



FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 15, 2024

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		
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>			
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					
Peg Meyer	Kathy Leischner	Tammi Gotschall			
Sharon Kuncil	Barb Olson	Steve McClure			
Laura Porter	Lori Rine	Jesse Abrego			
Andree & Terry Hoeman, Co-Historians					
Bill Royer, Head Usher					
			Brenda Sand <i>Christian Education Director</i> brenda@federatedcolumbus.org		
			Lee Augustin <i>Organist</i>		
			Kathy Zywiec <i>Office Assistant, Social Media Coord.</i> kathy@federatedcolumbus.org		
			Amanda Weeder <i>Accompanist</i>		
			Mark Baumann <i>Custodian</i>		
			Stuart Gausman <i>Bell Choir Director</i> <i>Chancel Choir Director</i>		
			Beatriz Garcia Lopez <i>Nursery Attendant</i>		

Welcome to Worship at Federated!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT; CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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

PRELUDE *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ARR. WELLS
O Come, Little Children ARR. WOOD

BELL PRELUDE Lee Augustin, Organ & Piano
The Friendly Beasts ARR. MCCHESENEY
Bell Choir, Stuart Gausman, Director

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: JOY SANCTIFIED ART

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In this weary world, we sing of joy.

All: In this fragile world, we lift each other up.

One: In this beautiful world, we look for God.

All: In this tender world, we hold onto hope.

One: This is the invitation of faith.

All: So in this time of worship, may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.

One: With hope in our hearts, let us worship God!

*** OPENING HYMN # 27**

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: Friends, hope can feel slippery. One moment we may believe that change will come, that good will win, that the suffering of today will not be the suffering of tomorrow. The next moment we can receive word of more gun violence, of more mudslinging, or yet another missile headed toward a group of humans. Hope can feel slippery. Fortunately for us, God's grace is not. No matter what we are able to hold, God is able to hold onto us. So trusting that God's grace does not let us go, join me in the prayer of confession:

All: Gracious God, you paint pictures of what could be, but we declare those visions impossible. You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb, but we spout skepticism and uncertainty. You dream of a more just day, but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon. Forgive us for losing sight of hope. Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is. Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it. Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either.

*** MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER**

*** WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Friends, no matter what you hold onto, and no matter what you let slip through your hands, God is holding onto you. That good news will never change. So hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

All: Today is a new day. Today, we have reason to hope. Today, we are forgiven. And the same will be true tomorrow. Thanks be to God for a love like that. 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.

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

One License #711910-A

CCLI License #1160936 & 20180420

Campfire Carols: A Christmas Program by John Cosper

Act One: Away in a Manger

Children's Bells Directed by Stuart Gausman

Act Two: Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn #23 Verse 1 Sung by Congregation, accompanied by Lee Augustin

Act Three: We Three Kings

H.I.S. Puppeteers (Meg Weeder, Tessa Miller, Brinlee Klevemann, Julie Graham)

Act Four: Joy to the World

MALLORY

Bells of Joy Choir directed by Stuart Gausman

Act Five: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

H.I.S. Puppeteers (Meg Weeder, Ellie Porter, Otis Young, Meredith Gaeth

Directed by Julie Graham)

Campfire Kids:

Otis Young, Ellie Porter, Annabelle Bender, Hudson Luedtke, Hadley McHugh,

Theo Weeder, Emma McHugh, Cara Porter

Austyn Bender, Lainey McHugh, Madden Luedtke, Cooper Luedtke, Myla Bender, Anna Young

Directed by: Nicole Miller, Ashli Porter and Megan McHugh

BELLS OF JOY

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Joseph M. Martin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Youth, Liturgists

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel According to Matthew 1 : 18 - 25

Pew Bible, NT, page 1

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

All: Thanks be to God!

HOMILY

Edward Yang, Pastor

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope, a God who fills our nights with stars,
who follows winter with spring, who dwells with and among us.

We believe that this God has dreams for creation,

dreams of justice like a mighty stream and swords that will be beaten into plowshares.

Therefore, we push cynicism aside. We risk vulnerability.

We hold onto hope, and we declare: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Amen.

*** RESPONSIVE HYMN**

A Better Way (see insert for words and music)

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**

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, our coming Lord. Amen.

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

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* CLOSING HYMN # 53

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

What Child Is This

Sing We Now of Christmas

ARR. TORNQVIST

Café LaFed is hosted by Social Concerns & Missions
December 22 - Café LaFed is hosted by Youth Ministry Committee



Blessings

Among the many letters and notes the Pension Boards receives from recipients of gifts made possible by contributions to the Christmas Fund were these words:

As I have been blessed, I hope that this gift will be a blessing to the many faithful servants in the United Church of Christ - especially widows and clergy families - in perpetuity.

- Lydia Morrow
Annapolis, MD



Thanks to your generosity, last year the Christmas Fund provided over \$1.9 million in pension and health benefits, emergency grants, and thank-you checks to retired church servants and their families.

Every gift came from people like you. This year, please give what you can to continue supporting those who've devoted their lives to serving others.

