

FEDERATED CHURCH



Into Our New Century in the Spirit of Christ
Sunday, December 8, 2019



Welcome to Worship at Federated!

If you are new to Federated, please tell us on a “Visitors Card” & in a red Friendship Folder.

Children are welcome in worship at Federated. Children’s Activity Bags are at the Sanctuary entrance. The Library/“Cry Room” is child friendly. Child care is available Sundays in the Nursery.

Ushers are here to help you — please ask them if you need hearing assistance devices and large print hymnals — ushering this week are John & Linda McPhail and Tim & Chris Warren.

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 on **Prayers Cards** in the pew pockets or **Prayer Chain** requests to the Church Office (402) 564-2812 to call 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, and on TV at Noon on Spectrum Channel 1304 (HD) Mondays & Saturdays and Sunday at 8pm.

In case of an emergency, the pastor’s cell phone number is: Edward (402) 302-2812.

Governing Council 2019 - Federated Church Elders			Federated Church Clergy and Staff	
Bill Royer, President (402-564-8012) Marcia Grant, Vice President Louise Moran, Secretary			Rev. Edward Yang, Ph.D. <i>Acting Head of Staff & Associate Pastor for CYF</i> edward@federatedcolumbus.org	Jim Rains <i>Office Manager</i> jrains@federatedcolumbus.org
<i>Class of 2019</i>	<i>Class of 2020</i>	<i>Class of 2021</i>	Brenda Sand <i>Temp. Christian Education Director</i> brenda@federatedcolumbus.org	Chrissy Ford <i>Bookkeeper & Publications Coord.</i> cford@federatedcolumbus.org
Julie Graham	Linda Wheatley	Gene Hahn	Lee Augustin, Organist	Bob Arp, Chancel Choir Director
Kathy Leischner	Doug Williams	Judy Temme		
Gail Wurdeman	Steve McClure	Marv Zoucha		
<i>Financial</i>	Donna Augspurger	Robin Lehr	Stuart Gausman	Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia
<i>Administrators:</i>	Terry Millard	Terry Norris	<i>Bell Choir Director</i>	<i>El Buen Pastor Fellowship</i>

JOYS & CONCERNS

- ♦ If you have any joys or concerns, please share with the congregation by informing the office staff/pastor.
- ♦ Please pray for the family of Charles Gray, friend of D'Ete Haldiman-Kluck, who passed away Tuesday, November 26. A funeral service was held at Federated on December 5th.
- ♦ Please pray for Doug Williams, who is recovering from surgery.
- ♦ Columbus Community Hospital nurse, Carrie Prokopec, recently received a 2019 Nurses Making a Difference Award from the Nebraska Center for Nursing. The award recognizes nurses who advance the nursing profession and enhance the health and well-being of their community. Congratulations, Carrie!

Volunteer & Engagement Opportunities
(if you would like more information, contact the person mentioned in the ad)

NEEDED: Story Tellers for Children's Sermon - please talk to Brenda Sand

Open Prayer Times - second Tuesday of every month at 11:30am - please contact the Church Office or Barb Sanderson

Tuesday Morning Book Discussion - Tuesdays at 7am with coffee and a light breakfast - contact Bob Trautwein

Tenors needed for Chancel Choir - rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:30pm - contact Bob Arp

Lectionary Bible Studies - Tues. @1:30pm and Weds. @4:30pm - please contact the Pastor Edward
(No Lectionary Bible Studies Thanksgiving week!)

Greeters, Ushers and Liturgists Needed - Sign up in the Narthex for Greeting, otherwise, call the church office

Cookies 'N More Wrap-Up - Dec. 10th, 5:15pm EC8- contact Paula Lange

Meals on Wheels - Dec. 23, 26, 27 - Cec Bartholomew coordinating 402-564-0264

Small Group/Lunch Bunch info on page 5

THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 8

- 9:00am Education Hour, EC, Upper Rooms
- 10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 3:00pm El Buen Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, December 9

- 5:00pm Special Olympics Practice, Gym
- 7:00pm Scouts Troop 212 Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 10

- 7:00am Tues. Morn. Book Group, Fellowship Hall
- 1:00pm Lectionary Bible Study, EC8
- 5:15pm Personnel Committee Meeting, EC 7
- 5:15pm Cookies N' More Post Meeting, EC 8
- 6:00pm Consonaires Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 7:00pm Governing Council Meeting, EC
- 7:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 279, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 11

- 10:00am Staff Meeting, AD 2
- 4:30pm Lectionary Bible Study, AD2
- 6:30pm Youth Club
- 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Thursday, December 12

- 5:00pm Special Olympics Basketball, Gym
- 6:30pm Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 7:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 279, EC7

Friday, December 13

- 8:30am MOPS Meeting, EC/Gym/FH
- 6:00pm Latino Prayer Service, EC6

Saturday, December 14

- 11:00am Christmas Pageant Practice

Sunday, December 15

- 9:00am Education Hour, EC, Upper Rooms
- 10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 3:00pm El Buen Worship Service, Sanctuary

Reminder — Sunday Education Hour
At 9:00 a.m.

