



# THE SPIRE

## THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

September 2018



**JOIN US for family fun day!**

Family Life Center parking lot  
11 am—1 pm (immediately following the 10 am service)

Our new program year  
and Sunday School year begin  
on Rally Day, September 9!

It's a time to celebrate!

Worship will be at 10:00 am at  
the Family Life Center.

**Wear bright colors to worship,  
in celebration!**

You simply will not want to miss  
the all-church family event after  
worship in the parking lot.

There will be plenty of food,  
games and special attractions,  
and most of all, time for  
fellowship and fun!

**Please bring a side dish,  
veggie or salad to share!**

Invite a friend or two.  
We're looking forward to  
seeing **YOU** there!

### **Important Update: Family Life Center Worship Extended**

As much as we might not be comfortable with it, God rarely puts us on a straight and narrow path. Our Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign projects are no exception! Some project delays have resulted in us returning to worship at our Bell Street Sanctuary **starting Sunday, November 4.**

This is later than our hoped-for date, but we are responding responsibly to the bumps and curves that have been placed along our path. The good news? The projects will be completed using only available funds raised during the campaign and we are blessed to have a beautiful Family Life Center available to us.

So, here is our schedule for now:

**September 9, 10:00 am | Rally Day Worship and Picnic @ Family Life Center**

**September 16, 10:00 am | Worship continues and Regular Sunday School begins @ Family Life Center**

**\*\*\* September 23, 10:00 am | Worship, Sunday School and Tours @ Bell Street Fellowship Hall & Classrooms\*\*\***

**September 30—October 28, 10:00 am | Worship and Sunday School @ Family Life Center**





# Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign

## What's Upcoming

**Please note: The current project timeline has us returning to the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 4**

There's been a tremendous volume of work, movement, dust, fire alarms, and crane activity happening at Bell Street! It's been exciting, hectic, noisy, and occasionally warm or downright hot! We had a very large crane in the parking lot on August 8 which was needed to move the different HVAC units. The steeple has been repaired and there is a new roof on the building. The carpenters for the new Chancel area subflooring have come and gone. They did a beautiful job accommodating our "Marking the Chancel" tribute opportunity and we are so appreciative.

Soon it will be time for the painting and new carpet installation. Three bids for carpet and painting have been reviewed and the contractors for each have been selected. The plaster/paint work in the Sanctuary is contingent upon the completion of the work in the attic and the placement of the last HVAC unit on the roof. That unit is in storage waiting for the completion of a steel structure that will support the new 15,000 pound HVAC unit and improve the structural integrity of our roof. After that is in place, the internal plaster and paint work of the Sanctuary can begin, working from the top down. Lastly, the new carpet will be installed. All of the areas one would consider part of Sunday morning worship space will receive new plaster, paint and carpet. This includes the Lobby, Fellowship Hall, Choir Room/Restrooms Hallway, Sanctuary Stairwell, Narthex, Sanctuary, Conference Room, Parents/Infant's Room and Balcony.

Our Properties Committee and capital campaign project leaders are being good stewards of the funds that have been received-to-date. They are scheduling each project as pledge payments are received and are coordinating start and completion timelines, as some of the projects are dependent upon one another. The Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign is a three-year endeavor, so there are quite a few projects that will be completed later in 2019 and 2020, like repaving the parking lot, new Conference Room chairs, and audio/visual and restroom upgrades. Using various gifts of support, we are – *together* – making all of these projects possible. That support continues to come in all shapes and sizes: praying, volunteering, leading, financially committing. *Each of them* is just as important as the other and our church is blessed to be the recipient. Thanks be to God!



## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

### Sunday, September 2

Emily Culp preaches  
Communion served  
10 am Family Worship at Family Life Center (FLC)  
*Music by Ken Horner, soloist*

### Sunday, September 9

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches  
10 am Worship & Sunday School at FLC  
*Music by Combined Choirs*  
11 am Rally Day Picnic

### Sunday, September 16

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches  
10 am Worship & Sunday School at FLC  
*Music by Combined Choirs*

### Sunday, September 23

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches  
10 am Worship & Sunday School at Bell St.  
*Music by Children's Choir*

### Sunday, September 30

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches  
10 am Worship & Sunday School at FLC  
*Music by Combined Choirs*

**\*\* Worship services will be held at the Family Life Center: 16349 Chillicothe Rd. EXCEPT on September 23. \*\***

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# Church Council News

*Ephesians 4:15 "Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ"*

The August session of Church Council drew us into a common language for discerning essentials and managing our time and energy wisely. Developing clear channels for decision-making and communicating will strengthen the overall productivity and impact of our church's mission and vision.

