



# THE SPIRE

## THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

January 2019

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

Sunday, January 20 at 3:00 pm | 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 are on sale now and can be purchased at [fedchurch.org/events](http://fedchurch.org/events). Or contact Joshua Konow ([jkonow@fedchurch.org](mailto:jkonow@fedchurch.org) or 440.247.6490 ext. 120).

#### Tickets

Donor/Best Seats in the House (first rows of house/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



### Wondrous Wednesday Program "Won't You Be My Neighbor?"

Wednesday, January 9

6:00 pm dinner; 6:30 pm program

Bell St. Fellowship Hall

**Did you miss the documentary that came out this year on Fred Rogers?** It is a compelling story of a man who had a kind and gentle influence on our nation, and the creator/host of the beloved children's program, "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood." Yet, the NY Times describes it as a film that is "*quietly and cozily as radical as its subject.*" Mr. Rogers... radical?

Federated member Harriett Rogers will open with a brief insight into her cousin, Fred Rogers. There will be discussion after the movie.

A **free** Wondrous Wednesday *dinner* at 6:00 pm. The *program* starts at 6:30 pm. Dessert and coffee are available during the movie.

Call 440.247.6490 to RSVP if you would like to enjoy the dinner.

**\*\*Wear your favorite Fred Roger's sweater... there will be a contest!\*\***



Hosted by the Congregational Care and Telling Our Story commissions.



### Weather Closing Procedure



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

## Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign Update

What a day to celebrate the Lord as we welcomed our congregation back to Bell Street on Sunday, November 18 after nearly \$2 million worth of capital projects were completed. We hope you were able to join us as the renovated Sanctuary and new organ were dedicated, Ingathering food for St. Paul's Church was received, and commitment Sunday operating pledges were made. Many reasons to be thankful for, and to celebrate, God!



### About Our New Organ: Demonstration on January 6

*A message from Marcia Snavelly*

It is a dream come true and an answer to prayers. Thanks to all of you for your support for our project which began in 2012 when we formed an Organ Committee to look into updating our organ. Our Schantz pipe organ had served us well for over 50 years but the electrical connections, the leathering of the pipes and the outdated console were in need of renovation. Our Organ Committee spent over six months learning about various options from organ companies and visiting installations. I think the Organ Committee's recommendations were the catalyst for our Capital Campaign which resulted in so many other updates and improvements.

Our new organ is a Rodgers Infinity hybrid organ. Hybrid means that we have kept and are using all of the pipes from our Schantz organ but are adding many digital sounds as well. Previously we had 27 ranks of pipes; now we have the equivalent of 398 ranks. Previously we had six general pistons to set registrations; now we have more than 1200. I could go on and on about what we had before and what we now have... the difference is amazing. It's comparable to what a 1950's automobile looks like beside today's models.

On January 6 during the service I will be talking a little about the organ. After the service (Postlude) I will be playing a demo of some of the amazing organ sounds now available.

Later in the spring we hope to have an official organ dedication concert, and perhaps in the fall, a well-known concert organist. We now have one of the largest, finest and most versatile organs in the area and want to use it to its full advantage. On that note, I am hoping that people will remain quiet for Preludes and Postludes so its full capabilities can be heard and appreciated. It is so effective in setting the mood for a rich, full worship experience.

Please be patient with me as I continue to learn the new challenges and the infinite ways of using this instrument. Once again thanks for your generous support of this project. This is my 25th year as organist for the Federated Church and what a magnificent silver anniversary gift for me. It has been such a privilege to be part of this music program throughout the years and this is the icing on the cake. I feel truly blessed.

*- Marcia Snavelly, Federated Organist*



# From Hamilton's Desk

Dear Friends,

There's nothing quite like church. I am so often immensely grateful for its unique blessings. And one of those blessings is that it can be a place where we encounter difference and talk about some of the challenging dimensions of life together in this twenty-first century.

