



FEDERATED CHURCH

Saturday, December 24th, 2022

Christmas Eve, 8 pm : Communion, Choir & Candlelight

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 Kuncel	Peg Meyer		

Welcome to Worship at Federated!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2022

CHRISTMAS EVE, 8PM COMMUNION, CHOIR & CANDLELIGHT

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

PRELUDE
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming MARK HAYES
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel MARK HAYES
Jesu Bambino PIETRO YON
Noël X Grand Jeu, et duo LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN
James Sharpe, Piano & Organ

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE
I Saw Three Ships ARR. MCALLISTER
The First Noel ARR. MCALLISTER
Bob Arp, Dana Augspurger, Parker Grant, Amanda Weeder

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRO & VIDEO *Emmanuel Christmas (Visual Revival)*

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY Meyer Family A SANCTIFIED ART

One: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, "My story is ..." From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

Group 1: Amazing!

Group 2: Just beginning.

Group 3: A wee bit messy, with lots of love.

Group 4: Privileged.

Group 1: Hopeful.

Group 2: Full of silliness.

Group 3: Still unfolding.

Group 4: Long, but good.

Group 1: One of resilience.

Group 2: Incomplete, thank goodness.

Group 3: A work in progress.

Group 4: My story is not just mine, it's tied to yours.

One: Tonight we tell the story that we tell every year—the story of Christ's birth, the story of love made flesh. It's a story that weaves through every generation. It's a story that picks up the bits and pieces of our narrative and braids us together.

(Advent candles are lit.)

One: So tonight we light the Christ candle, because from generation to generation, our story belongs to God. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen

***OPENING HYMN #40** *Joy to the World!*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

One: As a kid I used to think the prayer of confession was scary. I thought it was a moment designed to make me feel guilty, intended for eyes cast down and shoulders hung low. But that's not it at all. The prayer of confession is an invitation. It's an opportunity to say, "This is who I've been, and this is who I long to be." So let us pray together. Let us be truth tellers. Let us hold our heads high and speak honestly before God and one another. This is easy to do when we are surrounded by a God who delights in us. Friends, let us pray:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: Holy God, we admit - we don't fully understand the Christmas story.

All: We are not familiar with angel choruses.

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

One License #711910-A

CCLI License #1160936 & 20180420

One: We have not walked many miles to be counted in a census,
All: and we don't always hear your voice in our dreams.
One: We don't fully understand this story, so we admit, sometimes we hesitate to tell it.
All: Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there is a love bigger than we could imagine, we whisper this good news.
One: Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in,
All: we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out.
One: Instead of telling the next generation why this night matters so much,
All: we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.
One: Forgive us for our silence.
All: Forgive us for our hesitation.
One: Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news.
All: Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation. Amen.

*** MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER**

*** WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Friends, no matter where we go, no matter what we say, no matter what we do, we belong to God.

All: We are held. We are loved. We are forgiven. Amen!

*** SONG**

This Little Light of Mine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, (3X)
Let it shine, let it shine. (let it shine)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Brenda Sand, Christian Education Director

CHORAL ANTHEM

Journey Carol

CUSTER

Chancel Choir; Bob Arp, Director; Amanda Weeder, Accompanist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Beth Sharpe, Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel According to Luke 2 : 1 - 14

Pew Bible, NT, page 58

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 for generations people have gathered together on this holy night,
because there is something about this story that speaks to the deepest parts of us.

We believe in bundling up this hope,

this good news, and passing it on - to our children, to our neighbors, to the world around us.

I believe my voice can make a difference,

just like I believe this story can make a difference, so I will not stay quiet.

I will tell this story - of a love that makes room for all.

I will sing this story - of a love that knows our name.

I will live this story - because love has come again.

I believe that words have power. I will not stay quiet. Amen.

