



March 2018

THE SPIRE

THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Special Experiences to Deepen your Journey into the Easter Season

Palm/Passion Sunday—March 25 at 9:00 and 11:00 am

The rafters will ring with joyful Hosannas at the beginning of each service as we recreate the excitement of Jesus' ride into Jerusalem with a palm processional featuring the littlest among us. Jubilant songs will give way to somber, plaintive hymns in preparation for the journey into darkness that comes before the dawn of Easter. Our Liturgical Dance group "Leap of Faith" will help bring a scripture story to life.

Tuesday Night Open Rehearsal—March 27 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Ever wonder what goes into the preparation of each Sunday's music? Join us by stopping by the Sanctuary as we put together the Easter services with a combined ensemble. Hear what kind of nuances develop, what deeper meaning undergirds our singing, what historical events influenced the music. If you stop by, please come and go as you wish, but refrain from talking as you take in the spirit of a rehearsal.

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service—March 29 at 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary (Pre-service music at 7:30 pm)

This haunting evening service set in the shadows is a stark reminder of the price of sacrifice in our lives, whether it was Jesus' ultimate gift or the ways in which we interact with those around us by washing feet, feeding others, or dying to that which ultimately doesn't serve humanity. A combined choir and soloists will provide haunting and prayerful music that end the service with the strains of "Were You There..." as we leave in silence and reverence.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross Walk—March 30 at 12:00—2:00 pm *(sponsored by Chagrin Valley Council of Churches)*

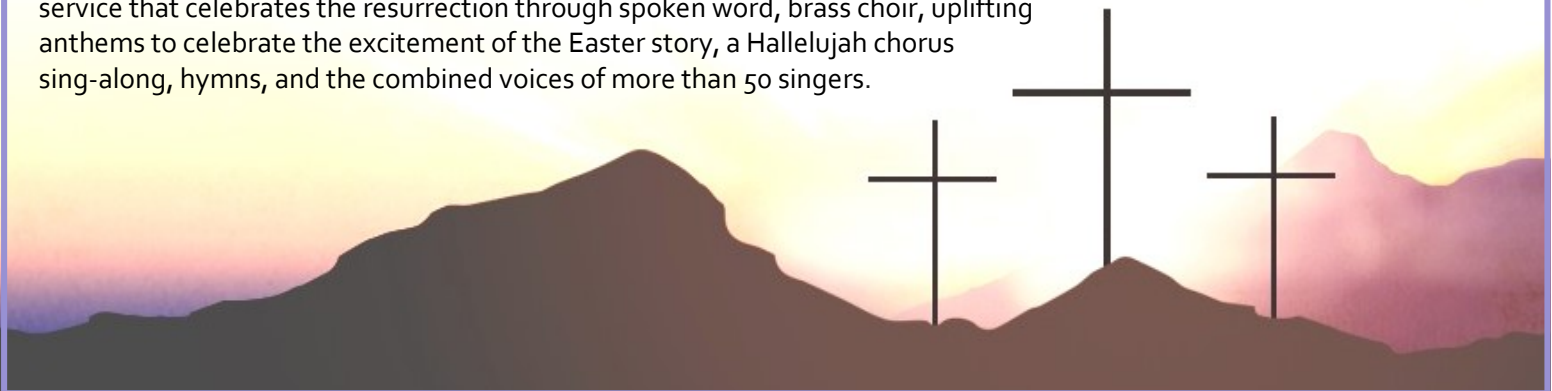
Participants from Christian churches of the Chagrin Valley will journey two miles to commemorate the footsteps of Jesus Christ on his journey along the way of the Cross. Beginning and ending at the Gazebo in downtown Chagrin Falls, there will be 14 stops on which to pray and to reflect during the route. All ages are encouraged to participate. Wear red if you have it. Please meet Susi Kawolics at the Gazebo at noon if you are interested in doing one of the short readings or prayer.

Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast—April 1 at 6:30 am at the Family Life Center

Led by our Senior High Youth Group (GROUP). Picture facing the rising sun in the east, as we sing together *He is Risen*. Picture concluding the worship service with a walk to the Labyrinth for morning prayers of resurrection and hope at the cross (weather permitting). Then picture sitting with your friends in Easter joy for a GROUP Missions Breakfast. Freewill offering gratefully accepted for the breakfast.

Easter Sunday Worship—April 1 at 9:00 and 11:00 am

Bring your whole family and experience the joy that comes when we lean into God's re-creating power in this unique service that celebrates the resurrection through spoken word, brass choir, uplifting anthems to celebrate the excitement of the Easter story, a Hallelujah chorus sing-along, hymns, and the combined voices of more than 50 singers.



Amplifying Our Understanding of Social Justice

Chagrin Falls Park community
guest singers join choirs
2/25/2018

Comma Mommas Ministry

Chautauqua-in-Chagrin
"Immigration" lecture 7/11/17

Oct 2017 letter: acceptance
of Audrey Bashian's
transgender grandchild

Sermons

- 5/28/17 by Pastor Hamilton "God enables us to Unite and Connect"
- 5/14/17 by Pastor Mark "The Living Power of Love"
- 4/30/17 by Pastor Susi "Healing the World that Touches You"

LGBTQ+ Banners &
Pan-African Flag

Children's Ministries

- Emergency Cleanup Bucket work by JOY Jr High kids, Fall 2017
- Senior High Work Camp in Maine, Summer 2017
- Sunday School: Personalized Toiletry Kits for Homeless Stand Down, January 2018