Two events this January are promising on this score. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 21, we will be partnering with Mt. Zion Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in some enriching lunch-time events. Located in University Circle, Mt. Zion is an historically African-American Church. Mary and I attended worship there in October, and were moved by the power of the service and the welcome we received. We were made to feel like royalty.

Afterwards, I suggested to the Rev. Paul Sadler, Senior Minister of Mt. Zion, that we might share in some events together. He was extremely receptive to the idea, and suggested that Mt. Zion and Federated might join together on MLK Day for some thoughtful reflection and conversation. Rev. Sadler strongly encourages his congregation to take that day off, and to make a difference. He thought our two congregations might gather that day to see a movie or part of one, to engage in some table conversation, and to share a meal together.

It sounded like a fabulous idea to me. We formed a planning group from Federated, and recently sat down with Rev. Sadler to map out the day. We plan to gather at 11:00 am. on Monday, January 21, at Mt. Zion (10723 Magnolia Drive, Cleveland, OH, 44106) and to share some significant time together, as well as a fabulous lunch. If you have questions, or would like to attend, we would love to know that. Please let Barry Stees know ([steesbassoon@gmail.com](mailto:steesbassoon@gmail.com)). It promises to be a rich and rewarding day!

The next month, we are planning an exchange of choirs. On Sunday, February 24, Federated's choir will go to Mt. Zion and be part of leading worship there. The following Sunday, March 3, singers from Mt. Zion will join us for worship at Federated. Together, these events will give us an opportunity to get to know each other and to establish some new ties. Praise be to God!

I mentioned at the beginning that church can also be a place to discuss difficult subjects. On January 30, the Spiritual Formation Commission is sponsoring a session on how we talk about difficult subjects with our children. Details are still being firmed up. What we know is that we'll have experts from several different fields to guide us in ways to have such conversations. We especially want to open this up to members of the community, and to convey to the larger community that Federated is a place where it is safe and productive to have such discussions.

As always, life at Federated is rich and full. Please avail yourself of the church's many enriching opportunities. Join with God to create a world of hope and promise. It's a blessing of the highest order.

God's blessings to you in this new and promising year.

Yours in Christ,  
Hamilton

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

### 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 (for families)  
*Music by Bell Choir*

### Sunday, January 13

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

### Sunday, January 20

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

### Sunday, January 27

Rev. Susi Kawolics preaches  
Presentation of Christmas Eve Offering  
10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School  
*Music by Federated Choir*  
11:30 am RISE to Shine Worship  
*Music by RISE to Shine Band*



# Church Council News

*"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." - Isaiah 9:2*

A new day is dawning! So much goodness and promise swells in and around the missions and ministries of Federated!

Commissions and staff reported emerging initiatives, each at various planning stages and on the horizon for 2019. The Worship and Music Commission plans to launch a new concert series; they also continue to envision the RISE to Shine worship experience as it evolves. A team from SJAM and the Mission & Service Commission is exploring paths for becoming a "Creation Justice" church. The Telling Our Story Commission proposes more integrated and theme-focused marketing and communications. The Spiritual Formation Commission, in conjunction with our Family Ministries team, is framing a new series of Public Square Family Forums with speakers to spur important faith community conversations on difficult topics. God is still speaking among us!

Church Council follows a process for reviewing the resources needed when new ideas and initiatives arise. We aim to ensure the church holds the capacity to shepherd programming with responsible planning and stewardship. Contact a member of Church Council to learn more about this process if you have an initiative you would like the church to consider.

*Search For the Christ Child* once again ushered in the "reason for the season" to our congregants and to the wider community as shepherds, angels, innkeepers and kings guided visitors through a maze to the lowly manger scene. This year exceeded last year, with more than 300 participants! God's light shines through!

The Mission & Service Commission selected HOLA Ohio as the recipient for our legendary Christmas Eve offering. The nonprofit HOLA provides advocacy, education, and a safe haven for the Latino community in NE Ohio. Funding an education wing to enhance a donated (and abandoned) building in downtown Painesville will help to enrich the economy and surrounding community by developing leadership and other services to a marginalized people living in fear. Please encourage friends and family to join us Christmas Eve and to give generously to make a difference!

