



February 2018

THE SPIRE

THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



Kalamazoo College Singers

Present

Shattering Despair

Sat., February 24, 2018 4pm

Federated Church
Chagrin Falls, Ohio

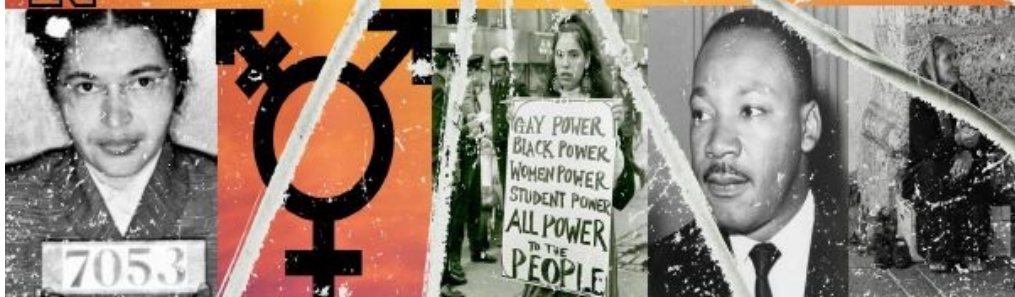
A Multi-Media Concert Experience

Featuring

Spoken Word, Songs, Stories, & Special Guests

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

K DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC



Social Justice Concert

Join us in welcoming back Chris Ludwa, Federated's former Director of Music Ministries, for a social justice concert on February 24.

After a sold-out performance on the liberal arts campus of Kalamazoo College last fall, Artistic Director Chris Ludwa returns to Chagrin Falls with his 24-voice choral ensemble in an effort to bring social justice-themed programming to communities around the country.

The program features music of the great spirituals, in addition to songs made popular by The Beatles, Queen, and more. The sections of the program include ways in which hope and community have been found in ancient cultures, through holocausts, oppression, poverty and despair, and features a call to action for audience members to resolve to get involved in their communities. Chris says, "The goal is to entertain, educate, and inspire an audience. If we do our job well, there will be moments punctuated by tears, laughter, and a sense of deep and shared purpose."

This concert is free and open to the community. Freewill donations will be accepted to offset traveling costs for the singers.

"Soup"er Bowl

Sunday, February 4



JOY kids will be serving yummy soup and treats following each worship service.

Freewill offering or

CANS of SOUP will be collected for local food pantries.

Bring in all you can and place your SOUPER Bowl cans for your favored team!

**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 11, 1:00 pm
Bell Street Sanctuary

The church's Annual Meeting will be held on February 11. A spaghetti lunch will be provided prior to the meeting as a fundraiser by the Colorado Kids.

Your presence is important! We need a quorum of 100 members to approve the 2018 budget and candidates for leadership positions throughout the church.

We will also vote on an amendment to the Church Constitution (details below). The impetus for the motion included: 1) Increase flexibility in the number of members necessary for fully implementing commission work and 2) More members are actively involved in ministries versus commissions; commissions report it is unnecessary to meet a higher quota of leaders to accomplish the work.

Federated Church Council convened a special meeting on January 20, 2018. Maren Koepf moved that we amend Article VIII, Section 4 of the Church Constitution. The second sentence will be changed from "Each commission consists of *nine (9) members*, one councilor who serves on Church Council, and at least one staff representative." to read "Each commission consists of *no fewer than six (6) and no more than nine (9) members*, one councilor who serves on Church Council, and at least one staff representative."

The motion was seconded by Ken Horner, and passed unanimously. This amendment will be presented to the congregation at the February 11 Annual Meeting for a vote.

Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser

Sunday, February 11
12:00 pm—1:00 pm
Bell Street Fellowship Hall

Join us for the Annual Colorado Kids Spaghetti Lunch prior to the Annual Meeting.

Freewill donations accepted and appreciated.



From the Desk of Hamilton

Dear Friends,

In early January, I attended a conference that I attend every year, a gathering of United Church of Christ senior pastors, a conference that this year met in Florida. I value it for several reasons (in addition to the warmth!). I have the opportunity, there, to be theologically stimulated by people accomplished in my field. I am graced, too, by the chance to share with other clergy about what it is to be a parish pastor in the 21st century. Each year, I come back stimulated and refreshed. And I am grateful to Federated for making that possible, and for encouraging it.

