



September 2019

# THE SPIRE

## THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

# Rally Day

## is family fun day Sunday, September 8th - 11am-1pm

Church Picnic and Fun  
begins immediately  
following worship  
(one service at 10 am)

Please bring a side dish  
or salad to share



Lunch will include:  
veggie burgers,  
beef burgers and hot dogs  
grilled to perfection,  
veggies and beverages.

Freshly-made donuts and sundaes from the  
**DONUT LAB**  
MINI DONUTS ON DEMAND

Sidewalk chalk  
to share your  
joy of the summer

## Federated Turns 100!

The year 2019 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of what we know as the Federated Church of Chagrin Falls.

A "federated" church is a combination of two or more local congregations, usually of differing denominational backgrounds. In our case, the two that federated in 1919 were the Congregational Church of Chagrin Falls and the Disciples of Christ Church.

The roots of congregationalism are in the Anglican Church, and it was introduced to America by the Pilgrims. The Congregational Church was the first church to be established in Chagrin Falls in 1835. Four years earlier, the Disciples of Christ organized a church in Bentleyville. In 1853 the Disciples relocated to a church building in Chagrin Falls on Walnut Street. *(continued on next page...)*



(continued from cover...) Our present site on Bell Street originally housed an English church called the Bible Christian Church, which disbanded in 1884 and became part of the Congregational Church, which enlarged the Bell Street building and relocated there from its East Orange Street building built in 1845.

Then in 1919, our present Federated Church was born as a result of the federation of the Congregational and Disciples of Christ churches. So although our history in the village dates back to 1835, and our current affiliation since 1961 is with the United Church of Christ, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the "Congregational-Disciples Church Federated" is a milestone worth noting!

So it is no surprise that with our history of joining people of different faith traditions together, people from so many church backgrounds make up Federated's community of faith today!

## End of Summer Cookout

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

It's an all-church cookout! We are gathering with **Mt. Zion Congregational Church** for a joint cookout 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 cookout is sponsored by Federated's **Social Justice Advocacy Ministry**. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to **Barry Stees** at [steesbassoon@gmail.com](mailto:steesbassoon@gmail.com) or 440.781.1913, or sign up after worship in Fellowship Hall.



## Movie Night

Monday, September 16 | 7:00—9:00 pm  
Bell St. Fellowship Hall

### Movie—*Flow: For the Love of Water*

Everyone is invited to attend this movie night and discussion which fits into our fall worship theme of **"water."** Flow is an award-winning documentary investigation into the world water crisis which experts have labeled the most important political and environmental issue of the 21st century.

Water is the very essence of life, sustaining every being on the planet. "Flow" confronts the disturbing reality that our crucial resource is dwindling and greed just may be the cause. "Flow" showcases interviews with scientists and activists who intelligently reveal the rapidly building crisis, at both the global and human scale, while introducing the many governmental and corporate culprits behind the water grab.

Along with identifying the world water crisis, "Flow" gives viewers a look at the people and institutions providing practical solutions to the water crisis and developing new technologies which are becoming blueprints for a successful global and economic turnaround.



### Next SJAM Meeting:

Sunday, September 22 | 11:30 am  
Bell Street Lounge

SJAM is the Social Justice Advocacy Ministry Team at Federated. If you are interested in receiving emails about Social Justice issues and activities, please contact Rev. Susi Kawolics at 440.247.6490 x102 or [skawolics@fedchurch.org](mailto:skawolics@fedchurch.org).

# From Joshua's Desk

Dear Friends,

The summer has always been a time for reflection, renewal, and growth for me. As a young pianist, I would practice incessantly in the summer to prepare new music, attend music camps that expanded my horizons in so many ways, and gear up for the school year with bold plans. The summer gives us an opportunity to really dream big. Here at Federated, I have loved working with a staff that emboldens new visions, supports thorough discourse, but also recognizes the importance of rest, spiritually and physically. I appreciate that balance. I'm often seen as someone working at a fast pace and wanting to get a lot done. This summer has been filled with brainstorming how to invigorate our music program even further.

Last program year, I was thrilled to implement two new elements to our church life: the RISE to Shine 11:30 service and the Performing Arts Series. Many are probably surprised to learn that even though I'm a loyal classical music traditionalist, I also grew up in a church community where contemporary music was common and spiritually very uplifting to me. The RISE to Shine service has been an absolute joy to bring to life. I cannot speak highly enough about the RISE to Shine band who brings a constant exuberance to our rehearsals and Sunday morning worship. Truthfully, I have missed them, and our 10:00 choir, through these summer months.

The RISE to Shine service will be returning on September 15. I would love to see you join us on the 15th or any other Sunday morning. The service is filled with community singing, active youth participation, and the same engaging sermon delivered by our pastors. As a unique, progressive service, usually finished in 45-50 minutes, I believe you'll be thoroughly blessed by RISE to Shine. Bring your friends and neighbors!

The Performing Arts Series is also beginning to take flight in greater detail for the upcoming year. While still in the planning stages, I'm very happy to report that Apollo's Fire will be making an appearance at Federated in January! Recognized as a world-class ensemble, they will be presenting their Sugarloaf Mountain Appalachia program which will feature former Federated choir director Amanda Powell! Keep on the lookout for more exciting announcements soon.