Mission & Service

- Hiram Farm Christmas Eve Offering
- Mission & Involvement Fair
- Homeless Stand Down 1/20/18 coordinated by Cathy Watterson

Primetime event @
EDWINS Leadership &
Restaurant Institute 4/13/17

Nicaragua Trip for JustHope
Nov 2017

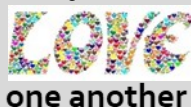
Kalamazoo College Social
Justice Concert 2/24/18

Music Ministry

- "Healing River" sung in 2017 and 2018
- "No Man is an Island" performed 1/14/18
- "Kuortane (We are all One in Mission)" performed by Marcia Snavely 1/21/18

Here's just a few of the ways Federated
amplified our theme of *Understanding of
Social Justice* last year.
How will we amplify this year's theme?:

Behold, how they



Social Justice Advocacy Mission (SJAM)

- Believing Black People 1/22/18
- Sandy Hook Prayer Vigil 12/14/17
- White Privilege Course Spring 2017

Faith Witness by Barry Stees 1/4/2018
& Katie Swanson Harbage 1/30/2017

Pastor Susi 7/30/17 sermon
"Look beyond Differences"
and Heineken Beer Commercial

Telling Our Story

- Chagrin Valley Times article 12/26/17
- Wondrous Wednesdays with HOLA & the Metzenbaum Center

St Paul's Church Ministry

- Parish Nurse Clinic
- Loaves & Fishes
- Soup for the Soul

"We are One, Lord"
performed by the
Ensemble 1/21/18

Linda Robertson's 2 Muslim
guests thankful for our ONA
hospitality Summer 2017

Steeple Bells rung
11/20/17 in memory
of victims of violence

Chagrin Documentary Film Festival
host, 10/8/17 "Break the Chain"

From the Desk of Hamilton

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the season of Lent! Derived from the word "lengthen," Lent is a rich 40-day season of personal and communal reflection, and of preparation for the wonders of Easter. Strikingly, the season began this year on Valentine's Day—the first time that's happened since 1945. And it ends with Easter on, of all days, April Fool's Day. There's rich symbolism in all of it!

One of the highlights of the Lenten season for me will be an opportunity to **share some time together with a local Muslim community of faith**. The Chagrin Valley Islamic Center has recently organized itself, and is in the process of preparing to build a mosque on Liberty Road in Solon. Together, **they and we have planned a dinner for both communities on Sunday evening, March 11, in Fellowship Hall, from 5:00-7:30 pm.**

I have realized for years that I know little about Islam and what it's like to be Muslim. So I have been alert to the possibility of establishing a relationship with a local community of Muslims. As it happens, I officiated at a wedding this past summer, in which one of the bridesmaids was Muslim. And happily, Mary and I were seated at a table right next to family members of this bridesmaid. I was delighted, that evening, to have time to talk with several members of the family. We had rich and substantive and joy-filled conversation with each other. When I approached them soon after about sharing an event together, they were extremely receptive to the idea. After several more conversations, members of that community have enthusiastically joined with a plan to share dinner together on that Sunday evening.

We will be hosting the event in Bell Street's Fellowship Hall that evening. Our Muslim friends will be bringing much of the meal. Muslims need their food to be halal. The word "halal" means essentially that it is prepared in the name of God. Not unlike kosher food that Jews eat, it has been blessed, and God has been thanked for it.

We would like any Federated members and friends to attend. The only requirement is that you make a reservation. Because our Muslim friends will be doing the lion's share of the food preparation, we want to have an accurate sense of how many people will be there. So do **call in to the church (440.247.6490) by Thursday, March 8**. Also, because of Fellowship Hall's size, we will have to limit reservations to **the first 50 who RSVP**.

That evening we will share a meal together. A member of the Islamic Center and I will both talk about the event and our hopes and dreams. We will also provide opportunity for table conversation. Children are welcome, and we very much hope they will come.

In a world in which suspicion and mistrust run rampant, this is a wonderful, God-given opportunity to connect with Muslim sisters and brothers. I hope you can make it.

Yours in Christ,

Hamilton

Hamilton

MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, March 4—Youth Sunday

Led by Rev. Mark Simone and Federated Youth
Communion served

Communion Class recognized

9 am Family Worship

Music by The Ensemble and our Youth

11 am Family Worship

Music by Chancel Choir and our Youth

Sunday, March 11

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering collected

9 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by The Ensemble

11 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by Chancel Choir

Sunday, March 18

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

9 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by The Bell Choir & Children's Choir

11 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by The Bell Choir & Children's Choir

Sunday, March 25—Palm/Passion Sunday

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

Leap of Faith Liturgical Dancers perform

9 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by The Ensemble

11 am Worship & Sunday School

Music by Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 29—Maundy Thursday

8 pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

Music by Combined Choirs

Pre-service music begins at 7:30 pm

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Church Council News

The Council activity for February was focused on preparations for the Annual Meeting and finalizing the church budget for 2018. Hopefully you were able to attend and joined in this celebration of our vibrant congregation and church. If not, I encourage you to obtain a copy of the 2017 Annual Report from the church office and read about all of the wonderful activities within Federated last year. You can also obtain a copy of our 2018 budget and church finances.

Total giving to the church in 2017, exceeded contributions in 2016, even though prior pledges had been down year over year. This strong giving combined with careful stewardship of our expenses resulted in a surplus of 8.9% or \$102,861. This surplus was applied in the 2018 budget to largely non-recurring expenses, since a repeat of this surplus cannot be expected. Of significance, is our ability to reduce the \$150,517 outstanding loan by \$62,861, in addition to regular 2018 budgeted principal payments of \$27,600. The strong giving by congregants, combined with the very successful Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign, places Federated on stable financial ground entering 2018.