Becky Gruss, chair of the Finance Committee, shared encouraging end-of-year financial projections. Our giving exceeded the annual budget due to three key factors: increased rental income, increased non-pledge receipts, and the interest on Capital Campaign funds. Also, the monumental Capital Campaign projects were completed within the cash donations available so far, no need for loans. It was determined to "press pause" to allow time to close out financials and plan for phase two projects. A working group with representatives from Properties Committee, Finance Committee, staff, and Church Council will analyze priorities and propose a plan for next steps. The dedication and commitment of generous givers continue to invest in a strong legacy going forward.

Stewardship reported new pledges supporting the 2019 budget exceeded pledges lost from those who passed or moved away. Two-thirds of expected pledges are in. Calls continue to go out to all those who have not yet returned a pledge card. Please bring in or call in your pledge commitment today, if you have not yet done so. The 2019 budget and potential directly mirror your generosity!

- Maren Koepf, Moderator

**Save the dates:** Annual Meeting—Sunday, February 10, 1:00 pm in Sanctuary;  
Leadership Commissioning—Sunday, February 24 during 10:00 am worship;  
Staff and Lay Leadership Planning Retreat—Saturday, March 10, 8:30 am—12:30 pm

## 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 Mazingo, 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

## Creative Giving and Federated Tax ID

While navigating your own financial planning and tax benefits at the year-end, you may be considering making The Federated Church a part of your charitable legacy. There are a number of ways of **ensuring our long-term sustainability** while meeting your financial needs:

- Name The Federated Church as a beneficiary on an insurance policy, your 401k plan or employer pension, in your estate plans, or in your will.
- Potentially avoid capital gains taxes by making a gift of stock.
- Individuals 70 ½ and older can meet their required minimum distribution (RMD) from an IRA by making a gift directly to Federated.
- Make a donation through a charitable trust, a donor advised fund, or foundation.

Planned gifts such as these, **when designated to the church's Legacy Fund**, have an impact over a longer period of time. The Legacy Fund acts as our Endowment Fund, which provides a certain percentage of its assets each year to the church's general operating fund, while the funds are invested. **The higher the dollars in our Legacy Fund, the greater the impact to the general operating fund, which supports our operations, ministries, and mission work.**

The following information is needed in order to initiate a planned gift to Federated:

**Organization Name:** The Federated Church  
aka: Congregational-Disciples Churches of Chagrin Falls  
**Tax ID or EIN:** 34-0714401  
**Address:** 76 Bell Street, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022

For corporate stock donations, this additional information may be required:

**Bank:** Fidelity Investments  
**Account Number** Z49-597350

The Federated Church is **blessed to have folks who are always ready to discuss these types of planned gifts with church members** who are committed to helping Federated long into the future. Feel free to contact Pete Franz (440.724.9365, [franze35@gmail.com](mailto:franze35@gmail.com)) or Rob Goble (216.926.6327, [Robert.Goble1969@gmail.com](mailto:Robert.Goble1969@gmail.com)) if you or your financial advisor have any questions. Please contact Amy Eugene, Federated's Senior Director of Operations, if you are initiating a planned gift to Federated. She can be reached at 440.247.6490 ext. 110 or [aeugene@fedchurch.org](mailto:aeugene@fedchurch.org). Happy New Year!

## Pastoral Care Administrator Needed

The Pastoral Care Administrator 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.

A full description is available at [fedchurch.org/jobs](http://fedchurch.org/jobs).  
To apply: email [aeugene@fedchurch.org](mailto:aeugene@fedchurch.org).

## Fellowship Treats

The Congregational Care Commission is again scheduling treats during Sunday fellowship hours. Members of the congregation take turns bringing in treats.

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!

