



FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

February 2026; Volume 60; Issue 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1 - Hymn Sing, Communion & Birthday Recognition

February 7 - Kitchen Clean Up

February 8 - Souper Bowl of Caring

February 14 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast

February 17 - Boy Scout Troop 212 Pancake Feed

February 18 - Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service

St. Luke's 6:30pm

**February 22 - Annual Congregational Meeting;
1st day of Lent; Easter flower ordering begins**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

[Please note: my article for February 2026 newsletter is also my annual report]

In retrospect, 2025 felt like a significant year. It represented a quarter of the way into the 21st century. On a more personal note, it was nine years since arriving at Federated Church (July 2016), six years since becoming weekly preacher (February 2019), and three years since being installed as solo pastor (April 2022).

Below are highlights from each month of 2025 (not including weekly worship services, Bible studies and staff meetings; monthly communion & hymn sing services, fellowship gatherings and committee/OSA/GC meetings; and quarterly services of wholeness & healing and all-staff meetings):

January:

- 1/6 We have new Co-Office Administrator, Antoneea Kriewald (to work alongside Kathy Zywiec)
- 1/26 Ordination and installation of new Governing Council elders (Bob Arp, Linda Wheatley, Marilyn Vrana & Terry Norris) and OSA deacons (Brenda Wardman, Joe Chin & Peg Meyer)

February:

- 2/1 Youth Ski Trip to Mt. Crescent, Iowa (annual opportunity to use my snowboarding gear)
- 2/9 Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser for Platte County Food Pantry
- 2/23 Annual Congregational Meeting after worship service
- 2/28 Progressive Dinner hosted by Knoepfle-Slivoski, Novotny and Grant families

March:

- 3/2 Commissioning of Operation Education Nairobi mission team
- 3/5 Ecumenical Ash Wednesday service at St. Luke's UCC
- 3/30 Children's Sunday Celebration with bounce houses and potluck
- 3/31-4/1 Staff Annual Reviews conducted by Personnel Committee

April:

- 4/18 Ecumenical Good Friday service at Grace Episcopal Church
- 4/20 Easter Sunday worship service with communion (good problem was that we ran out of communion elements but were able to utilize prepackaged communion)
- 4/27 Jazz Sunday with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra

May:

- 5/4 Confirmation Sunday with five confirmands (Alyse Wolfe, Brinlee Klevemann, Dylan Bradley, Elyena Perrin, and Hunter Yang)
- 5/11 Mother's Day Youth Flower Sale; Appreciation for Chancel Choir
- 5/18 Graduation Sunday with three graduates (Caleb Hast, Elizabeth Miller, and Taytum Miller); Appreciation for Education Hour Teachers and Bell Choir

June:

- 6/2-6/6 Vacation Bible Camp with First UMC & St. Luke' UCC, hosted by Federated Church
- 6/28 Annual Garage & Bake Sale with many volunteers and leadership of Linda Wheatley and Sue Mares

July:

- 7/27-7/31 Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Louisville, Kentucky: our group (Brenda Sand, Brinlee Klevemann, Eliot Yang, Hunter Yang, Meg Weeder and me) joined other youth and adults from Homestead Presbytery churches

August:

8/8-8/10 Columbus Days weekend with diaper changing station and float for night and afternoon parades

8/17 Blessing of Backpacks as children, youth and teachers went back to school

8/23 Governing Council retreat at the Benedictine Center in Schuyler

September:

9/7 Education Hour Kick-Off with potluck; commissioning of Education Hour teachers and students

9/14 Commissioning of acolytes, youth ushers and Chancel Choir

9/21 Bibles for 3 year olds and 3rd graders; commissioning of Bell Choir

October:

10/5 World Communion Sunday

10/19 Children's Sabbath (recognizing needs of children around the world)

10/30 Trunk or Treat in the new south parking lot

10/26 Fall Congregational Meeting

November:

11/2 Heritage Sunday for recognition of 50+ year members with potluck

11/6, 9 Veterans' Recognition during worship

11/20 Cookies 'N More fundraiser with many volunteers, cookie bakers, candy makers and leadership of Chris Warren & Katie Claus

11/23 Dedication of Electronic Organ with guest organist, Brent Shaw; Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. John's Shell Creek

December:

12/11 Ecumenical Blue Christmas service at Federated Church

12/14 Children's Christmas Pageant directed by Children's Ministry teachers (Ashli Porter, Megan McHugh and Nicole Miller)

12/24 Christmas Eve 5pm family service & 8pm traditional service

12/25 Community Christmas Dinner with many volunteers and leadership of Pat Engels, Kristen & Stuart Gausman