This Christmas, celebrate the blessings in your life by making a gift to our ministers, church workers, and their families.

Visit christmasfund.org to learn more and donate online.





The Christmas Joy 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.




The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

 WAYS TO GIVE

 Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy

 Through your congregation

 Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999



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

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A Better Way

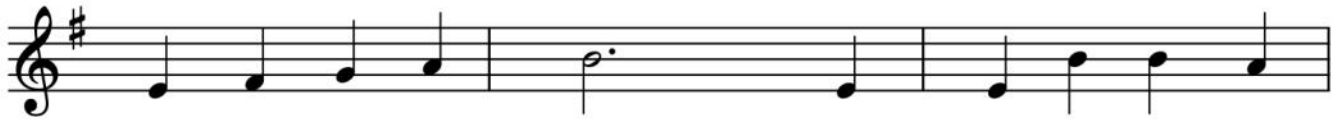
GOD REST YOU MERRY 8.6.8.6.8.6 with refrain

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Traditional English carol (18th cent.)



When Jo - seph learned of Ma - ry's state he
He planned to leave her qui - et - ly and
Said Ga - briel, "Jo - seph, do not fear to
Like Jo - seph woke from sleep to find his



pon-dered her dis - grace He cal - cu - lat - ed
not cre - ate a scene But Ma - ry still would
make Ma - ry your wife She bears in - side her
path-way had been changed Still here to - day God



all the shame the scan - dal would cre - ate But
grow with child; what then would her fate be? When
womb the hope of ev - er - last - ing life The
calls us all to choose the bet - ter way Be -



not con - tent to see her stoned he of - fered her some
Jo - seph went to sleep that night an an - gel in - ter -
son that she will bear to you is Je - sus the Mes -
- yond our wild - est dreams is still a call - ing that re -



grace
- vened Oh there is a bet - ter way, God's bet - ter way Oh
- siah"
- mains



we can choose the bet - ter way

THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 15, 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 16, 2024

1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study, AD2
4:30pm Order of St. Andrew Meeting, EC8
4:00pm Special Olympics, Gym
7:00pm Circle 4 Meeting, Library
7:00pm Scout Meeting Troop 212, FH

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

10:00am Staff Meeting, AD4
2:30pm Caregiver Support Group, Library
5:30pm Consonaires Group, Choir Room

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

9:30am Circle 2 Meeting, EC4
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 19, 2024

5:00pm Special Olympics, Gym
6:30pm Worship Service, Sanctuary

Friday, December 20, 2024

6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service, EC6

Saturday, December 21, 2024

8:30am Community Christmas Meal prep

Sunday, December 22, 2024

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

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Once again, everyone, young and old, is invited to the Columbus Community Christmas Dinner, which will be December 25th at the Federated Church.

If you (and your family) can help on Christmas Day please contact Stuart or Kristen Gausman.

Our Fellowship Hall will be open for **dine-in** from 12:00 noon until 1:30 p.m. Deliveries will begin around 11:00 a.m. and take-out meals can be picked up starting at 11:30 a.m. Reserve your meal (dine-in, delivery or take-out) by calling the Church Office before December 20th (Friday) at 402-564-2812.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MEAL

**SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX
OR CALL THE OFFICE 402-564-2812**

JOYS & CONCERNS

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

- ◆ Chancel Flowers are given “In thankfulness and praise to God as we, Fred & Renee Bellum celebrate our 70th wedding anniversary on Dec. 19 and Loren & Michelle Bellum Goedeken’s 45th anniversary on Dec. 29.”
- ◆ Congratulations to Wes & Connor Luedtke, along with big brothers, Cooper, Hudson and Madden, who welcome daughter/sister Hallie, born on December 2nd.
- ◆ Prayers for Marilyn Abrego, she recovers from surgery on Thursday, December 12th.
- ◆ Family of Margaret Nyffeler is requesting a card shower honoring her birthday on December 21st. Please send cards to Margaret Nyffeler, 3000 - 39th Ave., # 300, Columbus, NE 68601.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Larry Zoucha who passed away on Sunday, December 8th. Larry was brother to Marv & Barb Zoucha.
- ◆ **Homestead Presbytery: FPC Wayne**
The First Presbyterian Church of Wayne hosts and manages the Wayne Food Pantry. Please pray that resources, donations of food and funds, will match or exceed the need as we prepare for Christmas baskets. The Wayne Food Pantry is experiencing increasing numbers of people coming for assistance. FPC Wayne is a Matthew 25 church working to address poverty in our community through supporting our local food pantry. Wherever you live, support the local food pantry to aid those in need in your community.
- ◆ **UCC Living Waters Association: St. Luke’s UCC** (Columbus, NE 68601)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Dec. 19 & 22 - Lessons & Laughter Service

Dec. 24 - 5 pm - Family Service &
8 pm - Traditional Service

Dec. 25 - Community Christmas Dinner,
Church office closed

Social Concerns and Missions Committee is

collecting **NEW mittens, gloves, socks, scarves and hats** the months of **October, November & December 2024**. Please place your donations in the North entrance lobby. Thank you.