One of the presenters at this year's conference was a minister named Michael Piazza, a gifted, passionate and articulate man who was once the pastor of the world's largest predominantly LGBTQ church (and allies), the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, TX.

One of the things Michael pointed out at this year's conference was a somewhat startling statistic about church attendance. In 1970, he said, in a church of 400 members, about 200 of them would be in attendance on any given Sunday. In 2000, in the same size church, attendance would have declined to about 100. In 2016, that same church would have had about 75 in attendance. And by 2020, the likelihood is that that same church will have about 50 in attendance.

I report this as a way of saying that when we see a smaller church attendance at Federated, it's not because of something Federated is doing wrong. What happens here doesn't happen in a vacuum. We are part of larger trends that have yielded a much-changed church landscape. The reduced attendance of today's churches is simply the way the church in America is going. People's lives have become so busy, and their priorities have changed enough, that they get to church less.

And to this I would say two things. The first is that reduced attendance is not necessarily a reflection of people's sense of belonging. Lots of people still consider this their church home. I want to acknowledge that and celebrate that they feel a sense of connection to Federated.

The second thing I would say is that in no way do we give up on seeing this church grow and thrive. Staff and church leaders continue to dream about and seek ways in which we might embody the love and grace of God here such that people continue to commit themselves to this church and find their meaning in the arms, and the mission, of God. We believe that the deeper the journey, the deeper the reward; the stronger the involvement, the stronger the peace; the fuller the commitment to God, the fuller the blessing of that holy way.

This Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14, make your journey a full and spirited one. Let your faith be rekindled. Practice the habits of the faith. Find again the God who will never let you go. God's grace is alive! Together, let's reach out and receive it.

Yours in Christ,

Hamilton

Hamilton

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, February 4

Rev. Susi Kawolics preaches

Communion served

9 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by The Ensemble

11 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by Chancel Choir

Sunday, February 11

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

9 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by The Ensemble & Children's Choir

11 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by Chancel Choir & Children's Choir

Wednesday, February 14

7 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Led by Rev. Susi Kawolics and Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton

Sunday, February 18

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

9 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by The Ensemble

11 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by Chancel Choir

Sunday, February 25

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

Commissioning of Lay Leaders

9 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by The Ensemble & Guest Singers from CF Community Park

11 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by Chancel Choir & Guest Singers from CF Community Park

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Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 7:00 pm—Chapel

Join us for this service led by Reverends Susi Kawolics and Hamilton Throckmorton.

Come, let us journey closer to God through prayer, scripture, reflection, music, and the rituals of Communion and Imposition of ashes as we begin the season of Lent.



Church Council News

Council's time in January is filled by active discussion of the Stewardship Campaign results and the ramifications for our 2018 budget. In addition to our regular meeting, additional meetings are held on Saturday mornings to faithfully review the recommended 2018 budget proposed by the Finance Committee, and finalize a balanced budget to present at the Congregational Annual Meeting on February 11 at 1:00 pm.

Stewardship pledges received for 2018 still fall roughly \$110,000 short of pledges in 2017. On the plus side, we project rental revenue will be approximately \$40,000 higher in 2018. This means we will need to reduce expenses by \$70,000 in order to balance our 2018 budget. Your support of the Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign was tremendous, but this doesn't reduce the need for ongoing stewardship to support our operating budget. We are very grateful for the commitment of all congregants, but if you have not yet provided your 2018 stewardship pledge or feel you can slightly increase your pledge, please let us know as soon as possible so it can be included in the budget to be approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Thank you! Council and staff work hard to be good stewards of God's resources, as provided by you. Fulfilling our ministry and mission without significant reduction in programming is dependent on your faithful support.

Council affirmed the prioritization of projects to be completed using the funds from the capital campaign. Please excuse the dust. You will begin to see considerable work beginning with updates to the organ in February. Bids are being received and further major renovation is being coordinated, which will begin as weather improves.

Throughout 2017, Council encouraged discernment and welcomed dialogue within the congregation regarding the symbols of our Open and Affirming (ONA) welcome. After lengthy discussion, council unanimously approved a motion to "replace the permanency of the rainbow flag with a flag of the Christian Church, 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."

