



FEDERATED CHURCH

Thursday, December 7, & Sunday, December 10, 2023
Second 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	
Julie Graham, <i>President</i>			Rev. Edward Yang, Ph.D. <i>Pastor/Head of Staff</i> edward@federatedcolumbus.org	
Alison Wagner, <i>Vice President</i>			Brenda Sand <i>Christian Education Director</i> brenda@federatedcolumbus.org	
<i>Class of 2023</i>	<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Class of 2025</i>	Stuart Gausman <i>Bell Choir Director</i>	Chrissy Ford <i>Office Administrator</i> cford@federatedcolumbus.org
Jesse Abrego	Donna Augspurger	Pat Anderson	Reagan Gausman <i>Vocal Choir Director</i>	Kathy Zywiec <i>Office Assistant; Social Media Coord.</i> kathy@federatedcolumbus.org
Katie Claus	John McPhail	John Lohr	James Sharpe <i>Organist</i>	Mark Baumann <i>Custodian</i>
Parker Grant	Mark Weeder	Brenda Sand	Amanda Weeder <i>Accompanist</i>	Beatriz Garcia Lopez <i>Nursery Attendant</i>
Order of St. Andrew - Federated Church Deacons			Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia <i>El Buen Pastor Fellowship</i>	
Ruth Erwin	Sharon Kuncl	Kathy Leischner		
Laura Porter	Peg Meyer	Barb Olson		
Jean Royer		Lori Rine		
Andree & Terry Hoeman, <i>Co-Historians</i>				
Bill Royer, <i>Head Usher</i>				

Welcome to Worship at Federated!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

PRELUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come (BWV 659)
Of the Father's Love Begotten
James Sharpe, Organ & Piano

J. S. BACH
MARK HAYES

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO

UCC "Grace upon Grace" (The Christmas Fund)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: PEACE

Presbyterian Outlook

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

A Sanctified Art

One: John the Baptist said, "Prepare the way." So family of faith, how do we prepare our minds for worship?

All: We silence the inner critic. We let go of busy thoughts. We make space for God to speak.

One: How do we prepare our hearts for worship?

All: We bless all emotions. We feel what we feel. We open ourselves up to be moved.

One: How do we prepare our bodies for worship?

All: We take in the scent, sight, and feel of this space. We breathe in God's mercy. We exhale God's love.

One: How do we prepare our souls for worship?

All: We bring our full selves into this space. We wear our hearts on our sleeves. We trust that even now, God is here.

One: Family of faith, what we practice in worship, we must live out in our daily lives. So prepare the way. Let us worship Holy God.

*** OPENING HYMN # 22**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

*** UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, we wish that peace was something we could buy. We wish that peace could be ordered in a subscription service, found on a map, downloaded in an app, or voted for in a ballot. We wish that peace was as easy as a one-time choice when we are feeling our best. However, what we have found is that peace involves everyday decisions over and over, whether or not we are feeling our best.

So today I confess, in front of this community of faith, that I need your help in this Advent season. Prepare the way for greater peace, and teach me how to be a part of it.

*** MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER**

*** WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

One: May God forgive you. May God's guiding hand surround you. May you know comfort. May you know peace.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

One: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. May the peace of Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

One: You are invited to share Christ's peace with one another.

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

One License #711910-A

CCLI License #1160936 & 20180420

*** HYMN # 37**

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (verse 1)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Brenda Sand, Christian Education Director

SPECIAL MUSIC

Gesù Bambino

Recorded Sunday, December 3, 2023

CHORAL ANTHEM

Pray for a Miracle

PEPPER CHOPLIN

Chancel Choir; Reagan Gausman, Director; Amanda Weeder, Accompanist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Nicole Miller, Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel According to Mark 1 : 1 - 8

Pew Bible, NT, page 34

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 a voice cried out in the wilderness, Saying, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

And so, we show up in church pews on cold, blustery days or even from home.

We march toward justice. We roll up our sleeves.

We plant trees for our children. We make art.

We choose hope. We gather at the Table.

We set an extra plate. We sing loudly, with joy.

We share stories and wisdom. We celebrate children.

We fall together. We rise together. We love together.

We do all these things because we believe that God loves us so much that God shows up here.

So we prepare and prepare for that next beautiful day. May it be so. Amen.

*** RESPONSIVE HYMN**

Lord, We Long for Words of Comfort

(see insert for music and words)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

(An offering plate and contribution box are available in the back of the church before and after each service, if you would like to make a donation. Thank you.)

*** ADVENT DOXOLOGY**

ROGER LYNN

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace

Praise God for gifts of joy and love

Praise God for sending Christ to dwell

On earth for us - Emmanuel. Amen.

*** UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God Most High, receive the gifts of our lives as an offering of gratitude for your grace.