Council's Properties Feasibility Task Force completed Phase One: determining potential use of all three of our properties (76 Bell, 102 Bell, and the Family Life Center) to make recommendations to Council. Through interviews, feedback was accumulated into a list of possibilities for optimizing the church's mission. A big "thank you" goes to Robin Harbage (convener), Lisa Buescher, Kristi Horner and Paul Koepf. Council will now form a team of staff and congregants to advance the work of discovering (among the recommendations) the options that are cost effective and that uplift the church's mission and purpose. Incorporated in that work will be an evaluation of viable scenarios for sustaining our three properties. The recommendation is to continue this study under the organizational development consultation of Tim Lybarger.

The Church's financial report revealed the good news that our Legacy Fund has continued to grow at a rate better than last year. Also, with the increased payment of the PNC loan, we are on track to retire the loan in two years! While capital campaign projects proceed at a gallant clip, a few unanticipated maintenance issues are surfacing among our three properties. So Church Council is identifying present sources for funding these critical projects.

Amy Eugene reported we can anticipate a promising hire to fill the Properties & Events Manager position. Members are encouraged to offer a warm Federated welcome to our new staff. In addition, the church shifted to contracting outside services for cleaning at the Family Life Center. That model is working so well that we will utilize the cleaning service three days per week at Bell Street.

The RISE Task Force is expanding its information-gathering phase to the whole congregation. They will present prototypes on Rally Day for your added feedback and express features that inspire. More info is available on page 5.

Indeed, God's hope for Federated grows in mysterious and marvelous ways throughout Federated!

**Next Council Meeting:** September 4, 7:00 pm in the Lounge

## 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, Carole Halberg, Diane Tuuri, Judy Riemenschneider, (1) opening

#### **Mission & Service**

Lynne Kessell, Gay Quintin, Leslie Fincun, Linda Zelazny (co-chair), Judy Lineweaver, Don Hoke, David Telfer (co-chair), Bill Shaul, (1) opening

#### **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), Nancie Skonezny, Curtis Grube, Sibyl McBride, Nancy Isham, Dave Strauch, Laura Reed, (1) opening

### 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, Bob Abley

#### **Properties**

Paul Koepf, Keith Mast, Bill Lentz

### Appointed Committee

#### **Stewardship Committee**

Laura Taylor, Martine Scheuermann, Mike Quintin

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

Susan Lampson, Jim Ogle, Kate Walsh

### **Ohio Conference Delegates**

Susan Lampson, Kate Walsh

# Federated News & Updates

## Help us to Re-Imagine the Sunday Experience

Members of the RISE (Re-Imagining the Sunday Experience) Task Force have been relentless in their search for ways to inspire the kind of Sunday experience that cultivates a rich sense of the presence of God and meets the spiritual needs of our community.

We are in an information-gathering mode. Since our last communication, several prototypes have been created and will be discussed with members of the Worship & Music Commission and others on August 25. The intent of this activity is to use the prototypes as starting points and then flesh out each prototype using feedback and suggestions from members of the various commissions, congregants and friends of Federated.

Once all the feedback has been collected and processed, the modified prototypes will be presented to the congregation on Rally Day (September 9) after the service. Those attending can view the different prototypes and offer their support and additional input for aspects and options they hope we pursue!

## Marketing Communications Coverage

While Trisha Holland, our Marketing & Communications Specialist, is away on maternity leave, we have brought on the temporary help of Bridget Davis Petitti. She will be keeping up with our bulletins, newsletters, website and social media. We are so glad to have her on board!

Bridget is a Chagrin Falls native who grew up singing in various ensembles at the Federated Church. Most recently, Bridget worked a musician and private voice instructor in the greater New York City area before moving back to Cleveland with her husband Sam.



Bridget developed a passion for social media and marketing while promoting her band, Bridget Davis and the Viking Kings, and while working as the Marketing Manager at Mark Murphy's Music in South Orange, NJ. Bridget is excited to share her skillset with the Federated family and Cleveland music community.

## Properties & Custodians Update

We've outsourced cleaning at the Family Life Center which has resulted in a higher level and standard of cleanliness. We've also realized cost savings in the process.

Temporarily we have a cleaning service at Bell St. to help until we hire additional custodians. Since we are under significant construction, full cleaning won't take place until the construction and dusty projects are finished.

We are excited to have Ed Wilmott as our new Properties & Events Manager. Ed comes to us from Plymouth Church where he served as their Facilities Manager. He was responsible for all facility maintenance, contracting with vendors/suppliers, implementing a utility cost saving plan, and managing events. His first day is September 6, so say "hi" when you see him around!

## Fellowship Treats

The Congregational Care Commission invites the entire congregation to bring in treats to share during fellowship hour after worship services at the Family Life Center until we are back at the Bell Street Sanctuary.

Please bring 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 table in the Chapel area. Thank you for helping make our fellowship hours delicious and enjoyable!



