

# FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

October 2025; Volume 59; Issue 10

## *Upcoming Events*

October 2 & 5 - World Communion, Hymn Sing

October 11, 8:30 a.m. - Men's Fellowship Breakfast

October 12 - Adult Education Workshop on Life Alert

October 12, 4 p.m. - Fed@Fed, Fellowship Hall

October 19 - Children's Sabbath

October 20 - Decorating holiday cookies class, Fellowship Hall,  
Open to everyone, \$20.

October 26 - Fall Congregational Meeting

October 30, 5 to 7 p.m. - Trunk or Treat

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Fall is upon us. Along with appreciation for cooler days, there are several events to look forward to.

The first Sunday of October is World Communion Sunday. It might mean trying different types of “bread” for the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. More importantly, this day is a reminder that we are connected to the Body of Christ that is much bigger than our congregation or denominations; we are part of the worldwide Church.

October 19th is the annual observance of Children’s Sabbath when we are informed about the needs of children around the world and called to action. Fortunately, we have a local organization that makes a difference across the globe: Operation Education Nairobi led by our church members, Julie Graham and Katie Claus, raises funds to pay for school fees in Kenya. Please consider supporting their work with a financial contribution.

The last Sunday of October (that is, Oct. 26) will be our Fall Congregational Meeting. There will be the “slate of officers” to vote on. Thankful to the Nominating Committee and all those who said “yes,” we have a full slate for next year’s Governing Council, Order of St. Andrew and committees. For the past several years, we had the annual budget presented at the Fall Congregational Meeting (previously, it was presented at the Annual Meeting, which is at end of February). However, there have been difficulties with preparing a budget when the current year is not done. At the same time, there was difficulty with presenting the budget at the February meeting: specifically, the problem of “back pay” for staff salary changes which take effect on January 1st but was not approved until end of February. As a way of resolving these problems, there will be a transitional approach for budget approval. For the upcoming Fall Congregational Meeting, non-clergy staff salary increase will be presented so that approval could take effect at the start of the new year. The rest of the annual budget (including pastor’s terms of call) will be presented at the Annual Meeting (on Feb. 22, 2026) and approval of salary change would take effect in March 2026.

There will be an option for absentee voting. If you cannot attend the Fall Congregational Meeting on Oct. 26th after Sunday worship service, then you can contact the church office to vote absentee starting on Oct. 13th.

Last but not least, our Membership & Growth Committee will be hosting Trunk or Treat on October 30th, 5:00pm - 7:00pm (in cooperation with the Downtown event). Please support this event by bringing your decorated car trunk and/or candy donations.

Thank you for your support of Federated Church’s mission and ministry to serve our community with the love of Christ.

Grace and peace,

Edward

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Your Governing Council met on Tuesday, September 23rd.

The Governing Council discussed continuing business for nursery attendant staffing and updating our AED equipment. New business included approving a baptism on October 12th, preparing for the fall congregational meeting and slate of officers, budget approval and staff salary changes.

Details of the 2025 Community Christmas meal was discussed and approved.

The next Governing Council meeting will be on October 28th.

Georgia Behlen, Council President

## MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR

A Joyful Noise Returns: The Season of Music and Praise

As the air cools, and the leaves begin to turn color, we welcome the return of our beloved Chancel Choir and Bells of Joy performances. After a restful summer break, our talented musicians are filling our sanctuary with beautiful melodies and harmonies once again.

The fall season is a time of reflection and gratitude. We give thanks for the blessings of the harvest, the beauty of nature, and the warmth of community. What better way to express our thankfulness than through music? The Chancel Choir's voices blend together in perfect harmony, lifting our spirits and drawing us closer to God. The Bell Choir's shimmering tones create a sense of wonder and awe, reminding us of the divine artistry that surrounds us.

As we listen to the music, let us be reminded of God's glory in all things. Let the melodies fill our hearts with joy, the harmonies inspire us to love one another, and the rhythms move us to action. May this music season be a time of spiritual renewal and connection as we celebrate the gifts of music, community, and faith.

Stuart Gausman  
Director of Music Ministry

# EDUCATION HOUR KICK-OFF

with Horn T Zoo



# UPCOMING EVENTS



OCT  
**12**

## Fed @ Fed | 8<sup>th</sup> Grade & Up

4PM - 6PM  
FEDERATED KITCHEN

OCT  
**19**

## Children's Sabbath

9AM SERVICE PROJECT  
10AM KIDS BELLS PERFORM

OCT  
**19**

## Sunday Funday | 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>

11AM - 2PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

OCT  
**30**

## Trunk-O-Treat

TIME TBD  
FEDERATED SOUTH PARKING LOT



## SUNDAY FUNDAY

The September Sunday Funday featured a taco/nacho bar, energizers, tie dying and games. I can't wait to see how everyone's shirts turned out! Send pics to Brenda.

