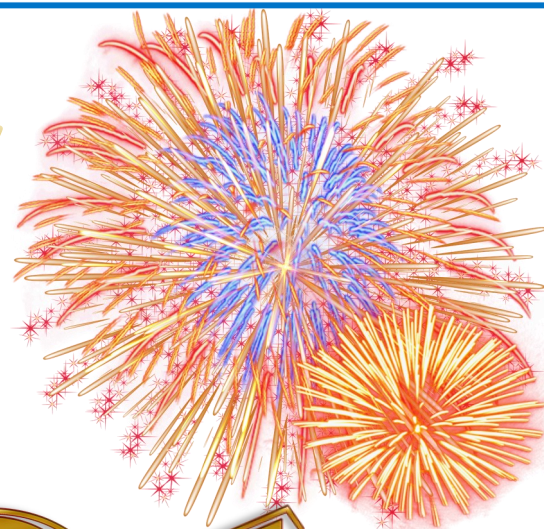




# FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

Happy New  
Year!



2021

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 2021 Newsletter deadline will be January 20th, 2021.

January  
2021  
Volume 55  
Issue 1

## From the Pastor's Desk

Happy New Year! While I am writing this in the waning days of 2020, you will likely be reading this in 2021. We hope for better days with the new year. Some in our community have received the first dose of the coronavirus vaccine, which is wonderful news.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, I have wondered what we as a church can do. One thing we have tried is to offer a sense of normalcy with our weekly worship services. Of course, we have followed guidelines for social distancing and abstaining from practices deemed risky, such as handshaking and singing during services. Yet, there has been a gnawing feeling that something more could be done.



Looking ahead to the new year, I have been preparing for some of our usual activities for January. We are scheduled to have the Ordination and Installation of New Officers (elders and OSA deacons) on January 7<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. The service will not be the same as usual. My favorite part of that service is the laying on of hands where all those who have been ordained as deacon, elder or pastor are invited forward. We will figure out a safe way of doing something similar.

Another activity we usually have in the first month of the year is start of our All Church Book Read. There are many good books that we could read together, but there is once again that gnawing sense of something missing. Maybe more than any book, we need to read the Book. Did you know the word "Bible" is simply Latin for "Book"?

Maybe you have read the entire Bible already, which is great. Reading the Bible again will reap more benefits. Saint Augustine stated, "The Bible is shallow enough for a child not to drown, yet deep enough for an elephant to swim." While multiple readings of the Bible will help us grow in knowledge, we will never reach the full depths of God's Word.

Maybe you tried to read the entire Bible but did not finish. To be honest, it is not easy to read the Bible from cover to cover. Much of it will not make sense to a 21<sup>st</sup> century American audience. That is where a resource like *The Year of the Bible* by James E. Davison comes in handy. It provides guidance on what to look for while reading the Bible. Description of Davison's book is included below.

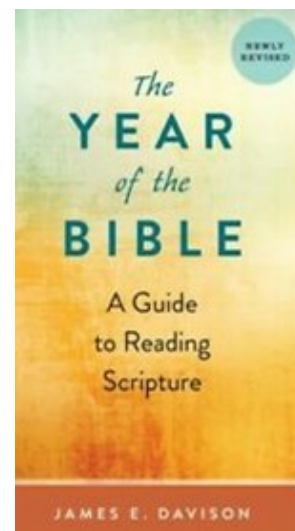
Maybe you have not attempted to read the entire Bible. There are numerous reasons for not trying, and some are highlighted in the "Top 10 Reasons Why People Don't Read the Bible" by Gibson Largent, included in this newsletter. Hopefully the list (along with the "Top Ten Reasons to Sign Up for *The Year of the Bible*") will show you there are plenty of good reasons for reading the entire Bible.

The plan is for us as Federated Church to begin reading the Bible together on February 1, 2021. The month of January will be utilized to provide more information (like "Which translation of the Bible should I read?"), get commitments, order copies of *The Year of the Bible*, and make other preparations.

I hope you will seriously consider signing up and reading the Bible in the new year.

