



December 2017

THE SPIRE

THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

2017 Christmas Eve Offering Recipient Chosen: Hiram Farm

May the spirit of Christmas be upon you!

A tradition of giving beyond our walls, spanning more than five decades is once again at Federated Church's door step. The Mission and Service Commission has prayerfully considered numerous applications for this year's Christmas Eve Offering and the selection has been made. It is never an easy process and the decision is made with a great deal of respect for the needs placed before the commission. This year we celebrate Hiram Farm, an agricultural setting for adults with developmental disabilities, with emphasis on adults on the autism spectrum.

This year's offering will go to construct an addition to the farmhouse. This addition will provide enough programming space to serve an additional 19 farmers by the end of 2018. This one time investment will make it possible for Hiram Farm to serve 50 adults with significant developmental disabilities annually for many decades to come. Farmers see, feel and taste the fruits of their labor. The animals, crops and craftworks that the farmers produce provide them with a source of income; the resulting sense of ownership, accomplishment and self-worth goes beyond the paycheck.

Our financial gifts to this project are only the beginning; Hiram Farm offers many opportunities to engage with the farmers, volunteering for a few hours, a day or for a week-long overnight summer session.

Federated Church members are invited to tour the Hiram Farm and to meet the wonderful staff and farmers and see first-hand how Hiram Farm changes lives forever. More information can be found on their website at hiramfarm.org

It has been said that "Hiram Farm is built on and sustained by love and compassion." Let us open our hearts to encourage the development of these individuals.

Creating growth through our gifts,
The Mission and Service Commission



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: _____



Honor A Loved One & Help Decorate for Christmas

Twelve beautiful wreaths adorn the doors of our buildings throughout the Advent season. You may honor or memorialize loved ones by contributing \$45 to help purchase one of these wreaths. Please call the church at 440.247.6490, or contact Trisha Holland at communications@fedchurch.org if you would like to help decorate the church for the holidays.



Christmas Day Dinner

Sunday, December 25 | 12:00 pm—2:00 pm
Family Life Center

Free of Charge—All are invited!

Sponsored by the Chagrin Valley Council of Churches.

For home delivery or to arrange transportation to the dinner, call 440.708.0000 ext. 331.

To volunteer, call Andrea at 216.406.6214

NEW: Text Alerts!

Federated has launched a texting service to help keep the congregation informed.

These messages contain important updates about emergency closures, as well as reminders about special services, all-church events, and important deadlines.



To subscribe to these alerts, text the keyword **FEDCHURCH** to **33222**.

From the Desk of Hamilton

Dear Friends,

On a recent weekend, the Federated Church Council held a retreat at our Family Life Center. It gave us a chance to step back from the day-to-day busy-ness that consumes so many of us. We took the time to listen to the voice of God in scripture, remembering that God has searched and known each of us, but also that God has searched and known this church (Psalm 139). We reflected on the richness of the life we've been given and the opportunities that have been placed before us. We reconnected with each other and deepened our relationships. It was a welcome gift.

As we reflected on life here at Federated, we were moved to remember that we have been appointed by God to care, to serve, and to seek. One of our primary tasks, as Christians, is to share in a community whose people give themselves to each other, trust each other, and care for each other. If members and staff don't sense an underlying warmth to church life, all vitality seeps away. For members and friends, the church then is just one more lifeless organization; for staff, it's no more than a dull workplace. When care bursts into flame, then lonely people find companionship, hurting people find a balm for their pain, grieving people find hope in their loss. Care, from the Latin word for love, is what sustains people in their pain and galvanizes them for deeds of love. We're called to care.

At the retreat, we also came to see again that we are here to serve. When we feel sustained by the richness of a caring church, we are empowered to share that love with others beyond our walls. We serve with and for people at Chagrin Falls Park and St. Paul's Church. We serve with and for people who have historically not found a home in any church. We serve with and for much poorer communities in Nicaragua and South Africa. We're called to serve.

And finally, we are called to seek. On our own, none of us has all the resources we need for a full and whole life. A mysterious God awaits our active seeking. A glorious God looks forward to being found. Worship and faith formation are primary tools for actively engaging the God who is always just beyond our reach. Our Council was reminded that an active engagement with the Holy One is a crucial part of a rich and full life.

