



FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 18th, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mission Statement:

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

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.

In case of an emergency, Edward's cell phone number: 402-302-2812.

Governing Council - Federated Church Elders			Federated Church Clergy and Staff	
Wayne McCormick, <i>President</i> Julie Graham, <i>Vice President</i> Louise Moran, <i>Secretary</i>			Rev. Edward Yang, Ph.D., <i>Pastor/Head of Staff</i> edward@federatedcolumbus.org	Brenda Sand, <i>Christian Education Director</i> brenda@federatedcolumbus.org
<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	Chrissy Ford, <i>Office Administrator</i> cford@federatedcolumbus.org	Kathy Zywiec, <i>Office Assistant</i> kathy@federatedcolumbus.org
John McClure	Jesse Abrego	Donna Augspurger	Bob Arp, <i>Chancel Choir Director</i>	Stuart Gausman, <i>Bell Choir Director</i>
Renee Norris	Katie Claus	John McPhail	James Sharpe, <i>Organist</i>	Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia, <i>El Buen Pastor Fellowship</i>
Alison Wagner	Mimi Ernst	Mark Weeder	Betty Garcia Lopez, <i>Nursery Attendant</i>	Amanda Weeder, <i>Accompanist</i>
Order of St. Andrew - Federated Church Deacons			Bill Royer, <i>Head Usher</i>	
Mimi Ernst, GC Rep.	Laura Porter, Ch.	Wilma Arp	Andree & Terry Hoeman, <i>Co-Historians</i>	
Kathy Leischner	Barb Olson	Ruth Erwin		
Jean Royer	Sharon Kuncl	Peg Meyer		

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

PRELUDE

Noël X Grand Jeu, et duo

LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

MARK HAYES

James Sharpe, Piano & Organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY Young Family (John, Jenny, Otis and Anna) A SANCTIFIED ART

One: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, "What makes you feel connected; what makes you feel loved?" From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

Group 1: Handwritten notes.

Group 2: Casseroles

Group 3: Reading a book together.

Group 4: Being invited in.

Group 1: The passing of the peace.

Group 2: Family walks.

Group 3: When I see my friends at preschool.

Group 4: Youth group.

Group 1: Surprise phone calls.

Group 2: Making music with other people.

Group 3: Belly laughs.

Group 4: Home-cooked food.

Group 1: Eye Contact.

Group 2: Dinner parties.

Group 3: Hugs.

Group 4: An inside joke.

Group 1: Dancing with my partner in the kitchen.

One: Today we light the candle of love as a reminder that from the very first generation, God has surrounded us with love. May this good news - these threads of love - not only weave deeper connections between neighbors, but shape our actions and allow us to see God more clearly.

(Advent candles are lit.)

One: In a lonely world, let this light shine bright. From generation to generation, we are held in God's love. Thanks be to God for that good news. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #376 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (verses 1 - 3)**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

One: One of the greatest gifts and challenges of faith is that we cannot be Christian alone. We need one another. We need one another to grow. We need one another to love. And we need one another to see God more clearly. So together, let us lift our voices in unison. Let us lean into the ties that bind and pray to our merciful God.

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

All: God of today and tomorrow, When Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth's house. Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her. How often do we have that same opportunity? How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off? How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy? Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs. We want to see you when we see our neighbor. Amen.

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

One License #711910-A

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***MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER**

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Friends, this is what I know - God delights in us.

All: God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth, and says,

One: "Come on home. There is room for you here!"

All: And in that moment, we are blessed. In that moment, we are forgiven. In that moment, we are seen, healed, and welcomed home.

One: So rest in this good news: you are saved by grace. Let us respond together, using the words from Mary's song:

All: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant, Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed."

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** (You are welcome to share a handshake, fist bump or peace sign)

One: Forgiven and renewed, we extend God's peace to one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

***SONG: This Little Light of Mine, I'm gonna let it shine, (3X)
Let it shine, let it shine. (let it shine)**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Brenda Sand, Christian Education Director

BELLS OF JOY

Advent Tidings

AKERS

Bell Choir; Stuart Gausman, Director

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Doug Williams, Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel According to Matthew 1 : 18 - 25

Pew Bible, NT, page 1

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Edward Yang, Pastor

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe that creation is inextricably linked. We belong to one another in an undeniable way. We are bone of bone and flesh of flesh, life breathed into dust. We believe that God invites us to live into that truth - to love without abandon, to see the good in one another, to trust that all belong to God. We know that this life of connection is easier said than done, which is why we gather in this space, week after week, generation after generation, to be reminded: We see God in each other. This we believe. Amen.