## ORDER OF ST. ANDREW RECOGNIZES VETERANS

**Order of St. Andrew is having a recognition for our veterans during service on November 9th. Please fill out a form and leave it in the contribution tray or box, in the mailbox or give it to someone in the office. Deadline for the forms is October 26th.**



First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

## JOYS & CONCERNS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

- ◆ Pray for Darin Brandt, cousin to Stephanie Johnson, who was just diagnosed with cancer.
- ◆ Pray for Brianna Brockhaus. She has not had her cochlear implants for a week now and has not been able to hear. Pray that this issue is resolved soon.
- ◆ Pray for Mary Ann Gerdes, Sharon Kuncl's sister-in-law who was hospitalized for blood clots in her lungs.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Larry Spence, husband of Shirley Spence. Larry passed away September 8th.
- ◆ Congratulations to Kaitlin & John Carey as they are getting married on September 20th in Sacramento, CA. Kaitlin is the daughter of Clark & Robin Lehr.
- ◆ Congratulations to Dana Augspurger on her retirement! Dana retired the end of July after 42 years of being a hairdresser.
- ◆ Pray for Glynette Smith, she is having open heart surgery on October 1st.
- ◆ Pray for Jackie Marker as she is recovering from a stroke.
- ◆ Pray for Mike Sand, husband of Brenda Sand, as he is recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Elda Juhnke, mother of Kathy Leischner. Elda passed away September 22nd.

# HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY/UCC LIVING WATERS PRAYERS SEPTEMBER 2025

## ◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Steele City**

As a small congregation, we continue to enjoy our partnership with Wymore, through joint services and activities. We find opportunities as a congregation for outreach in our small community, including an upcoming food booth and downtown worship service for the annual Steele City Flea Market. We hope that Christmas Eve will provide an occasion for families in the community to join in our worship. Pray that we rise to the task of loving our neighbors and offering the hand of Christ.

## ◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Tekamah**

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Tekamah 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: Thurston John Huss**

Prayers for our continued ministry in Thurston in spite of our small numbers and advancing ages!

## ◆ **Homestead Presbytery: 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.

## **UCC Living Waters Association:**

- ◆ Ralston UCC (Ralston, NE 68127)
- ◆ Scribner First Congregational UCC (Scribner, NE 68057)
- ◆ Tilden Peace UCC (Tilden, NE 68781)
- ◆ West Point Trinity UMC/UCC (West Point, NE 68788)

## ATTENDANCE THROUGH SEPT. 21

### **Ushers/Liturgists & Attendance Report**

**Ushers:** Bill Royer, Georgia Behlen, Stephanie Johnson, Youth Hudson Luedtke and Youth Meredith Gaeth

**Liturgists:** Anjel Garcia Lopez, Kristen Gausman, Beatriz Garcia Lopez, Katie Claus

### **Average Attendance :**

In-Person Thursday Service: 20

In-Person Sunday Service: 100

**Online Average Weekly Views:** 170

Take a book; share a book, our Little Free Library is now open! This was donated to us by Melodee Nickolite, granddaughter of Tim & Chris Warren. She made it for a 4-H project. Thank you Melodee!



**JOIN  
TEAMMATES<sup>®</sup>  
MENTORING  
of Columbus  
TODAY**

Join the Team. Be a Mentor.



## 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 months newsletter. Email:

fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org, Phone: 402-564-2812, Mail: 2704 15<sup>th</sup> St.  
PO Box 564, 68602

## REQUEST FOR DONATED ITEMS

In October, November & December 2025 we are collecting new mittens, gloves, socks, scarves and hats. 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*

## 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

## IN SEARCH OF

We are in need of **volunteers** to help with Education Hour. Classes resume September 7th. Please let Brenda or the office know if you are interested. Thank you.

