



# THE SPIRE

## THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

November 2017



## Search for the Christ Child An interactive journey to Bethlehem

Sunday, December 3 | 5:00—8:00 pm  
Open house at the Family Life Center

Imagine the look of awe on a young child's face as he sees Baby Jesus lying in his mother's arms... or the stirring in young parents' hearts as they introduce their children to the true meaning of Christmas... or hundreds of people passing through the Family Life Center to journey to Bethlehem. Imagine stepping away from the stress of holiday preparations – away from the mall, the wrapping, the decorating, the spending – and taking a step back in time to relive the birth of Christ...

On December 3, Federated Church will present its third annual *Search for the Christ Child*, an interactive journey to Bethlehem. This presentation will be not only for our own church family. We'll throw our doors open and invite the community to join us on the journey to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Visitors will be welcomed at the Camelback Inn where the census will be taken and then they are served light refreshments. After a short wait, small groups will travel together, led by Shepherd Guides who tell of the birth of a long awaited King, the Son of God. On a journey back in time, travelers encounter angels, shepherds, and live animals during their search for the child. They seek help from wise men, stop at King Herod's Palace and pass through a bustling marketplace. Soon, they realize that they will see the face of God at the end of this journey. Ultimately, travelers arrive at the nativity. Here, in the stable, this tiny baby is the hope of the world.

Now, imagine your role in all of this...

- We need youth, adults, and babies to play roles in the production – Mary, Joseph, Jesus, angels, wise men, shepherds, King Herod, and the list goes on.
- We need volunteers to set up scenes and to tear them down after the production.
- We need bakers to provide cookies for our travelers.
- We need people to welcome and guide and others to serve refreshments.
- We need **you!** How can **you** help *Search for the Christ Child* come to life?

If you were unable to attend or volunteer last year we urge you to participate this year. This is an event you and your family will not want to miss!

Please sign up on our website using the link below. For questions, contact Kiersti Critchfield ([kcritchfield@fedchurch.org](mailto:kcritchfield@fedchurch.org)) or Emily Culp ([eculp@fedchurch.org](mailto:eculp@fedchurch.org)).



Go to [fedchurch.org/SFTCC](http://fedchurch.org/SFTCC) to volunteer. Join us as we embark on this incredible journey!

## Christmas Poinsettias on Sale

Our senior high youth program, GROUP, is once again raising funds for their work camp trip by selling holiday poinsettias. These holiday flowers will decorate our Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. The poinsettias may be purchased in your name, *In Honor Of*, or *In Memory Of* a loved one or friend. The cost is \$20 per plant. You can take home your poinsettia(s) after any Christmas Eve service from the displays at either entrance.



Fill out this form (*please print*) and drop it in the offering plate or return it to the Church Office with \$20 for each plant by **Monday, December 11**. If writing a check, note "Poinsettia" in the memo line. Thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of:

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_



## Christmas Eve "Follow the Star Pageant" – Call for Actors!

Federated will once again offer our Christmas Pageant, "Follow the Star," on Christmas Eve at the 4:00 pm service. We invite you to share the joy of replaying the birth of Jesus. There are spots for kids, as well as adults. There are no lengthy parts to memorize. Much of the story is shared by narration.

*Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsal* – Our Follow the Star rehearsal will occur on Saturday, December 23 in two blocks (9:00—10:00 am and 10:00—11:00 am). Block one will include all of the actors with parts – such as the wise ones, innkeeper, shepherds with speaking parts, etc. Then at 10:00 am, we welcome all of the smaller children to come and be part of the full rehearsal. This would be the sheep, angels, and shepherds who are smaller children.



Contact Mark Simone to join the cast at [msimone@fedchurch.org](mailto:msimone@fedchurch.org) or 440.463.9439.

## Annual Christmas Brunch To benefit GROUP Work Camp

Sunday, December 3 | 10:15 am & 12:15 pm  
Family Life Center

We hope you will join the GROUP Work Campers for another wonderful brunch at on Sunday, December 3 at the Family Life Center.

Donations are accepted for this Christmas-themed meals. All proceeds go to help with scholarships and materials for next summer's mission trip. Seatings take place after each service. Join your church family as we work together to make a difference around the world. This summer's work camp location has not been determined as of this print, but we will have an announcement at the brunch.

