



FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

November 2025; Volume 59; Issue 11

November EVENTS

November 8 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast

November 9 - Veterans Recognition Service

November 16 - Operation Education Nairobi Soup
Fundraiser

November 20 - Cookies 'N More Fundraiser

November 23 - Commissioning of the new organ,
Ecumenical Service 4 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran
Church, Shell Creek

November 27 - Thanksgiving Day,
Church service cancelled.

November 27/28 - Office Closed

November 30 - First Day of Advent



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

[Apologies for getting this newsletter mailed out late this month]

There is much to be thankful for in the month of November. The month begins with All Saints Day on the first; we remember all those who have gone before us from this life.

At Federated Church, we celebrated Heritage Sunday on Nov. 2nd with recognition in worship and potluck after service. Thank you to all our 50+ year members for your dedication and service.

On Nov. 9th, we will be honoring veterans in our congregation with a time of recognition in worship. Thank you to all who served in the military and those who supported the veterans.

On Nov. 16th, our youth group (led by Brenda and me) will attend a church in Lincoln to experience a variety in worship. We will have a fellowship activity that afternoon. At Federated Church, there will be a fundraiser for Operation Education Nairobi; please support their work in providing education for youth in Kenya.

We will have our annual Cookies 'N More on Nov. 20th. Thank you to all our cookie/pie bakers, candy makers and volunteers (especially the chairs for this event: Katie Claus and Chris Warren).

There are several events on Nov. 23rd. It is the last Sunday of the Revised Common Lectionary, as we observe Christ the King Sunday for Year C. We will also have a commissioning of our new electronic organ in worship with guest organist, Brent Shaw (more info is shared by Stuart on page 3). The ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be held at St. John's ELCA (Shell Creek) on Sunday 4pm.

Thanksgiving holiday will be on Nov. 27th; reminder: Thursday evening service is cancelled for that day. Church office will be closed on Nov. 27th – 28th. This year, Advent begins on the last Sunday of November (i.e., Nov. 30th). With it being a long holiday weekend, we will NOT have the usual 5th Sunday potluck.

With thanksgiving,

Edward

MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR

As the leaves (finally) begin to turn we move into November, a month filled with gratitude and reflection. As we gather in gratitude, we also have much to celebrate.

On November 23rd, we will officially commission our new Rodgers Organ. This new instrument is more than just a tool for enhancing our worship; it is also a symbol that represents the majesty and immensity of God as well as the unity and harmony of the community. The organ's commissioning is the culmination of countless hours of research, planning and discernment. It represents the collective efforts of our Organ Task Force, the Music and Worship Committee, the Property and Finance Committee, the Governing Council, and our congregation. We are thankful for each member's contribution, and to Gerald Oehring & Associates; the company the organ was purchased from, and installed by. We are also extremely grateful to the Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation, Executive Director Audrey Richert, for the grant we received to help with the cost of the organ. As we dedicate this magnificent instrument, let us reflect on the power of music to unite, to uplift, and to inspire.

We have invited Brent Shaw to play our organ for the November 23rd service, and are excited to let its sounds fill our hearts with hope, and strengthen our bonds of fellowship. Brent serves as Choir Director and Organist at Eastridge Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, Nebraska and as one of the assistant organists and Wedding Music Coordinator at First-Plymouth Church UCC. Before his family served as foster and later adoptive parents, Brent served as Minister of Music and Education at First UMC Lincoln for 10 years as well as Union University Organist. He served as a Past Dean of the Lincoln chapter of the American guild of organists. This service will be a time to celebrate our past, embrace our present, and look forward to a future filled with beautiful music.

In the spirit of thankfulness, I must also celebrate the diversity of Federated's music ministry. From our Chancel Choir and Bells of Joy, to our instrumentalists and children's bells, each individual contributes uniquely to our worship experience. I am deeply grateful for the talent, dedication, and spirit of our musicians. Your contributions enrich our services and create a sense of community that extends beyond the walls of our sanctuary.

I invite everyone to join us in person on November 23rd as we dedicate the new organ and celebrate the gift of music at Federated. Together, let's continue to make beautiful music and uplift our spirits!

Stuart Gausman
Director of Music Ministry

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Your Governing Council met October 28th.

We heard from Stewardship that 82 families have responded. The garage sale was a big success making over \$10,600.00 that has been shared with many local charities as well as with our church.

Hamilton Technology is working with us to get a grant for security equipment and installation.

Edward will be taking vacation the week of November 10th as well as preaching at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service the afternoon of November 23rd.

Also on the 23rd we will be commissioning the new organ with a very special guest organist during our regular service.