Implementation of this change in our display of ONA will begin in 2018 by flying the United Church of Christ flag, displaying a rainbow-colored banner with the words "God is still speaking" and placing rainbow comma decals on entry doors of 76 Bell and the Family Life Center. Other flags will be flown in addition to the UCC flag to support special celebrations such as the Pan-African flag for Black History Month in February and the Rainbow flag for Pride Month in June. 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.

Robin Harbage
Moderator



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, Doug Harlan

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, Cathy Digel, Kristen LeFeber, (4) 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

February 2018 Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign Projects Update



Last month, we were able to inform you that both the organ and roof/HVAC/insulation projects are humming along nicely. The organ console has been ordered and the Properties Committee will begin to identify qualified bidders and request bids on a selected basis. As we stated last month, your prayers and confidence bolster us forward!

This month, we wanted to let you know that after reviewing year-end payments

and new pledges to the capital campaign our total dollar amount committed has increased to **\$2,907,024.25**. We are so close to reaching our \$3 million *challenge goal*! Great news worth celebrating in this New Year!

We are so appreciative of the folks who have begun making regular capital campaign pledge payments. In an effort to be good stewards of the funds the congregation has entrusted to us, we will

be relying only on the regularly-mailed Quarterly Statements as gentle reminders to submit campaign payments. Each Quarterly Statement includes information about both the annual General Fund Stewardship pledge and the Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign pledge, as appropriate. Thank you all!

Attention Stock Donors

Federated is so thankful to all of the members who have made stock donations recently. However, in some circumstances, we don't know whom to thank!

There are a few stock donations that the church received during the year-end time frame with no donor name attached to them. Is one of them from you? **Canadian National Railway, Coca-Cola and KeyCorp.**

The information the church receives from our investment firm, Fidelity, does not include the church member name – only the name of the corporate stock/mutual fund and the number of shares donated. If you are planning to donate stock to the church to fulfill either your Annual Stewardship or Rejoice & Renew Capital campaign pledge payments, please notify us ahead of time of the company name and the number of shares: for example, 50 shares of Apple Inc. That way, we'll be on the look-out!

Please help us credit and thank you efficiently and appropriately! The contact person for this is: Amy Eugene, Federated's Senior Director of Operations (aeugene@fedchurch.org, 440.247.6490 ext. 145).



Pan-African Flag

Church Council has approved flying the Pan-African flag throughout February for Black History Month.

In light of the broader witness to our welcome and to broaden what our denomination has identified as "*An Open and Affirming Congregation*", it is appropriate to fly a flag representing the struggles of black people and their history of fighting discrimination and their efforts to achieve equality during Black History Month.



Several events will highlight our observance.

Monday, January 22: The Social Justice Advocacy Ministry hosted a movie night, "Believing Black People."

Sunday, February 25: guest singers from the Chagrin Falls Park community will join our choirs to enrich our worship.

Spring, 2018: SJAM will offer the UCC's White Privilege Curriculum for study to anyone in our congregation and our community.

Building Closure

Federated Church and the Family Life Center will be closed on Monday, February 19 in honor of President's Day.

SPIRE Deadline

Please email any articles for inclusion in the March SPIRE no later than Thursday, February 15 to Trisha Holland at communications@fedchurch.org.

Federated Happenings

Primetime Federated Forum

Monday, February 12

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

Program: "History of the Cleveland Police Dept."
Presented by Thomas Matowitz

Thomas is a life-long resident of the Cleveland area. His grandfather served as Cleveland Chief of Police for 20 years. He has authored five history books and has published several magazine articles on the subject.

Join us for fascinating tales of Cleveland law enforcement teams and how they dealt with the many problems and famous crimes of the times.

Primetime Luncheon

Thursday, February 22 | 12:00 pm
Family Life Center

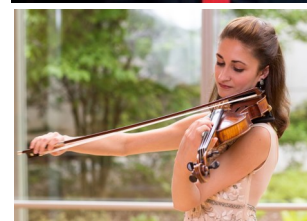
Entertainment by: Pianist Andrew Focks and Violinist Kimia Ghaderi

Menu: Meatloaf, macaroni and cheese, mixed veggies, lemon square.

Cost: \$10 at the door

Reservations due by Friday, February 16.

Call 440.247.6490.



Primetime Trip: Noah's Ark Encounter With Overnight in Covington, KY Saturday & Sunday, May 19-20

While we do not see any extended rain in the forecast, we do know of a fellow named "Noah" who was spared from a flood by loading his family and many of the world's animals into an ark. Although no one has ever discovered the "original Ark," we will be seeing a new version, which was built in a similar fashion.

