



THE SPIRE

THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

January 2018

Believing Black People: Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) Movie Night

Monday, January 22 | 7:00—9:30 pm
Family Life Center Youth Room

The UCC's *White Privilege Curriculum* states that being an ally for racial justice begins with **believing black people** when they speak about the presence of racism in everyday life. On this night, we will watch speeches by some of the most challenging speakers in the African-American community from the past as well as today.

1. *Has the American Dream Been Achieved at the Expense of the American Negro?* James Baldwin debates William F. Buckley on this resolution.
2. *American History and the Present.* Author Ta Nehisi Coates places racism in its historical context and shows its prevalence in today's society.
3. *Solidarity in the Flesh: Tools and Tactics.* UCC minister, Traci Blackmon (image below) speaks on how to resist systemic racism.
4. *The Moral Lens of Justice.* Rev. William Barber of the "Moral Monday" movement in North Carolina speaks about the power of moral dissent.

We will hold a short discussion after each video and have books and articles by these speakers for your perusal. Refreshments to be served!

SJAM movie nights (typically held each month on the third Monday) are open to the public, so please invite a friend.

**** The next SJAM meeting is Sunday, January 7 at 12:30 pm in the Bell St. Lounge. All are welcome to join! ****

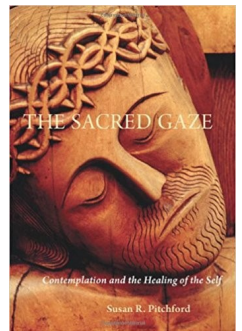
If you have any questions, contact Susi Kawolics at 440.247.6490 ext. 310 or skawolics@fedchurch.org. More info is available at fedchurch.org/sjam.



Book Study Opportunity

**The Sacred Gaze:
Contemplation and the
Healing of the Self**

The Sacred Gaze invites us on a contemplative journey into the fullness of our divine nature. As Saint Irenaeus, a second-century bishop of Lyon said, "the glory of God is a human being fully alive."



How might gazing into the sacred face of Jesus help us to become fully alive? What challenges do we encounter as we adopt a sacred gaze? What is necessary to contemplatively gaze into the face of Jesus? We will engage with these questions and much more in this four-week study.

Sign up by calling 440.247.6490. Please read the first three chapters of the book before the first class.

Dates: January 3, 10, 17 and 24

Time: 7:00—8:00 pm

Where: Bell Street Room 340

Facilitator: Mary Senechal, Certified Spiritual Director.

Contact her at msart@windstream.net.



Weather Closing Procedure



When bad weather strikes, keep an eye on our website, Facebook, Channel 5, and Channel 3 for updates. We make the decision by 7:00 am as to whether or not to close. If it's an evening storm, we decide by 3:00 pm. Notifications will be made to the news stations and also to chairs of impacted commissions and committees, and staff. Our current phone system does not have the ability to provide updated messages. Remember, we *do not* automatically close when area schools are closed.

Search for the Christ Child Final Thoughts

We offer up a huge and humble thank you to everyone who supported our efforts to bring "Search for the Christ Child" to life for the third time...

To the adults and high school students who donned costumes and enthusiastically acted out parts.

To the animals and their owners who graciously donated their time to make the outdoor sets authentic.

To the babies who played the role of Jesus and to their parents who trusted us with their little ones.

To the Congregational Care Commission who readied the cookies and hot chocolate for our guests.

To the bakers who prepared hundreds of beautiful and delicious cookies.

To the seamstresses who sewed costumes.

To the set-up crew who steamed sheets, ironed costumes, climbed ladders, set out candles and did countless other tasks.

To the Telling Our Story Commission and office staff who helped spread the word.

To our 7th and 8th graders and their advisors who cheerfully served cookies and hot chocolate to our guests.

To our greeters who welcomed guests to the Family Life Center.

To our Federated family members who made time to come out and experience "The Search."

To our set designers who designed and constructed and painted sets.

To the clean-up crew who took it all down and stored it all away for next time.

To our own special Federated custodial staff who hung stars and lights and ran errands and cleaned up after us and did every little thing we asked of them.

And to those of you who we may have forgotten to list separately... those who lifted us up in prayer, who contributed financial support... all of you!

THIS is how we can love others... by throwing open our doors and offering an extravagant welcome to all... by sharing the story of Christ's birth with our friends and neighbors. Together, we were able to offer a precious gift to our Federated family and the community at large. Let's do it again next year!

