Building for our Future: HOLA Ohio's annual fundraiser

Saturday, August 10 | 6:00—9:00 pm
Family Life Center

Join members of Federated Church in supporting HOLA Ohio's critical work protecting Northeast Ohio immigrant workers and their families by attending their August 10 fundraiser.

The event will include a delicious south-of-the-border Mexican buffet, festive décor and acoustic music by Elena y los Fulanos. An array of unique baskets and auction items will be available, including an item signed by Pro Football Hall of Famer Anthony Muñoz. Also meet Ohio artist Alberto ”Beto” Marin, originally of Puebla, Mexico. A signed print of one of Beto’s paintings, created especially for HOLA to acknowledge Ohio's Latino farm workers, will be available for auction.

Tickets are $50 through July 20. After July 20, ticket price is $65. Last year's event sold out fast.

Tickets can be purchased online at holaohio2019.eventbrite.com. Sponsorship packages and volunteer opportunities are also available. Contact Judy Kramer at jkramer222@gmail or 440.247.5780 for details.

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End of Summer Picnic

Friday, September 6
Starting at 5:00 pm (but come when you can!)
Family Life Center

It’s an all-church picnic! Mark your calendars!

We are planning to gather with Mt. Zion Congregational Church for a joint picnic at the Family Life Center. Mt. Zion marks its 155th anniversary that weekend and will spend that evening celebrating with us!

To mark our fellowship, we will create a joint work of art on the theme of "What Does the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s I Have a Dream Speech Mean Today?"

Plan to arrive starting at 5:00 pm or any time after that. Bring a dish to pass. After the art project we will serve dinner at 7:00 pm. The picnic is sponsored by Federated's Social Justice Advocacy Ministry.

If you plan to attend, please let Barry Stees know. RSVP to steesbassoon@gmail.com or 440.781.1913.
RISE to Shine is on Summer Break

As you may know, the RISE worship design emerged as one of our prototypes for offering the community a distinctly different worship experience and, throughout the winter and spring of 2019, we gathered feedback, innovated, and tweaked throughout this Phase One "soft start."

On summer Sundays, from July 7 through September 8, we will briefly press pause on the 11:30 service as we work to “give rise” to a retooled RISE to Shine experience in the fall. This intermission will allow time to analyze impact and develop what is needed to solidify sustainable rotations and supports, gearing up for a spectacular launch.

The official grand opening for the RISE worship service is scheduled for Sunday, September 15. In the meantime, please consider who you will invite to attend Federated in the fall. We have what the world is longing for!

Family Ministries Campout—A Success!

A group of Federated families gathered together on Saturday, June 8 to camp out on the grounds of the Family Life Center. What a perfect opportunity to experience God through the nature around us. Stay tuned to the SPIRE for more upcoming Family Ministries events.
From Judy’s Desk

Dear Federated Friends,

I cannot express to you what a joy it is to be back with you for the summer. My history with Federated Church goes back to 1965 when I attended kindergarten here. Then, even though I was raised Roman Catholic, my step-father was a member of Federated, so throughout elementary school, I attended here on a part-time basis. In ninth grade, I began attending the Federated Youth Group, and officially joined the church on Maundy Thursday of my Freshman Year of High School. In 1981, Brian and I were married in the Chapel. After college, Federated officially took me “in-care” (a formal process of support for those preparing for ordination) when I went off to United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, in Minnesota. In 1986, I was ordained here. From 2004-2008, I served on staff as “Spiritual Life Associate” and in 2015, while living in Florida, I returned for the summer to fill in for Hamilton’s sabbatical. Now I join you from Bradenton, Florida again, (where my husband and I share a ministry at Faith United Church of Christ) in order to fill in for Rev. Susi Kawolics for the summer.

All of this is humbly to say that I have seen a few things around these parts. Throughout my years of connection, I have seen a consistently amazing and talented line of clergy pass through, and have always known this congregation to be a lively, healing community of open minds and open hearts. When I make decisions in my own ministry, I routinely find myself asking “how would Federated handle this?” Indeed, I have seen Federated go through times of great challenge as well as times of relative ease. I have seen it weather storms, weather grief and weather all manner of change. And here is the thing: no matter how painful those changes have sometimes been, God has always been faithful, and has eventually brought from the change, a greater good.