January 6 – last names beginning with A or B  
January 13 – last names beginning with C or D  
January 20 – last names beginning with E, F or G  
January 27 – last names beginning with H, I, J or K

# Faith Formation

## January/Epiphany Sermon Series

The season after Christmastide in the church begins with the celebration of the visit of the Magi to Jesus, on January 6, after the 12 days of Christmas. This event is known as “Epiphany,” which literally means revelation, or realization, and celebrates the revelation of the Christ to those who traveled so far to find him.

This year, the actual feast of Epiphany falls on a **Sunday, January 6**. On that Sunday we will use the One Communion Sunday Prototype (*read more at [fedchurch.org/rise-prototypes](http://fedchurch.org/rise-prototypes)*). We will offer Communion, anointing and release during this first service of the new year, **and will only have one service at 10:00 am** to gather our whole church family.

The first Sunday after Epiphany, January 13, we will go back to two services, our traditional service at 10:00 am, and our RISE to Shine service at 11:30 am. We will begin a sermon series on “Sacred Signposts,” inspired by the book of that same title written by Benjamin J. Dueholm. *Sacred Signposts* follows a list that Martin Luther identified as seven “holy possessions” of the Christian faith. There are as follows: **Word, Water, Meal, Confession and Forgiveness, Ministry, Prayer, Praise and Worship, and Cross**. These are practices that shape us as Christians. In order to know, to worship, to engage the transcendent God we believe in, we need particular practices. At the core of the Epiphany season is a willingness to open ourselves to finding God anew in the many ways that God appears to us, to open ourselves to the many “epiphanies” that come our way that we might otherwise never even notice. These sacred signposts help guide us along that journey.

We will follow the lectionary readings connected with the themes of the book as follows. We hope you will join us for this series, and gain a deeper understanding of our Christian practices, and a deeper awareness of God’s presence and love.

Date	Scripture	Theme
January 13	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Water
January 20	Psalms 36 and I Corinthians 12	Prayer, Praise and Worship
January 27	Nehemiah 8:1-10 and Luke 4:14-21	Word
February 3	I Corinthians 15 and Luke 4:21-30	Meal
February 10	Luke 5:1-11	Ministry
February 17	Luke 6:17-26	Cross
February 24	Luke 6:27-38	Confession and Forgiveness

## Couples Retreat

February 15–16

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton and Mary Senechal will be offering a retreat for Federated couples. This is an opportunity to deepen and strengthen your relationship, a chance to rekindle what’s special for you. The focus will be on the richness of God’s presence in your marriage or relationship. It will be a chance to connect more deeply, laugh together, and increase the joy between you. We will enable time for deep listening, reflecting on meshing different personality styles, and focusing again on what’s central.

The retreat will begin on the evening of Friday, February 15, with dinner at 6:00 pm in the Hearth Room of the Federated Family Life Center, and will then move to the Youth Room where we will gather from 7:00–9:30 pm. We will resume our time together in the Youth Room at 9:00 am on Saturday with a light breakfast. We will follow with lunch at noon, and conclude by 3:30 that afternoon.

To sign up, contact Hamilton at [hamthrock@fedchurch.org](mailto:hamthrock@fedchurch.org) or 440.247.6490, ext. 100. We hope you will join us!



# Mission & Service

## Homeless Stand Down

**Saturday, January 12 (Collection Ends Sunday, January 6)**

Federated has an opportunity to share our abundance with our neighbors throughout Cleveland who are homeless this winter. Donations can be dropped off in the marked boxes in the Bell Street Lobby.

As in the past, you can donate clean and gently worn winter jackets, warm winter boots and waterproof gloves for all ages. Please consider these gifts as something you'd pass along to a friend, and not any discards, please.

If you don't find any items in your closets, please consider a donation to Federated Church, with Homeless Stand Down in the memo line. Just \$20 buys a new pair of boots at their wholesale price.



If you have questions, please call Cathy Watterson at 216.978.1037 or email Marty Culbertson at [mculbert@fedchurch.org](mailto:mculbert@fedchurch.org).

