



December 2018

THE SPIRE

THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

2018 Christmas Eve Offering Recipient: HOLA Ohio

"Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Luke 10:27).

The excitement of the Christmas Season is upon us! Many services and celebrations are being planned here at Federated Church, and for the Mission and Service Commission this means serious conversations and prayerful considerations have taken place regarding our long-standing tradition of the Christmas Eve Offering.

The Mission and Service Commission received many worthy applications for the 2018 offering and after thoughtful discussions the commission chose HOLA Ohio, a community organization based in Painesville. Its mission is to empower the community it serves through education, outreach, leadership development and more. Formed in 1999 as an informal group of Latinas wanting to help agricultural workers and their families, HOLA has become a pillar of the Ohio Latino and immigrant community and works with families across the state as a go-to resource.

This nonprofit offers an array of bilingual and culturally-competent programming to attend to the needs of the Latino population. HOLA has been providing many of these services to Latinos in northeast Ohio without a reliable location. HOLA currently operates out of a small, store-front church in Painesville on an as-needed basis. But this space is not always available and not large enough. Programs have been shuffled around to local libraries, other churches and public parks. The time has come to find a fixed location for HOLA to operate.

The efforts to create a home for the HOLA Ohio Community Center have begun as they work to generate the capital needed to complete this project. HOLA has a well thought out plan to raise these funds. Presently over 42% of these funds are committed.

Our 2018 Christmas Eve Offering will be dedicated to the Educational Area, an adaptable space with moveable walls which includes a classroom and a small meeting room. This area will be used for adult and youth programming, including English as a second language classes, citizenship tutoring, workforce and entrepreneurial trainings and voter education programs.

The HOLA Ohio Hispanic Community Center will anchor economic development and entrepreneurial services for Latinos in the area. HOLA will assist and empower thousands of immigrants as they stabilize their economic and civic standing and boost the overall economic vitality of the region. Ultimately, the target population will become a reliable pool of labor for agriculture, landscaping construction and other businesses which currently confront a lack of skilled and unskilled workers.

The Mission and Service Commission is committed to the developing partnership with HOLA. It began with hosting and supporting its annual raiser at the Family Life Center last June. Now we look forward to engaging with financial and volunteer support. The commission thanks you for your prayerful consideration of the 2018 Christmas Eve Offering and invites you to join in giving generously.





Search for the Christ Child an interactive Journey to Bethlehem

Sunday, December 2
Open House 5:00—8:00 PM

Family Life Center
16349 Chillicothe Rd



We invite you to experience the Christmas story like never before! Visitors will begin their 20-minute journey at the Camelback Inn where a census will be taken. Guests will be served cookies and hot chocolate in the gym. After a brief wait, a shepherd guide will lead groups through stations interacting with characters, such as angels, wise men and King Herod, who act out the story of the birth of Christ. They ultimately arrive at the stable where the live nativity awaits. Behold! This tiny baby is the hope of the world.

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



Christmas Poinsettias on Sale

Our senior high youth program, GROUP, is once again raising funds for their work camp trip by selling holiday poinsettias. These holiday flowers will decorate our Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. The poinsettias may be purchased in your name, *In Honor Of*, or *In Memory Of* a loved one or friend. The cost is \$20 per plant. You can take home your poinsettia(s) after any Christmas Eve service from the displays at either entrance.

Fill out this form (*please print*) and drop it in the offering plate or return it to the Church Office with \$20 for each plant by **Monday, December 10**. If writing a check, note "Poinsettia" in the memo line. Thank you!



Name: _____

Phone: _____

No. of Plants: _____

☐ In Memory of:

☐ In Honor of: _____

From Hamilton's Desk

Dear Friends,

What an exciting time here at Federated! Many of you will receive this issue of *The Spire* right before our return to the Bell Street Sanctuary for worship. In that case, let this be an invitation to you to come with bells and whistles for our special celebratory service on Sunday morning, November 18, at 10:00 am. You're in for a treat. The choir will be singing, the bells will be playing, our liturgical dancers will be dancing, and a trumpet quintet will grace us with festive music as we revel in the marvelous work that has restored and enhanced the Sanctuary, the Narthex, and Fellowship Hall. New paint, new carpeting, a new organ, and a redesigned chancel area have refreshed and improved the space in a palpable way. Please take a moment to thank our Properties Committee, under the leadership of Paul Koepf, and our administrative and custodial staff, under the direction of Amy Eugene, for all they have done to spruce up the space and make it more flexible. And a huge thank you from me to all of you who have given of your time and resources to support this work and commit to a new and vibrant future.

