



# FEDERATED CHURCH

**Thursday, March 19 & Sunday, March 22, 2026**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**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, MARCH 19 & SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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

PRELUDE

*Jesus, Lover of My Soul*  
*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*  
*I Saw the Cross of Jesus*  
Amanda Weeder, Piano

ARR. HAM  
ARR. HAM  
ARR. LIMBAUGH

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Sanctified Art

One: Welcome to the weary and the worn.

**All: Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.**

One: Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

**All: Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.**

One: Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

**All: Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.**

One: Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

**All: This is God's house.**

One: You can make yourself at home here.

**All: Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!**

\* OPENING HYMN      *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me (see insert for music and words)*

## \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Jesus once said to a crowd, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone." Friends, none of us are without sin. None of us get it right all the time. None of us can get by without God's grace. In the Prayer of Confession, we acknowledge this truth. We put down our stones and we turn to God for forgiveness. Join me in this act of transformation. Let us pray:

**All: Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules. We love clear answers. We love right and wrong. We love swift justice. We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way. You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation. You prioritize mercy over legality. You prioritize people over tradition. You prioritize love over everything. Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters. Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you. Forgive us. Soften our hearts. Root us in mercy, justice, and love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.**

## \* MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

## \* WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Church family, Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way. Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**All: Our God is a God of mercy. Our God is a God of compassion. Our God is a God of grace. We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way. Thanks be to God for yet another second chance. Amen.**

**\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: May we be people of wholeness and peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Please share God's peace with one another.

**\* HYMN STF # 2152**

***Change My Heart, O God***

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Brenda Sand, Christian Education Director

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

*What Wondrous Love is This*

ARR. WOOD

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

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Julie Graham, Liturgist

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Gospel According to John 8 : 2 - 11

Pew Bible, NT, pages 100 – 101

Gospel According to Matthew 23 : 23

Pew Bible, NT, page 26

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

Edward Yang, Pastor

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – “Christ Would Not Cast the Judgment Stone” by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette**

Christ would not cast the judgment stone

At one who stood afraid, alone;

**He stopped the violence in that place**

**By speaking truth and showing grace.**

To one the world would not protect,

Christ offered care and showed respect;

**In one whom others cast away,**

**He saw a child of God that day.**

May we show Christ's compassion here

To girls and women bound by fear,

**To those who live in silent pain,**

**To those who can't go home again.**

We pray for those who from their birth

Are never shown their human worth;

**We pray for women hurt this day**

**While others turn their eyes away.**

O God, may we who call you Lord

Now labor for a world restored,

**Where, in your image, all will be**

**Protected, valued, safe and free. Amen.**

**\* RESPONSIVE HYMN**

***Let Us Remember*** (see insert for words and music)

**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 (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.***

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

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**\* 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 # 298**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

**\*BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*El Shaddai*

ARR. JAMES KOERTS

March 22 - Café LaFed is hosted by the Worship & Music Committee

March 29 - 5th Sunday Potluck in Fellowship Hall

**THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH**

**Sunday, March 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  
1:00pm Cake Picnic, FH

**Monday, March 23, 2026**

1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study, AD2  
1:00pm UCC Annual Spring Easter Social, Pierce, NE  
5:00pm Special Olympics Basketball, Gym  
7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 212 Meeting

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026**

11:30am Staff meeting, office  
5:30pm Consonaires, Choir room  
7:00pm Governing Council Meeting, EC8

**Wednesday, March 25, 2026**

4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study, Online  
9:30am Puppeteers Practice/Meeting  
6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir room

**Thursday, March 26, 2026**

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

**Friday, March 27, 2026**

6:00pm El Buen Pastor Bible Study  
6:00pm Family Fellowship group, FH

**Saturday, March 28, 2026**

9:00am Fantastic 4-Hers (Chris Warren), FH

**Sunday, March 29, 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  
11:00pm Potluck & Children's Sunday/Funday

◆ **Homestead Presbytery:** *Lincoln Heritage*  
Prayers are requested for the well being and prosperity of the Lincoln Heritage 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:** Stanton New England Congregational UCC (Stanton, NE 68779)

**JOYS & CONCERNS**

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

- ◆ Pray for Loren Burnett. He fell and is now recovering from knee surgery.
- ◆ Pray for Joan Specht, she is recovering from repair surgery to a knee replacement she had done earlier.
- ◆ Pray for the family of Dale Brockhaus, uncle to Brianna Brockhaus. Dale passed away February 28.

**Volunteers are still needed for the following:**

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

March 22 - Cake Picnic

March 29 - Palm/Passion Sunday; Children's Sunday;  
5th Sunday Potluck

April 2 - Maundy Thursday service

April 3 - Good Friday service at Grace Episcopal Church  
at noon

April 5 - Resurrection of the Lord, Easter Sunday

# God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

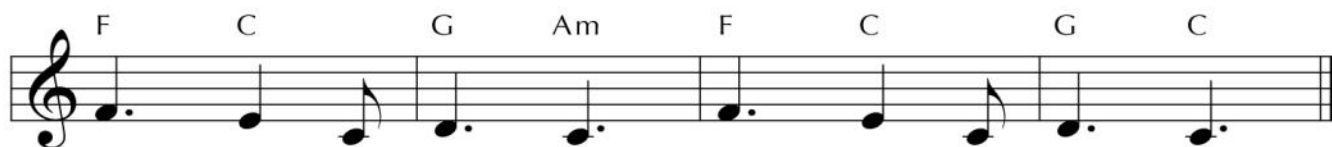
O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
 2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,  
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
 es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.

# Let Us Remember

ADELAIDE 5.4.5.4 D (“Have Thine Own Way”)

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: George C. Stebbins (1907)



What is im - por - tant?      What mat - ters more?  
We've been shown mer - cy      all of our lives  
Fol - low - ing Je - sus,      liv - ing in truth  
What does the Lord re - qui - re of us?



Hu - man con - nec - tion      or keep - ing score?  
By the cre - a - tor      of hu - man - kind  
We re - main faith - ful      to our roots  
To re - main hum - ble,      lov - ing, and just



In our pur - suit of      jus - tice and truth  
So when we're in a po - si - tion to judge  
When those roots lead us out - side the lines  
Keep - ing the heart of the gos - pel in mind



Let us re - mem - ber:      we fall short, too  
Let us re - mem - ber:      they're just like us  
Let us re - mem - ber:      faith is a - live  
Let us re - mem - ber:      do what is right