Contact Mark Simone with questions at [msimone@fedchurch.org](mailto:msimone@fedchurch.org).





# From the Desk of Hamilton

Dear Friends,

A church member whose children have recently departed for college said to me recently that she hadn't anticipated such a sense of loss when they left home. There was a palpable sense of grief in her as she mentioned this. I could vividly remember my own sense of loss when our children went to college, as well. Something crucial seemed to have vanished. Their departure left a huge hole in Mary's and my life.

At the same time, though, those losses have yielded some wonderful gains. As first one son and then the other left, Mary and I grieved. But we also rejoiced at the young adults they were becoming. We could see them maturing and growing and developing a sense of their own agency in the world. New families and careers took the place of their childhood dependence. We could see their generosity and big hearts blossom. We could see new gifts they were offering to the world. Along with the losses that have inevitably arisen along the way, we have seen their own initiative and a new flowering.

This is not unlike what we see in the church at large, and at Federated in particular. Things have changed a great deal over the years. People we've known and loved have died or moved on to other things. Programs that have mattered to us have vanished. Initiatives that we've valued have become dormant. And all this may yield a certain amount of sadness.

At the same time, God is always doing something new in our midst, and holy love leaves its stamp on us in ever new and fresh ways. As I look back on this fall season, I see a new Director of Music Ministries, Joshua Konow, joining us and bringing new ideas and enthusiasms. I see a committed response to the plea for hurricane relief, as 46 buckets of cleaning supplies were collected to send to Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. I see an extraordinarily successful Rejoice and Renew capital campaign. I see a continued passion for demonstrating to the world that God welcomes all. God's energy bubbles up in new ways. Holy freshness renews and invigorates us.

As we look ahead, we will soon begin to see the fruits of that capital campaign as our buildings are spruced up and repaired in the necessary ways. We will continue to worship and form faith and create community and serve the world beyond us in life-giving ways. We will continue to be the church of Jesus Christ, conveying love and embrace in manifold ways.

As we come to this season of Thanksgiving, I invite us to be ever mindful of the exquisite blessings we have all received. Food and housing, family and friends, and above all this fine and lively church will continue to nourish us. And it is God who has been so generous to us. So may we continue to respond to that grace with love poured out to each other and the wider world. We are indeed blessed to be a blessing. Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,



Hamilton



## NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

### Sunday, November 5—Communion

All Saints Sunday  
 Rev. Susi Kawolics preaches  
 9 am Worship & Sunday School  
*Music by The Ensemble*  
 10 am Mission & Involvement Fair  
 11 am Worship & Sunday School  
*Music by Chancel Choir*  
 12 pm Mission & Involvement Fair

### Sunday, November 12

New Members Join  
 Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches  
 9 am Worship & Sunday School  
*Music by The Ensemble*  
 11 am Worship & Sunday School  
*Music by Chancel Choir*

### Sunday, November 19

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches  
 9 am Worship & Sunday School  
*Music by The Ensemble & The Bell Choir*  
 11 am Worship & Sunday School  
*Music by Chancel Choir & The Bell Choir*

### Sunday, November 26

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches  
 9 am Family Worship  
*Music by The Ensemble*  
 11 am Family Worship  
*Music by Chancel Choir*

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# Church Council News

Church Council received a final report on the Rejoice and Renew Capital Campaign. We are so thankful for the many hours of hard work by volunteers and staff, and the generous response by the congregation resulting in \$2,852,631 raised to date, with \$868,000 cash in hand. As donations become available, Amy Eugene will work with the Finance Committee, Properties Committee, and Worship and Music Commission to begin projects funded by this campaign according to priorities set by Council. A full report will be provided at the 2017 Annual Meeting on February 11, 2018, and Council will update the congregation regularly on progress.

The YMCA has contracted once again to use the Family Life Center in the summer months for a youth day camp, and we obtained approval from the Bainbridge Zoning Board. The program will be expanded to include days in which the Chagrin Schools are off for teacher work days, etc.

Council voted to call a Properties Feasibility Task Force to recommend potential future use for all three of our properties with the aim of reporting back to Council in time for the 2017 Annual Meeting on February 11, 2018. Robin Harbage will chair the task force which will reach out to the congregation, commissions, committees and staff for input.

