



FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent; Hymn Sing

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	
Alison Wagner, <i>President</i> Georgia Behlen, <i>Vice President</i> Barb Sanderson, <i>Secretary</i>			Rev. Edward Yang, Ph.D. <i>Pastor/Head of Staff</i> edward@federatedcolumbus.org	Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia <i>El Buen Pastor Fellowship</i>
<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Class of 2025</i>	<i>Class of 2026</i>	Brenda Sand <i>Christian Education Director</i> brenda@federatedcolumbus.org	Lee Augustin <i>Organist</i>
Donna Augspurger	Pat Anderson	Chris Dixon		
John McPhail	John Lohr	Nila Novotny		
Mark Weeder	Brenda Sand	Max Porter		
Order of St. Andrew - Federated Church Deacons			Kathy Zywiec <i>Office Assistant, Social Media Coord.</i> kathy@federatedcolumbus.org	Amanda Weeder <i>Accompanist</i>
Peg Meyer	Kathy Leischner	Tammi Gotschall		
Sharon Kuncel	Barb Olson	Steve McClure	Mark Baumann <i>Custodian</i>	Stuart Gausman <i>Bell Choir Director</i> <i>Chancel Choir Director</i>
Laura Porter	Lori Rine	Jesse Abrego		
Andree & Terry Hoeman, <i>Co-Historians</i>				Beatriz Garcia Lopez <i>Nursery Attendant</i>
Bill Royer, <i>Head Usher</i>				

Welcome to Worship at Federated!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT; HYMN SING

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

PRELUDE

O Christmas Tree

ARR. THOMPSON

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

ARR. LARSON

People, Look East (pg. 12 hymnal)

ARR. SMITH

Lee Augustin, Organ & Piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: HOPE

Drew & Kristi Wolfe & family

Sanctified Art

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sanctified Art

One: God says,

All: “Do not be afraid.”

One: God says,

All: “I have called you by name.”

One: God says,

All: “I will be with you.”

One: God says,

All: “You are precious and honored in my sight.”

One: At the beginning of this season,

All: at the start of this week,

One: at the top of this hour,

All: may we wrap ourselves in these words. May we begin again.

One: Let us worship our Holy God!

*** HYMN SING**

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel tells Mary two things: that she is highly favored, and that she is going to have a child. Mary’s response to this news is simple. With awestruck authenticity, she asks, “How can this be?” Every time we approach the prayer of confession, I ask myself this same awestruck question, “How can this be?” How can God’s mercy know no end? How can God be so gracious with someone as fickle as me? Regardless of the week we’ve had, this good news never changes. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives. Join me in the prayer of confession, and may God’s mercy leave you awestruck. Let us pray:

All: Affirming God, Your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, “It is good.” You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ. At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society’s measuring stick instead of yours. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

*** MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER**

*** WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Family of faith, I don’t know the last time someone told you that you are good, just as you are. I don’t know the last time you heard that you are loved and created in the image of God. I don’t know the last time you trusted those words and truly believed that you are a blessing. However, in case it has been a while, hear these words from Isaiah: God says,

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

One License #711910-A

CCLI License #1160936 & 20180420

All: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”

One: We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

All: Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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)

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Brenda Sand, Christian Education Director

VIDEO

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Playback Media

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Marilyn Abrego, Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel According to Luke 1 : 26 - 38

Pew Bible, NT, page 56 - 57

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Brenda Sand

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Sanctified Art

We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved.

We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary, and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman,

the poor in spirit, the children, the crowds,

the Jews, the Gentiles, the faithful and the doubting.

So in faith, we trust that God’s blessing, like ripples on the water, forever reaches toward us.

And with wild hope, we believe that because of this blessing, we are covered in love.

We are more than enough.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*** RESPONSIVE HYMN # 4**

Creator of the Stars of Night (verses 1 - 3)

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

*** 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 # 31**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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

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* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Deck the Halls

TRADITIONAL

Café LaFed is hosted by Christian Education Committee

December 8 - Café LaFed is hosted by John & Deb Curry, Terry & Beth Millard

THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 1, 2024

- 8:45am SALT - Adult Sunday Class, EC4
- 9:00am Education Hour
- 10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 3:00pm Spanish Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, December 2, 2024

- 1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study, AD2
- 5:00pm Special Olympics, Gym
- 7:00pm Scout Meeting Troop 212, FH

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

- 10:00am Staff Meeting, AD4
- 1:30pm Cries of the Spirit, Library
- 5:30pm Girl Scouts Theater Club, Gym
- 5:30pm Consonaires Group, Choir Room
- 6:30pm Christian Education Committee, EC8

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

- 4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study, Online
- 6:30pm H.I.S. Puppeteers, EC1
- 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Thursday, December 5, 2024

- 12:30pm The Basket Cases Craft Group, EC8
- 5:00pm Special Olympics, Gym
- 6:30pm Worship Service, Sanctuary

Friday, December 6, 2024

- 5:30pm Girl Scouts of America, Movie & Pizza, FH
- 6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service, EC6

Saturday, December 7, 2024

No events scheduled

Sunday, December 8, 2024

- 8:45am SALT - Adult Sunday Class, EC4
- 9:00am Education Hour, Education rooms
- 10:00am Worship Service
- 12:30pm Private Baby Shower, FH
- 3:00pm Spanish Worship Service, Sanctuary

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 1 - Hymn Sing

December 2 - Poinsettia orders are due today

December 5 & 8 - Communion, Service for Wholeness & Healing

December 12 - Blue Christmas, Communion

December 14 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast

December 15 - Children's Christmas Pageant

December 19 & 22 - Lessons & Carols service

December 24 - Service at 5 & 8 pm, Communion

December 25 - Christmas Day, church office closed

JOYS & CONCERNS

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

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Wahoo First**

We have just had our 150th Anniversary celebration for the founding of the church and enjoyed putting together a meaningful worship service that included former installed and interim pastors. For some time, First Presbyterian Church of Wahoo has offered a joint VBS with the Methodist Church in Wahoo. This year we have expanded that joint ministry and will be having a joint Children's Christmas Program, Blue Christmas service, and worship together on the 5th Sundays of the month. We seek ways to impact the community in and around Wahoo in ways that share the love and grace offered through Jesus Christ.

◆ **UCC Living Waters Association: Coleridge Pilgrim Congregational UCC** (Coleridge, NE 68727)

2 x 4 Gatherings - Meeting fellow congregants

Remember, you don't have to be a couple. You can sign up as a single and bring a friend or come alone if that doesn't work for you.

If you've requested to not be a host or only host a particular time of the year, please just arrange the dinner at a restaurant or set your date whenever you want and don't feel obligated to have it during the exact dates — please, just follow through and let your people know the plan. Please don't just skip it completely. And if you haven't heard from you host, don't be afraid to contact them and ask what they have in mind so you can plan in advance.

ALSO we are concocting a progressive dinner. It will be a separate thing from 2x4s. We would need 3 hosts for one dinner - appetizer & drinks, main course, dessert at 3 different homes in one evening. A co-host would be good and participants may be asked to bring something, (e.g. appetizer, etc, etc.) to help out with the meal. We'll see how many people are interested and go from there. I already have 2 of the 3 homes lined up.

Please reach out if you are interested or have questions.

Thank you, Membership & Growth, Nila Novotny

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