Grace and peace,  
Edward

"This popular, comprehensive Bible-reading program for individuals and group study offers a sweeping introduction to biblical themes and concepts. Complete with a detailed reading schedule for every day of one year, *The Year of the Bible* leads participants to a better understanding of Scripture and a greater sense of community within the church. Newcomers to Scripture and longtime Bible readers alike will find their Christian faith enhanced and feel a sense of accomplishment from reading the Bible in its entirety. *The Year of the Bible* is suitable for participants in a congregational program or anyone who wants a well-designed program to read through Scripture in the course of one year." (from back cover)



## Top 10 Reasons Why People Don't Read the Bible Regularly:

By Gibson Largent

10. I don't have time (we always make time for what's most important to us)
9. I don't know where to start (having a good Bible reading plan makes all the difference)
8. Reading makes me sleepy (this is true for many people - try switching times and locations - pace if you need to!)
7. The Bible is too confusing (it can be, but it doesn't have to be! anything is confusing when you're not familiar with it)
6. I never get anything out of it (if you go to the Bible to "get something" you might consider changing your motivation - pray before, asking God to open your eyes that you might hear - approach the Bible looking for application - put what you read into practice - that's where the reward comes!)
5. There are many contradictions in the Bible (show me five and then we'll talk)
4. The Bible is boring (there are 'challenging' parts - here's a tip: picture what you're reading - if it were a movie, what would it look like? If it were a painting, how would it look?)
3. I might have to change (you probably will have to change! This is the most difficult aspect of Bible reading - it challenges your beliefs and lifestyle! But the wisdom and love of God for you assures you that change is good)
2. I forget or I get distracted (if you find your mind wandering, press on - this usually only lasts for a short time - if you can get past a few minutes, your mind will engage)
1. I'm not smart enough (I often ask people who pose this reason, "did you have to read or memorize things for school or work?" Everyone does! There are even Bible tapes, cd's, and mp3's available for those who cannot read. We have enough mental capacity to grasp God's Word, we often just lack motivation! If it was your favorite hobby, you would overcome any of these barriers easily. Admit that you lack desire, stop making excuses, and get in to God's Word!)

<https://www.riversideconnect.com/about/riverside-community-church-blog/post/top-10-reasons-why-people-dont-read-the-bible-regularly>

## Top Ten Reasons to Sign Up for *The Year of the Bible*

By James E. Davison

10. Lots of other churches are doing it.
9. You can say you have read the Bible cover to cover.
8. It's more exciting than watching soap opera on TV.
7. Everyone agrees that the Bible is important.
6. You'll know where to find Habakkuk.
5. Your congregation will experience a stronger sense of fellowship and unity.
4. It's cheaper than buying another paperback novel.
3. How else will you read about God's gift to us in Jesus Christ?
2. It will help you "get into" the Bible.
1. The Bible is "a lamp to our feet and a light to our path."



# Happy New Year

Welcome 2021! Undoubtedly, 2020 was a difficult year for all of our Federated Families. My prayer is that 2021 will find us worshipping, singing and fellowshiping together – in person! And while we all long for a return to normal, the new year brings the opportunity of a fresh start. The new year is a great time to implement family bible study or devotional time. Even during a pandemic, families are busy. Here are some tips for implementing a daily family bible study or devotional.

## MIRACLES OF JESUS: 30 DAY BIBLE READING PLAN FOR KIDS

<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 1: MATTHEW 4:23-25	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 16: LUKE 4:31-37
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 2: MATTHEW 8:5-13	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 17: LUKE 4:38-39
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 3: MATTHEW 9:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 18: LUKE 5:1-11
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 4: MATTHEW 9:18-19:23-26	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 19: LUKE 6:17-19
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 5: MATTHEW 9:27-31	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 20: LUKE 7:11-17
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 6: MATTHEW 9:32-34	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 21: LUKE 8:26-38
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 7: MATTHEW 12:9-14	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 22: LUKE 9:37-42
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 8: MATTHEW 14:13-21	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 23: LUKE 14:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 9: MATTHEW 14:22-33	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 24: LUKE 17:11-19
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 10: MATTHEW 15:32-39	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 25: LUKE 22:47-51
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 11: MATTHEW 20:29-34	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 26: JOHN 2:1-11
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 12: MARK 1:40-45	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 27: JOHN 4:46-54
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 13: MARK 4:35-41	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 28: JOHN 5:1-15
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 14: MARK 7:31-37	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 29: JOHN 9:1-12
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 15: MARK 10:46-52	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 30: JOHN 11:1-15:38-44

MIRACLES OF  
JESUS

WWW.ADAYFORDSIGN.COM

## Set a time that works for your family

- Mealtime – your family is already together in one place
- Car – on the way to & from school/activities
- Bedtime – add to your bedtime routine

