

# FEDERATED CHURCH



**Thursday, March 19, and Sunday, March 22, 2020**  
Fourth Sunday in Lent



## **Mission Statement:**

***We are called to nurture a growing relationship with God  
by following the example of Jesus Christ.***

## ***Welcome to Worship at Federated!***

**We are called Federated** because on July 2, 1914, Columbus' Congregational (now the United Church of Christ) and Presbyterian churches joined to serve as one congregation.

Prayer requests can be shared on **Prayers Cards** in the pew pockets or **Prayer Chain** requests to the Church Office (402) 564-2812 to call the Order of St. Andrew. The Prayer Chain is strictly confidential.

**If you missed worship last week**, visit [www.federatedcolumbus.org](http://www.federatedcolumbus.org) for videos of worship and bulletins, and on TV: Spectrum Channel 1304 (HD) Mondays 12noon, Saturdays 8pm and Sundays 8pm.

**In case of an emergency, the pastor's cell phone number is: Edward (402) 302-2812.**

Governing Council 2020 - Federated Church Elders			Federated Church Clergy and Staff	
Marcia Grant, President (402-276-1428 ) Tim Warren, Vice President Louise Moran, Secretary			Rev. Edward Yang, Ph.D. Acting Head of Staff & Associate Pastor for CYF <a href="mailto:edward@federatedcolumbus.org">edward@federatedcolumbus.org</a>	Jim Rains Office Manager <a href="mailto:jirains@federatedcolumbus.org">jirains@federatedcolumbus.org</a>
<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	Brenda Sand Temp. Christian Education Director <a href="mailto:brenda@federatedcolumbus.org">brenda@federatedcolumbus.org</a>	Chrissy Ford Bookkeeper & Publications Coord. <a href="mailto:cford@federatedcolumbus.org">cford@federatedcolumbus.org</a>
Linda Wheatley	Gene Hahn	John McClure		
Doug Williams	Judy Temme	Renee Norris		
Steve McClure	Marv Zoucha	Alison Wagner	Lee Augustin, Organist	Bob Arp, Chancel Choir Director
Financial Administrators:	Donna Augspurger Terry Millard	Robin Lehr Terry Norris	Stuart Gausman Bell Choir Director	Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia El Buen Pastor Fellowship

## JOYS & CONCERNS

- ♦ If you have any joys or concerns, please share with the congregation by informing the office staff/pastor.
- ♦ Please keep Eileen Rosekrans in your thoughts and prayers as she is now at Brookestone.
- ♦ Wren Roseanne Davis, Daughter of Jared and Alexa Davis, Granddaughter of Rick and Laura Porter, was born on March 5<sup>th</sup> in Cheyenne.
- ♦ Please pray for the family of Ellie Doughty, who passed away, March 7<sup>th</sup>, a Memorial service was held Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at McKown Funeral Home.
- ♦ Please pray for Ada Marsh, who is recuperating at home following a stroke and rehabilitation at Bryan LGH East and Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.

## THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

Most in-person events have been cancelled due to the current pandemic situation and the 10 persons per gathering limit restriction.

**Sunday, March 22**

**Monday, March 23**

**Tuesday, March 24**

1:00pm Online Lectionary Bible Study  
zoom • us / j / 674120363

**Wednesday, March 25**

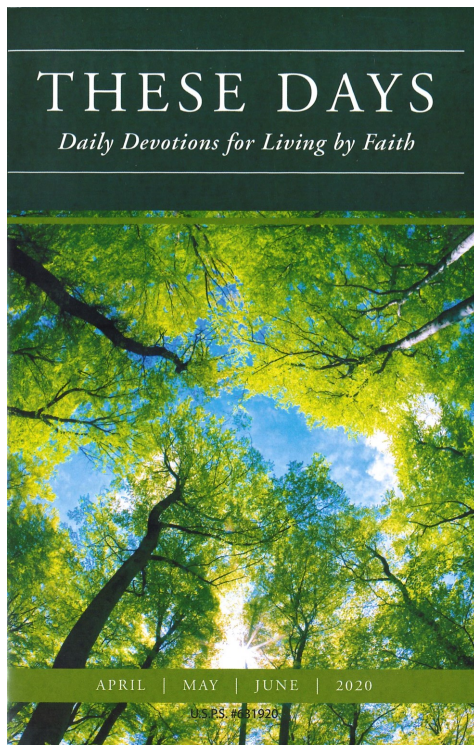
10:00am Staff Meeting  
11:00am Worship Planning Meeting  
4:30pm Online Lectionary Bible Study  
zoom • us / j / 648299543

