



# FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

*January 2025; Volume 59; Issue 1*

## *Upcoming Events*

**January 11 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast**

**January 9 & 12 - Baptism of the Lord**

**January 19 - T-shirt/Sweatshirt Sale begins**

**January 26 - Ordination and Installation  
of New Officers**

**Jan. 30 & Feb. 2 - Hymn Sing, Communion**

## FROM PASTOR'S DESK

We're now in 2025 (surprisingly, quarter of the way through this century). It was a bit chaotic during the final weeks of 2024. There were job interviews for finding our next office staff. Thankfully, we had Kathy Zywiec filling in full-time during the transition. And now we have a new staff member, Antoneea Kriewald (more info will be shared in next month's newsletter). Kathy and Antoneea are Co-Office Administrators, both working part-time.

Decembers can seem overwhelming with preparations for Advent and Christmas services. Sometimes it feels like there is way too much to do. Yet, by the grace of God, we get through it. I preached and led worship (including communion) at New Zion Presbyterian Church in Clarkson on Dec. 1st. We hosted the Ecumenical Blue Christmas service on Dec. 12th. Then we had a wonderful time with the Children's Christmas Pageant on Dec. 15th. For the 4th Sunday of Advent, we had a "Lessons and Laughter" service, which was a different spin on our usual Lessons and Carols service (several people commented on their delight with having balloons passed around in the sanctuary). Christmas Eve services were held at 5pm (Family Service) and 8pm (Traditional Service). I would like to thank everyone who helped to make these services meaningful and most are still available online.

On Christmas Day, my wife and I helped out with our annual Community Christmas Dinner. It was wonderful to see all the volunteers hard at work and appreciative attendees during the meal. I want to especially thank the Co-Chairs for the dinner: Stuart, Kristen & Pat (more info on pages 4-5).

Happy New Year, Edward

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

### *Christmas Pageant*

The annual children's Christmas Pageant, "Campfire Carols," was held on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.

The kids did a wonderful job sharing the story of Christ's birth through Christmas Carols sung around the campfire.

Thanks to the children for sharing their talents and smiles with us!

Also, thanks to all of the teachers and leaders who made this pageant possible.





# CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

## *Fed @ Fed*

In November the high school students met in the kitchen to make Runzas.

The Runzas were so delicious that I forgot to take pictures!!!

Next month's Fed at Fed will take place on January 12<sup>th</sup> and will feature Italian food.

## *Sunday Funday*

Federated Youth had their annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. We ate pizza and wings, enjoyed hot chocolate, played minute to win it games and exchanged gifts. It was a fun afternoon!

Our next Funday will be a ski trip to Mt. Crescent, if the weather cooperates.

I will text details as soon as we get enough snow!



## CHRISTMAS DINNER 2024

We would like to thank everyone that supported the 50th Community Christmas Dinner. Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, green bean casserole, cranberries, fruit salad, rolls and pumpkin pie were put together by 30 volunteers to serve 200 delivery and take out meals, and with excitement to bring back dine in, we served close to 100. The food was delicious and portions generous, with plenty to go around.

Through free will donations made at the dinner and contributions made to the office, the \$1200.00 total cost was covered. Special thanks to Wunderlich's Catering for roasting turkeys and providing gravy and stuffing, Super Saver for gift card donation and Creston Fertilizer for donation of turkeys.

It is heartwarming to know that we are in a community that looks forward to the fellowship Federated Church provides Christmas morning. We appreciate the guidance we received this year and have started planning for Christmas 2025!

Stuart and Kristen Gausman and Pat Engel, Chairpersons





## CHRISTMAS DINNER 2024





## JOYS & CONCERNS FOR DECEMBER 2024

- ♦ Chancel Flowers are given by Gail Wurdeman in loving memory of her parents, Irene & Harold Wurdeman. Happy Birthday Mom!
- ♦ The family of Margaret Nyffeler is requesting a card shower honoring her birthday, December 21st. Please send cards to Margaret Nyffeler, 3000 - 39th Ave., # 300, Columbus, NE 68601.
- ♦ Congratulations to Parker & Jamie Hughes, along with big sister Madelyn, who welcomed son/brother Luke Zackery, born November 11th. Grandparents are Reuben & Denise Hughes. Great Grandmother is Donna Engquist.
- ♦ Pray for the family of Darlene (Prokopec) Volovsek who passed away on November 27th. Darlene was grandmother to Aaron & Carrie Prokopec and great-grandmother to Coden, Ryland and Bronwyn.
- ♦ Chancel Flowers are given “In thankfulness and praise to God as we, Fred & Renee Bellum celebrate our 70th wedding anniversary on Dec. 19 and Loren & Michelle Bellum Goedeken’s 45th anniversary on Dec. 29.”
- ♦ Congratulations to Wes & Connor Luedtke, along with big brothers, Cooper, Hudson and Madden, who welcome daughter/sister Hallie, born on December 2nd.
- ♦ Prayers for Marilyn Abrego, she recovers from surgery on Thursday, December 12th.
- ♦ Pray for the family of Larry Zoucha who passed away on Sunday, December 8th. Larry was brother to Marv & Barb Zoucha.
- ♦ Pray for the family of Kenneth Croson, brother-in-law of Doug & Randi Williams. Kenneth passed away on December 18th.
- ♦ Pray for the family of Nathan Johnson, grandson to Shirley Johnson. Nathan passed away on November 1st. Funeral services will be held on Monday, December 23 at 2 pm at St. Luke’s UCC in Columbus.
- ♦ Congratulations to Roland Augspurger as he retires from Behlen Manufacturing after 29 years of service.



