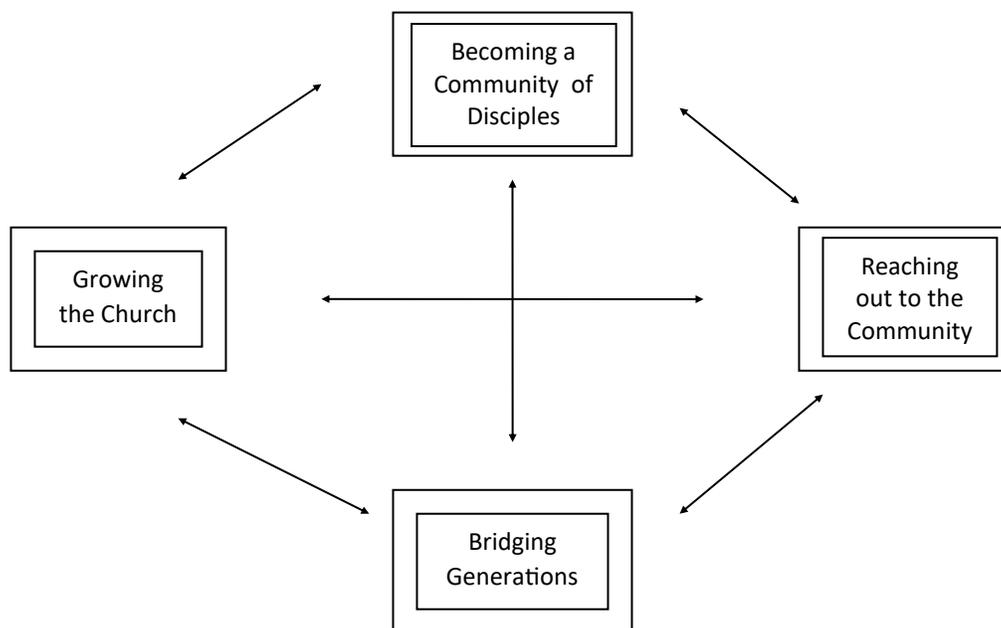


# FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

## *Our Mission Statement:*

*We are called to nurture a growing relationship with God by following the example of Jesus Christ.*

## *Our Values include four pillars:*



If you have not filled out a survey for the Mission Study Committee, you can use this address: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MZ8THSZ> to fill it out online, or you can print one by going to:

<http://federatedcolumbus.org/wp-content/uploads/Letter-and-survey-for-website.pdf>

and mail it to the church or drop it off in the office. Thank you!

# Re-opening Soon!

Governing Council has approved in-person worship services to start again in July. The opening will have certain guidelines and restrictions, which were set by a task force to evaluate the pandemic situation and how restrictions should be handled by the church. The first service will be Thursday, July 9th at 6:30pm, and the Sunday service will be the 12th at 10am. More information will be sent out soon through a mailing, email and phone calls.

The worship services will still be recorded and available on Facebook and the website, for those who are not yet comfortable attending at the church.

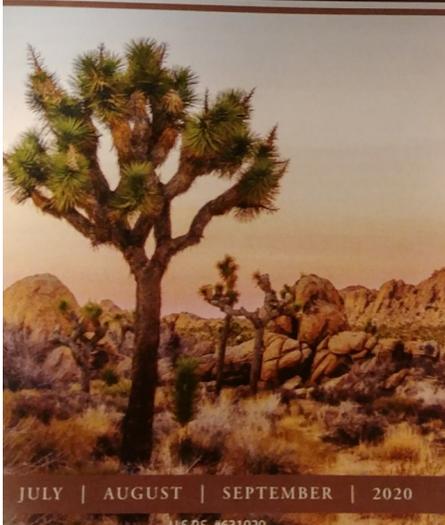
## Construction on 15th Street

Construction has started on 15th Street to widen the street.

The Northwest Narthex doors will be open for your convenience.