Lastly, I am very excited to announce I'll be teaching an "Intro to Music" class here at Federated this fall. I aim to make music accessible for everyone and I recognize that often the number one reason someone feels they cannot participate in music is because they feel they can't read it or need more knowledge about it. You'll be able to read more about the details on page 11 in the SPIRE, but the class will be open to anyone yearning to know more about music. I will be teaching how to read music, music history and theory, how to sing, as well as answering your questions about "what is music?"

With kids already going back to school, Labor Day fast approaching, and the thrill of football season almost upon us, let us be thankful for these summer months of renewal and planning. Let us look boldly forward into this new program year. Thank you for your ongoing support and curiosity.

Looking forward,  
Joshua Konow  
Director of Music Ministries

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

### Sunday, September 1

Communion served

10 am Combined Worship

*Special music by Joshua Konow & Beth Rutkowski*

### Sunday, September 8

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

10 am Rally Day Worship & Summer Sunday School

11 am Rally Day Picnic

### Sunday, September 15

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School

*Music by Adult Choir*

11:30 am RISE to Shine Worship

*Music by RISE to Shine Band*

### Sunday, September 22

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School

*Music by Adult Choir*

11:30 am RISE to Shine Worship

*Music by RISE to Shine Band*

### Sunday, September 29

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

Fifth Sunday—100th Anniversary of Federated

10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School

*Music by Adult Choir, Children's Choir, & Bell Choir*

11:30 am RISE to Shine Worship

*Music by RISE to Shine Band & Children's Choir*



# News & Info

At the request of many in the congregation, Church Council formed three task forces. **The Real Estate Research Task Force** is to engage an independent commercial real estate professional to develop options regarding the potential sale of the Family Life Center, 76 Bell and 102 Bell properties. We identified six brokers, five of whom we interviewed and the sixth withdrew before being interviewed. The task force unanimously agreed to engage David Stover, SIOR (Society of Industrial and Office Realtors) Principal & Executive Managing Direct at Hanna Commercial Real Estate. We are on target for a meeting of the congregation in the fall.

The task force is chaired by Peggie Jo Shinagawa, with representation from the Properties Feasibility Phase II Task Force, Rob Goble; Finance Committee, Jim Cunningham; Properties Committee, Bob Doxey ;and staff, Amy Eugene, Senior Director of Operations.

The **Additional Possibilities Task Force** is to investigate mission-centered community outreach using the Family Life Center in ways that demonstrate significant sustainability. The Committee will present an advantageous option at the October 1 Church Council meeting. Using concepts from congregation and guidance from national and regional UCC consultants, a proven model for full financial sustainability opens extraordinary opportunity for Federated. On August 7, the committee convened members with specific expertise such as law, farming, missions, nonprofits, and wellness ministries in order to realistically gauge the degree of potential stakeholders and energy surrounding this ministry project. An enthusiastic response persuaded the committee to continue forward in refining the business plan of this mission-centric proposal.

The Committee is chaired by Maren Koepf, with Ken Horner and Elaine Witmer representing Church Council, Erinn Grube representing the Properties Feasibility Phase II Task Force, Laura Taylor representing staff, and with Kelly Kimball, Paul Neidhardt, Ann Lentz, Stacy Cianciolo, Signe Forbes, Anne Burr, Bill Mason and Harriett Rogers serving.

The **Memorial Gardens Task Force** has been formed to develop a caring process which ensures that the Memorial Gardens are handled with care and love in any exploration of usage or sale of the Family Life Center building and or property. This will include upkeep and maintenance of the gardens (including all paths), water features and memorial stones. Monthly updates will be provided to Church Council on the ongoing progress. A final report and recommendation will be provided to Church Council by the October 2019 meeting.

We are in need of additional volunteers to serve on this committee. If you are interested, contact Doug Harlan at [DDHarlan3@yahoo.com](mailto:DDHarlan3@yahoo.com) or 440.384.7896.

## Current Lay Leaders

### Church Council

Brendan Buescher, Beth Rutkowski, Maren Koepf, Peggie 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 Shaul

#### **Spiritual Formation**

Cathy Digel, Sunny Doxey, Thea Mazingo, Mary Senechal (chair), Stacy Cianciolo, Eric Goodman, Pete Bednar, Alexandra Ziots, (1) opening

#### **Telling Our Story**

Todd Smith (Chair), Laura Taylor, Jim Scheuermann, Carolyn Shaul, 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 Abley

#### **Properties**

Keith Mast, Bill Lentz, John Giles

### Appointed Committee

#### **Stewardship Committee**

Led by Ken Horner, Maren Koepf, Ann Lentz, and Martine Scheuermann

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

Susan Lampson, Jim Ogle, Kate Walsh

### **Ohio Conference Delegates**

Susan Lampson, Kate Walsh



# News & Info

## Minimizing the Use of the FLC

We have been struggling with recruiting, hiring, and retaining custodians. Unfortunately, we are down to one part-time custodian. To help address the situation, Church Council has agreed to consolidate our resources by temporarily minimizing the use of the Family Life Center (FLC). That will buy us some time, instead of taxing resources that we don't have.

