



FEDERATED CHURCH

Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve

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	Stuart Gausman <i>Director of Music Ministry</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>Pianist</i>
Pat Anderson	Nila Novotny	Terry Norris	Kathy Zywiec <i>Co-office Administrator, Social Media Coordinator</i>	Amanda Weeder <i>Accompanist</i>
John Lohr	Max Porter	Linda Wheatley	Antoneea Kriewald <i>Co-office Administrator</i>	Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia <i>El Buen Pastor Fellowship</i>
Brenda Sand		Marilyn Vrana	Mark Baumann <i>Custodian</i>	Deb Gaeth Anjel Garcia Lopez <i>Nursery Attendants</i>
Order of St. Andrew - Federated Church Deacons				
Kathy Leischner	Tammi Gotschall	Peg Meyer		
Barb Olson	Steve McClure	Joe Chin		
Lori Rine	Jesse Abrego	Brenda Wardman		
Andree & Terry Hoeman, Co-Historians				
Bill Royer, Head Usher				

Welcome to Worship at Federated!

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24, 2025

CHRISTMAS EVE

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

SPECIAL NARTHEX MUSIC (5 PM)

VARIETY OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Riley Gausman, Trumpet; Stuart Gausman, Saxophone

PRELUDE (5 PM)

Amanda Weeder, Piano

BRASS PRELUDE (8 PM)

Brass Quartet; Bob Arp, Riley Gausman, Dave Melick, Bronwyn Prokopec

Amanda Weeder, Accompanist Piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO

“Christmas Changes Everything” by rype.tv

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sanctified Art

One: On this holy night, we come,

All: dazzled and awe-struck, ready to sing alongside the angels.

One: On this holy night, we come,

All: eager and hopeful, ready to journey alongside the shepherds.

One: On this holy night, we come,

All: quietly and tenderly, ready to worship alongside Mary.

One: On this holy night, we come,

All: singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming: good news is louder than fear.

One: Let us worship our good news, with-us God.

*** OPENING HYMN # 40**

Joy to the World

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: Family of faith, on the night of Jesus’ birth, a crowd of angels appeared before a group of rag-tag shepherds to tell them the good news. The angels could have gone to Herod’s house. The angels could have sung in the city square. The angels could have found the most important, faithful, and powerful to share the good news, but instead they told a group of low-status shepherds. The angels’ message was clear: this is good news of great joy for all people. The good news of this night is for you too—no matter who you are, what you’ve done or left undone. The angels are singing for you. So join me in the Prayer of Confession. Join me in drawing closer to the God who has already drawn close to us. Let us pray.

All: God of angel choruses, you hang the stars in the sky, but we do not see them. You fill the night with angelic song, but we do not hear it. You send shepherds to tell the good news, but we do not believe them. You bring love into the world, but we do not seek it. Quiet the fear in us that works to rationalize, minimize, and distract from the good news you put forth into the world. Tune our hearts back to your song. With hope we pray, amen.

*** MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER**

*** DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Family of faith, when the angels arrived in the field that night, the shepherds were afraid. But the angels said:

All: “Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people.”

One: This good news is:

All: love freely given, grace radically extended, welcome always offered, belonging never restricted.

One: Friends, we are seen, loved, welcomed, forgiven, called, and sent to serve.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

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

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*** 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 MOMENT

Brenda Sand, Christian Education Director

SPECIAL MUSIC (5 pm)

Sing We Now of Christmas

Handbell Quartet; Kristen Gausman, Sue Mares, Nila Novotny, Ashli Porter

CHORAL ANTHEM (8 pm)

Carol of the Holy Family

HOPSON

Chancel Choir; Stuart Gausman, Director; Amanda Weeder, Piano

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Beth Sharpe, Liturgist (8pm)

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel According to Luke 2 : 1 - 20

Pew Bible, NT, page 58

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

All: Thanks be to God!

HOMILY / SERMON

Edward Yang, Pastor

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – “Welcome to Our World” by John van der Laar**

In our more cynical or despairing moments,

we wrestle with faith and with the idea of you coming to us, O God;

But, somewhere in our hearts we know, that we do not need you to come,

because you have always been here

with us, among us, within us.

And so now, as we welcome you again,

we acknowledge that you need no welcome;

it is we who need to remember who need to see again your presence,

who need to allow your ‘with-us-ness’ to flood our hearts and lives.

Welcome to our world, Jesus, but more importantly, we thank you

for welcoming us into your ever-coming, always-present world. Amen.

*** RESPONSIVE HYMN**

Shout! (see bulletin insert for words and music)

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, in a world racked with fear, you gather us together. You set the table. You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits. You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time. So with renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray, amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Contributions can be placed in box/plate by Sanctuary entrance)

*** ADVENT DOXOLOGY**

ROGER LYNN

*** UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (based on the Liturgy of St. Mark, 2nd century)

Almighty God, bless your people. Give us your peace, your help, and your love, for we are the

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sheep of your pasture. Let us be united in your peace - one in the Body, one in the Spirit, and one in the hope of our calling, all through the gift of your endless grace. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN # 60

Silent Night, Holy Night

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head

ARR. HAM

Shout!

GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7 with refrain

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Traditional English melody, 16th cent.



