



FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

January 2026; Volume 60; Issue 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 1 - Happy New Year!
JANUARY 1 & 4 - Hymn Sing, Communion;
Adult SALT Hour starts back up
JANUARY 10 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast
JANUARY 11 - Baptism of the Lord;
Education Hour for children and youth
starts back up
JANUARY 18 - Ordination & Installation of
New Officers



CHRISTMAS DINNER 2025



CHRISTMAS DINNER REPORT

We would like to thank everyone that supported the 51st Community Christmas Dinner. A traditional turkey dinner was put together by over 30 volunteers to serve 260 delivery and take out meals, and 156 meals were served at the church for dine in. That's over 100 more meals than last year! The food was delicious and portions generous, with plenty to go around, including meals and a donation to the rescue mission. Through free will donations made at the dinner and contributions made to the office, the total cost was covered. We are overwhelmed by the love and support of our Federated family, and are blessed to live in a community that looks forward to the fellowship Federated Church provides Christmas morning. We appreciate the support we received this year and have started planning for Christmas 2026!

Stuart and Kristen Gausman and Pat Engel, Chairpersons

MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT - STUART GAUSMAN

As the echoes of Christmas carols fade into the New Year, I find myself reflecting on the beautiful music that filled our hearts and sanctuary this Christmas Eve. Our two services were truly special, weaving together the talents of so many. From the joyful ringing of the handbell quartet to the majestic sounds of the brass ensemble, the instrumental carols that greeted everyone in the narthex, and our Chancel Choir, each musical offering enhanced our celebration of Christ's birth. And, of course, the congregation's voices singing Silent Night, combined with the soft glow of candlelight, created moments of profound peace and reflection.

Looking back, this past year has been filled with musical blessings at Federated Church. Week after week, our talented musicians have shared their gifts, enriching our worship and lifting our spirits. Whether through song, instrumental music, or handbells, their dedication and passion are a testament to the vibrant music ministry we cherish.

I am deeply grateful for each and every musician who contributes their time and talent to our church. Your commitment makes our services more meaningful and our community stronger. As we look ahead to the New Year, I am excited to continue making music together, praising God and inspiring one another. Thank you for sharing your gifts and making Federated Church a place where music truly shines!

FINDING CHRISTMAS

UNDER THE SEA



Our annual Children's Christmas pageant took place on 12/14. The kids did a great job sharing an "under the sea" version of the Nativity. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make this production possible!



Thank you to our youth – Tessa Miller, Meg Weeder, Eliot Yang & Hunter Yang – who served as Advent Candle Lighters on the third Sunday of Advent.



Sunday FUNday

The youth annual Christmas Party included lunch at Pizza Ranch, a gift exchange and The Christmas Wheel of Fortune! It was all fun and games unless you got GRINCHED or Bean Boozled!

Art Sunday

During Ed Hour on December 21st, our children and youth made clay Christmas Ornaments.



CHRISTMAS 2025

HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY/UCC LIVING WATERS PRAYERS DECEMBER 2025

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Cedar Bluffs**

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Cedar Bluffs 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: Clarkson New Zion**

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Clarkson 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: Columbus Federated**

Federated Church in Columbus, Nebraska has many exciting things going on. We just finished a successful 2026 pledge drive. Our 50+ year members were honored on Heritage Sunday, November 2nd. We honored our Veterans on Sunday, November 9th with special announcement during service. Annual Cookies 'N More fundraiser was on November 20th to support global missions. Operation Education Nairobi (nonprofit started by church members) held a fundraiser to provide scholarships for students in Kenya. Our Christmas season is full of fun and faith. We have several special services: Ecumenical Blue Christmas, Children's Christmas Pageant, Lessons and Carols, couple Christmas Eve services and annual Community Christmas Dinner on December 25th. We ask for prayers that our members continue in their dedication to God's vital work in our community and the world.

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Craig**

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

UCC Living Waters Association:

- ◆ Creighton Faith United Creighton UMC/UCC (Creighton, NE 68729)
- ◆ Crofton UCC (Crofton, NE 68730)
- ◆ Elgin Park Congregational UCC (Elgin, NE 68636)
- ◆ Fremont First Congregational UCC (Fremont, NE 68025)

DECEMBER 2025 ATTENDANCE

Ushers/Liturgists & Attendance Report

Ushers: Bill Royer, Stephanie Johnson, Georgia Behlen, Jan Pickrel

Liturgists: Sue McClure, Marilyn Abrego, Julie Graham, Beth Sharpe, Alison Wagner

Average Attendance :

In-Person Thursday Service: 21

In-Person Sunday Service: 98

Online Average Weekly Views: 208

Christmas Eve Attendance :

5 pm: 160

8 pm: 195

MEMORIAL THANK YOU FOR DECEMBER 2025

Thank you to all who honored Terry Schultz at his funeral service on December 12, 2025 and gave a memorial in his name.