As of August 18, the front portion of the FLC (Gym, Classrooms, Hearth Room) has been closed and all meetings moved to Bell St. The Bell St. parking lot will be carefully monitored to minimize parking issues.

For questions, please contact Amy Eugene at [aeugene@fedchurch.org](mailto:aeugene@fedchurch.org) or 440.247.6490 x110.

## Custodian Corner

Over the past two+ years, we've been trying to "crack the code" on recruiting and retaining a Head Custodian and part-time custodians. We've had great success, although temporary, using college students during the summer. We've tried temp agencies and cleaning services, some of whom are struggling to find their own crews. Cleaning services are limited to cleaning, and lack the elements of setup, teardown, snow removal, etc. that we need.

Some other influencing factors are 1) competition for candidates – there are Help Wanted signs everywhere!; 2) many people want full time work with benefits; 3) many people want \$15+ per hour to start; 4) many candidates are surprised by the amount of work required for the 300+ events and meetings per month; 5) candidate no-shows: of the 18 recently scheduled interviews, only four showed up.

We're determined and are developing new strategies to address the issue. Contact Amy Eugene at 440.247.6490 x110 or [aeugene@fedchurch.org](mailto:aeugene@fedchurch.org) with questions. Thanks for your patience!

## Safety & Security Update

### Responding to Violent Intruders – It's Time to Get Trained!

We want you! (To get ALICE trained). **ALICE** is an acronym for **Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter** and **Evacuate**, the basic steps for responding to an active shooter situation. The one-hour, online training is available to all congregation members. Please consider taking the training and contact Amy Eugene at [aeugene@fedchurch.org](mailto:aeugene@fedchurch.org) or 440.247.6490 x110.

### Fall Fire Drill

Sometime this fall, in partnership with the fire department, we will run a fire drill on a Sunday morning to ensure we are all practiced on what to do in case of fire.

The Safety & Security Team consists of Amy Eugene, Eric Kimball, Jake Magalski, David Maine, Keith Mast and Larry Trace.

## Building Closure

Federated Church will be closed Monday, September 2 in honor of Labor Day.



## Fellowship Treats

Members of the congregation take turns bringing in treats for fellowship time between the services 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!

**September 1 – last names beginning with A or B**

**September 8 – Rally Day Picnic:** Bring a side dish to share

**September 15 – last names beginning with C or D**

**September 22 – last names beginning with E, F or G**

**September 29 – 100 Year Anniversary Celebration!**

## September SPIRE Deadline

Do you have something you'd like to see appear in the October edition of THE SPIRE?

Please email your information to Trisha Holland at [communications@fedchurch.org](mailto:communications@fedchurch.org) by **Sunday, September 15**. Thank you!

# News & Info

## Mark Goes on Sabbatical

Hi Friends,

As of August 19, I am “off the radar” taking Sabbatical time until December 1. While I will be in the area about half of that time, I will not be reading or returning emails so that I can focus on my various projects. You may communicate any needs that relate to my ministry areas by directing calls or email to Bridget Davis Petitti who is covering my areas while I am away ([bridget@fedchurch.org](mailto:bridget@fedchurch.org)).

And what will I be doing? I hope to focus on some spiritual disciplines. I want to begin each day in focused devotion and reading. I plan to work out each day at a gym. I will be taking an Italian class for 30 minutes each day. I will continue researching a project that I am consumed by that is linking our pasts to where we are today in the present, with

consideration to the closing years of our life. I am calling this project “Our Finals.” Finally, I am hopeful that I will be taking copies of my newest book, “When Mourning Turned into Dancing: Seeds of Hope in Post-Apartheid South Africa” to friends in South Africa who contributed to the book.



I am so thankful to the Federated Church family for providing Sabbatical time for our pastors. I am also appreciative of any prayers you might pass my way! Love to you all.

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

## Parking Update

**Chagrin Falls Intermediate School** – The parking lot is open, and we have a formal parking agreement with the school to park there on Sundays. Parking at other times might be restricted. Please pay attention to any signage or updates.

**Limited Mobility** – Let's reserve as much of our main lot for those who could use the extra support by have a shorter distance to walk on Sunday mornings. If you are physically able to park in and walk from the Shibley lot (102 Bell), on Vincent Street, or in the Intermediate School lot, please do!

**Green Striped Spaces** – Monday through Saturday, 8:00 am—8:00 pm, green striped spaces are reserved for cars with Village Parking Permits. Those without permits will be ticketed. When “Church Parking Only” signs are out, those spaces are then reserved for Federated services and events.



## Kris Walenga = Art!

What is “Fabric Art”? Kris Walenga has interwoven new worlds for us to see!

Explore Federated's Gallery Space on the Lobby level near Fellowship Hall September through October.

## E-Giving (Mobile, Text, Online)

You now have choices on how to give to Federated! In addition to giving at worship, we've implemented safe, online giving.

The first step is to create a Realm login account. See page 7 for more information.

To give online, use any of these options:

- **Mobile:** Download *Connect – Our Church Community* from the App Store or *Connect* from Google Play. Then, click on “Giving” at the bottom of the app.
- **Text:** Send a text to 73256 with the word, “fedchurch” and follow the prompts.
- **Online:** Go to [www.fedchurch.org/giving](http://www.fedchurch.org/giving).

