

FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

August 2026; Volume 60; Issue 8



Message From Our Church President

Another school year is just weeks away—which means the halls will soon echo with Sunday school classes, and the bell and chancel choirs will be filling our sanctuary with music once again.

But don't let the calendar fool you—this has been anything but a sleepy summer.

While many of us tried to stay cool, our faithful landscaping crew was out in the heat, battling stubborn weeds and caring for our grounds through an unusually hot, dry season. Out on the corner of 27th Avenue and 15th Street, a brand-new church sign now stands, and our office staff has been learning its many features so we can share messages of welcome and hope with our neighbors.

Inside, there's been just as much activity. We hosted another successful garage sale—not only raising important funds, but experiencing the joy that comes when people of all ages roll up their sleeves, work side by side, and laugh together over this massive project.

Much of our church is now protected by a new roof, and plans are in place to replace some carpet and give our floors a fresh, clean shine. On a recent visit, I stepped into the building and was greeted by the energy and chatter of young people racing through the halls as they rehearsed for the Missoula Children's Theatre. It was a beautiful reminder that our building is a living, breathing ministry space—not just a place we visit once a week.

Week after week, volunteers have stepped forward to offer special music, read Scripture, lead prayer, serve communion, greet and usher worship attendees, and quietly handle the "behind-the-scenes" tasks that keep our church vibrant and welcoming.

And we're not done yet. Soon we'll once again be offering a diaper-changing station at Columbus Days—a simple but meaningful way to serve young families in our community. If you're down at the park, keep an eye out for our new church feather banner and stop by to say hello.

In light of all this, it's hard to see church as a "Sunday-morning-only" institution. The truth is, our church is alive every day of the week—through worship, service, fellowship, and countless small acts of love.

And now as summer draws to a close and the days grow shorter, may we remember that the light of Christ never dims.

Bob Arp

Music Ministry Director

As summer begins to wind down, we are looking forward to the start of another exciting year of music at Federated Church. While it's hard to believe Fall is just around the corner, preparations are already underway for the return of our regular music ministry season.

Our Chancel Choir and Bells of Joy Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 9, and I would like to extend a personal invitation to anyone who has ever considered joining us. You don't have to be a professional musician or have years of experience; just a willingness to learn, participate, and use your gifts in service to God. Whether you've sung in a choir before, rung handbells years ago, or have simply wondered what it's all about, this is the perfect time to come and see. We'd love to welcome you.

One of the greatest strengths of our music ministry is the sense of fellowship that grows alongside the music we create together. Rehearsals are filled with laugher, encouragement, and the shared joy of preparing music that helps lead worship and inspire our congregation.

Our Summer Special Music program will continue through September 6, and we still have a couple of Sundays available. If you sing, play an instrument, or would like to perform with family or friends, there's still time to participate. Summer music offers a wonderful opportunity to share your talents in a relaxed and meaningful setting, and we'd be delighted to have you join us.

As always, if you have questions about either choir or would like to volunteer for Summer Special Music, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to another wonderful season of making music together and sharing our gifts in worship.

In Christ,

Stuart Gausman
Director of Music Ministry

Summer Office Help

At the start of this summer, I was given the opportunity to help out in the church office. Now as the start of the school year draws near and my time here comes to an end, I would like to reflect and thank everyone for my experience here. I appreciate the guidance and patience of Kathy and Antoneea to teach me so much on the everyday operations that keep the church running. I also want to thank Steve Heinisch and Pastor Edward for considering me for the position in the first place. During my time here I have learned many valuable skills that I will be able to use for the rest of my professional career. From simple tasks such as filing and shredding to learning how to use new computer software, it is safe to say that this summer is one that I won't forget, and for that I am truly grateful.

-Meg Weeder

GOD BLESS AMERICA!







Federated Church Celebrates America and Pastor Edward

On June 28, Federated Church gathered for a special patriotic worship service celebrating the 250th birthday of America. The service was filled with gratitude, reflection, and patriotic spirit as members and friends joined together to give thanks for the blessings of freedom and the sacrifices that have made those freedoms possible.