Nor is that the only grace on the horizon. Far from it, in fact. I remind you about the upcoming Search for the Christ Child, our exciting Family Ministries event, on December 2, from 5:00-8:00 pm at the Family Life Center. There are still ways you can participate in putting that event on, from baking cookies, to leading guests on the "search," to acting in roles that put you in the middle of the story of Jesus' birth. What a great way to begin the Advent and Christmas season!

And there's more! As many of you know, we have redesigned our Sunday morning worship schedule. Continuing the pattern we started in the summer, we will offer a service at 10:00 am. that is much like what you have been experiencing. Guided by a familiar liturgy, it will feature music led by our newly-combined Chancel Choir and Ensemble, along with the Children's Choir and the Federated Bell Choir. Scripture and preaching, along with sterling music, will fill us with the grace and hope God offers us. As we always have, we will lift up those age-old questions of faith: what does God give; and what does God ask?

In addition to that 10:00 service, we will now offer a second Sunday morning service at 11:30, a service we are calling "Rise to Shine." Designed to be 45-50 minutes, it will focus on an extended musical beginning and the same sermon delivered at 10:00. It will feature music led by a band, and guided by our Director of Music Ministries, Joshua Konow. Late enough that you don't have to get up early, early enough that you can get to lunch on time, our intention for the service is that it be "spirited, relational, relevant." This may be the right service for some of you. And we very much hope it will be the right service for others who have drifted away from Federated, or who do not presently have a church home.

Let's celebrate together the richness of God's grace in this marvelous time in the life of Federated Church. God is good!

Yours in Christ,
Hamilton

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, November 18

Commitment & Ingathering Sunday
Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
9:45 am Prelude by Bookshar Trumpet Ensemble
10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School
Music by Federated Choir, Brass Ensemble, Bell Choir, and Leap of Faith Liturgical Dancers

Sunday, November 25

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
10 am Traditional Worship (for Families)
Music by Federated Choir

Sunday, December 2—First Sunday in Advent

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School
Music by Federated Choir
11:30 am Rise to Shine Worship

Sunday, December 9—Second Sunday in Advent

Christmas Eve Offering Recipient Announced
Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School
Music by Federated Choir
11:30 am Rise to Shine Worship feat. The Children's Choir Christmas Musical

Sunday, December 16—Third Sunday in Advent

Service of Lessons & Carols
Reflection by Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton
10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School
Music by Federated Choir
11:30 am Rise to Shine Worship

Wednesday, December 19

Led by Rev. Susi Kawolics
10 am Service of Solace

Sunday, December 23—Fourth Sunday in Advent

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
10 am Traditional Worship (for Families)
Music by Federated Choir
11:30 am Rise to Shine Worship

Monday, December 24—Christmas Eve

4 pm, 6 pm, 8:30 pm, 11 pm
****See p. 9 for Christmas Eve Service Details****

Sunday, December 30

Rev. Susi Kawolics preaches
10 am Traditional Worship Service (for Families)

Sunday, January 6

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
10 am Traditional Worship Service (for Families)
Music by Bell Choir

Church Council News

Advent cues the drumroll of anticipation: Something significant is emerging. Excitement electrifies the air: it's Advent at Federated!

The dawn of a brand-new worship offering, *RISE to Shine*, launches the first Sunday of Advent (December 2) with engaging music and message. Our church's intent is to create a unique offering that attracts worshipers who have not yet discovered the impact of God's love through Federated. *Spirited. Relational. Relevant.* Throughout this program year, we will continue to re-imagine and tweak dynamic iterations of this worship experience, gathering input from the participants and community. Bring your voice, your heart and your friends. Something significant is on the rise at Federated!

Our new church-wide priority to amplify our value of children, youth and families is working to align goals, job titles, budget, initiatives and resources toward a common focus. Our Federated Family Fellowship celebrated "Feds-giving," sharing a family-style dinner and building a Thanksgiving tree. This emerging fellowship of young families gathers monthly in faith-filled fun. Search for the Christ Child invites the wider community into a face-to-face encounter with the Christmas story. Watch for more initiatives integrating opportunities across programs and commission projects. Something significant is developing at Federated!