When fear lies like a blan - ket thick and
The pierc - ing song the an - gels bring to
Sur - ren - der to the joy this night of



mutes the joy of li - ving When He - rod reigns with
un - sus - pect - ing shep - herds Is hard to hear with
God in - car - nate born for us Shout in the streets, wake



terr - or great, the an - gels break in, sing - ing
frigh - tened ears so used to news of ter - ror
those who sleep to join the an - gel cho - rus



Shout! Shout your glo-ri - as in all the earth and heaven a - bove



Shout! Shout the an-gels' news that hope is born in Je-sus

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

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Poinsettias Given By...

BOB & WILMA ARP

IN MEMORY OF DELORES ARP AND ANNABELLE WARNER, LOUISE STOPAK AND ROMA KUDERA

DONNA AUGSPURGER

IN MEMORY OF ROGER AUGSPURGER AND IN HONOR OF OUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, AND GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

GEORGIA BEHLEN

IN MEMORY OF ROD, JACOB & BENJAMIN BEHLEN, HUGH & DOROTHY GROSZ

FRED & RENEE BELLUM

IN MEMORY OF LOREN, AND APPRECIATION TO MICHELLE & FAMILY, MARK & FAMILY AND JON & FAMILY

CHRIS & GARY BOCK, TRAVIS & JOLENE BOCK & FAMILY, AND TIFFANY SMITH & FAMILY

IN MEMORY OF ELEANOR LOSHBAUGH

JOHN & KATIE CLAUS

IN MEMORY OF HENRY & JESSIE CLAUS AND MAURICE & ETHYL SUHUMSKIE

JOHN & DEB CURRY & FAMILY,

IN MEMORY OF OUR SON J.R. CURRY

DAVE & RAE FULTON

IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS, RAYMOND & ELVENA HENRY AND WILSON & GERTRUDE FULTON

ANTONIO GARCIA & FAMILY

IN HONOR OF ALL CHURCHES

GAUSMAN FAMILY

IN MEMORY OF REECE GAUSMAN AND BERNARD MORAN

STEVE HEINISCH

IN MEMORY OF ROSIE AND HER PARENTS

JERRY & CYNDI JARECKE

IN MEMORY OF JIM UHLMANN

SHARON KUNCL

IN MEMORY OF LARRY KUNCL, MY BROTHER WAYNE, HIS WIFE SANDY, THEIR CHILDREN REVA AND SHARON LEE GERDES

JOHN & KATHLEEN LOHR

IN MEMORY OF BUS & LORETTA LOHR

JACKIE MARKER

IN MEMORY OF MY PARENTS; MARLYN & JOAN WURDEMAN AND MY SISTER SHERI BOSTIC

STEVE & SUE MCCLURE

IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS; GERALD & RUTH, H.G.& DORIS CRECELIOUS

JOHN MCPHAIL

IN MEMORY OF LINDA MCPHAIL AND OUR PARENTS, DR. DONALD & LILLIAN JACKSON, AND JACK & GAY MCPHAIL

MILLER FAMILY

IN MEMORY OF DR. LEON MILLER, HAROLD & MILDRED BUSCH (FROM SHERRY MILLER AND FAMILY), GLADYS & JOE MILLER, IN HONOR OF SHERRY MILLER

JENNIFER MUHLE

IN MEMORY OF MIKE SENIOR AND IN HONOR OF KATHY SENIOR

Poinsettias Given By...

JOHN & NILA NOVOTNY

IN MEMORY OF JACK & DOROTHY MOORE AND GENE & MARIE NOVOTNY

ERVIN & KAREN PABEN

IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS

KEVIN, LISA, CELINE & ELYENA PERRIN

IN MEMORY OF KAY PFEIFFER AND JOYCE PERRIN

JOHN & MARILYN PETERSEN

IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS, NORMAN & DOROTHY PETERSEN

AND DENTON & TWYLLA CRANDELL

NEAL PETERSEN

IN MEMORY OF MADONNA PETERSEN

JAN PICKREL

IN MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND, ROGER PICKREL

IN HONOR OF OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDSON

RICK PORTER

IN MEMORY OF LAURA PORTER, PAT & ROSEAN PORTER AND RICHARD & BENITA LAMBERT

TIM & VAL RATHJE

IN MEMORY OF JOHN HOFKAMP & CURTIS RATHJE

JIM & ELIZABETH SHARPE

IN MEMORY OF WILBER & ESTHER SHARPE, LOREN & NORMA BACHMAN

HAROLD & ROGALYN STEVENS

IN MEMORY OF CEC BARTHOLOMEW AND OUR PARENTS, ROY & VIRGINIA RUSSELL AND BURT & MAZIE STEVENS

MARY NORTON, PAIGE NORTON & KIMBERLY SWIERCZEK

IN MEMORY OF IVAN & SPENCER NORTON AND THERESA SCHMID

SHERRY THOMPSON

IN MEMORY OF FRANK THOMPSON

MARILYN VRANA

IN MEMORY OF BEN VRANA

ROD & CINDEE WACHTER

IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS, M.D. & SANDEE LINDE AND WILLIS & VERONA WACHTER

ALISON WAGNER

IN MEMORY OF CALVIN WAGNER AND OUR PARENTS

DIANE WALL

IN MEMORY OF DYLAN WALL

TIM & CHRIS WARREN

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTOPHER AND JANET HOER, EDWARD AND IMOGENE STAROSCIK

IN HONOR OF DAN AND RUTH WARREN

EDWARD & SUNNIE YANG

IN MEMORY OF REV. JANE ELLEFSON & REV. DORSIE IVY