



# FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

*May 2025; Volume 59; Issue 5*

## *Upcoming Events*

*May 5 - Confirmation Sunday*

*May 11 - Mother's Day, Flower sale; Appreciation of Chancel Choir*

*May 18 - Graduation Sunday, Appreciation of Teachers & Students;  
Appreciation of Bell Choir*

*May 26 - Memorial Day, Church office is closed*



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. June 2025 Newsletter deadline will be May 20th, 2025.

## FROM PASTOR'S DESK

Recently, I was talking with a longtime friend from college. I asked him how he was doing with his mother's death about a year ago. Along with sharing that he was still grieving, he asked me how I was in relation to my father's death (which it's hard to believe has been 20 years this past March). I responded that I'm not sure how well I have grieved that loss. This conversation made me realize that there is much about grief that I don't understand. With this in mind, I spent the week following Easter for continuing education on grief.

After looking at various options, I decided to take a course via Faith+Lead Academy (which is a ministry of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN). The course was titled "Ministering to Grieving People" taught by Dr. Don Eisenhauer, an end-of-life coach and UCC minister. The first session described the difference between "grief" as the inner work in response to loss and "mourning" as an outward expression of the grief. It was helpful to learn that we need to mourn well so that grief does not come out badly: "If you want to live well, you must mourn well." Second and third sessions covered 8 principles for ministering to grieving people which can be summarized with the following:

- Provide a safe and brave space
- Ride the roller coaster with them (i.e., grieving people)
- Assure them with what is normal
- Use coaching principles
- Invite them to tell their story
- Give them the time that they need
- Help them discover their new normal
- Celebrate their growth – for this principle I appreciated this quote: "Walking the journey of grief is life-changing. No one chooses to experience grief. It is almost always unwanted and unplanned. Yet for many, the journey of grief is a wonderfully growing experience."

The final session dealt with developing an "end-of-life" safe church. While the work that needs to be done for each church will be different, there are some commonalities as expressed by the following ideas:

- "death is a reality" – we should not avoid it
- "grief takes time" – we need to let people cry and feel safe with grief and mourning
- "we will walk the journey with you" – there is important work with follow-up to experiences of loss

Along with taking a course, I read a couple books including *On Grief and Grieving: Finding the Meaning of Grief through the Five Stages of Loss* by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, MD & David Kessler. *On Grief and Grieving* began with a helpful review of Kubler-Ross' well known five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. While I have heard these stages before, I appreciated the nuanced description of each stage (e.g., denial might be the feeling that it's hard to believe that the loss really happened, the person is no longer here). Authors also explain that the stages do not necessarily happen in sequential order; in fact, grief happens differently for different people. I especially appreciated their discussion on "anticipatory grief" which is unique to humans: we recognize death as a reality of life and may be remind in preparation for a loss. Along with many helpful explanations on the grieving process, the sections I enjoyed most were the final two chapters in which each author described their own grief. Kubler-Ross poignantly shared her losses throughout her life including the final years after a stroke (she died a month before the completion of this book). Kessler powerfully described his own losses including the death of his mother as a youngster, which shaped his work of helping people with grief.

As I learn, I realize how much I don't know. Yet, I feel more equipped to learn more about what is lacking. I hope to learn more about grief and ways our church can support people who are grieving. It might begin with a conversation. If there is something you need help grieving, please reach out with email or phone call.

Grace and peace, Edward

## MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR'S NEWS

We have had a lot of fun and interesting music happening at Federated in the last month! What a way to lead into the end of our regular “music season”. May is traditionally the last month for choir and bell choir to perform as a regular part of service, until the season begins again after Labor Day; this gives us the summer months for special music performances, and gives the dedicated and hard working members of both choirs some much deserved time off.

We will take a moment to recognize the members of each group, and acknowledge all they have accomplished this season during worship service on each of their respective final performances of the season. For Chancel Choir, that will be May 11, and for Bells of Joy it will be May 18. It is an honor to be able to work with every one of the members of both choirs, who each bring their own unique love and passion for the Music Ministry at Federated.

