

The Federated Church of Wauconda

Contact Information:

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Ministry Staff:

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Pastor Crystal's cell phone..... 630-901-8540
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Pastor Fred's email..... godslvestories@comcast.net
Pastor Fred's cell phone..... 815-529-1725
Minister of Prayer..... Cathy Mate
Cathy Mate's email..... meowzki@comcast.net
Cathy Mate's phone..... 847-487-2235
Youth Coordinator..... Val Lucius

Office Staff:

Custodian..... Panuncio Gonzalez
Secretary..... Judy Pinkonsly

Serving in Worship this week:

Director of Music/Organist..... Geri Meyer
Worship Assistant..... Pastor Crystal
Greeters..... John & Cathy Mate
Nursery Attendant..... Nancy Lucius
Ushers..... Jutta C., Laurel D., Dave F., Ted T.
Usher Chairperson..... Dave Fehlman
Acolytes..... Hero & Madison Lucius

**We Welcome you to
THE FEDERATED CHURCH OF WAUCONDA**

December 3, 2017

First Week of Advent:

HOPE



We have this hope as an anchor for the soul,
firm and secure.
Hebrews 6:19

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Welcome

Choir Introit "Let Us Break Bread Together" Noble Cain

Announcements

Opening Prayer

Prelude

WORSHIP IN PRAISE

Lighting of the Advent Candle Nustra Family

Responsive Reading for Advent

We live in a world that needs hope.

We confess that we have at times felt hopeless.

Help us to see our Savior is coming to bring us hope.

Prepare our hearts and minds to receive the hope of Christ.

Isaiah 42:1-4 "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope."

*Opening Hymn "**Light the Advent Candle**" Verse 1 No. 2090
(Please sign the attendance sheets)

Children's Message Pastor Crystal

*The Lord's Prayer No. 895

*Passing of the Peace

Choir Anthem "Listen!" Joel Raney

WORSHIP IN PRAYER

Joys and Concerns of our Fellowship

Community Prayer

*Prayer Hymn "**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**" No. 196

WORSHIP IN THE WORD

First Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46-55

Prayer of Preparation

Second Scripture Reading

Hebrews 6:13-20

Message "God's Unbroken Promise"

Pastor Jason

WORSHIP IN COMMITMENT

Offering

**Offering Response*

"The Doxology"

No. 95

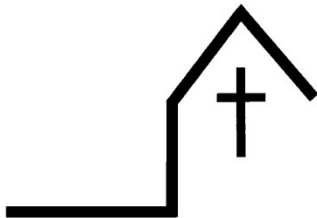
The Receiving of Holy Communion

Today's communion will be received in the pew. Communion is open to all who confess or seek Jesus Christ as their Lord. The dish in the center of each bread tray is gluten free for those who need it. Please hold each element as it is passed, and then, when all have been served, all will first eat and then drink together at the direction of the pastor.

Closing Hymn* "*Blessed Be the Tie That Binds***" No. 557

**Benediction*

**Postlude*



**The Federated Church
of Wauconda**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55

Mary said, "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored because the mighty one has done great things for me. Holy is his name. He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God. He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations. He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed. He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, just as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 6:13-20

When God gave Abraham his promise, he swore by himself since he couldn't swear by anyone greater. He said, *I will certainly bless you and multiply your descendants*. So Abraham obtained the promise by showing patience. People pledge by something greater than themselves. A solemn pledge guarantees what they say and shuts down any argument. When God wanted to further demonstrate to the heirs of the promise that his purpose doesn't change, he guaranteed it with a solemn pledge. So these are two things that don't change, because it's impossible for God to lie. He did this so that we, who have taken refuge in him, can be encouraged to grasp the hope that is lying in front of us. This hope, which is a safe and secure anchor for our whole being, enters the sanctuary behind the curtain. That's where Jesus went in advance and entered for us, since he became a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship service – 9:30am; Sunday School (Sept. – May) – 9:45am; Fellowship – 10:30am

LONGEST NIGHT: SERVICE OF COMFORT

On Thursday, December 21 at 7:00pm we will be having a special service for people who are in need of God's comfort. Please join us if you are living with grief, whether recent or from long ago, if the season is bittersweet for you or if you want to support your family and friends in prayer. We will be lighting candles to recognize our needs and sorrows, hearing words of encouragement and sharing in a time of comfort with refreshments afterwards.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24 we will start the day at 9:30am by celebrating the coming of baby Jesus at our morning worship service. At 4:00pm we will return for a family friendly Christmas Eve celebration. At 11:00pm we will have our traditional Christmas Eve service, where the choir will sing. Both evening services will include Holy Communion, carol singing and candle lighting.

PRAYER MEETINGS

Our prayer meetings are a time to gather with other believers to lift our needs and our praises to God. We meet on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 7:00pm.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Join us for one of our Bible Study series called Bible Story Cafe. We have two Bible Study classes on Monday mornings at 10:00am and Tuesday evenings at 6:00pm.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

COMMITMENT CARDS

If you haven't yet turned in your commitment card, please prayerfully consider what you can give in 2018. You can put it in the offering plate, drop it off or mail it to the church office. There are additional cards on the table by the window if you need one.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP

SUPER SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY – Dec. 10

Our Super Seniors Christmas will be at Strawberry Moon on Sun., Dec.10 at 5:00pm. The cost is \$20 which includes appetizers, dinner and dessert. Please bring a \$10 grab bag gift to exchange. Please sign up by Dec. 3 if you would like to join us.

