



FEDERATED NEWSLETTER

September 2025; Volume 59; Issue 9

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER 1 - LABOR DAY, CHURCH
OFFICE CLOSED

SEPTEMBER 7 - COMMUNION, SERVICE
OF WHOLENESS & HEALING, HYMN
SING, EDUCATION HOUR KICKOFF
WITH POTLUCK, COMMISSIONING OF
TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

SEPTEMBER 14 - COMMISSIONING OF
CHANCEL CHOIR; COMMISSIONING OF
ACOLYTES AND YOUTH USHERS

SEPTEMBER 21 - COMMISSIONING OF
BELL CHOIR; BIBLES FOR 3 YEAR
OLDS & 3RD GRADERS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Your Governing Council met on Saturday, August 23 at the Benedictine Center.

We had a wonderful time at the Benedictine Center . Our retreat is always a very special event.

Budgets for 2026 were discussed and the office will provide an updated budget spreadsheet as soon as we have confirmed values from the CPA. A motion to allow absentee ballots to be submitted starting 2 weeks prior to the Fall Congregational Meeting, was adopted.

Next Governing Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 23rd at 7:00 PM.

Georgia Behlen, Council President

IN SEARCH OF

The choir room is in need of a **file cabinet**. If you have one you are looking to get rid of please let the office or Stuart know.

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 in search of a new **person to staff the nursery** on Sunday mornings during our hour worship service. Anyone interested please contact the office. This is a paid position. 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.**

Education Hour Kick-Off

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

EDUCATION HOUR SCHEDULE

Preschool - 6th Grade Sunday School 9:00 am in EC3

High School Sunday School 9:00 am upstairs

S.A.L.T (Adult Sunday School) 8:45 am in EC4

WORSHIP 10:00 AM
POTLUCK 11:00 AM



FEDERATED CHURCH

2704 15TH STREET, COLUMBUS | 402-564-2812

2025 Triennium Federated Church Team in front of PCUSA





"One of my favorite takeaways from Triennium was seeing Presbyterian youth from all over the country and all different walks of life." - Meg Weeder

**Dream
BIG!**



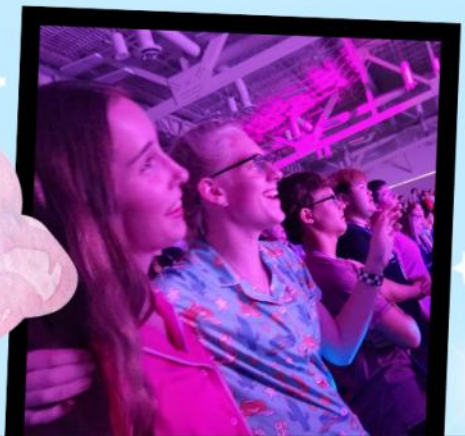
"God's dreams are bigger than your own." This quote helped me realize that God has a plan for me and I need to trust in his dreams for my life. - Eliot Yang

Eliot Yang, Hunter Yang, Meg Weeder, Brinlee Klevemann, Brenda Sand and Pastor Edward joined 2,200 Presbyterian youth and leaders in Louisville, KY for Triennium. Some of the highlights include inspiring worship, community discussion groups, pin trading, silent disco, interest groups, games, art & crafts, and recreation which complemented the overall theme, "As if we were dreaming." Triennium is a formative experience in the faith journey of our youth and leaders. Thank you for your generous support of the youth at Federated Church who were able to attend Triennium at no expense to the family.



The PYT helped grow my faith by being able to see how many people I can relate to... & helped to show me that God works through all of us and connects all of us through him. - Hunter Yang

*live
your
dream.*



"One of the things I gained from this trip was the courage to open up about my faith. - Brinlee Klevemann