*** RESPONSIVE HYMN (SEE INSERT FOR WORDS AND MUSIC)**

God Became Flesh With Us to Dwell

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Carols Around

ARR. NYGARD

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, and further your dream for the world through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

*** HYMN #37**

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER

COMMUNION OF GOD’S PEOPLE

(Communion is served in the pews. Please hold bread and cup to partake together. Federated Church celebrates an open table, meaning all who trust in Christ are welcome to receive communion. Children are welcome to receive communion with the permission of parents/guardians as part of the family’s on-going conversations about faith. After partaking, please place cups in the pew holders.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for you have indeed come to live among us - in this gathering of Christ’s body, through the word read and proclaimed, through the bread and cup we share and in our going out to serve. Fulfill what you have promised in our lives and in your world that all may gladly receive your perfect gift of love: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #60**

Silent Night, Holy Night (candles are lit while room lights are dimmed)

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

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: As Christ offers us peace and forgiveness, let us offer a sign of that peace to one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

All are invited to share a word and sign of peace.

POSTLUDE

Toccata in F Major (Symphony V)

CHARLES M. WIDOR

JOYS & CONCERNS

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

◆ Pray for the family of Donna Taylor, Jean & Bill Royer’s sister, who passed away December 22, 2022. A memorial service will be held for the family at a later date.

◆ Congratulations to Logan Carol Bennett, granddaughter of Pete & Carol Bennett, who graduated Dec. 17th from UNL with a Bachelor of Science in Education and Human Services with distinction. Logan will continue her studies in speech pathology.

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

◆ **UCC Living Waters Association: Creighton Faith United Creighton (UMC/UCC)** (Creighton, NE 68729)

◆ Homestead Presbytery: Norfolk

Like many of our churches, First PC, Norfolk has struggled to fully recover from the effects of the pandemic, especially in terms of attendance. But we are optimistic about the prospects for the coming year. First PC continues a long-time mission interest in Malawi, supporting 3 different missions in the country: Norfolk Schools, Malawi, a private Christian school founded by one of our members, Joe Mtika; the ministry of Tyler and Rochelle Holms, who are building a capability for Malawians to drill their own water wells; and a sister church relationship with the Kaphuta Church in Mzimba. We are also involved in a number of local and ecumenical ministries that include youth. Prayers for all our youth ministries and the general health of the church would be very much welcome.



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

God dwells with us

God Became Flesh With Us to Dwell

THE FIRST NOEL Irr. with refrain

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Traditional English carol

From Ga - li - lee to Beth - le - hem Did
A - bid - ing in the fields le - hem Did
The shep - herds went as the an - gels had night said To a

Ma - ry and Jo - seph their jour - ney be gin Ma - ny miles from
shep - herds in saw a with ra - diant light When an - gels
man - ger in town with haste they sped And there as

home with - out a room Em - man - u - el
came to fill the sky Break - ing in - u - el
earth and heav - en con - verged They shared with the

came forth from earth from par - ents all Ma - ry's heav - en on that had oc - curred No - el, no - el, no - el, no - el God be - came flesh with us to dwell

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!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Dec. 25 - Lessons & Carols Service
- Dec. 25 - Columbus Community Christmas Meal - Carry Out & Deliveries start at Noon
- Dec. 26 - Church Office Closed
- Dec. 30 - Last Deposit of the year (am)
- Jan. 2 - Church Office Closed

THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 25th,

- 7:00am Christmas Meal Prep begins
- 10:00am Lessons & Carols Service
- 12:00pm Community Christmas Meal Deliveries & Pick-ups begin
- 3:00pm Spanish Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, December 26th

Church Office Closed

- 6:00pm Special Olympics Basketball, Gym
- 7:00pm Scouts Troop 212 Meeting, FH

Tuesday, December 27th

- 7:00pm Cub Scouts #279, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 28th

No Events Scheduled

Thursday, December 29th

- 6:30pm Worship Service

Friday, December 30th

- (am) Final Deposit for 2022
- 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service, EC6

Saturday, December 31st

No Events Scheduled

Sunday, January 1st

- 10:00am Sunday Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 3:00pm Spanish Worship Service, Sanctuary