## Holiday Building Closure

76 Bell Street and the Family Life Center will both be closed on Monday, September 3 in celebration of Labor Day.



## October SPIRE Deadline

Do you have something you'd like to see appear in the next edition of the SPIRE? Please email your information to Bridget Davis at [communications@fedchurch.org](mailto:communications@fedchurch.org) by **Saturday, September 15** and include "SPIRE" in the subject line. Thank you!

# Federated News & Updates

## New Phone Extensions for Staff

With our new phone system, we have new extensions to go with it.

You can reach the following members of staff by calling **440.247.6490** and entering the extension number.

**Hamilton Throckmorton**—ext. 100

**Mark Simone**—ext. 101

**Susi Kawolics**—ext. 102

**Darlene Nichols**—ext. 103

**Amy Eugene**—ext. 110

**Melinda Smith**—ext. 111

**Ed Wilmott**—ext. 112

**Trisha Holland**—ext. 113

**Business Office**—ext. 114

**Laura Taylor**—ext. 115

**Joshua Konow**—ext. 120

**Kiersti Critchfield**—ext. 130

**Marty Culbertson**—ext. 131

**Dolly Herschel**—ext. 133

## Faith Formation

### Sermon Series for September: The Phoenix Affirmations

The vision for Federated Church this year is "Behold how they love one another." In keeping with this theme, our worship planning team has decided to offer a sermon series on The Phoenix Affirmations – a set of twelve principles based on the greatest commandment: Love God, Love Self and Love Neighbor.

The Phoenix Affirmations were created by a group of pastors, theologians and biblical scholars from many denominations to articulate a vision for what the Christian faith is called to stand for. These twelve principles fall into groups of four under the headings of the Three Great Loves identified by Jesus (Matthew 22:37-40).

A brief summary of these affirmations is as follows: *Christian Love of God* includes walking fully in the path of Jesus without denying the legitimacy of other paths; listening for God's Word, which comes in a variety of ways; celebrating the God whose glory is reflected in all of God's creation; and expressing our love in sincere and artful worship. *Christian Love of Neighbor* includes treating all as creations made in God's very image; standing with the outcast and oppressed; preserving religious freedom; and walking humbly with God. *Christian Love of Self* encompasses the belief that we, and all people, are loved beyond our wildest imaginations, for eternity; that our minds and our hearts are sacred and both serve in the pursuit of truth; that we are called to care for our bodies, taking time to enjoy the benefits of prayer, reflection, worship, and recreation in addition to work; that we are born with a meaning and purpose, a vocation and ministry that serve to strengthen and extend God's realm of love. For a full version of these affirmations, visit:

[progressivechristianity.org/resources/the-phoenix-affirmations-full-version/](http://progressivechristianity.org/resources/the-phoenix-affirmations-full-version/)

We will be looking at these through the lectionary readings on the following Sundays:

**September 9** – Overview of Phoenix Affirmations —

James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

**September 16** – Love of God — James 3:1-12

**September 23** – Love of Self — James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a

**September 30** – Love of Neighbor — James 5:13-20

**October 7** – Recap of Affirmations for World Communion

Sunday — Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Please join us for this series as we delve deeper into how to live in Christian love for God, for ourselves, and for others. May we take these commandments so to heart that the world might say – "Behold, how they love one another."

### Couples Retreat

**Save the Date: February 15—16, 2019**

Hamilton Throckmorton and Mary Senechal will be offering a retreat for couples in February.

It will be an opportunity to grow closer to each other and to see the gifts of God in our marriages and partnerships.

More details to come; mark your calendars now!



# Faith Formation

## Bethel Bible Series

Having trouble getting past Genesis or beyond Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? Peggie Jo Shinagawa, a certified Bethel instructor, will be teaching another Bethel Bible Series starting this Fall.

Bethel Bible Study provides auditory and visual tools to help you establish a sound Biblical knowledge involving emphasis on key Biblical concepts and 40 professionally prepared "teaching" pictures with corresponding lessons.



Bethel requires a discipline and commitment from September—May, with a break for the holidays. Classes are 1.5 hours in length with some homework involved, but not checked. Lessons are recorded in the event you need to miss a class. The first year we'll study the Old Testament, and the second year we'll study the New Testament. The cost is \$50 for digital versions, or \$110 for printed versions, plus a good study Bible, if you don't already have one.



Please call 440.247.6490 by **Monday, September 10** to sign up and specify the day/times that work best for you. The class timing will be tailored to meet the needs of the class majority (max size of 20).

If you have any questions please contact Peggie Jo Shinagawa at 440.543.5974.

## Fall Adult Education Offering: Spiritual Autobiography

One of the exciting opportunities of faith is discerning the presence of God in the stories of our lives. How has God shown up for you? In what ways might you have experienced doubts? Where was God in the wonders and struggles of childhood; in decisions about where to live and what to do for work; in the meeting of a life partner; in your relationship with your children; in the death of a dear friend or relative?