Federated continues to be a vibrant, active community of faith. Participation in the many ministries and hosted meetings each week is burgeoning at Federated, beyond Sunday mornings. This past year, we have explored our understanding of social justice through inspirational sermons and music, service projects by the Children and Family Ministries, formation of the Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM), Mission & Service giving and events, and St. Paul's Church Ministry. We live our faith in worship and in deeds.

As we continue our faith journey in 2018, we hope to amplify our declaration of faith through expanded use of our facilities with development of a church-sponsored preschool for 2019, a Summer Sunday School experience with emphasis on outdoor activities and nature, and multi-generation gardens, all to be hosted at the Family Life Center. While the traditional worship services continue to be the heart of our Sunday experience, we also will seek emphasis by clergy, Council, commissions, committees and congregants to innovate our Sunday morning venue to expand our spiritually enriching programs for our congregants and guests. Further, we introduce a 2018 theme, "Behold, how they love one another" where our words and actions to one another, to our community, to the world proclaim the love and tenacity of Jesus Christ.

I want to close this final article for me as Moderator, by thanking all of the staff, leaders and congregants who have supported me and, more importantly, supported the vision, mission and service of the Federated Church. Your enthusiasm and hard work are what make Federated a tremendous witness to Jesus Christ and the power of our faith in our neighborhoods and beyond.

Robin Harbage
2017 Moderator



Current Lay Leaders

Church Council

Ken Horner, Rob Goble, Robin Harbage, Elaine Witmer, Maren Koepf (Moderator), Erinn Grube, Shawn Rockhold, Doug Harlan, Beth Rutkowski, Peggie Jo Shinagawa, Dan Kershner

Commissions

Congregational Care

Ann-Marie Heston, Karen Zoltowicz (Co-chair), Alexandra Ziots, Jane Biggar (Co-chair), Carol Kelly, Judy Maloni, Carole Halberg, Diane Tuuri, Judy Riemenschneider

Mission & Service

Lynne Kessell, Linnea Rostek, Gay Quintin, Leslie Fincun, Linda Zelazny (co-chair), Judy Lineweaver, Don Hoke, Jim Meyer, David Telfer (co-chair)

Spiritual Formation

Barbara Patton, Stacy Cianciolo, Dorothy Quintin, Cassie Moran, Kristin LeFeber, Cathy Digel, Sunny Doxey, Thea Mozingo, Mary Senechal (chair)

Telling Our Story

Harriett Rogers, Diana Weber-Gardner, Bob Munson (co-chair), Katie Swanson-Harbage, Todd Smith (co-chair), Pete Bednar, Laura Taylor, (2) openings

Worship & Music

Sally Ramsey, Gary Dole (chair), Toni Harris, Nancie Skonezny, Curtis Grube, Sibyl McBride, Nancy Isham, Dave Strauch, Laura Reed

Elected Committees

Finance

Becky Gruss (chair), Steve Patton, (1) opening

Human Resources

Jim Young, Chris Bednar, Bill Franz

Legacy

Paul Neidhardt, Roger Pettibone (chair), Peter Franz, Alex Taylor, Ralph Hegsted

Membership

Kate Walsh, Rose Brown, Ann Lentz

Nominating & Leadership

Martine Scheuermann, Dave Butz, Phil Fogarty

Properties

Paul Koepf, Keith Mast, Bill Lentz

Appointed Committee

Stewardship Committee

(3) openings

Western Reserve Assoc. Delegates

Susan Lampson, Jim Ogle, Kate Walsh

Ohio Conference Delegates

Susan Lampson, Kate Walsh

Federated News & Updates

Capital Campaign Projects Update

As you will notice in the 2017 Properties Committee Annual Report (see p.6) submitted by Bob Doxey, John Giles, Paul Koepf, Bill Lentz, Bill Mason and Keith Mast, capital (!) things are starting to happen around here! In the first full week of February, they hosted 13 general contractors, HVAC, and roofing contractors at a pre-bid meeting and site visit. Our parking lot was full of pickup trucks! The meeting was an opportunity to clarify any questions bidders may have with the solicitation documents, scope of work and other details, as well as a chance to tour the ins and outs of our Bell Street facility. The committee was very pleased that 13 of the 14 invited general/sub-contractors attended the meeting, although a second meeting may be scheduled, if the committee deems it necessary.

In addition, you may have seen a new cornerstone displayed on the reception desk. As noted in the Capital Campaign Projects Start Date List (see p.6), the parking lot canopy entrance will be renovated this summer. This will include

the new cornerstone and brick surround. Another item mentioned on the list is technology integration. In February, the church staff (thanks, Melinda!) worked on organizing the current location of phones and our future needs in both facilities. And finally, the Properties Committee met with an expert in the audio visual field to discuss ideas about our other technology integration needs. With this added information, they will be able to make informed decisions about any changes to be implemented.

During the Annual Meeting, Paul, Keith and Bill shared more exciting information: the Properties Committee expects that the dumpsters, as well as a construction trailer, should arrive in our parking lot around mid-May in preparation for tearing off the old roof. Dust will be flying! For this reason, they are recommending that summertime Sunday services be held at the Family Life Center.

