

FEDERATED CHURCH



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



THIRD SUNDAY
 OF
Advent

Thursday December 10 and Sunday, December 13, 2020

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 with the Church Office (402) 564-2812 to initiate a Prayer Chain with the Order of St. Andrew. The Prayer Chain is strictly confidential.

If you missed worship last week, visit www.federatedcolumbus.org for videos of worship and bulletins, and on TV: Spectrum Channel 1304 (HD)
 Mondays 11:55am, Saturdays 11:55am and Sundays 7:55pm.

In case of an emergency, Pastor Edward's cell phone is (402) 302-2812.

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

JOYS & CONCERNS

- ◆ If you have any joys or concerns, please share with the congregation by informing the office.
- ◆ Pray for the Staff Planning Committee as they finalize their work. Members are listed in announcement below.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Richard Frew (cousin of Nila & John Novotny), who died unexpectedly November 30th.
- ◆ Pray for Dorothy Moore (mother of Nila & John Novotny), who tested positive for COVID-19. Thankfully, she is doing well in her Oakland, NE nursing home.
- ◆ Please pray for Rosie Heinisch, who has been diagnosed with ALL (*Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia*) and is currently receiving chemotherapy treatment.
- ◆ Pray for Enrique Abrego (brother of Jesse and Marilyn Abrego) who is in serious condition with brain injury.
- ◆ Pray for all who are battling cancer and other life threatening diseases.
- ◆ Pray for individuals and families affected by COVID-19.
- ◆ From Homestead Presbytery: **Laurel** "Being church in a year when gathering in space carries with it the risk of infection by a potentially deadly virus requires an extra measure of energy, intelligence, imagination and love.... Please pray that we find ways to remain hopeful and united as we discern God's direction and seek to follow God's way into and through 2021."

With the Mission Study Committee completing their work, the next phase (which has already started) is the Staff Planning Committee. The members of this committee, who include Doug Williams (Chair), Bob Arp, Deb Curry, Marcia Grant, Cola Hahn, Kathy Leischner, Tim Warren, Linda Wheatley and Marv Zoucha, agree their work should be finalized quickly. Once the staffing plan is done, the PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) will be elected at the February 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting. If you are interested in serving on the PNC, please contact Marcia Grant or Tim Warren.

Federated Church members donated 87 pounds of food which was collected and delivered to the Platte County Food Pantry this week!

ADULT COAT DRIVE - Social Concerns and Missions Committee will be holding an adult coat drive until **December 20th**. They are requesting gently used, recently cleaned adult coats which will be distributed by the Rescue Mission. There is a coat rack available in the Narthex to place coats there.

THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

- Sunday, December 13** (3rd Sunday of Advent)
9:00am Education Hour, Ed Center & Upper Room
10:00am Sunday Worship Service, Sanctuary
1:00pm New Elder Training, Fellowship Hall
- Monday, December 14** No events
- Tuesday, December 15**
1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study, EC 8 & Zoom
4:30pm New Deacon Training, EC 7
7:00pm Special GC Meeting, Sanctuary
7:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 279, Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, December 16**
10:00am Staff Meeting, AD 2
2:00pm Worship Planning Meeting, EC 8
4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study, Zoom Meeting
6:30pm Youth Club, Upper Room
- Thursday, December 17**
6:30pm Worship Service, Sanctuary
- Friday, December 18** No events
- Saturday, December 19** No events
- Sunday, December 20** (4th Sunday of Advent)
9:00am Education Hour, Ed Center & Upper Room
10:00am Sunday Worship Service, Sanctuary

Our 2021 Stewardship Drive is wrapping up. We are at **86% of our goal**, so we are in need of a strong finish. If you have not done so already, please send your pledge/contribution card to the Church Office as soon as possible. Thank you for everything you do for Federated Church!
~Stewardship Committee

**CANCELLED - ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER
FESTIVAL OF TREES**

The following motions were made and recognized by Governing Council during the October 2020 meeting:

- ◆ The Governing Council recognizes with serious concern the COVID pandemic and will continue to follow the safety precautions that have been established for this church. The Governing Council will continue to monitor and follow recommendations of state and local health professionals as well as our denominations, regarding in person services. We will continue to offer a choice of in person or online participation as long as conditions permit.
- ◆ A motion was made, seconded and adopted to open the east narthex doors on Sunday for parking convenience. Ushers will move rope and have hand sanitizer available. In addition, a bulletin containing activities, announcements and Joys and Concerns will be available as you exit the Sanctuary.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND BLUE CHRISTMAS

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

PRELUDE

Sing We Now of Christmas

FRENCH CAROL

What Child Is This

ENGLISH CAROL

Still, Still, Still

AUSTRIAN CAROL

Lee Augustin, Organ and Piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANDLE LIGHTING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Parish Nurses of First Pres. Church of Kalamazoo, MI

One: Today we come looking for the Christ Child.

All: We come, bringing our hurts, our worries, our fears.

One: We come seeking relief from pain. With the psalmist of old we say,

All: "O Lord, you are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low."

OPENING SONG

We Adore You

BALOCHE/JANIS

iWorship DVD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Dear Lord, we come to you this day to express our failures and confusion regarding our relationship with you:

All: You know that we come to you with heavy hearts that we find hard to unburden. It is particularly in this time of year when the darkness of long solstice nights collides with the brilliance of Christmas lights, that we find it hard to express our losses.

One: We may be confused, sad, lonely, and feeling our losses without remembering that you are always there to support us. We tend even toward anger at you, Lord, because we feel in some way it is your will that we are unhappy. Sometimes we feel cut off from you because we allow our many hurts to engulf us. We lack trust in you.

All: Open us to the understanding that you are the source of all love and we need not feel so alone in our grief. Grant us wisdom to know that you—most of all—can be trusted, and that you are with us, especially when we are at our absolute worst.

MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Let us open our lives to God's healing presence and receive our Lord's acceptance of us!

All: We know, God of Love, that you are always with us even in our very darkest of times. We know that you forgive our many transgressions and that by leaning into your infinite patience and strength, we receive your mercy, your care, and your grace today. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

One: With forgiveness, we have peace with God and one another. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON (SUN.)

Brenda Sand, Christian Education Director

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Katie Claus, Liturgist (Sun.)

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 61 : 1 - 4, 8 - 11

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Edward Yang

*** LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE WITH “O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”**

(FROM THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SAINT ANDREW, HONOLULU, HI)

One: We light this first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost.

We pause to remember clearly, their faces, their voices, their bodies.

We embrace and give thanks for the memories that bind them to us in this season of expectation, when all Creation waits for the Light.

All: We remember them with love. May God's eternal love surround them.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

A period of silent reflection

One: We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss: loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, loss of health, the loss of joy. We acknowledge and embrace the pain of the past, O God, and we offer it to You, asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands You will place the gift of peace, shalom.

All: We remember that through You all things are possible. Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into Your future.

O come thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily

To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

A period of silent reflection

One: We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time.

We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us years, that have been heavy with our burdens. We accept and lay before you, God, the sharpness of memory, the sadness and grief, the hurt and fear, the anger and pain.

We accept and lay before you the ways we feel we have fallen short, and the times we have spent blaming ourselves, and you, for all that we have suffered. We accept and lay before you the time we have walked alone, in darkness; and in knowledge of our own mortality.

All: We remember that though we have journeyed far, and that, while lost, we may have turned away from the light, the light itself has not failed.

We remember that though winter be upon us and though the night be dark, with the turning of the wheel the dawn will come, and dawn defeats the darkness.

O come thou day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by thy advent here

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight

Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

A period of silent reflection

One: We light this fourth candle to remember faith, the gift of light and hope that God offers to us in the stories of Christmas, which began in abandonment, insecurity, and humbleness, in a time of war and in a poor stable. We remember that the loving God who kept the light shining in the temple and who came to share this life with us promises us comfort and peace.

All: We remember the One who shares our burdens, who shows us the way to the Light, and who journeys with us into all our tomorrows.

O come desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind

Bid then our sad, divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

A period of silent reflection

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of mercy, hear our prayer in this Advent season for ourselves, and for our families and friends who live with the struggles of illness and the pain of loss. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow, and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of Christ, who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

You Are Mine

HAAS

Recorded on *July 15, 2018*

BENEDICTION