**THESE DAYS**  
*Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*



## New These Days Now Available

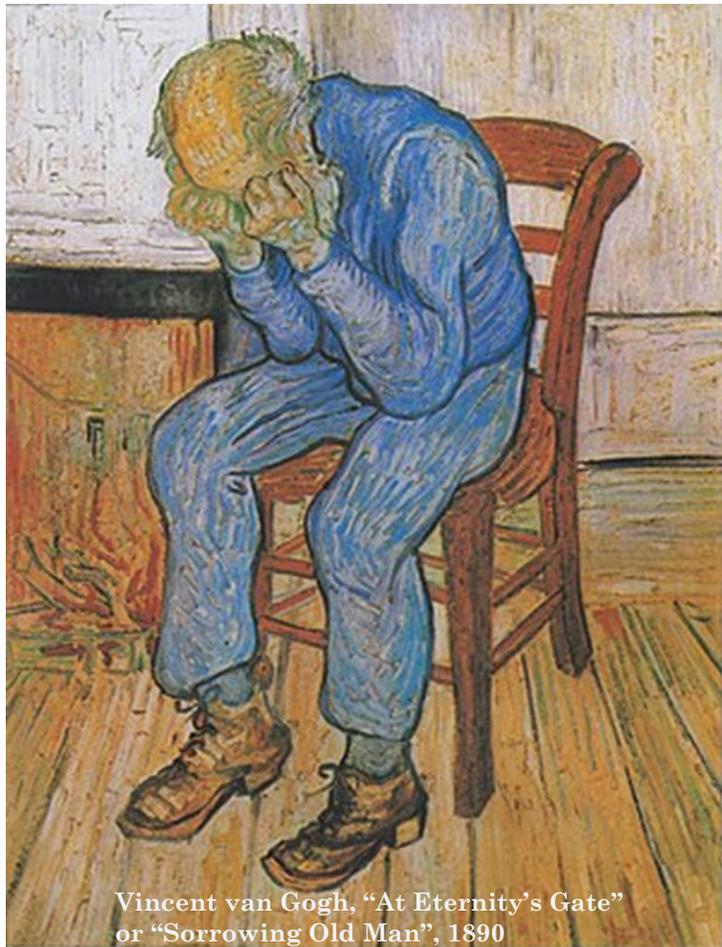
Copies of the new 'These Days' is now available in the office.

If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call/email the church office, 402-564-2812, [fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org](mailto:fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org)

They will also be available for pick up with Communion elements Wednesday and Thursday, July 1st and 2nd.

## From the Pastor's Desk

It is hard to believe that we are halfway done with 2020. Not that time has moved so quickly. Rather, it is a wonder that we're still in 2020. Each week has felt like a month. Part of this sluggish feeling is due to being in a pandemic. One response may be to pretend there is no danger and go back to "life as normal." Yet, this response won't get us to safety – in fact, it may prolong the pandemic.



Vincent van Gogh, "At Eternity's Gate" or "Sorrowing Old Man", 1890

What can we do in a time like this? In our most recent lectionary Bible study (and subsequent sermon), we discussed Jeremiah 20:7-13 in which the prophet complained about his calling from God. I have to admit that I was initially uncomfortable with the biblical text: "How can I preach about Jeremiah's complaint?" Yet, I was reminded of the biblical tradition of lament. Jeremiah was not unique in his complaint before God. Even Elijah, who God used to bring a person back to life (1 Kings 17:17-24) and dramatically defeat the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-40), cried out honestly to God: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." (1 Kings 19:4b)

If we are honest with God, then we should share our anger and frustrations. God can see beyond our façade of everything being okay. Things are NOT okay. There are numerous reasons to be grieving now. Grief does not go away by ignoring. We need to release our griefs, and the biblical tradition of lament offers a healthy way of doing so.

There are numerous psalms of lament – in fact, lament is one of the major types of Psalms, covering about 40% of them. These psalms provide models for us to pray honestly to God. There are individual laments: Psalm 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 22, 25, 26, 28, 31, 35, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 64, 69, 70, 71, 77, 86, 88, 109, 120, 139, 140, 141, & 142. There are also communal laments: Psalm 12, 44, 58, 60, 74, 79, 80, 83, 85, 90, 94, 123, 126, 129, & 137. I encourage you to read these Psalms and maybe read them in a different English translation.

## From the Pastor's Desk

For example, The Message translation of Psalm 13 is brutally (and refreshingly) honest:

1-2 Long enough, God—  
you've ignored me long enough.  
I've looked at the back of your head  
long enough. Long enough  
I've carried this ton of trouble,  
lived with a stomach full of pain.  
Long enough my arrogant enemies  
have looked down their noses at me.  
3-4 Take a good look at me, God, my God;  
I want to look life in the eye,  
So no enemy can get the best of me  
or laugh when I fall on my face.  
5-6 I've thrown myself headlong into your arms—  
I'm celebrating your rescue.  
I'm singing at the top of my lungs,  
I'm so full of answered prayers.