The Properties Committee reported on parking and will share a plan for alternate parking lots during construction at the Intermediate School. The main lot will be reserved first for handicapped, elderly and then visitors. *See page 5 or [fedchurch.org/parking](http://fedchurch.org/parking) for more information.*

Year-to-date financials are trending above for income and below for expenses. We project a positive operating budget on December 31, 2017. Council approved a recommendation of the Finance Committee to authorize the hiring of a part time financial administrative person to report to the Senior Director of Operations. The position will be about 15-20 hours per week.

The Spiritual Formation Commission continues to search for appropriate Bible study around our Open and Affirming (ONA) designation. The Commission suggested we participate in the Transgender Day of Remembrance and ring the bell on November 20 as an opportunity for our ONA congregation to honor our trans neighbors—here and abroad—who lost their lives in the past year to violence and suicide. It was also discussed that we should ring the bell for those lost in the Las Vegas tragedy.

The next Church Council meeting will be November 7.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robin Harbage, Church Moderator  
[Robin.harbage@gmail.com](mailto:Robin.harbage@gmail.com)

## 2017 Lay Leaders

### Church Council

Sunny Doxey, Ken Horner, Rob Goble, Robin Harbage (Moderator), Ann Lentz, Elaine Witmer, Maren Koepf, Erinn Grube, Shawn Rockhold

### Commissions

#### **Congregational Care**

Jane Biggar (co-chair), Bonnie Goldston (co-chair), Ann-Marie Heston, Carol Kelly, Jan Mast, Alexandra Ziots, Karen Zoltowicz, Judy Maloni, Carole Halberg

#### **Mission & Service**

Sharen Bakke (co-chair), Heather Harris (co-chair), Linda Zelazny, Judy Lineweaver, Linnea Rostek, Lynne Kessell, Leslie Fincun, Gay Quintin, Don Hoke

#### **Spiritual Formation**

Cassie Moran, Gary Sherck, Barbara Patton, Mary Senechal, Holly Northcraft Spann (chair), Doug Harlan, Cathy Digel, Kristen LeFeber, (1) opening

#### **Telling Our Story**

Katie Swanson-Harbage (co-chair), Tom Meyer, Bob Munson (co-chair), Diana Weber-Gardner, Todd Smith, Harriett Rogers (3) openings

#### **Worship & Music**

Cindy Hollister, Nancy Isham, Sally Ramsey, Gary Dole, Toni Harris, Nancie Skonezny, Curtis Grube, Sibyl McBride, (1) opening