And so I say to you, fear not. God is in it, whatever “it” is in your life or the life of Federated. Sometimes God's ways seem confusing, and we cannot see order or pattern until long afterwards. But God is there. Ours is simply to seek to discern the next step. The Twelve Step program says, "do the next right thing." That is all we ever need to do: one step at a time to discern and follow the Spirit's guidance until the path finally makes sense.

With you on the journey,
Judy Bagley-Bonner
News & Info

On Call Pastors and Pastoral Care

With Rev. Susi Kawolics away for her leave this summer, Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner will be covering for her. With Rev. Mark Simone gone some, as well, though, there may well be times during the summer when Federated’s pastoral care needs are more concentrated, and we want to make sure we have pastoral coverage for such times (people in the hospital, or a need for someone to lead a funeral).

With that in mind, four Federated clergypeople in the Federated family have offered to be on-call. They are Rev. Judith Brown Bryan, Rev. Richard Falkenberg, Rev. Jill Harkins Goodman, and Rev. Jeff Jackson.

Rest assured: the pastoral care needs of Federated members and friends will be taken care of. We wanted you to know about these wonderful temporary summer additions. Please let Mark, Judy, or the office know about any situations that need attention.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that the Rev. Dan Kershner will be providing pastoral care for the Federated congregation in a temporary staff capacity beginning immediately and continuing through November.

Dan is a retired Presbyterian minister, who is also a long-time member of Federated. He will provide pastoral care coverage while the Rev. Susi Kawolics is on summer leave, and continue in the fall while the Rev. Mark Simone is on sabbatical.

He will be working approximately 8-10 hours per week, and will visit people in their homes and in the hospital, as well as making phone calls and perhaps officiating at memorial services. We are delighted to welcome Dan and his caring presence into this temporary role.

Current Lay Leaders

Church Council
Brendan Buescher, Beth Rutkowski, Maren Koepf, Peggy Jo Shinagawa, Dan Kershner, Ken Horner, Doug Harlan, Kristin LeFeber, Elaine Witmer, 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 Shaull

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

Telling Our Story
Todd Smith (Chair), Laura Taylor, Jim Scheuermann, Carolyn Shaull, Dawn Herdman, (5) openings

Worship & Music
Abby Patton, Curtis Grube, Nancie Skonezny, Sibyl McBride, Nancy Isham, Dave Strauch, Laura Reed, Gary Dole (chair), (1) opening

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 Aby

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
News & Info

Mark Goes on Sabbatical

Thank you, Federated Church, for the gift of a much-needed sabbatical this fall. Beginning August 19 and continuing through November 30, I will be spending time with numerous projects that have been on my heart to look at for some time. I will be considering how the stories of our lives are linked to who we are presently, and how these stories may influence and speak to who we are for our remaining years.

I call this project “Our Finals.” Who knows, maybe a book is in the works? I also hope to fulfill a life-long dream of really learning Italian. I took it in college so that I could talk to my Aunt Lena and Uncle Paulo, who were born in Italy, and then... Aunt Lena died and Unkie didn’t want to talk in Italian! So, I had no one to practice with.

Finally, I hope to travel to South Africa (my 17th trip) to likely speak in two colleges, by invitation, and to visit some of our Federated Church missions. It has been years since I went to this place where we were such a helping presence in the past. It will be good to see how ministries we helped in the past have evolved.

There are a couple of other ideas that I have, one being to let my body rest, that I hope to allow, but I am keeping these close to my vest.

But the bottom line is that a sabbatical is such an opportunity to grow, to focus, to press into God’s presence in new ways, and to chill.

Blessings to you for making this important time away a reality!
Mark

Building Closure

The Bell Street location and the Family Life Center will both be closed on Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 in honor of Independence Day.

Fellowship Treats

Members of the congregation take turns bringing in treats this summer after the 10 am combined service on Sundays, as scheduled by the Congregational Care Commission.

Please bring ready to serve treats in disposable containers. Healthy food choices are especially welcome. Please no nuts. Thank you for helping to make our fellowship time delicious and enjoyable!