As we celebrate Darlene Nichols's retirement with a fond farewell and best wishes, Council stands firm in our commitment to maintain the nurturing pastoral care for all ages Darlene so expertly and eloquently modeled. The position is posted on page 6 of this SPIRE.

Phase one of our Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign projects accomplished about two-thirds of our anticipated projects. There's more to come! Church Council continues to review the campaign budget and pledge receipts to schedule identified priorities for phase two. Because of the timely contributions of committed and generous donors, Federated can soon lift the burden of major looming repairs (paint, plaster, carpet, HVAC, and roofs) off the shoulders of our operating budget and re-invest in God's rich ministries through Federated. In addition, our Sanctuary enhancements and new organ/synthesizer expand capacities for meaningful worship and music experiences. Something significant is arriving at Federated!

Together, we enter into the Advent season as one body in Christ, encircled in God's hope, peace, joy, and love. The dawning of a new day is on our horizon, illuminated through God's Spirit at Federated.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.." Jeremiah 29:11

- Maren Koepf
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, 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

Stacy Cianciolo, Dorothy Quintin, Cassie Moran, Kristin LeFeber, Cathy Digel, Sunny Doxey, Thea Mzingo, Mary Senechal (chair), Pete Bednar

Telling Our Story

Harriett Rogers, Diana Weber-Gardner, Bob Munson (co-chair), Katie Swanson-Harbage, Todd Smith (co-chair), Laura Taylor, (3) openings

Worship & Music

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

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

Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign Update

We've been so blessed that two-thirds of the Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign pledge payments have been received so far and, as you will have seen (and heard!), those funds have been thoughtfully used. In other words, almost \$2 million worth of capital projects have been completed within seven months. Thank YOU!

There are more projects yet to be accomplished whose timing is dependent on the cash flow from the remaining pledge payments. We'd love to begin scheduling the remaining projects this spring of 2019. There is no pressure to accelerate your pledge payments – just an opportunity. Thankful for God's blessings!



July 25—Chancel area under construction



May 20—unveiling of the Chancel area rendering



November 14—completed Chancel area

Stock Donations and Year-End Giving

Federated is so thankful to members who have made stock donations recently. However, in one circumstance, we don't know yet who to thank! There has been a Target stock donation, which the church received with no donor name attached. Is this from you?

The information the church receives from our investment firm, Fidelity, does not include the church member name, only the name of the corporate stock/mutual fund and the number of shares donated. Please notify the church ahead of time the company name and the number of shares that are being donated: for example, 50 shares of Apple Inc. That way, we'll be on the look-out!

When you send in donations (checks or stock donations) as year-end giving, please let us know if this is:

- a stewardship (general fund) pledge payment for 2018,
- or a prepayment of a 2019 stewardship (general fund) pledge,
- or a Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign pledge payment,
- or a percentage of all three.

Thanks for helping us credit and thank you efficiently and appropriately! Feel free to email this information to Janis Stefanchik, Bookkeeper, at business @fedchurch.org or you can call her at 440.247.6490 ext. 114.



Federated News & Updates

In Search of a Pastoral Care Administrator

We are looking for a Pastoral Care Administrator: someone who combines loving, heartfelt care with office acumen to monitor the outreach to and needs of church members and friends.

This warm-hearted individual facilitates weekly Pastoral Care Team meetings and follows up with individuals who might benefit from pastoral care support. This detailed individual maintains the databases that track the pastoral care outreach. This person holds the highest level of ethics and care for those in need and for church policies and procedures.

If interested, please contact Amy Eugene at aeugene@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 ext. 110.

Parking Reminders

With the return to Bell Street, remember that parking is limited. We encourage arriving early and carpooling. Due to ongoing construction at the Intermediate School, Sunday morning parking can be found at:

Federated Lot – Our lot has 47 spaces and 10-15 will be marked for those who have mobility difficulties. Please respect their need for this close-in parking.

Vincent Street – Along the river side of the street only.

Chagrin Shopping Plaza – In 2-hour spaces only. Be careful not to park in *Permit Holders Only* spaces.

139 Bell Street (aka The Shibley Building) – White office building on Bell Street across from the Marathon station. The walk to Federated is short and level.