### Elected Committees

#### **Finance**

Becky Gruss (chair), Brady Hively, Steve Patton

#### **Human Resources**

Cherie Friedman, Jim Young, Chris Bednar

#### **Legacy**

Peter Franz, Bill Gaskin, Paul Neidhardt, Roger Pettibone (chair), Alex Taylor

#### **Membership**

Rose Brown, Kate Walsh

#### **Nominating & Leadership**

Peggie Jo Shinagawa (chair), Dave Butz, Martine Scheuermann, Don Sperry

#### **Properties**

Paul Koepf, Keith Mast, Bill Lentz

### Appointed Committee

#### **Stewardship Committee**

Mike Quintin, Laura Taylor, (1) opening

### **Western Reserve Assoc. Delegates**

Susan Lampson, Jim Ogle, Kate Walsh

### **Ohio Conference Delegates**

Susan Lampson, Kate Walsh



# Federated Updates

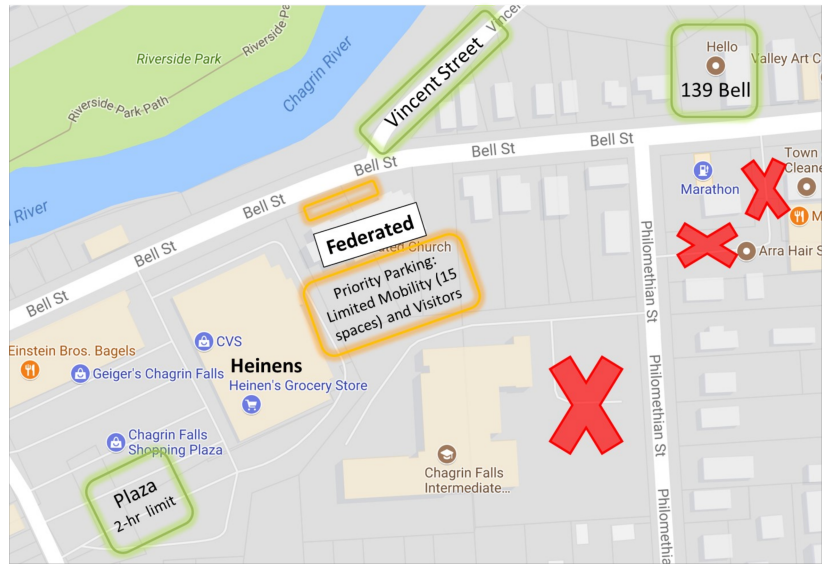
## Parking Update

Our latest information says that the last day to park in the Chagrin Falls Intermediate School lot is **Sunday, November 5.**



Alternate parking for Sunday is located at 139 Bell Street and the Plaza Shopping Center (2-hour limit, park towards the interior of the lot, away from stores). Priority parking at the church lot is in this order: 1) those with limited mobility (15 spaces), 2) visitors, and 3) general parking.

Questions? Please contact Bob Doxey at [bdoxey11@roadrunner.com](mailto:bdoxey11@roadrunner.com)



## Holiday Building Closure

Federated's Bell Street location and the Family Life Center will both be closed November 23-25 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Enjoy this time with your families.



## SPIRE Deadline

Do you have an article that you would like to see in the December edition of the SPIRE? Due to the holidays, the deadline to submit this month is one week early. Please *email* your submission to Trisha Holland at [communications@fedchurch.org](mailto:communications@fedchurch.org) **no later than Wednesday, November 8.** Thank you!

# Federated Happenings

## Mission & Involvement Fair

Sunday, November 5 | 10:00 am—1:00 pm  
Bell St. Fellowship Hall

The Federated Church is remarkable! The opportunities offered here that feed body, mind and soul are innumerable... such as inspiring worship services, welcoming fellowship groups and fun activities. Not only are our members and visitors embraced by an extravagant welcome, but we in turn are given a wide variety of opportunities to express our gratitude by extending that extravagant welcome to others. As Hamilton reminds us, faith is a verb ... and being affirming requires action!

Come to the Mission & Involvement Fair on November 5 to learn about the wide variety of ministries, organizations and clubs through which we can put our faith into action, either within our own church community (such as the Stephen and Angel Ministries) or through service in our larger community (such as SJAM, St. Paul's, or Friends of Nicaragua). And there are so many more! Enthusiastic participants will share their experiences and happily answer your questions.

Come! Treat yourself to delicious snacks while you make the rounds and find out what's happening!



# Federated Happenings

## Social Justice and Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) Team News and Opportunities to Join in

On October 15 Hamilton, Susi, Dan Kershner, Carolyn Cunningham, and Judy Kramer attended a sanctuary breakfast at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, along with representatives from other congregations. Our purpose for attending was both to support Forest Hill as a sanctuary church and to learn from their experience. We listened to prayers and introductions from their pastor, Rev. John Lentz, and learned from members how FHC became a sanctuary church, and how this impacted their congregation and the surrounding community. We then heard from Leonor Garcia, the woman who is their guest being offered sanctuary in their church. She told her own heart-rending story about her life before she came to FHC, and after.



We learned more about the status of immigration legislation, DACA and the dreamers, and the possibility of Cleveland Heights becoming a sanctuary city. We were given information about how other faith communities can offer sanctuary or support the sanctuary movement, for example: joining in partnership with other congregations, supporting FHC or starting advocacy groups in their own congregations.

The Social Justice Advocacy Ministry Team is committed to educating ourselves and our church in a variety of areas, including immigration. One opportunity to engage in this with us is to attend our November movie night (see below). We invite everyone from Federated Church and the larger community to join together for an evening of learning, stimulating conversation, and exploring the issues of our times. We will watch a movie, and then engage in discussion about it, centering around the questions that keep coming: "What is God calling us to do? What is God asking of us? How will we respond?"

### November Movie Night

November 20, 7:00—9:00 pm in the Family Life Center Youth Room

Movie: **Episode 201 from the 30 Days Series - Immigration** (Immigration awareness)

Frank George is a member of the Minutemen, a citizen's volunteer group that patrols the country's borders. Like all Minutemen, Frank holds staunch anti-illegal immigration views, as he and his family legally immigrated from Cuba to Miami when Frank was 7 years old. He will live with a Mexican family of mixed status in a one bedroom apartment in Los Angeles, and will work side by side with the father as a handyman.