July 7 – last names beginning with A or B
July 14 – last names beginning with C or D
July 21 – last names beginning with E, F or G
July 28 – last names beginning with H, I, J or K
August 4 – last names beginning with L or M
August 11 – last names beginning with N, O, P, Q or R
August 18 – last names beginning with S or T
August 25 – last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y, Z

September 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 Thursday, August 15. Thank you!
Capital Campaign News

Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign Projects Update

The Properties Committee and the Church’s Operations staff have been busy coordinating the Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign 2019 Projects.

Our Bell Street parking lot was re-striped in June because we were in such desperate need of having that done. Now it is more obvious which parking spots are reserved for those with limited mobility, which ones are leased to Chagrin Falls for employee parking, and what is the safest route to drive through our lot. There’s even been a few additional spots created because of the closed driving ramp to the Chagrin Intermediate School. A bit of this may change as the parking lot is slated to be overhauled in 2020. In the meantime, we’re so thankful for this update!

In addition, the conference room chairs are currently being reconditioned. Not only are they being covered in coordinating fabric, but, as you’ll notice from the picture, both the seat and arm pads will have thicker padding, so we’re more comfortable during those church meetings! We can’t wait to use the updated chairs this fall. They have been with us for a long time, and with this renovation, we’ll be able to use them for years to come! Many thanks to Bill & Kathy Franz who associated their campaign gift with this Giving Opportunity and to Paul Koepf for his continued work on behalf of this project!

Neighborhood Happenings

100 Women in Red
Sunday, July 21 | 4:00 pm
Union Bethel AME Church

Put on your red attire and come worship with us!

Come and help us uplift and celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will worship him together in song, scripture, prayer, and in giving.

For more information please call Pastor Deborah Austin Sanders at 330.620.6612.
Federated Happenings

Planned Giving Seminar at Federated North
August 25 at 2:30 pm

In April, Hamilton, Pete Franz, and Rob Goble hosted a wonderful group of people who brought great questions about planned gifts and a lively discussion to the table. This seminar gives the church a chance to thank those who have already established planned gifts and provide an environment in which members feel comfortable asking questions and sharing experiences with others.

We’re so delighted that Bill & Silvia Kenneweg have agreed to sponsor this next event at Ohio Living Breckenridge Village. Come join us Sunday afternoon at 2:30 pm for about 45 minutes to welcome Hamilton back from his time away this summer and talk about ways in which our own legacy can impact Federated.

We’ll share more details as the event approaches. Please let us know you plan to attend by contacting Laura Taylor at 440.247.6490 x115 or rejoiceandrenew@fedchurch.org.

Primetime Summer Picnic: Fun, Food and Bingo
Thursday, July 18 | 11:30 am—2:00 pm
West Woods Park, Turkey Ridge Shelter
9465 Kinsman Road (Rt. 87), Newbury, OH

Time to get together and enjoy food from the grill with all the fixin’s.

Plus, we will play bingo for fabulous prizes. Hope to see you at the Primetime annual picnic!

Reservations: Call 440.247.6490 by Friday, July 12.
Cost: $10 payable at the picnic.

Red Cross Blood Drive
Monday, July 8 | 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 to redcrossblood.org or be a “walk-in donor.”

All blood types are in demand. For any questions, please contact Carole Mason at 440.338.3573 or at wfamason36@gmail.com. Thank you.

Children’s Choir

Children’s Choir Director, Pat Haynish, invites all children in grades 1-8 to participate in the Federated Children’s Choir!

Rehearsals will begin Monday, August 26 in the Large Music Room from 4—4:45 pm. The choir will perform about once a month and will be featured in a Christmas Musical on December 8! Choir members often use instruments, ribbons and other props to accompany their Sunday performances!

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

Chautauqua-in-Chagrin Continues in July
At Federated Church Sanctuary
Tickets available at www.chagrinarts.org/events or 440.247.9700

July 2, 6:30 pm
Dr. Lisa Damour, speaker
New York Times columnist and best-selling author, Lisa Damour, draws on years of clinical experience and the latest research to provide sound, practical guidance to girls, as well as to their parents, teachers and advocates.

Dr. Damour’s latest release, Under Pressure, is an urgently needed guide to the alarming increase in anxiety and stress experienced by girls of all ages.

July 16, 6:30 pm
Lue Douthit, presenter
Tyler Collins & Delaney Hagy,
Co-Directors (Shakespeare in the Valley™)

Since 2015, Lue, Executive Director of Play On! and former Director of New Play Development & Dramaturgy at Oregon Shakespeare Festival (along with 36 playwrights) have ‘translated’ Shakespeare’s original texts to modern-day English as companion pieces to his works.

