

THE FEDERATED CHURCH OF WAUCONDA

November 25, 2018

HANGING OF THE GREENS

WELCOMING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*OPENING HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

No. 211 (v.1, 2)

LITANY OF THE GREENS

Mary Steffen, Maria and Gabriella Stephens

Mary: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

People: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

Maria: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

People: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

Gabriella: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

People: With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.

Gabriella: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the Son of God?

People: By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.

Mary: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the World, through him, might be saved.

People: Glory to be in the highest!

CAROL

“Deck the Halls”

Deck the halls with boughs of holly. Refrain: Fa-la-la-la-la La-la-la-la;

'Tis the season to be jolly. (Refrain) Don we now our gay apparel. (Refrain)

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol. (Refrain)

See the blazing yule before us. (Refrain) Strike the harp and join the chorus. (Refrain)

Follow me in merry measure. (Refrain) While I sing of Christmas treasure. (Refrain)

Fast away the old year passes. (Refrain) Hail the new, ye lads and lasses. (Refrain)

Sing we joyous songs together. (Refrain) Heedless of the wind and weather. (Refrain)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-5

Mary Steffen

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

No. 211 (v.3, 4)

SECOND READING

About the Christmas Tree

Bella Dewar

Martin Luther is believed to have first used the pine and cedar in his home. Wandering about one Christmas Eve (the story has it), Luther became entranced with the beauty and wonder of the starry sky. As he gazed through tree branches upon the host of heaven arrayed in brilliance before him that night, he remembered the One who came down from heaven to bring salvation. Returning home, he brought a tree and lit it with candles for his children, so they would remember the little Lord Jesus, **the light of the world.** (*Turn on the lights of the Christmas tree*)

CAROL

Children Singing Companioned by Violin (Heidi)

1. O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how faithful are your branches!
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how faithful are your branches!
So green when summer breezes blow, still green amid the winter snow.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how faithful are your branches!
2. O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, with light your leaves are gleaming
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, with light your leaves are gleaming.
You send a ray through darkest night, recalling him whose life was Light.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, with light your leaves are gleaming.
3. O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how richly God has decked thee!
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how richly God has decked thee!
Thou bidst us true and faithful be, and trust in God unchangingly.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how richly God has decked thee!

*CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*LORD'S PRAYER

*SHARING PEACE OF CHRIST

CHOIR ANTHEM

"When Love Was Born"

by R. Sterling

THIRD READING

Story About the Poinsettias

Mary Steffen

The poinsettia is shaped like a star, and reminds us of the star which the wise men followed when they came to bring their gifts. The yellow flowers in the center remind us of a crown, for this is a king which is born at Christmas time. Whenever we gaze on these beautiful plants, let us remember the gift God gave us in Jesus Christ, his Son.

HYMN

"The First Noel"

No. 245 (v. 2,3,4)

PRAYER

Pastor: O Holy Child of Bethlehem, accept these flowers with which we adorn your house. May we be reminded by them of the gift you most desire from us: a life of faithfulness to you, as you faithfully offered your life for us.

People: **Lead us Lord, as you once led the wise men by a star, lead us by these bright red flowers, so that we too may always come and worship you in our lives. Amen.**

FOURTH READING

Story About the Greens, Garlands, Wreaths

Peggy Martin

As we prepare for Advent, we use many of the green plants God has so wondrously designed. As the bright green colors are a reminder of life in the season of winter, we also see other symbols for the Christmas season in them. The warm fragrance of pine and balsam greets us as we come in from the cold outside, and we remember the warmth of Christ in our lives. As these evergreen plants retain their color through all four seasons, so the Christ Child comes to every season of our lives and brings us life.

HYMN

"Lo, How a Rose is Growing"

No. 216 (UM v. 1, 3)

PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord, our Savior, accept these garlands of green. As you lived on earth, live in each of us. As buds burst forth from dry branches in springtime, signaling new life, cause faith to burst forth in us in the Advent season.

People: As the cold of winter is dispelled by the warmth of your love, protect and shelter all who gather in your sanctuary, precious Lord. Bless each of us with the gift of life, ever new. Amen.

FIFTH READING

Story About the Holly and Ivy

Cathy Mate

For early Christians the holly suggested our Lord's crown of thorns, while the bright red berries signified our Savior's blood and its bitter bark the drink offered to Jesus on the cross. The clinging ivy represented ourselves, clinging to the rock of our salvation. As we hang the holly and the ivy, we rejoice in the coming of the Savior.

CAROL:

"The Holly and the Ivy"

1. The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown. **Refrain:** *O the rising of the sun, and the running of the deer, and the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.*
2. The holly bears a blossom as white as lily flower, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to be our sweet Savior. *Refrain.*
3. The holly bears a berry, as red as any blood, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to do poor sinners good. *Refrain.*
4. The holly bears a prickle, as sharp as any thorn, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, on Christmas day in the morn. *Refrain.*
5. The holly bears a bark as bitter as the gall, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, for to redeem us all. *Refrain.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Mary Steffen

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

***GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 21:25-36

Pastor Soon Sun

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see, 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and the all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know what that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

MEDITATION

"How Do We Prepare During Advent Season?"