For questions about giving, contact Janis Stefanchik at [business@fedchurch.org](mailto:business@fedchurch.org) or 440.247.6490 x114

## 4 Easy Ways to Give



service



mobile



text



online

Sundays 10:00  
and  
11:30 (as of 9/15)

App: “Connect –  
Our Church  
Community”

“fedchurch” to  
73256

[www.fedchurch.org/giving](http://www.fedchurch.org/giving)

# News & Info

## Let's Get Connected!

We have an Online Community called Realm – and we want you to be *in the Realm!*

### What is Realm? *Realm is a real ministry tool.*

Realm is an online ministry tool designed for real time connection. It helps our church connect with you and you connect with us. Realm allows you to manage your personal information and who is allowed to see it, control your giving, and keep in touch with the groups that matter to you.

### Why use Realm? *Realm strengthens church connections.*

Being the church doesn't just happen at the church. Realm helps us serve you better between Sundays. Everyone can be connected from anywhere at any time, right from our mobile devices. It supports the healthy relationships essential to our church's mission. We'll stay organized, and you'll stay informed.

### What about my privacy? *Realm is safe, private, and secure.*

Your privacy is one of our greatest concerns. Realm is only made up of the people in our church family, it's not like a social network that's open to everyone. Realm keeps your data safe and gives you control over what information you share and who can see it.

### What about giving? *Realm gives you control over your giving.*

Giving should be easy, and Realm places giving right in the palm of your hands. You may set up recurring gifts, view your giving history, and make changes at any time. Realm automatically records all electronic gifts and adds them to your giving record making it easy for you to give, and easy for our bookkeeper to track.

**How do I start?** *Your Realm login works on your home computer and on your mobile devices. You just need to create a login account.*

Watch for the email invitation that will be sent on **September 6** and create your login account. The email message will have a subject line of "**The Federated Church: Join our online community!**" Be sure to check your Spam and Junk folders if you can't find it.

*Or*

Visit [www.onrealm.org/fedchurch](http://www.onrealm.org/fedchurch) to set up a Realm login account.







*Or*

Visit the App Store and look for *Connect-Our Church Community* or Google Play Store and look for *Connect*. Then create your login account.

If you have questions, Melinda Smith is standing by to help at [smithm@fedchurch.org](mailto:smithm@fedchurch.org) and the Membership Committee will be standing by at the Rally Day Picnic following worship on September 8 to help you join the Realm. Bring your iPad, tablet, or cell phone to the picnic so we can help you get set up. We want you to be "in the Realm" of all things Federated!

## Let's get connected.

Download our Connect app today.

-  Update your personal information
-  Communicate with groups & teams
-  Follow church announcements
-  Look up members
-  Manage giving
-  Create and join events

Let's be the church... together.



Realm® Connect





# News & Info

## Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign Projects Update

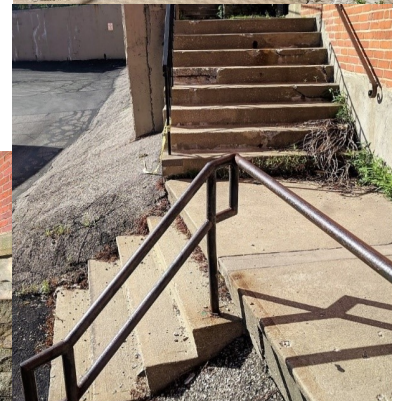
This summer, the Properties Committee and the church's operations staff coordinated the installation of a new projector and a confidence monitor in the Sanctuary. This will enable folks standing on the Chancel facing the pews to view what is on the projector screen behind them without having to turn their backs to the congregation. Thanks to the TNT Committee, there is also a new projector and screen in the Fellowship Hall. All this A/V equipment has been used and well-received.

We'll be installing a keycard entry system to our facilities. and Johnson Controls was selected. With 300+ events taking place on a monthly basis, there's bound to be a time when the doors need to be (un)locked when no church operations personnel are on-site. With this new system, a click of a button on a smart phone will allow protection of our buildings, people and property.

The rose garden wall has been nicely re-laid on the west end and now the nearby stairway needs attention. John Giles has coordinated an RFP to contractors. The work, to be completed this fall, will entail patching and repairing the west stairs and wall: the stairs used to exit our building and the stairs from the Heinen's delivery lot up to the rose garden.

And finally, the Properties Committee facilitated the repair of a small area of the Sanctuary ceiling that needed to be re-plastered and repainted.

We are so thankful to all the members of the Properties Committee (members and ex-officio) who are taking on the responsibility of looking after our facilities: Keith Mast, Bill Lentz, John Giles, Bob Doxey and Jake Magalski.



## Gun Safety Informational Toolkit

### A message from Judy Majcen of SJAM

This headline caught my eye in the New York Times back on July 28, 2018. *'Thoughts and Prayers' Aren't Enough, America's First Gun Violence Minister Says*. The saying "has been co-opted by the gun lobby to keep the church from taking action," the Rev. Deanna Hollas of Dallas, TX said. And now there have been two more mass shootings just this month with one in our own backyard. I am moved by the chant "do something" when our governor spoke to the anguished crowd in Dayton. What can I do and what can our church do?