## Make a plan

- Daily Devotional – There are a lot of wonderful daily devotional books, apps, and websites from which to choose. A daily devotional can even be emailed or texted to you. Choose one that fits your families stage of life. (HINT: Keep a Parent Devotional book in the car for reading in the afterschool pick-up line)
- Bible Reading Plan – most bible apps offer daily reading plans and some offer audio versions. These would be great to listen to at breakfast or during the car ride to school.
- Christian Radio Stations – great for meal time and travel time
- Family Bible Journal – Write a bible verse at the top of each page of a notebook. During the day, each person in the family looks up the verse and writes something about the verse in the notebook. This can include; what they learned, how it can be implemented in their life, what the verse means to them, etc. At the end of the day, discuss as a family.
- Bible Reading Plan – the internet is full of free bible reading plans for kids. An example follows.

Keep it simple. Start small. Give grace. Don't give up!  
Brenda Sand – Interim Christian Education Director

**But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. 2 Peter 3:18**

*Brenda Sand, Christian Education Director*



## 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.

## Meals on Wheels

Another busy week, Dec. 4 - 11, as our volunteers delivered an increasing number of meals. Thank you for helping Federated provide this community service.

The hospital has informed us that they have increased the number of routes to 8.

Feb 15 - 19, 2021 will be Federated's next turn.

Coordinator will be Renee Bellum 402-563-2441, 402-276-2454



## 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 easy suggestions are: Canned and boxed foods such as soup, macaroni and cheese, ramen noodles, pasta and pasta sauce, veggies and fruits; Staple food items: peanut butter, jelly, pancake syrup, crackers.

This is not an all inclusive list, any non-perishable food items are needed.



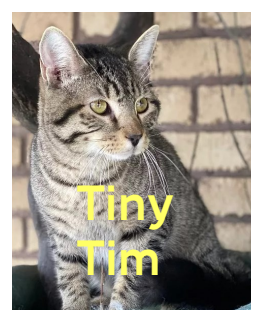
## Paws & Claws Adoption Center

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, Copy Paper, Dog & Cat Toys, Collars & Leashes, Paper Towel, Old Towels/Washcloths/Blankets, Gently Used Pet Supplies, Gift Cards from Grocery, Hardware and Farm Stores.



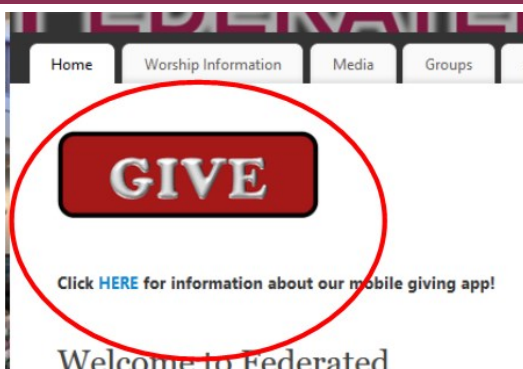
They have a number of animals available, including Kirby, Rohan, Yasmin, Tony and Tim.



## Finance at a Glance

Income - November 2020		Expenses - November 2020	
<b>Contributions, Etc.</b>	<b>\$21,097.38</b>	<b>Annual Budget Expenses:</b>	<b>\$24,493.93</b>
Contributions	\$20,895.52	Utilities	\$2,235.05
Rent	\$200.00	Other Budgeted Expenses:	\$22,258.88
Miscellaneous Income (fee for online giving paid)	\$1.86	<b>Designated Funds (Savings):</b>	<b>\$152.90</b>
<b>Memorials</b>	<b>\$440.00</b>	Helping Hands- Non-Members	\$152.90
Unrestricted	\$360.00	<b>Memorial Fund:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Piano/Organ	\$80.00		
<b>Designated Funds (Savings):</b>	<b>\$8,085.00</b>		
Doane College	\$20.00		
Youth Mission Trip	\$25.00		
Poinsettias	\$90.00		
Future Year/Pre-pledge	\$7,850.00		
Operation Education	\$100.00		
<b>Interest Income:</b>	<b>\$6.89</b>		
Memorial	\$0.00		
Checking	\$0.00		
Savings	\$6.89		

## Easy Online Giving Options Available



Give online for a quick and easy way to contribute without leaving the sanctity of your home!

