



March 2019

THE SPIRE

THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Be SMART about Gun Sense: A Community Talk

Family Life Center

(16349 Chillicothe Rd)

Monday, March 18 | 7:00–8:00 pm

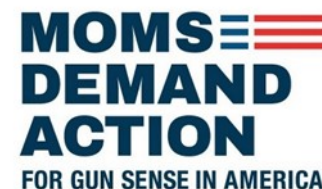


Just over one year ago, fourteen students died in Parkland, Florida, inspiring marches, new laws and widespread calls to stop the onslaught of gun deaths. But in the year since, nearly 1,200 more children alone have lost their lives to guns in this country.

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a grassroots movement of American mothers fighting for public safety measures that respect the Second Amendment and protect people from gun violence. Since its inception after the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary, Moms Demand Action has established a chapter in every state.

The Moms Demand Action Be SMART campaign was launched to take action to promote responsible gun ownership and reduce child gun deaths. The campaign focuses on education and awareness about child gun deaths and responsible gun storage. Moms encourage parents and caretakers to “Be SMART” and take these five simple steps to help prevent shootings by children:

- Secure** all guns in your home and vehicles;
- Model** responsible behavior around guns;
- Ask** about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes;
- Recognize** the risks of teen suicide;
- Tell** your peers to be SMART.



Rebecca Gorski, a volunteer with the Ohio Chapter of Moms Demand Action, will be our presenter. She is the volunteer lead for Be SMART in the state of Ohio and resides in Geauga County with her two young children.

Please invite your friends and family to attend this important community talk. Childcare is provided. Call to let us know if you will need childcare at 440.247.6490, or email communications@fedchurch.org.

Free Dinner for Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 6 | 6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

There will be a free dinner available before the Ash Wednesday service to make it easier to attend. It will feature savory chicken vegetable soup and warm garlic bread. Call 440.247.6490 or email katiesharbage@gmail.com to reserve your meal.



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 6
7:00 pm
Chapel

Join us in the Chapel for the Ash Wednesday Service of Communion and Imposition of Ashes.

An Invitation to RISE to SHINE

We continue to hold a new kind of worship, RISE to Shine, every Sunday at 11:30 am. If you have not had the chance to check it out, we invite you to do so!

RISE to Shine: The 21st century service... spirited, relevant, and relational.



Trinkets & Treasures is Around the Corner

Save the Date! Set-up for our annual Trinkets and Treasures rummage sale will start on Saturday, April 27.

The sale will run Wednesday, May 1 through Saturday, May 4.

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

Contact Mimi Bathgate at mbathgate@windstream.net or 440.665.6903 or with questions, suggestions or to volunteer.



Easter Flower Order Form

Please help us grace our Sanctuary on Easter morning by purchasing an Easter Flower *In Honor of* or *In Memory of* a loved one or friend. Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office with your payment of **\$16 per plant**. You are welcome to take the plant home with you after either Easter worship service at Bell Street. Orders must be received by Sunday, April 7.

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

Paid by: _____ **Phone:** _____

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

of plants: _____

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

From Hamilton's Desk

Dear Friends,

Not long ago, after our sanctuary had undergone such a beautiful renovation, a Federated member donated new Bibles for each pew. From a theological and linguistic standpoint, these new Bibles were long overdue. The current translation (the New Revised Standard Version) is fresher, more accurate, and noticeably easier to understand. I am grateful for that gift.

The new gift by no means negates the old gift, though. As I reflect on the arc of a church's life, I find I am immensely grateful also for the gift of the earlier red Bibles which we have just replaced. Undoubtedly, some of you contributed to the purchase of those earlier volumes. And I want to say a late thank you for the gift some of you made 54 years ago. Those previous volumes have nourished members and friends of Federated for more than half a century.

What I'm struck by in the gifts of these two respective editions of the Bible is three things. First, it reminds me how important generosity is. At different stages of this church's life, people have seen fit to share their resources with the church. They have taught and sung and knit and served meals and built buildings and visited people and worked for justice. It's these gestures of love that have built Federated into the church it is today. What would we be without them?