And finally, Paul Koepf also mentioned during the Annual Meeting that the

committee will be looking for volunteers for small projects that can be completed in, let's say, a single morning or afternoon. Please be sure to contact Paul, or any member of the committee, if you have some time and talent that you could devote to our renovations. All of the members of the committee are doing such a wonderful job being good stewards of the money raised to renovate and upgrade our much-loved facilities. We are so thankful to be in such good hands!



March 2018 Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign Update

If you couldn't attend Federated's Annual Meeting on February 11, you must have missed Robin Harbage's happy dance! What exciting news he shared! It was confirmed that, since Federated has raised more than \$2.9 million in pledges,



Church Council passed a motion at the January meeting to fund all campaign items included in both the \$2.2 million "Minimum" and \$3.0 million "Challenge" goals with the exception of \$100,000 of funding for deferred major maintenance.



On the next page of this edition of the SPIRE you will see a listing of those projects submitted by our Properties Committee, along with proposed start dates. This is a wonderful starting point and, just like any renovation project, we're sure that items will be moved around as funds arrive or when it becomes obvious that projects are linked and need to be coordinated with one another. A lot of work has gone into this Project List and we are grateful to Paul Koepf, Bill Lentz, Keith Mast, Bob Doxey, and Bill Mason!

Custodian Updates

There have been several changes to our custodial staff. Robert Keleman resigned from his custodian position in February. We wish him all the best in his new endeavors!

Jimmy Morris has re-joined the crew, as has Elise (Dani) Pecchio. Elise's father, Daniel, who is usually at the Family Life Center, will be working occasionally at Bell Street.

We are in the process of interviews and hope to announce a new Lead Custodian in the coming weeks.

Federated News & Updates

Properties Committee 2017 Report

(Omitted from 2017 Annual Report)

The Properties Committee consists of three elected members and a non-voting member from the congregation. Its charter is to support the Senior Director of Operations in matters concerning the operation and maintenance physical plant of the church and to serve in an advisory capacity for the Church Council for matters involving church property.

During 2017 the committee was actively engaged with issues at both Bell Street and the Family Life Center (FLC) including the water system at FLC, parking alternatives during the Intermediate School remodeling, review of Federated's insurance coverage, Sanctuary pew arrangement to provide more active participation for worshippers with mobility issues, support for the Senior Director of Operations at the Bainbridge Zoning Commission for use of the FLC for a YMCA camp, conferred with Intermediate School construction personnel regarding sanitary and storm sewer connections from the school on church property, and worked with Mission and Service Commission for an allocation plan for funds generated by Trinkets N Treasures.

In June, the committee voted to establish a second monthly meeting to better meet the increased work load created by those Capital Campaign projects assigned to the committee. In addition, it added two ad hoc members, John Giles and Bill Mason to the committee. Both bring professional expertise to help manage the two major projects assigned to the committee; replacement of the Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system and replacement of the roof at Bell Street. The committee has worked with a consulting engineering design firm to analyze existing systems, identify appropriate procedure for renewal of these systems and create bidding specifications and technical drawings. The committee has created the bid specifications and drawings for the roof project utilizing committee and ad hoc personnel. Bidding packages are scheduled to be sent out in February. The committee began meeting weekly in January, 2018 to provide better communication and operating support for all upcoming capital projects scheduled for the year.

Submitted by Properties Committee:

Paul Koepf, Bill Lentz, Keith Mast, Bob Doxey, Bill Mason

Capital Campaign Project Start Date List

START	PROJECT
2017-5	Architecture, engineering & interior design
2018-2	Tech integration (Wi-Fi upgrade, new phones, card keys, AV)
2018-5	Roof @ 76 Bell
2018-5	HVAC @ 76 Bell
2018-6	Steeple @ 76 Bell
2018-6	Carpentry & exterior paint @ FLC
2018-7	Canopy entrance renovation @ 76 Bell
2018-7	Dishwasher purchase & installation @ FLC
2018-7	Sanctuary architectural upgrades for chancel area @ 76 Bell
2018-8	Plaster & paint ceiling of Sanctuary @ 76 Bell
2018-8	Bathroom upgrades @ 76 Bell
2018-8	Paint where needed @ 76 Bell
2018-9	Polish Sanctuary brass @ 76 Bell
2018-9	Carpet Sanctuary & church corridors @ 76 Bell
2018-9	Pipe organ replacement @ 76 Bell
2019	New conference room chairs @ 76 Bell
2019	LED lighting throughout both facilities
2019	Driveway heat cables and repave parking lot @ 76 Bell
2019	Develop/fund a church-sponsored nature-based preschool
2019	New carpet @ FLC
2019	Refurbish retaining wall @ 76 Bell
2019	Pick-up truck for both facilities: plowing and properties
2019	Custodial maintenance equipment
2019	Glare blinds for Sanctuary @ 76 Bell
2019	Upgrades to Fellowship Hall @ 76 Bell
2019	New Cross with improved lighting for Sanctuary
2019	New choral risers
	Deferred major maintenance items:
	HVAC (7 small units) @ FLC replaced as they fail
	75-ton HVAC compressor unit @ 76 Bell; replace in five to ten years
	<i>Submitted by Properties Committee</i>

Federated Happenings

Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) Team Updates and Opportunities

Racial Justice — The Racial Justice subcommittee of SJAM will be offering two learning opportunities! As we work to advocate for social justice, we also realize that we have a lot to learn.