This gathering, led by Hamilton Throckmorton, is an opportunity for you to tell the story of your life, uninterrupted, and to see it with the eyes of faith. You will also have the chance to hear the stories of others, and to respond with support and love.

The class will meet on five successive **Thursday evenings, from October 11—November 8, from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Lounge at Bell Street.** To attend, you will need to register by calling Hamilton (440.247.6490 ext. 100).

Registration will be limited to eight participants. Because of the nature of the class, drop-ins are not possible: each participant will commit to attend every session. If you know you have other commitments on one or more of the evenings, it will be necessary to wait until the class is offered again.

Sign up now! You'll be glad you did.

# Special Thanks

Thank You to Sunday morning volunteers!

We are grateful to the many of you who have shown up on Sunday mornings at the Family Life Center. to help setup and tear down for worship services. You're an amazing bunch who jump in and get things done!

Thank you.

Dear Federated staff and congregation,

Thank you all for your outpouring of care and thoughtfulness in this time of grieving Mom's passing. You have filled us to the brim with your love. Mom's faith and friendships were deep because of the ways you all became the hands, feet and voice of God in her life.

Warm regards,  
Maren Koepf



# Federated Happenings

## Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) Team—Update and Events

The SJAM team continued its activities throughout the summer with many events and opportunities. We invite anyone interested to come to our next meeting: **Sunday, September 16 at the Family Life Center Youth Room at 11:15 am.**

Anyone is welcome to join. SJAM continues to offer opportunities for advocacy, activism and education. If you'd like to be on our email list to receive notices, please contact Rev. Susi Kawolics ([skawolics@fedchurch.org](mailto:skawolics@fedchurch.org)).

### Recap of our Summer activities:

On July 15, about 30 people gathered to welcome Kevin LaMonica, one of the leaders of March for Our Lives Cleveland, who inspired us with his eloquence and gave us hope for the future.

On August 8, about 25 people attended our NOVA training event to learn how to register voters. Many signed up for shifts in various places to do this.

On August 19, Rev. Malcolm Himschoot from the UCC national offices (subject of the movie *Call Me Malcolm*) came to preach and present to us about how we might live more fully into our Open and Affirming statement.

### Coming Up:

We will resume our monthly movie and discussion nights on the third Mondays beginning **September 17**. They are held in the **Family Life Center Youth Room at 7:00 pm**. Barry Stees will lead the discussion on a condensed showing of "White Fragility." [youtube.com/watch?v=45ey4jgoxeU](https://youtube.com/watch?v=45ey4jgoxeU)

We are in the beginning stages of planning opportunities for conversations across divides – to invite people with opposing viewpoints to have respectful and meaningful dialogues. Look for information soon under our "DOVE Initiative: **Dialogues on Opposing Views and Experiences.**"

Our environmental justice task force is looking at steps to take for what is needed to make **Federated a "green church."** This continues the wonderful work of the Green Committee led by Thea Mazingo for many years. The UCC calls this "creation justice" work. For more information see: [ucc.org/creation\\_justice\\_churches](http://ucc.org/creation_justice_churches). We will be sharing information in our monthly SPIRE and weekly bulletins.

### From Our Environmental Justice Task Force: Plastics!

Our SJAM task force and all who attended the April movie night were blown away by *A Plastic Ocean* (available on Netflix). Here are some revelations from the movie:

The big news is that plastic never goes away. There are 8.3 billion tons of plastic in the world.

There are micro-plastics found throughout all the oceans of the world and a floating island of plastics in the Pacific Ocean the size of Texas, BUT, you may not know that sea birds and fish and other ocean animals eat the plastics which fill their stomachs and they die of starvation!

Plastic does not decompose, BUT, you may not know that the pieces of plastic become so broken up they are eaten by fish and plastic can be found in the fish we eat!

We should all bring reusable grocery bags when we shop. And we should not use plastic water bottles for anything. You may not realize the average plastic grocery bag is used for 14 minutes and the plastic water bottle for even less time!

Plastic straws and stirrers make up 7% of plastic found in the environment. You can refuse a straw when you eat out, and not use one at all!

Single-use plastic, like straws, plastic cups, plastic bags, plastic plates, forks, etc. are used only once and thrown away. These are a huge problem.

And why do we care? Why should we want to do these things to help protect the Earth? Because we are stewards of God's creation. We can be a creation-caring, creation-justice people of God. Let's all work together to do this.



# Federated Happenings

## Children's Choir

Children's Choir Director, Pat Haynish, invites **all children** in grades 1-7 to participate in the Federated Children's Choir!

Rehearsals will begin **Monday, August 27 in the Large Music Room from 4:00—4:45 pm**. The choir performs about once a month and will be featured in a Christmas musical on December 9! Choir members often use instruments, ribbons and other props to accompany their Sunday performances!