Federated News & Updates

Responding to Violent Intruders: Free Online Training

Federated staff and some congregation members have been trained to actively respond to violent intruders using ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Confront, Evacuate) techniques.

We encourage congregation members to take the online ALICE training, please contact: Amy Eugene
aeugene@fedchurch.org or
440.247.6490 ext. 110.

ALICE

Holiday Building Closure

The church office and both the Bell St. building and the Family Life Center (FLC) will be closed December 25, 2018—January 1, 2019. (With the exception of the Christmas Day Dinner at the FLC and Sunday morning worship at Bell St.)

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

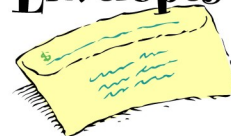
2019 Contribution Envelopes

2019 Contribution Envelopes will be available for pickup in December. The boxes contain an envelope for each week of the year and are useful in many ways: as a reminder to give regularly, as a means for the church to record cash contributions, or for privacy.

If you used contribution envelopes last year or indicated on your pledge card that you want a box for 2019, a labeled box will be waiting for you in Fellowship Hall starting on Sunday, December 2.

New requests and new cancellations should be directed to Melinda in the Church Office at
smithm@fedchurch.org or
440.247.6490 ext. 111.

Offering Envelopes



January SPIRE Deadline

Do you have something you'd like to see appear in the next edition of the SPIRE? Please email your information to Trisha Holland at communications@fedchurch.org by **Tuesday, December 11** and include "SPIRE" in the subject line. Thank you!

Honor A Loved One & Help Decorate for Christmas

Ten beautiful wreaths adorn the doors of our buildings throughout the Advent season. You may honor or memorialize loved ones by contributing \$45 to help purchase one of these wreaths.

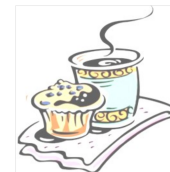


Please call the church at 440.247.6490, or contact Trisha Holland at communications@fedchurch.org if you would like to help decorate the church for the holidays.

Fellowship Treats

The Congregational Care Commission is cheerily scheduling treats during Sunday fellowship hours. Members of the congregation will be taking turns bringing in treats based on the beginning letter of their last names.

Please bring treats that are cut-up and ready to serve. Healthy food choices are especially welcome! *Please no nuts.* Thank you for helping make our fellowship hours delicious and enjoyable!



December 2 – last names beginning with , O, P, Q or R

December 9 – Bake sale benefitting JOY and their giving tree shopping

December 16 – last names beginning with S or T

December 23 – last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y or Z

December 30 – all congregation members

Faith Formation

New Worship Services Beginning December 2

Happy New Year! You may think it's a bit early to be wishing you that, but in terms of church seasons, Advent marks the beginning of the year. We will begin this new liturgical year on December 2, with the initiation of a second service on Sunday morning, our **"Rise to Shine" service, at 11:30 am** throughout Advent (December 2, 9, 16 and 23). **Our traditional worship service will remain at 10:00 am**, as it has been through summer and fall.

Hamilton, Joshua and I are so grateful to the RISE Committee who, under the guidance of Tim Lybarger, embarked on a process to **"Re-Imagine the Sunday Experience."** This team has put in countless hours engaging various groups through empathy mapping, striving to elicit peoples' hopes and dreams for a meaningful Sunday morning. Five new prototypes of worship services were created, shared with the congregation, and analyzed in terms of responses received. Thank you to all who gave input.

We are now excited to bring these new ideas to fruition. Come experience a new type of service full of invigorating music, a service that connects our passion for Christ to the relevant topics of today. Our **"Rise to Shine - Spirited, Relational, and Relevant"** service will feature a new musical group inviting you to sing with us as we arrange recent and familiar tunes to begin service with multiple musical selections. People of all ages and backgrounds will participate together as we seek to lift our Sunday spirits and create new pathways for connection to the Light of God. Music will seamlessly flow into the sermon and allow for a condensed service time of 45-50 minutes. *Spirited, Relational, and Relevant*

As we breathe life into the favored and viable features of the prototypes created, we will also try out two more: **The Fifth Sunday Prototype on December 30, and the One Communion Sunday Prototype on January 6, 2019. On both of these Sundays, we will have only one service at 10:00 am.**

The **December 30** service, a fifth Sunday, we will highlight one of the pillars of church – the pillar of service. The worship will include a service project supporting the Homeless Stand Down. See page 10 for a more detailed description.

