



FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

July 2025; Volume 59; Issue 7

Upcoming Events

July 3 & 6 - Communion, Hymn Sing

July 4 - Happy 4th of July

Church office is closed



July 19 - 90th Birthday Celebration for Laretta

Dixon in the Fellowship Hall between 2 and 4 p.m.

Laretta turns 90 on July 17th.

**July 27 –August 1 - Presbyterian Youth Triennium in
Louisville, Kentucky**



Children & Youth Ministry

Recreation: Eliot and Hunter Yang lead rec time. The parachute is always a favorite. And it's big smiles from Austyn Bender as she makes her way down the Bouncy house slide.



THANK YOU!

Vacation Bible Camp would not have been possible without the generous support of Federated Church, First United Methodist Church, and St. Luke's UCC. I especially want to acknowledge the Federated folks who helped with VBC this year.

Julie Graham (Assembly Leader/Navigator), Ellie Porter (Puppeteer for Scout), Nicole Miller (Science Leader), Doris Augspurger (Mission Leader), Eliot Yang (Rec Leader), Ryland Prokopec (AV), Pastor Edward (Photographer/Slide Show), Sunnie Yang (Group Leader), Anjel Garcia-Lopez (Group Leader), Kim Swierczek (Group Leader), Jenny Young (Group Leader), Karen Grabowski (Group Leader), Raeleigh Kriewald (Youth Helper), Tessa Miller (Youth Helper), Dylan Bradley (Youth Helper), Hunter Yang (Youth Helper), Meg Weeder (Youth Helper).

I would also like to thank all who helped decorate before VBC and clean-up after. You cannot imagine how much this helps!

Thank you to all who donated maps, atlases, suitcases, gift cards, Thrivent \$, bounce house rental and treats for volunteers!!! Your generosity is amazing!

Finally, I want to say thank you to the parents, grandparents and guardians for sharing their children with us. It was such a joy to see them experience the fun of VBC and to grow in their knowledge and love for God.

Children & Youth Ministry

Vacation Bible Camp 2025 was a huge success! Seventy-three children joined us for ROAD TRIP—On the Go with God! Each day the kids traveled to stations where they did activities based on each day's theme. Daily themes centered around the different ways that God is with us.

Assembly: Navigator (Julie Graham) and travel companion Scout the Dog (Ellie Porter) introduce the daily theme.



Bible Story

Lainey McHugh gets Comfortable during Bible Story time.



Snack Time: After enjoying a tasty snack, Jude Graybill plays a game, while others make a donation to the coin vortex.

Children & Youth Ministry



Science: Nicole Miller and Tessa Miller and helper Dylan Bradley lead experiments using dry ice.



Missions: Doris Augspurger leads the mission session about sharing God's love in the community. Therapy dog, Gus, shares some love with Hudson Luedtke, Cara Porter and Theo Weeder.



Music: The kids learn new songs during music.



Crafts: Spencer Swierczek focuses on his project and Theo Weeder poses for a picture with his.

2025



Ellie Porter spends a week at Calvin Crest Camp



By the time you are reading this, Calvin Crest will be nearing the end of its summer camp season, but for some Federated members the summer began with camp fun. The Porter family has been enjoying Calvin Crest for years, and this summer was no exception. Ellie spent a week at camp as a Jr. camper for her final year. She was accompanied by Max, who served as the Jr. Camp director for the week. The week was filled with Bible study, crafts, games, archery, the swimming pool, and lots of songs around the nightly camp fire ring. For Ellie camp also provided the opportunity to meet back up with old friends from past summers. As the week came to an end and we drove home, reflecting on all the good times we had, Ellie asked from the back seat "Why can't camp be two weeks long instead of one".

Returning home, your own bed is always a welcome sight, but we had to rest up, because just a week after returning home, Max would be back at camp, this time with daughter Cara. This time the camp was "Explorers Camp" a weekend long camp for campers and an adult to get to know what camp was all about. Although the forecast called for record heat, we weren't going to let that get us down. The weekend started off with a bonus evening swim at the pool followed by s'mores at campfire. With only a weekend to pack in the whole camp experience, Saturday was an action packed day, with bible lessons, games crafts, a dip in the pool, and ending with a hay rack ride before the final campfire. Some new friends were made, as well as catching up with some old ones, and by the end of the weekend campers were already planning their next summer at camp.