It was built as described in the Book of Genesis using the original dimensions. You will see how Noah and his family may have lived, as well as an "animatronic Noah" who will answer questions.



Join us for this two-day trip. Price is \$325 per person. Signup and full payment due by Thursday, April 19. Call 440.247.6490. Full details are available in the Primetime newsletter or at fedchurch.org/primetime.

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:

February 4 - last names beginning with S or T

February 11 - last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y or Z

February 18 - last names beginning with A or B

February 25 - last names beginning with C or D

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.



Coffee and Conversation

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.



Federated Happenings

Wondrous Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14
6:00 pm FREE dinner
Bell St. Fellowship Hall



Ash Wednesday Dinner

Wondrous Wednesday will be hosting a supper of yummy homemade soups, breads, and desserts. The Ash Wednesday service will follow in the Chapel.

Because it is also Valentine's Day, we will have some fun decorations and additions to make it a special night. And, it doesn't cost you a dime... or a nickel... or anything. Just you and your Valentine buddy's presence.

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 so we prepare enough food. Or, RSVP online at fedchurch.org/events.

Trinkets and Treasures

Save the Date!

Set-up for our annual Trinkets and Treasures rummage sale will start on **Saturday, April 21** and the sale will run through **Saturday, April 28**.

Encourage family and friends to set aside items to donate as they clean closets and reorganize their homes.

Contact Mimi Bathgate at 440.338.8773 or mbathgate@windstream.net with questions, suggestions, or to volunteer.



Federated Single Adult Fellowship Gathering

Wednesday, February 28 | 6:00—8:00 pm
At the Chagrin Falls Historical Society

Our next Federated Single Adult Fellowship (FSAF) gathering will be on Wednesday, February 28. We will hold our gathering at the Chagrin Falls Historical Society for our potluck and a special opening of the museum for our fascination and enjoyment. John Bourisseau, President of the CFHS, will be our host for the evening.

Our remaining gathering dates for this program year will be:

March 28: Program TBD

April 25: Our group will join with those from Federated who are traveling to Ireland this spring. The program is all about the wonders of Ireland.

May 2: Program TBD

FSAF is open to all single adults as a place of friendship and fellowship. Friends are welcome! If you would like more information on FSAF, please contact Mark Simone at msimone@fedchurch.org or 440.463.9439.

Social Justice Advocacy Ministry Opportunities

SJAM Meeting

Sunday, February 4 | 12:15 pm
Bell Street Lounge

All are welcome—Federated folks and others. For the meeting, if you'd like, feel free to bring a brown bag lunch.

SJAM Movie Night

Monday, February 26 | 7:00—9:30 pm
Family Life Center Youth Room

Topic: Healthcare **Movie: TBD** (watch weekly bulletins)

The Social Justice Advocacy Ministry is committed to educating ourselves and our church in a variety of areas, including racial justice. 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 at our monthly movie nights.

We will hold a discussion after the video and have books and articles for your perusal. Refreshments will be served! SJAM Movie Nights are open to the community. Please invite a friend.

Questions? Contact Susi Kawolics at skawolics@fedchurch.org.

Faith Formation and Spirituality

Susi's Labyrinth Pilgrimage

Dearest friends,

Ideas and inspirations come to us in so many ways. Whether it's a confluence of events that weave together subconsciously, or prompting by the Holy Spirit, or a combination of both, we may never be able to say. But for me, when the seed of a thought begins to grow, and then blooms with excitement, I feel a call to explore the idea of following through with the possibility of bringing it to fruition.

That is how I come to share with you my plans for the Lenten season. Many of you know I have always been a fan of labyrinths. For me, they are a way to pray, to journey into my soul, to connect with God, to bring seeds of peace. It happens that in September I went to a retreat center in Pennsylvania and walked a labyrinth, in November I went to a retreat center in New Mexico and walked a labyrinth, and in December I went to a retreat in Bainbridge—on a labyrinth. It was also during these months that I received word that after six years of serving as your Associate Pastor here at Federated, I have been granted a four week sabbatical.

