



# FEDERATED CHURCH

**Thursday, February 19 & Sunday, February 22, 2026**  
**1st Sunday in Lent; Necrology; Annual Congregational Meeting**

**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](http://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> <a href="mailto:edward@federatedcolumbus.org">edward@federatedcolumbus.org</a>	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> <a href="mailto:brenda@federatedcolumbus.org">brenda@federatedcolumbus.org</a>	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, FEBRUARY 19 & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

1st Sunday in Lent; Necrology; Annual Congregational Meeting

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

PRELUDE

*The Power of the Cross*  
*The Old Rugged Cross*  
*The Sacrifice of Love (Medley)*  
Amanda Weeder, Piano

ARR. SANBORN

ARR. LOPEZ

ARR. HAM

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Presbyterian Outlook

One: The good news of the gospel is:

**All: manna in the desert, water turned into wine, love after loss, forgiveness after pain.**

One: The good news of the gospel is:

**All: release for the captive, hope for the hopeless,  
mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.**

One: So come on in. There's no time to waste! This surprising good news is here for you.

**All: Let us worship this good-news God.**

**\* OPENING HYMN # 316**

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: You may have heard, "All is fair in love and war," or "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But God says, "Forgive seventy times seven." God says, "I am slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." God says, "Turn the other cheek." God's mercy catches us by surprise. So with wonder and gratitude, let us go to God in prayer. Let us be surprised by God's grace all over again. Friends, let us pray:

**All: Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to pray on our knees without ceasing. We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies. We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door. But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant. And all of a sudden, we wonder: Can we be like that mustard seed? Can we be faithful and unruly? Can we be playful and curious? Can we be messy and still be yours? We know the answer already. The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course. Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace. With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.**

**\* MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER**

**\* WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

One: God's grace is wild and unruly. God's mercy is abundant and surprising. God's love is expansive and unending. So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?" the answer is and always will be:

**All: of course, of course, of course.**

One: This is the good news of the gospel.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, a peace the world cannot give."  
Peace of Christ be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Please greet one another with a sign of peace.

**\* HYMN # 304**

*Jesus Loves Me (verse 1)*

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

One License #711910-A

CCLI License #1160936 & 20180420

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Brenda Sand, Christian Education Director

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

*The Wonderful Cross*

ARR. SHACKLEY

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

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Peg Meyer, Liturgist

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Gospel According to John 2 : 1 - 11

Pew Bible, NT, page 93

Gospel According to Matthew 13 : 31 - 32

Pew Bible, NT, pages 14 - 15

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

Edward Yang, Pastor

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

**It sounds like welcome and feels like home.**

It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.

**It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so we believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

I have seen it alive in the world.

**And even when our heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach,**

I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence.

**We remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him.**

I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\* RESPONSIVE HYMN**

*In a Neat and Tidy Garden (see insert for words and music)*

**REMEMBERING THOSE WHO DIED IN 2025 (NECROLOGY REPORT)**

**SONG OF GRATITUDE #526**

*For All the Saints (verses 1 & 4, please remain seated)*

**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. Words of Institution**

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

**\* LENTEN DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God throughout these forty days. Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.*

*And praise the Spirit who imparts God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.*

**\* UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of compassion, we praise you that you look upon our lives with love and understanding, and that you desire for us all new life in Jesus Christ. We are overwhelmed by your love, which goes to the cross for us, endures the grave, and leads us to new life. By your Spirit, strengthen our souls to be bold in Christ's service. Take our offerings, and use them and us for your purposes, in the name of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.**

**\* CLOSING HYMN # 85**

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

**\* BENEDICTION**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**POSTLUDE**

*There is a Green Hill Far Away*

ARR. SMITH

February 22 - Annual Congregational Meeting

March 1 - Café LaFed is hosted by the Good Shepherd Hispanic Ministry

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

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## THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

### Sunday, February 22, 2026

- 8:15am El Buen Pastor Bible Study & Prayer
- 8:45am SALT- Adult Sunday Class, EC4
- 9:00am Education Hour, EC rooms
- 10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary

### Monday, February 23, 2026

- 1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study, AD2
- 5:00pm Special Olympics Basketball, Gym
- 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 212 Meeting

### Tuesday, February 24, 2026

- 11:30am Staff Meeting
- 5:30pm Consonaires, Choir room
- 7:00pm Governing Council Meeting

### Wednesday, February 25, 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, February 26, 2026

- 5:00pm Special Olympics School Age, gym
- 6:30pm Worship Service, Sanctuary

### Friday, February 27, 2026

- 6:00pm El Buen Pastor Bible Study
- 6:00pm Family Fellowship Gathering

### Saturday, February 28 2026

- 10:00am Private Baby Shower

### Sunday, March 1, 2026

- 8:15am El Buen Pastor Bible Study & Prayer
- 8:45am SALT- Adult Sunday Class, EC4
- 9:00am Education Hour, EC rooms
- 10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary

Do you love cake? If so we have the perfect activity for you! Membership & Growth is hosting a **Cake Picnic** on March 22, 2026. Buy a ticket, bring a cake and take home even more cake! See a member of the Membership & Growth Committee for more details and to purchase a ticket.

