



# FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming Events

- ♦ January 1: New Year's Day; Office Closed
- ♦ January 7: Baptism of the Lord; Ed Hour Resumes
  - ♦ January 21: Per Capita Sunday
- ♦ January 28: Ordination & Installation of New Officers & Deacons



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.



## CHRISTMAS MEAL 2023

We all know how wonderful it feels to help those who are in need. This year, on Christmas Day, over 200 meals were boxed up for deliveries and take out!

### Volunteers with cooking and food prep:

Wunderlich's Catering, Mike & Sharyn Beard, Jessie Abrego, Renee Bellum, Terry & Andree Hoeman, Clark & Robin Lehr, Stephanie Johnson, Marv & Barb Zoucha, Joe Chin, Donna Augspurger, Steve & Sue McClure, Mark Weeder, Julie Graham, Jeff & Sue Overturf, Jean Oltjean, Marilyn Vrana and Family, Edward, Sunnie & Eliot Yang, Barb Olson & Jeanne Johnson

### Drivers:

John & Linda McPhail, Warren Family, Larry Oneill, Tom & Toni Gumm, Carl & Sandi Seckel, Marv Zoucha, Bill & Jean Oltjen, Mike & Sharyn Bear, Vrana Family

### Donations:

Wunderlich's Catering, Sand Family, Mares Family, Simon House, Walmart, Beard Family, Hy-Vee, Super Saver, Bob & Wilma Arp, Kathy Leischner, & Creston Fertilizer.

Many thanks to Barb Olson and Edward & Sunnie Yang who did most of the organizing for this event! We will need a group or committee to step up next year to spearhead this event! Please contact the church office with suggestions or nominations.









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*Christmas Pageant*

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On Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, Federated's children and youth presented the Christmas Pageant, "The Night the Animals Sang" by Katherine Babb. The all-ages production told the Christmas Story from the perspective of the animals who were magically able to speak and sing on the night of Jesus' birth. The children also played the bells and sang (with the help of the congregation) two Christmas hymns "We Three Kings" and "Away in the Manger."

Thank you to Education Hour teachers Nicole Miller, Megan McHugh and Ashli Porter and Children's Bell Choir Director Stuart Gausman for all your work in getting the kids ready for the pageant.



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*Youth Christmas Party*

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The Federated Youth annual Christmas party was held on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> following worship. Highlights of the party included pizza, a grab bag gift exchange, and Christmas themed games.

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*Youth Ski/Snowboard Trip*

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Weather permitting, the January Youth Sunday Funday will be a ski/snowboard trip to Mount Crescent in Iowa. This event is for students in 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Please keep an eye out for an email with details about this event.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE 2024 GOVERNING COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A HAPPY 2024 TO FEDERATED CHURCH!!

As we begin a New Year, let us realize there is new hope and excitement in store for us. There are new additions to the Governing Council, new members on the committees, new renovations to the Education Center and new adventures ahead.

Possibilities are all around us. "Seek and You Will Find", that Federated has love and support for each other as a Family of Faith. We look forward to a productive year, that will strengthen "Your" faithful commitment to God, and Federated Church.

Blessings,

Alison Wagner, 2024 Church President

## SOCIAL CONCERNS & MISSIONS COMMITTEE COLLECTIONS & EVENTS

"The Son of Man did **not** come to be served, but to serve," Matthew 20 : 28

Social Concerns and Missions Committee

## 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 NOVEMBER 2023

Ushers : Georgia Behlen, Rod Behlen, Bill Royer, Alison Wagner

Youth Ushers: Hudson Luedtke

Liturgists : Beth Sharpe, Nicole Miller, Brenda Sand, Marilyn Abrego, Bob Arp

**Average Attendance** :

Thursday Service - 15

Sunday Service - 99 (includes Christmas services)

Online - 119

Weekly Attendance - 144

## JOYS & CONCERNS FOR DECEMBER 2023

◆ Pray for the family of Carol Marmo, mother-in-law of Wayne (& Jill) McCormick. Carol passed away on November 25th. Funeral services are planned to be held in Sioux City.

◆ Pray for Calvin Wagner who has been placed on hospice care.

◆ Chancel Flowers are given by Gail Wurdeman in loving memory of her parents, Irene & Harold Wurdeman. Happy Birthday Mom!