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN

"What Child Is This"

No. 219 (v.3)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant
King to own him; the King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearths enthrone him.

Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Jesus Christ and for all people according to their need. That we may be prepared to greet Jesus' return and that we may love one another in Jesus' name; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we may not forget the lonely and the suffering and that we may seek out those who have fallen away; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That those who suffer may find relief, those who are having operation may be your presence, that the sick may be healed, and that the dying may be comforted; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: that God may accept the offering we bring and that this offering may reflect the very offering of ourselves to God through Jesus; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ;

*CLOSING HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (vs. 1-3)

No. 196

*THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: The time is coming when God will call us to account.
Be alert and watchful, serving faithfully day by day.

**People: We will look around us for signs of God's presence.
We will open our eyes to ways to be helpful.**

Pastor: Use the gifts you have been given to the glory of God.
Let the testimony of Christ strengthen you in every way.

**People: We will share our spiritual gifts in word and deed.
We will seek to be shaped by the potter's hands.**

Pastor: Grace to you and peace, from God and Jesus Christ.
Know that God is faithful and Christ walks with you.

**People: With hearts full of gladness, we will do what is right.
With great joy, our lives will show forth our faith. Amen.**

*GOING FORTH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT BIBLE CLASSES

Pastor Soon Sun will be leading two Advent Bible Study classes on Tuesday mornings and Tuesday evenings. The Tuesday evening classes will be Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11 and 18 at 6:00pm. Tuesday morning classes will be on Dec. 4, 11 and 18 at 10:00am. The book we will study is "The Journey."

ADVENT SEASON

Join us this Advent season as we will be looking at some of the key reasons for why Jesus came to our world. It should be an exciting four weeks as we remember or discover the wonder of Jesus' arrival to planet Earth during Advent season.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Anyone who would like to have flowers on the Altar in memory or honor of a loved one, a friend, or a special occasion, contact Ann Petersen at 847-526-9005 or the church office at 847-526-8471. The cost of an arrangement is \$12.50.

BREAKFAST WITH THE PASTOR

Start your week off right with a time of fellowship with friends from the church. We meet every week on Monday at 8:00am at the Wauconda Café on Rt. 176. Join us for coffee, breakfast or just good conversation.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR – Sat., Dec. 1 from 9:30am to 2:00pm.

Please start bringing your items for Grandma's Attic (used Christmas decorations and other treasures), gently used jewelry and other accessories for the Glamorama Boutique (give to Lou Ann, NOW), bring baked goods, candy and cookies for our Cookie Walk the morning of the bazaar. Set up will be after church on the 25th and at our FOCW meeting Monday the 26th at 7:00pm. Candee has her clipboard for signing up to help. Thanks to everyone in advance. Contact Candee with any questions - candeenustra@gmail.com or 847-526- 3873.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Hanging of The Greens Celebration with Pizza Lunch – Sunday, November 25th from 9:30am – 12:00pm
Christmas Bazaar – Saturday, December 1st from 9:30am – 2:00pm
Children's Christmas Program "Christmas Tradition" – Sunday, December 9th at 9:30am
New Members Sunday with the Baptism of Children – Sunday, December 9th at 9:30am
High School Youth Christmas Party at the Carr's – Friday, December 14th from 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Youth Christmas Cookie Bake – Saturday, December 16th from 10:45am – 12:45pm
Christmas Cantata – Sunday, December 16th at 9:30am
Christmas Caroling at Wauconda Care and Alden Estates – Sunday December 16th from 2:30pm – 6:00pm
 Back to church after caroling for supper and hot cocoa
Blue Christmas Service and a light supper – Thursday, December 20th from 6:00pm-8:00pm
Christmas Eve Service – Monday, December 24th at 4:00pm
 ABC Christmas Stories with carols, scripture lessons
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Adult Choir – Monday, December 24th at 11:00pm

COMMITMENT CARD REMINDER

If you haven't yet turned in your commitment card, please prayerfully consider what you can give your church in 2019. You can put it in the offering plate any Sunday, drop it off, or mail it to the church office. There are additional cards on the table by the window if you need one. Your support in this is greatly appreciated, and helps our ministry be the best it can be. God bless you in your giving! Thank you to those who have made their commitment to God's ministry in our church – we can't do our ministry without your help!

CONTINUED PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

Fred Berchtold, Bernice Block, Larry & Elise Bock, Leonor Braund, Florence Burton, Paul Deinlein, Pun Fehlman, Donna Gallmeyer-Dixon, Howard Ficht, Kitty Green, Mickie Kisselburg, Scott Matthews, Billy Meyer, Dolores Prusinski, Lois Schirmer, Dorothy Wheelock, Lisa Wineski, Brian Zinkel, Lydia – Shelba Lefort's granddaughter

HANGING OF THE GREENS CELEBRATION – Today!

