



FEDERATED NEWSLETTER



PASTOR'S REPORT

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe we're in 2023 (although I'm writing this newsletter article while still in 2022). I am glad to have made it past the somewhat chaotic schedule of having Christmas on a Sunday. Sadly, our Ecumenical Blue Christmas worship service was cancelled (again) due to bad weather. Thankfully, we had our Christmas Eve services; I learned that some churches across the country had to cancel or held online only services due to weather/COVID. Our 5pm Young at Heart service was organized by our Christian Education Director, Brenda Sand, and included several impromptu volunteers. Then we had our Communion, Choir and Candlelight service at 8pm with many talented musicians. About 12 hours later, we had our Sunday morning Lessons and Carols service. I would like to thank the countless volunteers and staff who made these services possible: actors, musicians, sound booth technicians, ushers, candlelighters, communion servers/preparers/cleaners, and liturgists.

We also had a wonderful group of volunteers for this year's Christmas Community Meal. Each meal included turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, yams, stuffing, corn, cranberry sauce, dinner roll and dessert (pie/cookies). While we missed the camaraderie of having people dine in our fellowship hall, this year's take-out/delivery meals made the event much more manageable. We served about 180 meals and many people shared their appreciation to Federated Church for this service to our community. After learning about what is involved in the Christmas Meal, I would like to share my appreciation to the following: Chris Dixon for organizing this event for many years and agreeing to lead us this year, Barb Olson for buying ingredients/supplies and dropping off turkeys, Creston Fertilizer for donating turkeys/ham, Wunderlich's Catering for cooking turkeys and donating stuffing & gravy, Bob Arp for storing and delivering said items, this year's cooks/servers (Jesse & Marilyn Abrego, Rene Bellum, Nell Burnham, Mike Fleming, Julie Graham, Terry & Andree Hoeman, Jeanne Johnson, Clark & Robin Lehr, Jean Oeltjen, Brenda & Toby Sand, Beth & Jim Sharpe, Mark & Meg Weeder, Sunnie Yang, and Marv Zoucha; sorry if I missed anyone), and meal deliverers (Bob & Wilma Arp, Julie Graham, Tom & Toni Gumm, John McClure, Paul & Barb Sanderson and Ben & Marilyn Vrana). Leftovers were dropped off at Columbus Rescue Mission.

With this year's Christmas Community Meal and several worship services, it feels like we had a giant feast. My tummy is full, as well as my heart, in gratitude to God for many blessings.

Grace and peace,
Edward Yang

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!

Federated’s Helping Hands funds helps individuals and families in our community with things like food, fuel, utilities and rent.

In October, we helped one individual with fuel, to help them get to a job interview.

Total donations directed to the Helping Hands -Non-Members fund in 2022: \$1,678.00

Total donations directed to the Helping Hands - Members fund in 2022: \$1,625.00

Total given to those in need from Jan. 1 through Dec. 27, 2022: \$1,744.54

¹ Excerpt from ‘In Ministry Together; Federated Church -- A Centennial History; July 2, 1914 - July 2, 2014’; pg. 38-39

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men’s Fellowship Group will be meeting
Saturday, January 14th at 8:30am
in the Fellowship Hall.
Men of all ages welcome!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MEAL SUCCESS!

*“The Community Christmas Dinner was started in 1974 by Rev. Lee & Barbara Hicks who brought the idea to Columbus. Chris & Laurretta Dixson and Charles and Lorena Rogers and their families provided the help for that initial dinner and have been an integral part of it for the past forty years.” **

**Excerpt from ‘In Ministry Together: Federated Church -- A Centennial History’*



The First Christmas – A Lighthearted Retelling by Aidan Spencer



Joseph, Wise Woman, Mary
Elizabeth Miller, Emma McHugh,
Ellie Porter



Lost Wisemen
Hadley McHugh, Hudson &
Cooper Luedtke



Narrator, Emperor, Emperor's Asst.
Brielle Wolfe, Otis Young,
Tessa Miller



Angel Gabriel
Elyena Perrin



Innkeeper
Hunter Yang



Shepherds
Meg Weeder, Brinlee Kelvemann,
Eliot Yang



Children's Bell Choir
Cooper Luedtke, Hadley McHugh, Cara Porter, Meridith Gaeth, Annabelle Kuncel,
Myla Kuncel, Anna Young, Hudson Luedtke, Theo Weeder
Directed by Stuart Gausman

JOYS & CONCERNS FOR DECEMBER 2022

* Pray for the family of Velva Smejkal, sister of Charlotte & Ron Lambert's who passed away on Nov. 24th, 2022.