As the season of Advent begins on December 3, together as a church we are reminded that God is always coming toward us. That is the meaning of the word "advent": "coming." God is coming close, and touching our lives, and filling our empty places. Again and again in scripture, the promise is that Christ is coming. One of Jesus' name is "Emmanuel": God with us. As we care and serve and seek, this Advent, may we be filled with a holy glory, one that restores us and fills us and sends us forth to serve joyfully and with a radiant energy.

Yours in Christ,



Hamilton



DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, December 3—First Sunday in Advent; Communion Offered

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches on
Hope: God's Shining Face
Leap of Faith Liturgical Dancers perform
9 am Worship & Sunday School
Music by The Ensemble & Barry Stees, bassoonist
11 am Worship & Sunday School
Music by Chancel Choir & Barry Stees, bassoonist

Sunday, December 10—Second Sunday in Advent

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches on
Peace: God's Desire for All Life
9 am Worship & Sunday School
Music by The Bell Choir
11 am Worship & Sunday School
Music by The Bell Choir

Sunday, December 17—Third Sunday in Advent; Service of Lessons & Carols

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches on
Joy: God's Brilliant Transformation
9 am Worship & Sunday School
Music by The Ensemble
11 am Worship & Sunday School
Music by Chancel Choir & The Bell Choir

Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve; Fourth Sunday in Advent

Fourth Sunday in Advent
**Please see page 8 for details.

Sunday, December 31—New Year's Eve

Rev. Susi Kawolics preaches
10 am Family Worship
Music by Soloist

Single Service Sundays

On Christmas Eve morning, December 24, and New Year's Eve morning, December 31, we will have a single worship service, at 10:00 am. Both services are appropriate for the whole family.

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Church Council News

Church Council held its monthly meeting on November 7. It is important for Council to handle monthly responsibilities, but we also understand our role to provide strategic direction for the church. Mindful of this, we have formed a Properties Feasibility Task Force to collect input from the congregation and staff, and formulate plans for best utilizing our physical resources to achieve the mission of Federated. Input is sought from all stakeholders within the church and your feedback is welcome through either an email to FederatedPropertiesTaskForce@gmail.com or a note placed in the mailbox of the Moderator in the church office. This is a congregational church, so your input is critical.

Council also devoted time to a retreat at the Family Life Center on November 10-11 to step back from operational issues and concentrate on longer term ideas to ensure Federated thrives, fulfills our mission and serves the Lord. Look for updates in future issues of the SPIRE and at the Annual Meeting on February 11.

The current Council is short two members, as the Clerk and Administrative Counselor positions are vacant. As with all volunteer work of the church, please open your heart to serving your church if called. All positions within the church leadership play an important part in fulfilling God's calling and the church does not succeed without you.

After a very successful capital campaign, we are working hard on the Stewardship campaign to ensure the programs of the church and staffing can be sustained and grow. Pledges reported as of the Council meeting were \$698,000, which is \$3,000 less than had been pledged by the same group of congregants last year. Council will begin making calls in mid-November to members who pledged last year but have not yet pledged this year. It is essential for planning staff and programming, that we have an accurate picture of our expected resources. As good stewards, we can't budget more than your committed giving to fund our programs and mission.

Work is progressing on receiving bids and setting timelines for organ and building work funded by the Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign. Council will receive updates at the next meeting on December 5, and report that progress to the congregation. Council also received updates on the parking situation and received reports from the commissions and committees. There is a great deal of excitement and work going on around Federated. We hosted 322 events at our facilities in October! If you aren't involved in more than just our wonderful worship services, then you are missing out on great spiritual and fellowship opportunities.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robin Harbage, Church Moderator
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, Barbara Patton, Mary Senechal, Doug Harlan, Cathy Digel, Kristen LeFeber, (3) openings

