

November 2026; Volume 60; Issue 11



THIS MONTHS EVENTS

November 1 - Communion; Hymn Sing; Birthday Recognition; Heritage Sunday with potluck; Daylight Saving Time ends

November 5 & 8 - Veterans Recognition

November 9 - T-shirt orders due at noon

November 14 - Men's Fellowship

November 19 - Cookies 'N More

November 22 - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. John's Shell Creek 4:00 pm

November 29 - 1st Sunday of Advent



Note from Pastor

Please excuse the delay in receiving this month's newsletter. Carpet in the office, south hallway and coat closet was replaced during the last week of October (after more than 25 years of use). This meant moving all furniture and stuff (which was a lot) from our offices and now back into place. I want to thank all the volunteers who helped with moving, especially the adults and youth from Boy Scouts Troop 212!

Music Ministry

As November arrives and we begin looking toward Thanksgiving, it seems like a fitting time to reflect on the many things we have to be grateful for in the Music Ministry at Federated Church. Our fall season has been filled with wonderful opportunities to make music together.

The Chancel Choir and Bells of Joy have settled into their regular rehearsals and worship schedules, and it has been especially rewarding to see our musicians sharing their talents in so many different ways. One particularly memorable moment was Children's Sabbath in October, when our young people had the opportunity to participate in worship through music. Experiences like these remind us that music ministry isn't just about the notes we play or sing. It's about participation, fellowship, and creating opportunities for people of all ages to share in worship.

November promises more wonderful music as well. Both the Chancel Choir and Bells of Joy continue preparing music for our regular worship services, and as we do I'm reminded that some of the most meaningful moments in worship don't always come from elaborate performances, but from the simple act of making music together.

I'm particularly thankful for the people who make all of this possible. Our singers, handbell ringers, instrumentalists, accompanists, cantors, and everyone who contributes special music give generously of their time and talents. Their preparation and dedication often happen long before Sunday morning, and their efforts are a tremendous gift to our congregation.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I hope you'll take a moment to appreciate the music that surrounds us in worship, and perhaps even consider how you might share your own gifts. Whether through our regular ensembles, special music opportunities, or simply joining your voice with the congregation in song, everyone has a part in the music of Federated Church.

Thank you for another wonderful season of music, fellowship, and worship together. I'm looking forward to all that the coming weeks will bring!

Stuart Gausman

Director of Music Ministry

Message From Our Church President

As we enter this season of thanksgiving, we are reminded that gratitude is not just a holiday tradition but a central part of our life with God. Scripture calls us to "give thanks in all circumstances", not because every circumstance is good, but because God is always faithful in the midst of them.

Thanksgiving shifts our focus from what we lack to what we have received. It should deepen our trust, soften our hearts, and strengthen our unity as a church family. When we give thanks together— in our homes, our workplaces, and at Federated— we bear witness to the goodness of God in a world that is today anxious and divided.

I have overwhelming gratitude for the wonderful church family we have at Federated. So many of you faithfully serve far beyond simply showing up on Sunday mornings. And under the sincere and caring leadership of Pastor Edward and Brenda, our faith journeys are being nurtured and strengthened. I'm also deeply grateful for our music ministry, our dedicated office staff, Sunnie, and so many others who quietly and consistently enrich our community of believers.

Finally, I ask that this be a time when we pause, remember God's many mercies, and speak our thanks out loud: in our prayers, at our tables, and to one another.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)

Bob Arp

Activity Spotlight - Trunk - or -Treat

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 special for Federated Church.

This month's activity spotlight features the volunteers who planned, organized, donated treats and were present at the annual Trunk or Treat on October 29th.

Federated Church has been hosting a trunk or treat in the parking lot for many years. We have hundreds of children, parents, grandparents, guardians come to the church. Everyone is greeted by dressed-up congregants, passing out treats. Not only are the congregants wearing a costume, but many have also decorated their vehicles. It's a fun, safe evening for trick-or-treaters before Halloween night.

Homestead Presbytery / UCC Living Waters Prayers

October 4 Clarkson New Zion

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

October 11 Columbus Federated

As the Federated Church of Columbus continues to thrive, we are deeply grateful for your prayers and support. God has blessed us with many vibrant ministries, including puppet, music, online, and youth ministries, among others. Our congregation is experiencing both good health and financial stability, and our members are actively serving not only within the church but also throughout the greater Columbus community. We also give thanks for the faithful leadership of our Christian Education Director, Brenda Sand, and Pastor Edward Yang who recently celebrated 10 years of ministry with us. Please pray that our church family will continue to be a beacon of Christ's love and acceptance in these troubled times.

