

*December 24, 2025*



*Gathered at Federated Church: 76 Bell Street, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022*

*Also streaming live at [YouTube.com/TheFederatedChurch](https://YouTube.com/TheFederatedChurch)*

**United Church of Christ**  **An Open and Affirming Congregation**  **A Creation Justice Church**



**December 24, 2025**

**Christmas Eve**

**12:30PM**

### Welcome to Christmas Eve at Federated Church

If you have no church home, this congregation invites you to share the exciting journey of faith with us. Jesus is at the center of all we are and do. Federated is a place to belong and a place to become.

#### Prelude

#### *Christmas Eve Pre-Service Music*

*Away in the Manger* (arr. A. Miller)

Kaleb Chesnic, flute

*Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella*

Yukiko Weinroth, soprano

*Advent Fantasy* (Judy Phillips)

Kaleb Chesnic, flute

*O Come, Little Children* (R. Farlee)

Federated Bell Choir

*Ave Maria* (Gounod/Bach)

Kaleb Chesnic, flute

Yukiko Weinroth, soprano

Director, Federated Bell Choir: Joshua Konow

Piano and Organ Accompanist: Marcia Snavely

#### Welcome

Pastor Vicki McGaw

#### Call to Worship

Rev. Susi Kawolics

#### \* Opening Hymn

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

No. 148

#### Advent Candle Lighting

Marty Culbertson and Martine Scheuermann

#### Special Music

*Still, Still, Still* (arr. Cathy Moklebust)

Federated Bell Choir

#### \* Prayer of Confession

Pastor McGaw

One: God-with-us, scripture tells us that you were born in a stable because there was no room in the inn. There was no room for a woman in need, no room for an innocent baby.

All: **Forgive us. We should have learned our lesson by now, but just as others turned their backs on you, we continue to turn our backs on one another.**

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\* Those who are able stand

One: Teach us how to make room for one another and how to make room for you.  
**All: Carve out space in our hearts to love as you love, for we do not want to build hostility here.**  
One: We want to build your promised day. Guide us forward.  
**All: With hope and honesty we pray. Amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

Pastor McGaw

One: The angels say, "Be not afraid," and "Unto you a child is born." Christ is born for us, walked this earth for us, and forgives all of us. That's what love does. It makes room. It offers grace. It learns our names. So join me in offering these words of hope:

All: **Unto us a child is born. Unto us grace is given. May this good news change the very fabric of our lives. Christ has made room for all of us. Amen.**

## Service of the Nativity

## Mary's Story

**Scripture Lesson**      *Luke 1:26-38, adapted*      Rev. Susi Kawolicks  
**Mary's Prayer** (Lisa Debney)      Emily Nichols  
**Carol**      *O Little Town of Bethlehem, v. 1,2*      No. 144

## Birth of Jesus

Scripture Lesson	Luke 2:1-7	Rev. Susi Kawolicks
Prayer at the Birth	(Brian Woodcock and Jan Sutch Pikard)	John Nichols
Carol	<i>What Child Is This</i>	No.162

## Shepherds and Angels

Scripture Lesson *Luke 2:8-20* Rev. Susi Kawolicks



This Sanctuary is equipped with a **Hearing Loop system** that works with all **Telecoil-equipped hearing aids** to amplify sound with excellent clarity.

**A Prayer Heard on the Hills** (The Wild Goose Worship Group)

Emily Nichols

**Carol**

*Angels We Have Heard on High, v. 1,2*

No. 155

**Christmas Eve Meditation**

Pastor McGaw

**Special Music**

*All My Heart Again Rejoices* (Karen Buckwalter)

Federated Bell Choir

**Christmas Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Susi Kowalics

**Christmas Eve Offering**

Rev. Susi Kowalics

**Offertory**

*O Holy Night. (arr. C. Courtney)*

*Yukiko Weinroth, soprano*

*Marcia Snavely, piano*

**Doxology**

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise God, all Spirit messengers below.**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Vick McGaw

**The Service of Candle Lighting**

Pastor McGaw and Rev. Susi Kowalics

**Closing Carol**

*Silent Night*

No. 145

**Benediction**

Pastor McGaw

**Postlude of Christmas Music** (arr. Marcia Snavely)

Marica Snavely, organ

*~ Departing to Service ~*

## UPCOMING WORSHIP

**Christmas Eve Traditional Service \* December 24th at 7:00pm**

featuring the Federated Choir and Soloists

**Sunday, December 28 at 10:00 AM**

Revs. Judy & Brian Bagley-Bonner

A Service of Songs & Stories