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

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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

COOKIES 'N MORE 2025 REPORT

COOKIES & MORE 2025

Donations and Sale of Cookies and Pies

\$3478.00

Quilt Raffle

277.00

Total Amount

\$3755.00

Dispersed: Nairobi Inc \$1500.00

Columbus Medical Missions \$1500.00

Helping Hands \$ 755.00

Total Amount Dispersed \$3755.00

Zero Balance

Seed money (\$500.)

Thank you,

Rogalyn Stevens

JOYS & CONCERNS FOR DECEMBER 2025

- ◆ Pray for the family of Terry Schultz. Terry passed away December 6.
- ◆ Pray for Karen Whitney she is having hip surgery on December 31.
- ◆ Pray for Daryl Smith who had a minor stroke and is fighting a blood infection.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Linda McPhail. Linda passed away on December 19th. Funeral will be at Federated Church on January 10, 2026.
- ◆ Pray for Karen Whitney as she will be having hip surgery on December 31.
- ◆ Congratulations on the birth of Theodore (Theo) Terrance Scheffler, born on December 17, 2025, to Aaron & Sami Scheffler & big sister, Amelia Janie of Wayne, NE. Grandparents are Clint & Kelli Scheffler.
- ◆ Congratulations to Kristi Wolfe, she recently earned her Masters Degree in Social Work.

GARAGE/BAKE 2025 REPORT

2025 Garage Sale Final Report

The Federated Church garage sale has three goals: service, fellowship, stewardship.

Service: the garage sale provides low cost, quality goods to the community, and money raised is returned to the community through donations to organizations that serve people

Fellowship: Many members of our church family work together to make the garage sale happen. Through working together new acquaintances are made, old acquaintances are renewed and relationships are built.

Stewardship: We are called to be stewards of God's earth. By finding new uses for things we no longer need, we are "keeping it out of the landfill."

The 2025 Federated Church Garage and Bake Sale was held June 28. Many, many members of our church family pitched in to make this happen. The amount of money taken in was a little over \$10,600. Donations were made as follows

Community Housing - \$1000 was given to Habitat for Humanity

Hunger- \$1000 was given to the Food Pantry

\$2000 was given to A Place at the Table (the organization that provides a backpack of food to go home for the weekend with students who are experiencing food insecurity at home and depend on school lunches for a major part of their diet.

Crisis Intervention

\$1000 was given to the Center for Survivors

\$1000 was given to the Rescue Mission designated for women's housing

\$1000 was given to the Federated Helping Hands fund

General Welfare (crisis prevention)

\$1000 was given to Youth and Families for Christ

Our Church

\$1000 was designated for Christmas gifts for staff and new Christmas decorations

We have kept some money in reserve with the intention of being able to help in the event of an unexpected, unpredictable situation.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success. If you donated, helped sort and price, brought baked goods, worked the sale, shopped at the sale, helped with clean up, put up a yard sign, or told your friends and neighbors about the sale, you helped. And your help is so appreciated.

Thank you, Linda Wheatley

Poinsettias Given By...

BOB & WILMA ARP

IN MEMORY OF DELORES ARP AND ANNABELLE WARNER, LOUISE STOPAK AND ROMA KUDERA

DONNA AUGSPURGER

IN MEMORY OF ROGER AUGSPURGER AND IN HONOR OF OUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, AND
GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

GEORGIA BEHLEN

IN MEMORY OF ROD, JACOB & BENJAMIN BEHLEN, HUGH & DOROTHY GROSZ

FRED & RENEE BELLUM

IN MEMORY OF LOREN, AND APPRECIATION TO MICHELLE & FAMILY, MARK & FAMILY AND JON
& FAMILY

CHRIS & GARY BOCK, TRAVIS & JOLENE BOCK & FAMILY, AND TIFFANY SMITH & FAMILY

IN MEMORY OF ELEANOR LOSHBAUGH

JOHN & KATIE CLAUS

IN MEMORY OF HENRY & JESSIE CLAUS AND MAURICE & ETHYL SUHUMSKIE

JOHN & DEB CURRY & FAMILY,

IN MEMORY OF OUR SON J.R. CURRY

DAVE & RAE FULTON

IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS, RAYMOND & ELVENA HENRY AND WILSON & GERTRUDE FULTON

ANTONIO GARCIA & FAMILY

IN HONOR OF ALL CHURCHES

GAUSMAN FAMILY

IN MEMORY OF REECE GAUSMAN AND BERNARD MORAN

STEVE HEINISCH

IN MEMORY OF ROSIE AND HER PARENTS

JERRY & CYNDI JARECKE

IN MEMORY OF JIM UHLMANN

SHARON KUNCL

IN MEMORY OF LARRY KUNCL, MY BROTHER WAYNE, HIS WIFE SANDY, THEIR CHILDREN
REVA AND SHARON LEE GERDES

JOHN & KATHLEEN LOHR

IN MEMORY OF BUS & LORETTA LOHR

JACKIE MARKER

IN MEMORY OF MY PARENTS; MARLYN & JOAN WURDEMAN AND MY SISTER SHERI BOSTIC

STEVE & SUE MCCLURE

IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS; GERALD & RUTH, H.G.& DORIS CRECELIUS