One of the great privileges of being a pastor is being welcomed into sacred moments of life. We celebrated couple infant baptisms in 2025: Hallie LeeAnn Luedtke (child of Wes & Connor, grandchild of Mark Lambert and great-grandchild of Ron & Charlotte Lambert) and Bennett Kay Kistner (child of Caleb & Skylar, grandchild of Terry & Renee Norris). Along with these celebrations of new life, there were celebrations of *completed* life. I am tremendously grateful for the opportunities to preside over the funeral/memorial and/or graveside services for these beloved children of God: Barb Jennings, Mildred Elliott (sister of late Chuck Elliott), Mavis Waldman, Rev. Jane Ellefson, Dylan Wall (son of Dianne Wall), Laura Porter, Gayle Mueller (while help Rev. Adam Lassen at St. Luke's UCC), Dan Wolfe (father of Drew & Kristi Wolfe), Rev. Dorsie Ivy, Larry Spence, Cec Bartholomew, and Terry Schultz.

Thank you Federated Church for allowing me to serve as your pastor,
Edward

CHILDREN & YOUTH FEBRUARY 2025

CALENDAR

2/8

Souper Bowl of Caring

2/15

Sunday FUNday

11 am - 2 pm

5th - 12th Grades

2/18

Ash Wednesday Service

6:30 pm @ St. Luke's

2/22

One Great Hour of Sharing

3/8

Fed@Fed

4 - 6 pm | 8th Grade & Up

3/15

Sunday FUNday - Egging!

11 am - 2 pm

5th - 12th Grades

3/29

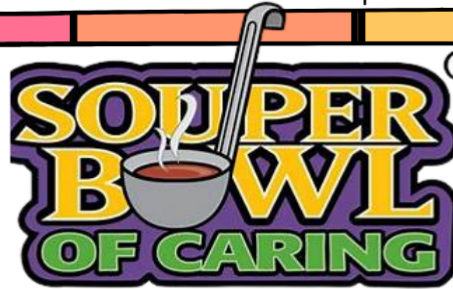
Palm/Passion Sunday

Kid's Bells During Worship

5th Sunday Potluck

BOOK SALE

Support our youth by purchasing books or donating books to our annual book sale currently taking place in the Narthex. Funds raised will benefit the youth summer mission trip.



The youth will be collecting non-perishable food items and money for the Platte County Food Pantry on February 8th as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring. All donations will benefit the Platte County Food Pantry.

SUNDAY FUNDAY

Youth, grades 5th and up, are invited to Sunday FUNday on February 15th following worship. We will have lunch and then do a fun activity (possibly axe throwing). We usually finish up around 2 pm. Detail to follow via email.

SUNDAY FUNDAY CRESCENT HILL

Our annual ski/snowboard trip to Crescent Hill took place on Saturday, January 31st. It was a cold day, but there was lots of snow and all the runs were open. It was a great day!



MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR

As we approach the season of Lent, I invite you to consider how music can enrich our spiritual journey. Lent is traditionally a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal, as we prepare our hearts for the remembrance of Christ's ministry, death, and resurrection. In our busy lives, it's easy to rush through the days without pausing to examine our inner selves or the way we live out our faith. Music offers us a unique opportunity to slow down, to take time, and to engage with our spiritual lives in a deeper way.

During Lent, the music in our services will reflect the somber yet hopeful nature of the season. We'll explore hymns and anthems that speak to themes of sacrifice, humility, and redemption. The melodies and harmonies can help us to meditate on the suffering of Christ and to consider our own shortcomings. But even in the midst of this solemnity, we'll also hear strains of hope and anticipation, reminding us of the promise of Easter and the new life that awaits us.

I encourage you to be present with the music, allowing it to guide you into a deeper understanding of yourself and your relationship with God. May this Lenten season be a time of profound reflection and spiritual growth for us all, as we journey together toward the joyous celebration of Easter.

In faith and music,

Stuart Gausman

Director of Music Ministry

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello everyone, I'm Bob Arp, and I have the joy (and slight terror) of serving as your new council president. I'm excited to step into this role, learn as I go, and work alongside all of you to support the life and ministry of our church. I don't have all the answers, but I do have plenty of enthusiasm, a willingness to listen, and a good sense of humor—which I suspect will come in handy.

I grew up the eldest of five on a farm just outside Sutton, Nebraska, where my family was very involved in our Federated Church (a combined UCC and Methodist congregation). It was there that I first experienced the fellowship, acceptance, opportunities, and yes, even the politics of "my church."

Please don't hesitate to reach out with ideas, questions, or gentle reminders about what I've forgotten. As a school administrator, I always asked my staff, that when they brought me a concern, they also brought a reasonable solution. For the health of our church, I ask the same of you.

I am blessed to have council vice-president Steve Heinisch serving beside me. And if our first council meeting of the 2026 year was any indication, you have elected some very dedicated church members to serve. I'm grateful for your trust and am looking forward to what we'll do together.