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, (1) opening

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 News & Updates

Federated Church Budget Report

	January - September 2017			2016
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	Y-T-D Actual
Income*				
Pledges and Donations	\$ 1,018,136.50	\$ 954,500.00	\$ 63,636.50	\$ 962,639.17
Rental and Other Income	\$ 84,565.58	\$ 80,944.00	\$ 3,621.58	\$ 96,527.49
Total Income	\$ 1,102,702.08	\$ 1,035,444.00	\$ 67,258.08	\$ 1,059,166.66
Expenses**				
Payroll	\$ 676,402.87	\$ 681,314.00	\$ (4,911.13)	\$ 671,470.40
Programs and Education	\$ 8,831.36	\$ 19,273.00	\$ (10,441.64)	\$ 11,954.21
Missions	\$ 70,439.68	\$ 80,174.25	\$ (9,734.57)	\$ 81,237.76
Office and Administration	\$ 59,413.59	\$ 59,873.00	\$ (459.41)	\$ 56,256.42
Properties	\$ 173,588.10	\$ 178,553.00	\$ (4,964.90)	\$ 198,661.79
Rental Expenses	\$ 17,692.50	\$ 15,750.00	\$ 1,942.50	\$ 19,153.07
Insurance	\$ 23,720.00	\$ 24,750.00	\$ (1,030.00)	\$ 24,881.00
102 Bell St Costs	\$ 10,508.42	\$ 7,799.00	\$ 2,709.42	\$ 7,866.55
Other Expenses***	\$ 28,701.94	\$ 5,948.00	\$ 22,753.94	\$ 7,102.80
Total Expenses	\$ 1,069,298.46	\$ 1,073,434.25	\$ (4,135.79)	\$ 1,078,584.00
Net Operating Income	\$ 33,403.62	\$ (37,990.25)	\$ 71,393.87	\$ (19,417.34)

*The income budget is based upon the seasonality of giving. The pledge income includes all prepaid pledges.

**Expenses are on a cash and timing basis and are disbursed over the course of the full year.

***Other Expenses includes the write-off of the sale of one van, to-date, in 2107.

Best Wishes to Bob Brandt

Sometimes staff members choose to take new directions in their lives, which require they say goodbye. Bob Brandt has decided to spend more time with his family and take on new challenges outside of Federated.

We are grateful to Bob for his work and dedication to Federated over the years. We wish him the very best and know he is surrounded by God's grace.

SPIRE Deadline

Do you have an article that you would like to see in the January 2018 edition of the SPIRE? Please *email* your submission **no later than Tuesday, December 12** to Trisha Holland at communications@fedchurch.org. Thank you!



Holiday Building Closure

The church office and both the Bell St. building and the Family Life Center will be closed December 25, 2017—January 1, 2018.

If you have a pastoral care need during this time, please call the church number at 440.247.6490, ext. 100 and leave a message. This voicemail box will be monitored during this time. If you need to drop off a pledge or check at the church, it can be placed in the mailbox near the front entrance of the church on Bell Street.

Wondering about all of those Capital Campaign Projects?

We'll be using this corner of future SPIRE newsletters to inform the congregation about the progress of each project being undertaken as part of the capital campaign. We'll get to share what changes to expect, how the projects have progressed, what joys and challenges we've faced, and how the *Rejoice & Renew* campaign funds are being used.

So, stay tuned!

Laura P. Taylor, Campaign Assistant,
RejoiceandRenew@fedchurch.org



UCC 5 for 5: Neighbors in Need

Federated Church participates in the "UCC-5": five ways for churches to support the United Church of Christ (UCC) and its global missions. Through offerings from the congregation, Federated provided support to *Neighbors in Need (NIN)*, a special mission offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. **Federated members and friends raised over \$1,700.00 for Neighbors in Need this year. Thank you!**



Federated Happenings

Primetime Federated Forum

Monday, December 11 | 1:30 pm Refreshments, 2:00 pm Program
Bell St. Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary

Program: "Songs of Christmas: A Musical Journey"
with Joshua Konow

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of the Christmas music we love, and a chance to meet and get to know our new Director of Music Ministries, Joshua Konow. There will be times for reflection, and a light, joyous celebration of the Christmas spirit as we prepare for the most nostalgic of holidays.



Primetime Luncheon

Thursday, December 14 | 12:00 pm
Family Life Center

Come celebrate Christmas with pianist, Randy Fusco. This is a great luncheon to bring along a friend or two!

Cost: \$10 at the door

Reservations due by
Friday, December 8.

Call 440.247.6490.



Sandy Hook Anniversary Interfaith Vigil

Thursday, December 14 | 7:00—8:30 pm
Bell St. Chapel

Come together to remember half a million Americans killed or injured by guns since the Sandy Hook shooting tragedy. Part of the 2017 Nationwide Vigils & Events to End Gun Violence.