Please come and join the fun! For more information contact Pat Haynish, phaynish@sbcglobal.net.



## Cleveland's Storyteller, Dan Ruminski

**Wednesday, October 10 | 7:00 pm**  
To benefit the Homeless Stand Down

Prepare to be entertained and learn great lessons through engaging accounts of the leaders who defined Cleveland's history in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Find out how Cleveland's great leaders lived, learned their lessons and listen to behind-the-scenes stories that illuminate a thriving time in local history.

Ruminski makes you feel like you're joining him fireside in a mansion of Millionaire's row. His lively tales of the city and its remarkable people are authentic, entertaining and personable.

Open to the public, so invite your friends. More details to come.



## Next Daniel Plan Sessions

Daniel Plan meetings are open to all - those who have been participating all along plus anyone who wants to learn more about the program! Jump in at any time to learn about living a healthy lifestyle.



For the full up-to-date calendar of sessions, go to [fedchurch.org/calendar](http://fedchurch.org/calendar) or call 440.247.6490.

**Sunday, August 26 | 9:00 am**  
**Family Life Center Hearth Room**  
*Fitness Lesson Two*

**Wednesday, September 13 | 9:00 am**  
**Family Life Center Youth Room**  
*Faith Lesson One*

**Sunday, September 16 | 9:00 am**  
**Family Life Center Hearth Room**  
*Friends Lesson Two*

**Sunday, September 30 | 9:00 am**  
**Family Life Center Hearth Room**  
*Faith Lesson Two*

## Primetime Federated Forum

**Monday, September 10 | \*\*Family Life Center**  
**1:30 pm Refreshments; 2:00 pm Program**

**Presenter: Reverend Susi Kawolics — Labyrinths**

Our own Rev. Susi Kawolics, who recently became a trained labyrinth facilitator, will share with us details of her travels around the country visiting and studying various churches and labyrinths. We will have a large canvas labyrinth laid out and also provide finger labyrinths.



## Primetime Luncheon

**Thursday, September 27 | 12:30 pm (doors open at noon)**  
**Family Life Center**

**Entertainment by:** Ron Papaleo, vocalist & keyboard

Cost: \$10. Reservations due by September 21—  
Call 440.247.6490.

*More information is available in the September Primetime Newsletter.*



# Federated Happenings

## Federated Church to host Stephen Ministry Workshop

Saturday, October 27 | 9:00 am—1:00 pm | Fellowship Hall

Want to learn to care for people in a distinctively Christian way? Stephen Ministers are trained congregation members who provide one-to-one confidential support to those in our congregation and community who are hurting—those experiencing grief or loss, changes and transitions in lifestyle and other challenges. Our church is privileged to host an introductory workshop led by staff from the National Office of Stephen Ministries. Registration begins at 8:00 am and the workshop begins at 9:00 am. Refreshments will be served and resources will be available.

Our Stephen Ministry team is excited about inviting members of other churches to attend this informative workshop because we know how valuable this ministry is in a congregation's life. Our church has been training Stephen Ministers to be caregivers on a one-to-one basis for over 20 years. Members of our congregation are invited to attend for free.

If you might be interested in being a Stephen Minister, attending this workshop is a great way to learn more. You may register by calling the church or contacting Darlene Nichols at [dnichols@fedchurch.org](mailto:dnichols@fedchurch.org) if you have any questions.



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

**It's Here!**

**The Colorado Kids**

**Scramble Golf Outing**

**At Pleasant Hills**

**Sunday, September 23**

**Tee times start at 1:15 pm**

**A great afternoon of golf,  
food and prizes!**

**Cost is \$95 per golfer.**

**Support the kids and this  
amazing faith journey.**

**Contact Marty at [mculbert@fedchurch.org](mailto:mculbert@fedchurch.org)**

## Federated Day Missions – MORE TO COME!

Federated Day Missions are family friendly, intergenerational missions in which we serve together as a church family. Be watching the weekly bulletin for updates. A full schedule will be available soon.

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

## Tributaries: Chair Pilates

Thursdays Starting September 6

10:30—11:30 am at the Family Life Center

Join us for gentle and mindful exercise to strengthen your arms, legs and core muscles, stretch your legs, shoulders and arms, and improve your standing balance and walking ability as you age. This class is modified for seniors of all fitness levels and is taught by Carol Kelly, a physical therapist, who worked at the Cleveland Clinic for over 20 years.

Call Carol to register at 440.655.6257. \$60 for a six-week class, or \$10 per session. Walk-ins welcome.

# Federated Happenings

## Help Wanted with Pastoral Care

*A message from our Pastoral Care Assistant*

As the Pastoral Care Administrator, my job is to coordinate the care of those in our Federated Church family. One of the most important parts of my work is to keep track of those who are hospitalized, facing surgery, homebound, in rehab, grieving the death of a loved one, etc. so we can support them in this difficult time.