WAUCONDA CARE CHRISTMAS CAROLING – Dec. 17

There will be no sing-a-long at Wauconda Care on Dec. 27, but we will be caroling instead. Please join us on Sunday, December 17 at 6:00pm as we bring Christmas Carols to the residents.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the Altar today are given in celebration of Dori Cacioppo's birthday.

POINSETTIA FLOWERS

Ann Petersen will be taking orders for poinsettia flowers after the worship service. Today is the last day to place your order. The cost of each flower this year is \$4.00.

CONTINUED PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

Pete Ambrosio, Florence Burton, Donna Gallmeyer-Dixon, Howard Ficht, Mickie Kisselburg, Marion Knoff, Scott Matthews, Lisa Morrison, Laura Peroutka, Dolores Prusinski, Arb

Swanson, Mary Taylor, Dorothy Wheelock, Linda Wicker, Lisa Wineski, Brian Zinkel

FREE WIRELESS INTERNET

Feel free to use our wireless internet: ATT318 - password 8687285296

CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR – DEC. 3 - 10		
TODAY: Dec. 3		Communion in the Pews
MON: Dec. 4	8:00 am	Coffee with the Pastor
	9:00 am	Senior Exercise
	10:00 am	Bible Study
	7:00 pm	AA Meeting
TUES: Dec. 5	6:00 pm	Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
WED: Dec. 6	6:00 pm	T.O.P.S.
	7:00 pm	Worship Meeting
THURS: Dec. 7	7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting
	8:00 pm	Alanon Meeting
FRI: Dec. 8		
SAT: Dec. 9		Gift of Giving Event
SUN: Dec. 10	10:45 am	Fellowship Meeting
	5:00 pm	Super Seniors Christmas Party

LAY MINISTRIES: Next Sunday – December 10

Worship Assistant..... Cheryl Ficht
 Ushers..... Jim & Joyce Hill, John Mate, Mary Taylor
 Acolytes..... Hero Lucius & Madison Lucius

First Week of Advent Devotional: Hope by Sarah Becker

When we say that we *hope* for something, it is usually the same thing as wishing. But when we see the word *hope* in the Bible, this is very much NOT what it means. In the Bible, *hope* means *trust, faith, and waiting with sure expectation*. The meaning of these words is so connected, so overlapping, that sometimes Bible translators find it a challenge to find the right word to use. Look at how three different (good, true, and trustworthy) translations translate Jeremiah 14:22b:

- “Therefore, our **hope** is in you, for you are the one who does all this.” (NIV)
- “Only you can do such things. So, we will **wait for you to help us.**” (NLT)
- “Only you control the rain, so we put our **trust** in you, the Lord our God.” (CEV)

Hope is not about wishing for something that may or may not happen. *Hoping* in the Bible means waiting for what is absolutely certain to happen. It is having absolute faith that the things God has promised will actually, really happen. Hope is faith pointed to the future.

So why talk about hope during Advent? Advent is the time we set aside to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ, the Messiah, at Christmas. Israel waited for the Messiah for hundreds of years, and throughout all those years the prophets, who spoke for God, kept assuring the people that God always keeps his promises and so will most surely keep this promise, too. “The Messiah *is* coming,” they said. “We know this is true, and so we are just waiting for it.” That’s hope.

Hope is the feeling I got when Grandma and Grandpa were coming for a visit and they were going to arrive that day. I *knew* they were coming—I had no doubts even though they had not arrived yet—and so I was just waiting for them to actually be there. But it wasn't a casual kind of waiting. I waited expectantly; I waited with excitement; I waited knowing that once they came great and fun and exciting things were going to happen. I waited with *longing*. It was the type of waiting you do when you turn the handle of a jack-in-the-box—you know it's coming, you don't know when, but it's coming, it's coming, it's coming.... It's the "it's almost here!" type of waiting. ...any minute now—it's coming.

This is how Israel was waiting for the Messiah. "Any day now," they said. Yes, it was hard to keep waiting, to keep hoping, throughout all those many years, but that is why God again and again sent prophets to remind the people what was absolutely true. "The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8, NLT)

During Advent, this time of preparation, we try to experience the kind of trust and expectation and *hope* that Israel had while waiting for Messiah. We try to put ourselves in their place, to feel how they felt, so that when Christmas comes we can celebrate it with the enthusiasm and joy it deserves. Then we realize: we *are* in their place. They were waiting for the Messiah to *come*, and we are waiting for the Messiah to *return*. Jesus told his disciples: "I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:3b, NIV) We have faith, trust, *hope* that Jesus is coming back because he told us he would, and we believe what he says. We *hope* in Christ. "Put all your **hope** in the gracious salvation that **will** come to you **when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.**" (1 Peter 1:13b, NLT, emphasis mine)

Advent is a time to look back *and* look forward. We look back to when Jesus was born, and we look forward to when Jesus will come back. We need both. We need to remember why this coming day of Christmas is so special, and we need to remember that this story is still going with us.

Advent is a time of preparation. Will we be ready when Jesus comes? He's coming, he's coming, he's coming...