**Thursday, March 26**

**Friday, March 27**

**Saturday, March 28**

**Sunday, March 29**



**New issue of THESE DAYS daily devotions (for April - June, 2020) are now available. Please let the church office know if you would like one mailed or dropped off to you.**

**Walk to Jerusalem** (through Easter Sunday)  
Federated Church is once again participating in this event for 2020. Send in your minutes/miles to the church office each Monday for the previous week. Email Jim or Chrissy at [fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org](mailto:fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org) or call them at **402-564-2812**.



The Annual Boy Scouts Troop 212 Pancake Feed will be held on ~~Tuesday, March 24th~~ in the Fellowship Hall from 4:30pm until 7:30pm. Free will donation or Kids \$4.00 and Adults \$6.00.

# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, AND SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

Hymns, Songs, Prayers, and liturgies in **Bold** are for the participation of the **Congregation**

*The Prelude invites us to begin our time of worship; please take this time for silent reflection.*

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS     *(Please sign and pass Friendship Folders to your neighbors.)*

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

FEASTING ON THE WORD

One: God does not see as mortals see. We look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.

**All: Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

One: Once we lived in darkness, but now—as children of light, we are called to what is good and right and true.

**All: Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

One: Let us worship God!

## \* OPENING HYMN NO. 324

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace.

## MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us,

**All: even pursue us, all the days of our life.**

One: As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

**All: We will live as children of the light for Christ shines on us.**

## \* VERBAL PASSING OF THE PEACE

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Alison Wagner, Liturgist

## SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 23

PEW BIBLE OLD TESTAMENT PAGES 501

1 SAMUEL 16 : 1 - 13

PEW BIBLE OLD TESTAMENT PAGES 259 - 260

One: God's living word, for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

Edward Yang, Pastor

*\* As you are able in body or in spirit, please rise.*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – “A New Creed (1968)” United Church of Canada

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

#### \* LENTEN DOXOLOGY

*Praise God throughout these forty days. Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.  
And praise the Spirit who imparts God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.*

#### \* UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In gratitude, O God, we come to your table, into your presence, into your house. For all that you have done for us, most especially, for bringing us into the light of Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise. We long to live as children of light, doing what is pleasing to you and bearing the fruit of the light through Jesus Christ, who awakens those who sleep and raises those who are dead to new life. In his name we pray. Amen.

#### \* CLOSING HYMN NO. 276

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

#### \* BENEDICTION

Sunday | MATTHEW 6:25-34

Do you worry? Doesn't everyone worry? Many of us find ourselves ruminating over issues we cannot control, scenarios that may or may not happen, things that really don't deserve the energy we're investing in them. No matter that intellectually we know that our worry resolves nothing, helps not at all and distresses us, we find we cannot get our minds to stop running on that mental treadmill. This beautiful text poetically nudges us to let go of all that keeps us up at night and makes us anxious. Let's be clear, however, there are those for whom worry about food and clothing and shelter are present, real and pressing. There are also those for whom anxiety is an illness and should be treated as such. These words from Scripture should not be used to shame, dismiss or silence those already in pain. Rather, they should teach us that God's will for all is peace, provision and safety.

This Lent, as we seek to let go of fear and trust God's ability and will to give us what we need, we are called to work in ways that make this promise tangible for everyone. If we go to bed fed and in a safe dwelling, without the need to worry about our next meal or place of slumber, how might we show those in radically different circumstances that they too can be relieved of these worries?

