



FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 28, 2025
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 | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| Georgia Behlen, <i>President</i> Bob Arp, <i>Vice President</i> | | | Rev. Edward Yang, Ph.D. <i>Pastor/Head of Staff</i> | 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> | Lee Augustin <i>Pianist</i> |
| Pat Anderson | Nila Novotny | Terry Norris | | |
| John Lohr | Max Porter | Linda Wheatley | Kathy Zywiec <i>Co-office Administrator,</i> | Amanda Weeder <i>Accompanist</i> |
| Brenda Sand | | Marilyn Vrana | | |
| Order of St. Andrew - Federated Church Deacons | | | Antoneea Kriewald <i>Co-office Administrator</i> | Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia <i>El Buen Pastor Fellowship</i> |
| Kathy Leischner | Tammi Gotschall | Peg Meyer | Mark Baumann <i>Custodian</i> | Deb Gaeth |
| Barb Olson | Steve McClure | Joe Chin | | Anjel Garcia Lopez |
| Lori Rine | Jesse Abrego | Brenda Wardman | | |
| Andree & Terry Hoeman, <i>Co-Historians</i> | | | | |
| Bill Royer, <i>Head Usher</i> | | | | |

Welcome to Worship at Federated!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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

PRELUDE

Sweet, Holy Child

ARR. HAM

Go Tell It On the Mountain

ARR. HAYES

Amanda Weeder, Piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

A Sanctified Art

One: In worship, we hear God's story and we ask,

All: "What did God do long ago?"

One: In worship, we hear God's story and we ask,

All: "What is God doing, here and now?"

One: In worship, we hear God's story and we ask,

All: "What can I do to respond to it all?"

One: Listen, God is speaking.

All: Listen, it may be time to act

One: Let us worship our moving, inspiring, with-us God.

All: Amen.

OPENING SONG #22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (verses 1, 2, 4)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Family of faith, the invitation of our faith is simple. We are invited to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. And yet, those acts have always been easier said than done. That is why we need the Prayer of Confession. In confession, we speak honestly with God. We tell of our lives, and in response, God offers us grace. God picks us up, shakes the dust off our weary bones, and shows us how to keep walking toward God. So let us go to God in prayer, not because we have to, but because God will always meet us there. Let us pray.

All: Emmanuel, God with us, scripture tells us that you were a refugee, but we love to forget that information. We love to forget every act of gun violence. We love to forget how many people go hungry, or how many students do not have access to good education. We love to forget the injustices in our world that feel too big for us to face. But you are a God who refuses to forget. So today we pray: make it impossible for us to overlook the stories of those in need. Make it impossible for us to sweep injustice under the rug. Open our eye along with our hearts, so that the anger we feel around injustice might fuel a fire for action. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

* MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

* WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Church family, even when we fail to do justice, even when we fail to love kindness, even when we allow fear to override action, freezing us in place, God still loves us. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

All: On our best days and on our worst days, we belong to God. We are invited to community. We are held in God's grace. We are forgiven. And we are sent to serve.

One: Thanks be to God for a love like that.

All: Amen.

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

One License #711910-A

CCLI License #1160936 & 20180420

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: In Jesus Christ, we know God's forgiveness and peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share that peace with one another.

*** HYMN STF # 2056**

God is So Good (verses 1-3)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Puppet video

CHORAL ANTHEM

Song of the Shepherds

LLOYD LARSON

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Alison Wagner, Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel According to Matthew 2 : 13 - 15, 19 - 23 (SA)

Pew Bible, NT, page 2

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Brenda Sand

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars.

We have seen the longest night, and still we believe.

We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow.

We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people.

So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles,

Even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news.

We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst.

We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born.

We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love.

So still, we believe. Amen.

*** RESPONSIVE HYMN #28**

Good Christian Friends (verses 1, 2, 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

*** 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**

Almighty God, bless your people. Give us peace, your help, and your love, for we are the 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 # 31**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (verses 1 - 3)

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

ARR. RENFROW

December 28 - Café LaFed is hosted by Deb & John Curry

January 4 - Café LaFed Stewardship Committee

THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 28, 2025

10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, December 29, 2025

5:00pm Special Olympics Basketball, Gym

7:00pm Scout Troop 212 meeting, FH

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

11:30am Staff Meeting, office

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Final contributions will be deposited at 10 a.m.

Thursday, January 1, 2026

5:30 pm Consonaires practice, choir room

6:30 pm Worship Service, Sanctuary

Friday, January 2, 2026

No events scheduled

Saturday, January 3, 2026

No events scheduled

Sunday, January 4, 2026

10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary

Thank you to all of the people who assisted with our Christmas Dinner on December 25th. All the thought, financial contributions, phone calls, time, cooking, baking and hard work to make this event a success. This is truly an event that requires help from many, many people.

We want to thank Hy-Vee, Super Saver and Walmart for their contributions as well.

A special **BIG** thank you to Kristen and Stuart Gausman and Pat who organized and oversaw the entire event. **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!**

2 x 4 Dinner Groups

We will be getting our groups together for 2026 - 2 x 4 dinners (rotating dinner group). If you are interested, please contact Membership & Growth Committee or leave your name at the office. Thank you.

Pickle Ball nets are up in the gym and can be enjoyed by small groups.

Monday - Friday, 8am - 4:30pm

Volunteers are still needed for the following:

- ♦ Liturgists (all Sundays!!!)
- ♦ Education Hour (Teachers/Helpers)
- ♦ Special Music on first and fifth Sundays

♦ **Homestead Presbytery:** Craig

Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Craig congregation. May they continue to grow as a caring and nurturing Christian community, as well as individuals, focusing on prayer, Bible study and worship.

- ♦ UCC Living Waters Association: Fremont First Congregational UCC (Fremont, NE 68025)

JOYS & CONCERNS

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

- ♦ Pray for the family of Linda McPhail. Linda passed away on December 19th. Funeral will be at Federated Church on January 10, 2026.
- ♦ Pray for Karen Whitney as she will be having hip surgery on December 31.
- ♦ Congratulations on the birth of Theodore (Theo) Terrance Scheffler, born on December 17, 2025, to Aaron & Sami Scheffler & big sister, Amelia Janie of Wayne, NE. Grandparents are Clint & Kelli Scheffler.
- ♦ Congratulations to Kristi Wolfe, she recently earned her Masters Degree in Social Work.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jan. 1 - New Years Day, Church office closed

Jan. 10 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Jan. 11 - Baptism of the Lord

2026 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.

Please sign up for 2026 in the Narthex. Thank you.

Please be a part of this important ministry!
Thank you, Social Concerns and Missions Committee