Rev. Hollas offers a Gun Violence Prevention Congregational Toolkit to explore issues of gun violence and what we can do about it. The toolkit includes 70 pages of educational resources, pastoral resources and action tools. I have just requested this toolkit and I am reaching out to see if there are others who would be willing to delve into this topic with me. If interested, please email me at [jomajcen@gmail.com](mailto:jomajcen@gmail.com).

## What's that Sound?

With the Sanctuary redesign and installation of the new organ, that includes new digital sound components, we continue to learn about and refine the overall sound quality in that space.

The organ company, along with Marcia Snavely, organist, continue to adjust various settings and fixing occasional cyphers (defect resulting in continuous sounding of a pipe, even though the corresponding key isn't being played). Larry Trace continues to work with sound engineers adjusting speaker placement, microphone, and sound settings. Our plan is to have the system fully adjusted by mid-September.

For questions, please contact Amy Eugene at [aeugene@fedchurch.org](mailto:aeugene@fedchurch.org) or 440.247.6490 x110.

# Children, Youth and Family Ministries

## First Sunday Focus

The Children's Faith Formation department is excited to announce the beginning of First Sunday Focus Classes. These classes are designed for children of specific age groups and their families to engage in a Spiritual Formation milestone.

Classes will be held on the first Sunday of the month and will always follow the same format. Children and their parent(s) or guardian(s) will meet in the designated classroom for class from 10-11 am. (Sunday School will still be offered for those who are not in the age group of that week's class). Following the class there will be a reception in Fellowship Hall. To conclude, each family will attend the 11:30 am RISE service for a community celebration and acknowledgment of their participation, and milestone commemorative gift. Families can take communion together during the RISE service as an act of celebration!

We encourage your family to participate as much as you can as these classes will be educational and expand your spiritual experiences. Contact Kiersti Critchfield with questions ([kcritchfield@fedchurch.org](mailto:kcritchfield@fedchurch.org) or 440.247.6490 x130.)

<b>October 6</b>	<b>Kindergarten Bible 101</b> Teacher-Kiersti Critchfield-Carty	<b>Room 230 @ 10:00am.</b>
	<b>6-8<sup>th</sup> grade, Bible 101 Part 1</b> Teacher- Marty Culbertson	<b>Room 340 @ 10:00am.</b>
<b>November 3</b>	<b>6-8<sup>th</sup> grade, Bible 101 Part 2</b> Teacher-Marty Culbertson	<b>Room 340 @ 10:00am.</b>
<b>December 1</b>	<b>K-5<sup>th</sup> grade, Advent</b> (No regular Sunday School offered, only First Sunday Focus) Teacher- Kiersti Critchfield-Carty	<b>Room 230 @ 10:00am</b>
<b>February 2</b>	<b>6-8<sup>th</sup> grade, 1 Corinthians 13, Love</b> Teacher- Marty Culbertson	<b>Room 340 @ 10:00am</b>
<b>March 1</b>	<b>Youth Sunday- All age groups learn about worship through participation.</b>	
<b>April 5</b>	<b>K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, The Lord's Prayer</b> Teacher- Kiersti Critchfield-Carty	<b>Room 230 @ 10:00am</b>
<b>May 3</b>	<b>6-8<sup>th</sup> grade, Pentecost</b> Teacher- Mark Simone	<b>Room 340 @ 10:00am</b>

In addition to these milestone classes there will be an all church community celebration on Sunday, June 7 as we bridge our students to their next developmental spiritual walk.

<b>June 7</b>	<b>Preschoolers to Kindergarten</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> graders to JOY (Jr. High Youth Group)</b> <b>8<sup>th</sup> graders JOY to Group (Sr. High Youth Group)</b> <b>12<sup>th</sup> grade members to adulthood</b>	<b>Church blessing at both services</b>
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This Month in **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Life App</u>
<b>DISCOVERY ISLAND</b> (K-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	The woman at the well.	Come and see Jesus!
<b>KIDS COVE</b> (Birth-PreK)	Better Together	God gives me good friends.

# Children, Youth and Family Ministries

## Kick-Off of JOY (Jr. High Youth Group)

"We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travelers on the road. We are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load."

- Verse 2 from the Hymn: *Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant*

JOY (Jesus Oriented Youth for grades 6, 7 and 8) is about to kick off a year of outward focus! We are changing things up a little and ditching the every Sunday Afternoon Youth Group gathering. Instead we will be offering many opportunities to grow in faith, living out the call as taught by Christ to Love and Care for each other.

On Sunday mornings we will have Church School in Room 340 and/or 350. These mornings when we gather will be our time to look inward and challenge ourselves to read and expand our understanding of the lessons in the Bible. Examine what God is asking of us...for ourselves and for others. Our readings will follow what is happening in the church services each week so families will be able to talk about the messages they heard and read. Sometimes we will express our thoughts with words... sometimes through abstract art projects. Our goal will be to really get ourselves thinking about the Word.