TRIENNium



HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY DELEGATION



dream



JOYS & CONCERNS FOR AUGUST 2025

- ♦ Pray for the family of Dan Wolfe, father of Drew & Kristi Wolfe and grandfather to Gunnar, Brielle and Alyse Wolfe. Dan passed away and funeral services will be August 4th in Schuyler.
- ♦ Pray for the family of Rev. Dorsie Ivy, husband of Pat Ivy. Dorsie passed away and funeral services will be August 6th at Federated.
- ♦ Pray for the family of Patricia Wigington, sister of Larry & Sue Mares. Patricia passed away July 29.
- ♦ We rejoice with Brendon Rathje and Aliezah Rodriguez who are celebrating their wedding on August 2nd in Lafayette Indiana. Brendon is the son of Tim and Val Rathje.
- ♦ Pray for Beryldean Lauterbach as she recovers from a heart procedure she had on Thursday, Aug. 7th.
- ♦ Congratulations to Logan Bennett, daughter of Julie and Jamie Bennett and granddaughter of Carol and Pete Bennett. Logan graduated this month with a Master of Science in speech-language pathology at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She has accepted employment with Bellevue Public Schools in Bellevue, NE.
- ♦ Congratulations to Stuart Gausman! Stuart is celebrating his 20th anniversary with Federated on August 15th.
- ♦ Chancel Flowers are provided by the Ivy family in honor of Dorsie Ivy.
- ♦ Pray for Jason Daro, cousin to Stephanie Johnson, who was just diagnosed with cancer.
- ♦ Pray for Darin Brandt, cousin to Stephanie Johnson, who was just diagnosed with cancer.

FUNERAL COMMITTEE #3

Funeral Committee 2 Co-Chairs: John & Katie Claus,
Barb & Paul Sanderson, Rick Porter & Kathy Morris
Committee Members will be contacted by the Co-Chairs.

HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY & UCC LIVING WATERS PRAYERS AUGUST 2025

◆ Homestead Presbytery: Palmyra

Gracious God, we thank you for guiding and sustaining the part of the body of Christ known as Palmyra Presbyterian Church for 150 years. We thank you for providing so many faithful people to be the living stones of your church in this place. Help us to build upon the work they did so that we can continue the mission of bearing witness to the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ so that the people we encounter will want to follow Jesus as well. O God of majesty, show us the way you would have us go. Help us to grow in faith, and please empower us to do the good works you have prepared for us to do for as long as you would have us do them, even for another 150 years, and beyond. In Jesus' name, amen.

◆ Homestead Presbytery: Panama

Praise God for all of you and your prayers! Please lift the Panama Presbyterian Church USA in prayer that our ministries may be even more Spirit-filled and energetic, and that we may have vision and be vigilant for new ways to share Christ's love in our community. Grace and Peace!

◆ Homestead Presbytery: Pawnee City

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Pawnee City congregation. One of our main concerns is finding a minister for our church. We've been without one for quite a while. Please keep us in your prayers.

◆ Homestead Presbytery: Primrose

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Primrose 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: Schuyler

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

- ◆ Omaha First Central Congregational UCC (Omaha, NE 68131)
- ◆ Omaha Countryside Community Church UCC (Omaha, NE 68114)
- ◆ Omaha Northwest Hills UCC (Omaha, NE 681314)
- ◆ Pierce UCC (Pierce, NE 68767)
- ◆ Plainview First Congregational UCC (Plainview, NE 68796)

ATTENDANCE THROUGH AUG. 24

Ushers/Liturgists & Attendance Report

Ushers: Bill Royer, Georgia Behlen, Stephanie Johnson

Liturgists: Katie Claus, Anjel Garcia Lopez, Nicole Miller, Tessa Miller

Average Attendance :

In-Person Thursday Service: 17

In-Person Sunday Service: 88

Online Average Weekly Views: 174

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 15th St.
PO Box 564, 68602

REQUEST FOR DONATED ITEMS

In July, August and September 2025 we are collecting leashes, pine sol and bleach for the Paws & Claws Center. 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*

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

SEPTEMBER 7 - SAVE THE DATE - POTLUCK

Our Potluck will be September 7th, right after Sunday morning service. We are hosting this event along with the Kickoff of our Education Classes. Please plan to attend and bring your favorite dish!!! See you there!!