Ellie, Cara, and especially Max, want to thank the members of Federated Church for continuing to make camping a priority. Time spent at summer camp as a youth, is often listed by adults as the most important event in forming their lifelong faith. Camp offers a place for youth to disconnect and be still, and in that stillness feel closer to God. The friendships that are made in just a week at summer camp will last a lifetime.

JOYS & CONCERNS FOR JUNE 2025

- ◆ Congratulations to Stuart and Kristen Gausman on their 25th wedding anniversary!
- ◆ Prayers requested for Nell Burham. Nell fell on Monday and broke her pelvis.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Laura Porter. Laura passed away on May 20th. Celebration of Life was Thursday, May 29th.
- ◆ Pray for Dennis Davis and family. Dennis, from Atlantic, Iowa is the brother-in-law of Doug & Randi Williams. Dennis's cancer is advancing and prayers are needed.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Charles Brockhaus of Port Lavaca, TX. Charles is the father of Brianna Brockhaus. He passed away during the week of May 25th.
- ◆ Chancel flowers were given by the family of Laura Porter.
- ◆ We thank God for Marek Griffith's surgeries going well last week. Please pray for continued healing for Marek, son of Michael & Rachael Griffith and grandson of Annette & Bob Griffith
- ◆ Pray for continued recovery for Nell Burnham. Nell is in the swing bed unit of Winner, SD hospital. She would love to get mail, her current address is fine.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Margaret Trew. Margaret passed away on June 13th and service will be held at Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home at a date to be determined.
- ◆ Congratulations to Paula and Janice Timperley! Paula and Janice were married on April 6, 2025!
- ◆ Pray for Judy Woitaszewski, mother of Nicole Miller. Judy is recovering from a rare infection from a tick bite (not Lyme disease). She is on antibiotics and on the road to recovery.
- ◆ Pray for Mike Sand who will be having hip replacement surgery on July 2nd. Mike is Brenda's husband. Pray for a fast and full recovery.
- ◆ Congratulations to Cola Hahn on her retirement from Columbus Public Schools after 18 years. Cola will retire the end of June.
- ◆ Congratulations to Laretta Dixon, she will be celebrating her 90th birthday on July 17. There will be a birthday celebration in the Fellowship Hall, 2-4 p.m., July 19th. All are welcome.

ATTENDANCE THROUGH JUNE 22, 2025

Ushers/Liturgists & Attendance Report

Ushers: Bill Royer, Stephanie Johnson, Georgia Behlen

Liturgists: Alison Wagner, Julie Graham, Anjel Garcia, Nicole Miller

Average Attendance :

In-Person Thursday Service: 19

In-Person Sunday Service: 66

Online Average Weekly Views: 179

HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY & UCC LIVING WATERS PRAYERS JUNE 2025

Homestead Presbytery: Lincoln Heritage

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Lincoln Heritage 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: Lincoln Korean

In 2025, our congregation focuses on nurturing a passionate response to God's zeal. We seek to glorify God through wholehearted worship, to love our neighbors with sincerity and faithfulness, and to live out our Christian calling with integrity in the everyday places God has called us. Through these practices, we hope to participate in the ongoing work of God's kingdom. We are especially grateful for our church community's growing sense of stability. Please join us in giving thanks for this grace and praying that we may continue to be faithful and vibrant witnesses to the love and hope of Jesus Christ.

Homestead Presbytery: Lincoln Southern Heights

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Lincoln Southern Heights 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: Lincoln Westminster

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Lincoln Westminster 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: Lyons

We continue to be blessed to have a wonderful partnership with Bethany Lutheran Church, another local congregation. With our combined efforts, we are able to continue serving our community and deepen our relationship with God. Our church is still prayerfully and actively searching for the Pastor whom God has called to lead our congregation. In the meantime, we are thankful for our interim Pastor, and we trust that, in God's perfect timing, He will bring the right leader to guide us into the next chapter of ministry. May we continue to grow in grace and love as we wait upon the Lord.