Georgia Behlen, church president

JOYS & CONCERNS FOR OCTOBER 2025

- ◆ Chancel flowers are provided by Chris and Laurretta Dixon in celebration of their 72nd wedding anniversary.
- ◆ Pray for Riley Gausman as he is recovering from knee surgery.
- ◆ Pray for Glynette Smith, she is recovering from open heart surgery.
- ◆ Pray for Thea Evans, great-granddaughter of Bobbie Uhlman, she is at Children's Hospital in Omaha.
- ◆ Congratulations to Wayne McCormick on being inducted to the Battle Creek Public Schools Hall of Fame.
- ◆ Pray for the grandfather of Brianna Brockhaus who is in the hospital undergoing several heart tests.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Howard Heinisch, brother to Steve Heinisch. Howard passed away on October 19th.
- ◆ Pray for Rob Mueller, life partner to Chrissy Ford (our former Office Administrator). Rob is battling cancer.
- ◆ Pray for Cec Bartholomew and family. Cec is currently on hospice care.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Cec Bartholomew. Cec passed away on Saturday, November 1st. Funeral services are 10:30 am Wednesday, November 5th. Luncheon to follow the service.

HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY/UCC LIVING WATERS PRAYERS OCTOBER 2025

◆ Homestead Presbytery: Wahoo First

Please pray for our confirmation class as they learn more about the faith. Prayers for First Presbyterian Church of Wahoo as we seek to make a meaningful impact in the community, sharing the good news of the gospel. Prayers for the leaders of the church that they may discern the will of God in their decisions that they make.

◆ Homestead Presbytery: Wakefield

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Wakefield 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: Wayne

First Presbyterian Church of Wayne is looking forward to a busy fall as activities resume. The Deacons are planning for their annual Coat Give Away on October 11th. The event provides area families with free coats, hats, gloves and sometimes boots for cold Nebraska winters. The Deacons welcome donations for all ages and give thanks for the many generous people who donate to the Coat Closet. FPC hosts the ecumenical Wayne Area Food Pantry which serves all of Wayne County, monthly we serve on average 18 to 20 families. We also facilitate the Backpack program in the area schools, so children have food for the weekend. We pray for the students who receive the weekly backpacks and their families. We are thankful for these various ways we can live into being a Matthew 25 Community, caring for our neighbors.

◆ Homestead Presbytery: Wymore

We continue to maintain our yoke with Steele City, including joint services and activities. We enjoy opportunities of outreach in our local community, including an upcoming Halloween

game-and-treat event in town. Advent and Christmas always lift our congregation in the beauty of decorations, music, and worship. Pray that we rise to the task of loving our neighbors and offering the hand of Christ.

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)
- ◆ Blair Congregational UCC (Blair, NE 68008)

ATTENDANCE THROUGH OCT. 26

Ushers/Liturgists & Attendance Report

Ushers: Bill Royer, Mark Hegi, Youth; Myla Bender, Cara Porter, Annabelle Bender, Hudson Luedtke

Liturgists: Wilma Arp, Julie Graham, Katie Claus, Tessa Miller, Celine & Elyena Perrin

Average Attendance :

In-Person Thursday Service: 13
In-Person Sunday Service: 99

Online Average Weekly Views: 166

CHILDREN'S SABBATH

Children's Sabbath was celebrated on October 19th. In Sunday School, the children stuffed Christmas Stockings for children living in shelters over the holidays. During worship the youth served as liturgist and our Children's Bell Choir performed "Jesus Loves the Little Children."



The October Sunday **FUN**day included some *spooktacular* fun! We began by making "Mummies in a Blanket" for lunch. While they baked, we played "What's in the box?" Some of the mystery items were dried apricots, stewed tomatoes, brain-shaped Jello, spaghetti, and sardines. After lunch, we moved on to the main event—A Murder Mystery! We had lots of fun dressing up in costumes and acting out our parts. We even managed to solve the mystery of the Murder at Halloween Hallow!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11/9

FED@FED

4-6 pm Federated Kitchen

11/16

SUNDAY FUNDAY

Church Visit—Lincoln

11/30

NO EDUCATION HOUR

Thanksgiving Break

12/13

PAGEANT PRACTICE

10 am

Sanctuary

All Participating in Pageant

12/14

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

During Worship

12/14

SUNDAY FUNDAY

Christmas Party

11—2 pm

5th Grade & Up

12/24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5 pm & 8 pm

12/28 & 1/4

NO EDUCATION HOUR



Hurricane Melissa



God is our refuge and strength. Therefore, we will not fear, though the waters roar and foam.
(Psalm 46)

SATURINO PEREZ

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is responding to Hurricane Melissa, which made landfall as a **Category 5 hurricane** in Jamaica, also striking Cuba and other island nations on its path through the Caribbean.