◆ Pray for the family of Marlyn Wurdeman. Marlyn passed away on November 29th. Funeral services were at Federated Church on Wednesday, December 6th.

◆ Pray for Gary Robertson who was recently diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.

◆ Congratulations to Kaitlynn Meyer, daughter of Byron & Peg Meyer, who graduated from University of Nebraska at Kearney on Saturday, December 16th. She is currently a student teacher at Hastings High School.

◆ Thank you to John Lohr & Chrissy Ford for all their time decorating the Sanctuary and Narthex with the Christmas poinsettias.

◆ Pray for the family of Bill Irby, who passed away on December 18th. Memorial services was held on Saturday, December 23rd.

◆ Pray for Brian Marker, son of Steve & Jackie Marker, who is recovering from surgery and strokes.

◆ Pray for the family of Gary Robertson, who passed away on Dec. 24th. A funeral service will be held at Federated Church on January 4th.

◆ Pray for the family of Bernie Moran, husband to Louise Moran and father to Kristen & Stuart Gausman, who passed away on Dec. 24th. Funeral services were at St. Isadore's on Dec. 29th.

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Panama**

Panama Presbyterian craves your prayers for continued energy and creativity in service to our Lord! For even more Spirit-presence, more outreach, an even deeper sense of connection in community. We also continue to hold up the ministries of our Presbytery sisters and brothers!

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Pawnee City**

The Pawnee City Presbyterian Church is in need of prayers for our future. We need to move on after all the hurt feelings and misunderstandings that have gone on in our church the past two years and begin planning for our future. Pray for forgiving hearts and open minds.

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Primrose**

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Primrose 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: Schuyler**

We are a congregation of 50 members with an average Sunday attendance of 30 members per Sunday. We are currently enjoying the opportunity to serve God. Through the Mission of Operation Christmas Child, we have a congregational goal of putting together 275 and a community goal of 500 Shoeboxes to be shipped around the world letting all children know the love of Christ. We do request prayers for our aging congregation with the lu bug going around. As well as our ongoing work in merging with two other local congregations, St John's Lutheran and the United Methodist Church. All three Churches are planning on bringing to a congregational vote in January a motion to enter into the merger. We are currently worshipping together once a month with an attendance of 70 plus, the excitement of worshipping together has captivated the entire community and beyond. All three congregations have expressed a majority support of the merger with the First Presbyterian Church leading the way with 100 percent in favor. As part of the merger we are exploring what we can do together as we seek to explore the possibilities of expanding our Mission projects with the added helping hands and resources of all three congregations. Please keep us in your prayers as we seek to build the community of Faith in Schuyler NE and our Presbytery. Thank You!

◆ **UCC Living Waters Association:**

- Center Congregational UCC, 68724
- Coleridge Pilgrim Congregational UCC, 68727
- Columbus St. Luke's UCC, 68601
- Creighton Faith United Creighton. 68729

## 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!



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

In 2023, Federated assisted 9 people with rent,  
44 families with fuel, 44 families with food  
and a bus ticket for a veteran who wanted to be with his family.

This assistance has totaled \$2,658.52

We received donations totaling \$3,700.00.

<sup>1</sup> Excerpt from 'In Ministry Together; Federated Church - A Centennial History; July 2, 1914 - 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

## RESCUE MISSION MEALS FOR 2024

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



## 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



Inokia



Flick



Col.  
Mustard



## 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.



## RESCUE MISSION MEALS 2023

Thank you for filling in all the 2023 slots for the Rescue Mission meals!  
Rescue Mission Meals take place on the second Friday of the month.

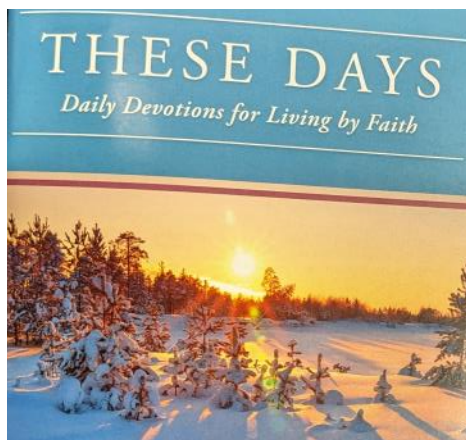


The move of the Columbus Rescue Mission from 1471 25th Avenue to its current  
location of 1112 15th Street has been completed. We are still in need of financial  
donations to complete the work that must be done to finish painting, cleaning, etc.  
at the new facility as we will be opening the women's rooms and the family rooms in  
the very near future. If God puts it on your heart to make a donation or to volunteer  
with the cleaning or painting, please contact the mission at 402-563-1096  
and ask for Karen or Nathan.