UCC Living Waters Association:

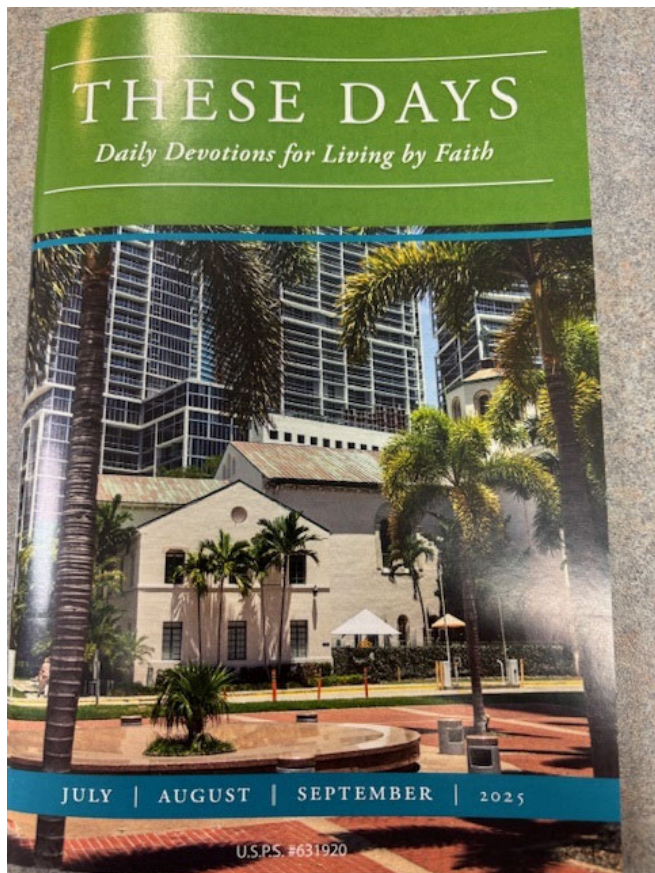
Columbus St. Luke's UCC (Columbus, NE 68601)

Creighton Faith United UMC/UCC (Creighton, NE 68729)

Crofton UCC (Crofton, NE 68730) Elgin Park

Congregational UCC (Elgin, NE 68636)

Fremont First Congregational UCC (Fremont, NE 68025)



THESE DAYS
DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR LIVING
BY FAITH BOOKLETS
JULY ~ AUGUST ~ SEPTEMBER
ARE AVAILABLE IN THE
NARTHEX AND THE OFFICE

SOCIAL CONCERNS & MISSIONS COMMITTEE COLLECTIONS & EVENTS

In July, August and September 2025 we are collecting leashes, pine sol and bleach for the Paws & Claws Center. 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*

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, Nila Novotny, Chair of Membership & Growth Committee

FUNERAL COMMITTEE 2

Funeral Committee 2 Co-Chairs: Steve & Marcia Dewald, Sue & Larry Mares,
Linda Wheatley, Barb Olson.

Committee Members will be contacted by the Co-Chairs.

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



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,

Platte County Food Pantry
Columbus, Nebraska



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

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 <https://www.pawsandclawsne.org!>



TOGO AFRICA MISSION TRIP

The Togo Africa mission trip to install Salama Stoves (e.g. Peace in Swahili), was a success, and the team is back safe and sound. John Novotny led a team of Central Community College (Columbus campus) welders to help install the stoves they made in their classrooms over the past year. 11 stoves in total were installed during the trip, which was May 18-29, 2025. Accompanying John were Landon Hunt (welding instructor), and Kyle Olmer, Matt Gleeson and Edgar Alarcon (welding students). A partnership between Global Partners in Hope (sponsoring NGO in Omaha, NE), and Central Community College was forged about a year ago to build stoves for installation. It was a blessing that the same welders that built the stoves were also the ones who were able to install them.

The stoves have life changing health and environmental benefits, vs burning open fires with the traditional 3-stone configuration. The stoves offer a smoke reduced environment, roughly a 90% reduction in fuel (wood/dung) used for energy, virtually eliminates skin burns from open 3-stone fires, provides a clean and workable cooking surface, and provides clean hot water created from the heat of the stove.

Major funding for the stoves came from the Federated Church Women's groups (e.g. garage sale, cookie's n' more, etc.), and donations from church members as well. The welding team was joined by a group of 12 Creighton University staff and students, who also witnessed the stove installs as part of a larger curriculum, in addition to their time working to set up a clinic and hospital in the same region of Togo, called Agbelouve. Thanks for all the support and prayers for our successful trip. Additional funds (again partially from

Federated Church) has been donated to Central Community College for an anticipated 2026 trip to install more stoves.

Blessings,

John A. Novotny





Happy Birthday!