We are looking for someone in the congregation who would be willing to **machine quilt**, or know someone who can, two throw sized quilts to be used as a fundraiser for the church. Please contact Elsie Ita at 402-538-4405 for more information. **Thank you.**

## 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!)

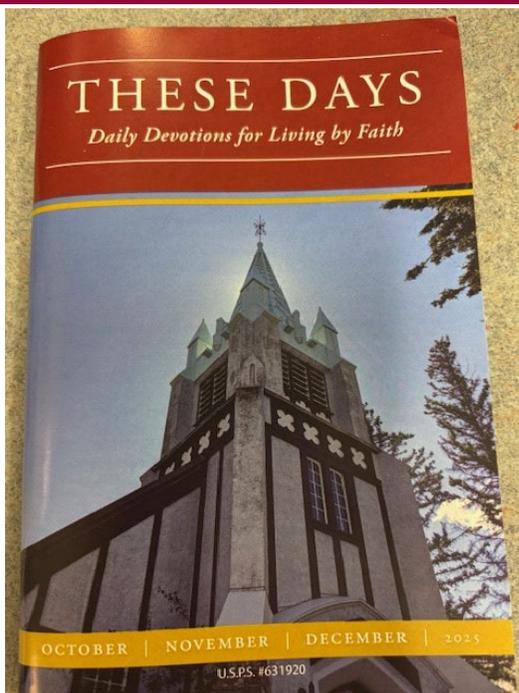
Where: Education Center Room 4

## 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.

## THESE DAYS - DAILY DEVOTIONS BOOKLET



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

**October, November, December**

**Copies will be available in the  
office or in the Narthex  
before/after services.**

## 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 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.



## 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



|   |              |   |              |
|---|--------------|---|--------------|
| <b>Renee Norris</b>   | <b>10/01</b> | <b>Steve DeWald, Sharon Kuncl,<br/>Tim Rathje</b> | <b>10/18</b> |
| <b>Brianna Brockhaus</b>  | <b>10/02</b> | <b>Ruth Lind</b>                                  | <b>10/19</b> |
| <b>Sue McClure</b>  | <b>10/09</b> | <b>Elliott Oran</b>                               | <b>10/21</b> |
| <b>Ron Lambert, Steve McClure,<br/>Ellie Micek</b>              | <b>10/11</b> | <b>Linda Wheatley</b>                             | <b>10/22</b> |
| <b>Pat Anderson,<br/>Alex Garcia Lopez,<br/>Allie Gotschall</b> | <b>10/12</b> | <b>Jenna Mares</b>                                | <b>10/23</b> |
| <b>Stephanie Johnson</b>  | <b>10/15</b> | <b>Mark Hegi</b>                                  | <b>10/26</b> |
|   |              | <b>Diana Gartrell</b>                             | <b>10/31</b> |

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

## SOCIAL CONCERNS AND MISSIONS COMMITTEE

**LET'S PUT THE "GIVING" IN  
THANKSGIVING**

The Food Pantry is low on canned fruits and vegetables. Let's help meet that need!

Please bring your canned fruits and vegetables in November

Canned fruits      Canned Vegetables

**SOCIAL CONCERNS AND MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

## MEMBERSHIP & GROWTH COMMITTEE HOST SEPT. 7 POTLUCK



| Governing Council - Federated Church Elders  |                      |                      | Federated Church Clergy and Staff  |   |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| Georgia Behlen, <i>President</i><br>Bob Arp, <i>Vice President</i><br>Barb Sanderson, <i>Secretary</i> |                      |                      | Rev. Edward Yang, Ph.D.<br><i>Pastor/Head of Staff</i><br>edward@federatedcolumbus.org | Stuart Gausman<br><i>Director of Music Ministry</i>           |
| <u>Class of 2025</u>   | <u>Class of 2026</u> | <u>Class of 2027</u> | Brenda Sand<br><i>Christian Education Director</i><br>brenda@federatedcolumbus.org     | Lee Augustin<br><i>Pianist</i>                                |
| Pat Anderson   | Nila Novotny         | Terry Norris         | Kathy Zywiec<br><i>Co-office Administrator,<br/>Social Media Coordinator</i>           | Amanda Weeder<br><i>Accompanist</i>                           |
| John Lohr  | Max Porter           | Linda Wheatley       | Antoneea Kriewald<br><i>Co-office Administrator</i>                                    | Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia<br><i>El Buen Pastor Fellowship</i> |
| Brenda Sand  |                      | Marilyn Vrana        | Mark Baumann<br><i>Custodian</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, Co-Historians   |                      |                      |  |   |
| Bill Royer, Head Usher   |                      |                      |  |   |

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

## ECUMENICAL PARTNERS

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

| <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  
2704 15<sup>th</sup> STREET  
PO Box 564  
COLUMBUS, NE 68602-0564

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## OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

*October 2025; Volume 59; Issue 10*

### 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.