Please join Sherry Miller and the Miller family for an Open House to celebrate Sherry's 90th birthday! Saturday, February 28th 1:00-3:00 pm at Meridian Gardens No gifts please. Your presence is the true gift. If you cannot make it, you can also send a card!

◆ **Homestead Presbytery:** Lincoln Eastridge Eastridge Presbyterian Church invites you to pray for the congregation's commitment to responding to the PCUSA, Matthew 25 Initiative. Please pray for our leaders, members, and friends to discern pathways to continue our work to address food insecurity. We specifically request prayers for continued resources needed to support our pantry ministry. Pray, not only for financial resources, but also for more volunteers needed to operate this community ministry. Pray also for the pantry clients, that this ministry relieves some of the financial burden and fear they live with and that they know they are seen and loved by the pantry volunteers.

◆ **UCC Living Waters Association:** Pierce UCC (Pierce, NE 68767)

## JOYS & CONCERNS

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

- ◆ Pray for Diane Scheffler as she is scheduled for full knee replacement surgery on February 23rd.
- ◆ Congratulations to Shay Meyer & Jackson Barnes on their engagement & upcoming wedding. Shay is the daughter of Byron & Peg Meyer.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Doniver Peterson, brother of Neal Peterson. Doniver passed away February 15 in Greeley, CO.
- ◆ Pray for Val Rathje as she is scheduled for hip replacement surgery on March 3rd.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Nyla Friesen, sister to Dianne Wall. Nyla passed away on January 29, 2026 in Newton, Kansas.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Now through March 22 - T-SHIRT orders taken
- Feb. 26 - Lenten Lunch
- Feb. 27 - Family Fellowship Gathering
- March 4 - Lenten Lunch
- March 14 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- March 22 - Cake Picnic
- March 29 - Palm/Passion Sunday

# In a Neat and Tidy Garden

ALL THE WAY 8.7.8.7 D ("All the Way My Savior Leads Me")

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: Robert Lowry (1875)



In a neat and ti - dy gar - den grows a se - cret ti - ny seed  
Green and ten - der leaves I har - vest from the mus - tard grow - ing wild  
O - ther gar - den - ers may strug - gle and pre - tend they have con - trol



There a - mong the plan - ted bar - ley will e - merge a shock - ing weed  
To en - rich and spice my dish - es that were un - til now too mild  
O - ver land that God cre - a - ted but I'll tell you what I know:



Grow - ing quick - ly through the so - il to break forth in va - cant spot  
Un - ex - pec - ted and sur - pris - ing, un - con - trolled by hu - man hand  
I am not the Mas - ter Gar - dener, just a stew - ard of this place



What a joy when I dis - cov - er God has plan - ted in my plot!  
See the reign of God is grow - ing, ta - king root through - out the land!  
God has seed - ed ev - ery a - cre with sur - pris - ing, wi - ld grace!



What a joy when I dis - cov - er God has plan - ted in my plot!  
See the reign of God is grow - ing, ta - king root through - out the land!  
God has seed - ed ev - ery a - cre with sur - pris - ing, wi - ld grace!

## FEDERATED CHURCH

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

#### AGENDA

<b>Call to Order</b>	Steve Heinisch, Vice President
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Brenda Sand
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	
<b>Finance &amp; Property Highlights &amp; Presentation of 2026 Budget</b>	Terry Norris, Chair Finance & Property Committee
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Rev. Edward Yang

#### 2025 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE & MEMBERSHIP REPORT

In-Person Worship Attendance: 5,686; Average Weekly Attendance: 109

Online Worship Attendance: 10,117; Average Weekly Attendance: 195

##### Membership (on December 31, 2025)

Active Members: 280

Reserve Members: 40

Children: 38

##### Confirmation (5/04/2025) 5

Dylan Bradley

Brinlee Klevemann

Alyse Wolfe

Elyena Perrin

Hunter Yang

##### Reaffirmation of Faith/Letter of Transfer: 0

##### Member Losses by Death: 9

##### Baptisms: 3

3/23/2025 Hallie LeeAnn Luedtke

5/04/2025 Dylan Bradley

10/12/2025 Bennett Kay Kistner

##### High School Graduates: 3

Elizabeth Miller

Taytum Miller

Caleb Hast

##### Necrology Report - Remembering

Members and Friends of the Congregation

(as shared in the Joys & Concerns)

Barb Jennings 1/08/2025

Nancy Lyman 1/3/2025

Daniel Rathje 1/16/2025

Rev. Jane Ellefson 1/20/2025

Mavis "Corrine" Waldman 1/28/2025

Loren Goedeken 3/10/2025

Michael Palik 3/13/2025

Dylan Wall 4/23/2025

Laura Porter 5/20/2025

Margaret (Corn) Trew 6/13/2025

Rev. Dorsie Ivy 7/12/2025

Patricia Wigington 7/29/2025

Larry Spence 9/08/2025

Elda Juhnke 9/22/2025

Howard Heinisch 10/19/2025

Cec Bartholomew 11/01/2025

Richard Klein 11/01/2025

Terry Schultz 12/06/2025

Patricia Blocker 12/16/2025

Linda McPhail 12/19/2025