Three options are currently available:

- 1) Online Giving - press the "GIVE" button on the website
- 2) Mobile app - click the 'here' link underneath the "GIVE" button for instructions
- 3) ACH transfer - call Chrissy at the church office for information.



Chris Dixon, Kevin Grisham, Cliff Jensen	1/5	Karen Paben	1/16
Mary Rasmussen, Holly Schultz	1/6	Reese Gausman, Jason Kallweit, Rod Wachter	1/17
Max Porter	1/7	John Claus	1/18
Nila Novotny, Harold Stevens	1/10	Kelli Scheffler, Bennett Hast	1/20
Denise Kallweit	1/11	Ben Lange, Jill Miller, Judy Trautwein	1/24
Bob Mead	1/12	Mimi Ernst	1/26
Carol Bennett	1/14	Ann Jeffrey, Marc Graybill	1/28
Celine Perrin, Regan Rine, Daryl Smith	1/15	Macyn Norris	1/29
		Randi Williams	1/31

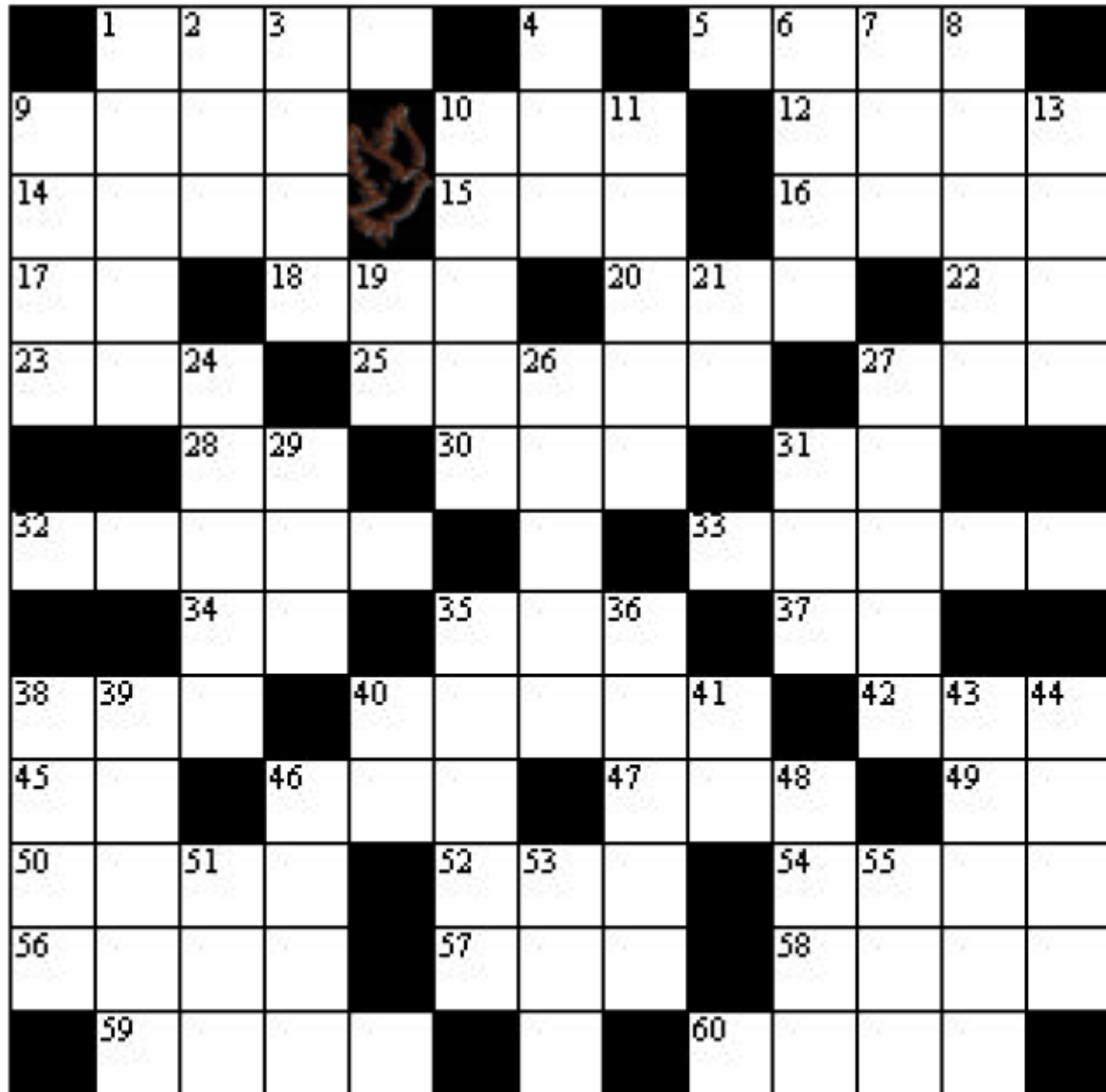
If you see a mistake or a birthday missing, call the church office so we can get the correct information.



