



FEDERATED CHURCH

Thursday, January 1 & Sunday, January 4, 2026
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	
Bob Arp, <i>President</i> Steve Heinisch, <i>Vice President</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 2026</i>	<i>Class of 2027</i>	<i>Class of 2028</i>	Brenda Sand <i>Christian Education Director</i> brenda@federatedcolumbus.org	Lee Augustin <i>Pianist</i>
Nila Novotny	Terry Norris	Marcia Grant	Kathy Zywiec <i>Co-office Administrator</i> <i>Social Media Coordinator</i>	Amanda Weeder <i>Accompanist</i>
Max Porter	Linda Wheatley	Antonio Garcia	Antoneea Kriewald <i>Co-office Administrator</i>	Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia <i>El Buen Pastor Fellowship</i>
Jon Kiser	Marilyn Vrana	Placido Campos	Mark Baumann <i>Custodian</i>	Deb Gaeth Anjel Garcia Lopez <i>Nursery Attendants</i>
Order of St. Andrew - Federated Church Deacons				
Tammi Gotschall	Peg Meyer	Doris Augspurger		
Steve McClure	Joe Chin	Lori Rine		
Jesse Abrego	Brenda Wardman	Georgia Behlen		
Andree & Terry Hoeman, Co-Historians				
Bill Royer, Head Usher				

Welcome to Worship at Federated!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 & SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS; EPIPHANY

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

PRELUDE

Gesú Bambino

ITALIAN CAROL

The Birth of a King

AMERICAN CAROL

What Star Is This (Puer Nobis)

GERMAN CAROL

Lee Augustin, Piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

A Sanctified Art

One: In the dark of morning,

All: the stars still shine.

One: In the depth of winter,

All: the birds still climb.

One: At the start of the year, tender and new,

All: God is here. God is near.

One: Do not rest in your fear.

All: God is here.

One: So like the stars and the birds,

All: Let us worship holy God.

* HYMN SING (WITH BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Friends, on this Epiphany Sunday we stand at the start of a new year, and there is nothing better about a new year than the chance to begin again. That is exactly what we do in the Prayer of Confession. We speak honestly with God and God surrounds us with grace. We are able to begin again. So may we start this new year, this new season, this new week with God's grace. Let us pray. Let us begin again.

All: Ever-loving God, we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy. However, we know that is not how the world works. Even just days after Christmas, we find ourselves face to face with fear once again. So today we pray— forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks. Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from following your call. Forgive us when fear is louder than love. Show us how to turn our fear into action. Show us how to live like the magi who searched for you in a fearful world. With hope we pray, amen.

MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Family of Faith, whether you are brave and courageous or fearful and timid, God's love for you knows no end. So join me in these words of forgiveness:

All: Whether fear inspires us to action, or stops us dead in our tracks, God's love for us is boundless. We are seen. We are surrounded with grace. We are sent to serve. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* 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 SERMON

Brenda Sand, Christian Education Director

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Saw Three Ships

TRADITIONAL

Steve Heinisch & Doug Williams; Lee Augustin, Accompanist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jackie Marker, Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel According to Matthew 2 : 1 - 12, 16 - 18

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 #28 *We've Seen God's Face (see insert for words and music)***

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE 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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

(Federated Church celebrates an open table, meaning all who trust in Christ are welcome to receive communion. Children are welcome to receive communion with the permission of parents/guardians as part of the family's on-going conversations about faith. Gluten-free bread is available.)

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)

*** 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.***

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

One License #711910-A

CCLI License #1160936 & 20180420

*** 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 # 66**

We Three Kings of Orient Are (verses 1 & 5)

*** BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

How Great Our Joy!