The worship service featured patriotic themes throughout, along with inspiring special music presented by the Chancel Choir under the direction of Stuart Gausman. Their musical offerings added a meaningful and uplifting touch to the celebration.

A special moment during the service came when Peg Meyer, Chair of the Order of Saint Andrew, addressed the congregation. She expressed appreciation for the men and women who have sacrificed in service to our country, acknowledging the courage and dedication that have helped preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. Peg then revealed that the celebration was also secretly honoring Pastor Edward's 10th anniversary of ministry at Federated Church. She thanked Pastor Edward and his wife, Sunnie, for their decade of faithful leadership, service, and commitment to the church family and community.

On behalf of the congregation, Peg presented Pastor Edward with a special love offering as a token of appreciation and gratitude.

The celebration continued after worship as everyone was invited to an ice cream social, providing an opportunity for fellowship, reflection, and the sharing of joyful memories.

It was a memorable day of worship as Federated Church celebrated both our nation's rich heritage and the faithful leadership that has blessed our congregation for the past ten years. We give thanks to God for these many blessings and look forward to the years ahead.

Annual Garage/Bake Sale

July 18, 2026 Federated Church held its annual Garage/Bake sale. We had an abundance of items donated. Many rooms, the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall were all used to accommodate the event. Thank you to all the wonderful people who planned, organized, set up, worked the event and cleaned up after the sale. We can't mention everyone by name because we had a small village of wonderful people working on this event. Special thank you to Linda Wheatley and Kathy Leischner who were the co-chairs of the event.

We don't have a definite dollar amount that was made at the sale - there are still a few items/books that may be picked up yet. The chairs and their committee will give us a total and their distribution of money list later. We will share the information in the bulletin.









Homestead Presbytery/UCC Living Waters Prayers

◆ July 5 *Tekamah*

We pray for those harmed by the violence and cost of war, as well as those carrying out said violence; especially those in Palestine, Ukraine, and Iran. As we near the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, we pray for our country. May God direct, correct, and uphold the leaders and people of this nation as we strive to attain the lofty aspirations of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all people. We also pray for our community of Tekamah and the broader community of Burt County. We lift up to God those in our congregation who are suffering or struggling with illness, injury, grief, despair, and all else that ails us, trusting that God is with us in our struggles, granting us forgiveness, life, and hope. Finally, we give thanks to God for the many blessings we enjoy and ask for the strength and courage to share those blessings with our neighbors both near and far as we seek to be the body of Christ in and for the world.

◆ July 12 *Thurston John Huss*

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

◆ July 19 *Wahoo Czech*

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

◆ July 26 *Wahoo*

First Presbyterian Church of Wahoo continues to seek to strive to be the face, hand and feet of Jesus Christ in the community. Please pray for our impact this summer with our joint Vacation Bible School and the food pantry of the Wahoo ministerial alliance. We continue to seek ways to share God's love with those we encounter at all times and cherish your prayers as we do so!

UCC Living Waters Association:

◆ Neligh First Congregational UCC (Neligh, NE 68756)

◆ Newcastle Congregational UCC (Newcastle, NE 68757)

◆ Norfolk First Congregational UCC (Norfolk, Ne 68701)

◆ Omaha Countryside Community Church UCC (Omaha, NE 68114)

Ushers/Liturgists & Attendance Report (through July 26, 2026)

Ushers: Bill Royer and Georgia Behlen

Liturgists: Jackie Marker, Sue McClure, Peg Meyer and Wilma Arp.