## JOYS & CONCERNS FOR DECEMBER 2024

### ♦ **Homestead Presbytery: Wahoo First**

We have just had our 50th Anniversary celebration for the founding of the church and enjoyed putting together a meaningful worship service that included former installed and interim pastors. For some time, First Presbyterian Church of Wahoo has offered a joint VBS with the Methodist Church in Wahoo. This year we have expanded that joint ministry and will be having a joint Children's Christmas Program, Blue Christmas service, and worship together on the 5th Sundays of the month. We seek ways to impact the community in and around Wahoo in ways that share the love and grace offered through Jesus Christ.

### ♦ **Homestead Presbytery: Wakefield**

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Wakefield 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: FPC Wayne**

The First Presbyterian Church of Wayne hosts and manages the Wayne Food Pantry. Please pray that resources, donations of food and funds, will match or exceed the need as we prepare for Christmas baskets. The Wayne Food Pantry is

experiencing increasing numbers of people coming for assistance. FPC Wayne is a Matthew 25 church working to address poverty in our community through supporting our local food pantry. Wherever you live, support the local food pantry to aid those in need in your community.

### ♦ **Homestead Presbytery: Wymore**

We continue to maintain our yoke with Steele City, including joint services and activities. We enjoy opportunities of outreach in our local community, with a recent Halloween game-and-treat event in town. The coming of Advent and Christmas always lifts our congregation in the beauty of decorations, music, and worship. Pray that we rise to the task of loving our neighbors and offering the hand of Christ.

### ♦ **Homestead Presbytery: FPC York**

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the York congregation. May they continue to grow as a caring and nurturing Christian community, as well as individuals, focusing on prayer, Bible study and worship.

## JOYS & CONCERNS FOR DECEMBER 2024

- ♦ UCC Living Waters Association:  
*Coleridge Pilgrim Congregational UCC (Coleridge, NE 68727)*
- ♦ UCC Living Waters Association:  
*Columbus Federated UCC (Columbus, NE 68601)*
- ♦ UCC Living Waters Association:  
*St. Luke's UCC (Columbus, NE 68601)*
- ♦ UCC Living Waters Association:  
*Creighton Faith United Creighton (UMC/UCC) (Creighton, NE 68729)*
- ♦ UCC Living Waters Association:  
*Fremont First Congregational UCC (Fremont, NE 68025)*

## Ushers/Liturgists & Attendance Report December 2024

**Ushers:** Georgia Behlen, Mark Hegi, Bill Royer

**Liturgists:** Beatriz Garcia Lopez, Julie Graham, Katie Claus, Nicole Miller

### **Average Attendance:**

Thursday Service: 20      Sunday Service: 100      Online: 191

Weekly Attendance: 311

### **Christmas Eve Attendance:**

Family Service: 137      Traditional Service: 110 (in-person) & 271 (online views)

## 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



“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:



\* Salt was once used as currency. During the Roman Empire and the Middle Ages, salt was a valuable commodity because it could preserve food. People would use salt as a method of trade and currency and would lick salt blocks to make sure they were real.

\* 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 October, November and December we are collecting NEW mittens, scarves, gloves, socks and hats for the Angel Tree. 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...”<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!

For the year of 2024, we have received donations equaling \$1,890.00!

As of September 30th, we have helped sixteen people with fuel, one member with food, one person with rental assistance, one member with an anxiety vest, and donated \$350 to the Brian Marker Benefit that was held in January, for a total of \$828.92.



<sup>1</sup>Excerpt 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, 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 [www.https://www.pawsandclawsne.org](https://www.pawsandclawsne.org)!