# Happy Birthday

Jeff Gotschall, Dorsie Ivy	1/1	Marie Bruegger	1/16
Chris Dixon, Kevin Grisham, Cliff Jensen	1/5	Jason Kallweit, Rod Wachter	1/17
Holly Schultz	1/6	John Claus	1/18
Annabelle Bender, Max Porter	1/7	Bennett Curtis-Hast, Kelli Scheffler	1/20
Michael Irby	1/9	Sondra Burnett, 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.



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



## SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2023 FINANCIALS

Contributions - September 2023	
<b>General Funds (Checking):</b>	<b>\$28,554.28</b>
Contributions	\$28,554.28
<b>Designated Funds (Savings):</b>	<b>\$14,294.35</b>
Interest Earned	\$530.35
Future Year	\$13,700.00
Youth Fund	\$49.00
Neighbors in Need	\$5.00
Helping Hands - Non-Members	\$5.00
Education Hour	\$5.00
<b>Memorials:</b>	<b>\$240.00</b>
Undesignated	\$240.00

Income	\$43,088.63
Expenses	-\$37,272.70
Transfer for bills	\$10,179.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,995.26</b>

Expenses - September 2023	
<b>General Fund Expenses:</b>	<b>\$27,093.37</b>
Utilities	\$2,180.38
Other Budgeted Expenses	\$24,912.99
<b>Designated Funds (Savings):</b>	<b>\$9,184.78</b>
Youth Fund	\$134.88
Building Mntc - Ed Center Project	\$7,094.8
Landscaping	\$5.00
Disaster Relief - Hawai'i Wildfires	\$1,850.00
Helping Hands - Non-Members	\$80.10
Projects & Missions (Garage Sale - Extra Garbage Pickup)	\$20.00
<b>Memorial Fund:</b>	<b>\$994.55</b>
Undesignated - Kitchen Supplies	\$551.55
Piano/Organ - Tuning Pianos	\$443.00

Contributions - October 2023	
<b>General Funds (Checking):</b>	<b>\$22,511.19</b>
Contributions	\$21,660.84
Rent	\$850.35
<b>Designated Funds (Savings):</b>	<b>\$8,443.50</b>
Interest Earned	\$546.50
Ghana	\$550.00
Youth Fund - Pumpkin Patch	\$232.00
Landscaping	\$200.00
Future Year - Pre-pledged	\$6,615.00
Operation Education	\$50.00
Helping Hands - Non-Members	\$200.00
Education Hour	\$50.00
<b>Memorials:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Undesignated	\$0.00

Income	\$30,954.69
Expenses	-\$45,748.60
Transfer for bills	\$15,797.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,003.97</b>

Expenses - October 2023	
<b>General Fund Expenses:</b>	<b>\$29,950.72</b>
Utilities	\$2,039.03
Other Budgeted Expenses	\$27,765.35
Deposits Returned	\$100.00
Analysis Fee (to be reversed)	\$46.34
<b>Designated Funds (Savings):</b>	<b>\$15, 371.32</b>
Youth Fund - Pumpkin Patch	\$252.59
Building Mntc - Ed Center Project	\$9,798.00
Landscaping	\$400.00
Helping Hands - Non-Members	\$200.75
Projects & Missions (Garage Sale - Distribution)	\$4,719.98
<b>Memorial Fund:</b>	<b>\$426.56</b>
Undesignated - Coffee for Café La Fed	\$401.20
Undesignated - Analysis Fee (to be reversed)	\$25.36

FEDERATED CHURCH  
2704 15<sup>th</sup> STREET  
PO BOX 564  
COLUMBUS, NE, 68602-0564

## JANUARY 2024 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). 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.

**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.