Children go directly to their Education Center rooms

Youth to the Upstairs Rooms

Adult Education in Education Center Room

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019

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

The Prelude invites us to begin our time of worship; please take this time for silent reflection.

PRELUDE

*O Little Town of Bethlehem
Sleepers, Wake!*

Lee Augustin, Organ and Piano

ARR. WELLS
NICOLAI/BACH

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **(Please sign and pass Friendship Folders to your neighbors.)**

* CALL TO WORSHIP

TIMOTHY M. SLEMMONS

One: Let the earth be filled with the knowledge of the LORD.

All: Let us praise God together, with one voice.

One: As the waters cover the depths of the sea,

All: so let our hearts be filled with love.

One: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

All: who alone does wondrous things!

One: Blessed be the glorious name of God forever.

All: May the glory of the LORD fill the whole earth.

* OPENING HYMN NO. 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Klevemann Family

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sovereign God, we are told that your kingdom has come near. We confess this confuses us, for we all too rarely perceive it. We are dismayed at the sin we see in the world and we tremble to name the sin that dwells in our hearts. We are told to repent, yet sometimes we lack even the desire to change. Forgive us, O God. Have mercy on us and transform us, that we may with joy look forward to your coming. Draw us into your silent, loving, merciful grace, in the name of Jesus.

MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: Christ Jesus embodies divine wisdom, knowledge, and truth for God's covenant people, in order to confirm and fulfill the promises made to our ancestors and in order that all nations might glorify God.

All: Therefore, be steadfast in faith and take courage from our merciful Savior, who forgives all our sins, and whose desire it is that we should glorify God as one.

One: Praise the LORD, all you nations!

All: Let all the peoples praise the holy name of our LORD!

CHORAL ANTHEM (SUN.)

Prepare the Way
Bob Arp, Director

BARRETT

* PASSING THE PEACE

One: Forgiven and renewed, we extend God's peace to one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

All: The peace of Christ be with you.

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

* SING THE FAITH # 2092 (SUN.)

Like a Child

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

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON (SUN.)

All children are invited to come forward for a special message.
Brenda Sand, Christian Education Director

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Marilyn Vrana, Liturgist (Sun.)

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11 : 1 – 10

PEW BIBLE OLD TESTAMENT PAGES 640-641

One: This is the Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Imagining the Unimaginable"

Edward Yang, Pastor

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* Advent Affirmation of Faith (by Rev. Rebecca F. Harrison)

We are an Advent people, a people of hope.

For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait.

We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise,
the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed.

Even so, we are not a naïve people.

We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow.

We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist.

We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives.

But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end.

The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be.

And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play,

in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever.

* RESPONSIVE HYMN No. 48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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

OFFERTORY

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

HYMN NO. 5

* ADVENT DOXOLOGY ‡

*O Glorious God, to you we bring; Praise, treasure, time as offering;
Come, Holy Spirit, with us dwell, Born is the Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.*

* UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy and Blessed One, we offer you this modest portion of our countless blessings. May they be used as you so desire. May their administration be in accordance with your spirit of love and your light of justice, that the nations might see it and give you praise. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN No. 69

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Once He Came in Blessing

BOHEMIA, C. 1531

All are welcome to Sunday fellowship, at Café LaFed, hosted by the Stewardship Committee.

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

‡ tune on page 592 of hymnal

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Sunday | ROMANS 15:4-13

Romans soars with a litany of words this week: steadfastness and encouragement, hope and harmony, glory and truth, mercy and rejoice, praise and joy. The combination of verbs and adjectives describes the Christian life. We who know the grace and goodness of God through Jesus Christ respond with lives of hope and harmony, praise and joy. As Paul admonishes earlier in Romans: Do not be conformed to this age, instead be transformed. In other words, be different than the culture that often does not relish or reveal all of these beautiful characteristics: steadfastness and encouragement, glory and truth.

The purple of Advent reminds those of us in Christian pews to rejoice, give thanks and sing. Good News, not disaster, looms. Good News of great joy for all people will soon resound through the cosmos and we are to share it, shout it, show it right along with the heavenly host. The color purple this Advent season, in the midst of painful headlines and personal challenges, invites us to remember the story, the salvation history of which we are a player, that redeems all creation and leaves nothing and no one God forsaken.

Romans 15 lifts up the barrier-breaking, breach-bridging love of God made known in Jesus Christ, the Incarnation that reconciles all estrangement, Emmanuel who is with us all, the Messiah who comes not to condemn the world but to save it. How can we not see purple and praise God with hearts and hands and voices?