Then JOY will be on a mission... not every week...but often! We have plans to get ourselves out into the local

Chagrin Valley and wider Cleveland community to help our fellow travelers. We will engage in environmental stewardship activities to care for planet earth and have fundraiser events with our church family to help make Christmas a joyous time for little ones and fill food pantries and so much more!

This is going to be a great year... and we will have some fun social events too! What is different this year are the times we are together. Some missions will be on a Friday evening or Saturday afternoon, but there is always Sunday morning.

There will be a JOY calendar and weekly emails to keep you informed! If you want to be added to the email list to be kept in the loop, contact Marty at [mculbert@fedchurch.org](mailto:mculbert@fedchurch.org).

The advisors and I are very excited about this new look JOY (which isn't really that new... but more mission focused). We hope that along the way we engage JOY families and others to "walk the mile and bear the load" with us!

It all kicks off the week after Rally Day! Watch for details! Blessings,  
Marty Culbertson  
Director of Youth Faith Formation

## Call to Confirmation

Confirmation is the spiritual formation process and program to inform young people about the details of our Christian faith, as well as preparation for full church membership. At Federated Church, we invite all teenagers who are in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and above to join our program.

This year we are making a number of changes in the program which will be detailed in a mailing going out soon to the families of our 9<sup>th</sup> graders. The program is being moved to our Bell Street church facility to room 340. We will begin in November and conclude with a Confirmation Celebration in May of 2020.

Please watch for the mailing if you are in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Confirmation is also open to those in grades 10 and above, and we would love for you to join. Please let Bridget Petitti ([bridget@fedchurch.org](mailto:bridget@fedchurch.org)) know if you are interested in the class and she will send you the detailed information.

Rev. Mark Simone will return to the teaching team in December following his Sabbatical.

## Re-GROUP with GROUP (Sr. High Youth Group)

GROUP is moving back to the church on Bell Street this year for all of our meetings and programs. We will be invading Room 340 (where we had Bible study in the past) and making it a new thing that works for JOY and GROUP. Lots of very exciting possibilities!

For now, put on your calendars that our **GROUP Kick-Off Party will be held on Sunday, September 15 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in Room 340**. Come see what is being done and planned for the room. Come and connect with old friends and meet new ones. Come and be part of GROUP!

It is all new, all exciting, Christ-centered, and all relevant to your busy lives.



# Federated Happenings

## Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, September 14 | 8:00—10:00 am**  
Bell St. Fellowship Hall

Come hear: Court Durkalski

- President of the Board of Teen Challenge of Greater Cleveland
- Serves on the Executive Board of Directors for Convoy of Hope
- Author of the book *Winning at Work*
- Currently pursuing his Masters of Divinity from the King's University in Southlake, TX.



**Reservations:** Call 440.247.6490.

**Cost:** \$10 payable at the door (includes breakfast)

## Intro to Music Class

**Monday evenings, September 16—November 18**  
**7:30—8:30 pm**  
Bell St. Music Room

Ever wished that you could sing in the choir, ring with the bell choir, read the music in the hymnals, know more about music history, or start to learn an instrument? This class is for you! Everyone is welcomed to attend this ten-week course to learn just "what is music?"

The class will be led by Joshua Konow, Director of Music Ministries. Each class will explore how to read music, how to sing and feel confident in performance, dive into music history and theory, and answer questions you may have had for years.

All ages and experiences are welcomed!

Register by contacting Joshua Konow at [jkonow@fedchurch.org](mailto:jkonow@fedchurch.org) or 440.247.6490 x 120.



## Primetime Federated Forum

**Monday, September 9 in Fellowship Hall**  
**Gather at 1:30 pm; Presentation at 2:00 pm**

**Presenter:** Felicia Stadelman

**Subject:** Dr. Seuss, "Through the Eyes of the Artist"

This program is for people of all ages interested in uncovering the fascinating details of the lives and works of some of our most renowned and influential artists, including an exclusive view into the life of Dr. Seuss, through the artist's perspective.



## Children's Choir

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

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 fun props to accompany their Sunday performances.

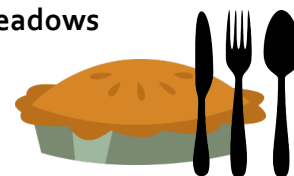
Please come and join the fun! For more information contact Pat Haynish, [phaynish@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phaynish@sbcglobal.net).



## Save the Date: All-Church Potluck

**Sunday, October 13 | 5:00—7:00 pm**  
**at Frohring Meadows**

Back by popular demand! This time we are gathering in the fall. Mark your calendars now.



# Federated Happenings

## Tributary Offerings

Tributaries are Federated-hosted programs that provide "tributary" revenue to Federated.

### Gentle Slow Flow Yoga

Offered by Dawn Dole, RYT200

Wednesday evenings 7:00—8:15 pm

September 18—December 11

Bell St. Room 230

Everyone is welcome to join in this Gentle Slow Flow yoga class where basic yoga postures will be introduced and will serve as our foundation for each class sequence. With this yoga practice, we will engage in the intentional practice of connecting our entire being, body, breath, mind and spirit with God.