Open to all church and community members – invite others to join you...We invite you to bring dessert to share for a sweet touch to our fellowship time together.

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**Next SJAM meeting: Sunday, November 19 at 12:15 pm in the Bell St. Lounge.**

All are welcome to join us. And if you want, you may bring a brown bag lunch to enjoy during the meeting.

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We also invite you to visit the United Church of Christ's website to learn more about the issues that our denomination is working on at this time at [http://www.ucc.org/justice\\_issues](http://www.ucc.org/justice_issues). The UCC national office helps local congregations and all settings of the church respond to God's commandments to do justice, seek peace and affect change for a better world. Doing justice, seeking peace and building community are central to the identity of the United Church of Christ.

If you have questions or want to get involved, contact Susi Kawolics at 440.247.6490 ext.310 or [skawolics@fedchurch.org](mailto:skawolics@fedchurch.org).

## Why is Federated Church Ringing the Bell on November 20?

The bell will be ringing to remind us of those who have experienced violence or who have committed suicide because they are transgender.

The bell will be ringing to remind us to embrace all people with love. We are all God's children. It is a day of remembrance.



## Newsletter Volunteers Needed

The church office is looking for volunteers who can help prepare our newsletters to be mailed out each month after they are printed.

This usually occurs in the morning on the third and fourth Thursday of the month, but can vary around the holidays. Call the church at 440.247.6490 if you are interested in helping out with one or both newsletter mailings. Thank you!



# Federated Happenings

## Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, November 6 | 2:00—7:00 pm  
Fellowship Hall

The American Red Cross strives to maintain a safe and stable blood supply. Please do your part by making an appointment to donate blood by calling 1.877.REDCROS to select an appointment time or go online at RedCross-Blood.org or be a “walk-in donor.”

All blood types are in demand. Especially considering all the recent natural and man-made disasters.

To volunteer your help with the canteen the day of the blood drive or for any other questions, please contact Carole Mason at 440.338.3573 or at wfmason36@gmail.com. Thank you!



## Fellowship Treats

The Congregational Care Commission is cheerily scheduling treats during Sunday fellowship hours. Members of the congregation will be taking turns bringing in treats based on the beginning letter of their last names.



Please bring in treats that are cut-up and ready to serve. Healthy food choices are especially welcome! *Please no nuts.* Food can be set out on the food table in Fellowship Hall when you come to church. Thank you for helping make our fellowship hours delicious and enjoyable!

Here is the schedule for upcoming weeks:

- November 5 -**  
last names beginning with N, O, P, Q or R
- November 12 -**  
last names beginning with S or T
- November 19 -**  
last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y or Z
- November 26 -**  
all congregants
- December 3 -**  
last names beginning with A or B
- December 10 -**  
JOY will be holding a bake sale fundraiser

## Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 11 | 8:00—10:00 am  
Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$10 (Includes hot breakfast)  
Call 440.247.6490 to make reservations.

Topic: “The Attack on Christianity in Higher Education”



### Come Hear Dr. Joe Muscatello

- Professor at Kent State University
- Past Instructor at Case Western University
- Owner of Muscatello Group (Supply Chain Consulting)
- Past Materials and Systems Manager at Ferro Corp.
- Board member for Catholic Charities & CYO
- Faculty Adviser to Campus Crusade for Christ

## Federated Single Adult Fellowship (FSAF)

Our Federated Single Adult Fellowship (FSAF) is an open and welcoming group for all single adults from about their 40's and above. We meet (usually) on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00—8:00 pm for a potluck and a program. Our schedule around the holidays is a bit different. Here are the dates for the remainder of our programming cycle.

November 20 – Movie Night at Chagrin Cinema.  
December – No meeting due to busy Christmas schedules.  
January 24 – Letters to Self.  
*Don't forget to save these dates:* We will also meet on February 28, March 28, April 25 and May 23.

Contact Mark Simone for questions or to be added to the email list at msimone@fedchurch.org

## Properties Feasibility Task Force

Church Council has appointed a Properties Feasibility Task Force to collect ideas, study alternatives and suggest plans for utilization of our three properties. The task force has been asked to provide recommendations to Council by January so that a report can be provided at the 2017 Annual Meeting on February 11, 2018.