In trying to ensure this support and keep track, I often find myself making many calls to hospitals, nursing homes, friends, or family members who might be able to give me the information I need.

I would love to be able to say that every one of our church members is accounted for, but I know that isn't realistic. So... that is why I need your help. If you meet a Federated friend while shopping or taking a walk in Chagrin Falls and that friend shares information that would be important for us to know, please ask them if it's okay to share with me, and if so, *please* bring it to my attention. You can do this by either emailing me at [dnichols@fedchurch.org](mailto:dnichols@fedchurch.org), or calling me at 440.247.6490, ext. 103. Thank you so much for doing anything you can to support our ministries and support to those in need.

—Darlene Nichols, Pastoral Care Administrator

## Mission & Service

### Neighbors in Need Offering

To Be Collected Sunday, October 7

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. 1/3 of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). 2/3 of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systematic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.



### The 2018 Christmas Eve Offering

Each Christmas Eve, the Federated Church collects a special offering to benefit an organization, based locally, nationally, or globally, whose specific goals are to improve the lives of those in need, in turn enriching our world. We welcome proposals for one-time funding support to help with capital projects, program development, enhancement or expansion. The Christmas Eve offering is just the beginning of what we hope will be a year-long partnership of mission engagement with the recipient.

*Please spread the word!*

You will find the application at [fedchurch.org/xmaseve](http://fedchurch.org/xmaseve).

It must be completed and received in the Church Office by **Monday, October 22, at 5:00 pm** to be considered.

If you have questions, please contact Marty Culbertson, Staff Liaison to the Mission & Service Commission, at [mculbert@fedchurch.org](mailto:mculbert@fedchurch.org).



## CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

# Telling Our Story Spotlight

## Behold, See How They Love One Another

**Federated Church Vision:** *With Christ as our center and surrounded by God's abundant love and grace, Federated Church thrives as a dynamic faith community for this generation and the next by:*

- Engaging in extravagant invitation, welcome and inclusion,
- Fostering faith formation,
- Bringing forth transformational ministries, and
- Sharing our story.

Federated's 75 Touchpoints are the avenues that our congregation uses to connect with one another and our community. For the past year, Federated has honored the shift in participation toward community connection and action. This shift has not only involved more members being educated and taking action regarding current issues, but it has also expanded our access to the world at large and allowed the greater community to get to know us better. Various news agencies have mentioned/featured our connections to the community 23 times in the last ten months. That equates to a banner year! There may be more even that we don't know about. We are thankful that The Chagrin Valley Times, The Chagrin Solon Sun, The Geauga Maple Leaf, The Epoch Times, The UCC News, The Plain Dealer, Fox8 News and WKYC News have all taken an interest in the ministries that are important to us. You can see a list of these articles on the next page.

One of the news articles concerned an SJAM involvement in the pilot program *Sacred Conversations to End Racism* (SC2ER). Bill Shaul, Sunny Doxey, Dawn Dole, Darlene Nichols and Carolyn Cunningham completed the eight-session program in conjunction with an equal number of members from a predominantly black church, the South Euclid United Church of Christ. To meet its program goal of deconstructing racism, the sessions explained the cultural basis of the Bible and the evolution of our understanding of race. After studying the weekly assignments, the group of ten met to discuss their reaction to the lesson in relation to their life experiences. According to Bill, the group dynamics lent well to this discerning process. There was a nice cross-section of ages and life experiences. The second phase of SC2ER is currently being written and is meant to train people how to be effective activists in a faith-based community. Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead (James 2:17). And, as Hamilton stated in a sermon earlier this year, we are the ones who act out the work of faith.

While speaking with Bill recently about Federated's participation in SC2ER, it became obvious that the group's involvement fulfilled all four parts of our Church Vision. Bill, Sunny, Dawn, Darlene and Carolyn participated in a transformational ministry program on behalf of Federated that nurtured their faith and encompassed extravagant inclusion. If you have any questions about their experience with this program or the lessons they learned, they'd love to share their story. We are grateful that the UCC News shared their story with the national United Church of Christ community.

### SACRED CONVERSATIONS TO END RACISM



Navigating Diverse Narratives and Relationships  
on a Lifelong Journey of Understanding





# Telling Our Story Spotlight

## Federated in the News Listing

We are thankful that The Chagrin Valley Times, The Chagrin Solon Sun, The Geauga Maple Leaf, The Epoch Times, The UCC News, The Plain Dealer, Fox8 News and WKYC News have all taken an interest in our ministries. Listed below are the articles we've noticed in the past months – and there are probably more that we missed!

Like Rev. Mark Simone mentioned in a recent sermon "Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up." So wonderful to know the work we do in faith brings hope and beauty to our community. God is in the News!