## Federated North

A number of Federated Church's members are now living at Breckenridge Village (BV) in Willoughby. Last April, during an informal discussion, we shared our feelings that we would like to do more volunteer work but were just too far away from Federated's Bell Street home base to become very involved. Many of us were not participating in activities other than attending the Sunday morning worship services. After consulting with Rev. Throckmorton and receiving his blessing on our project, we decided to form a group that we now call Federated North.

We believed that with sufficient participation from the BV folks, a Federated North volunteer group would have good possibilities. Now, over six months later, we have 14 Federated North BV members actively volunteering in the

following activities: Ohio Living Home Health & Hospice, Chapel at Breckenridge Village, Meals on Wheels, and soon to be involved with HOLA.

Although we have not kept track of our total volunteer hours, we all agree that we have been kept comfortably busy and have become engaged with these organizations in ways that benefit both the organization and the individual volunteer. We feel that we are an active part of the mission of Federated Church.

Our 14 Federated North members are: Roger and Brenda Ehle, Jane Kenneweg, Bill and Silvia Kenneweg, Jim and Marilyn Lucas, Kathy and Lynne Muzik, Marilyn Pierson, Al and Rebecca Woehrle, Jim and Dona Sutherin.

*"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." - Hebrews 13:16*

## Parish Nurse Corner

As this holiday season winds down, I want to thank all those who have donated to the Parish Nurse Program. Whether in the form of socks, hygiene supplies or money, please know that your gifts are very much appreciated by the folks that this program serves. In fact, without your gifts, the clinic could not stay open two mornings a week.

Now, as winter faces us, I hope to be able to provide everyone who does not have a car or a home with one set of long thermal underwear. One high quality set costs \$10.00 at Drug Mart and they come in all sizes for men and women. I am keeping the names of those who have received their

thermal set and have told them that I cannot replace it if lost or stolen or just plain dirty. Unfortunately, I don't have an answer for laundering their underwear: they can use a sink at a shelter for washing but there is no place to hand-dry their clothes if they don't have a place of their own.

Life is very difficult for those on the edge, especially in the winter. Social services are getting harder and harder to access. This is why St. Paul's is such a welcoming refuge from cold and hunger. With donated food and funds, we can provide two hot lunches a week, as well as mutual support and friendship. Thank you for your compassion!

- Kathy Kolcaba  
440.655.2098 (text or voice mail)

# Federated Happenings

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

At present, SJAM's main projects involve: a racial justice event in collaboration with Mt. Zion Congregational Church; an environmental justice initiative exploring becoming a Creation Justice church; and support of interfaith vigils held at ICE offices. Anyone is welcome to join SJAM as we continue to offer opportunities for advocacy, activism and education. If you'd like to be on our email list, please contact Rev. Susi Kawolics ([skawolics@fedchurch.org](mailto:skawolics@fedchurch.org)).

### Mount Zion Event:

Mt. Zion Congregational Church has invited Federated Church members to join them in celebrating Martin Luther King Day. **On Monday, January 21, the two congregations will gather at Mt. Zion (in University Circle at 10723 Magnolia Drive) starting at 11:00 am.** We will view a video on racial justice, followed by discussion and then have a pot luck lunch, ending around 2:00 pm. We hope for a big turnout from Federated for this opportunity to partner with our sisters and brothers in Christ. Please contact Barry Stees ([steesbassoon@gmail.com](mailto:steesbassoon@gmail.com)) if you plan to attend.

This event will take the place of the SJAM Movie Night for January.

In addition, the two churches have planned a choir exchange later this winter. On Sunday, February 24, Federated Choir will sing in services at Mt. Zion and on Sunday, March 3, we will host members of the Mt. Zion choir in our worship service.