We will be joined by Tyler, Delaney and other members of the As You Like It cast for readings and demonstrations.

Faith Formation and Spirituality

Coming This Fall: Spirituality 101
Led by Mary Senechal & Rev. Judith Bryan

What is spirituality? What is the spiritual life? How can we be more aware of God’s movement and presence in our lives? How might we explore our internal life and relationship with God? How can we strengthen our spiritual life?

Through study, discussion and practice we will seek to deepen our relationship with the Holy One and one another. Mary and Judith will provide short readings, facilitate conversation and guide a variety of prayer practices that have sustained Christians over the centuries. This six-week series takes place Wednesday evenings 7:00—9:00 pm, beginning September 11 and running through October 16. The series is intended for men and women of all ages and stages in their faith development journey. Stay tuned for more info.

Spirits & Spirituality
A New Location! Village Martini & Wine Bar
516 E. Washington St.

“Spirits and Spirituality” is a program led by Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner where people gather casually to discuss intriguing questions about life, spirituality or theology.

An example of prepared questions might be: "What drains life from you, and what replenishes it?" or "Why does God allow pain and suffering?" or "What do you believe about the afterlife?"

All we ask is that participants:
* agree to be respectful of all opinions, even if you disagree.
* remember that there is no wrong answer.
* agree not to interrupt one another.
* agree to monitor how long they talk

We will meet at Village Martini & Wine Bar from 6-8 pm every other Monday in July: July 1, July 15 and July 29. Everyone will have a separate check and can order what they want.

RSVPs are required. The cut-off to register is after church services the day before the gathering, or max 25 people. Please call Federated to sign up: 440.247.6490
Mission & Service

Help Me Learn Day:
School Supplies Collection

Mission and Service is encouraging you to contribute School Supplies for the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center’s “Help me Learn Day.”

There will be a collection drop off in the Lobby off the parking lot at Bell St between July 14 and August 4.

The Community Center wants to collect 200 backpacks that will help kids from all over Geauga County.

Other school supply needs for all ages of school kids include:

- Binders/Notebooks
- Paper
- Pencils
- Pens
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Glue sticks

We cannot have too much, extras will support the tutoring program throughout the year. Thank you for your contributions!

Christmas in July Offering
To Be Collected Sunday, July 21

The Christmas in July offering (sometimes called Veterans of the Cross Offering) is an expression of appreciation of caring to those who have served as UCC clergy (and certain lay employees) who are now retired or disabled and financially strained.

The offering helps provide pension supplements, health premium subsidies, and emergency assistance to active or retired clergy families and Christmas gifts to hundreds of UCC retirees and those who are disabled.

The Mission and Service Commission thanks you for your prayerful consideration and donations.

Parish Nurse Corner

First of all, I want to thank my wonderful substitutes who are helping me out during my summer vacation(s). They are Leslie Fincun, Bill Shaul, and Darlene Nichols. A substitute can be any person who now or in the past was connected with health care or service, such as a teacher, social worker, counselor, or physician. Thank you if you care enough to substitute for me once in a while and please let me know of your interest!

Our Parish Nurse clinic at St. Paul’s in Ohio City is quite a busy place, as an average of 35 men, women, and children stop by each of my two days to receive emergency supplies. Supplies in demand are socks, underwear, feminine and masculine hygiene products, first aid products, toilet paper, supplies for washing up, and dental care products. Also, we are in desperate need of men’s and women’s gently used practical shoes for our thrift shop. For those of you who wish to donate supplies to this worthy cause, you can drop them off at the grocery cart and accompanying box in the back Lobby on the first floor of Bell St. Thank you!

Another need we have is bags. We can use those pesky medium-sized plastic bags that will soon be phased out in Cuyahoga County, or the colorful tote bags that often have advertisements. Best yet are gently used or new backpacks. Our folks need to put their supplies from the clinic, food pantry, or thrift shop into bags, and many do not have a place to store them between use so they need to be sturdy. Again, thank you if you can donate these types of bags!