News Agency	Date	Article Title	Fed Group
Chagrin Valley Times	September 7, 2017	Church Displays Local Artist	Federated Art Gallery
Epoch Times	October 3, 2017	Surprise at King's Brass Concert	Music Ministry
Chagrin Solon Sun	October 26, 2017	Memory Loss Program	Wondrous Wednesday
Chagrin Valley Times	October 26, 2017	Church highlights Bainbridge Artist	Federated Art Gallery
Chagrin Valley Times	November 30, 2017	Local Artist to Show Works	Federated Art Gallery
Chagrin Solon Sun	December 7, 2017	Federated Church Hosts "Lessons and Carols" Music	Music Ministry
Chagrin Solon Sun	December 7, 2017	Sing Christmas Carols on a Full Stomach	Wondrous Wednesday
Chagrin Valley Times	December 7, 2017	Chagrin Candlelight Vigil to give Voice to Victims of Gun Violence	SJAM
Fox8 News	December 14, 2017	Vigil held in Remembrance	SJAM
Chagrin Valley Times	December 21, 2017	Remembering Sandy Hook	SJAM
WKYC News	January 8, 2018	Blood Shortage: Red Cross Need	Parish Nurse
Chagrin Solon Sun	January 18, 2018	Social Justice Concert at Federated Church	Music Ministry
Chagrin Valley Times	January 25, 2018	Church Volunteers Gather to Combat Homelessness	SJAM
Chagrin Valley Times	February 15, 2018	Health Care Reform Film Shown	SJAM
Chagrin Valley Times	February 15, 2018	Church Hosts Choral Group	Music Ministry
Chagrin Valley Times	February 22, 2018	Federated Church Kalamazoo College Concert	Music Ministry
Chagrin Solon Sun	March 5, 2018	Immigration Guardian Angel speaks	Wondrous Wednesday
Chagrin Valley Times	March 15, 2018	Hispanic Immigration Discussed	SJAM
Gauga Maple Leaf	April 8, 2018	Trinkets & Treasures Sale	Trinkets & Treasures
Chagrin Valley Times	April 19, 2018	Church Sale Upcoming	Trinkets & Treasures
Chagrin Valley Times	April 19, 2018	Who Will Fill Their Shoes?	SJAM
UCC News	April 26, 2018	Two Cleveland Congregations Partner in Sacred Conversations	SJAM
Chagrin Solon Sun	June 1, 2018	Fundraiser offers Mexican cuisine, Music and Poetry	SJAM
Plain Dealer	June 19, 2018	Chautauqua in Chagrin – Take On Issues Event	SJAM

# Family and Youth Ministries

## 6th Graders to Join JOY (Jesus Oriented Youth)

The JOY of fall is fast approaching and we have exciting news to share!

After much prayerful thought, JOY (Jesus Oriented Youth, our junior high youth group) will be expanding to include all sixth, seventh and eighth grade kids (and their friends) for this new program year beginning in September.

For the first time in my nearly 22 years of my youth ministry here at Federated Church, we will be expanding JOY. With the exception of Chagrin Schools, 6th graders are in the junior high/middle schools in our local districts. So, this year we are widening our circle of JOY and welcoming the incoming 6th grade class.

Starting September 9, Church School for all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth will take place during 10:00 am worship at the Family Life Center (once all children are dismissed from the service.) Once we return to worship at Bell Street in November, we will meet at 11:00 am on the third floor.

It's a time for faith discovery. The kids will be asked to look at all the wonderful Bible stories they have been learning

over the years through their discerning "eyes" and adding to the building blocks of their faith foundation. We meet every Sunday except for Communion Sundays so the students can participate in this sacrament.

In the afternoons on most Sundays, there is JOY! Our regular schedule is 5:00—6:30 pm at the Family Life Center. Lots of fun games, serious discussions and food. Pizza is a favorite! The JOY-year is filled with lots of mission opportunities and great ways to connect our daily lives with our faith.

The JOY advisors and I are really looking forward to your kids being a part of our Sundays!

And let's not forget Colorado. All 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be invited to participate in this journey if they feel ready. But don't worry, even if you don't go your first year, you are welcome all the way through high school.

Peace,

- Marty Culbertson, Director of Youth Faith Formation

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## A New GROUP?

GROUP, our senior high youth ministry, is getting ready for some changes, including a new approach to our weekly gatherings and some wonderful "upgrades." As we get ready for our kick-off, here are some dates to keep in mind.

**September 9** – Rally Day. Worship at 10:00 am with a church family fun picnic following—all at the Family Life Center. GROUP is not meeting separately, but I hope all of you will join the craziness!

**September 16** – GROUP Kick-off Picnic at the Family Life Center. 6:00—8:00 pm. Details coming soon.

**September 23** – Regular meeting (which really only refers to the time and place!) GROUP normally meets from 6:30—8:00 pm at the Family Life Center. Massive games and prizes night. Free pizza!