# January Birthdays

Jeff Gotschall, Dorsie Ivy	01/01	Marie Bruegger, Karen Paben	01/16
Cliff Jensen, Chris Dixon	01/05	Jason Kallweit, Rod Wachter	01/17
Holly Schultz	01/06	John Claus	01/18
Max Porter	01/07	Bennett Curtis-Hast, Kelli Scheffler	01/20
Michael Irby	01/09	Sondra Burnett, Megan McHugh	01/22
Nila Novotny, Harold Stevens	01/10	Mack Irby, Jill Miller, Marilyn Petersen, Judy Trautwein	01/24
Denise Kallweit	01/11	Mimi Ernst	01/26
Bob Mead	01/12	Mike Beard	01/27
Makenna Griffith	01/13	Marc Graybill, Ann Jeffrey	01/28
Carol Bennett	01/14	Macyn Norris	01/29
Celine Perrin, Daryl Smith	01/15	Randi Williams	01/31

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

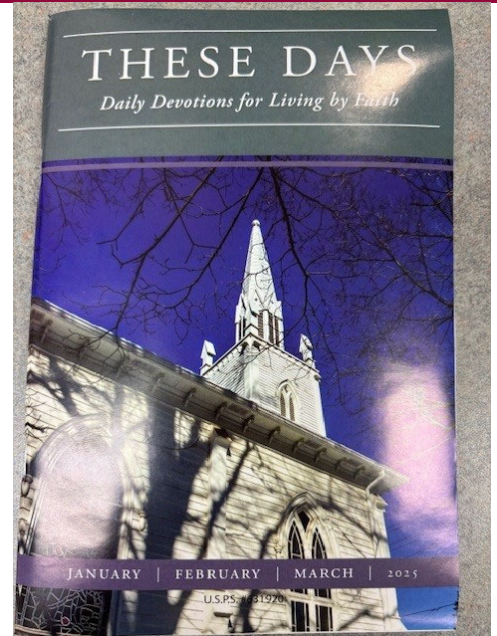


## FUNERAL COMMITTEE 2

Co-Chairs: Marcia & Steve Dewald, Sue & Larry Mares,  
Linda & Guy Wheatley, Barb Olson  
Committee Members will be contacted by the Co-Chairs.

## DAILY DEVOTIONALS

These Days for the 1st quarter 2025  
(January, February, March)  
is available in the  
Narthex and office.



## 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.

### National Human Trafficking Hotline:

1-888-373-7888 or text INFO to 233733

Center for Survivors - Columbus NE 1-402-564-2155

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Hotline

call or text 988 (only 3 digits)

# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 12:30pm The Basket Cases Craft Group 5:00pm Special Olympics - every Thursday 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>3</b> 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:45am SALT - Adult Sunday Class 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 4:00pm Fed @ Fed	<b>6</b> 4:30pm Order of St. Andrew Meeting 5:00pm SPECIAL OLYMPICS 7:00pm Scout troop 212 meeting	<b>7</b> 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Christian Education Committee Meeting 7:15pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:30pm Membership & Growth Committee Meeting	<b>8</b> 4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study 6:30pm Puppeteers pizza party 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 9:00am Sprigs & Sprouts Garden Club 5:00pm Special Olympics - every Thursday 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>10</b> 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service	<b>11</b> 8:30am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
<b>12</b> 8:45am SALT - Adult Sunday Class 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:15am Youth Ministry Committee Meeting 3:00pm Spanish Worship Service 4:00pm FED @ Fed	<b>13</b> 1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study 4:00pm Diamond Dancers 5:00pm Social Concerns & Missions Committee Meeting 7:00pm Scout troop 212 meeting	<b>14</b> 11:30am Staff Meeting	<b>15</b> 4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Puppets 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 5:00pm Special Olympics - every Thursday 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>17</b> 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:45am SALT - Adult Sunday Class 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 3:00pm Spanish Worship Service	<b>20</b> 8:00am Kathy out all day 1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study 5:00pm SPECIAL OLYMPICS 7:00pm Scout troop 212 meeting	<b>21</b> 11:30am Staff Meeting 2:30pm Caregiver Support Group 6:00pm GC Agenda Meeting 6:30pm Finance & Property Committee Meeting 6:30pm Personnel Committee	<b>22</b> 4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study 6:30pm Puppets 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 5:00pm Special Olympics - every Thursday 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>24</b> 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:45am SALT - Adult Sunday Class 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service - Ordination & Installation of New Officers 3:00pm Spanish Worship Service	<b>27</b> 1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study 4:00pm Diamond Dancers 7:00pm Scout troop 212 meeting	<b>28</b> 11:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Governing Council Meeting	<b>29</b> 4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Puppets 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 5:00pm Special Olympics - every Thursday 6:30pm Worship Service	<b>31</b> 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service	

## 2025 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	John Lohr	Will meet as necessary
Finance & Property Committee	Terry Norris	3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Membership & Growth Committee	Nila Novotny	2nd Monday of the month, 6:30pm
Nominating Committee	Roland Augspurger	<i>To be determined</i>
Order of St. Andrew	Peg Meyer	1st Monday of the month, 4:30pm
Personnel Committee	Tim Rathje	3rd 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!



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

## JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

*January 2025; Volume 59; Issue 1*

### 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 & 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 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 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.