With humble gratitude,
Kiersti Critchfield and Emily Culp



From the Desk of Mark

Happy New Year! Or Happy New Day?

Some of my friends are already discussing, in a semi-serious manner, what New Year's resolutions they may make for 2018. Diets seem to lead the way, followed closely by exercise. One friend is going to try morning devotions for the first time.

It is likely that you and I have attempted at times to make the new year something that is goal-oriented and productive. More often than not I have failed in my early resolve and have simply watched my determined goals evaporate as the rest of daily life is re-inserted into each day. The sand castle resolutions that I built too closely to the surf are gone at the next high tide.

A few years ago, I read a short book that looked at the component often missing when we set goals that predictably fail. According to author Johnny Truant, the step we most often neglected is actually stepping out of the planning and goal setting stage and into moving into an action plan. Truant maintains that action is often not part of the goal setting most of us do. Action leads us from what we hope to do into the realm of detailing how we will accomplish that goal. In action, each challenge in shifting our time commitments to include our goal is carefully added to the overall equation.

But what do the scriptures say about time? Is there any wisdom indicating how we are to live in the time we have?

When we were growing up, our mother would wake us each school morning with the verse, "This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." - Psalm 118:24. I really did not like that mode of alarm clock, and grumbled at the intrusion which daily squashed my contented dreams. But that verse still permeates my soul and now I remember it often with great fondness and appreciation.

All this is to say that perhaps the best New Year's resolution we can make is to adapt what the Bible suggests we do daily into as many days in 2018 as we can. Why take on the year when we can follow God's guidance for each new day? In the end, these daily moments of awareness will transform our lives and hearts. So, as a gift of love, I ask you to consider these verses in the new year.

Psalm 1:2. But their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on God's law they meditate day and night.

Psalm 23:6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Psalm 27:5. For God will hide me in God's shelter in the day of trouble; God will conceal me under the cover of his tent; God will set me high on a rock.

Psalm 50:15. Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.

Psalm 68:19. Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation.

Lamentations 3:22-24. GOD's loyal love couldn't have run out, God's merciful love couldn't have dried up. They're created new every morning. How great your faithfulness! I'm sticking with God. (I say it over and over).

Thank you for your part in our Federated Church family. And may God bless you in each new day in 2018.

With much love,
Rev. Mark Simone

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, January 7

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
Communion served

9 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by The Ensemble

11 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 14

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
9 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by The Ensemble

11 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 21

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
Presentation of Christmas Eve Offering to
Hiram Farm

9 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by The Ensemble

11 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 28

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
9 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by The Bell Choir

11 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by The Bell Choir

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Church Council News

Church Council was delighted to welcome Jackie Hallack as the Clerk at our December meeting. Volunteerism is at the heart of the important work of Federated. We are grateful for all who step forward to serve.

Paul Koepf attended the meeting representing the Properties Committee which, along with assistance from other volunteers in the congregation, is guiding capital projects funded by the Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign. They are progressing on receiving bids and setting timelines for building improvements. We have also ordered the new console for our organ, and a team is working on a redesign of the organ space. Please note the article on page 5 specific to the capital projects.

Council used welcome feedback and narrative within the congregation in planning how to update the symbols of our Open and Affirming (ONA) welcome. After lengthy discussion, Church Council unanimously approved the following change: to "replace the permanency of the rainbow flag with a flag of the Christian Church, erect a banner on the Bell Street building displaying our ONA commitment, place ONA symbols on each of the primary entry doors at Bell Street and the Family Life Center, and allow additional flags to be flown in accordance with our flag policy." We hope this expands the message of promoting civil rights and proclaims we are a congregation who warmly welcomes everyone in our community whether represented in the majority or of a marginalized group.

We have passed the \$1 million mark in stewardship pledges for 2018. We celebrate the dedicated giving of our congregation thus far and ask the 100 or so families who pledged in 2017, but have not yet committed for 2018, to please submit their pledges. The budget to be approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting on February 11 is limited by the amount pledged. If we fall short of the amount pledged in 2017, we will need to adjust salary and program spending downward to match. Federated is so alive with mission and programming. Please provide your faithful support so we can continue to fulfill our promise.