Through meditation, movement, and breath, we invite ourselves to journey with the Holy Spirit and live into God's Grace. This class will incorporate Vinyasa slow flow to maintain awareness and focus on the breath. Balance and peacefulness result from this attention to breath as we move through physical "asana" or poses in our yoga practice. Modifications will be suggested as needed.

This class is open to everyone with the ability to move through seated, standing, kneeling, and reclined positions unassisted.

Bring a yoga mat and wear loose clothing. Please arrive 5-10 minutes early to get registered. And if you can let Dawn Dole you will be joining the class, that would be helpful. Email her at:

[newdayyoga.dawn@gmail.com](mailto:newdayyoga.dawn@gmail.com).

A portion of the registration fees will go to Federated Church to support the programs of the church. Drop in fee of \$10 per class is suggested.

### Chair Yoga

If there is an interest in a "Chair Yoga" please contact Dawn (info above). We may be able to schedule this type of class later in the fall.

### Tuesday Morning Yoga

Offered by Polly Manke

Tuesday Mornings, 10:00-11:15 am

Relocated to Bell St Room 230

A gentle, meditative yoga practice in a warm and inviting community. Let yoga offer an answer to a nervous system on overdrive or a body that craves more movement.

Move & breathe, relax & center. When we're healthy in body, mind, and spirit we can be of better service in the world and enjoy our families and life with greater pleasure & ease.

New to yoga? You are welcome here. Bring a yoga mat & blanket, and dress comfortably.

Seven classes for \$85 or drop-in for \$15 each.

Contact Polly at [polly@pollymanke.com](mailto:polly@pollymanke.com) with questions or to sign up.

### Spiritual Retreat—Vision 2020

Offered by Polly Manke

Friday, September 6, 4:00—10:00 pm

and Saturday, September 7, 10:00 am—5:00 pm

Punderson Manor

I believe you're being called to create, to be, to express, to do, to become the next best version of YOU. I believe this because I believe we are ALL being called to listen to our heart, and live into our life's purpose. And I believe 2020 is a pivotal time for bringing that calling into expression.

Give yourself the gift of time to BE, to step out of the busy-ness of life and enter the sacred ground of BEING where spirit's guidance flows, creative juices fizz, and community and connection nourish the soul.

Overnight accommodations at Punderson recommended - lodge, cabins, or camping.

For more information, rates, and registration go to:

[tinyurl.com/vision2020retreat](https://tinyurl.com/vision2020retreat) or email [polly@pollymanke.com](mailto:polly@pollymanke.com).



# UCC Happenings

## UCC Ohio Conference Annual Gathering

The UCC Ohio Conference is holding its Annual Gathering and everyone is invited to attend. The theme this year is on: **Caring for Our Common Ground** - God has called us to be good stewards of this beautiful world. In the UCC we have claimed the love of creation as one of our "Three Great Loves." How can Christians and churches move beyond debating science and instead find unity as we embrace God's invitation to treat the earth with care and reverence?

To see the full schedule, program, workshops and keynote speakers, visit: [tinyurl.com/y3fgglms](https://tinyurl.com/y3fgglms).

If you are interested in attending, and want to coordinate with others from Federated, please email Dawn Dole at [coopdole@gmail.com](mailto:coopdole@gmail.com).



# Faith Formation and Spirituality

## Deep Well Worship Series

Come gather with us as we dive into the deep well of God's love with an eight-week worship series this fall.

Beginning **September 8**, with Rally Day/Water Sunday, we will come together to share and combine the water we have collected over the summer as we **Approach** the deep well that holds the renewing waters of our baptism.

**September 15**, our theme will be to **Enter** the water with courage.

**September 22**, we are confronted with what happens when we are **Soaked**.

**September 29**, we explore what it means to **Immerse** in community.

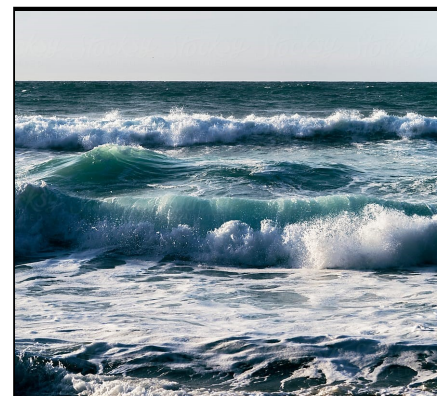
**October 6**, World Communion Sunday, we look at how water can **Connect** us all.

**October 13**, we give thought to water's ability to **Cleanse**.

**October 20**, our theme will reflect water's **Persistence**.

And finally, on **October 29**, Commitment Sunday, we emerge from the deep well of God's love to **Breathe**.

Come worship with us this fall as we gather in spirit to drink from God's deep well of love for us in order to be sent to serve the world with that very love.



## 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, September 11 through October 16 at Bell St.** The series is intended for men and women of all ages and stages in their faith development journey.

Mary is a Hospice Spiritual Coordinator (after years of hospice nursing) and a Spiritual Director. Judith is a retired Presbyterian minister and Spiritual Director.

To sign up, contact Mary at [msart@windstream.net](mailto:msart@windstream.net).



# Mission & Service

## School Supply Collection a Success!

Chagrin Falls Park was very excited at the tremendous collection of school supplies contributed by the Federated Church.

