empowered individuals, organizations, and schools to raise food and funds for food banks and community-based charities.

As millions of people tune in to watch the Super Bowl, we're also tuning in to the needs of our neighbors. The Souper Bowl of Caring is about taking action to fight hunger at the local level, ensuring that no one has to go without the food they need.

Help us reach our goal of making a difference in our communities. Whether you're a sports fan or not, it's a chance to be part of something bigger. Let's make this year's Souper Bowl of Caring the most successful one yet!

Bring your donations today, we have a table set up in the Narthex.

Together, we can tackle hunger—one donation at a time!

Donations will be taken to the Platte County Food Pantry on February 9th, 2025

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.

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:45am SALT - Adult Sunday Class 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 3:00pm Spanish Worship Service 4:00pm Fed @ Fed	3 1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study 1:30pm OSA cooking & meeting 4:30pm Order of St. Andrew Meeting 7:00pm Scout troop 212 meeting	4 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Christian Education Committee Meeting 7:15pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting	Bible Study	6 12:30pm The Basket Cases Craft Group 5:00pm Special Olympics - every Thursday 6:30pm Worship Service	7 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service	8 8:30am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
9 8:45am SALT - Adult Sunday Class 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service - Souper Bowl of Caring 11:15am Youth Ministry Committee Meeting 3:00pm Spanish Worship Service	10 1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study 4:00pm Diamond Dancers 5:00pm Social Concerns & Missions Committee Meeting 5:00pm Special Olympics 6:30pm Membership & Growth Committee Meeting 7:00pm Scout troop 212 meeting	11 11:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Personnel Committee	4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Puppets 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13 5:00pm Special Olympics - every Thursday 6:30pm Worship Service	14 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service	15
16 8:45am SALT - Adult Sunday Class 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 3:00pm Spanish Worship Service	17 1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study 7:00pm Scout troop 212 meeting	18 12:30pm ALL Staff Meeting 1:00pm Private Mediation - Jeannie 2:30pm Caregiver Support Group 6:30pm Finance & Property Committee Meeting	4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5:00pm Special Olympics - every Thursday 6:30pm Worship Service	21 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service	22
23 8:45am SALT - Adult Sunday Class 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am ANNUAL MEETING 3:00pm Spanish Worship Service	24 1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study 4:00pm Diamond Dancers 5:00pm Special Olympics 7:00pm Scout troop 212 meeting	25 11:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Governing Council Meeting	26 4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Puppets 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5:00pm Special Olympics - every Thursday 6:30pm Worship Service	28 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service	

2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEETING DAYS/TIMES

In the table below you can find the 2025Chairperson(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	To be determined	
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!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income - January 2025				
General Funds (Checking):	\$59,914.50			
Total Donations & Contributions	\$59,914.50			
Designated Funds (Savings):	\$1,483.47			
Interest Earned	\$387.25			
Habitat for Humanity	\$50.00			
Ghana Partnership - UCC	\$5.00			
Building Maintenance	\$25.00			
Helping Hands	\$325.00			
Disaster Relief	\$1800.00			
Pickleball Donation	\$15.00			
Memorials:	\$1,045.00			
Undesignated Memorials	\$1,045.00			

Expenses - January 2025				
General Fund Expenses:	\$44,105.83			
Utilities	\$3,300.94			
Homestead Presbytery	\$2,788.38			
NE - Conference	\$2,392.92			
Living Waters Association	\$505.46			
Insurance Board	\$7,086.50			
Other Budgeted Expenses	\$30,031.63			
Designated Funds (Savings):	\$2,939.40			
FH table centerpieces	\$379.44			
Christmas Meal Expense	\$596.55			
Worship & Music	\$25.50			
Church Budget Envelopes	\$62.91			
Helping Hands	\$91.12			
Food Pantry	\$300.00			
Habitat for Humanity	\$50.00			
Medical Mission Team	\$1,291.50			
Operation Nairobi	\$2313.50			

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FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

February 2025; Volume 59; Issue 2

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.

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 Columbus NE, 68602