On this Sunday we will explore the meaning of the greens, the Christmas tree, Christmas wreath, poinsettias and include singing Christmas carols. Let us have a hopeful Advent season! After worship we will host our annual Hanging of the Greens party starting at 11:00am. Everyone is invited to help decorate.

MEMORY BOOKS and DVD's

There are still a few available for sale. The books contain historical information and wonderful stories from members of our congregation. The DVD's contain the 300 pictures which were part of the slideshow shown on Saturday. Proceeds go to support the local Food Pantry. Memory Books are \$10 each; DVD's are \$3 each. If you would like to purchase either, contact Sylvia Chen at 847-304-1723.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

If you like to be a member, renew your membership or transfer your membership from another church, this class is for you. The classes will allow you to explore the meaning of membership in the Federated Church and decide if you wish to join us formally in our service to Jesus Christ. The classes will be on Wed., Nov. 28 from 6-7:30pm and Sun., Dec. 2 from 11-1pm with lunch. New Members Sunday will be Dec 9 at 9:30am. Please let the pastor know (815-861-2415) if you are interested.

PASTOR SOON SUN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Soon Sun's office hours are Tuesday through Friday 9:30am – 4:30pm. She will be in the office at this time unless called away due to pastoral visits or ministry. Pastor Soon Sun will be visiting people on Friday afternoons. Even when she is not in the office she can be reached 24/7 by phone or text at 815-861-2415. You can also contact her at soonsunlee@live.com.

PRAYER PARTNER EMAILS

Joys and Concerns from each Sunday's service are emailed each week to those who have signed up. If you would like to receive them or if you have a concern during the week you can email Nancy Swanson at church60084joysandconcerns@[yahoo.com](mailto:church60084joysandconcerns@yahoo.com).

PRAYER MEETINGS

We have added more prayer meetings times. In addition to our 7:00pm evening meetings on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Thursdays of the month, we are going to meet every Thursday morning at 10:00am. Our meetings are a time to gather with other believers to lift our needs and our praises to God.

WEBSITE

Sylvia Chen will be in charge of the website until Melissa is back on her feet. If anyone has information that needs to be put on the website, please contact Sylvia.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKE – Dec. 16

There are few greater pleasures in the world than putting a batch of cookie dough in the oven, letting the scent of cookies waft through our church doors. This Christmas season the youth ministry would like to give away 150 cookies to shut in members as well as others. We are asking for your support. Can you please donate money or cookie dough to assist in our giving? Or volunteer your time after morning worship on Sunday, December 16th from 10:45-12:45. We will bake cookies in the kitchen.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR – NOV. 25 – DEC. 2		
TODAY: Nov. 25		Hanging of the Greens Sunday
	10:45 am	Education Meeting
MON: Nov. 26	8:00 am	Breakfast with the Pastor
	9:00 am	Senior Exercise
	7:00 pm	FOCW Meeting
	7:00 pm	AA Meeting
TUES: Nov. 27	6:00 pm	Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
WED: Nov. 28		Beacon Gets Mailed
	3:00 pm	Wauconda Care Service
	6:00 - 7:30 pm	New Members Meeting
	6:00 pm	T.O.P.S.
THURS: Nov. 29	10:00 am	Prayer Meeting
	8:00 pm	Alanon Meeting
FRI: Nov. 30		
SAT: Dec. 1	9:30 – 2:00 pm	Christmas Bazaar
SUN: Dec. 2		Communion in the Pews
		Food Pantry Sunday
	10:45 am	Youth Group & Kid's Club Meeting
	11:00 – 1:00 pm	New Members Meeting

LAY MINISTRIES: Next Sunday – Dec. 2

Worship Assistant..... Pastor Crystal
 Ushers..... Louise Bundy, Ann Petersen, Tony Rake
 Acolytes..... Madison Lucius
 Greeters for December..... Jim & Michelle Riechers

The Federated Church of Wauconda

Contact Information:

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Ministry Staff:

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Pastor Soon Sun's cell phone..... 815-861-2415
Family Pastor..... Crystal Calhoun-Johnson
Pastor Crystal's email..... ccrystal_@hotmail.com
Pastor Crystal's cell phone..... 630-901-8540
Pastor of Accessibility and Acceptance..... Fred Berchtold
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:

Secretary..... Judy Pinkonsly

Serving in Worship this week:

Pastor..... Soon Sun Lee
Director of Music/Organist..... Geri Meyer
Worship Assistant..... Louise Bundy
Greeter..... Lee Detwiler
Nursery Attendant..... Nancy Lucius
Ushers..... Bonnie DeBoer, Heidi Leo, Mindy Taylor
Usher Chairperson..... Dave Fehlman
Acolytes..... Gabriella Stephens

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