We will be contacting ministries, commissions, committees and staff for input, but you can send your ideas directly to the task force by email to [FederatedPropertiesTaskForce@gmail.com](mailto:FederatedPropertiesTaskForce@gmail.com) or drop a note in the office to Robin Harbage, Moderator.



# Federated Happenings

## Wondrous Wednesday

Wednesday, November 8

6:00 pm FREE dinner, 7:00 pm program  
Fellowship Hall



### Program: Does Alzheimer's and Dementia Scare You?

- Learn the ten signs of Alzheimer's/dementia.
- Become equipped to more comfortably communicate with individuals and families dealing with this disease.
- Discuss appropriate activities to share with these individuals.

A representative from the Alzheimer's Association of Cleveland will lead a program on Alzheimer's and dementia at 7:00 pm with a question & answer segment. We will have materials to share such as visual signs which help in communication.

This is a great program for those involved in the Stephen Ministry program, Angel Ministry, and Meals on Wheels.

Call the church at 440.247.6490 or stop at the reception desk in the Bell St. Lobby to RSVP if you wish to enjoy the meal.

alzheimer's  
association®

## Daniel Plan—Additional Sessions

Would you like a few more sessions of the Daniel Plan to give you a boost in living a healthy lifestyle? Or were you unable to participate in the Daniel Plan program this past summer, but are interested in checking it out for the first time? For everyone's benefit, the Congregational Care Commission has obtained 20 additional Daniel Plan sessions, four on each of the five essentials: "Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus and Friends." Everyone is welcome to join us for one or all of these additional sessions.

Each session will consist of a short DVD and a follow-up discussion. During the discussion we will share the questions and review material from the study guide with you. In anticipation of the holiday temptations, we have set up this schedule, starting with the "Food" sessions first. All of these sessions will be held during **mid-hour beginning at 10:05 am in the Lounge on the following Sundays:**

- Food Session 1 - November 12
- Food Session 2 - November 19
- Food Session 3 - December 10
- Food Session 4 - December 17

The rest of the sessions are ready to begin in January. Before we set out the entire schedule, we would like to gauge interest and whether this mid-hour time is workable.

For those of you who would like to go over any of the six preliminary Daniel Plan lessons from last summer, these can be easily borrowed. There is a basket behind the reception desk in the Bell Street Lobby with several extra DVDs. You can check out one of the DVDs and watch one or all six sessions at your leisure.

If you would like your own copies of any of the DVDs and/or study guides, we found they tend to be least expensive online at christianbook.com. The name of this additional series is "The Daniel Plan Essentials Bible Study Series." You can order the DVD/study guides individually for any of the essentials if you don't want to buy the entire set. Also, the hardcover book "The Daniel Plan - 40 Days to a Healthier Life" has a great deal of extra information and recipes.

If you have any questions about the Daniel Plan sessions, please contact Darlene Nichols, Pastoral Care Administrator, at 440.247.6490 ext. 123 or [dnichols@fedchurch.org](mailto:dnichols@fedchurch.org).



# Federated Happenings

## Primetime Federated Forum

Monday, November 13 | 1:30 pm Refreshments, 2:00 pm Program  
Bell St. Fellowship Hall

Program: "The Golden Age of Shopping"

Do you remember shopping in the 50s and 60s? Most of us Primetime Clevelanders probably remember making the journey "downtown" in a street car or a bus. Maybe we were accompanied by our mother or older sibling as we walked the busy streets looking into the beautiful store windows at Christmastime.

Join us to hear about the good 'ol days as we reminisce about the Golden Age of Shopping. Come early to enjoy refreshments before the program begins.



# Mission & Service Opportunities

## Homeless Stand Down

Saturday, January 20

*"Human greatness does not lie in wealth or power, but in character and goodness."* - Anne Frank

This January, Federated will have an opportunity to share our abundance with our neighbors throughout Cleveland who are homeless this winter.

As in the past, you can donate clean and gently worn winter jackets, warm winter boots and waterproof gloves for all ages. Please consider these gifts as something you'd pass along to a friend, and not any discards, please.

If you don't find any items in your closets, please consider a donation to Federated Church, with Homeless Stand Down in the memo line. Just \$20 buys a new pair of boots at their wholesale price.