# Bible Crossword No. 3



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<http://biblewordgames.com>

## ACROSS

- 1 it came between the \_\_\_\_ of the Egyptians (Exodus 14:20)  
 5 And Cain talked with \_\_\_\_ his brother (Gen 4:8)  
 9 the Pharisees began to \_\_\_\_ him vehemently (Luke 11:53)  
 10 large container for liquids  
 12 And \_\_\_\_ begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David (Ruth 4:22)  
 14 ye have \_\_\_\_ that one teach you again (Heb 5:12)  
 15 Give us this day \_\_\_\_ daily bread (Matt 6:11)  
 16 we will \_\_\_\_ the voice of the LORD our God (Jer 42:6)  
 17 abbr. of fifth book of Old Testament  
 18 the two sons of \_\_\_\_, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests (1 Sam 1:3)  
 20 annoy, irritate  
 22 abbr. for Common Era  
 23 make a choice  
 25 large body of water  
 27 exclamations expressing surprise  
 28 abbr. for Anno Domini

ACROSS (cont.)

- 30 and he f \_\_\_\_ down at Jesus' feet, and besought (partial word) (Luke 8:41)  
31 abbr. for Public Relations  
32 Now when \_\_\_\_ was born in Bethlehem of Judaea (Matt 2:1)  
33 David said, Call me \_\_\_\_ the priest, and Nathan (1 King 1:32)  
34 Better it is \_\_\_\_ be of an humble spirit (Pr 16:19)  
35 \_\_\_\_ down the tree, and cut off his branches (Daniel 4:14)  
37 The LORD grant you that \_\_\_\_ may find rest (Ruth 1:9)  
38 payment for service  
40 If it \_\_\_\_ matter of wrong or wicked lewdness (two words) (Acts 18:14)  
42 his chosen captains also are drowned in the \_\_\_\_ sea (Exodus 15:4)  
45 Behold, I stand \_\_\_\_ the door, and knock (Rev 3:20)  
46 a ship, and went over the \_\_\_\_ toward Capernaum (John 6:17)  
47 I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a \_\_\_\_h (partial word)(2 King 21:13)  
49 abbr. for Revelation  
50 Loose thy \_\_\_\_ from off thy foot; for the place (Joshua 5:15)  
52 old piece of cloth  
54 Casting all your \_\_\_\_ upon him; for he careth for you (1 Pet 5:7)  
56 the devil threw him down, and \_\_\_\_ him (Luke 9:42)  
57 upon thine heart, and \_\_\_\_ them about thy neck (Prov 6:210)  
58 and \_\_\_\_ for the fool's back (two words)(Prov 26:3)  
59 Roman emperor (54-68 A.D.)  
60 Take a pot, and put an \_\_\_\_ full of manna therein (Exodus 16:33)