Second, the replacement of one gift by another is a vivid reminder of how transitory life is. Decades ago, people gave gifts that were an important part of Federated's life. As time went by, though, those gifts had served their purpose and needed to be changed. The same is true in every dimension of Federated's life. None of the church's early buildings still stand. Many of the people who have been visited and to whom meals have been taken have died. The notes of earlier choirs were momentary. The messages of past sermons have long since vanished.

And we might well ask, "Why do any of it—why build buildings and give financial gifts and serve people in need?" And the reason is: because we can't *not* do it. Our lives would be much the poorer if we didn't live gratefully and lovingly. The fact that all our gifts are eventually supplanted is not a reason not to give. In fact, it's all the more reason to give again and again.

The only real measure of our discipleship is not whether our gifts last for all eternity. It's not even whether anyone remembers those gifts years later. The only real measure of our life's quality is: did we live generously and gratefully? Did we, in each moment, remember what a gift God has given us in life; and did we seek to live generously in return. Gratitude for what we've been given and lavish giving in return is the mark of a life lived faithfully and well.

As we begin the season of Lent on March 6, may we turn again and again to God, the source of all our gifts, the wonder of our lives. And may we live extravagantly generous lives in return.

Yours in Christ,

Hamilton

Hamilton

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, March 3

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
Communion served

10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School
Music by Federated Choir and Mt. Zion Choir

11:30 am RISE to Shine Worship
Music by RISE to Shine Band

Wednesday, March 6

7 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, March 10—Daylight Savings Time Begins

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, March 17

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School
Music by Federated Bell Choir

11:30 am RISE to Shine Worship
Music by RISE to Shine Band

Sunday, March 24

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, March 31 (Fifth Sunday)

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



Church Council News

Council met on January 29 in order to approve the 2019 annual budget in time for the Annual Meeting on February 10. Thanks to the meticulous delineation and calculations of our Finance Committee as well as Council's comprehensive discussion and recommendations a balanced budget was ready to propose to the congregation. Recognizing our congregation's increasing need for pastoral care, outreach communications, and responsible stewardship the budget was set up to respond to those growth points. In addition, Council approved to assign the 2018 surplus to pay the 2019 allotment of principal on our loan payments. The aim is to retire that loan in three years.

While Trinkets 'N Treasures gears up for another fundraising event in April, we are blessed to learn of their commitment to fund the part-time groundskeepers, ongoing, for the Family Life Center and Bell Street properties! Bundles of thanks go to all who contribute time and treasures.

A yearly church-wide theme can unify the staff and congregation with common messaging across the work of the church. It can reinforce our shared values and principles. It can even motivate ways to think and act together and build curiosity for others to want to know more about Federated. In preparation for the Staff and Lay Leaders' Strategic Planning Retreat (March 2), the Telling Our Story Commission presented Council with proposals for a yearly multi-criteria process by which we can select each year's theme. Church leadership will begin in March to plan ways to build echoes of a common message throughout the 2019-2020 program year. (Watch for news of the new theme later this year!)

Church Council remains focused in 2019 on forward visioning for our church community. This coming year, task forces seek to answer the question of how we can responsibly optimize our three properties in alignment to our church's mission. Any decision of substantial change in ownership or use of property will be brought to the congregation. We continue to advance our "2020 priority," envisioning how to engage youth, children and families by being more responsive to what matters in their lives today.

The Federated Church continues to make a difference in lives near and far! Vibrant ministries such as SJAM, Wondrous Wednesdays, Colorado Kids, Work Camps, Angel Ministries, St. Paul's Ministries, Chagrin Falls Park Ministries, Stephen Ministries, Homeless Stand Down and so much more deepen our understandings, challenge our assumptions, and call us into partnerships and relationships of grace and humility. Face-to-face, we continue to discover God's grace through active and empathetic listening and by standing side-by-side in the suffering. Our faith community responds with full heart and soul! God is at work!

It has been a privilege to serve God and our congregation as Moderator. Fortunately, not one of us stands alone. The body of Christ is evident in the dedicated staff, lay leaders and congregants who sacrifice time, talents, and treasures every day to provide a safe and compelling space for discovering God's mystery in ordinary days. Thank you to all!