Initial assessments show **catastrophic destruction** around the core path of the storm, and throughout the impacted region, devastating flooding and debris are isolating communities in several of these island nations. Along with loss of life, livelihoods and shelter have been destroyed. **It will take years to recover.**

After initial needs are addressed, PDA will remain — working alongside partners throughout the affected islands to support long-term recovery, resilience for leaders and communities, and addressing unmet needs.

The needs for the response will be great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.



GIVE: Gifts can be made online by **scanning** the QR code, **calling** (800) 728-7228, ext. 5885, or **mailing** a check using the below reply device.

ACT: Learn how you and your congregation can help families affected by Melissa. Stay informed and like us on Facebook (facebook.com/PDAcares), download resources at pcusa.org/pda and share updates with your congregation.

PRAY: *May Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard hearts and minds during this trial. And may Your faithful presence be a light in the darkness and bring out of chaos, hope. Amen.*

\$500 \$125 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Congregation/PIN _____

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church, or mail with your check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



Advent & Christmas Poinsettias

Donor(s) Name: _____

Poinsettia Color	Qty	Price (\$12 each)	Amount
Red			
Pink			
White			
Total:			

Poinsettias are given to God's glory, and may also be designated as a memorial and/or given in honor of special persons.

To God's glory and in Memory of: _____

To God's glory and in Honor of: _____

Please return this form and payment to church office by December 4th.

Make checks payable to Federated Church.

Please note 'Poinsettia' on the memo line.

Plants purchased elsewhere are welcome.

Please label it with your name if you wish to collect it after the service.

All plants left after service will be donated to local retirement homes,

or taken by attendees of the Christmas Meal.

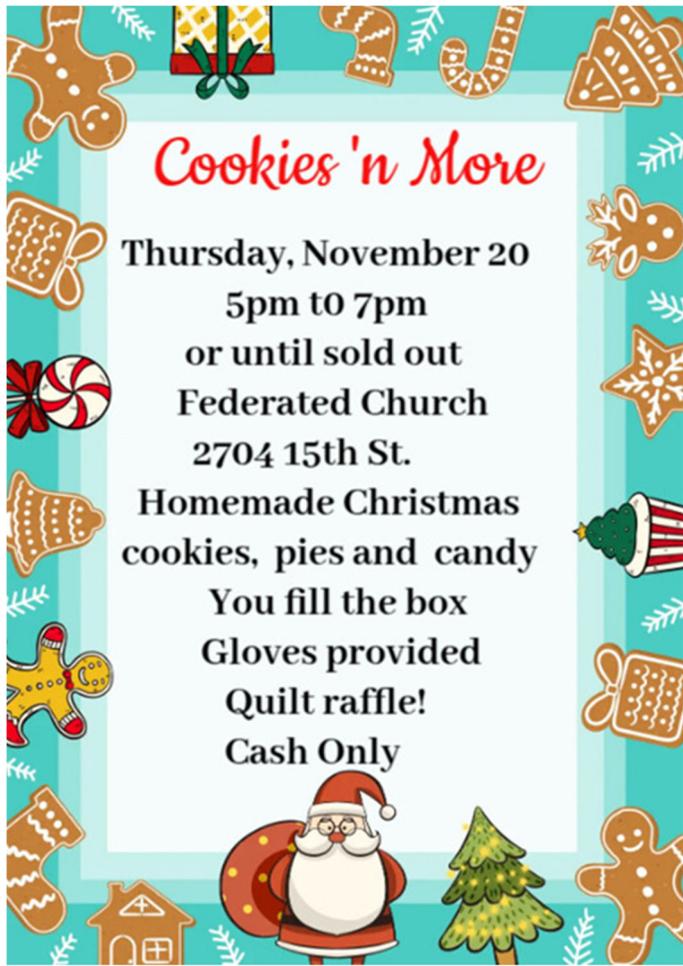
SOUTH PARKING LOT PROJECT



***Yippee! The parking lot is now open!
Thank you all for being patient while
it was being completed. Special
thanks to Tim Warren, Marv Zoucha,
and Bob & Wilma Arp for overseeing
this project.***



COOKIES 'N MORE



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER 2025

Federated Church will be hosting the Community Christmas Dinner again this year, on Christmas Day. This long standing outreach project has impacted the lives of many Columbus residents over the years, and we're excited to keep the tradition going! Our needs are very much the same this year as in years past, and we look to our congregation and community members to help fulfill these needs again. We need volunteers; to help set up, for food prep, to pack take out and delivery orders, serve our dine-in guests, deliver orders, and help with clean-up. We're also looking for food donations; turkeys, potatoes, bulk size green beans and corn, and deserts, to name a few... We will be having a mashed potato prep day as well, which we hope will be a great way to get some youth members involved!