At the Church Council retreat on November 10-11, we addressed WHY Federated exists and thrives, instead of focusing on the HOW. Three overriding themes emerged defining our desire to *seek, serve, and connect*. Together we are on a faith journey in which we continually *seek* God's will for us. The Federated community *serves* in partnership and compassion through mission and outreach. Thirdly, our church family actively makes *connections* and strengthens bonds. The leadership of Federated will apply these three defining themes to guide our decisions and goals for 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robin Harbage, Church Moderator
Robin.harbage@gmail.com

Current Lay Leaders

Church Council

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

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

January 2018 *Rejoice & Renew* Capital Campaign Projects Update



Plans are underway for the refurbishment of The Federated Church's sanctuary organ. Marcia Snavelly has been instrumental in orchestrating this entire project. A contract has already been signed and a replacement console ordered for the pipe organ. We are thankful for Marcia's expertise and in debt for her guidance!

As the Properties Committee coordinates the rest of the monumental projects of the capital campaign, we want staff and members to know we pray upon our decisions and work to give you all the best value. Your prayers and confidence bolster us forward!

The Properties Committee is already blessed with members Keith Mast (engineer) and Bill Lentz (commercial construction superintendent and project manager), so we are well supported through this significant evolution of our church facilities and renewal.

We have asked several members of the church to contribute to the evaluation of our architectural systems and to suggest ways to facilitate an optimal bidding process. Thanks go out to Bill Mason (architect), John Giles (general contractor) and Bob Doxey (organization

development). As we move through this two-year project, we will be looking for congregational expertise.

It became clear from the beginning that our three largest projects (roof, HVAC, and insulation) were linked and had to be engineered together. We have three different roof structures and three different roofing materials across the structure. Additionally, this poses three different insulation challenges for our antique buildings, as well as for our modern structures. But, it turns out, the greater conundrum is our heating and cooling. Seven different pieces of machinery from a multitude of time periods in the past few decades must be updated.

Therefore, we have hired an engineering company to do an energy audit, inspect, and evaluate our equipment. We have received multiple reports over the past few months as we move through the analysis of expensive and complicated systems. The working drawing and final specification will be complete very soon.

We all owe a big thank you to Bill Mason for thorough pre-analysis of our roofing systems and donating working drawings and specifications.

An important goal within this triad of projects is closing the energy envelope.

Our Committee will determine insulation specifications and materials required based on the engineers' recommendations. Bid documents will be ready by early winter. Bill Lentz has provided an extensive list of qualified commercial contractors. Suggestions from the congregation should be submitted to the Properties Committee box in the office or email Paul Koepf, chair. We will identify qualified bidders and request bids on a selected basis.

It is our hope to start construction in alignment with the church calendar. But be fore-warned: With the construction at the neighboring school and months of work here at Bell Street, it may be prudent to discuss moving the summer church to our wonderful facility on Route 306. If you have any questions for the Properties Committee, please contact Paul Koepf (paullkoepf@gmail.com), Bill Lentz (blintz@amhigley.com), or Keith Mast (kcmast46@gmail.com).

In Her grace,
Paul Koepf.

Parking Update from the Parking Sub-Committee

Things seem to be going somewhat smoothly with our new parking situation. A reminder to on Sundays, if you are physically able, park off-site on Vincent Street (across from church), at the Shibley building (139 Bell St.), or in the shopping plaza toward the middle of the lot.

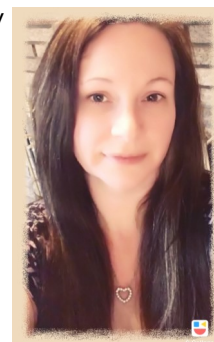
Monday through Saturday, the best place to park is on Vincent Street if our parking lot is full. We don't have special permission to park in any other lots during the week.

Help has arrived! Welcome, Jessica Paradise

Our new part-time Business Administration Assistant, Jessica Paradise, has started here at Federated! Her focus will be on recording contributions, billing, purchasing, and record keeping, just to name a few. She will be working mornings and partnering closely with Amy Eugene, the Senior Director of Operations.

Jessica comes to us from the Geauga County Public Library and prior to that, Chesterland Baptist Church, as well as Christ Presbyterian Church.

If you see Jessica around, give her a warm Federated welcome! If you need to reach her, contact business@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490.



Federated Happenings

Primetime Federated Forum

Monday, January 8

1:30 pm Refreshments, 2:00 pm Program
Bell Street Fellowship Hall

Program: "History of Broadway"
Presented by Eric Coulbourne

Eric Coulbourne's has made a study of the events and venues that have made so many talented Broadway performers famous around the world.



Join us to learn more about those famous actors, musicians and producers of the wonderful plays and performing acts on Broadway that we have enjoyed for so many years.