It is helpful to know that there is a common structure to many biblical laments. One author points out three main elements:

Crying out to God

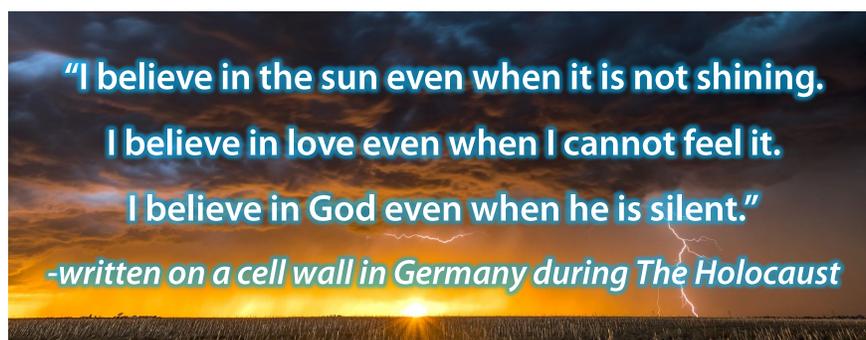
Asking for help

Responding in trust and praise

As you read and reflect on psalms of lament, may you feel encouraged to offer your own honest prayers to God.

Edward

P.S. I recommend watching this YouTube interview with Eugene Peterson (author of The Message translation of the Bible) and Bono (lead singer for U2) as they discuss psalms of lament: <https://youtu.be/-l40S5e90KY> (you can also search for "Bono & Eugene Peterson: The Psalms")



# Children's Ministry

Having an attitude of gratitude is so important, especially in stressful times.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 says "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." There are many fun ways to encourage gratitude with your family – gratitude jar, journal or photo journal, or scavenger hunt. The internet is full of great ideas!

## GRATITUDE SCAVENGER HUNT

primary playground

- Find something that is your favorite color.
- Find something that makes you feel safe.
- Find something that smells good.
- Find something you love.
- Find something that tastes good.
- Name a place you love to go.
- Find something outside you like.
- Name an activity you love to do.
- Find your favorite toy.
- Find something you like to play with.
- Name 3 people you are thankful for.
- Find something that makes you smile.
- Name something you are proud of.
- Find someone you can help today.
- Name a good thing about YOU!



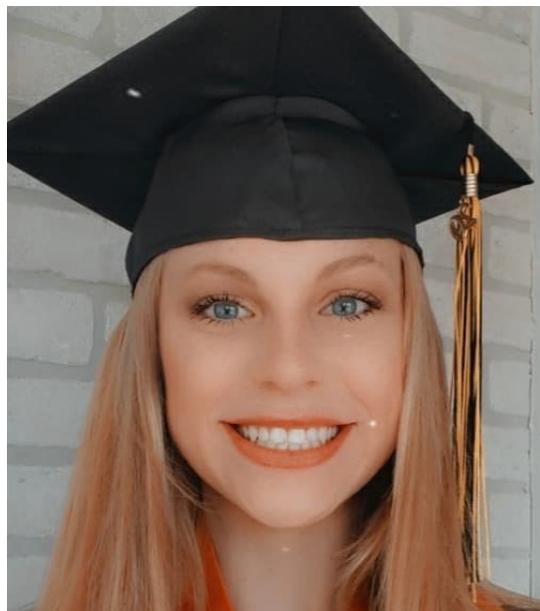
# Youth Ministry

Congratulations to our graduates! We pray that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the knowledge of God..." Colossians 1:10

Faith Dill

Allie Gotschall

Meera Lange



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

Communion elements will be available Wednesday, July 1st and Thursday, July 2nd from the Narthex refrigerator by the church office. Due to the holiday weekend and the office being closed on Friday, July 3rd, we will be doing a 'curb-side delivery' on Wednesday and Thursday. Call the church office when you are ready for your elements and we will bring them to you in the Northwest parking lot (due to the construction on 15th Street).

## Habitat for Humanity Build Date Volunteers Needed



At this time, the Habitat for Humanity build date of July 30th, from 3pm to sundown, for Federated is a go (more information to come on our website and in emails). We will be needing volunteers for building and for meal preparation.

