



FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent; Children's Christmas Pageant

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	
<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	Chrissy Ford <i>Office Administrator</i> cford@federatedcolumbus.org	
Jesse Abrego	Donna Augspurger	Pat Anderson	Kathy Zywiec <i>Office Assistant; Social Media Coord.</i> kathy@federatedcolumbus.org	
Katie Claus	John McPhail	John Lohr	Mark Baumann <i>Custodian</i>	
Parker Grant	Mark Weeder	Brenda Sand	Beatriz Garcia Lopez <i>Nursery Attendant</i>	
Order of St. Andrew - Federated Church Deacons			James Sharpe <i>Organist</i>	
Ruth Erwin	Sharon Kuncil	Kathy Leischner	Amanda Weeder <i>Accompanist</i>	
Laura Porter	Peg Meyer	Barb Olson	Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia <i>El Buen Pastor Fellowship</i>	
Jean Royer		Lori Rine		
Andree & Terry Hoeman, <i>Co-Historians</i>				
Bill Royer, <i>Head Usher</i>				

Welcome to Worship at Federated!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT; CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
In the Bleak Midwinter

J. S. BACH
MARK HAYES

James Sharpe, Organ & Piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: JOY (Young Family)

Presbyterian Outlook

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

A Sanctified Art

One: Once upon a time, there was a little girl who had a terrible day. She left her lunch at home. She skinned her knee on the playground, and no one wanted to sit with her on the bus. As she sank into her mother's arms at the end of the day, her mother said, "Honey, what was the best part of today?"

All: The little girl cried and said, "Nothing! The entire day was terrible."

One: So the mother got down on one knee, wiped away her tears and said, "There is always some good. Sometimes we just really have to look for it."

All: The little girl looked up at her mom and said, "What is good about today?"

One: And the mother said, "For starters, you're here in my arms." Friends, anytime we gather together to worship God, we are here in God's arms. So may we recognize that gift, and in doing so, may we sow joy.

All: Let us worship Holy God.

*** OPENING HYMN # 464**

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

*** UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O Great Writer, With a sky full of stars and a world full of flowers, there should be no end to my joy. And yet, instead of decorating my very being with joy, I let it slip away like loose change. Instead of singing like Mary, or dancing like David, I pass by remarkable beauty and love most days, unfazed. Forgive me. Teach me the ways of children, who laugh and dance and sing as if joy is the very thing that keeps them alive. Maybe they have joy figured out. Gratefully we pray, amen.

*** 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.

*** HYMN # 37**

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (verse 1)

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

One License #711910-A

CCLI License #1160936 & 20180420

Produced with special arrangement with Christian Publishers.

Directed by Nicole Miller, Megan McHugh, Ashli Porter

Children's Music Directed by Stuart Gausman

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Brenda Sand, Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61: 1 - 4, 8 - 11

Pew Bible, OT, pages 691 - 692

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

All: Thanks be to God!

HOMILY

Edward Yang, Pastor

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

One: Great Creator, we are in awe of you.

All: We will never know how you managed to dream up mountains and valleys, freckles, dimples, and curly hair, a cool morning mist, the change of seasons, or the magic of music.

One: Your greatness is beyond our reckoning.

All: And because we are in awe of you, we believe we must follow Mary's lead and allow our souls to sing.

One: We believe that the appropriate reaction to your goodness is complete gratitude, which looks like love for our neighbor, justice for the poor, food for the hungry, and joy that overflows.

All: And even though we do not always believe in ourselves, we believe that our song is pleasing to you.

One: We believe.

All: Help our unbelief. Amen.**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

OFFERTORY

Mary, Did You Know

ARR. LAURA PAGE

Bell Choir; Stuart Gausman, Director

*** 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 STF #2236*****Gather Us In (verses 1, 2 & 4)****** BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo (BWV 729)

J. S. BACH

Café LaFed is hosted by Social Concerns & Missions Committee

JOYS & CONCERNS

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

- ◆ Congratulations to Kaitlynn Meyer, daughter of Byron & Peg Meyer, who graduated from University of Nebraska at Kearney on Saturday, December 16th. She is currently a student teacher at Hastings High School.
- ◆ Thank you to John Lohr and Chrissy Ford for all their time decorating the Sanctuary and Narthex with the Christmas poinsettias.
- ◆ Pray for Brian Marker, son of Steve & Jackie Marker, who is recovering from surgery.
- ◆ Pray for Gary Robertson who was recently diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.
- ◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Primrose**
Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Primrose 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)**

Pickle Ball nets are up in the gym and can be enjoyed by small groups.
Monday - Friday, 8am - 4:30pm

Please bring in your donations of NEW mittens, hats and scarves for the ANGEL TREE in the Narthex. Thank you.

2 x 4 Dinner Groups

We will be getting our groups together for 2024 - 2 x 4 dinners (rotating dinner group).
If you are interested, please contact Membership & Growth Committee or leave your name at the office.
Thank you.

Volunteers are still needed for the following:

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

THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 17, 2023

10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, December 18, 2023

1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study, AD2

4:00pm Special Olympics Basketball/CHS Dancers

7:00pm Troop 212 Meeting, FH

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

5:30pm Consonnaires, Choir Room

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

9:30am Circle 1 Meeting

10:00am Staff meeting, AD4

11:30am Circle 2, Picket Fence Gathering

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 21, 2023

6:30pm Worship Service, Sanctuary

Friday, December 22, 2023

No events scheduled

Saturday, December 23, 2023

No events scheduled

Sunday, December 24, 2023

10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary

5:00pm Family Christmas Service

8:00pm Choir, Communion & Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25, 2023

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Church office closed

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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