* Prayers for Roberta Saalfeld and her family as she settles into her new residence. Please contact the office if you would like her contact information.

* Pray for Kristi Wilch, sister of Alison Wagner, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer. Surgery will be in the new year after chemotherapy treatment is completed.

* Chancel Flowers were given by Gail Wurdeman & Sara Aerni in loving memory of their parents, Irene & Harold Wurdeman. Happy Birthday Mom!

* Pray for Michael Palik, brother of Annette Griffith, who has developed a cough with blood while receiving cancer treatment. Michael and his family reside in Arkansas.

* Pray for the family of Donna Taylor, Jean & Bill Royer's sister, who passed away December 22, 2022. A memorial service will be held for the family at a later date.

* Congratulations to Logan Carol Bennett, granddaughter of Pete & Carol Bennett, who graduated Dec. 17th from UNL with a Bachelor of Science in Education and Human Services with distinction. Logan will continue her studies in speech pathology.

* Thank you to Tammi Gotschall and Jeanne Johnson for all their time decorating the Sanctuary and Narthex with the Christmas poinsettias.

* **Homestead Presbytery: First Presbyterian of Lyons**

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Lyons 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: Nebraska City**

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Nebraska City 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: Norfolk**

Like many of our churches, First PC, Norfolk has struggled to fully recover from the effects of the pandemic, especially in terms of attendance. But we are optimistic about the prospects for the coming year. First PC continues a long-time mission interest in Malawi, supporting 3 different missions in the country: Norfolk Schools, Malawi, a private Christian school founded by one of our members, Joe Mtika; the ministry of Tyler and Rochelle Holms, who are building a capability for Malawians to drill their own water wells; and a sister church relationship with the Kaphuta Church in Mzimba. We are also involved in a number of local and ecumenical ministries that include youth. Prayers for all our youth ministries and the general health of the church would be very much welcome.

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

* **UCC Living Waters Association: Columbus St. Luke's UCC (Columbus, NE 68601)**

* **UCC Living Waters Association: Creighton Faith United (Creighton, NE 68729)**

H.I.S. PUPPETEERS



HEY, Puppeteers and Puppeteer wanna-bes!!!

Let me know if you are interested.

juliegraham@frontier.com 531-218-4374

RESCUE MISSION MEALS 2023

Remember to sign up for 2023 with Katie Claus.

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.



FUNERAL COMMITTEE 2

Co Chairs: Steve & Marcia Dewald, Larry & Sue Mares, Linda Wheatley, Barb Olson

Members: Dana Augspurger, Diane Barbarglia, Nell Burnham, John & Deb Curry, JoAnn Dowd, Mimi Ernst, Stephen Fecht, Rita Mae Fuhr, Antonio & Trinidad Garcia, Jeff & Tammi Gotschall, Tom & Toni Gumm, Gene & Cola Hahn, Doug Hann, Whit Hanner, Cindy Hoadley, Terry & Andree Hoeman, Mike & Ann Jeffrey, Leroy & Brenda Kallweit, Ron & Charlotte Lambert, Herman & Berlydean Lauterbach, John Lohr, Janet Lyon, John McClure, Kevin & Mary Meyer, Byron & Peg Meyer, Hailey Rathje, Diane Scheffler, Ruth Schlobohm, Donna Shreve, Clark & Lori Smith, Gordon & Joan Specht, Joe & Marilyn Srb, George & Barb Sturgill, Kim Swierczek, Paula & Rebecca Timperley, Margaret Trew, Dave Veach, Riel & Lyle Whitney, Doug & Randi Williams, Drew & Kristi Wolfe, and Gail Wurdeman

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, paper towels, and men's deodorant.



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, Sewing supplies, Medical supplies, Over-the-counter medications, Gallon-sized or Quart-sized zipping bags, Travel-sized soaps, shampoos/conditioners & lotions, pill bottles are accepted without labels

For more information, go to: missionheartworld.weebly.com

KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL



Keep Columbus Beautiful is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Their mission is to provide education and programs on litter reduction and recycling for the beautification of our community!

To find out where and what you can recycle, go to <https://kcbne.com>

MEALS ON WHEELS



Make sure to sign up for 2023 Meals on Wheels Schedule!
Please contact Kathy Leischner,
402-276-7415, kathy.leischner@yahoo.com
if you can deliver for approximately one hour each day
during Federated's Scheduled week each month!

OPERATION EDUCATION NAIROBI



Operation Education Nairobi is now a
Local Benevolence and has been added to
the Federated Church Budget for 2023.
Watch bulletins and newsletters for
upcoming fundraisers and events!