Together in God's abundant blessing,
Maren Koepf

Current Lay Leaders

Church Council

Brendan Buescher, Beth Rutkowski, Maren Koepf, Peggie Jo Shinagawa, Dan Kershner, Ken Horner, Doug Harlan, Kristin LeFeber, Elaine Whitmer, Shawn Rockhold

Commissions

Congregational Care

Jane Biggar (chair), Carol Kelly, Carole Halberg, Diane Tuuri, Judy Riemenschneider, Ruth Kershner, Karen Zoltowicz, (2) openings

Mission & Service

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

Spiritual Formation

Cassie Moran, Kristin LeFeber, Cathy Digel, Sunny Doxey, Thea Mazingo, Mary Senechal (chair), Stacy Cianciolo, Eric Goodman, (1) opening

Telling Our Story

Todd Smith (co-chair), Laura Taylor, Jim Scheuermann, (6) openings

Worship & Music

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

Elected Committees

Finance

Becky Gruss (chair), Steve Patton, Rob Goble, Don Rice

Human Resources

Chris Bednar, Bill Franz (1) opening

Legacy

Peter Franz, Alex Taylor, Brady Hively (1) opening

Membership

Rose Brown, Ann Lentz, (1) opening

Nominating & Leadership

Martine Scheuermann, Phil Fogarty, Bob Abley

Properties

Keith Mast, Bill Lentz, John Giles

Appointed Committee

Stewardship Committee

TBD

Western Reserve Assoc. Delegates

Susan Lampson, Jim Ogle, Kate Walsh

Ohio Conference Delegates

Susan Lampson, Kate Walsh

Federated News & Updates

Coming Soon to a device near you?

In March, Federated will be moving to a new kind of church record keeping solution called Realm®. It primarily serves the administrative needs of our staff, but it also offers some exciting opportunities to support the way congregants are involved in our church. Not only will this improve work life for our ministry staff, it will make it easier for our church family to connect with each other, keep up with what's going on, and grow as a connected community.



Imagine being able to update your own personal information with the church – a new phone number or email address.

Imagine being able to find contact information (and a photo!) for a fellow congregant using your computer or phone. No need to call the church or unearth that paper directory.

Imagine being able to check and track your giving whenever YOU want. No waiting for that quarterly statement.

Imagine being able to use e-giving to contribute to God's work at Federated by giving online through the website or a mobile app or a text.

We will be adding things like a mobile app for staying in touch with fellow congregants and church events through notifications and messaging. But don't panic! This does not mean we will be abandoning our current methods for communication and collection. Paper newsletters and check-writing will still be happily accommodated. (We aren't crazy.)

Stay tuned for more news as we venture into this exciting new world.

Do you want the SPIRE mailed to you?

Once we get settled in to using Realm, we plan to mail fewer newsletters. Do you prefer to read a paper edition? Just let us know!

If you would like a copy of THE SPIRE sent to your house and have not yet contacted Melinda Smith, please do so at

440.247.6490 x111 or smithm@fedchurch.org and she will be sure that a paper copy of THE SPIRE continues to get mailed to you each month.

If you read the newsletter online and no longer want to be on the newsletter snail mail list, let us know that, too.

PDF versions can be viewed at fedchurch.org/publications.

WANTED:

Spirited writers, innovative thinkers, photographers, designers, marketers and social media gurus... to join Federated's Telling Our Story Commission.

Work collaboratively and creatively with a commission team to "tell the story" of the wondrous ways God is still speaking through the many ministries of our church. Share the Federated faith, mission, and purpose within Federated and the community beyond. Help us strategize the big picture and messages for the year ahead.

If interested, contact Phil Fogarty at Pfogarty2468@gmail.com or Martine Scheuermann at martinehome@att.net.

Fellowship Treats

Members of the congregation take turns bringing in treats for between Sunday services, as scheduled by the Congregational Care Commission.

Please bring treats that are ready to serve. Healthy food choices are especially welcome! *Please no nuts.* We encourage attendees of the 11:30 service to come early to enjoy our delicious and enjoyable fellowship time!