In reflecting on how I could make these weeks a truly intentional, spiritual time, the seed of an idea came to me. I have always wanted to see more of the United States, and I

have a few friends in Arizona. And somehow spending part of Lent in the desert seems especially fitting. So while making this pilgrimage out to Arizona, I thought perhaps I would stop in each state that I travel through and walk a labyrinth. For me, labyrinth has always represented pilgrimage, so this will be a labyrinth pilgrimage across the US. My desire is to bring a prayer for peace to each state I visit by walking a labyrinth there.

I am planning to leave the week of February 20. Combining the sabbatical with some vacation time, I will return just in time for the Holy days of Easter, coming back on Maundy Thursday.

I invite you to share my journey. Please pray for me, even as I will be praying for you. If you're interested, you can follow me on Facebook (facebook.com/labyrinthpilgrimage/). I will periodically send updates for our Federated page as well.

I pray that your journey through Lent will lead you into deeper relationship with God, and with others. No matter where we are on life's journey, or where we will go, may we hold each other in love and peace.

In Christ's love,
Rev. Susi Kawolics



2018 Lenten Book Series: *Making Sense of the Cross* by Reverend David Lose

The Spiritual Formation Commission is again inviting all of Federated Church to deepen their Lenten journey. Join with others at one of the book groups to discuss and reflect on the book: *Making Sense of the Cross* by Reverend David Lose.

The heart of the cross is an element of mystery that can't be resolved either easily or entirely.

Making Sense of the Cross gives you the opportunity to 'listen in' on a conversation with two people having an open and candid conversation and discussion about the cross. One of the voices knows a little more and assumes the role of teacher or coach, someone

who has had the time and opportunity to study the faith in some depth. The second voice assumes the role of someone who is curious and knows a little bit about the faith but brings a lot of questions.



Some questions that come up in *Making Sense of the Cross*:

So what's with the cross?
What does the cross say about God?
What's the big deal?
Did Jesus have to die?

Beginning the week of February 18, groups will meet for five weeks. We are still in the process of finding small group leaders, so if you are interested in either leading or joining a group, please email Rev. Susi Kawolics (skawolics@fedchurch.org) or call 440.247.6940 ext. 310.

Look for details in upcoming bulletins.

Faith Formation and Spirituality

Watching for God

Two years ago during our summer GROUP work camp, every team member received a bracelet that stated, "Watch for God." We made it the theme for the week and had daily sharing time of occurrences in our day when we believed we were witnesses to God's goodness and presence.

Three days before Christmas I witnessed one such "God in our midst" event.

I was driving on Bell Street, coming up the hill toward the church, and I noticed a man walking with a cane slowly approaching the sign announcing our Christmas Eve services times. As I came closer, he stopped at the sign and then, with some effort, used his cane for support as he knelt on one knee in front of the sign. He then lightly brushed off the snow that

had covered the sign, revealing our message to the community.

The man was distinctive enough for me to be fairly sure he has not visited or been part of the Federated Community. Seemingly, he just did a very nice thing for us because he saw a need that he could resolve – clear the snow from the sign.

As I turned into the parking lot, I watched him lean on his cane for balance, come to standing, and walk on down the sidewalk into town.

I believe that God is working constantly and everywhere. It is our joy to take notice of those times when God lets us catch an appearance.

- Mark Simone



Special Thanks

Thanks to our Generous Poinsettia Supporters

On behalf of GROUP, our Senior High Youth Program, I would like to thank all of you who supported our annual work camp mission by purchasing a poinsettia for our Christmas Eve services. The plants were again a beautiful addition to our worship services. And looking over the names of those being remembered and honored, I found myself filled with joy at the mention of so many wonderful folks I have known over the years.

The ongoing support that GROUP experiences from the Federated family is a marvelous partnership as we seek to be God's agents of change. This year our work camp will be in Michigan on a Native American reserve that has never had a work camp in their midst.

- Mark Simone

Thanks to all who contributed, asked friends and neighbors to help and a special shout out to our own Marty and kids who helped sort at Federated before we loaded two cars full!

- Cathy Watterson



A Successful Youth Lock-In: Honoring Dr. King

Annually our Senior High program, GROUP, honors the work and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr during our annual overnight lock-in. Last year we began inviting other UCC churches in the area and now it is officially a tradition.

On January 14 and 15, we gathered with seven other youth groups at our Family Life Center for a very fun and definitely moving time of discussion, reflection and learning with more than 70 people in attendance. Our speaker was Laurie Wimms, the youth director of the South Euclid UCC, who involved the kids in learning the time line of Dr. King's life and ministry.