On **January 6**, we will embrace the concept that family has two meanings – the individual congregants' family and the Federated family. **There will again be one service at 10:00 am**, which will be a family-focused gathering, and a chance for our whole church family to worship and break bread together.

We are looking forward to bringing into reality the inspirations from the RISE process, and invite you to join us in experiencing worship in new ways.

- Rev. Susi Kawolics

Pastor of Worship Planning & Adult Faith Formation



Faith Formation

Service of Solace

Wednesday, December 19 | 7:00 pm Bell St. Chapel

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

The indoor Labyrinth will be set up in Fellowship Hall that day starting at noon for meditative walking, prayer and reflection. After the service, there will be a time for fellowship and support with light refreshments.

Any questions? Contact Susi Kawolics at skawolics@fedchurch.org or at 440.247.6490 ext. 102 for more information or for pastoral care.



Christmas Eve Services at Federated

Sunday, December 24 at 76 Bell Street

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

"Follow the Star" Christmas Pageant

Led by Rev. Mark Simone

Children's Choir sings

6:00 pm—Candle-lighting Service

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

Pre-service music by soloists 30 minute prior to service

Music by Federated Choir

8:30 pm—Candle-lighting Service

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

Pre-service music by soloists 30 minute prior to service

Music by Federated Choir

11:00 pm—Candle-lighting Service

(in the Chapel)

Rev. Mark Simone preaches

Pre-service music by soloists 20 minute prior to service



Christmas Eve Shuttle Bus

To alleviate the parking squeeze on Christmas Eve, we arranged for free shuttle service that will operate between the stadium and baseball field parking lots at Chagrin Falls High School and the church.



The service will operate starting at 3:00 to accommodate congregants at the 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm services. You can drop passengers at the Bell Street doors to the church before proceeding to the school lot or the whole crew can ride together.

Mission & Service

Christmas Giving Tree for St. Paul's: Gifts Collected until December 9

Every year, Federated collects new toys and gift items for the St. Paul's Christmas Sale, where members of the community on the near west side can shop for their children for Christmas at greatly reduced prices. We need items for ages 3 to 18 years. Please consider donating new, unwrapped toys such as books, dolls, puzzles, games, basketballs, footballs, cars and trucks, etc. Mittens, gloves, hats and scarves are welcome, also.

Items will be collected under the Christmas Tree in the Bell St. Lobby **November 25—December 9** and they will be delivered to St. Paul's on Monday, December 10. Thank you for making the holidays a time of great joy for these children and their families!



Federated Day Missions Project: Hygiene Kits for Homeless Stand Down

During Worship on Sunday, December 30 | 10:00 am

We will be doing a congregation-wide project. We will all bring in hygiene kit items for the Homeless Stand Down. This includes **full-sized shampoo and conditioner, bars of soap, wash cloths, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shaving cream and razors.**

During worship on December 30, we will bless the donations and bag them up for our neighbors in need! Please join us for this fun family worship experience!



Homeless Stand Down

Dear Federated family,

Last year you so generously donated items for the Homeless Stand Down. So many people of all ages were able to benefit from the coats, boots, socks and hats you brought to share.

On the day of the Homeless Stand Down, the homeless veterans and other homeless men and women who benefitted from your generosity also enjoyed the free services of haircuts, health screening, and even photos from the hundreds of volunteers. It's such an important way to reach people in our own community who really need a hand.

Whether it's an individual adult, a teen who has aged out of the foster care program, or a family who has lost a job which led to losing their home, these children of God need help. We hope you'll look in your closets and your heart to help us reach them.

The Stand Down will be Saturday, January 12. We will collect items in the Bell Street Lobby through Sunday, January 6. Please join our efforts to donate new or clean,

gently worn large jackets, coats, hoodies and waterproof gloves.

Also being collected are toiletries: full-sized shampoo and conditioner, bars of soap, wash cloths, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shaving cream and razors. We will be building hygiene kits on Sunday, December 30 as part of a Family Missions event (see article above).

Thanks for your consideration, in advance. If you have questions, please call Cathy Watterson 216.978.1037 or email Marty Culbertson at mculbert@fedchurch.org.

If you would rather make a financial donation, please make checks payable to Federated Church marked "Homeless Stand Down" in the memo line.