March 3 – last names beginning with A or B

March 10 – last names beginning with C or D

March 17 – last names beginning with E, F, or G

March 24 – last names beginning with H, I, J or K

March 31 – last names beginning with L or M

Faith Formation

Lenten Sermon Series

Our Lenten sermon series is inspired by *What We Talk About When We Talk About God* by Rev. Rob Bell, the One Book, One Community book chosen by the Spiritual Formation Commission. We encourage as many as are able to read the book, and to join a book group (listed at fedchurch.org/events/bookstudies) to reflect on and discuss the themes. Bell describes God as “the reverence humming within us” and challenges us to dive deeper into our understanding of who God is for us in our present world. He uses five words to guide those reflections, which we will echo in worship throughout the season of Lent. They are: **Open, Both, With, For, Ahead** and **So**. We pray that pondering these words may lead us to deeper understanding of and connection with God, and with each other. Here are the themes and scriptures on which we will focus:

March 10— Theme: *Open*. Scripture: *Romans 10:8b-13 and Luke 4:1-13*

March 17— Theme: *Both*. Scripture: *Psalms 27 and Luke 13:31-35*

March 24— Theme: *With*. Scripture: *Isaiah 55:1-9 and Luke 13:1-9*

March 31— Theme: *For*. Scripture: *II Corinthians 5:16-21 and Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

April 7— Theme: *Ahead*. Scripture: *Isaiah 43:16-21 and John 12:1-8*

April 14— Theme: *So*. Scripture: *Luke 19:28-40 and Luke 23:1-49*

Come and journey with us through these themes, come and deepen your sense of who God is and how God loves, come and connect with others to make this Lenten season a time of rich spiritual blessing and growth.

Telling Our Story Spotlight

Scouts at Federated

If you're ever at the church on Tuesday evening, you'll notice that it is "Scout" day at Federated. Sponsoring both a Pack and a Troop is a wonderful ministry of our church.

As sponsors of Troop and Pack 150, our buildings host weekly and monthly meetings for the entire Pack, the Cub Scout Dens, as well as the Troop. Currently, there are 49 Cub Scouts and their families involved in Pack 150 and 23 Boy Scouts and their families involved in the Troop. Last fall, the Pack recruited kindergarten students and girls to join in the scouting experience for the first time.

The church not only hosts regular meetings, but also special scouting events, like the recent Eagle Court of Honor for Patrick Carroll and Matthew Suzelis. For his Eagle Scout project Patrick led a group who built a run-in shed at Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center and Matthew led a group who built a wheelchair deck adjacent to the train track at Santa's Hide-a-Way Hollow. These two projects represent the pinnacle of the leadership, social, and outdoor adventure skills that a young person can learn through the BSA. Since 1950 almost 100 youth have earned the Eagle Scout rank through Troop 150 at Federated Church. Feel free to view the list on display in our Fellowship Hall!

Although Troop 150 has been in existence (off and on) since

1924, its association with The Federated Church started in 1953, when the church's Men's Club became the troop's sponsor. Each year the sponsoring organization renews its charter with its troop and/or pack. Larry Trace has been active on the Troop 150 charter at Federated since 1974. He is a wealth of information and guidance for the scouts here at the church, as evidenced by his presentation of the Mentor Pin during Patrick Carroll's Eagle Court of Honor.

During his sermons, we've heard about Hamilton's work with young scouts as they earn the God and Family pin. That's just one example of the way in which Federated can reach out to the Scouts and the Scouts can reach out to the church, to the benefit of both. There has lately been a nice convergence of church members who are the leaders of our Scout units: church member Bob Leibold is the Troop 150 Scoutmaster and church member Thaddeus Quintin is the Pack 150 Cubmaster. As Federated continues its focus on programming for children, youth, and families through its Family Ministries, there is an opportunity for more engagement between Federated, the Pack, and the Troop – where both organizations continue to benefit. Amen to that!



Federated Happenings

Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) News

February recap:

SJAM had a February full of events mostly focusing our attention on Racial Justice in light of Black History month. We had book discussions on *The Color of Law*, a movie night about housing discrimination, a choir exchange/combination with Mt. Zion church. The Federated Church Choir sang at the Sunday service at Mt. Zion United Church of Christ on February 24. On March 3, we will host a group from the Mt. Zion choir at our 10:00 am service.

Plan to come to hear about all we've done, and where we're headed by attending **our next meeting, which will be Sunday, March 10 at 11:15 am in the Lounge**. Anyone is welcome to come, and we'd love your input and your energy!

March events:

Our March event will focus on Gun Sense and will be held on **Monday, March 18 at 7:00 pm at the Family Life Center**. Childcare will be provided. For more information, see the article on the front page.