God bless,

Bob

HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY/UCC LIVING WATERS PRAYERS

◆ Homestead Presbytery: Dunbar

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Dunbar 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: Fairbury

The Fairbury Church asks for your prayers for our ministries. Our Confirmation Youth began a project they call Mission Possible a few years ago, with a simple but powerful mission... to purchase and give away reliable vehicles to local families in need. These young men and women have worked tirelessly to raise funds and, this month, will be giving away their fourth vehicle. Please pray for their continued generosity, wisdom, and impact.

Please also pray for our efforts to reduce food insecurity in our community through support of our local food bank and our ongoing volunteer partnership with the Lincoln Food Bank distribution each month. Finally, and very importantly, please pray for Connect. Connect. is a movement rooted in the example of the early church... sharing life together, being present, and building genuine relationships without pressure, programs, or agendas. We trust that faith grows best through authentic human connection, and that as we truly get to know our neighbors, the Spirit will open doors for God's love to be shared in surprising and powerful ways.

We also ask for prayers for all the churches of our presbytery, and for our brothers and sisters throughout the whole body of Christ. As we look toward 2026, we pray that God would draw us closer to one another and to the communities in which we are planted... that we would take the time to truly know our neighbors, remembering that love begins with presence, listening, and shared life.

◆ Homestead Presbytery: Fremont

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Fremont 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: Gresham

The Presbyterian Church of Gresham asks that you pray for our aging congregation and ask God for blessings on our pastor as he leads us in spreading God's love in our community. Bless our outreach program that provides grants for those in our community who are in need of basic living expenses. We pray that our 'Sandals or Shoes' informal 5th Sunday worship services would provide an opportunity for non-church goers in our community to share in a time of fellowship with our congregation. We ask God to help us grow in our love and faithfulness to Him.

UCC Living Waters Association:

- ◆ Hartington First Congregational UCC (Hartington, NE 68739)
- ◆ Neligh First Congregational UCC (Neligh, NE 68756)
- ◆ Newcastle Congregational UCC (Newcastle, NE 68757)
- ◆ Norfolk First Congregational UCC (Norfolk, NE 68701)

JANUARY 2026 ATTENDANCE

Ushers/Liturgists & Attendance Report

Ushers: Bill Royer, Stephanie Johnson

Liturgists: Jackie Marker, Wayne McCormick, Wilma Arp, Stuart Gausman

Average Attendance :

In-Person Thursday Service: 16

In-Person Sunday Service: 84

Online Average Weekly Views: 230

MEMORIAL THANK YOU FOR

JANUARY 2026

Thank you to all who honored Linda McPhail at her service on January 10, 2026 and/or gave a memorial in her name.

JOYS & CONCERNS FOR JANUARY 2026

- ◆ Pray for the family of Patricia Blocker. Patricia passed away on December 16, Lake Havasu, AZ.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Christi Grabowski, mother of Karen Grabowski. Christi passed away on January 4.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Stephaine Johnson. Her brother, Todd, and sister-in-law, Kathy were in a car accident January 14.
- ◆ Pray for the Nicaragua Medical Mission Team's work and safe return home.
- ◆ Chancel flowers are provided by the Grabowski family in memory of Christi Grabowski.
- ◆ Chancel flowers are provided by the McPhail family on memory of Linda McPhail.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Rodney Mihulka uncle to Alison Wagner. Rodney passed January 14 in Bremerton, WA.
- ◆ Pray for Sheila Arasmith. Sheila was recently diagnosed with late stage lymphoma and will be starting chemotherapy soon.
- ◆ Congratulations on the birth of Elizabeth Josephina Rohaus, born on January 18, to Ricky & Heather Rohaus. Grandparents are John & Debbie Curry.
- ◆ Congratulations on the birth of Troy James Zumwalt, born on January 16, to Tyler Zumwalt & Jenna Mares. Grandparents are Larry & Sue Mares.
- ◆ Pray for Marv Zoucha who is having knee replacement surgery on February 3.

OPERATION EDUCATION NAIROBI FUNDRAISERS

A huge thank you to everyone who made our Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser for Operation Education Nairobi a success! The money received will be used for educational scholarships for bright children of poverty in Nairobi, Kenya. There is no middleman--everything we make goes DIRECTLY to the scholarships. We appreciate all of you so much!

