

November 29, 2020
Hanging of the Greens Service

THE FEDERATED CHURCH
Wauconda, Illinois
A community church affiliated with the
United Methodist Church and the American Baptist Churches.



Our Mission Statement: “Sharing God’s Love Through Jesus Christ.”

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor: Rev. Soon Sun Lee
Youth Pastor: Pastor Crystal Johnson
Secretary: Peggy Martin

**Church Office is Closed except by Appointment
during these hours: Monday through Friday, 8am-12pm
Pastors will be working from home.**

Church Phone: 847-526-8471
Church email: Church Email: federatedchurch200@sbcglobal.net
Church Website: www.federatedchurchofwauconda.org

Prelude and Lighting of Candles
Words of Welcome
Announcements

Pastor Crystal

Opening Prayer

Pastor Soon Sun

Lighting the Advent Wreath: As a symbol of Christ as Hope

Opening Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Litany of the Greens

Pastor Crystal

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

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

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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!

How to Prepare our Advent Season – by The Paul Lucius Family (Video)

Advent Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

First Reading

About the Christmas Tree

Pastor Soon Sun

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)

Christmas Carol

“O Christmas Tree”

Children’s Moment

Louise Bundy

Second Reading

Story About the Poinsettias

Pastor Crystal

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”**

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 as star, lead us by these bright red flowers, so that we too may always come and worship you in our lives. Amen.**

Third Reading **Story About the Greens, Garlands, and Wreaths - Crystal**

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”**

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.**

Fourth Reading **Story About the Holly and Ivy** **Pastor Crystal**

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”**

Scripture Lesson **Jeremiah 33:14-16** **Pastor Crystal**

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, moon, and 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 all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know 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 at 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 of Our Tithes and Offering
Offering Song "What Child Is This**

Sharing 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 Song “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

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**

***Postlude**

***Please stand if you are able**

Announcements

IMPORTANT REMINDER

The Church office is closed in following the advisory from the Governor and the Bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference. You can always reach

us by **email** at federatedchurch200@sbcglobal.net

pastors' mails: soonsunlee@live.com or pastorccalhoun@gmail.com

or our cell phones (Pastor Soon Sun: 815-861-2415, Pastor Crystal: 630-901-8540) in the coming days. **Staff will be working from home**

during this time. The church office will be closed except by appointment. However, our ministry continues! We will be

working alongside church leaders to provide alternative opportunities to worship, grow in our faith, and care for one another as we stay connected to each other.

Join our worship by clicking on our Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Federated-Church-of-Wauconda-307519663933/> You do not need a Facebook account to access the livestream. Don't forget to worship the Lord on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM for your own relationship with God!

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Join in this morning at 10:00 by zoom!

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK:

Tuesday 12/1 - Advent Bible Study, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Tuesday 12/1 - Endowment Committee, 7 pm

Wednesday 12/2 - Worship Committee, 6:30 pm via Zoom

Thursday 12/3 - Nominating Committee, 6:30 pm via Zoom

Sunday 12/6 - **Communion Sunday**

Second Sunday of Advent – Christ as **Peace**

The Stephen Family will join to share how to prepare the Advent Season.

POINSETTIAS GOING ON SALE Ann Petersen is still taking orders, through **December 4**. The cost is \$6. Please contact Annie or the church office for more details. Please help us beautify the sanctuary as we anticipate our Savior's birth!

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY -on Tuesdays (Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22) at 7 pm
“Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph”

During Advent season, we are going to learn about “Joseph.” In this study, you will understand how Joseph's place in the nativity story is much like our own. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides. Exchange your doubt for courage this Advent and Christmas season. As a part of the study, we will be watching DVD. Join Adam Hamilton as he teach us about Joseph. Each day you need 20 minutes to read the chapter
If you want to join, please contact Pastor Soon Sun for a Zoom invitation.

You can click below to watch the first session lesson:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdSWN1hHRDo&feature=emb_rel_end

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE ON December 20, 9:30 am.

Many of us are not celebrating this Christmas with their family members due to the outbreak of the COVID-19. This makes us blue. Some of us are facing the COVID, a financial struggle, a life-threatening illness, the death of a loved one, a divorce, job-loss, or a separation. We are feeling the blues during the holiday season. For this reason, the church will provide a service to remember the challenging parts of the Christmas season. At the service, we are reminded that God is present with us in our illness, sadness and grief as well as in our joy and celebration. We ask the Holy Spirit to help us and strengthen us in powerful ways! Please join us for this special service.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

As 2020 is coming to a close, please review your yearly pledge to make sure you will be paying the pledges in full by the end of the year.

For those who wish to donate to our general fund, you can click <https://my.simplegive.com/App/Giving/the200289> while you remain at home. Or you can send it to us by mailing to this address; 200 Barrington Rd., Wauconda, IL. 60084. Thank you all for your continuing financial support of the church.