White Privilege: Let's Talk - A Resource for Transformational Dialogue

An adult curriculum from the United Church of Christ designed to invite church members to engage in safe, meaningful, substantive, and bold conversations on race. Last spring, we offered the UCC's *White Privilege* curriculum. Six groups participated in the six-session course. We will offer two to three more rounds of *White Privilege* this spring, beginning the week of April 1. Classes will be offered on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm or Fridays at 1:00 pm for an hour and a half. With enough interest, we will add a Sunday 10:15 am option. Those who participated in the past were transformed by the experience. If you haven't attended, we hope you'll plan to join a group.

Throughout March there will be a Racial Justice table in Fellowship Hall. Stop by to learn more, ask questions and sign up! Join us on our journey to examine our own privilege and become allies. If you have questions, contact Kathy Franz at 440.821.7795 or wfranz@roadrunner.com.

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### Sacred Conversations to End Racism

A second experience is being offered off-site in conjunction with South Euclid UCC at their church. It will be on Wednesdays from **April 11—May 16, 6:00 to 7:30 pm**. *Sacred Conversations to End Racism* is a six-week course from UCC designed to guide participants into conversations leading to sustainable actions. Each week includes personal stories, diverse sacred music, beautiful artwork and culturally inclusive biblical narratives. We are excited about this opportunity to engage in conversations with our brothers and sisters in Christ from South Euclid UCC.

**Monthly Movie Nights: 7:00—9:00 pm at the Family Life Center** – Come watch a movie and engage in discussion.

**Monday, February 26**

### "Fix It - Health Care at the Tipping Point"

This informative film includes voices from many perspectives advocating for reform of our health care system which harms not only patients and providers but also our businesses and economy. There will be a time for refreshments and discussion and suggestions for how we can begin to influence our representatives to move toward health care reform. For more information contact Dan Kershner at [drekersh@gmail.com](mailto:drekersh@gmail.com) or 216.536.7733.

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Monday, March 19

"91%"

Every year over 33,000 Americans are tragically killed by guns. "91%" highlights the impact of unregulated gun sales on schools, families, and communities across the country. This documentary addresses the real problems and possible solutions to gun violence in America, and is especially timely in light of the latest school shooting in Florida. Join Rev. Kristine Eggert, of God Before Guns (godbeforeguns.org), who will lead our discussion following the film. For more information contact Judy Majcen at jomajcen@gmail.com.

Monthly SJAM Meetings — Join us at our monthly meetings to learn more and become part of this dynamic ministry team. Our next meeting is **Sunday, March 18 at 12:30 pm in the Lounge**.

For more information about the Social Justice Advocacy Ministry, contact Dan Kershner at drekersh@gmail.com or 216.536.7733.



Federated Happenings

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

(Open to Primetime and the entire Federated family!)

A word about the Ark trip:

I have heard that some people are unsure about the trip due to the religious views of the builder of the Ark, Ken Ham. Although I have no desire to accept any of his teachings, I think the Ark is a spectacular structure, and is well worth the trip. Barry and I went there last year and loved it. There was very little evidence of Ken's religious fanaticism.

The story of the Ark is a part of all Judeo-Christian history and is represented well. It is very interesting to see how it houses all the animals and allows for their feeding and care. You can see how Noah and his family lived and grew food during the time on board. We hope to see you on the trip!

- Kathie Biggin, Primetime Committee trips coordinator

While we do not see any extended rain in the forecast, at least for 40 days and 40 nights, 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 that he built from instructions he had been given. 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. The ark is 510 feet long, 50 feet tall and 85 feet wide. Unbelievably, it can house up to 10,000 people and is the largest wooden timber structure in the world. See how Noah and his family may have lived, as well as an "animatronic Noah" who will answer questions.

Cost: \$325 per person. Call 440.247.6490 to register. Full payment due by April 19. Max 54 passengers.



Basic Itinerary: Saturday, May 19

Coach arrives for boarding at 8:30 am at the Family Life Center.

Group departs at 9:00 am

Lunch stop (on your own) as we travel to the Cincinnati, Ohio area

Visit MainStrasse Village in Covington

Check in for overnight at the Holiday Inn - Covington, Kentucky

Captain's Dinner Cruise aboard the BB Riverboat (board at 6:00 and cruise from 7:00—9:00 pm)

Sunday, May 20

Breakfast at the hotel

Noah's Ark Encounter (9:00 am—12:30 pm)

Lunch at Newport's Hofbrauhaus (1:45—3:00 pm) –

(Please note: meal selections are on the sign-up sheet)

Depart for home

Rest stop en route

Arrive back at Family Life Center about 9:00 pm

To see the complete itinerary and learn more, visit fedchurch.org/primetime.

Primetime Luncheon

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

Entertainment by: Lisa Bell Benedetto, pianist, and Diane Julin Menges, soprano

Menu: 1/2 wrap with grilled chicken, spinach, bacon and cheddar, cup of Italian wedding soup, cookie.

Cost: \$10 at the door

Reservations due by Friday, March 16. Call 440.247.6490.

Primetime Federated Forum

Monday, March 12

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

Program: "Importance of Trees"
Presented by Terry Rounds and Ed Wells of the Chagrin Falls Shade Tree Commission

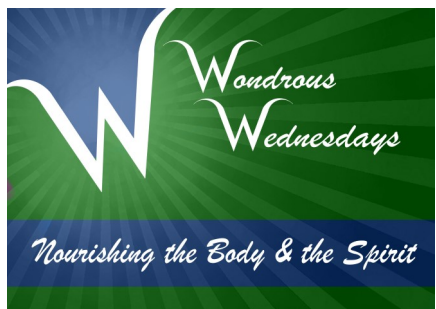
For more info on Primetime events, look in the March Primetime newsletter, or visit fedchurch.org/primetime.