Primetime Luncheon

Thursday, January 25 | 12:00 pm
Family Life Center

Greg Piscura is the lead singer in all-occasion bands and a night club vocalist throughout Northeast Ohio. He performs a one-man show designed for senior communities. Singing songs from the *Great American Songbook*, his shows deliver enjoyment, mental stimulation and interaction opportunities.

Menu: Chicken piccata, bistro potatoes, tossed salad, pie.

Cost: \$10 at the door

Reservations due by Friday, January 19.
Call 440.247.6490.



Gyro and Bingo Fundraiser Benefitting Troop 150

Sunday, February 11 | 5:00—7:00 pm
Family Life Center

Come support Boy Scout Troop 150 with a night of bingo fun and gyros! Dine in or carry out. Simply Greek Gyros.

Cost: \$10 adults. \$5 kids.



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!



Men's Breakfast

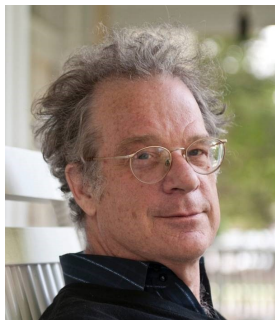
Saturday, January 20 | 8:00—10:00 am
Bell Street, Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Henry Adams

Topic: "Cleveland industrial designer Viktor Schreckengost"

- Professor of Art History at Case Western Reserve
- Bachelor degree from Harvard University
- Masters degree and Ph.D. from Yale University
- William F. Yates Distinguished Service Medallion
- Writer, art historian, museum curator, museum director, documentary film producer, and educator

Cost: \$10 (includes hot breakfast)
Call 440.247.6490 to RSVP.



Here is the schedule for upcoming weeks:

January 7 - last names beginning with E, F or G

January 14 - last names beginning with H, I, J or K

January 21 - last names beginning with L or M

January 28 - last names beginning with N, O, P or Q

Free Online Training Available – Responding to Violent Intruders

Please consider joining other congregation members who have already taken this free, online training to learn how to actively respond to violent intruders by using ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Confront, Evacuate) techniques. If you or immediate family members would like to enroll, please contact: Amy Eugene aeugene@fedchurch.org.



Federated Happenings

Wondrous Wednesday

Wednesday, January 10

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

Bell St. Fellowship Hall



What are some good ways to help support adult persons with developmental disabilities?

Janice Chesnes will be coming to the January Wondrous Wednesday gathering to speak to us about the Metzenbaum Center and what it offers to the participants. Janice is their Community Connections Coordinator and focuses on supporting individuals in meaningfully interacting with their communities.

Come at 6:00 pm for the free dinner and fellowship, then learn about how you can support people who often struggle in your community at 7:00 pm. It will warm your heart!

Call the church at 440.247.6490 or stop at the reception desk in the Bell Street Lobby to RSVP if you wish to enjoy the meal before the program. Or, RSVP online at fedchurch.org/events.



Federated Single Adult Fellowship Mtg

Reminder that our next Federated Single Adult Fellowship (FSAF) meeting is on Wednesday, January 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Program not yet decided. I hope to see you there. It's a pot luck (my favorite) so bring something delish!

Contact Mark Simone with questions at msimone@fedchurch.org.

Daniel Plan—A Faith-filled Lifestyle Program

The Daniel Plan is a groundbreaking program that will equip you with practical tools and resources to bring health into every area of your life: mentally, physically and spiritually. This healthy lifestyle program is founded on Biblical principles to help participants live life more abundantly as God intended.

Five essentials cover the body, mind and soul connection: faith, food, fitness, focus, and friends. Over the summer many of us at Federated learned about this lifestyle program.

The Congregational Care Commission is pleased to announce that the Cleveland Clinic is again willing to work with Federated to provide sessions that will not only guide those new to the program but provide continued support to those who participated in the program this past summer. The Clinic will provide an informational meeting to discuss the program (at our Bell Street location) and provide a free study guide to each participant for this new set of sessions. (There will be no free health screenings, however).

These sessions will follow a similar format as this past summer: a half-hour DVD presentation on one of the five essentials of faith, food, fitness, focus and friends followed by discussion. After we form into a group(s), we will decide when and how often we want to meet. Some have requested meeting once or twice a month and to discuss the topics in the order participants preferred.

We need to know your interest! Before discussing this further with the Clinic, we need to have at least a dozen persons who are interested in attending these Daniel Plan sessions.