Attendance Average for the Month of July:

Thursday Service: 9

Sunday Service : 68

Online viewers: 209

Joys & Concerns For June 2026

- Pray for the family of Joie Taylor who passed on June 27. Funeral service was held on July 1 in Stuart, IA.
- Pray for the family of Kay Castner who passed on June 30. Funeral service was held on July 10 at Federated Church.
- Pray for Lisa Perrin as she recovers from shoulder surgery.
- Pray for Pete Bennett as he is having retina attachment surgery.
- Pray for the family of John Hahn. John passed away on July 14th. The funeral was held at Federated Church at 11 am on Monday, July 20. Luncheon followed the service.
- Pray for the family of Charlotte Griffith. Charlotte passed away on July 16. Memorial service will be in Bristol, RI. Her obituary can be found at perrymcstay.com
- Thank you to Anita Hahn and family for the beautiful Chancel Flowers they gave to Federated Church.

Activity Spotlight

Federated Church has many activities during the year that are sponsored by the congregation - planning, setting up, attending, clean up, promoting, speaking, reading, serving, going above and beyond to do something for Federated Church. This month's activity spotlight features the Annual Garage/Bake sale workers. This year Linda Wheatley and Kathy Leischner co-chaired this huge event. They spent many hours preparing the event, recruiting workers, organizing, hosting the event and then cleaning up. This is a major task, and it literally takes a small village of workers to host this wonderful event.

A big **THANK YOU** to all the wonderful people who worked on the Garage/Bake sale. We could not host this event each year without all the wonderful people working at the event and the bakers.

We do not have a total yet for the money earned but should in the next week or so. We still have people stopping by to pick up merchandise, people buying items from off Facebook, etc. The garage/bake sale committee will also be putting together a list of organizations they will be donating money to. This event helps the community with great items to purchase at a low price while also helping organizations who serve our community with the profits!

Office Schedule

The office will return to regular hours as of August 10th.
The office will be open **all day** from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
Monday through Friday.
Office will now be open over lunch hour (12:00-1:00)
Security - the church doors will remain locked all day.

Daily Devotion Books

THESE DAYS: DAILY DEVOTION books for July, August & September 2026 are available in the narthex and the church office!

Social Concerns & Missions

Social Concerns and Missions Committee is collecting
LEASHES, PINE SOL AND BLEACH
PAWS & CLAWS
July, Aug., Sept. 2026

The Social Concerns and Mission Committee is beginning a new international project beginning in September called Operation Christmas Child. Some of you are familiar with this Samaritan's Purse project. We will explain the program in September, but basically it is a faith based program where children are sent a box for Christmas, many who have never had a Christmas gift of any kind. Items that are encouraged are school supplies, toys, clothes, etc. Since these items and summer clothes are on sale now, this is a very good time to buy them. They need to fit into a shoebox. There is also an Amazon site specifically offering items for this project. More information to come!

Social Concerns and Mission Committee

Join Teammates



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…"* 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!

In July we helped 2 people with gas and 3 with food.

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.
Katie Claus, Chair of Social Concerns & Missions Committee

All months have been taken - THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!!!

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.



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!

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 month's newsletter. Email: fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org, Phone: 402-564-2812, Mail: 2704 15th St. PO Box 564, 68602

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.

Baking For Red Cross

Thank you to Bey Fry, Peggy Meyer, Marilyn Vrana and Karen Paben who donated cookies to the Thursday Midwest Region American Red Cross Blood Drive in July, which is held at the Methodist Outreach Center. The blood donors appreciated receiving the cookies.

Funeral Committee #1

Funeral Committee 1 Co-Chairs: Chris & Tim Warren, Marilyn & Jesse Abrego, Doris & Roland Augspurger, Anita Hahn, and Carol Bottum.
Committee Members will be contacted by the Co-Chairs.

Columbus Days

August 7 & 8 are the days that Federated Church will be participating in Columbus Days with our diaper changing station downtown. Extra help is always appreciated, so please stop by if you are out and about!

Gym & Fellowship Hall Floors

The gym and Fellowship Hall floors will be deep cleaned and resealed. We ask that no one use these two areas August 3 – 5th. Thank you.