Julie Graham and Katie Claus



Easter Cookie Decorating Class With Mari Melcher

Wednesday, March 25

6:30-8:00

Federated Church Fellowship Hall
2704 15th St, Columbus

\$30.00

Fundraiser for
Operation Education Nairobi
Reserve your spot **NOW!**

NICARAGUA MEDICAL MISSION

Global Passions Ministries 2026: I had the opportunity to share with some truly amazing people- doctors, nurses, pharmacy techs, pastors, cooks, construction crews, friends and leaders- all committed to service bringing together knowledge, humanity, faith and purpose in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua. Although we were unable to carry-out any medical mission surgeries, we were able to reconnect with our friends- our Nicaragua families and teams. We spent a morning with the children at the Feeding Station, and we were able to fund a few children with much needed medical equipment. Dr. Tellez, one of the Nicaragua team surgeons, shared his thoughts on our mission: “Our vocation is not just about what we do, but where we do it from: from the heart, from faith, and from a genuine

desire to serve others. Thank you for every word of encouragement, for every teaching shared, for every prayer and for the mutual respect that was always present. Global Passion is not just a group, it is a community that inspires to live with purpose, excellence and human sensitivity.”

- Julie Graham



California & Nebraska Team:
Valsily Mariano, Peggy O'Neil,
Julie Graham, Marissa Indgjer,
R.J. Smith, Tamra Boetcher,
Wyatt Stickels
(Not pictured Matt Stickels)



Children at the Feeding Station



Kurt Barcel from Barcel Rustic Design created these three beautiful furniture pieces from the old organ and spalted wood. They can be found in the Narthex and Choir Room.



Thank you to the Organ Task Force and the Worship & Music Committee for making this happen.

Boy Scout Troop 212 Annual Pancake Feed



**Buttermilk Pancakes (made from scratch),
Also includes Sausages and Beverage.**

Tuesday

February 17th, 2026

4:30 - 7:30 pm

**Federated Church
2704 15th Street**

Free will offering

Suggested Donation - Adults \$ 8.00 Kids (6-10) \$ 5.00



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 #3

Funeral Committee 3 Co-Chairs: Katie Claus, Barb & Paul Sanderson, Rick Porter
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 2026.

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

AV ROOM HELP NEEDED

Have you ever wondered how you can help extend our worship beyond the walls of our church?
Would you like to help those who are unable to attend our services in person? If so, then you
may enjoy joining our A/V team — no “technical skills” needed! And you don't need to commit
to every Sunday. Please contact Pastor Edward or Tim Rathje for more 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!

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



2026 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.

PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX if you can 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.



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!

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

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!>



Rodknee



Toby



Millie



| | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|------|----------------|
| 2/01 | Anita Kaspar, Beth Millard | 2/17 | Megan Graybill |
| 2/03 | Rogalyn Stevens, Alison Wagner | 2/18 | Bruce Gartrell |
| 2/04 | Cola Hahn | 2/19 | Mike Jeffrey |
| 2/05 | Robin Lehr | 2/20 | Pete Bennett |
| 2/08 | Bob Griffith | 2/21 | Marcia Dewald |
| 2/11 | John Lohr | 2/22 | Clete Arasmith |
| 2/12 | Clark Grant | 2/25 | Cindee Wachter |
| 2/13 | Meredith Gaeth | 2/26 | Mike Slizoski |
| 2/14 | Cindy Wunderlich | 2/27 | Theo Weeder |
| 2/16 | George Sturgill | 2/28 | Bob Arp |

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

| Governing Council - Federated Church Elders 2026 | | | Federated Church Clergy and Staff | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| Bob Arp, <i>President</i> Steve Heinisch, <i>Vice President</i> | | | Rev. Edward Yang, Ph.D. <i>Pastor/Head of Staff</i> edward@federatedcolumbus.or | Stuart Gausman <i>Director of Music Ministry</i> |
| <u>Class of 2026</u> | <u>Class of 2027</u> | <u>Class of 2028</u> | Brenda Sand | Lee Augustin |
| Nila Novotny | Terry Norris | Marcia Grant | <i>Christian Education Director</i> brenda@federatedcolumbus.or | <i>Pianist</i> |
| Max Porter | Linda Wheatley | Antonio Garcia | Kathy Zywiec | Amanda Weeder |
| John Kiser | Marilyn Vrana | Placido Jorge | <i>Co-office Administrator, Social Media Coordinator</i> | <i>Accompanist</i> |
| Order of St. Andrew - Federated Church Deacons | | | Antoneea Kriewald | Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia |
| Tammi Gotschall | Peg Meyer | Doris Augspurger | <i>Co-office Administrator</i> | <i>El Buen Pastor Fellowship</i> |
| Steve McClure | Joe Chin | Lori Rine | Mark Baumann | Deb Gaeth |
| Jesse Abrego | Brenda Sand | Georgia Behlen | <i>Custodian</i> | Anjel Garcia Lopez |
| Andree & Terry Hoeman, Co-Historians | | | | <i>Nursery Attendants</i> |
| Bill Royer, Head Usher | | | | |

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 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

FEDERATED CHURCH
2704 15th STREET
PO Box 564
COLUMBUS, NE 68602-0564

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Columbus, NE
Permit No. 60

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

February 2026; Volume 60; Issue 2

DECODING THE LITURGICAL COLOR SCHEME

Green 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 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

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.