It is a blessing to be part of a larger church family and to get together with others in our denomination. Thanks, Federated, for making these events possible for our youth, and also for the larger community.

- Mark Simone



Mission & Service Opportunities

Women's Fellowship Service Project Luncheon

Tuesday, February 13 | 11:45 am
Bell Street Fellowship Hall

We are doing some service projects and we think you could be very helpful. We are having a punch bowl mixer at 11:45 am, and at noon we will enjoy some baked potatoes, with all the trimmings. Please join us.

We will be putting together toiletry kits for St. Paul's outreach program. We collect these items all year round in a basket behind the reception desk. If you can add to these items, please bring them in **by February 13**: soap, shampoo, and conditioner in small hotel/travel size containers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, lip balm, combs, razors and most important, white tube socks.

We will be stuffing and closing cancer pillows that have been made by Tapestry Circle and be making special Cards for Geauga County Department of Aging.

Please consider joining us for a couple of hours of service and fellowship.

For reservations or more information, contact Lynne Kessell at 440.247.5544.

Reservation must be made by February 9. If you know anyone else who may be interested in these projects, please pass on this information. Many hands makes light work!



Federated Day Missions

An update from Mark Simone

It is a bit more complex setting dates that I had expected for our Federated Day Missions. I had hoped to have a schedule ready for the winter/spring. However, Rev. Doug Horner of St. Paul's church has agreed that he can find us some meaningful and helpful jobs for **Saturday, March 17**. The plan will be to **meet at the church at 9:30 am**, travel to St. Paul's Church in a carpool and work until around 3:00 pm. We can throw our money together to buy some lunch locally – like subs or pizza. I am really looking forward to this project and hope many of you will join me.

This is open to any Federated member or friend. Families welcome and we are planning for all ages. We will also have projects in April and May. Please watch the bulletin and our weekly Federated email for details of these projects.

Please contact Mark Simone at msimone@fedchurch.org if you are interested in joining us. It is important to RSVP so that Rev. Doug has enough projects to keep us busy.

Family and Youth Ministries

GROUP Work Camp Info Meeting

Tuesday, February 6 | 7:00—8:00 pm | Bell Street Chapel

Details are coming together slowly, but I would love to have a sign up and information meeting for us with what we have so far. Our dates are July 14—22 and we will be traveling to Michigan to work with a Native American Tribe in St. Ignace, which is the first city across the Straits of Mackinaw. We are still in discussion with the tribal leaders and the local Catholic church where we will likely be staying for the trip. Our day-off trip will be to Mackinaw Island.



Please join us on Tuesday, February 6 to learn more. We will present as much information as we have available. It's going to be great! If you have additional questions before the meeting, you can contact Mark Simone at msimone@fedchurch.org.

Family and Youth Ministries

This Month in **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

	Theme	Life App
DISCOVERY ISLAND (K-6)	Holy Week	We celebrate Jesus
KIDS COVE (B-PreK)	Sweet Shop	Jesus loves everyone.



Communion Classes

Fifth Grade children and older, along with their families, have a wonderful opportunity to participate in our Communion classes led by Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton and Rev. Mark Simone.

Classes will be held on **Thursday, February 22 and Tuesday, February 27 from 7:00–9:00 pm in the Lounge**. Please plan on attending both evenings.

Designed with 5th graders **and** their parents in mind, these classes focus on the meaning and mystery of this sacrament and include lecture, dialogue, small group discussion and fellowship.

The last evening concludes with a beautiful evening chapel Communion service followed by a reception in the Lounge. Children will also receive a Bible of their own as a gift from their Federated church family. The Lord's Supper is at the very core of our faith, making this a most meaningful step in the religious journey of these children.

Children completing the class will be recognized on **Youth Sunday during both services on March 4**.

Also invited to participate in these classes and Communion are 6th–8th graders and their families who have been unable to attend in past years or are new to Federated. We look forward to having you join us for these important classes!

Please contact Kiersti Critchfield to register or with questions at 440.247.6490 ext.218 or kcritchfield@fedchurch.org.



Family Ministries Presents...

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Friday February 9, 5:30-7:30 pm

Bell Street Fellowship Hall

Register at tinyurl.com/PNO209

For all ages, but registration is required

Have a romantic night, and drop off your kids for some pizza, movies, games, and fun!



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

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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*
* 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

Family Life Center
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