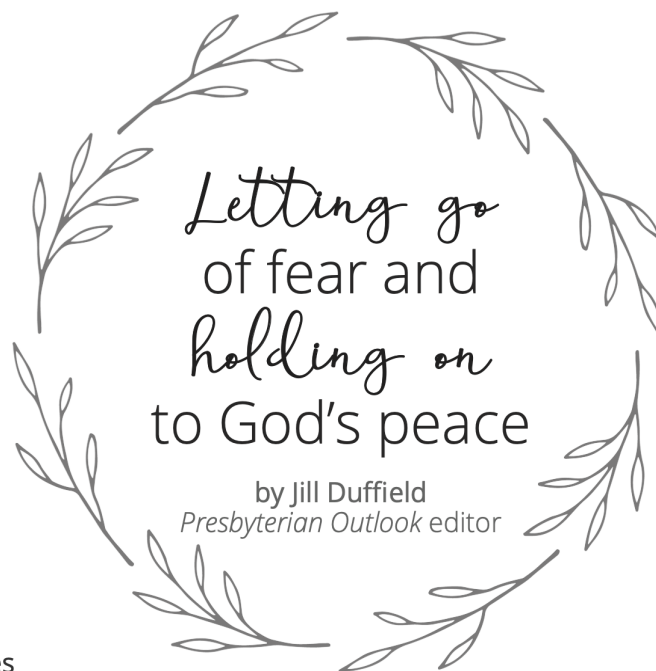
If God does not want us to worry about tomorrow, how can we alleviate today's troubles for those overwhelmed by them? Doing so would be striving first for the kingdom, every day.

*Lord, we forget to seek your Kingdom first. We notice what we lack, rather than giving thanks for all we have. We neglect the needs of those without their daily bread, despite having been fed on the bread of life. We ask for your wisdom so that we will focus rightly and live accordingly until no one has cause to worry. Amen.*

Monday | ISAIAH 12:2

How often do we think about what it means that God is our salvation? From what and for what are we saved? Salvation is one of those churchy words that we often use without considering what it means or why it matters. What difference does it make to you that you have been saved by God?

*God who saves us, who is our strength and shield, our hope and haven, your coming to us and rescuing us from sin and isolation, separation and estrangement, frees us to live without fear and with divine purpose. We thank you for loving us enough to intervene on our behalf so that we can live fully for you. Amen.*





## Tuesday | PSALM 27:1

What are your greatest fears? List them and then pray through the list. Picture God's light surrounding each one. Remember that God knows them already and right now is present, offering you strength and working for good. Can you turn one of those fears over to God's care just for today?

*Heavenly Father, our fears threaten to overtake us. We fear for the state of our world, for those we love, for ourselves. We obsess about what might happen and if resolution to wicked problems will come. Our regrets linger and our hopes remain unfulfilled. At least for today we put down our burdens and rest in your promise of light and love. Amen.*

## Wednesday | 1 JOHN 4:18-19

We love because God first loved us. Use this verse as a breath prayer throughout the day. Breathe in "we love," and breathe out "because God first love us." As you find yourself stressed or distracted, breathe in "I love," and breathe out "because God first loved me." Pay attention to how this practice impacts your attitude, emotions and perspective.

*Lord of love, you loved us first. You knew and loved us even as we were being knit together in our mother's womb. You called us by name, said we belong to you and stopped at nothing to be in relationship with us. Recognizing the magnitude of this gift, we want to love you and others with our whole being. Amen.*

## Thursday | 2 TIMOTHY 1:7

How do God's power, self-discipline and love go together? How might they go together for disciples of Jesus Christ? Loving requires intentionality, effort, practice, God's power and our self-discipline. How do you see these three things working together in your life and faith community? Where do you need most to practice self-discipline in order to be more loving?

*God of power and might, we often lack self-discipline and fail to love as we ought. Self-centeredness replaces self-discipline. Selfishness overtakes your call to serve you and others. Forgive us for trusting in our own power, rather than relying on yours. Strengthen our self-discipline so that we can love you and our neighbors fearlessly. Amen.*

## Friday | JOHN 14:27

Peace is illusive, ineffable and so much more than the absence of violence. Jesus gifts us with his peace. Where do you find and feel Jesus' peace that passes understanding? How can you cultivate a deep sense of Jesus' peace in ways that impact the people and places around you? Read the headlines and pray for peace for those without any this day.

*Prince of Peace, in a world too often overflowing with violence, cruelty and war, we long for your inexplicable peace, not only for ourselves, but for all of creation. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. May your offspring increase exponentially until all the earth is enveloped by your peace. Amen.*

## Saturday | ISAIAH 54:10

What in your life feels tumultuous, as if the very earth beneath your feet is shaking? Reflect on your faith journey and remember other seasons of upheaval. How was God present? Looking back, where do you see that God was at work? Can recalling those times give you comfort and assurance now?

*There are seasons, Lord of all, when nothing in our world seems stable or certain, the foundations on which we stand shake and tremble and we wonder what will be left standing when the tumult stops. Remind us, compassionate God, of your unfailing covenant and persistent compassion. Help us to hold on to you when everything else is crumbling. Amen.*