### Creation Justice:

The UCC is inviting all congregations to bring an emphasis on Creation Justice into the everyday life and work of the church. But what does this mean? Environmental justice or Creation Justice ministries could not have a higher purpose or calling than they do right now. If the followers of Jesus today care about the air we breathe, the water we drink, or the world in which we live, then environmental justice ministry should undoubtedly be an integral strand in any church's DNA. The UCC's Creation Justice Church program aims to help churches do just that:

- By collectively discerning their high calling to care for creation and seek justice for the oppressed.
- By making a commitment so serious and so sacred that it necessitates talking about God's covenant with us and with all of creation.
- By becoming a part of a larger network of churches and a larger movement to change the world.
- By engaging in critical thinking about the socioeconomic dimensions of environmental justice such as race, class, and global inequality.
- By fostering a deeper sense of connection: connection to God, to each other, and to the world in which we live.
- By unleashing their imagination and creativity as a sense of purpose propels them to make a difference.

If you are interested in exploring ways that Federated Church can further live into this call, please contact Dawn Dole ([coopdole@gmail.com](mailto:coopdole@gmail.com)).

### Interfaith Prayer Vigil at ICE Headquarters

A group of clergy—Christian, Jewish, Islamic— and others concerned for immigrants in our community are organizing weekly interfaith prayer vigils at the Immigration, Customs & Enforcement (ICE) office located at **925 Keynote Circle in Brooklyn Heights every Thursday, 4:00—4:45 pm.** Each Thursday there is rotating leadership among clergy.

**On Thursday, January 10, Rev. Susi Kawolics will be leading the vigil,** which includes praying, singing, holding silence, lifting up prophetic values of justice and compassion to exhort those in power to work from those values. **Please join us each Thursday if you are able. Your presence matters!**



# Federated Happenings

## Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, January 7 | 1:00—6:00 pm  
Bell St. Fellowship Hall

The American Red Cross strives to maintain a safe and stable blood supply. Please do your part by making an appointment to donate blood by calling 1.800.RedCross to select an appointment time or go online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or be a "walk-in donor."

All blood types are in demand. This is especially true considering all the recent natural and man-made disasters that have occurred. We encourage members of the congregation, if you are able, to donate blood at Federated. For any questions, please contact Carole Mason at 440.338.3573 or at [wfmason36@gmail.com](mailto:wfmason36@gmail.com). Thank you.



**American  
Red Cross**

## Primetime Federated Forum

Monday, January 14  
1:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

**Presenter: Dan Best, naturalist**

Look in on events in the life of a Geauga County farm family 60 years ago as they experience, endure and enjoy winter weather, maple sugaring, wildlife encounters, the Geauga County Fair, the Maple Festival, rock-n-roll, and other elements of rural life in our region, just before the surge in residential, commercial and industrial development gave rise to the modern Geauga County we know today.



# Telling Our Story Spotlight

## Communion to the Confined Ministry

The Communion to the Confined Ministry, coordinated by Peggie Jo Shinigawa, started in 2012 and is overseen by the Congregational Care Commission. Its mission is to provide communion to individuals who are mentally or physically unable to attend worship and partake in the sacrament of communion with the congregation on Sunday mornings.

This ministry is conducted by trained individuals who visit with the confined, hopefully on the same Sunday that communion was served in the Sanctuary. In addition to bringing the communion elements, flowers from the Flower Ministry may also be taken, as well as a bulletin. The first time that a server makes a visit, a card is also handed to the recipient. Read this lovely quote from their card.

*"You are a child of God and a cherished member of our community of faith with whom we humbly share this sacred meal. The communion elements that we bring have been*

*blessed during worship, and have heard prayers of the people and songs of praise at the Federated Church in Chagrin Falls."*

The recipients experience the love of God and the love of Federated toward its extended faith family. In this way, the servers physically embody the living spirit of God by their presence to individuals who cannot attend worship.

*"...the servers physically embody the living spirit of God by their presence to individuals who cannot attend worship. ..."*

As coordinator, Peggie Jo prepares the portable communion sets before the worship service by filling the cups with grape juice and placing them on the altar. After the worship service is done, bread—taken from the plates used during worship—is distributed amongst the sets.

This is done to reinforce that we are a community in faith... within and beyond our walls. The entire group of volunteer visitors then meets in the Family Room (to the left of the Sanctuary) to pray together, seeking God's presence as they will minister to their recipients later that day.