Blessings,
Family Mission Events
The Mission and Service Commission
and Cathy and Marty

"It Means Love"

Federated Happenings

Wondrous Wednesday

Wednesday, December 12

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

Bell St. Fellowship Hall

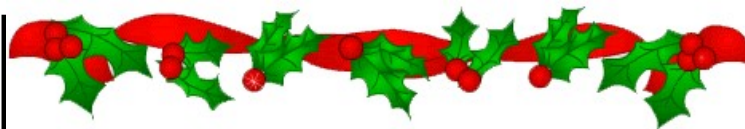


Celebrate Christmas with Ethnic Foods

Swedish pepperkakor (cookies) and sweet ham, fresh sauerkraut and sausage, savory roasted veggies, yummy pineapple stuffing that makes you drool... it's time to bring out the seasonal ethnic foods and **celebrate Christmas!**

Our favorite accordion player, Nelson Fenner, will play Christmas carols. He's even working on recruiting a mystery artist so we can hear dueling accordions. Can we get Hamilton to *sing a duet*? Let's try! **Come join in the fun.**

Call 440.247.6490 to reserve food, or sign up at the reception desk in the Bell Street Lobby.



Christmas Day Dinner

Tuesday, December 25 | 12:00 pm—2:00 pm

Family Life Center

Free of Charge—All are invited!

Sponsored by the Chagrin Valley Council of Churches.

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

To volunteer, call Andrea at 216.406.6214



Couples Retreat

Save the Date: February 15—16, 2019

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

Advent by Candlelight: Nativities of the World

An Invitation for Women to Prepare for Christ's Coming

Monday, December 3 | 7:00 pm | Family Life Center

The Congregational Care Commission is offering an opportunity for women to prepare for the coming of Christ. By beginning the season with *Advent by Candlelight*, we hope that your Advent might be more peaceful and your preparations more Christ-centered.

Please come and share this wonderful evening as our guests. You will enjoy beautiful music, delicious food, and warm fellowship.

To help with our planning, we appreciate RSVPs. There will be a sign-up sheet after worship services. You can also call 440.247.6490 or stop by the Bell St. reception desk. But even if you don't get signed up... come anyway! We want to enjoy this evening with YOU!

If possible, please also bring a sweet or savory treat to share. Finger foods are preferred (no nuts, please). **We encourage you to enjoy this event with family members and friends—all women are welcome!**



Federated Happenings

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

The SJAM team continues its activities with many events and opportunities. 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).

Racial Justice

The Racial Justice committee of SJAM is looking at the possibility of an "Open Table" style mentorship program with youth in Chagrin Falls Park who are just starting college. Also, we are planning special worship opportunities and a book study for February, Black History Month, to build better relations with our brothers and sisters of color.

Immigration

Interfaith Prayer led by clergy, Christian, Jewish and Islamic, concerned for immigrants in our community continue weekly at the Immigration, Customs & Enforcement (ICE) office located at **925 Keynote Circle in Brooklyn Heights every Thursday, 4:00-4:45 pm**. Each week there is rotating leadership among clergy. Join us as we pray, sing, hold silence, lift up prophetic values of justice and compassion and exhort those in power to work from those values. This is a step of prophetic faith witness, and we are fortunate to find many neighbors in this city who are trusted partners in this work and share our belief that faithfulness requires prophetic action in situations where abuse of power and great suffering exist. **Please join us if you are able. Your presence matters!**

We are also supporting Ansly Damus, a Haitian refugee seeking asylum who has been held in the Geauga County jail for two years. He has a hearing in Michigan on November 28, and we are praying that he will be granted asylum. He is in need of size XL clothing. If you are in a position to donate, please contact Judy Kramer at jkrumer222@gmail.com.

Environmental Justice

Our committee is beginning to discern next steps in the road toward making Federated Church a Creation Justice church. We continue to educate ourselves and pass on information on how you can make a difference to the future of this planet. Here are some fall/winter planet-friendly tasks to help:

1. Electrical outlets, especially on outside walls, and light fixtures are prime places for cold air to leak into your home. Add foam gaskets behind covers and switch plates, and use safety plugs in unused outlets. Be sure to shut off the power at the fuse box or circuit panel before doing this.
2. Install foam covers over outside water spigots to prevent freezing.
3. Check for water leaks both inside and outside.
4. Wrap the water heater in an insulating blanket.
5. If you have a ceiling fan, reverse the direction ... the fan should run a clockwise so that air is being drawn upward. This pushes the air against the ceiling and down the walls, to gently re-circulate the warm air without creating a cooling "wind chill effect."