GERMAN CAROL

January 4 - Café LaFed is hosted by the Stewardship Committee

January 11 - Café LaFed is hosted by the Bell Choir

THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, January 4, 2026

8:45am SALT- Adult Sunday Class, EC4

10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, January 5, 2026

1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study, AD2

5:00pm Special Olympics Basketball, Gym

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

11:30am Staff Meeting, office

1:30pm Cries of the Spirit, Library

5:00pm Consonaires, Choir room

7:00pm Worship & Music Committee, EC4

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study, Online

6:30pm Puppeteers Practice/Meeting

6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir room

Thursday, January 8, 2026

12:30pm The Basket Cases Craft Group, EC8

5:00pm Special Olympics School Age, gym

6:30 pm Worship Service, Sanctuary

Friday, January 9, 2026

No events scheduled

Saturday, January 10, 2026

11:00am Memorial Service for Linda McPhail

Sunday, January 11, 2026

8:45am SALT- Adult Sunday Class, EC4

9:00am Education Hour, EC rooms

10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:15am YM - CE Committees Joint Meeting

11:15am Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser, Narthex

4:00pm Fed@Fed

◆ **Homestead Presbytery:** Dunbar Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Dunbar 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:** Hartington First Congregational UCC (Hartington, NE 68739)

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. Her Memorial Service will be at Federated Church on January 10, 2026.
- ◆ Pray for Karen Whitney as she had her hip surgery on December 31st.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Patricia Blocker. Patricia passed away on December 16, Lake Havasu, AZ.

Volunteers are still needed for the following:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jan. 11 - Baptism of the Lord
Education Hour for kids starts back up
Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser
Fed@Fed in Kitchen

Jan. 17 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Jan. 15 & 18 - Ordination & Installation of New Officers

2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEETING DAYS/TIMES

In the table below you can find the 2026 Chairperson(s) and meeting days and times for each committee. If you belong to a committee and have not heard from your chair, please contact them for information. If you do not have any contact information for them,

Committee or Group	Chairperson	Tentative Meeting Day/Time
Christian Education Committee	Brenda Sand	1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Endowment Committee	Marcia Grant	Will meet as necessary
Finance & Property Committee	Terry Norris	3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Membership & Growth Committee	Nila Novotny	2nd Monday of the month, 6:30pm
Nominating Committee	Bob Arp	<i>To be determined</i>
Order of St. Andrew	Peg Meyer	1st Monday of the month, 4:30pm
Personnel Committee	Marilyn Vrana	2nd Tuesday of the month, 5:00pm
Social Concerns & Missions Committee	Katie Claus	2nd Monday of the month, 5:00pm
Stewardship Committee	Linda Wheatley	Will meet as necessary
Worship & Music Committee	Steve Heinisch	1st Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm
Youth Ministry Committee	Max Porter	2nd Sunday of the month, 11:00am
Foundation	Doug Williams, President	Quarterly/as Necessary
Governing Council	Bob Arp, President Steve Heinisch, VP	4th Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm

Reminder to all Chairpersons: If, for any reason, your meeting has been postponed, rescheduled, cancelled or changed to a different day of the month or time, please contact the office staff regarding the new schedule. Thank you!

We've Seen God's Face

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Traditional Polish melody



Like the ma - gi from the east we tra - vel in - to
If we find our path has led us to King Her - od's
We will trust that star to guide us to the place where
When new threats de - rail our jour - ney from the path we



the un - known Step by step we make the jour - ney, called by
den of fear Still we'll keep our fo - cus fixed on chas - ing
we were called Find - ing God em - bod - ied in the humb - lest
planned to take We won't let fear par - a - lyze us, no we



God to seek the throne O - ver moun - tains, through the des - erts
down that star so clear Though the ty - rants rage and threat - en
dwell - ing place of all As King Her - od sends his sol - diers
won't stay locked in place Stay - ing nim - ble, we'll move for - ward



Seek - ing Christ we fol - low e - ver 'Til at last
Noth - ing weak - ens our pro - fess - ion It is God's
Time stands still while we be - hold him Here's where we
Keep - ing safe by cross - ing bor - ders Move a - round



we reach the place Where we hope to see God's face
voice we have heard Fear will not have the last word
were called to be God's in - car - nate love to see
the fear with grace For we know we've seen God's face