At hundreds of locations nationwide, we will give voice to all victims and survivors of gun violence and together help #EndGunViolence in America.



Annual Christmas Brunch To benefit GROUP Work Camp

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

We invite you to join the GROUP work campers for another wonderful brunch! 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.



Contact Mark with questions at
msimone@fedchurch.org.

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:

December 3 - last names beginning with A or B

December 10 - JOY will be holding a bake sale fundraiser

December 17 - Last names beginning with C or D

December 24 - all congregants

December 31 - all congregants

Free Online Training Available – Responding to Violent Intruders

Please consider taking our online training to learn how to actively respond to violent intruders by using ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Confront, Evacuate) techniques. If you would like to enroll, please contact: Amy Eugene
aeyugene@fedchurch.org.

ALICE
TRAINING INSTITUTE

Federated Happenings

Wondrous Wednesday

Wednesday, December 13

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

Bell St. Fellowship Hall



Program: Music of the Heavens

Come celebrate Christmas with Nelson Fenner on accordion, and a Christmas Carol sing-along. You'll leave with a glow in your heart and a new appreciation for the accordion!

Enjoy traditional family Christmas foods, including lots of yummy cookies ('cause it's Christmas, of course!) Gluten and dairy free options are available.



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 before the program. Or, RSVP online at fedchurch.org/events.

Daniel Plan—Additional Sessions

The Congregational Care Commission has obtained 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, whether or not you participated in the Daniel Plan program last summer.

Each session will consist of a short DVD film and a follow-up discussion. During the discussion we will share the questions and review material from the study guide with you. These sessions will be held **at 10:05 am in the Lounge on the following Sundays:**

- Food Session 3 - December 10
- Food Session 4 - December 17
- Fitness Session 1 - January 21
- Fitness Session 2 - January 28



For those who would like to go over any of the preliminary Daniel Plan lessons from last summer, DVDs can be easily borrowed from the basket behind the Bell Street reception desk. You can check one out and watch any session at your leisure (each DVD has all of the sessions on it). Please return your DVD to the basket as soon as practicable.

If you would like your own copies of the DVDs and/or study guides, we found they are least expensive at christianbook.com. The name of this additional series is "The Daniel Plan Essentials Bible Study Series." You can also purchase "The Daniel Plan - 40 Days to a Healthier Life," which will provide a great deal of extra information and recipes.

If you have any questions, please contact Darlene Nichols at 440.247.6490 ext. 123 or dnichols@fedchurch.org.

2018 Contribution Envelopes

Contribution envelopes will be available for pickup in December. The boxes contain an envelope for each week of the year and are useful in many ways: as a reminder to give regularly, as a means for the church to record cash contributions, or for privacy.

If you used contribution envelopes last year or indicated on your pledge card that you want a box for 2018, a labeled box will be waiting for you in Fellowship Hall **starting Sunday, December 3.**

New requests and new cancellations should be directed to Melinda in the Church Office at smithm@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 ext. 124.

Still Room Available for The Spirit of Ireland Trip: May 7-18, 2018

Good News! The group airfare rate has been reduced to \$895 and there is still room to join Hamilton and Mary and members of your Federated family to travel the hills and vales of Northern and Southern Ireland. We will have guided tours of Belfast and Dublin, and visit abbeys, castles and pubs. Do the names "Downpatrick," "Killarney," "Blarney" and "Guinness" sound familiar? If not, they certainly will after the trip.

Reserve your place now for \$500 per person; the full payment is due around February 1, 2018.

Updated brochures are available in the Lobby and Please contact Peggie Jo Shinagawa at 440.543.5974 if you have any questions.