*Continued on next page...*

# Telling Our Story Spotlight, ct'd.

*Continued from p.9*

As of January 2019, there will be 16 communion servers who consistently check in with 18 recipients to see if they wish to receive communion that month. This means that communion is served beyond our walls well over 180 times a year! At the same time that they are performing a service which is so vital to our faith, the servers themselves are transformed. It is not only a blessing to the recipients, but to those who serve them. Many times Peggie Jo has heard from servers that they immensely enjoy their visits with the recipients and delight in hearing and sharing their life stories and journey.

Do you remember Hal Maskiell and Gail Magnuson? They were communion servers before moving to Florida. Once they found a new church home, they asked Peggie Jo about how this ministry functions, so that they could begin a similar ministry there. What a blessing it is that we can minister to our faith community and friends – wherever they are!

If you have questions or want more information about this ministry, contact Peggie Jo at [pjshinagawa@windstream.net](mailto:pjshinagawa@windstream.net).

## Children, Youth and Family Ministries

This Month in <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>		
	Theme	Life App
<b>DISCOVERY ISLAND</b> (K-5)	The Lord's Prayer	Jesus taught us how to pray.
<b>KIDS COVE</b> (B-PreK)	Super Kids	God can help me be brave.

**Please enjoy worshipping as a family on January 6. We will see you back in Sunday School at 10:00 am on January 13 when we start our lessons on the Lord's Prayer!**

**(Kids Cove, Birth-Pre-school, will still be offered.)**

### Federated Families Epiphany Party

**Saturday, January 12 | 4:00—7:00 pm**  
**The Goodman Home**

Let's kick off 2019 with intention together! This will be a casual time to hang out and decompress after the holiday push. Eric and Jill Goodman will provide the main stuff, but please bring a side to share.

Please RSVP to Kristin LeFeber at [kristinlefeber@gmail.com](mailto:kristinlefeber@gmail.com).

*And also: As you begin to fill in your calendars, please continue to save the second Saturdays for Federated Family Fellowship events.*

### What Do You Say When...

Parenting, grandparenting and caretaking of children today involves explaining to children complicated issues that they may overhear inadvertently. These issues can lead to some difficult questions and the need for conversations with children in areas we are sometimes not equipped to address.

In an effort to provide some spiritual and informational guidance, Family Ministries and the Spiritual Formation Commission are going to offer a number of hour long programs to help prepare families for the inevitable questions.

**Join us for our first conversation on Wednesday, January 30.** More information about time and topic is forthcoming.

## Search for the Christ Child Thanks and Wrap Up for 2018

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

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

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

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

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

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

To the seamstresses who sewed costumes.

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

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

To our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their advisors who cheerfully served cookies and hot chocolate to our guests.

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

To our Federated family members who made time to come out and experience "The Search." **We had our biggest audience yet!**

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

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

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

And to those of you who lifted us up in prayer, who contributed financial support... all of you!

THIS is how we can love others... by throwing open our doors and offering an extravagant welcome to all... by sharing the story of Christ's birth with our friends and neighbors.

Together, we were able to offer a precious gift to our Federated family and the community. We welcomed many new faces at the FLC and invited them back! Let's do it again next year!

With humble gratitude,  
Kiersti Critchfield







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

\* Janis Stefanchik, *Bookkeeper*

\* Dolly Herschel, *Primetime Coordinator*

\* Laura Taylor, *Capital Campaign Assistant*

Ed Willmott, *Properties & Events Manager*

Jake Magalski, *Maintenance & Grounds Lead*

\* Larry McGurer, *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. 70 No. 1 JANUARY 2019  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## We're Back at Bell Street!

### New Worship Schedule

**10:00 am**  
**Traditional Worship**

**11:30 am**  
**RISE to Shine Worship**

## 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
- Full time custodial staff

**Family Life Center**  
**16349 Chillicothe Road**  
**Chagrin Falls, OH 44023**  
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**FEDERATED CHURCH**