If you are interested in attending the Clinic's information session and these Daniel Plan sessions, or if you have any questions, please contact Darlene Nichols at dnichols@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 ext. 123. Snowbirds - let us know of your interest; we will provide a way for you to "catch up" if you miss a few winter sessions.

Congregational Care will be available to answer questions after services on January 7, 14 and 21 in Fellowship Hall.

Reminder: These Daniel Plan sessions are open to everyone, whether or not you have participated in previous sessions!

Start your new year with the Daniel Plan Lifestyle Program! Refresh your mind, body and spirit and begin living life to its fullest as the Lord intended!

"For God's Temple is holy, and you are that temple." - I Corinthians 3:17b



Faith Formation and Spirituality

Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, January 22 | 1:00—6:00 pm
Bell St. 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 1.877.733.2767 to select an appointment time or go online at RedCross-Blood.org or be a "walk-in donor."

All blood types are in demand!

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. Thanks!



Last Call for The Spirit of Ireland Trip: May 7-18, 2018

The final date to join Hamilton and Mary and members of your Federated family to travel the hills and vales of Northern and Southern Ireland is February 7, 2018. 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 in early February.

Brochures are available in the Bell Street Lobby. Contact Peggie Jo Shinagawa at 440.543.5974 if you have questions.



Yoga ~ Spirit ~ Renewal

Let yoga be your reset button. Who isn't stressed these days? A prayerful, reflective yoga practice in a warm and inviting community offers an answer. Move and breathe, relax and center. When we're healthy in body, mind and spirit, we can be of better service to the world and enjoy our families and life with greater ease. Please join us for this gentle, meditative yoga class.

Offered **Tuesdays, 9:00-10:15 am in the Family Life Center Youth Room starting January 9**. Cost is \$75 for seven classes, or \$12 drop-in fee. Contact Polly Manke at 440.823.9316 or pjmanke@yahoo.com.

Coffee and Conversation

Save the Date:

Saturday, March 3 | 10:00 am

The Congregational Care Commission invites all men and women to Coffee and Conversation. Come and join us in Fellowship Hall for a light breakfast and meet Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis as presented by Carol Starre Kmiecik as we celebrate National Women's Month.



Please RSVP at 440.247.6490.

Special Thanks

Blessed Advent to all.

Just 24 hours ago, Santa's sleigh snuck under the storm and delivered tons of great toys for lots of girls and boys. Our elves are preparing to continue the distribution chain. From the St. Paul's Council & Outreach Board let me say: Many thanks to Federated Church elves for making this a very special Holy time of year for so many people.

And we are grateful for the Thanksgiving turkeys and blessings that flowed through here just a few weeks ago; many thanks for your commitment to join us in this mission to provide food and hospitality to weary travelers. You're the change you want to see!

Peace Hope Joy and Love,
 Rev. Doug Horner (12/12/17)

Faith Formation and Spirituality

Epiphany Preaching Series: "How the Church reveals Christ"

January 7 through February 11

The season after Christmastide in the church is Epiphany. It begins with celebrating the visit of the Magi to Jesus, on January 6, after the 12 days of Christmas. "Epiphany" means revelation, or realization, and celebrates the revelation of the Christ to those who traveled so far to find him.

The first Sunday of Epiphany this year is January 7, and it celebrates the baptism of Christ. This year, our lectionary gospel readings are taken mostly from Mark. We will reflect on his telling of the story of Jesus' baptism. In this sacrament, Jesus is revealed as God's beloved, and we are reminded that we also are beloved children of God. Baptism is the rite of initiation into the church, into the Christian community.

In the following weeks, we will explore how it is that church, that we as a community of Christians, reveal Christ to the world. Come hear our sermon series focusing on the four pillars of the church, pillars that have framed our understanding of church: Faith Formation, Community, Worship and Service.

Quoting from Hamilton's Rally Day sermon, we are reminded that: "These pillars are the heart of our identity as the family of God, and they're the North Star for how we determine who we are and what it is we're to be about. Worship, faith formation, the building of community, and reaching out to the world beyond us—that's the heart of Federated. As we engage, as family, in those central tasks, we're being true to the church of Jesus Christ. And it's then that the presence of God comes most richly to life." Indeed, this is how the presence of God, how Christ is revealed in our world.

We will explore how each of these unveils truths about Jesus, brings us into deeper understanding. Faith formation asks that we make a commitment to grow deeper in our knowledge of God, of God's word, of God's desire for us and for our world. In Community, come together to understand each other, to tell our stories, to support and to love each other through the up and downs of life, making real the love of God. Weekly worship joins us to the heart of God, reminding us of who we are and whose we are. And Service calls us out of ourselves to be the body of Christ in this world, revealing God's hope and healing to the world.