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: Clumping Cat Litter, Clorox, Pine Sol, Paper Towels, Old
Linens, Stamps, Copy Paper, Dog & Cat Toys, Collars & Leashes, Wet Cat & Dog
Food, Kitten Food and Milk Replacer,
Gift Cards from Grocery, Hardware and Farm Stores.

They have a number of animals available, including the ones pictured below.



FINANCE AT A GLANCE

Contributions - November 2022	
General Funds (Checking):	\$24,487.98
Contributions	\$23,763.47
Rent & Damage Deposit	\$650.00
Misc. Income (Cookies 'N More)	\$50.00
Misc. Income (online donation to Building Mntc.)	\$24.51
Designated Funds (Savings):	\$14,824.88
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$75.00
Ghana Partnership	\$25.00
Poinsettias	\$210.00
Youth Fund	\$120.00
Building Maintenance	\$7,024.51
Landscaping	\$608.37
2023 Pre-pledge	\$6,800.00
Education Hour	\$12.00
Music Department	\$50.00
Memorials:	\$145.00
Undesignated	\$45.00
Piano/Organ	\$100.00
Interest Income:	\$295.56
Savings	\$295.56

Expenses - November 2022	
General Fund Expenses:	\$29,924.27
Utilities	\$1,293.99
Other Budgeted Expenses	\$28,078.99
Misc. Expense Vanco fees	\$15.30
Misc. Expense (online donation to Bld. Mntc.)	\$24.51
Misc. Expense (Cookies 'N More)	\$50.00
Misc. Expense (shredder from Garage Sale funds)	\$311.48
Damage Deposit Reimbursed	\$150.00
Designated Funds (Savings):	\$6,175.76
Landscaping Fund	\$445.67
Multimedia (Sound System upgrade)	\$1,428.65
Family Choice (Sound System upgrade)	\$1,761.83
Pastor's Discretion Fund	\$45.14
Music Dept.	\$55.00
Helping Hands - Non-Members	\$425.68
General Savings - Book Scanner \$638.79 Pulpit Supply \$125.00 Financial Review \$1,250.00	\$2,013.79
Memorial Fund:	\$0.00



Jeff Gotschall, Dorsie Ivy	1/1	Jason Kallweit, Rod Wachter	1/17
Chris Dixon	1/5	John Claus	1/18
Holly Schultz	1/6	Bennett Hast, Kelli Scheffler	1/20
Annabelle Kuncel, Max Porter	1/7	Megan McHugh	1/22
Nila Novotny, Harold Stevens	1/10	Jill Miller, Marilyn Petersen, Judy Trautwein	1/24
Denise Kallweit	1/11	Mimi Ernst	1/26
Bob Mead	1/12	Marc Graybill, Ann Jeffrey	1/28
Carol Bennett	1/14	Macyn Norris	1/29
Celine Perrin, Daryl Smith	1/15	Randi Williams	1/31

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

USHERS - DECEMBER 2022

Ushers: Jesse & Marilyn Abrego, Mike & Sharyn Beard, Rod & Georgia Behlen,
Brian & Heidi Klevemann, John Lohr, Steve McClure, Rick Porter,
Bill Royer and Alison Wagner

Youth Ushers: Brinlee Klevemann, Ellie Porter and Otis Young

2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEETING DAYS/TIMES

In the table below you can find the 2023 Chairperson 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	2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Endowment Committee	Donna Augspurger	Will meet as necessary
Finance & Property Committee	Terry Norris and Mark Weeder	3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Membership & Church Growth Committee	Jesse Abrego	2nd Monday of the month, 6:30pm
Nominating Committee	Julie Graham	<i>To be determined</i>
Order of St. Andrew	Laura Porter	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 Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm
Stewardship Committee	To Be Determined	4th Thursday of the month, 5:30pm
Worship & Music Committee	To Be Determined	1st Tuesday of the month, 7:15pm
Youth Ministry Committee	Brenda Sand	2nd Sunday of the month, 11:00am
Foundation	To Be Determined	Quarterly
Governing Council	Julie Graham, President Alison Wagner, 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

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

DECODING THE LITURGICAL COLOR SCHEME

White = Holiness We use white any time we are celebrating days that emphasize the divinity of Christ: Christmas, Easter, Baptism of the Lord, Christ the King, and so on. For the most part, if you find white paraments in the sanctuary, you are worshiping on a day that has great significance to our understanding of Jesus as God. Also, since white has come to symbolize holiness, it is also often used for the celebration of both sacraments (baptism and communion).

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 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.