



FEDERATED CHURCH

Thursday, December 28th & Sunday, December 31st, 2023
First Sunday of Christmas

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

Welcome to Worship at Federated!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28 & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Air and Variations (Harmonious Blacksmith)
James Sharpe, Piano & Organ

MARK HAYES

G. F. HANDEL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

A Sanctified Art

One: Here on the heels of Christmas,

One: We speak of joy.

All: We speak of candle light and fireside.

One: We speak of dreams being fulfilled.

All: We speak of “glorias” and angel choruses.

One: We speak the words, “Do not be afraid.”

All: Here on the heels of Christmas, we are called to speak, for the world needs a light.

One: A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

All: Let us worship and listen. Then let us speak. Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN #8**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*** INTRODUCTION TO THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: When I was in seventh grade, my youth pastor asked the group the question, “Where have you seen God today.”

Thinking that this must be a trick question, I began mentally racing through my day, trying to imagine what he could possibly mean.

Where had I seen God today? We had spent the day on a hiking trail! All I had seen was people and nature. I was unable to answer the question.

But then one of my classmates spoke of the beauty of the sunrise and how the gift of another day felt holy. Another friend spoke of the little girl that we had passed on the trail and had given her a wildflower—an act of random kindness to a complete stranger.

Another classmate mentioned David, who had shown genuine concern and had helped Josh get up after he had slipped in the mud. And on and on they went, until I began to see that God was everywhere.

Seeing God in your midst is one thing, Speaking it out loud for all to hear is entirely different. The world needs this good news. We are not called to be silent.

Please join me in our Prayer of Confession:

One: God of today and tomorrow,

All: We know that your fingerprints are all over this world.

One: And we know that those who dream cannot keep silent.

All: So today we pray, give us eyes to see you.

One: Give us courage to trust you.

All: And give us lips to speak of you in our midst.

One: This we pray.

All: Amen.

*** MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER**

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

One License #711910-A

CCLI License #1160936 & 20180420

*** WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Children of God, it is clear that Jesus Christ came to help sinners.

All: He is our Savior in all our distress, and it is his presence that saves us.

One: Declare with me the good news of the gospel,

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*** 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 #304**

Jesus Loves Me!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Julie Graham

*** SPECIAL MUSIC**

I Saw Three Ships

Ben Heinisch, Steve Heinisch, Doug Williams

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bob Arp, Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel According to Luke 2 : 21 - 40

Pew Bible, NT, pages 59

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Doug Williams

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

One: We believe in telling the story—

All: The story of a loving and merciful God, who will not let God's people go; the story of a baby who grew up and changed the world—the story of our faith.

One: We believe in speaking up—

All: For our neighbors. For the oppressed. For the overlooked. For the marginalized.

One: We believe in speaking out—

All: Against Violence. Against Greed. Against Abuse. Against Fear. Against Bigotry.

One: We believe in passing the microphone—

All: So that we are not the only ones speaking. So that we can lift up the voices of those around us. So that we too might listen and learn.

One: We believe in the good news of the gospel.

All: We believe that this good news is too good to keep to ourselves. We believe that those who dream cannot keep silent.

One: Speak to us, Holy God.

All: Speak through us Holy God. May it be so. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed by they name. Thy kingdom come, they 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

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

One License #711910-A

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*** DOXOLOGY**

**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**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

In this gifting season, O God, we are grateful for the gift of your dear Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Receive these offerings, we pray, that they may be used in the service of your grace and truth dwelling among us. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

♦ CLOSING HYMN #63

As with Gladness Men of Old

BENEDICTION

May God the Creator, Christ the Savior, and the Holy Spirit guard you going out and coming in; and be your strength and help in every time of need.

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

PAUL MANZ

JOYS & CONCERNS

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

- ♦ Pray for the family of Bernie Moran, Louise Moran's husband, passed away on December 24, 2023. Mass of Christian Burial is 10:30 am on Friday at St. Isidore Catholic Church. Visitation is on Thursday from 5-7 pm at St. Isidore Church with a 7:00 pm Vigil service to follow. Visitation continues on Friday morning from 9:30 am until service time at the church.
- ♦ Pray for the family of Gary Robertson, Gary passed away on December 24, 2023. Funeral services will be held on January 4, 2024 at 11 am at Federated Church. Visitation will be January 4th at am. Visitation will be on January 3 from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM at Gass Haney Funeral Home and continue on January 4 from 10:00 AM until service time at the church. Luncheon will follow the funeral services at Federated Church.
- ♦ Pray for the family of Bill Irby, who passed away on December 18th. Memorial services were held on Saturday, December 23rd.
- ♦ Pray for Brian Marker, son of Steve & Jackie Marker, who is recovering from surgery and strokes. Brian Marker Benefit is Sunday, January 28th at Henry's on 11th Street. Free will donation for a lunch. Silent & live auction.
- ♦ **Homestead Presbytery: Steele City**
As a small congregation, we continue to enjoy our partnership with Wymore, through joint services and activities. We also look forward as a congregation to continued opportunities of outreach in our small community. Pray that we rise to the task of loving our neighbors and offering the hand of Christ.
- ♦ **UCC Living Waters Association: Elgin Park Congregational UCC** (Elgin, NE 68636)

The **Social Concerns and Mission Committee** is asking for donations of peanut butter for the months of **January, February, and March**. A box is located in the northwest entryway off the Narthex.

THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 31st

10:00am Lessons & Carols Service

3:00pm Spanish Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, January 1, 2024

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

7:00pm Cub Scouts #279, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

10:00am Staff Meeting, AD2

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, January 4, 2024

12:30pm The 70's Group

6:00pm Petah La Shauro Roundtable Meeting, FH

6:30pm Worship Service

7:30pm Order of the Arrow, EC8

Friday, January 5, 2024

6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service, EC6

Saturday, January 6, 2024

No Events Scheduled

Sunday, January 7, 2024

10:00am Sunday Worship Service, Sanctuary

1:00pm Private Eagle Scout Presentation, FH

RESCUE MISSION MEALS for 2024 The Rescue Mission would like to have meat, potatoes or bread, and a vegetable. Dessert is fine, but not necessary. The Rescue Mission is now located at the former Mory's Haven, 1112 15th St.

Meals are served at 5:30 for women and 6:00 for men. Plan for 20-25 people, and since this is a large number, it is best if two or three folks go together. Some meal suggestions are: pizza, tacos, lasagna, pulled pork or other sandwiches, chicken or beef casseroles, sloppy joes, soup, etc. If you would like to provide dessert, ice cream is always good as well as brownies, cookies, cake, etc.. Thanks for being part of this important ministry. Social Concerns and Mission Committee