The last Sunday in the Epiphany season is always transfiguration Sunday, celebrating the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain. The season of Epiphany is thereby bookended by his Baptism and his Transfiguration, showing his followers, and ultimately us, Jesus as the long hoped for Messiah, the light of the world.

Here are the dates and themes for this season:

Date	Theme	Passage
January 7	Baptism of Jesus	Mark 1:4-11
January 14	Faith Formation	John 1:43-51
January 21	Community	Mark 1:14-20
January 28	Worship	Mark 1:21-28
February 4	Service	Mark 1:29-39
February 11	Transfiguration of Jesus	Mark 9:2-9

May the season of Epiphany be a season of rich blessings as we open our eyes, ears and hearts to all the ways Christ is revealed.

Peace,
Rev. Susi Kawolics

Gathering of Women: Seasons of Sacred Living, 2018

Enter the New Year reenergizing your spiritual practices! Ready to be surprised by ways God deepens our connections and listening in the stillness for God's personal summonings, we will gather on four evenings across the seasons of 2018. Beginning as a whole group and breaking into prayerful sharing circles, we'll rekindle spiritual practices, share our stories, and discover how God's spirit speaks in and through each one gathered.

Mark your calendars for the 2018 series of seasonal evenings "In the Company of Women", a fresh series devoted to mindfulness and connection for women of all ages.

Wednesday, January 31, Bell Street Fellowship Hall
Thursday, May 3, Bell Street Fellowship Hall
Thursday, August 2, Family Life Center Labyrinth
Thursday, November 1, Bell Street Chapel

The focus for our January 31 event will be "What is God calling me to in the New Year?" featuring special guest Judith Brown Bryan, a Certified Spiritual Director. Please join Mary Senechal, Certified Spiritual Director, Polly Manke, holistic health coach, and Maren Koepf, educator as we gather across the year in the promise of spiritual refreshment. Contact Maren with questions at marenkoepf@gmail.com

Mission & Service Opportunities

Federated Church Day Mission – New Possibilities

A number of months ago our pastor, Hamilton, spoke with me about expanding what I love to do the most. My defining mission characteristic is best experienced in service that involves going and doing projects with likeminded friends. As a response to Hamilton's observation, I think I would like to propose a monthly, day long work camp experience aimed at adults and families.

I did not yet receive replies from the agencies I approached, but I am hopeful that we can take on some day missions beginning one Saturday in February and then planning one a month through May.

If you may be interested in being part of the team, please let me know at msimone@fedchurch.org. I am also looking for ideas of places we can go and serve.

Pray for this way in which we can share the love of Christ with others.

- Rev. Mark Simone

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. Beginning December 31, donations can be dropped off at the marked location in the Bell Street Lobby, near the reception desk.

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.



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.



Family and Youth Ministries

This Month in **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

	Theme	Life App
DISCOVERY ISLAND (K-6)	The Book of Ruth	God helps me act in good ways.
KIDS COVE (B-PreK)	Watch This	Jesus can do anything.



Family Ministries presents...



When: January 21, 3:00-5:00 pm

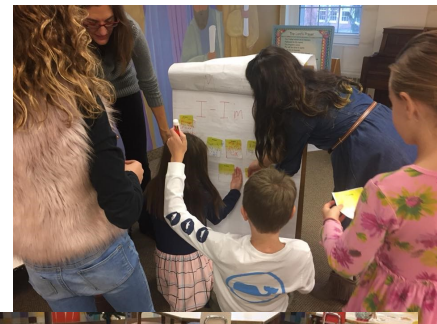
Where: Federated Family Life Center

RSVP fedchurch.org/familyministries

Sick of the cold? Come inside to get some energy out!

The gym will be open for those who want to play on their own, and there will be an opportunity for parachute fun and some organized games!

Open Gym



Sunday School—Discovery Island

JOY bake sale and Christmas shopping





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United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
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OUR STAFF IS HERE TO HELP YOU

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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*
* Jessica Paradise, *Business Administration Assistant*
* Larry McGurer, Daniel Pecchio, * Robert Keleman,
* Jake Magalski, * Wilson Taylor, *Custodians*

Music Staff

Joshua Konow, *Director of Music Ministries*
* Marcia Snively, *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

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