JOHN MCPHAIL

IN MEMORY OF LINDA MCPHAIL AND OUR PARENTS, DR. DONALD & LILLIAN JACKSON,
AND JACK & GAY MCPHAIL

MILLER FAMILY

IN MEMORY OF DR. LEON MILLER, HAROLD & MILDRED BUSCH (FROM SHERRY MILLER AND
FAMILY), GLADYS & JOE MILLER, IN HONOR OF SHERRY MILLER

JENNIFER MUHLE

IN MEMORY OF MIKE SENIOR AND IN HONOR OF KATHY SENIOR

JOHN & NILA NOVOTNY

IN MEMORY OF JACK & DOROTHY MOORE AND GENE & MARIE NOVOTNY

ERVIN & KAREN PABEN

IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS

KEVIN, LISA, CELINE & ELYENA PERRIN

IN MEMORY OF KAY PFEIFFER AND JOYCE PERRIN

JOHN & MARILYN PETERSEN

IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS, NORMAN & DOROTHY PETERSEN

AND DENTON & TWYLLA CRANDELL

NEAL PETERSEN

IN MEMORY OF MADONNA PETERSEN

JAN PICKREL

IN MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND, ROGER PICKREL

IN HONOR OF OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDSON

RICK PORTER

IN MEMORY OF LAURA PORTER, PAT & ROSEAN PORTER AND RICHARD & BENITA LAMBERT

TIM & VAL RATHJE

IN MEMORY OF JOHN HOFKAMP & CURTIS RATHJE

JIM & ELIZABETH SHARPE

IN MEMORY OF WILBER & ESTHER SHARPE, LOREN & NORMA BACHMAN

HAROLD & ROGALYN STEVENS

IN MEMORY OF CEC BARTHOLOMEW AND OUR PARENTS, ROY & VIRGINIA RUSSELL AND BURT &
MAZIE STEVENS

MARY NORTON, PAIGE NORTON & KIMBERLY SWIERCZEK

IN MEMORY OF IVAN & SPENCER NORTON AND THERESA SCHMID

SHERRY THOMPSON

IN MEMORY OF FRANK THOMPSON

MARILYN VRANA

IN MEMORY OF BEN VRANA

ROD & CINDEE WACHTER

IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS, M.D. & SANDEE LINDE AND WILLIS & VERONA WACHTER

ALISON WAGNER

IN MEMORY OF CALVIN WAGNER AND OUR PARENTS

DIANE WALL

IN MEMORY OF DYLAN WALL

TIM & CHRIS WARREN

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTOPHER AND JANET HOER, EDWARD AND IMOGENE STAROSCIK

IN HONOR OF DAN AND RUTH WARREN

EDWARD & SUNNIE YANG

IN MEMORY OF REV. JANE ELLEFSON & REV. DORSIE IVY

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 - STARTING BACK UP 01/11/2026

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 #2

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.

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

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

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!

¹ Excerpt 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.

Platte County Food Pantry
Columbus, Nebraska



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!

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/>!



Ollie



Miss Smudge



Spock



Jeff Gotschall	1/01	Marie Brugger	1/16
Chris Dixon, Cliff Jensen	1/05	Jason Kallweit, Rod Wachter	1/17
Holly Schultz	1/06	John Claus	1/18
Max Porter, Annabelle Bender	1/07	Bennett Curtis-Hast, Kelli Scheffler	1/20
Michael Irby	1/09	Sondra Burnett, Megan McHugh	1/22
Nila Novotny, Harold Stevens	1/10	Mack Irby, Jill Miller, Marilyn Petersen, Judy Trautwein	1/24
Denise Kallweit	1/11	Mimi Ernst	1/26
Bob Mead	1/12	Mike Beard	1/27
Makenna Griffith	1/13	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 the birthday list, call the church office so we can update our records.

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

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Columbus, NE
Permit No. 60

Joie Taylor
325 SW 7th Street
Stuart, IA 50250

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

January 2026; Volume 60; Issue 1

DECODING THE LITURGICAL COLOR SCHEME

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.

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 based on the season.