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 will start back up September 7, 2025

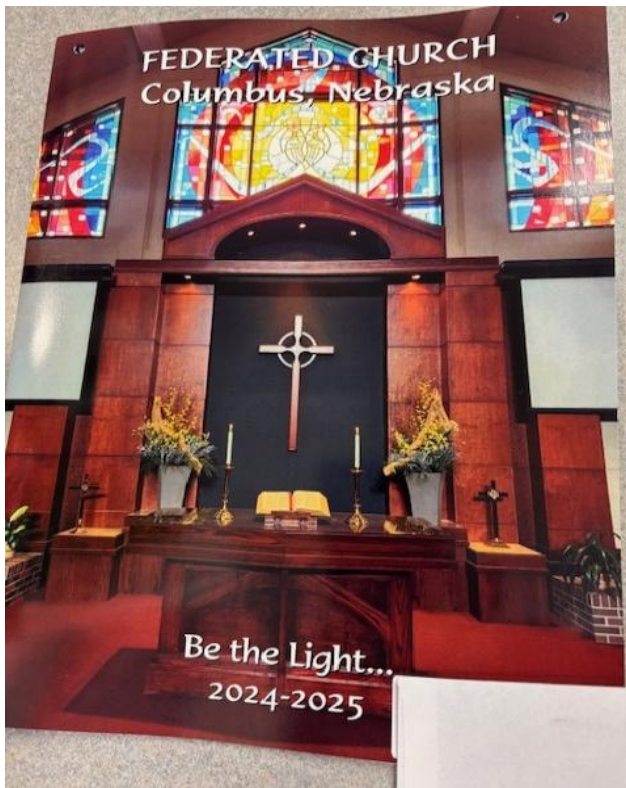
“Study and Learn Together”

Who: All Adults!

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

Where: Education Center Room 4

PHOTO DIRECTORY



2025 Photo Directory Books are here!

Pick your book up in the Narthex before or after service. Or stop in the office for your copy.

Note. Each book is labeled with a members name - please only take your book so we can make sure everyone gets one.

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!



¹ 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>!



Watermelon
Wave



Tuxedo
Jack



Strawberry
Sunrise



Beckett Oran	9/01	Reagan Gausman, Violet Graybill, Miranda Micek, John Petersen, Val Rathje, Payton Swierczek	9/10
Debbie Curry	9/02	Paula Timperley	9/11
Elsie Ita	9/03	Roland Augspurger, Matt Miller	9/17
Fred Wunderlich	9/04	Renee Bellum, Sunnie Yang	9/24
Annette Griffith	9/05	Myla Bender, Brinlee Klevemann	9/28

**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 - as of August 26, 2025		Expenses - August 2025	
Total Donations & Contributions	\$28,522.26	General Fund Expenses:	\$29,822.81
Designated Funds (Savings)	\$692.33	Utilities	\$2,267.72
Youth Fund / Mission Trip (Recycling of cans and congregant match)	\$208.81	Homestead Presb./UCC/Living Waters/Flood/annual budget donations	\$4,318.62
Church Activity	\$83.52	Ground/Bldg. Maintenance Custodial Supplies	\$3,079.37
General	\$100.00	Office Expenses	\$2,206.64
Building Maintenance	\$200.00	Book-keeping/Consulting	\$450.00
Disaster Relief (flooding)	\$100.00	Pulpit Supply	\$225.00
Memorials:	\$2,525.00	Education (SALT)	\$79.95
Unrestricted / Landscaping	\$2,525.00	Payroll	\$16,659.74
		Denominational Meetings	\$90.00
		New Equipment	\$329.32
		Worship & Music	\$116.45
		Designated Funds (Savings):	\$1467.11
		Helping Hands - Non Members	\$20.01
		Funeral	\$559.06
		Youth Fund - Triennium	\$888.04

FEDERATED CHURCH

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>
<i>Class of 2025</i> Pat Anderson John Lohr Brenda Sand	<i>Class of 2026</i> Chris Dixon Nila Novotny Max Porter	<i>Class of 2027</i> Terry Norris Linda Wheatley Marilyn Vrana	Brenda Sand <i>Christian Education Director</i> brenda@federatedcolumbus.org	Lee Augustin <i>Pianist</i>
Order of St. Andrew - Federated Church Deacons			Kathy Zywiec <i>Co-office Administrator, Social Media Coordinator</i>	Amanda Weeder <i>Accompanist</i>
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			Antoneea Kriewald <i>Co-office Administrator</i>	Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia <i>El Buen Pastor Fellowship</i>
			Mark Baumann <i>Custodian</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

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Columbus, NE
Permit No. 60

«Mailing Label»

«Address 1 (family main)»

«City (family main)», «State (family main)»

«Zip code (family main)»

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

September 2025; Volume 59; Issue 9

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.