In service,
Kathy Kolcaba
440.655.2098
Telling Our Story Spotlight

A Look at Loaves & Fishes

Thanks to the wonderful efforts of Federated members K-Leigh and Jay Ericson, Federated continues to provide a mid-day meal to those in need one Sunday each month at our sister church, St. Paul’s Community Church on the near-west side.

Each Loaves & Fishes (L&F) meal consists of a protein, a carbohydrate, a mixed vegetable salad, and a dessert. All the ingredients are purchased beforehand and cooked in St. Paul’s kitchen the same day that it is served, thereby guaranteeing that the guests in attendance are presented with food that is fresh and hot. Over this last 2018/2019 program year, the ministry served on average 150 people each month, with a record set at 200 guests in September 2018.

The L&F ministry team is comprised of two team leaders, as well as a core group of volunteers who regularly plan, purchase, and prepare the food for cooking. Each meal is cooked and served by a group of 10 to 15 people. The volunteers also set up decorations to provide a welcoming environment. Since the volunteers sit down and eat with the meal guests, they can share experiences and connect on a personal level. Numerous groups regularly commit to L&F Sundays, including Mission & Service, GROUP, JOY, and Primetime.

Here are a few stories that K-Leigh shared showing how connected our L&F volunteers are:

One of our volunteers said she would like to pre-mix the herbs and mayonnaise dressing for our pasta salad at home. The day before Loaves & Fishes she called me to say she had broken her hip and was in the ER - in excruciating pain - and would I please go over to her house and get the mayo mixture because it was ready and perfect for the pasta. In pain! Facing surgery! And she was thinking of L&F!

One month I had all the shopping done for our chicken parmesan dinner. I received a phone call a few days before Loaves & Fishes from a church member. She shared with me the sad news that another member volunteer had passed away and his memorial service would be the day before L&F. Before passing away, he had asked his wife and daughters (who had volunteered for L&F while in GROUP) to be sure any of the leftover food from his service was donated to us. It turned out the leftovers of pizza, pasta, salads, and desserts were almost enough to feed all the guests the next day. On our printed menu that day, we honored him and his family with his obituary and a few short sentences explaining how and why we were having such a special meal. The generosity of this touching contribution still overwhelms me.

The Loaves & Fishes ministry provides a wonderful opportunity for members of Federated to actively serve those in need. It is the perfect example of a way in which our church community acts out our faith.

Feel free to reach out to K-Leigh (kericson@ericson.com) or Jay (jericson@ericson.com), if you have any questions or want to get involved.

Jay and K-Leigh Ericson
Children, Youth and Family Ministries

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

Summer Sunday School at Bell Street - Our Summer ENJOYING God. "This is the day the Lord has made, let us REJOICE and be glad in it."

Every Sunday this summer starting, Sunday School will be hands on and full of JOY as we discover the Fruit of the Spirit in unusual ways. We’ll start in the Sanctuary and then head to the classroom.

Little kids through pre-school age will meet downstairs in Room 20 at both services, and will be learning about how God made everything.

Make sure you are following the Federated Facebook page to catch a glimpse of our weekly adventures!
Facebook.com/thefederatedchurch

Puerto Rico Work Camp

Our mission team to Puerto Rico will likely be on the job in Corozal, PR as you read this. A team of 18 members and friends of Federated have committed themselves to repair and reconstruction projects with up to three elderly families whose homes were significantly damaged by Hurricane Marie almost two years ago. Hammers will swing, and paint will fly as we show God’s love and light in our efforts.

Thank you, Federated family, for the many ways you assist in making these annual work camps a reality. Thank you for extending God’s touch into places in the world that have great need. The whole church is truly in partnership with our mission team.

Our team will be blessed for mission in our worship service on Sunday, June 30 and we will lead worship and report about our efforts in Puerto Rico on July 14.

Please hold us in daily prayer—
Mark and the Team
Summer is Here!
July/August Worship Schedule:

10:00 am
Combined Worship and Summer Sunday School

RISE to Shine worship returns on September 15!

Vol. 70 No. 7 July/August 2019
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Summer is Here!
July/August Worship Schedule:

10:00 am
Combined Worship and Summer Sunday School

RISE to Shine worship returns on September 15!

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
- 60 wooded acres, waterfall, extensive perennial gardens
- Full time custodial staff

Family Life Center
16349 Chillicothe Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
440.247.6490

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