Be on the lookout for sign up sheets in the Narthex, and please feel free to contact Kathy or Antoneea in the office. We look forward to continuing this wonderful ministry of Federated Church, and welcome all who wish to be a part of it! Please feel free to contact any of the Chairpersons as well:

Stuart Gausman 402-910-3964
Kristen Gausman 402-910-5854
Patricia Engel 402-606-8832

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of dangerous weather during a church service, you will be instructed where to go for shelter at that time. If you are attending an event at the church outside of worship, please go to the Fellowship Hall to the storage area, or the restrooms right off the Narthex. These areas are marked as Severe Weather Shelter Area signs.

OPERATION EDUCATION NAIROBI

Soup Fundraiser for Operation Education Nairobi Nov. 16. Homemade soup to go! We will raffle off a chance to win homemade soup for 6 months---be sure to buy your tickets!



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.

S.A.L.T. ADULT SUNDAY CLASS

S.A.L.T classes every Sunday before service
"Study and Learn Together"

Who: All Adults!

When: 8:45 a.m. (So choir members can come!)

Where: Education Center Room 4

OCTOBER FUNERAL COMMITTEE #4

Funeral Committee 4 Co-Chairs: Steve & Sue McClure, Sharon Kuncil,
Brenda Sand, Rod & Cindee Wachter

Committee Members will be contacted by the Co-Chairs.

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

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

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!

¹Excerpt from ‘In Ministry Together; Federated Church - A Centennial History; July 2, 1014 - July 2, 2014’; pg. 38-39



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.

THANK YOU to everyone who has signed up to prepare a meal.

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



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!

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!>



Gucci



Soonie



Marie



Carrie Prokopec, Peg Rupprecht	11/01	Amanda Weeder	11/16
Elizabeth Grisham, Syllas Micek	11/03	Gunnar Wolfe	11/17
Rebecca Williams, Hunter Yang	11/05	Rylan Carstens	11/19
Josh Winig	11/06	Diana Barbaglia	11/22
Jim Sharpe, Mary Sharpe	11/09	Nell Burnham, Lainey McHugh	11/23
Jim Morris	11/10	Anita Hahn	11/24
Meera Lange	11/11	Dana Augspurger	11/25
Alex Lange	11/14	Toby Sand, Deanna Scheidegger	11/26

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

Governing Council - Federated Church Elders			Federated Church Clergy and Staff	
Georgia Behlen, <i>President</i> Bob Arp, <i>Vice President</i> Barb Sanderson, <i>Secretary</i>			Rev. Edward Yang, Ph.D. <i>Pastor/Head of Staff</i> edward@federatedcolumbus.org	Stuart Gausman <i>Director of Music Ministry</i>
<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	Brenda Sand <i>Christian Education Director</i> brenda@federatedcolumbus.org	Lee Augustin <i>Pianist</i>
Pat Anderson	Nila Novotny	Terry Norris	Kathy Zywiec <i>Co-office Administrator, Social Media Coordinator</i>	Amanda Weeder <i>Accompanist</i>
John Lohr	Max Porter	Linda Wheatley	Antoneea Kriewald <i>Co-office Administrator</i>	Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia <i>El Buen Pastor Fellowship</i>
Brenda Sand		Marilyn Vrana	Mark Baumann <i>Custodian</i>	Deb Gaeth Anjel Garcia Lopez <i>Nursery Attendants</i>
Order of St. Andrew - Federated Church Deacons				
Kathy Leischner	Tammi Gotschall	Peg Meyer		
Barb Olson	Steve McClure	Joe Chin		
Lori Rine	Jesse Abrego	Brenda Wardman		
Andree & Terry Hoeman, <i>Co-Historians</i>				
Bill Royer, <i>Head Usher</i>				

2704 15th St • PO Box 564 • Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0564 • Phone: 402-564-2812
Email: fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org • www.federatedcolumbus.org

DEMONINATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): www.pcusa.org
Synod of Lakes and Prairies: www.lakesandprairies.org
Homestead Presbytery: homesteadpres.org
United Church of Christ: www.ucc.org
Nebraska Conference: ucctcm.org/nebraska
Living Waters Association: livingwatersassociation.org

ECUMENICAL PARTNERS

First United Methodist Church: columbusfumc.com
Grace Episcopal Church: grace.episcopal-ne.org
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Shell Creek: stjohnlutheranshellcreek.weebly.com
St. Luke's United Church of Christ: www.saintlukescolumbus.org

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!

FEDERATED CHURCH
2704 15th STREET
PO Box 564
COLUMBUS, NE 68602-0564

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U.S. Postage Paid
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NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

November 2025; Volume 59; Issue 11

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.

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 worshiping 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.