Faith Formation

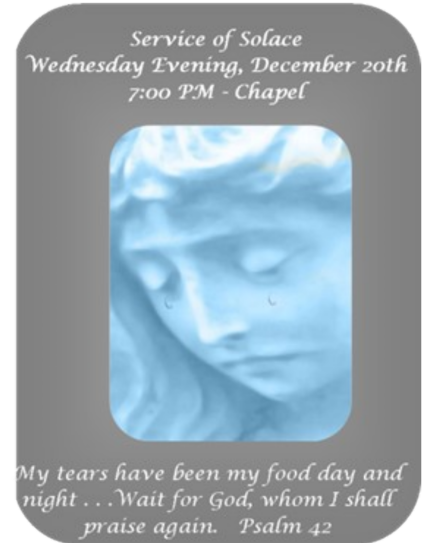
Service of Solace

Wednesday, December 20 | 7:00 pm
Bell St. Chapel

Also sometimes called "Blue Christmas" or "Longest Night," the Service of Solace is a service that offers support, prayer and reflection for those experiencing loss, sorrow, pain, or anything making the holidays difficult. This is a service of comfort and hope through prayer, reflection and special music. Everyone is welcome to attend this service, those who are in need and those willing to offer support and compassion.

The indoor Labyrinth will be set up in Fellowship Hall that day starting at noon for meditative walking, prayer and reflection. After the service, there will be a time for fellowship and support with light refreshments. If you know of someone whom you would like to invite to the service, there are invitations available in the Narthex and at the Reception Desk to write out and send. Please let Rev. Susi Kawolics know who you are inviting so that people don't get multiple invitations.

Any questions? Contact Susi Kawolics at skawolics@fedchurch.org or at 440.247.6490 ext. 310 or for more information or for pastoral care.



Christmas Eve Services at Federated

Sunday, December 24 at Bell Street

10:00 am—Family Worship Service

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaching on Love: God's Song of Life
Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26.
Music by Small Group / Soloist

4:00 pm—Candle-lighting Service & Family Pageant

"Follow the Star" Christmas Pageant
Led by Rev. Mark Simone
Children's Choir sings

6:00 pm—Candle-lighting Service

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
Ensemble sings
Pre-service music by soloists 20 minute prior to service

8:30 pm—Candle-lighting Service

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
Chancel Choir sings
Pre-service music by soloists 20 minute prior to service

11:00 pm—Candle-lighting Service (in the Chapel)

Rev. Mark Simone preaches
Chamber Choir sings

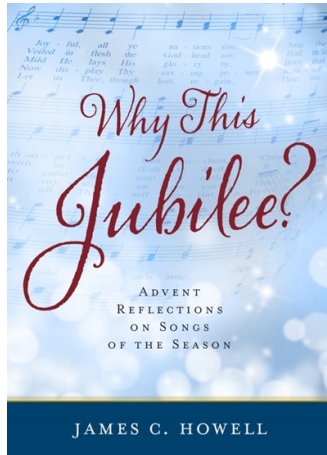


Faith Formation

Advent Book Study

Federated is offering book studies that are based on the book "Why This Jubilee-Advent Reflections on Songs of the Season" by James C. Howell.

Music is such an important part of Advent and Christmas. Can you imagine Advent without "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"? How about Christmas without carols like "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Silent Night," and "Joy to the World"? In 24 reflections on well-known carols and Christmas songs, Howell explores the birth of Jesus, ponders the meaning of certain phrases from these songs and relates them to our daily lives.



Books are \$10 each and will be available to purchase after Sunday services in Fellowship Hall or in the church office. Sign up at fedchurch.org/adventbookstudy, or you can stop in Fellowship Hall after worship, call 440.247.6490, or contact Rev. Susi Kawolics at skawolics@fedchurch.org. Come join us to deepen your Advent journey!

Book Study Group Selections

Sunday mornings - 10:15 am | Chapel

Led by Mike and Kate Walsh
11/26, 12/3, 12/10 and 12/17

Men's Group: Thursday mornings - 8:30 am | Lounge

Led by Nelson Fenner and the Men's Group
11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21

Thursday afternoons - 2:00 pm | Lounge

Led by Rev. Susi Kawolics
11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21

Women's Group: Friday mornings - 9:15 am | Family Life Center

Led by Women's Discussion Group
12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22

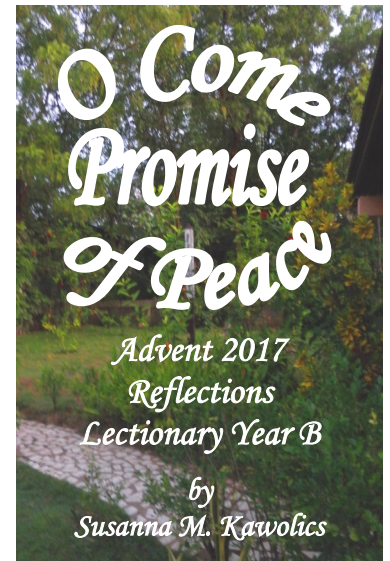
Friday afternoons - 12:00 pm | Lounge

Led by Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton
12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22

Advent Reflection Booklets

You are invited to deepen your Advent journey with prayers and reflections in a booklet called "O Come, Promise of Peace," written by Rev. Susi Kawolics.