-- Janet O'Hara and reducefootprints.blogspot.com

Federated Forum

Monday, December 10

1:30 pm Refreshments in Fellowship Hall

2:00 pm Program in Sanctuary

Presenter: Randy Fusco

Federated Forum is pleased to present a special musical program provided by our very own Randy Fusco. Randy will present a Christmas-themed musical program of songs and related commentary.



Primetime Luncheon

Thursday, December 13

12:30 pm (doors open at 12 pm)

Family Life Center

Entertainment by: EKCO
Ringers handbell duet.
Sponsored by The Laurels of Chagrin Falls.

Meal: Catered by Mazzulo's.
Roast beef with gravy,
mashed potatoes, green
beans, tossed salad, pie.

Cost: \$10 at the door

Reservations due by Friday, December 7:

Call 440.247.6490



Federated Happenings

Andrew Sords and members of the Cavani Quartet Kick Off Federated's Performing Arts Series

Sunday, January 20 at 3:00 pm | Federated Bell St. Sanctuary

World-renowned violinist Andrew Sords will be joined by members of the Cavani String Quartet and pianist Elizabeth DeMio for a wonderful chamber music program. The concert is the inaugural event in the Federated Performing Arts Series. A reception will follow the program.

Tickets can be purchased by contacting Joshua Konow at jkonow@fedchurch.org.

Tickets

Donor/"Best Seats in the House" (first rows of house or balcony) - \$50

Adults - \$20

Seniors - \$15

Students - \$10

Program

Rachmaninoff - *Piano Trio "Elegiaque" No. 1 in g minor*

Brahms - *Hungarian Dance No. 6*

Moszkowski - *Sonata for Two Violins in g minor, Op. 71*

Sarasate - *Navarra for Two Violins*

~INTERMISSION~

Schumann - *Piano Quintet in E flat major, Op. 44*



Telling Our Story Spotlight

Our History is One of Giving

The Telling Our Story Commission has talked about Federated Church traditions and passions that define who we are. This is what we have come up with, so far:

First, **our history is our future**. We tend to be "in it" for the long haul and support ministries for a long period of time.

Second, **our history speaks to social justice**. Throughout Federated's history our members and ministries have worked hard on behalf of those facing social injustice both locally and internationally.

Third, **music is our passion**. We are blessed by that and celebrate the fact that it's one of those things which we are known for in the greater community.

Fourth, **our church serves the infirmed, helps the afflicted, aids the less fortunate, and provides a safe haven**. Our faith community practices its faith through action. We not only are, we do!

Fifth, **we are many voices** and that diversity is a strength.

We are followers of Jesus from all walks of life – mentally and physically, racially, socio-economically, politically, with different ages, marital status, gender or sexual orientation.

And finally, **our history is one of giving**. In addition to our annual stewardship of Federated's \$1.4 million operating budget, the offerings received at Christmas Eve services supports a chosen nonprofit organization. **Since 1961, our congregation has donated a total of \$1.68 million in Christmas Eve offerings** to 48 distinct organizations. The largest number (25%) of Christmas Eve offerings has gone toward organizations that provide housing – to those dealing with domestic violence, developmental differences, or homelessness, for instance. The next largest category (18%) has been for nonprofits that provide health or welfare programs for their clients. We've also supported our sister church, St. Paul's Community Church, and international organizations with the same percentage (11%).

To see the total list, visit the Milestones & Memories Timeline display. We are an incredibly supportive faith family to our own community and to the world in which we live. Behold, see how they love one another!

Telling Our Story Spotlight

Prayer and Praise Ministry and Fellowship of Prayer

Have you ever seen those blue prayer cards in our Sanctuary pews? Those cards are the contact point for a Federated ministry – the Prayer and Praise Ministry - that prayerfully responds to the joys and concerns of our church members. This group was established by Lou Butz in 2012 because, with as many people as we have in this congregation, Lou felt that there had to be people wanting prayers lifted up to God for loved ones and friends near and far. But how were those members going to share their joys and concerns? After seeing how other churches responded to this need, Lou came back to Federated and started the Prayer and Praise Ministry.