October 18 Craig

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

October 25 Dunbar

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Dunbar 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)

October - Joys & Concerns

- Congratulations to James Specht and Christina Byrd, who exchanged wedding vows on Saturday, September 26th at Federated Church.
- Pray for Kathy Johnson, sister-in-law to Stephanie Johnson, who had surgery to repair two ribs on October 6th (postponed from a previous date).
- Congratulations to Jason Augspurger and Kate Yarroll of New Zealand on the birth of their daughter, Lily Jeanette, on September 16th. Grandparents are Roland and Doris Augspurger. Great Grandma is Donna Augspurger.
- Congratulations to Tyler & Allison Curry on the birth of their daughter, Adalyn Grace, on September 29th. Grandparents are John & Debbie Curry.

Ushers, Liturgists & Attendance Report

Ushers: Bill Royer, Georgia Behlen, Mark Hegi

Liturgists: Jackie Marker, Kristen Gausman, Confirmation Youth

Attendance Average for the Month of October

Thursday Service: 14
Sunday Service : 102
Online viewers: 175

Youth Ministry

November

11/4
TRANSFORMED Youth
6-8 pm | 3rd Grade & Up
Meatball Subs | Pickleball

11/6 - 11/7
Calvin Crest Overnight Retreat
(7-12 Grade)

11/11
TRANSFORMED Youth
6-8 pm | 3rd Grade & Up
Pizza | Pickleball

11/18
TRANSFORMED Youth
6-8 pm | 3rd Grade & Up
Pork Chops & Cheesy Potatoes | Pickleball

11/25
No **TRANSFORMED Youth**

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

12/2
TRANSFORMED Youth
6-8 pm | 3rd Grade & Up
Menu TBD | Pickleball 12/9

Intergenerational Advent Worshop
Meal & Advent Themed Activities

12/12
Christmas Pageant Practice
10 am Sanctuary

12/13
Christmas Pageant
Practice - Ed Hour & Performance - Worship

No **TRANSFORMED Youth**
December 16th - January 12th

Christmas Meal Donations





Cookies 'N More

November 19, 2026

Delivering your cookies, bars, and candies: Boxes for cookies are on a table by the church office. We will be receiving cookies, pies, and candies Wednesday, November 18th from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and Thursday, November 19th from 9:00-12:00 a.m. There will be a receiving table set up and a greeter will be there to assist you. Please do not place your trays in the kitchen.

Cookie Makers: Please have your trays covered with foil and labeled with your name and the name of the cookie.

Pie Makers: Please indicate what kind of pie it is and put your name on it—either on a card or a cover.

Candy Makers: We will transfer candy to tins at the church. Please label with your name and type of candy and put them in a covered container or a sealed bag, like a Ziploc.

If you would like to have your container back after the sale, please put your name on your container. We will place them in the northeast corner of the kitchen for you to pick up.

Many, many thanks to all of you who make this event possible!



Social Concerns and Missions Committee is collecting LEASHES, PINE SOL AND BLEACH for PAWS & CLAWS Oct., Nov. & Dec. 2026

Federated Church's Helping Hands Fund

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!

Weekly Email from Church Office

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!

Secretary Needed

Our Governing Council is looking for someone to be secretary starting in 2027. If you are interested please let the church office know.

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.

Meal 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!

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.

CENTER FOR SURVIVORS

Keep Columbus Beautiful

Keep Columbus Beautiful is an affiliate of
Keep America Beautiful.
To find out more information
go to https://kcbne.com

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!


Winchester


Sammie


Midnight



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

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

Financial Summary (September 16 - October 15, 2026)

Income	
General Funds:	**$23,605.88**
Contributions	$23,605.88
Memorials:	**$0**
Designated Funds (Savings):	**$3,345.62**
Food Pantry	$150.00
Helping Hands	$255.00
Operation Education Nairobi	$200.00
Habitat for Humanity	$250.00
General Savings	$100.00
Church Activity	$90.62
Music Department	$25.00
Christmas Joy	$5.00
Future Year & Misc.	$2,270.00

Expenses	
General Fund:	**$27,693.58**
Homestead Presbytery, UCC Living Waters Assoc. & OCWM	$1,139.58
Custodial Supplies	$34.38
Utilities	$2,347.24
Board of Pensions Dues	$3,441.47
Bookkeeping & Bank Fees	$570.43
Professional Expenses	$1,695.42
Grounds Care	$592.14
Equipment Maint./Upgrade	$467.37
Building Maintenance	$479.95
Staff Salaries	$14,877.21
Office/Administration	$685.65
Youth Ministry/Church School	$377.54
Pulpit Supply	$225.00
Music Department	$291.38
Membership & Growth	$192.58
Designated Funds Expenses:	**$1,630.97**
Helping Hands	$320.50
Discretionary Fund	$500.00
Youth Ministry	$210.47
Habitat for Humanity	$250.00
Operation Education Nairobi	$200.00
Food Pantry	$150.00

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November 2026 NEWSLETTER

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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.

Purple = Preparation

Purple is the color that is used during our season of preparation: Advent and Lent. During both of these seasons (the four Sundays before Christmas and the 40 Days