Subscribe to Bulk Emails!

### Subscribe

\* indicates required  
Email Address \*

First Name

Last Name

Email Format

html

text

Thank you for subscribing!

Subscribe

## Bulk Email Subscription Sign-Up

There have been some difficulties with our group emails being received by all who would like to get them. I have put a subscription form for Mail Chimp, our bulk email provider, up on the website. The form will take only seconds to fill out and will automatically update my database in Mail Chimp. Look for the 'widget' on our website, shown here!



## T-Shirts Needed!

Needlecraft Ministry is looking for good, used adult T-Shirts to make diapers.

Please leave in the office.

Any questions, contact Louise Moran.



◆ **We would like lift up health care workers by name during the coronavirus pandemic. Please share name and info for relatives who work in this profession:**

- ◇ **Dr. Nila Novotny** (member & local physician)
- ◇ **Dr. Jeff Gotschall** (member & local physician)
- ◇ **Carrie Prokopec** (member, daughter of Doug & Randi Williams, ER nurse at CCH)
- ◇ **Lisa Perrin** (member & nurse at CCH)
- ◇ **Dr. Paul Vrana** (son of Ben & Marilyn Vrana, researcher at Mt. Sinai Hospital NYC)
- ◇ **Michael Griffith** (son of Annette & Bob Griffith, nurse in Omaha)
- ◇ **Dr. Tyler Curry** (son of John & Deb Curry, psychiatrist in Omaha)
- ◇ **Jill Morris** (daughter of Jim & Kathy Morris, traveling nurse)
- ◇ **Dr. Jacob & Abbie Oran** (son-in-law and daughter of Kathy & Kenn Leischner, physician and nurse in Kearney)
- ◇ **Drs. Jeff Zoucha & Jennifer Hill** (son & daughter of Marv & Barb Zoucha, physician in Denver & ob/gyn in Omaha)  
*Continued in next column*
- ◇ **Drs. Brian, Jeff & Jessica Gartrell** (son, son & daughter-in-law of Bruce & Diana Gartrell; family practice in Omaha, ENT/family practice in Council Bluffs, IA, pediatrician/hematology/oncology at St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis, TN)
- ◇ **Lily Pickrel** (granddaughter of Jan Pickrel, CMA at Genoa Long Term Care Center and nursing student)
- ◇ **Michelle Bellum Goedecken, Sarita Goedecken Panowicz & Lorrie Niemeyer** (daughter, granddaughter & niece of Fred & Rene Bellum; nurse at Fairbury Hospital, radiology tech, nurse practitioner at St. Elizabeth's Hospital)
- ◇ **Cheryl Blodgett** (niece of Deb & Doug Rasby)
- ◇ **Ken Koehler** (relative of Georgia & Rod Behlen)
- ◇ **Holly Tracy** (daughter of Rae & Dave Fulton, ER nurse at Faith Regional Hospital, Norfolk)
- ◇ **Cathy Flowers Cox** (daughter-in-law of Nancy Blackburn & John Cox, ER nurse in Dodge City, KS)
- ◇ **Julie Bennett** (daughter-in-law of Pete & Carol Bennett, occupational therapist at CCH)
- ◇ **Carly Hoke** (daughter of Guy & Linda Wheatley, RN in Downey, CA)
- ◇ **Dr. Kapono Chong-Hanssen** (cousin of Chrissy Ford, Physician at Ho'ola Lahui Hawai'i)
- ◇ **Drs. Daniel & Lynn Jeffrey** (son and daughter of Mike and Ann Jeffrey) physicians at UNMC Internal Medicine, Omaha, and Family Medicine at CHI Lakeside Clinic, Omaha, respectively.

◆ We would also like to lift up those who are considered 'essential workers', including those who are in the food industry, the retail industry, banking, postal workers, sanitary workers and all others who cannot work from the safety of their homes; those who have been furloughed and those who are now unemployed and/or homeless due to the pandemic we are experiencing.

## Meals on Wheels

The Columbus Community Hospital has not decided on a date to resume using volunteers for this program.

However, if the volunteer services are reactivated, Federated Church will be delivering meals the week of July 20th.  
~Renee Bellum



## Face Mask Donation Drive Success!



A huge thank you to all the congregants who donated face masks to the church in preparation of reopening!

Not only are these helpful, your creations are beautiful!

Thank you so much!