We will start our Summer Special Music on May 25th, and will be looking to fill spots every Sunday until September 7. I will, of course, be calling on members of our congregation to fill these spots, as well as members of our community. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex, or you can call the office if you are interested in providing Special Music for one or more of the Sundays. I hope for this summer's services to be filled with the joy of music!!

In Christ,

Stuart Gausman  
Director of Music Ministry

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Your Governing Council had the privilege of having dinner with our confirmands prior to our meeting. The 5 youth read their statements of faith & answered questions.

The Council voted to approve their membership in Federated Church. They will be confirmed on May 4th.

Continuing education & service to the larger church time off was approved for Edward.

Katie Claus & Julie Graham got approval to have two fund raisers for Operation Education Nairobi.

The Chamber of Commerce will be using the Fellowship Hall on August 7th for a “Bringing Back the Prayer” event.

The annual garage sale is scheduled for June 28th.

Georgia Behlen, Council President



# Children & Youth Ministry

## Calendar

5/4

### Confirmation Sunday

9 am Pictures in Sanctuary  
10 am Confirmation Service During Worship  
11 am Reception During Café-la-Fed

5/4

### Fed @ Fed

9th-12th Grades  
4-6 pm  
Federated Kitchen

5/11

### Mother's Day Flower Sale

9 am Prep Flowers  
11 am Sell Flowers

5/18

### Graduation Sunday

9 am Breakfast  
Graduates, Parents and Jr/High School Students  
10 am Worship  
11 am Cake Reception During Café-la-Fed

5/18

### Teacher Recognition Last Week Ed Hour

June 2nd-6th

### Vacation Bible Camp Federated Church

## SUNDAY FUNDAY



Our April Sunday Funday involved "Egging" houses. The youth hid twelve eggs around the homes of Federated's youngest members. Eleven eggs included a special treat, but the twelfth egg was empty - a reminder that the tomb was empty - Jesus is Risen!



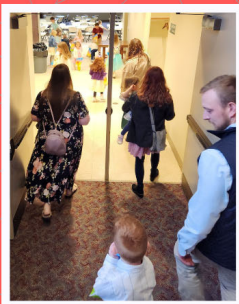
## PALM SUNDAY



Our Palm/Passion Sunday Celebration included the traditional Palm Parade and Children's Bells. It is always a treat to have the children participate in worship!

## EASTER SUNDAY

Thank you to the Christian Education Committee for sponsoring our annual Easter Egg Hunt. The kids had fun and enjoyed the sweet treats!



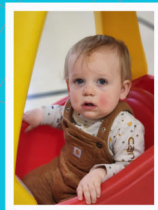


# Children & Youth Ministry



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

Children's Sunday was held on March 30<sup>th</sup> and featured a pot-luck, bounce houses, face painting and the Children's Bell Choir.



## Calendar

**June 22 - 27**  
**Mission Trip**  
Contact Brenda or Edward for more information.



**July 27 - Aug 1**  
**Triennium**  
9th-12th Grades

## FED @ FED



Our April Fed @ Fed featured Teriyaki Chicken. It was delicious, even though the rice was a little sticky:-) Our final Fed @ Fed for the school year will be May 4<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. It will be a repeat of our favorite meal - a Taste of Italy - with homemade noodles.



## VACATION BIBLE CAMP

June 2nd - 6th  
Federated Church



Register Today!



**Volunteers Needed!**

Please contact Brenda Sand for more information about volunteering for VBC!



## FEDERATED'S ANNUAL GARAGE/BAKE SALE

Federated's Annual Garage Sale is scheduled for June 28th.



You can start bringing your stuff June 9!

We do not accept computers or TVs or used car seats.

Volunteers will be needed June 23rd through June 28th.

Volunteer sign up sheets will be posted in May in the Narthex.

This annual event takes a lot of volunteers working a lot of hours. Thank you in advance for helping with this wonderful Federated event.