They are now available in the Narthex or online at adventreflections.org.



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

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

Advent by Candlelight offers women an opportunity to prepare for the coming of Christ. 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. You will enjoy beautiful music, delicious food, and warm fellowship. All women are welcome!

Advance sign-ups are appreciated. Registration can be found at fedchurch.org/events. You can also sign up in Fellowship Hall after worship, or by calling 440.247.6490. If possible, please bring a treat to share. Finger foods preferred (no nuts).



Mission & Service Opportunities

Parish Nurse Program

"Thank you to everyone who stopped by the table at the Mission Fair. I have noticed a big increase in donations to the PN boxes in the lobby and I am so grateful for your support."

The clinic at St. Paul's serves about 120 folks per week with counseling, referrals and basic hygiene products.

Items that we need weekly include small toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap, lotion, shampoo, lip balm, razors, small tissue packets, wash cloths, plain T-shirts (men and women), briefs or boxer shorts (men and women), female personal hygiene items, toilet paper, white tube socks (all sizes), Gold Bond powder and/or lotion. For the upcoming cold months we especially need new/gently used mittens and hats.

Please leave these items in the Parish Nurse box in Lobby at Bell Street. Donations are taken every week. If you wish to donate money, please write a check to Federated Church and write "Parish Nurse Program" on the memo line.

Contact Kathy Kolcaba with questions at 440.655.2098.

JustHope Educational Scholarships

JustHope partners provides scholarships for children from Chacraseca and La Flor communities. School in Nicaragua is from February through November. Primary school is free in Nicaragua, but students need clothes and supplies. With \$50, you provide a child with a backpack stuffed with a uniform, shoes and socks, and a notebook and pencil.

To support these students, make a check out to Federated Church with "Chacraseca Scholarships" in the memo line. If you have questions, email

Tina DeFranco at christina_difranco@yahoo.com or Jim Squire at jsquire710@gmail.com.



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.



**Help
spread the
Christmas cheer
with our friends at
St. Paul's Community Church.**

**Bring unwrapped gifts
to the Giving Tree in the Bell St. Lobby.
Toys, games, clothes for all ages,
coats, hats, gloves and mittens
jewelry, watches, handheld video games.**

Please have donations here by December 10.

**Thank you for creating the
spirit of giving for many in the community.**

Family and Youth Ministries

This Month in **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

	Theme	Life App
DISCOVERY ISLAND (K-6)	Celebrate the birth of Jesus.	We celebrate the birth of Jesus.
KIDS COVE (B-PreK)	Special Delivery	God gave us Jesus.

Family Worship

Please enjoy worshipping together as a family on **Sunday, December 24 and 31**: there will be no Discovery Island (K-6th grade). Merry Christmas from your Sunday School teachers! See you back on January 7, 2018!

Kids Cove (Birth-Preschool) will be available downstairs in Room 20 for these morning services. (Also for 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm services on December 24.)



Search for the Christ Child An interactive journey to Bethlehem

Sunday, December 3
Open house: 5:00—8:00 PM
Family Life Center

Visitors will begin their 20-minute journey at the Camelback Inn where a census will be taken. Guests will be served cookies and hot chocolate in the gym. After a brief wait, a shepherd guide will lead groups through stations, interacting with characters who act out the story of the birth of Christ. They ultimately arrive at the stable where the live nativity awaits.

Appropriate for all ages. Donations of canned goods and a free will offering will be accepted. This event is free and open to the community — invite your friends! Additional information can be found at fedchurch.org/sftcc.



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 if you'd like to join the cast at msimone@fedchurch.org or 440.463.9439.





FEDERATED CHURCH
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
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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 Coordinator*
* **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
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