Aurora Irby, Ethan Yang	7/03	Drew Wolfe	7/18
Eliot Yang	7/04	Shirley Johnson, Kaitlynn Meyer, Nicholas Warren	7/19
Hailey Marker, Ruth Schlobohm	7/06	Mark Garcia Lopez	7/20
Terry Millard	7/07	Rodger Grisham, Lucas Miller	7/21
Cooper Luedtke, Michael Mohr	7/12	Meg Weeder	7/24
Madden Luedtke, Byron Meyer, Kathy Senior, Tessa Miller, Barbara Sanderson	7/13	Rae Fulton, Steve Heinisch, Codan Prokopec	7/26
Lauretta Dixon, Otis Young	7/17	Placido Campos	7/28
		Michael Sand, Bob Trautwein	7/29

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

GOVERNING COUNCIL, ORDER OF ST. ANDREW AND COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Please prayerfully consider serving a term on any church committee beginning in 2026. Below are summaries of the GC, OSA and Committees with openings.

Governing Council

3 year term, meets monthly. Manages the affairs of the church, policy makers of the congregation.

Order of St. Andrew

3 year term, meets monthly. Makes visits and assists with care ministry to congregation members and community.

Christian Education Committee

3 year term, meets monthly. Provides Christian educational opportunities for all who wish to grow in faith, spirit and discipleship.

Finance & Property Committee

3 year term, meets monthly. Develops & implements goals/procedures/policies for the financial well-being of the church and its properties.

Membership & Growth Committee

3 year term, meets monthly. Identifies status of members/potential members, provides fellowship opportunities, recruits and coordinates volunteers for church activities.

Nominating Committee

1 year term, meets as needed. Presents annual slate to the congregation at the Fall Congregation Meeting of recommended names for elected offices and committee members.

Personnel Committee

3 year term, meets monthly. Serves as relations liaison with staff and the congregation. Hears requests and concerns of all staff; seeks to build positive attitudes toward work of the church by both workers and members.

Social Concerns & Missions Committee

3 year term, meets monthly. Develop opportunities for the congregation to fulfill the work of the church in our community, country, and throughout our world, by utilizing their talents, time and treasures.

Stewardship Committee

3 year term, meets as needed. Offers education and action to enable the congregation to give of their time, talents, and treasures for the work of the Church.

Nominating Committee Members are Georgia Behlen, Bob Arp, Roland Augspurger, Jill Miller, Anita Hahn, Sue McClure and Bill Royer. Please contact a member to voice your desire to serve on any of the above listed committees.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (JUNE 2025)

Income - June 2025		Expenses - June 2025	
General Funds (Checking):		General Fund Expenses:	\$29802.97
Total Donations & Contributions	\$28,380.66	Utilities	\$1439.82
Designated Funds (Savings):	\$1,655.46	Homestead Presb./UCC/Living Waters	\$918.62
Vacation Bible Camp	\$445.00	Ground/Bldg. Maint. /Custodial Supplies	\$604.96
Vacation Bible Camp-Bouncy House	\$350.00	Music	\$194.88
Vacation Bible Camp - Coin Vortex	\$151.14	Office Expenses	\$1033.96
Youth Fund	\$259.32	Insurance Board	\$7,086.50
Pentecost	\$450.00	Board of Pensions	\$3,122.88
Memorials:	\$2,655.00	Pulpit Supply	\$675.00
Undesignated	2305.00	Book-keeping/Consulting (June)	\$950.00
Family Choice	100.00	M & G/Church Leadership	\$438.90
Landscaping	100.00	Other Expenses (Payroll)	\$13,337.45
Kitchen/Fund	150.00	Designated Funds (Savings):	\$2,157.61
		Helping Hands (non-members)	\$ 246.41
		Calvin Crest Camp	\$449.00
		Youth/TV Stand	\$176.49
		Vacation Bible Camp (bouncy house)	\$350.00
		Banner Stand	\$718.36
		Memorial - Kitchen	\$217.35

2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEETING DAYS/TIMES

In the table below you can find the 2025 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.

Committee or Group	Chairperson	Meeting Day/Time
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	1st 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	2nd 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!

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JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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DECODING THE LITURGICAL COLOR SCHEME

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.

If you have articles, events or other information you would like included in the newsletter, you can email it to fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org. The deadline for submitting information for Newsletters is the 20th of the prior month, e.g. August 2025 Newsletter deadline will be July 20th, 2025.