## SALAMA STOVE MISSION

John Novotny will be leading a team of welders (instructor and students) from the Central Community College-Columbus, to Togo, Africa, **May 18-26, 2025**. They will be installing the Salama Stoves (meaning "Peace" in Swahili) that have been on display in the church narthex in the past, and on the Federated float last year with Columbus Days. John has partnered with Dr. Coleen Stice (retired plastic surgeon from Omaha), and Central Community College-Columbus, to build these stoves, and now it is time to install them in the huts of the Togolese people. The same welders that helped built the stoves will be the one's installing them. It is anticipated that about 12 stoves will be installed on this trip. The stoves will be installed in and around a small rural community named Agbelouve, which is about 40 miles north of the Capital City of Lomé. In the rural area near Agbelouve, there is a new medical clinic and small campus which will be used as the base location for the trip. Togo is a next door neighbor to Ghana, which the Federated Church has had a long standing relationship with over the past years.

Simultaneous to the welding team going, a 12 member Creighton nursing team will also be going to help finalize setup of the new rural medical clinic near Agbelouve. About 3 personnel from the Omaha Creighton campus, and 9 from the Phoenix, Arizona Creighton campus will be joining our group. While there, the nursing students will also get to see the stove installations as well, as a collaborative effort to learn how the stoves have major health benefits to those using them. The Salama stoves use about 10% of a normal open fire inside their huts, which helps with deforestation. The Stoves essentially eliminate skin burns while in use, as they are insulated like any oven. They also help to eliminate hazardous smoke and fumes that would normally be inside the huts with an open fire, as the smoke is routed to the outside with flues. Lastly, the stoves also provide a medium for cooking and clean hot water. The stoves are generally a life changing event for those who receive them.

The Federated Church community has been very generous and gracious in the past with donations to this project. This includes donations from the Women's Fellowship, Cookies n' More, Garage Sale, and many individuals from the church, and others. John and all those involved want to thank Federated Church and its members for their support and prayers for this project, and a safe trip.

## JOYS & CONCERNS FOR APRIL 2025

- ◆ Congratulations to James and Jaime Ristow on the birth of their twins, Jayce Hennrik and Jayci Anne Ristow. They were born March 3, 2025.
- ◆ Pray for Margaret Trew as she recovers from an infection.
- ◆ Pray for Jean Royer who will be having knee surgery on Monday, April 21st.
- ◆ Congratulations on the birth of Marek James Griffith. Marek was born on March 5, 2025 and is welcomed by his parents Michael & Rachael Griffith and big sister Lena. Marek is the grandson of Annette & Bob Griffith.
- ◆ Congratulations on the birth of Bennett Kay Kistner. Parents Caleb & Skylar Kistner and big brother Tripp welcome Bennett who was born on April 7, 2025. Bennett is the granddaughter to Terry & Renee Norris.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Dylan Wall. Dylan passed away on April 22nd. Funeral services will be held at Federated Church on April 30th, with a gathering in the Fellowship Hall after the service.
- ◆ Pray for Jean Royer who is recovering from knee surgery.

## ATTENDANCE APRIL 2025

### Ushers/Liturgists & Attendance Report

**Ushers:** Bill Royer, Stephanie Johnson, Anna Young (youth), Hudson Luedtke (youth)

**Liturgists:** Kristen Gausman, Katie Claus, Paul Sanderson

**Average Attendance :**

In-Person Thursday Service: 23

In-Person Sunday Service: 127

(Easter service was a higher attendance than normal)

**Online Average Weekly Views:** 217



## HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY & UCC LIVING WATERS PRAYERS APRIL 2025

### ♦ Homestead Presbytery: Gresham

Abba - Heavenly, gracious God - please give us a few moments of calm and serenity. Take away our anxiety. Allow us silence to listen for your voice and vision. Bless us on our journey through life with Your Spirit. Grant us the power to free those who need freedom, rescue those perishing, and bear the burdens of those beaten down by the world. May our future be Your future for Gresham and beyond. Amen

### ♦ Homestead Presbytery: Hebron

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Hebron 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: Hickman

At Hickman Presbyterian Church, we are thankful for our dedicated staff and volunteers who continue to make it possible for us to serve our community in ways that are part of our tradition and in ways that are new. We are thankful for the families who are engaged in our Wednesday evening Community Meal and Youth Club. We ask for prayers for energy and wisdom to continue to find ways to engage our congregation and our community with the good news of God's love.

