



FEDERATED CHURCH

Thursday, January 2 & Sunday, January 5, 2025
Second Sunday of Christmas; Epiphany

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	
Georgia Behlen, <i>President</i> Bob Arp, <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 2025</i>	<i>Class of 2026</i>	<i>Class of 2027</i>	Brenda Sand <i>Christian Education Director</i> brenda@federatedcolumbus.org	Lee Augustin <i>Organist</i>
Pat Anderson	Chris Dixon	Terri Norris	Kathy Zywiec <i>Co-office Administrator, Social Media Coordinator</i>	Amanda Weeder <i>Accompanist</i>
John Lohr	Nila Novotny	Linda Wheatley	Mark Baumann <i>Custodian</i>	Stuart Gausman <i>Director of Music Ministry</i>
Brenda Sand	Max Porter	Marilyn Vrana		Beatriz Garcia Lopez <i>Nursery Attendant</i>
Order of St. Andrew - Federated Church Deacons				
Kathy Leischner	Barb Olson	Lori Rine		
Tammi Gotschall	Steve McClure	Jesse Abrego		
Joe Chin	Peg Meyer	Brenda Wardman		
Andree & Terry Hoeman, Co-Historians				
Bill Royer, Head Usher				

Welcome to Worship at Federated!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2 & SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS; EPIPHANY

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

PRELUDE

The Christ Child's Birth with Assurance and Love Forever

Lee Augustin, Organ & Piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sanctified Art

One: How did you get here?

**All: I walked, eyes looking up, following the star. I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.
I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.**

One: Tell me again. How did you get here?

All: I am here by God's grace and love's pull.

One: Welcome home. This is God's house. There is room for you here.

All: Let us worship our gracious God.

*** HYMN SING**

*** UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: Friends, one of the gifts of confession is it allows us to begin again. For in this moment of prayer, we name our shortcomings and mistakes. We receive God's grace, and we start again. The slate is wiped clean. The prayer of confession is an act of beginning again and again and again. So join me in prayer. For even here, God is already doing something new.

Let us begin again. Let us pray:

All: God of new beginnings, We admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply because others have been there before. Sometimes this is holy and humble, but there are days when a new path needs to be tread. On those new-beginning days, O God, give us the courage to follow your star. Give us the courage to go home by another way. Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow. With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel. Amen.

*** MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER**

*** WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Dear travelers, No matter the roads you've taken, the steps you've made, or the paths you've traveled, there is nowhere you could go that would land you outside of God's love. Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

All: Regardless of the path we travel, of how lost we may get, or the twists and turns along the way, we do not walk alone. We are loved. We are forgiven. We have every chance to begin again. Thanks be to God for a love like that!

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share a sign of God's peace.

*** HYMN STF #2056**

God is So Good (verses 1 - 3)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Children Go

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL

Steve Heinisch & Doug Williams

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Brenda Sand, Christian Education Director

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Wilma Arp, Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel According to Matthew 2 : 1 - 12

Pew Bible, NT, page 2

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Edward Yang, Pastor

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

One: We believe in a with-us God,

All: a God who is beside us in the mountains and valleys, holding our hand through every bump and turn.

One: And in the chaos of our journey, we believe that God sees what we cannot always see:

All: a path home by another way.

One: Therefore, trusting in this ever-present and guiding God, we lace up our shoes.

All: We look for God's fingerprints in the world.

One: We trust that there are paths still unexplored, paths that God has only begun to invite us down.

All: And like the Magi, we dare to follow. May it be so, Amen.

*** RESPONSIVE HYMN # 66**

We Three Kings of Orient Are (verses 1 - 4)

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God who lights our way, we thank you for this moment of respite along the journey, a moment to be filled with good things, to be reminded of our belovedness and sent out to be your hands and feet in the world. Though we'd often prefer a straightforward, step-by-step plan for our lives, you've instead given us an invitation to wander, to seek, to take a different road, to be guided by a star. May these star words be a map to you, guiding us to look under every rock and around every corner, seeking you out everywhere, because everywhere is exactly where you are. And next year, when the road leads back to this very place, may we find that you were with us every step of the way. With hope we pray, amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*** 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.*

*** UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of new beginnings, we offer these gifts to you today because we love you. The world will tell us to keep our time, talents, and treasures to ourselves, to hold them tight, to tuck them away. But just as the Magi made a different choice, we make a different choice. Instead, we give what we have, trusting that when we live like we belong to one another, we will see a better world. So take our gifts and use them for your good. With hope we pray, amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN # 68** *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright (verses 1-3)*

*** BENEDICTION**

January 5 - Café LaFed is hosted by Stewardship Committee

January 12 - Café LaFed is hosted by the Bells of Joy

THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, January 5, 2025

10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary
 3:00pm Spanish Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, January 6, 2025

1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study, AD2
 4:30pm Order of St. Andrew Meeting, EC8
 5:00pm Special Olympics, gym
 7:00pm Scout Meeting Troop 212, FH

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

10:00am Staff Meeting, AD4
 6:30pm Christian Education Committee, EC8
 7:15pm Worship & Music Committee, EC4

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

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, January 9, 2025

9:00am Springs & Sprouts Garden Club, FH
 5:00pm Special Olympics, Gym
 6:30pm Worship Service, Sanctuary

Friday, January 10, 2025

6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service, EC6

Saturday, January 11, 2025

8:30am Men's Fellowship Breakfast, FH

Sunday, January 12, 2025

8:45am SALT - Adult Education Class, EC4
 9:00am Education Hour
 10:00am Worship Service
 11:00am Youth Ministry Meeting
 3:00pm Spanish Worship Service, Sanctuary
 4:00pm Fed@Fed, FH

JOYS & CONCERNS

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

- ◆ Pray for Tim Warren who will be having heart surgery in January.
- ◆ Congratulations to Roland Augspurger as he retired from Behlen Manufacturing after 29 years of service.

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Alexandria**

The Alexandria Presbyterian Church asks for prayers for several of our members and their family members who are having health concerns right now. We share prayers of thanksgiving for the children we have in Sunday School who presented songs for us on Christmas eve. They are truly learning about what it means to have a relationship with Jesus, and to be God's children. Sadly, our PW has decided to fold, but that won't stop the church from carrying on some of the projects PW has traditionally done, such as funeral lunches and donation drives for organizations such as Blue Valley Community Action. Pray for guidance as we work to continue the outreach of the church that PW has done in the past. We pray for many opportunities for learning, fellowship and growth in 2025!

- ◆ **UCC Living Waters Association: Hartington First Congregational UCC** (Hartington, NE 68739)

Rescue Mission Meals

Federated Church delivers meals to the Rescue Mission the second Friday of each month. The new Rescue Mission is located in the old Mory's Haven, on 15th Street and 12th Avenue. Meals should consist of a main dish, a salad or vegetable and bread or rolls. Dessert is not necessary but always appreciated. Suggestions include tacos, soup, sloppy joes, casseroles, spaghetti, lasagna, pizza, burritos, enchiladas, or whatever you'd like to take. Because you need to plan for 25 people, it is a good idea to pair up with someone. The meal should be there by 5:00 p.m. **Sign up for 2025 now.** Please be a part of this important ministry and sign up in the Narthex!

Social Concerns and Missions Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jan. 9 & 12 - Baptism of the Lord

Jan. 19 - T-shirt sales begin

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. Thank you for your contributions to this program.