God of Good News, when the world around us overflows with bad news, we struggle to rejoice. We become mired in the script of inevitable suffering when we ought to be steadfast and encouraged by Scripture that tells us nothing is impossible through you. We rejoice that you do not give up on us and we praise you for your truth and glory made known to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

The purple of *praise*

ADVENT DEVOTIONS – WEEK 2

DECEMBER 8-14, 2019

by Jill Duffield,
Presbyterian Outlook editor

Monday | ROMANS 8:24-26

Today read these verses aloud several times. What do you hope for that you do not currently see? Can you rest in the truth that as you wait, with more or less patience, the Spirit is interceding on your behalf? In this liminal space of waiting, for what can you praise God right now?

Loving God, we want our hopes fulfilled immediately. We grumble rather than give you glory. We doubt rather than remain steadfast. We do not trust your providence. We do not pray as we ought, and yet your Spirit advocates for us and you never leave us alone. Grant us the ability to wait patiently in hope and praise you for the gifts of this day. Amen.

Tuesday | COLOSSIANS 1:11-14

Today joyfully give thanks to God. Begin and end your day with gratitude. Make a list of five things for which you are thankful. Then five more. Can you add five more? Are there situations or circumstances that do not immediately spark gratitude but may contain within them gifts in unexpected packages?

Generous God, each moment of every day you pour out your grace upon us. You give us the beauty of the earth, the companionship of others, talents and skills to use in ways that glorify you. And, in this season of Advent, we remember the greatest gift of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, the one through whom we are forgiven, freed and redeemed. Amen.



The purple of *praise*

Wednesday | 1 TIMOTHY 4:10-15

Today ask yourself: What is the gift that God has put within me? What talents, passions and skills do you possess and how are you being called to share them in order to show the love of God? Praise God for the gift of God's Word put within you and share it ways that uniquely you are able.

Lord, you write your Word on our hearts and send the Spirit to remind us of all that Jesus taught. We are not left to our own devices in our calling to share the Good News and show forth your love to a hurting world. Help us to embrace the gift you have put within us that we might proclaim the gospel boldly in word and deed. Amen.

Thursday | ROMANS 5:1-5

Today prayerfully review pivotal life experiences: painful ones and happy ones, unexpected twists and planned transitions. In looking back, where do you see God at work in all of those seasons? What questions do you have for God? For what do you praise God in your life past and present?

Almighty God, your providence imbues every aspect of our lives, but often we do not see it. While suffering may well produce endurance, sometimes we long for relief, for resolution, for an end to those circumstances that test our strength and our faith. Pour your love in our hearts and send the Holy Spirit to assure us of your presence in all and through all. Amen.

Friday | LUKE 15:31-32

Today do an honest assessment of yourself and note the grudges you keep and the mercy you withhold. Are there people you cannot celebrate? Perhaps even people you wish would get what's coming to them? Make an effort to pray for them and, if you are able, find a way to celebrate with and for them.

God, your grace defies any logical limits and yet we protest when you show your mercy to others. We enjoy your forgiveness, but fail to be forgiving. We begrudge your kindness to those we deem unworthy, even as we want you to ignore our sin. You call us to celebrate the restoration of our siblings. Give us the maturity in Christ to join the party. Amen.

Saturday | ACTS 2:25-27

Today picture Jesus with you, beside you, strengthening you, guiding you. What difference does it make when you are conscious of Jesus' presence? Does the awareness of Jesus shape your interactions with others? How do you feel knowing that Jesus is before you and beside you? Can you practice this awareness throughout Advent?

Lord of all, we know the promise that when two or three are gathered, you are in the midst of us. We call you Emmanuel, God with us, but often we go about life unaware of your constant presence, power and love. We praise you that you never neglect us, even though we forget you. We pledge to be mindful of you this day. Amen.

Upcoming Events:

~Blue Christmas Service,
Dec. 12th at Federated at 6:30pm

~Christmas Pageant **Dec. 15th**
during service,

afterwards, All-Church Caroling

~Carols & Lessons, **Dec. 19th and 22nd**

~Christmas Eve Services:

5pm Family Service

8pm Choir and Communion Service

Cookies 'N More – Thank you for all your support to Cookies 'N More. This project brought in over \$2,700 in profit. Please refer to the January newsletter for more details.

Membership & Growth Small Groups

~Sunday Lunch Bunches~

- Runza Funza - contact Tim & Val Rathje or Max & Ashli Porter
◇ Meets each Sunday at Runza
- Batter Up - contact Bill & Jean Royer or Ben & Marilyn Vrana
◇ Meet at Valentino's on Dec. 8th
- ABC - All 'Bout Conversation - contact Barb Olson or John & Nila Novotny
◇ Meets this Sunday the 1st
at Doozy's

**For more information, coordinators are listed. If you have a Small Group event coming up, make sure you contact the church office so we can add it here!