Federated Happenings

Wondrous Wednesday

Wednesday, March 14

6:00 pm FREE Dinner, 7:00 Program
Bell St. Fellowship Hall



"Immigrant Families in Ohio Find a Guardian Angel"

Veronica Dahlberg, a former newspaper reporter, is fighting to give Hispanic immigrants in our communities a voice. Under the name HOLA, a grass roots organization that she founded 13 years ago, she has organized meetings, led protest marches, and attended countless legal proceedings. Her goal? To "keep families whole," as she states it.

MSNBC ranked her as one of America's "outstanding citizen activists." "People were telling them (Hispanic immigrants) to be quiet and hide. I told them just the opposite, 'You need to stand up.' We joined together with many businesses to push for comprehensive immigration reform."

Come and hear her story. Q & A to follow. A free dinner will precede her speech at 6:00 pm. It's what Wondrous Wednesday is all about! RSVPs for dinner are appreciated so that enough food is prepared.

Federated Single Adult Fellowship

Due to a scheduling conflict and the services of Holy Week, it is necessary for us to cancel our March Federated Single Adult Fellowship (FSAF) meeting. I will send out a direct email to our list to update on future meetings. Thanks for understanding.

- Rev. Mark Simone

If you would like more information about FSAF, or want to be added to the email list, contact Mark at msimone@fedchurch.org.

Federated Art Gallery

Check out the new art hanging in our Federated Gallery! You might recognize some of the local artists! The Valley Art Center, just up the street from us, has brought in water color paintings from Darlene Jackson's three classes. Darlene has won awards in many exhibitions, and is a great model and positive force for her students. Look for her work as you enter the back door, heading toward Fellowship Hall.

Her students' work will be hanging on adjacent walls. Some have been painting their whole lives and some are "newbies" from her "Painting for 'Fraidy Cats" class. Hopefully this will encourage us all to participate in the world of art. There's a place for each one of us!

If you are interested in having Federated Church hang your art in the future, please contact Katie Swanson-Harbage at 440.666.3327 or Katiesharbage@gmail.com and share your creative side!



Save a Date and Practice Your Smile Time for a new Federated Picture Directory

It has been four years since our last picture directory was done and Federated is always changing. So it is time for a new one. We are going to once again work with Lifetouch to produce our directory.

Mark your calendars and plan to be part of this invaluable resource for our congregation. Everyone who has their picture taken for the directory gets a free 8x10 and a copy of the directory.

Watch for details in upcoming editions of THE SPIRE and bulletins. We will start taking sign-ups in April for photography appointments in late May and early June.

Questions? Contact Melinda Smith at smithm@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 ext. 124.



Federated Happenings

The Congregational Care Commission of Federated Church presents

Coffee and Conversation



Please join us for a light breakfast and a portrayal of
Jackie Kennedy Onassis
as presented by Carol Starre Kmiecik

Saturday March 3, 10:00 am—12:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

RSVPs appreciated: call 440.247.6490

Celebrating National Women's History Month



Fellowship Treats

The Congregational Care Commission is cheerily scheduling treats during Sunday fellowship hours. Congregation members will take turns bringing in treats based 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:

March 4 - Youth Sunday—Treats provided by Children's Ministries

March 11 - last names beginning with E, F or G

March 18 - last names beginning with H, I, J or K

March 25 - last names beginning with L or M



What Are You Doing on Thursday Mornings?

Twice a month, a handful of very special volunteers gather to fold, seal and label our Primetime newsletter and THE SPIRE before sending them to the post office. They gather in the Lounge at 9 am, usually on the 3rd and 4th Thursdays of the month, and the task takes 1-2 hours depending upon how many volunteers are available. Their efforts make it possible for us to continue sending our newsletter via snail mail to those who enjoy receiving it that way.

We could use a few more volunteers to make this important job go more quickly. If you have some free time on

Thursday mornings, contact Melinda at smithm@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 ext. 124 and she will be forever in your debt.



Trinkets and Treasures

Save the Date!

Set-up and collections for our annual Trinkets and Treasures rummage sale will start on **Saturday, April 21 through Tuesday, April 24.**



The sale will run **Wednesday, April 25 through Saturday, April 28.**

Encourage family and friends to set aside items to donate as they clean closets and reorganize their homes. We are also looking for additional storage spaces that could be used prior to set-up for the sale. Do you have or know of a nice dry barn or little-used storage unit?

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

Federated Happenings

Free Online Training Available – Responding to Violent Intruders

Emergency preparedness in the event of an active shooter is now more important than ever. Staff members have already participated in the ALICE training, and this course is open to the congregation.

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 at aeugene@fedchurch.org.



SPIRE Deadline

Want to see something appear in the April 2018 edition of THE SPIRE? Send your information with "SPIRE" included in the subject line to Trisha Holland at communications@fedchurch.org **no later than Thursday, March 15**. Thank You!



Easter Sunrise Breakfast

Sunday, April 1 | 7:30 am
Family Life Center

Join us on Easter morning after the sunrise worship service at the Family Life Center for a delicious breakfast.



Freewill donations are accepted, and proceeds will benefit GROUP, our Sr. High Youth Group missions and projects. All are welcome!

Worship Support Wanted

Can you extend an extravagant welcome? Will you be a server of communion? Can you run PowerPoint slides? We need special volunteers each week to ensure a smooth worship service.