Please call either Cathy Watterson at 216.978.1037 or Robert Keleman at 440.321.7454 if you have questions. There will be volunteer opportunities for the day of Saturday, January 20. If you'd like to be on the team just let us know.



## Ingathering is Here

Deadline—Sunday, November 19

Each year at Thanksgiving, our sister church, St. Paul's Community Church, packages and gives away 100 food baskets for families who would not otherwise have a holiday dinner. The Monday before Thanksgiving, families come to St. Paul's gym and receive a basket filled with everything they will need for a festive holiday celebration.

Our goal is collect 100 turkeys. Please bring in traditional Thanksgiving foods such as canned vegetables and yams, pie crust mixes, fruit or pumpkin filling, potatoes, and frozen turkeys by **Sunday, November 19**.

Non-perishable items can be left by the display in the Lobby. Frozen turkeys can be left with the volunteer at the reception desk who will get them to a freezer. Monetary donations are also needed to complete the baskets. Please make checks payable to Federated Church with "ingathering" in the memo line. Checks can be left in the offering plate, or brought to the church office.

Let's celebrate our many blessings by sharing from our abundance!



# Faith Formation

## Seasons of Sacred Living: Autumn's Bounty

Thursday, November 2 | 7:00 pm  
Chapel

Surround yourself in God's love and call through the company of women! Join this evening of sacred space for women of all ages to simply and significantly share stories, explore prayer practices, and become refreshed by God's spirit speaking in and through each one gathered.

Our fall theme is *Harvesting Wisdom; Returning to Love's Source*. It is a time of reaping the bountiful fruits of our intentions and attentions as well as a time of remembering, with gratitude and heightened awareness, what we mean to keep central in our lives. On this "All Soul's Day" occasion, we will tap into liminal space, that thin veil between heaven and earth, harvesting God's wisdom and nudgings through the gifts from spiritual mentors across our lives. Through music, guided meditation, reflection and sharing, become re-grounded and re-minded. Give yourself the gift of joining into circles of shared life, hopes, prayers, and support.

Join Mary Senechal, certified spiritual director, Polly Manke, holistic health coach, and Maren Koepf, educator, as we remember God's intentions in our lives. Contact Maren at [marenkoepf@gmail.com](mailto:marenkoepf@gmail.com) with questions.



## Advent by Candlelight: An Invitation for Women to Prepare for Christ's Coming

Monday, December 4 | 7:00 pm  
Family Life Center

The Congregational Care Commission is again offering an opportunity for women to prepare for the coming of Christ. By beginning the season with *Advent by Candlelight*, we hope that your Advent this year might be more peaceful and your preparations more Christ-centered.



Please come and share this wonderful evening as our guests and put December 4 on your calendar. You will enjoy beautiful music, delicious food, and warm fellowship.

To help with our planning, we appreciate if you could sign up in advance. There will be a sign-up sheet on the buffet table in Fellowship Hall after services on November 5, 12, 19, 26 and December 3. You can also sign up by calling the church at 440.247.6490 or stopping by the Bell St. reception desk during the week. But even if you don't get signed up... come anyway! We want to enjoy this evening with YOU!

**We encourage you to enjoy this event with family members and friends - all women are welcome!**

If possible, please also bring a sweet or savory treat to share. Finger foods are preferred (no nuts, please).

## Women's Discussion Group

Fridays 9:30 - 11:00 am  
Family Life Center, Hearth Room

This is an open invitation for all women. We gather for fellowship and spiritual discernment by usually reading the weekly Lectionary verses from a variety of translations.

Come for fellowship, discernment and maybe even enlightenment! Our discussions are personal, topical and always meaningful. **As of November 1, we have a new meeting location at the Family Life Center. We'd love to have you join us!**



## Contemplative Prayer

Wednesday Mornings 7:30 am  
Family Life Center

The group is ecumenical and all are welcome!

If you have questions or want more info, contact Rev. Susi Kawolics at [skawolics@fedchurch.org](mailto:skawolics@fedchurch.org) or 440.247.6490 ext. 310.