### ♦ Homestead Presbytery: Laurel

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Laurel 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:

- ♦ Wisner United Methodist UCC (Wisner, NE 68791)
- ♦ Yutan St. Peters UCC (Yutan, NE 68073)
- ♦ Albion Congregational UCC (Albion, NE 68620)
- ♦ Arlington Community UCC (Arlington, NE 68002)



## 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, Nila Novotny, Chair of Membership & Growth Committee

## SOCIAL CONCERNS & MISSIONS COMMITTEE COLLECTIONS & EVENTS

In April, May and June 2025 we are collecting paper towels and toilet paper for the Center for Survivors. 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*

## FUNERAL COMMITTEE 1

Funeral Committee 1 Co-Chairs: Chris & Tim Warren, Marilyn & Jesse Abrego, Doris & Roland Augspurger, Anita & John Hahn, Carol Bottom  
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...”<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!



<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.

Platte County Food Pantry  
Columbus, Nebraska



## 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!>







### 2025 PW Spring Gathering at North Bend Presbyterian Church

From Left to right:

Rogalyn Stevens, Alison Wagner, Rev. Connie (Wendland) Stone of North Bend, NE, Sue McClure and Nila Novotny.

#### **April 5, 2025**

The Presbyterian Women Homestead Presbytery Spring Gathering was held in North Bend, Ne at the United Presbyterian Church.

The theme of the Gathering was Joy.

Four members from the Federated Church attended the service: Rogalyn Stevens, Alison Wagner, Sue McClure and Nila Novotny.

Nila gave a wonderful slide program about her trips to Africa.

A former member of our Church, Joan Berglund from Lincoln is on the Women's Presbytery Committee.



# Happy Birthday!



|                               |      |                          |      |
|-------------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|
| Donna Augspurger, Dylan Micek | 5/1  | Carol Bottum             | 5/18 |
| Fred Bellum                   | 5/3  | Elda Juhnke              | 5/19 |
| Kristen Gausman               | 5/5  | Brenda Berry, Kyle Royer | 5/20 |
| Joie Taylor                   | 5/6  | Elizabeth Sand           | 5/21 |
| Shaylynn Meyer                | 5/7  | Georgia Behlen           | 5/23 |
| Tammi Gotschall               | 5/11 | Katie Claus, Larry Mares | 5/24 |
| Jackie Marker                 | 5/12 | Neal Peterson            | 5/25 |
| Doug Williams                 | 5/14 | Herman Lauterbach        | 5/28 |
| Mark Weeder                   | 5/17 | Diane Scheffler          | 5/29 |
|                               |      | Lee Augustin             | 5/31 |

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

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

| Income - April 2025                |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>General Funds (Checking):</b>   | <b>17,136.64</b> |
| Total Donations & Contributions    | 17,136.64        |
| <b>Designated Funds (Savings):</b> |                  |
| Center for Survivors               | 25.00            |
| Easter Flowers                     | 415.50           |
| Gym Maintenance                    | 300.00           |
| Habitat for Humanity               | 350.00           |
|                                    |                  |
|                                    |                  |
| <b>Memorials:</b>                  | <b>580.00</b>    |
| Undesignated Memorials             | 480.00           |
| Kitchen/Funeral                    | 100.00           |

| Expenses - April 2025              |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>General Fund Expenses:</b>      | <b>26,118.46</b> |
| Utilities                          | 2538.46          |
| Homestead Presbytery               | \$459.27         |
| UCC NE Conference                  | \$275.64         |
| Living Waters Association          | \$183.71         |
| Office Expenses                    | 1033.30          |
| Building Expenses                  | 2982.57          |
| Snow Removal                       | 1939.50          |
| Columbus Jazz Orchestra            | 200.00           |
| Universal Church Photo Directory   | 645.00           |
| Landscaping/Ground care            | 352.83           |
| Book-keeping (April)               | \$450.00         |
| Other Expenses                     | 16,091.48        |
| <b>Designated Funds (Savings):</b> | <b>20.07</b>     |
| Helping Hands (non-members)        | 20.07            |
|                                    |                  |



## 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.

| <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                                | 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,<br>President                 | Quarterly/as Necessary           |
| Governing Council                    | Georgia Behlen,<br>President<br>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  
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## MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

*May 2025; Volume 59; Issue 5*

### 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 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.