



# FEDERATED CHURCH

INTO OUR NEW CENTURY IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST



## Thursday, August 31, 2017

### Welcome to Worship at Federated!

If you are new to Federated, please tell us on a “Visitors Card” & in a red Friendship Folder.

**Children are welcome in worship at Federated.** Children’s Activity Bags are at the Sanctuary entrance. The Library/“Cry Room” is child friendly. Child care is available Sundays in the Nursery.

Ushers are here to help you! Hearing assistance devices and large print hymnals are available.

Head Usher is Dennis Vollbracht. Ushers this week: Rick Porter (Thurs.),

Don Anderson, Dana Brandt, Julie Graham, John Novotny and Dennis Vollbracht.

**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.

The Order of St. Andrew serves as Federated’s deacons. 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, or on Channel 99 (HD) Mondays & Saturdays at Noon and Sunday evenings at 8pm.

**In the event of a pastoral emergency**, please contact Rev. Edward Yang (cell: 402-302-2812).

From August 28 - September 3, please contact Pastor Linda Mohr (cell: 402-910-4009).

#### Governing Council 2017 - Federated Church Elders

Rick Porter, *President* • Dave Melick, *Vice President*  
Louise Moran, *Secretary* • Terry Norris, *Treasurer*

#### *Class of 2017*

Chris Dixon  
Heidi Klevemann  
Nila Novotny  
Paul Sanderson

#### *Class of 2018*

Jeannie Kiser-Jensen  
Sharon Kuncel  
Bill Royer

#### *Class of 2019*

Gene Depue  
Kathy Leischner  
Gail Wurdeman

#### Federated Church Clergy and Staff

Rev. Dr. Annika Lister Stroope  
*Senior Pastor*  
[annika@federatedcolumbus.org](mailto:annika@federatedcolumbus.org)

Rev. Dr. S. Edward Yang  
*Associate Pastor*  
*for Children, Youth, and Families*  
[edward@federatedcolumbus.org](mailto:edward@federatedcolumbus.org)

Lee Augustin, *Organist*  
Bob Arp, *Chancel Choir Director*

Stuart Gausman  
*Bell Choir Director*

Jim Rains  
*Office Manager*  
[jrains@federatedcolumbus.org](mailto:jrains@federatedcolumbus.org)

Chrissy Ford  
*Bookkeeper & Publications Coord.*  
[cford@federatedcolumbus.org](mailto:cford@federatedcolumbus.org)

Zach Nickolite, *Custodian*  
Ashli Porter, *Nursery Attendant*

Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia  
*El Buen Pastor Fellowship*

## PREPARING FOR GOD'S WORD

*The Prelude invites us to begin our time of worship; please observe this time in silent meditation.*

PRELUDE

*A Jaunty Song*  
*Come, We That Love the Lord*  
Lee Augustin, Organ & Piano

EARLY AMER. HYMN  
ARR. MARTIN

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ***Please sign and pass Friendship Folders to your neighbors.***

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We who dwell in the shelter of the Most High

**All: Seek God here.**

One: We who come to be inspired and changed

**All: Seek God's Spirit here.**

One: We who know how little we know

**All: Seek God's Word here.**

### \*GATHERING PRAYER

God, you are made known to us in the rustling wind that blows, in the blazing fire that does not consume, in the face of the good, in the deep of the unknown. We meet you here. We accept your greeting. We welcome your inspiration. We await the change you have in store for us. Draw us in to you. Inhabit our spirits. Focus our attention. Bring us to you – you who are already with us. Help us to be as you would have us be. Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, here and everywhere, now and always. **Amen.**

### \*GATHERING HYMN NO. 488

***The God of Abraham, Praise***

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As we prepare for confession, let us consider questions inspired by the apostle Paul.

Is our love always genuine? *Silence*

Do we resist the evil we see? *Silence*

Do we consistently seek to serve God? *Silence*

Are we hospitable to strangers? *Silence*

Do we offer blessings to our enemies? Do we even know what this means? *Silence*

Do we have close relationships with people who are really different from us? *Silence*

Do we seek revenge on those who have wronged us? *Silence*

Good friends, we do these things. We do them often – maybe not all at once. But they are actions that are part of the human condition. They are also actions that turn us away from the love God always offers us. In this time of confession, God invites us to examine all this, and to repent – which really just means to turn back. Let us confess our sins and, as we do, let us turn back. God of mercy and forgiveness, we confess that: our love isn't always genuine we see evil and wring our hands instead of resisting it we forget to consider more ways to serve you we turn our back on strangers who could benefit from our hospitality we do not pray enough for our enemies we associate with our own kind, fearing the "other" we relish in fantasies of revenge. For all this, and for all that burdens our heart today, O God, we seek your forgiveness. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers... *Silence*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God's mercy extends beyond the bounds of even our collective imagination. God's love seeps through any wall we could ever put up. God's goodness is holds more power than the sum of all sin. It is because of that extensive, seeping, powerful and bold love I declare to you in the name of the blessed and holy Trinity: That God forgives us all our sins.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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

**\* THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: As children of God, we are no longer strangers, but friends. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Please greet one another with a sign of peace.

**LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 3: 1 - 15

The Message

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16 : 21 - 28

The Message

**HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 315**

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

**SERMON**

Random Thoughts From a Random Mind

Rev. Kenn Leischner

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ARR. WILLAN

**\* DOXOLOGY (HYMN NO. 591)**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

In your Creation, O God, we stand on the holiest of ground. May these gifts be a blessing to all that you have made. May the church, organizations and people that receive them act as your hands. May needs be seen and met, and may the giving fit the need. Through Christ, who models infinite giving. Amen.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

One: Up with your hearts!

**All: We lift them to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Holy God, you created a planet full of life. You created humans in your image. You taught our ancestors how to live in your world by giving them challenges as well as hope. You brought our forebears out of captivity in Egypt into fullness of life. You sent prophets to teach us. Most of all, you sent to us your child Jesus, who showed us through his loving example how you love us. You call us to follow in the path of Jesus, carrying your message of hope and justice to the world. And so we join with all creation to praise you:

**HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 138**

Holy, Holy, Holy (1st Verse Only)

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION**

Gracious God, you have once again shown us your love by bringing us to this meal. We go from here renewed in faith, renewed in courage, and strengthened by your presence. Thank you for loving us so tenderly. Thank you for challenging us to know you better and to receive you more fully.

**\* HYMN OF SERVICE NO. 329**

*Break Thou the Bread of Life*

**\* BENEDICTION**

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

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## JOYS & CONCERNS

- ◆ Please pray for Gene and Nancy Depue as they make the move from Columbus to Omaha.
- ◆ Please pray for Virginia and Dwayne Smith as they make decisions related to Virginia's loss of hearing and weakened eyesight.
- ◆ Please pray for Linda McPhail as she is receiving radiation treatment for cancerous lesions on her skull and preparing for lung cancer treatment.
- ◆ Please pray for Terry and Chad Stuart, members of the Catholic church, as Terry is receiving treatment for lung cancer. Chad is a leader for Scout Troop 212. The Stuart family are neighbors with the Yang family.

## THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

### Sunday, September 3

9:30am Worship Service, Sanctuary  
3:00pm El Buen Pastor Worship Service, Sanctuary

**Monday, September 4 (Labor Day)**  
Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, August 29

9:00am Staff Meeting, AD 1  
6:30pm Nominating Committee, AD 1

### Wednesday, August 30

No events scheduled

### Thursday, August 31

6:30pm Worship Service, Sanctuary

### Friday, September 1

6:00pm Latino Prayer Service, EC 6

### Saturday, September 2

No events scheduled

### Sunday, September 3

9:30am Worship Service, Sanctuary  
3:00pm El Buen Pastor Worship Service, Sanctuary

**Monday, September 4 (Labor Day)**  
Church Office Closed

**Wednesday, September 13, 2017:** Women's Fellowship has rescheduled the **Annual Kitchen Cleanup. Starts at 9 am!**

Our guest preacher tonight is Rev. Kenn Leischner. Kenn is retired after more than 20 years of interim ministry across the country as a local church pastor and judicatory executive. His recently published book about the people and experiences he knew is entitled, "Stories I've Heard and Told: Memories and Meditations of a Wanderer".

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

For more details, visit [www.federatedcolumbus.org](http://www.federatedcolumbus.org), or contact the church office (402)564-2812.

## Upcoming at Federated

**Sunday School Kick-Off: Sept 10** - As we welcome children and youth back for a new year of educational activities, we will celebrate with a BBQ & Potluck hosted by the Youth Ministry and Christian Education Committees. Please bring a salad or side dish to share following education hour.

**Chancel Choir Resumes** - After the summer break filled with wonderful special music, the Chancel Choir will be back singing on Sept. 10. Rehearsals resume at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 6 in the choir room. Contact director Bob Arp with questions. Please consider joining this fun group!!

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, August 26, Camp Calvin Crest Fundraiser will be their 20<sup>th</sup> and final Annual BBQ (11a.m.-1p.m.) and Quilt Auction.** Quilts on display for silent auction (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) and Live quilt auction at 1p.m. at Camp Calvin Crest (2870 County Road 13, Fremont.) On-line bidding at [www.proxibid.com/calvincrest](http://www.proxibid.com/calvincrest)

**The Social Concerns and Mission Committee will have a box out by the office area for donations to the Place at the Table/Backpack project starting Sunday, August 20th.** Items may be brought thru the end of September. Needed are: 18 oz size of peanut butter (in plastic containers, not glass), 32 oz COMPLETE Pancake Mix and 15 oz LITE sliced peaches. Thank you for supporting this Mission Community Project.

**Thank you to Charlotte Lambert and the many volunteer drivers and deliverers** for their service the week of July 3. Federated's next week of delivery will be Sept. 11-15. Coordinator will be Cec Bartholomew - 402-564-0264.

**Wednesday, September 6, 2017:** Women's Fellowship Board Meeting at 2:30 p.m. in Room EC 8

**Saturday, September 30:** Fall Gathering—  
Presbyterian Women in Fremont

## Upcoming Preachers & Pastoral On-call

Rev. Edward and Pulpit Supply preachers will lead worship while Rev. Annika is on Study Leave.

**Thursday, August 24:** Rev. Kenn Leischner

**Sunday, August 27:** Rev. Gary Eller

**Thursday, August 31:** Rev. Kenn Leischner

**Sunday, September 3:** Dr. Ford Craig

Please contact Rev. Edward for pastoral care during the summer.