## Finance at a Glance

This graph shows total 2020 income and expenses from January 1 to May 31, 2020.

In April we received \$51,200 for the PPP/Care Act Loan. As of May 31, 2020, the loan has paid \$2,286.15 for Utilities, and \$26,811.96 for wages/salaries and benefits.

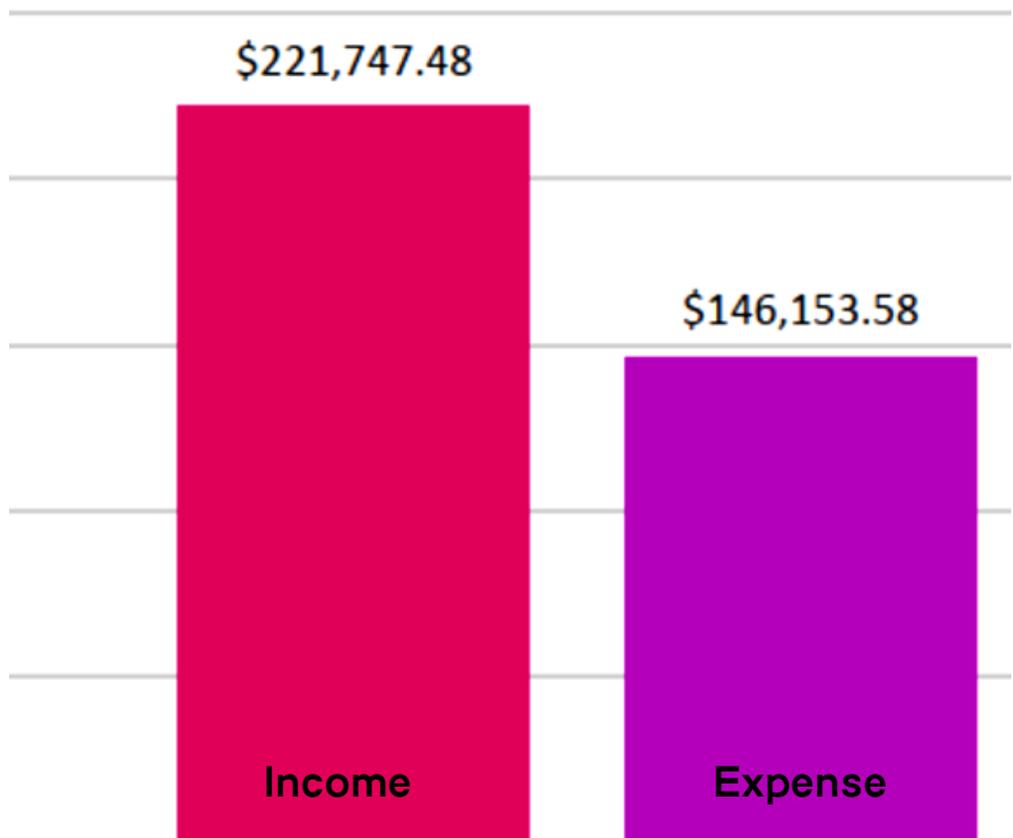
The total paid for April and May equals \$29,098.11

Total Income equals  
\$221,747.48

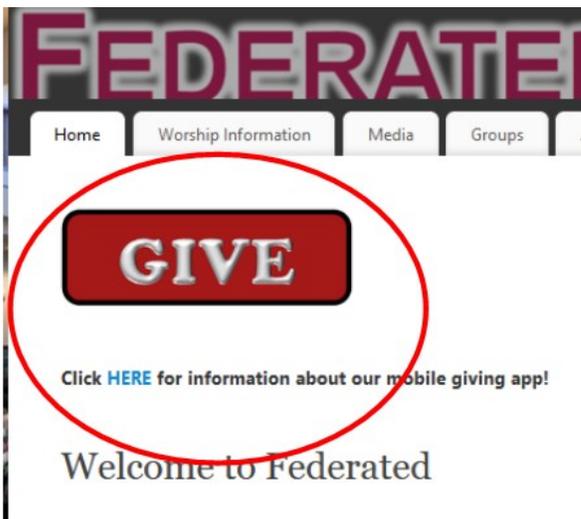
Total Expenses equals  
\$146,153.58

### 2020 Income and Expenses

## 2020 Income and Expenses



## Easy 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.

## HUGE Rotary Garage Sale

Federated Church will not be hosting a garage sale this summer. So if you have saved things for that sale and want to get rid of them, donate to Rotary Garage Sale.