Visit www.fedchurch.org, and select "Help with Worship" under the "Worship" tab at the top of the page. From there, you can choose in which way you want to contribute to an upcoming worship service. This is an easy way to get involved for a single Sunday, or multiple Sundays.

We are so appreciative of our Sunday morning volunteers!



Mission & Service Opportunities

More than we can imagine! One Great Hour of Sharing

Collected Sunday, March 11

It is easy to be overwhelmed by the enormity of the problems that face many neighbors around the world: hunger, a need for clean water or clean up from a natural disaster. But no need to feel we can't make a difference!

The ecumenical effort of One Great Hour of Sharing allows even the smallest donation to affect big change in our world. Planting seeds of hope through education, partnerships in clean water projects and disaster relief efforts.

Your gifts will become the work of God for a world we imagine has enough food, water, resources, education, justice, laughter and freedom for all.



Mission & Service Opportunities

Federated Day Missions: First Project Saturday, March 17

We are delighted to announce that our first FDM project will be a work day in support of St. Paul's Community Church in Cleveland. Rev. Doug Horner will have lots of projects for us to do to help support the work and ministries of the church. We will meet at Federated Church at 9:00 am on March 17, travel to St. Paul's and begin our projects at 10:00 am. Around noon we pool our money and buy pizza for lunch. Then, back to the projects until 3:00 pm and should be back at the church by 4:00 pm.

If you can only come for a smaller amount of time, we would still love to have you. You may leave or arrive as your schedule dictates. Please RSVP to Mark Simone (msimone@fedchurch.org) to register your participation.

FDM: Looking Ahead

Our second project will be to walk in the Chagrin Valley CROP Walk on **Sunday, April 22**. There will be a gathering in Fellowship Hall from 12:00—2:00 pm before the event. We will walk as a church group, collecting money as a team in support of the Geauga Hunger Task Force. Look for more details in the April Spire and upcoming bulletins.

Future projects that are in the works will be Saturday volunteering at MedWish International in Cleveland and some projects with our many friends at the Community Center at Chagrin Falls Park.

I am delighted to announce that Marty Culbertson is the co-leader for Federated Day Missions (FDM) and she and I are working to assemble a full year of projects for our church family.

Day mission events are for the whole Federated Church family. Any age, any family configuration – all of us working to fulfill Jesus' command that we "love one another."

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Parish Nurse Corner

This winter has been hard on the folks in the Ohio City neighborhood surrounding our sister church, St. Paul's UCC. About 1/3 are homeless and come to St. Paul's to warm up, to eat, to converse with their friends in this unique community, and to visit the nursing clinic for much needed supplies and emotional support. The most common material requests are for underwear, socks (often single use due to lack of laundry facilities or a place to dry their clothes), mittens, hats, baby products, and assorted male and female hygiene supplies. If they are lucky, they have a backpack to hold their stuff which often comprises all the belongings they own.

Other clients are those with minimal housing and no transportation who struggle to pay their rent, utility, and food bills on their limited disability and/or SS payment. These folks know they will always be welcome in the PN clinic to replenish their supplies, get their BP checked, and ask questions about their health. In addition, St. Paul's houses a food pantry, a used clothing outlet, a community telephone, a lunch program, and the Turning Point recovery program. Our Thursday RN gives flu shots, checks blood sugars, and continues to distribute requested supplies. We refer our clients with treatable health issues to Care Alliance, the neighborhood free medical clinic.

The PN clinic is mostly supported by generous donations of either money or supplies as listed on the box in the Bell Street Lobby. Our lunch program is supported by Federated Women's Fellowship, and St. Paul's sends a check every month to partially finance the necessary shopping that I do (Drug Mart for underwear and socks and Dollar Tree for toiletries). To all of our supporters, a big "thank you" for past and future support and an invitation to visit our PN volunteer mission any Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday morning.



Please keep us in mind as we all cope with this difficult winter. We would love to have a few substitute volunteers, who have a background in health, for when I can't be there or a person to cover Friday morning. (If you wish to donate money, be sure to designate "Parish Nurse" on the memo line of your check.)

Thank you again!
Kathy Kolcaba, retired RN
440.655.2098

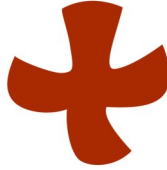
Faith Formation

Ecumenical Taizé Service

Monday, March 5 | 7:30 pm

Holy Angels Church will be holding an ecumenical Taizé service. All are invited to join at 18205 Chillicothe Road.

If you have questions, contact Holy Angels at 440.708.0000.



A Dinner with our Muslim Friends

Sunday, March 11 | 5:00—7:30 pm

Bell St. Fellowship Hall

Please join us for a Sunday evening dinner shared with members of the Chagrin Valley Islamic Center. This is a chance to build community with Muslim neighbors. Members of both Federated and the Islamic Center will speak. We will have an opportunity at the table to share each other's lives and begin to know each other.

Because our Muslim friends will graciously be providing much of the food, reservations are required so we'll know how much food is needed. Please call the church at 440.247.6490 to make your reservations by **Thursday, March 8.**

Everybody, including children, is welcome, but we will have to limit registration to the first 50. Come delight in this Interfaith gathering!
(More information is available on Hamilton's article on p. 3.)



Mark-a-Thon

Tuesday, March 27 | 7:00—9:00 pm

Bell Street Chapel

Come experience the forest instead of the trees at the first annual Mark-a-Thon.

We will read the entire Gospel of Mark aloud, straight through. Gain a new perspective on scripture and the life of Christ. Sign up to read a chapter(s) or just come to listen.