**September 30** – Regular meeting: 6:30—8:00 pm at Family Life Center. Movie Night. Popcorn and pop with a movie that is a past feature from the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival.

*Communications Note: for now, our only way of communicating with you (both students and parents) is by email. We are diligently searching for a text program that can accommodate our large mailing list, but with little success up to now. Please frequently check your emails. Thank you!*

Blessings in Christ,  
Mark Simone, Pastor of Children's Youth, and Family Faith Formation

# Family and Youth Ministries

## Call to Confirmation – Class of 2019

One of my favorite duties as Youth Minister at Federated is working with the Confirmation Class. It is with real excitement that I invite all freshmen (and others who have not yet been confirmed) to join us for the new program beginning in October. It is a big program, with lots of learning and faith development experiences. The best part – we treat you as the young adults that you are, not as a bunch of kids. There is lively discussion and some pretty great ways to look at life as Christians. And at the center, we discover Jesus in new and relevant ways.

To help potential Confirmation families to better understand the program, Bob Abley, Tony Kotnik and I wish to invite your whole family to a **free** pancake and sausage breakfast at the Family Life Center Youth Room on **Sunday, September 23 from 10:00—11:00 am**. We apologize that the gathering takes place during worship.

At this gathering, we will go over the entire program, hand out a schedule, answer questions and present our Confirmation covenant. Please email Mark at [msimone@fedchurch.org](mailto:msimone@fedchurch.org) to reserve a place for your family.

Blessings in Christ,

Mark Simone, Pastor of Children's, Youth, and Family Faith Formation

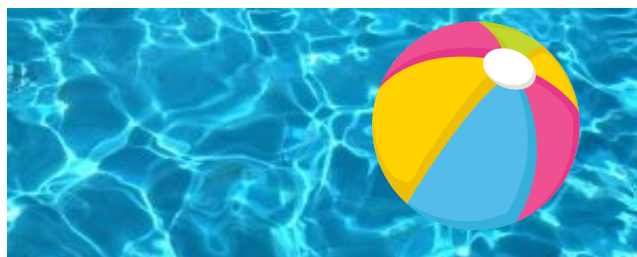
## Family Fellowship Event

Saturday, September 8 | 1:00—4:00 pm  
Home of Cianciolo Family

End of Summer Pool Party and Hang Out!

Come for swimming (hopefully!) and other outdoor games and activities. Snacks will be provided.

Contact Kristin LeFeber, [kristinlefeber@gmail.com](mailto:kristinlefeber@gmail.com), 703.434.9851 for more information and to RSVP.

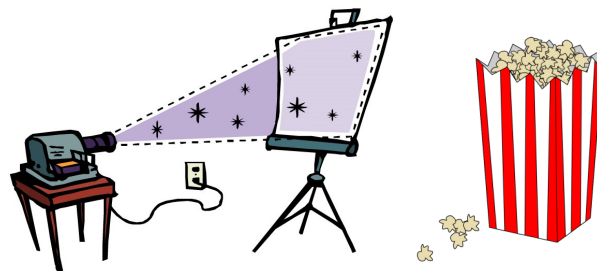


## Fed Family Dinner and a Movie

Saturday, September 29 | 5:00 pm  
Home of the LeFeber Family

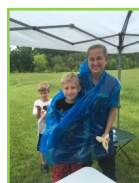
Come share a meal with other Federated families. Stay for a kiddo friendly movie downstairs and a thoughtful, spiritually-natured film for discussion upstairs. Childcare will be arranged if needed.

Contact Kristin LeFeber, [kristinlefeber@gmail.com](mailto:kristinlefeber@gmail.com), 703.434.9851 for more information and to RSVP.



## Campout 2.0

Save the Date! Saturday, October 20 | Family Life Center





**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, *Pastor of Children's, Youth, and Family Faith Formation*  
\* Susi Kawolics, *Pastor, of Worship Planning & Adult 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*  
\* Laura Taylor, *Capital Campaign Assistant*  
Ed Wilmott, *Properties & Events Manager*  
\* Larry McGurer, *Jake Magalski, \* Wilson Taylor, Custodians*

### Music Staff

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

### Children's Ministries Staff

\* Marty Culbertson, *Director of Youth Faith Formation*  
\* Kiersti Critchfield, *Director of Children's Faith Formation*  
\* Alex Bell, *Lianna Davis, Trisha Holland, Childcare Providers*  
\* denotes part-time staff

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Worship Services continue at Family Life Center

( 16349 Chillicothe Road, Chagrin Falls, OH )

# 10:00 am on Sundays through October 28

*With one exception...*

September 23, 10:00 am — 76 Bell St. Fellowship Hall

**\*\*Plus a tour!\*\***

- See front cover for more details -