**Saturday July 18**  
**8:00 am to 5:00 pm**  
**ReMax parking lot**

Proceeds go to local Columbus projects, Habitat for Humanity, and Columbus Park projects. Before the sale, items can be dropped off at 2216 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Call Kim at 402-495-4393 with time for drop off. Shirts, blouses and dresses can be left on hangers. The day of the sale, items can be dropped off between 6:30 am and 8:00 am. Call Judy Trautwein at 402-564-5287 if you have tables to lend. For questions, call Kim Konz 402-495-4393

## \*\*Gift Card Email Scam!\*\*

If you receive an email or text requesting gift cards or a "favor" from the church pastor or staff, feel free to delete or call the office to verify. Unfortunately, this is a common scam as explained by the Federated Trade Commission: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2019/07/worshipers-targeted-gift-card-scam>. The example was an email received by one of our congregants, but be weary of any similar emails! The church office and staff will only request gift cards be brought to the office. We will not request information from such cards be text or emailed.

BLESSINGS Inbox ☆

 Edward Yang 10:07 AM  
to me ← ⋮

 **Be careful with this message.**  
Edward Yang has never sent you messages using this email address.

Good morning, how are you?

i need a favor from you,

please email me as soon as you get this message.

Blessings,  
Rev. Dr. Edward Yang  
Federated Church UCC-PCUSA  
2704 15th St Columbus, NE 68601.

## 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. Here is a partial list of regularly requested items: Household and cleaning items, personal hygiene items, non-perishable food, children's items such as diapers/wipes, adult clothing (new), gift cards to Wal-Mart, Hy-Vee, Super Saver, gas cards, etc.

## Platte County Food Pantry

The Platte County Food Pantry, located at 3020 18th Street in Suite 13 (Old Hospital) is currently open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the mornings. They have a no-contact drop off bin on the west side of the building on 32nd Avenue between 18th and 19th Streets, donations are needed daily! The current demand is starting to outweigh the supply.

If you are in need of assistance, you can call at 402-563-4544, they are providing no-contact pick up as well!

When asked for suggested donations, I was told "If you like it, they will like it!" 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.



***\*\*Please note: The Can-Care-A-Van donation drive has been postponed to this fall. More information will be available at a later date.***

## Platte Valley Humane Society



The Platte Valley Humane Society (Paws & Claws Adoption Center) is located at 2124 13th Street. The hours are Monday through Friday, Noon to 4:30pm, and Saturdays Noon to 3:30pm. However, they are only operating by appointment right now, so call 402-562-5683 before you go meet your future pet!

Currently, they are in need of the following donations: Bleach, Paper towels, Laundry detergent, Cat litter, cat food.

*Volunteers are not needed at this time.*

They have a number of animals available, including Oreo, Marge, Amber, and Rusty.





If you see a mistake or missing birthday, call/email Chrissy at 402-564-2812 or [fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org](mailto:fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org)

Brendon Rathje	7/1	Mike Griffith	7/15
Thomas Hempstead	7/2	Lauretta Dixon	7/17
Ethan Yang	7/3	Drew Wolfe	7/18
Eliot Yang	7/4	Shirley Johnson, Kaitlynn Meyer, Nicholas Warren	7/19
Peggy Speicher	7/5	Mark Garcia Lopez	7/20
Ruth Elwood, Ruth Schlobohm	7/6	Rod Behlen, Rory Davis, Rodger Grisham, Lucas Miller	7/21
Terry Millard	7/7	Jeane Miller	7/22
Parker Hughes	7/11	Janell Walters	7/23
Cooper Luedtke	7/12	Tyler Curry, Rae Fulton, Steve Heinisch, Coden Prokopec	7/26
Byron Meyer, Tessa Miller, Kathy Senior	7/13	Helen Gerber	7/27
Barb Sanderson	7/14	Mike Sand, John Tanner, Bob Trautwein	7/29
		Amanda Winig	7/30

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

## July 2020 Newsletter

If you have articles, events or other information you would like included in this newsletter, please call the Church Office at 564-2812 or email us: [fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org](mailto:fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org)  
The deadline for submitting information for Newsletters is the 20th of the prior month, e.g. August deadline will be July 20th.