DOWN

- 1 among the creeping things that \_\_\_\_ upon the earth (Lev 11:29)  
2 They shall still bring forth fruit in old \_\_\_\_ (Ps 92:14)  
3 in the first year of Darius the \_\_\_\_, (Daniel 11:1)  
4 nineteenth letter of Greek alphabet  
6 his statutes which are written in this \_\_\_\_ of the law (Deut 30:10)  
7 as their lives \_\_\_\_ away in their mothers' arms. (Lam 2:12) (NIV)  
8 The \_\_\_\_ has two daughters. 'Give! Give!' they cry (Prov 30:15) (NIV)  
9 at that time I will \_\_\_\_ all that afflict thee (Zeph 3:19)  
10 Hear my \_\_\_\_; ye wives of Lamech, hearken (Gen 4:23)  
11 think it not strange concerning the fiery \_\_\_\_ which (1 Pet 4:12)  
13 colouring agents  
19 For, \_\_\_\_, they that are far from thee shall perish (Ps 73:27)  
21 abbr. for Royal Navy  
24 which shall not \_\_\_\_ of death, till they see (Matt 16:28)  
26 The \_\_\_\_ women as mothers; the younger as sisters (1 Tim 5:20)  
27 upon his kingdom, to \_\_\_\_ it, and to establish it (Isa 9:7)  
29 couple  
31 And when they had nothing to \_\_\_\_, he frankly forgave (Luke 7:42)  
35 the LORD hardened Pharaoh's \_\_\_\_, so that (Exod 10:20)  
36 shekels of silver, and a \_\_\_\_ of gold (Josh 7:21)  
38 the forepart stuck \_\_\_\_, and remained unmoveable (Acts 27:41)  
39 than \_\_\_\_ the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol (1 King 4:31)  
40 Master, \_\_\_\_ saw one casting out devils in thy name (Luke 9:49)  
41 And Joshua burnt \_\_\_\_, and made it an heap for ever (Josh 8:28)  
43 ran greedily after the \_\_\_\_ of Balaam for reward (Jude 1:11)  
44 a prophet mighty in \_\_\_\_ and word before God (Luke 24:19)  
46 came unto the prophet Gad, David's \_\_\_\_, saying (2 Sam 24:11)  
48 cheat, swindle  
51 what King Solomon's mines produced  
53 like swords and \_\_\_\_ their words like deadly arrows (Ps 64:3) (NIV)  
55 Lying lips \_\_\_\_ abomination to the LORD (Prov 12:22)

## Pastor Staffing Task Force Recommendation

The task force was made up of 9 members representing various perspectives of the church. The Task Force members were Bob Arp, Deb Curry, Cola Hahn, Kathy Leischner, Linda Wheatley, Doug Williams, Marv Zoucha, and ex officio members Marcia Grant and Tim Warren.

The charge for the committee was to explore options relating to the pastoral needs of the church. Primarily, should Federated be a two-pastor church or a one pastor church with some type of lay support? To provide information for the committee to make a recommendation, the following items were considered;

1. In May, a survey was made available to all members of the congregation by the Mission Study Committee asking to identify the most important needs expected of the church. Over 80 (husband/wife/family members submitted a joint response on some) responses were received.
2. In October, the mission study was completed and identified five themes members expect from the church.
3. Our current pastor was interviewed regarding church related duties and activities that currently fill his days. Also explored was what areas were not receiving adequate attention due to time constraints.
4. Our current Christian education director was interviewed regarding church related duties and activities that currently fill her days. Also explored was what areas were not receiving adequate attention due to time constraints.
5. Financial implications for the church were considered. Total compensation estimates were considered for 1 pastor and 2 part-time lay persons; 1 senior pastor and 1 associate pastor; 1 pastor and 1 full-time lay person; and 1 senior pastor, 1 associate pastor and one lay person.
6. Discussion was held regarding staffing of various churches comparable in size to Federated.
7. Also considered were the most recent years of giving history, the declining membership numbers at Federated, the impact on elderly members passing on, the impact of members moving out of town, and membership trends in main-line churches.

**After careful review of all 7 points and rigorous debate, the committee members present on the December 3 meeting unanimously voted to recommend to the Governing Council to move forward with 1 senior pastor and 1 full-time lay person.**



## Thank You All!

Dear Federated Church Friends,

I wish to share with you all "Merry Christmas" greetings and hopefully normal days we will see again.

I have appreciated all the "visits" and "get well" wishes you have expressed to me with visits and calls to my home, hospital, Brookstone and now Prairie Village. Your friendships, kindness and thoughtfulness means more than you will ever know.

I also appreciate all the tasty food, flower arrangements, and your special calls and cards! I wish to attend church services again after the virus is gone.

Thank you all again, my "Church Family", for your kindness and thoughtfulness.

Also, thank you Rev. Yang and Sunnie for your visits. Merry Christmas and Blessings to you all!

~Donna Shreve



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

## January 2021 Newsletter

### January Communion Pick-Up and Curb-Side Delivery!

Communion elements will be available January 5th through 8th,  
from the Narthex refrigerator by the church office.

We will be doing a 'curb-side delivery' each of those days if you prefer.

Call the church office when you are ready for your elements  
and we will bring them to you in the Northwest parking lot.

Communion will be available for the in-person service on January 7th and 10th.