***RESPONSIVE HYMN**

*A Better Way
(See insert for music)*

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

OFFERTORY

The King Shall Come

SCHRAM

***DOXOLOGY**

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

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Almighty God, receive our offering for the sake of Christ our Lord. Make us worthy stewards of your gifts and generous citizens of the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #31**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above to Earth (BWV 606)

J. S. BACH

Café LaFed will be hosted by Social Concerns & Missions Committee

JOYS & CONCERNS

If you have any joys or concerns, please share with the congregation by informing the office.

◆ Pray for Michael Palik, brother of Annette Griffith, as he continues cancer treatment. Thankfully, bleeding coughs have stopped. Michael and his family reside in Arkansas.

◆ Thank you to Tammi Gotschall and Jeanne Johnson for all their time decorating the Sanctuary and Narthex with the Christmas poinsettias.

◆ Homestead Presbytery: Nebraska City

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Nebraska City 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:

Columbus St. Luke's UCC (Columbus, NE 68601)

THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 18th

8:45am SALT Adult Ed. Hour, EC 4-5

9:00am Education Hour

10:00am Sunday Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:15am Pipe Organ Task Force Meeting, EC8

3:00pm Spanish Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, December 19th

4:00pm CHS Diamond Dancers Practice, Gym

6:00pm Special Olympics Basketball, Gym

7:00pm Scouts Troop 212 Meeting, FH

Tuesday, December 20th

1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study, EC8

7:00pm Cub Scouts #279, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 21st

10:00am Staff Meeting, Church office

11:30am Circle 2 Christmas Luncheon, Maximus

4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study, Zoom

6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, December 22nd

4:00pm CHS Diamond Dancers Practice, Gym

6:30pm Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service

Friday, December 23rd

6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service, EC6

Saturday, December 24th

5:00pm Worship Service, Sanctuary

8:00pm Worship Service & Communion, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25th

No Education Hour

10:00am Sunday Worship Service, Sanctuary

3:00pm Spanish Worship Service, Sanctuary

Upcoming Events:

- Dec. 22 - Blue Christmas Service
- Dec. 24 - 5pm - Young at Heart (Family) Service
- Dec. 24 - 8pm - Communion, Choir & Candlelight Srv
- Dec. 25 - Lessons & Carols Service
- Dec. 25 - Columbus Community Christmas Meal - Carry Out or Delivery Only! **Volunteers Needed.**
- Dec. 26 - Church Office Closed
- Dec. 30 - End of Year Deposit (am)
- Jan. 2 - Church Office Closed

PLEASE BRING IN YOUR DONATIONS OF
NEW mittens, hats and scarves.
FOR THE ANGEL TREE IN THE NARTHEX. Thank you.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We are seeking volunteers for this year's Community Christmas Meal. Meal preparation volunteers are needed that morning, and drivers will be needed around Noon! Sign up sheets are available in the Narthex or Office!



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION ...

We can choose a better way

A Better Way

GOD REST YOU MERRY 8.6.8.6.8.6 with refrain

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Traditional English carol (18th cent.)

When He Said Like
 Jo - seph planned to leave her
 Ga - briel, "Jo - seph, woke from
 Ma - ry's state he
 qui - et - ly and
 do not fear to find his
 sleep to find his

pon - dered her dis - grace
 not cre - ate a scene
 make Ma - ry your wife
 path - way had been changed
 He But
 She Still
 cal - cu - lat - ed
 Ma - ry still would
 bears in - side her
 here to - day God

all the shame the
 grow with child; what
 womb the hope of
 calls us all to
 scan - dal would cre - ate
 then would her fate
 ev - er - last - ing
 choose the bet - ter
 ate be?
 life way
 But
 When
 The
 Be -

not con - tent to see her stoned he of - fered her some
 Jo - seph went to sleep that night an an - gel in - ter -
 son that she will bear to you is Je - sus the Mes -
 - yond our wild - est dreams is still a call - ing that re -

grace
 - vened Oh there is a bet - ter way, God's bet-ter way Oh
 - siah"
 - mains

we can choose the bet - ter way

Small Groups are starting up again!

2x4s Dinner Group: Contact Nila Novotny for more information. The schedule and participants documents are available on the Church's website.

Arts & Music: If you are interested in the fine arts, call or email Mimi Ernst if you would like to join!