SJAM supports the work of our other commissions focused on justice and advocacy, such as the Telling Our Story Commission and Spiritual Formation Commission.

We encourage everyone to attend the March Wondrous Wednesday program: The Haitian Asylum seeker Ansly Damus will speak on **Wednesday, March 13**. Details can be found in the article below.

What's coming up in April?

Focus on Creation Justice:

- Movie night on Monday, April 15.
- Family activity (date and details TBD).
- Help plan a worship service focused on this theme, plus electronics recycling opportunity on April 28.
- The Wondrous Wednesday on April 3 will feature a presentation from Diane Bickett, Executive Director of Cuyahoga County's Solid Waste District., about *Recycling: What's New, What and How to do Recycling Right!*

Thank you for all you do to make this a more just and peace-filled world. If you are interested in finding out more about our SJAM activities or to get on our email list, please contact Rev. Susi Kawolics at 440.247.6490 x102, or skawolics@fedchurch.org.

Wondrous Wednesday

Mr. Ansly Damus

Wednesday, March 13

6:00 pm dinner; 7:00 pm program
Bell St. Fellowship Hall

Mr. Ansly Damus, a Haitian ethics professor was detained and imprisoned for 766 days after he legally applied for asylum in the U.S. He was recently released on house arrest after his case came to light, and he consequently received strong support from the Greater Cleveland community. Local residents offered to take him into their home. He has

not seen his wife or two children since he came to the U.S. over two years ago. He is waiting for his trial.

A free dinner will be held at 6:00 pm and **Mr. Damus will speak about his experience with the help of an interpreter at 7:00 pm.**

Call 440.247.6490 to RSVP if you would like to enjoy the dinner so that we prepare enough food. We hope to see you there!



Federated Happenings

Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 28

Legacy Fund Seminar at 3:30 pm in the Lounge

In response to the Capital Campaign, Federated has decided to host creative giving seminars more regularly. These seminars educate members about how they can **initiate planned gifts to support the church's long-term financial health through the Legacy Fund.** The Legacy Fund acts as our endowment fund - annually supporting our church operations and ministries.

We will discuss methods of donating, required minimum distributions or securities, as well as naming Federated as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy, pension or will. We will hear thoughts from Hamilton and from those who have already made a planned gift to the church.

RSVPs are appreciated—contact Laura Taylor at 440.247.6490 x115 or rejoiceandrenew@fedchurch.org.

Organ Dedication Concert at 4:30pm in the Sanctuary

We now have one of the largest, finest, and most versatile organs in the area and want to use it to its full advantage. Our new organ is a Rodgers Infinity hybrid organ, which means we will be using all the original pipes from the Schantz organ, but have also added many digital sounds.

Our guest organist will be Dan Miller, an organ designer and internationally renowned musician. Mr. Miller is in his 20th year at Rodgers Instruments. He also is an Adjunct Professor of Organ at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon and is well-known for his composing and arranging and has several published works.

Marcia is excited to share the capacity of our organ and introduce us to Dan. Come hear the musician who designed our new organ!



Primetime Federated Forum

Monday, March 11

1:30 pm Refreshments; 2:00 pm program
Bell St. Fellowship Hall

Presenter: Jan Jones

A welcoming smile, high energy, and a genuine interest in others has made Jan Jones a successful and well-known media personality.

You will remember her as Co-Host of the long running ABC show "The Morning Exchange" as well as the Emmy winning Co-Host of the CBS evening show "PM Magazine." Countless commercials and television programs fill her resume. The smile in her voice is her real trademark.

Jan knows that happiness is a habit and will share her stories, her laughter and her heart with us.



Celebrated artist Mary Ann Boysen in the Federated Gallery

Mary Ann Boysen is the featured artist in Federated's Art Gallery. She has been involved in watercolors since 1974, when she decided to study with experienced watercolorists, and then to paint 10-12 hours a day, while raising and taking care of her children. Simple task, right?! She has taught both here and abroad and produced award-winning paintings since that time.

Mary Ann carved out the Fed's Art Gallery space over 27 years ago, allowing us to view works by hundreds of artists for the 25 years of her dedicated scheduling. Now we get to soak in **her creations.**

Visit the Gallery space, downstairs adjoining Fellowship Hall and in the stairwell. You can view her amazing pieces through the end of March.