Backpack Blessing

Sunday, August 9th @ 10 am

STUDENTS and EDUCATORS are invited to bring their backpack to worship for a special back-to-school BLESSING!

FEDERATED CHURCH

2704 15th Street - Columbus

H.I.S. PUPPET MINISTRY

CALLING ALL PUPPETEERS



PERFORMANCE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026
10:00 AM WORSHIP

PRACTICE
WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30 PM
AUGUST 5, 12 & 19

CONTACT
Jgraham3165@gmail.com

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 wipe 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!

Thyme





Azalea

Tulip





8/02	**Annie Lange**	**8/17**	**Claudia Kiser, Jon Kiser, Kristi Wolfe**
8/03	**Raeya Curtis-Hast**	**8/20**	**Breanna Griffith**
8/08	**Derek Curtis**	**8/21**	**Dave Melick**
8/09	**Jeanne Johnson, Kevin Meyer**	**8/24**	**Ashli Porter**
8/10	**Janet Lyon**	**8/25**	**Taylor Irby, Barbara Zoucha**
8/13	**Doris Augspurger**	**8/27**	**David Marsh**
8/14	**Spencer Swierczek, Tim Warren**	**8/30**	**Connie Spohn**
8/15	**Paula Lange, Glynette Smith**		

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

Financial Summary (June 16 - July 15, 2026)

Income	
General Funds (Checking):	**$45,131.97**
Total General Fund	$45,131.97
Memorials:	**$150.00**
Kitchen Fund	$150.00

Designated Funds (Savings):	**$3,429.67**
Youth Fund (recycled cans, donations)	$484.67
Pentecost	$5.00
Calvin Crest camp	$55.00
Kamp Kaleo	$25.00
Vacation Bible Camp	$330.00
Building Maintenance	$100.00
Wedding/Special Event fee	$350.00
Appreciation/Love Gift	$2,050.00
Education Hour	$30.00

Expenses	
General Fund Expenses:	**$21,205.93**
Homestead Press., UCC, LWA	$876.60
Office Supplies (postage, phones, copier leasing, equipment, advertising, bank fees, etc.)	$1,169.21
Utilities/Grounds Care	$2,796.92
Vacation Bible Camp	$30.00
Bookkeeping fee	$550.00
Pulpit Supply	$225.00
Music	$55.60
Central Roofing	$900.00
Window Cleaning	$660.00
Staff Salaries (2 pay periods)	$13,942.60

Designated Funds Expenses:	**$6,618.11**
Helping Hands	$60.11
Appreciation/Love Gift	$2,050.00
Kamp Kaleo	$225.00
Calvin Crest	$574.00
Schulmerich Bells	$2,799.00
Columbus Door & Window	$910.00

2026 Committee Chairs And Meeting Days/Times

In the table below you can find the 2026 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***	***Tentative Meeting Day/Time***
Christian Education Committee	Brenda Sand	1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Endowment Committee	Marcia Grant	Will meet as necessary
Finance & Property Committee	Terry Norris	3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Membership & Growth Committee	Nila Novotny	2nd Monday of the month, 6:00pm
Nominating Committee	Bob Arp	To be determined
Order of St. Andrew	Peg Meyer	1st Monday of the month, 4:30pm
Personnel Committee	Marilyn Vrana	3rd Monday of the month, 5:00pm
Social Concerns & Missions Committee	Katie Claus	2nd Monday of the month, 5:00pm
Stewardship Committee	Linda Wheatley	Will meet as necessary
Worship & Music Committee	Steve Heinisch	1st Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm
Youth Ministry Committee	Max Porter	2nd Sunday of the month, 11:00am
Foundation	Doug Williams, President	Quarterly/as Necessary
Governing Council	Bob Arp, President Steve Heinisch, 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
2704 15th STREET
PO Box 564
COLUMBUS, NE 68602-0564

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U.S. Postage Paid
Columbus, NE
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Decoding The Liturgical Color Scheme

Green 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.