Overshadow us with your Holy Spirit and let it be with us according to your word, for nothing is impossible with you. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN # 13

Prepare the Way

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (BWV 606)
Café LaFed is hosted by the Curry's and Millard's

J. S. BACH

JOYS & CONCERNS

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

- ◆ Chancel Flowers are given by Gail Wurdeman in loving memory of her parents, Irene & Harold Wurdeman. Happy Birthday Mom!
- ◆ Pray for the family of Marlyn Wurdeman. Marlyn passed away on November 29th. Funeral services were at Federated Church on Wednesday, December 6th.
- ◆ Pray for Calvin Wagner who has been placed on hospice care.
- ◆ Pray for Brian Marker, son of Steve & Jackie Marker, who will have heart surgery next week.
- ◆ Pray for Gary Robertson who was recently diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.
- ◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Pawnee City**
The Pawnee City Presbyterian Church is in need of prayers for our future. We need to move on after all the hurt feelings and misunderstandings that have gone on in our church the past two years and begin planning for our future. Pray for forgiving hearts and open minds.
- ◆ **UCC Living Waters Association: Coleridge Pilgrim Congregational UCC (Coleridge, NE 68727)**

THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 10, 2023

- 10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 12:30pm Private Bridal Shower, FH
- 3:00pm Spanish Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, December 11, 2023

- 1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study, AD2
- 4:00pm Special Olympics Basketball/CHS Dancers
- 7:00pm Troop 212 Meeting, FH

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

- 5:30pm Consonnaires, Choir Room

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

- 10:00am Staff meeting, AD2
- 4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study, Online
- 6:30pm Bells of Joy Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 6:30pm Puppet Rehearsal, Gym
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, December 14, 2023

- 6:30pm Blue Christmas Worship Service, Sanctuary

Friday, December 15, 2023

- 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service

Saturday, December 16, 2023

No events scheduled

Sunday, December 17, 2023

- 10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary; Children's Christmas Pageant
- 3:00pm Spanish Worship Service, Sanctuary

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Dec. 14, 6:30 pm - Ecumenical Blue Christmas

Dec. 17 - Children's Christmas Pageant

Dec. 21 - Lessons and Carols Service

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

10 am: Lesson & Carols Service,
No Education Hour

5 pm: Family Christmas Service

8 pm: Choir, Communion and Candlelight Service

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day, Church office closed;
Community Christmas Meal, delivery and take out
begin at 11am

Jan. 1 - New Years Day, Church office closed

Volunteers are still needed for the following:

- ◆ Liturgists (all Sundays!!!)
- ◆ Education Hour (Teachers/Helpers)
- ◆ Special Music on first and fifth Sundays

Pickle Ball nets are up in the gym and can be enjoyed by small groups.

Lord, We Long for Words of Comfort



1. Lord, we long for words of com - fort, for a
 2. Lord, we long for words of pro - mise when we
 3. May we look to John the Bap - tist, to the
 4. May we turn from what di - vides us, from the



gen - tle, heal - ing word— that our suf - fer - ing is
 suf - fer for our sins, when it seems that hate is
 pro - phet you once sent, for he calls us to be
 ways of hate and fear! May your peace and jus - tice



end - ed, that our pen - al - ty is served.
 end - less, when it seems that trou - ble wins.
 hon - est, and he calls us to re - pent.
 guide us; may your love di - rect us here!



For the sins of gen - er - a - tions have com - pound - ed
 Can we see, in des - ert pla - ces, that there's hope for
 May we turn our eyes to Je - sus, to the one that
 God, we pray that, in pre - par - ing, we'll find peace and



till our day; God, the hope of all the na - tions,
 your new day? Will we lis - ten to a pro - phet
 John pro - claimed. May we see how love can heal us;
 chal - lenge, too. May we find a new di - rec - tion



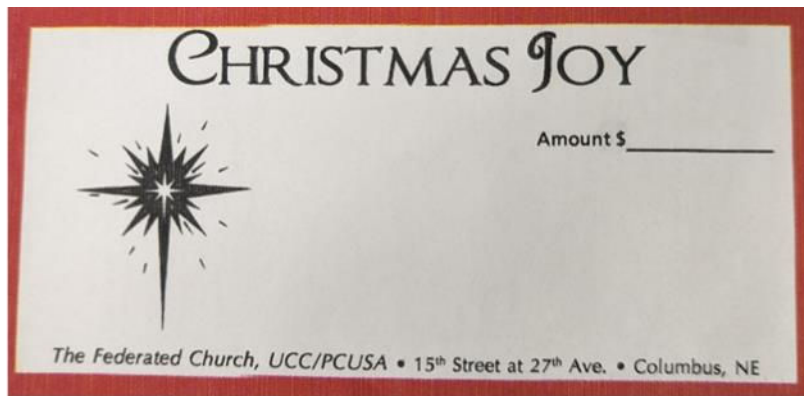
give us good news now, we pray!
 show - ing us a bet - ter way?
 may we trust in Je - sus' name.
 as we wait to wel - come you.

Biblical References: Isaiah 40:1–11 and Mark 1:1–8

Tune: BEACH SPRING (“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”) 8.7.8.7 D,

The Sacred Harp, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White

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Many of you have seen the envelopes pictured above. They are scattered throughout the Church during this season. These handy little envelopes help us decipher how you want your money distributed each time you contribute!

By using the Christmas Joy envelope, you donate your funds to the UCC and PC(USA) Christmas funds, 50 - 50. Noted below are other ways to donate towards these funds. These funds are explained below:

PC(USA) Christmas Joy Special Offerings (right): This special offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

UCC The Christmas Fund (below): Your gifts to the Christmas Fund allow the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance to provide grace, hope and joy through financial relief to UCC pastors, lay church leaders, and their families, including pension supplements, health benefits, emergency grants and more.

CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 


WAYS TO GIVE


Through your congregation


Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy


Text
CHRISTMASJOY
to 91999
to give or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy




In 2022, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 218 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,042,726)
- Health benefits supplementation for 86 retired clergy and lay employees (\$181,389)
- Emergency grants for 55 individuals and families (\$138,022)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 479 retired clergy and lay employees (\$278,500)



THE CHRISTMAS FUND
For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund
Give online at www.christmasfund.org.