Federated Happenings

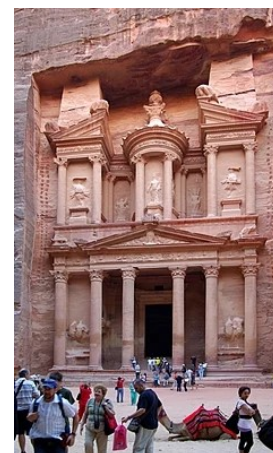
Federated's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Jordan

**** April 19 – May 1, 2020 ****

We are partnering with Magi Travel for another similar pilgrimage to the Holy Lands. This time we are going to Jordan. This trip is more than a tour of historical places. It is a spiritual journey as stories of our faith become tangible while walking in the footsteps of Jesus and His disciples in Nazareth, Cana, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Galilee, and swimming in the Dead Sea. We'll be able to encounter God in new ways through worship, prayer and communion services led by Hamilton in these hallowed places.

A detailed brochure is available in the Bell St. Lobby or at fedchurch.org/trips.

The cost is \$3,995 for double occupancy in 5-star hotels, dedicated tour bus, local guide and head sets, all breakfasts & dinners, and gratuities. Optional group airfare of \$1,895 is available. You may register online with a \$500 deposit. Space is limited and will be based on a first come basis.



~~ SAVE THE DATE: Information Night ~~
Wednesday, June 12 at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

See photos of the places we will visit, learn more details of the trip and have your questions answered. Contact Peggie Jo Shinagawa at pjshinagawa@windstream.net if you have questions.

Special Thanks

On behalf of everyone at HOLA Ohio, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to you. We are overwhelmed with feelings of gratitude and warmth for the generous Christmas offering of \$34,398 donated to HOLA for our Hispanic Community Center classroom.

We feel so fortunate to have forged a relationship with Federated. In these times of so much acrimony toward the community we serve, I can't tell you how much it means to us to know all the wonderful and supportive people at Federated, who lift us up so that we can continue to do our work. The services we attended were inspiring for us, the write-ups that were shared in the bulletin about HOLA were so touching. We are deeply grateful.

We are excited to keep you updated on the center's progress and look forward to the day when we can host the members of Federated at the new Hispanic community center! It's my hope we can continue to work together in partnership to help this underserved community of immigrant workers and their families.

Thank you so very much for everything.

Warm regards,
 Veronica Isabel Dahlberg
 Executive Director of HOLA Ohio

Dear Colorado Kids,

We are truly grateful for the spaghetti casserole, salad and rolls you provided for our senior and children's program. The Colorado Kids are a beautiful example of generosity. May the community learn from your acts of kindness and spread love throughout the earth.

With a grateful heart,
 Helyne Walker
 Chagrin Falls Park Community Center

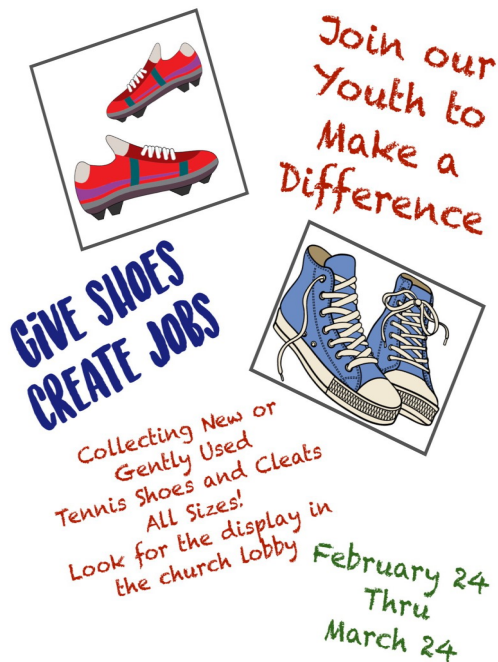
To My Dear Friends at The Federated Church,

On behalf of my family and me, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the many cards, emails, phone calls and visits following the death of my husband and my children's father, Mark Shaffer. The support of my church family has carried me through the past troubling years.

With love and appreciation,
 Jeri Shaffer

Mission & Service

FAMILY MINISTRIES MISSION SHOE DRIVE



Do you have a closet full of gently used athletic shoes? Family Ministries is working with an organization called Rippl. They clean and distribute the shoes to new homes in third world countries.