Confidentiality is a hallmark of this ministry. No last names are ever shared with the team members – which means there is no contact with the person writing the blue prayer card or with anyone associated with the situation. Members of the congregation place the completed blue prayer cards in the prayer box located in the Narthex next to the Sanctuary or on the Reception Desk in the Lobby and then every Monday a list is distributed to the 32 team members, so that they can hold the person, issue, or event in their prayers that week. This prayer team prays to God not only on behalf of people, but issues and events too! For example, if you know about a troubling work situation, if you learned about an event on the nightly news that concerns you, or if you are hoping for a healthy outcome of a neighbor's operation. The prayers lifted up by these team members are for concerns, as well as joys! The team especially enjoys the subsequent cards they receive asking for prayers of praise because of a joyful ending to a previously-disclosed worrisome situation.

The Prayer and Praise Ministry Team lifts up to God concerns and joys of folks who are not necessarily listed in our Fellowship of Prayer (FOP) section in each Sunday's bulletin. The FOP is where the church informs the congregation about, and includes in prayer, those within our faith community who have experienced a death or are facing medical challenges, as well as members who have celebratory milestones (e.g., the birth of a child). We include addresses so that the Fellowship of Prayer Note Writers Team, and others, can communicate support, sympathy, condolence or gratitude, as the situation dictates. For us, this is a potent way to connect congregants with each other and to pray for each other.

Being mindful of the concerns of some that congregants have many other prayers they would like others to join them in praying, we are starting to include a notation in Sunday bulletins that mentions the blue prayer cards, and that encourages congregants to submit other prayers to the Prayer and Praise Ministry Team. We continue to value those prayers highly and are simply making the invitation more explicit. This is the notation that you'll see:

If you have other concerns or praises you would like held in prayer, please fill out a blue prayer card and put it in the prayer box, or email Darlene Nichols dnichols@fedchurch.org before Monday morning. Our Prayer and Praise Ministry Team, and our staff, will pray for your request. If you would like to be on this ministry team, please email Lou Butz: llbonline@att.net.

We're all grateful for the care and love exhibited by the members of Federated for both members of our faith community and those outside of our community. Having the Prayer and Praise Ministry Team and the Fellowship of Prayer Note Writers Team ensures that our connection with both remains prevalent.

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

This Month in **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

	Theme	Life App
DISCOVERY ISLAND (K-5)	Celebrate the Birth of Jesus	We Celebrate the birth of Jesus.
KIDS COVE (B-PreK)	Birthday Bash	Jesus is born.

Family Worship—no Sunday School

Please enjoy worshiping as a family on November 25, December 23, 30 and January 6.

We will see you back in Sunday School on January 13!

(Kids Cove, Birth-Preschool, will still be offered.)



Fun in Sunday School!

Our Kindergarten—5th graders have been learning about God's rainbow promise to Noah. Here they are pictured making rainbow fruit plates for Fellowship Hour. Join us for more Sunday School fun, Sundays at 10:00 am!

Christmas Eve “Follow the Star” Pageant – Call for Actors

Federated will once again offer our Christmas Pageant, “Follow the Star,” on Christmas Eve at the 4:00 pm service. We invite you to share the joy of replaying the birth of Jesus. There are spots for kids, as well as adults. There are no lengthy parts to memorize. Much of the story is shared by narration.

Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsal – Our Follow the Star rehearsal will occur on Saturday, December 22 in two blocks (9:00—10:00 am and 10:00—11:00 am). Block one will include all of the actors with parts – such as the wise ones, innkeeper, shepherds with speaking parts, etc. Then at 10:00 am, we welcome all of the smaller children to come and be part of the full rehearsal. This would be the sheep, angels, and shepherds who are smaller children.

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





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

* Janis Stefanchik, *Bookkeeper*

* Dolly Herschel, *Primetime Coordinator*

* Laura Taylor, *Capital Campaign Assistant*

Ed Willmott, *Properties & Events Manager*

Jake Magalski, *Maintenance & Grounds Lead*

* Larry McGurer, * 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

VOL. 69 NO. 12 DECEMBER 2018
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

We're Back at Bell Street!

plus

New Worship Schedule Beginning December 2

10:00 am
Traditional Worship Service

11:30 am
Rise to Shine Worship Service

Read page 8 for more information.