Light refreshments will be available. No RSVP required. Just come if you can, as you are. Questions? Contact: Zach LeFeber at zlefeber@gmail.com or 703.772.2971.



Easter Services at Federated

Sunday, April 1

6:30 am at the Family Life Center

9:00 am and 11:00 am at the Bell Street Sanctuary

Check out the front cover of this edition of the SPIRE for more detailed information about services during the Easter season.

We encourage you to extend an invitation to a friend, relative, or neighbor.



Special Thanks

Dear Friends,

Rick and I have been so touched by the outpouring of kindness and prayer from our new church home. We are truly grateful. I miss my dad every day but cherish years of joyful memories and our faith that girds us.

Sincerely,
Judith and Rick Bryan

Dear Federated Family,

I am so very blessed to belong to a church whose members are so compassionate, loving and supportive. During the past six months I have lost a former husband and friend along with my dear Dad. Your notes, prayers, hugs and phone calls have been my source of comfort, peace and healing during this journey. Words of thanks cannot begin to explain how much I have appreciated this outpouring expression of kindness and concern.

With a grateful heart,
Darlene Nichols

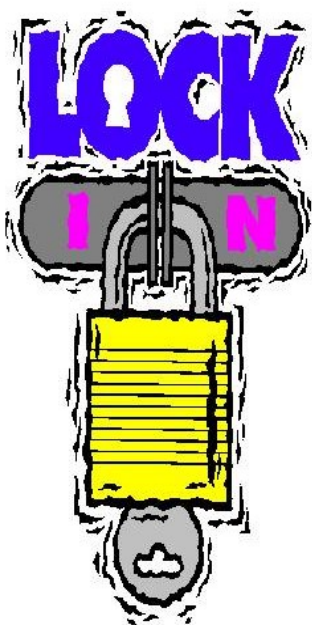
Family and Youth Ministries

Youth Sunday Sunday, March 4

Over the years Youth Sunday has evolved and expanded. The last few years we have partnered with JOY. Now, with the support of our Spiritual Formation Commission, we are asking our younger children to participate and help with the leadership of the services. Special music, youth-led worship, teens sharing their faith witnesses and The Lord's Prayer led by our children will all be elements in worship. Plus, The Ensemble and Chancel Choir will be part of the music for the day.

We hope you will join us on March 4 as our Federated Family receives blessings from the gifts of our children and youth. Children who participated in Communion Classes will be receiving communion with the congregation for the first time.

After the service, join us in Fellowship Hall to celebrate and congratulate these youth with cake and refreshments.



Saturday, March 10 8 pm
until Sunday, March 11 8 am
At Bell Street

RSVP. by Friday, March 9 at 4 pm
Email mculbert@fedchurch.org

Cost is \$40

Friends are welcome!
(Permission slips required)

Kids bring snacks, desserts
or caffeine-free pop
(We will provide the rest)

We will have a special guest
to share a cool story
and then we will
become part of that story!

Then there will be
some awesome fun!



Easter Flower Order Form

All proceeds benefit GROUP,
our Senior High Youth Program,
to help fund the annual work camp trip.

Please help us grace our Sanctuary on Easter morning by purchasing an Easter Flower *In Honor of* or *In Memory of* a loved one or friend. Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office with your payment of **\$16 per plant**. You are welcome to take the plant home with you after either Easter worship service at Bell Street. Orders must be received by Sunday, March 25.

Paid by: _____ Phone: _____

Circle: *In Honor of...* *In Memory of...* Name: _____


of plants: _____

☐ Check # _____ Amount: \$ _____ OR ☐ Cash Amount: \$ _____

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)	Gone Fishin'	I can follow Jesus.



There will be no Discovery Island (K-6th grade) on Sunday, March 4. Children are invited to attend the Youth Sunday service with their parents.

Kids Cove (Birth-Preschool) will still be available in Room 20.



Family Ministries presents....



When: Friday, March 16

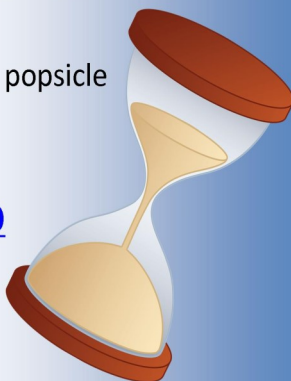
6:00-8:00 pm includes potluck!

Where: Federated Family Life Center

Join us for a night of family fun, inspired by the hit TV show! Play fun, silly games using everyday objects...

- ◆ Can you move a cookie using only your face?
- ◆ Can you balance dice on the end of a popsicle stick?

RSVP at tinyurl.com/minute210
by March 14



Communion Classes

Please include in your prayers the 5th graders and older children who recently completed a series of two classes led by Revs. Throckmorton and Simone on the sacrament of communion. On two wonderful evenings, children along with their parents, gathered to explore the meaning behind this most spiritual of sacraments. We are always amazed by the breadth and depth of the questions that come out of these evenings! And that's just the parents!

Our program concluded with a lovely candlelit communion service in the Chapel followed by refreshments and fellowship. We hope that the participants enjoyed and were enriched by the experience as much as we were.

Please greet these outstanding young people as they take their communion with the congregation for the first time on Youth Sunday, March 4. We are proud and indeed strengthened to have them in our midst!





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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*
* Jessica Paradise, *Business Administration Assistant*
* Larry McGurer, Daniel Pecchio, * Jimmy Morris,
* Elise Pecchio, * 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
16349 Chillicothe Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
440.247.6490



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