You may bring your shoes to the church and place them in shoe bags by the Lobby doors each Sunday through March 24. Only sneakers, tennis shoes, and athletic shoes can go in these bags. Cleats work, as well as Converse-type canvas shoes.

Men's, women's, and children's accepted! Gently worn, please (no holes or tears). Thanks for helping us collect shoes!

80s Prom

Benefiting Chagrin Falls Park Community Center

March 2

Chagrin Valley Athletic Club

You're invited to the first ever, totally rad 80s Prom Fundraiser benefiting Chagrin Falls Park Community Center. Enter to win the Prom King & Queen contest, enjoy getting a caricature to remember the night (additional cost), and jam out on the dance floor to some of your favorite songs from the 80s.

Tickets include appetizers and open bar. Buy your tickets now to flash back to the 80s with us!

Pre-sale: \$60 per person or \$540 for table of 10 people. At the door: \$70 per person www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3909276.

Parish Nurse Corner

A message from Kathy Kolcaba

When winter is serious in Northeast Ohio, I see more new people come to St. Paul's. This is because:

- (1) It's warm inside with some comfy furniture to rest their tired feet;
- (2) St. Paul's' folks are nice to them;
- (3) They can get hygiene necessities, underwear, and socks every week as well as browse the thrift shop for gently used clothing;
- (4) There is help with paperwork to get their SS card, birth certificate, housing, and rides to medical appointments and job interviews;
- (5) Free meals are offered every Wednesday and Friday;
- (6) First aid is available as needed;
- (7) They can attend the free Turning Point class on Wednesday to connect with peers who are breaking the cycle of addiction.

Last week, I drove up to St. Paul's for my usual Tuesday morning Parish Nurse clinic and a man was huddled in a blanket outside the church waiting for the building to open. I thought, "We need a blanket drive!"

Later that day, I saw Marty Culbertson in Heinen's. We got to talking about some of the material needs of the clinic, and I relayed my sadness about the man with the blanket and my thought about a blanket drive. She quickly remembered that she had several new sleeping bags with zipper hoods that she could donate, as well as some unused and sturdy backpacks. My eyes lit up and we made arrangements for a drop-off at my house. These items were judiciously distributed to those who have no shelter. Miracles like this happen every day when gifts fill in for what is needed.

Thanks to everyone who has donated to this worthy cause, whether it is food, clothing, blankets, boots, mittens, hats, coats, backpacks, or money. We could not function in this holistic way without your generosity!

Questions about donations? Interested in volunteering on an occasional Tuesday or Wednesday morning? Please call Kathy Kolcaba at 440.655.2098.

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Family Ministries Recap & Looking Ahead

Federated families and friends love to skate! More than 60 people attended a skating party at Chagrin Valley Roller Rink on Saturday, February 9. Most were young families, and many were guests of the church, itching to get out of the house and get rolling on another cold winter day.

The session was strictly secular in nature, but the spirit of joy and friendship was palpable. The hope is that those who attended felt refueled by the community and reconnected to themselves or others by being active and letting loose a little.

Ten-year-old Milo Quintin summed it up best when he said, "It was awesome!"

Don't miss **Federated Families Campout 2.0: Friday, June 7—Saturday, June 8 at the Family Life Center.** More information on this and other events to follow.

| This Month in SUNDAY SCHOOL | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Theme | Life App |
| DISCOVERY ISLAND (K-5) | Jesus heals a young woman. | Don't be afraid, just keep trusting. |
| KIDS COVE (B-PreK) | It all fits together. | God has a plan for me. |



Congratulations to Communion Students!

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

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



Please greet **Olivia Healy, Rory Healy, and Wesley Quintin** as they take their Communion with the congregation for the first time on Sunday, March 3. We are proud and indeed strengthened to have them in our midst!



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*

* Janis Stefanchik, *Bookkeeper*

* Dolly Herschel, *Primetime Coordinator*

* Laura Taylor, *Capital Campaign Assistant*

Jake Magalski, *Maintenance & Grounds Lead*

* Brian Jacobs, * Larry McGurer, * Larry Wervey, *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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Have you checked out
our *RISE to Shine*
service yet?

10:00 am
Traditional Worship

11:30 am
RISE to Shine Worship

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