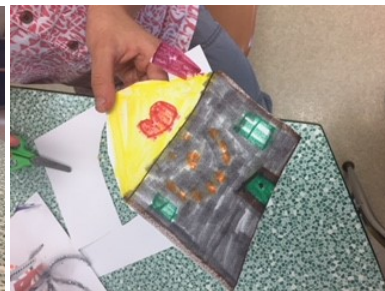
# Family and Youth Ministries

This Month in **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

	Theme	Life App
<b>DISCOVERY ISLAND</b> (K-6)	Fruit of the Spirit	The Holy Spirit helps me act in good ways.
<b>KIDS COVE</b> (B-PreK)	Recipe for Thanks	I can thank God for everything.

### Family Worship

Please enjoy worshipping together as a family on **Sunday, November 26**. There will be no Discovery Island (K-6th grade), but Kids Cove (Birth-Preschool) will still be available downstairs in Room 30 for both services.

**Family Ministries presents...**

## GAME NIGHT

**When:** November 18, 5-7pm, Potluck included  
**Where:** Federated Family Life Center  
 RSVP [fedchurch.org/FamilyMinistries](http://fedchurch.org/FamilyMinistries)  
**Bring your favorite board game and a dish to share!**  
**The gym will also be open for those who need to get some energy out.**

## OPEN GYM

### GROUP November Calendar

GROUP is the senior high youth program of the Federated Church. We are a safe place for growing minds looking for meaning in the world. We use our faith as a guide, not as a crutch. All high schoolers are always welcome! We send more details to kids and family through our weekly email. Contact Mark at [msimone@fedchurch.org](mailto:msimone@fedchurch.org) if you have questions or want to be added to the email list.

- November 5** – Evening GROUP at the Family Life Center (FLC). 6:30–8:00 pm.
- November 12** – Evening GROUP at the FLC. 6:30–8:00 pm.
- November 18/19** – UCC Fall Senior High Retreat at Pilgrim Hills
- November 19** – Leadership Team at the FLC Hearth Room. Evening GROUP at the FLC. 6:30–8:00 pm. Thanksgiving theme.
- November 26** – GROUP helps at Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen. Meet at church at 9:30 am. Back at 3:30 pm. Evening GROUP at the FLC. 6:30–8:00.

### Upcoming Confirmation Dates

Classes for November will be:

- 12th** – Confirmation at the FLC. 10:15 to 11:45 am.
- 19th** – Confirmation at the FLC. 10:15 to 11:45 am.
- 26th** – Confirmation class helps at Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen. Meet at church at 9:30 am. Back at 3:30 pm.



**FEDERATED CHURCH**  
 United Church of Christ  
 An Open and Affirming Congregation  
 76 Bell St. Chagrin Falls Ohio 44022

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 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## OUR STAFF IS HERE TO HELP YOU

### CLERGY

- Hamilton Throckmorton, *Senior Pastor*
- Mark Simone, *Associate Pastor, Family Ministries*
- \* Susi Kawolics, *Associate Pastor, Worship Planning & Faith Formation*

### Administration and Staff

- Amy Eugene, *Senior Director of Operations*
- Melinda Smith, *Congregational Life Administrator*
- \* Trisha Holland, *Marketing & Communications Specialist*
- \* Darlene Nichols, *Pastoral Care Administrator*
- \* Dolly Herschel, *primetime@fed Coordinator*
- Bob Brandt, *Lead Custodian*
- \* Larry McGurer, *Daniel Pecchio, \* Robert Keleman,*
- \* Jake Magalski, \* Wilson Taylor, *Custodians*

### Music Staff

- Joshua Konow, *Director of Music Ministries*
- \* Marcia Snavely, *Organist*
- \* Thaddeus Quintin, *Director of the Federated Bell Choir*
- \* Pat Haynish, *Director of Children's Choir*

### Children's Ministries Staff

- \* Marty Culbertson, *Director Junior High Youth Program*
  - \* Kiersti Critchfield, *Co-Director of Children's Ministries, Birth-6*
  - \* Emily Culp, *Co-Director of Children's Ministries, K-6 and Director of Family Ministries*
  - \* Alex Bell, *Lianna Davis, Trisha Holland, Childcare Providers*
- \* denotes part-time staff

## The Family Life Center

The premier Chagrin Valley venue  
 for all of your events

### Weddings Receptions Celebrations

- Centrally located in the beautiful Chagrin Valley
- Multi purpose hall with 6,000 sq. feet
- Full service commercial kitchen with outside catering available
- 40 wooded acres, waterfall, extensive perennial gardens

**Family Life Center**  
 16349 Chillicothe Road  
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**FEDERATED CHURCH**