More than 200 students received school supplies, and Chagrin Falls Park replenished their tutoring supplies for the school year. Great job from the Fed.

## Tutors Needed at Chagrin Falls Park

Tutors needed for Chagrin Falls Park. Tutoring begins September 3. There is no need to have been a teacher... just have to enjoy working with children!

For more info, call Chagrin Falls Park at 440.247.6030.



## Holy Pedals Batman...

...Don't give that bike away just yet.

The JOY kids will be giving us some exciting details soon about where that old bike can go... plus some other goodies for some new friends!

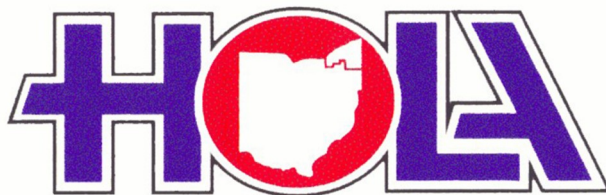
Watch for details in the weeks ahead to see how everyone can help!



## HOLA's Fundraiser a Success!

Our mission partner, HOLA had a very successful fundraiser on August 25 at the Family Life Center.

We are happy that 325 people attended and they were able to raise \$41,000 at the event!



## Parish Nurse Corner

We have had a busy summer in the Parish Nurse Clinic at St. Paul's UCC, our sister church in Cleveland, as more people seem to be sleeping outside. I have given out so much underwear that I began to wonder if some folks had enough money for a laundromat, so they could wash their underwear. So I started handing out small packets of laundry detergent after asking if they had access to laundry facilities. Some have "laundry cards" onto which money is loaded. They were glad for the advance notice. Others, of course, don't like this idea and many are homeless so they don't want to accumulate stuff. I have a firm policy, however, of not handing out cash.

Thank you to those who have donated gently used men's and women's shoes and boots, white socks, deodorants, toothpaste, and toilet paper which are the most frequently requested items. I do not hand out hand sanitizer or mouthwash because of possible alcohol content. With colder weather approaching, we will have a need for coats. I will also try to purchase long thermal underwear for those who walk a lot and/or are homeless. Hence, a need to start saving money as these sets cost \$10.00 each.

Another change is the availability of plastic bags. You can imagine how difficult it is to convert this population to reusable bags. They understand that plastic bags will soon become scarcer, but keeping track of cloth bags seems next to impossible. Gently used back packs would be one solution. Items can be put in the PN cart or box in the back lobby, and monetary donations to the clinic are always appreciated. This can be done through The Federated Church, with a notation on the memo line for the Parish Nurse Account. Please know, the money for this mission comes from St. Paul's or private donors.

Thank you for your interest in this program. I welcome your phone calls or emails.

In faith,  
Kathy Kolcaba  
440.655.2098, kathykolcaba@yahoo.com

# Telling Our Story Spotlight

## Tending Our Flock Ministry

An important part of attending a church is connection to a community. These are the folks who are with you through thick and thin, or even during the run-of-the-mill normal times. A few years ago, a small group of Federated folks started to make phone calls to fellow members whom they hadn't seen in church in a while, just to check in with them. The calls were born out of pure and simple concern that the folks who were not attending were in some sort of distress and might need our support.

In response to their observations and interest, the Tending Our Flock ministry was born. This ministry began with Janet Peters, Phil Fogarty, and Bill Franz dividing up names on a report listing those folks who had not attended worship services in quite a while. Each month calls are made to people, just to check in and see how everything is going, thereby letting our members know that we're thinking of them. During a recent email, Phil confirmed that these calls are simply to make sure that everyone is okay in that household and to see if we can help from Bell Street in any way. The call is 100% caring about those in our church family...just as we would check in on a parent, child, aunt or sibling that we had not heard from in a while.

These efforts have been positively received! Recipients mention that it's nice to know that they are missed and appreciate the genuine efforts of the ministry to keep in touch. Every so often there is a pastoral care follow-up that is appropriate and, of course, the ministry makes sure that those connections are made. But Bill mentions that mostly the members who receive these phone calls are just grateful that we have reached out to them – maybe life has gotten crazy busy, or they have been travelling a lot, or they've been going through some tough times. With efforts like this, recipients continue to feel a connection to their church community during both easy and tough times. They are receiving calls from fellow church members – not because the church wants something in return. They're calling "just because!"

The Sanctuary hospitality books are the lifeline to this ministry. Throughout the program year, Melinda Smith provides a listing to the Tending Our Flock ministry members for follow-up.

She uses information from the hospitality books to not only paint the whole picture (how many members/guests attend a Sunday service), but also paint the individual pictures (who's not been able to attend). This is why it is so important for each of us to note our attendance in the hospitality books whenever we attend worship.

Volunteering for the Tending Our Flock ministry is perfect for folks who travel a lot or don't want to sign up for volunteer opportunities that are location-dependent. The calls are easy to make, wherever the volunteer happens to be. Feel free to reach out to Bill Franz (216.410.5229) or Phil Fogarty (216.410.5489), if you have any questions or want to get involved. And next time you see them, give them a big Thank You!



Phil Fogarty



Bill Franz

## FedChurch Facebook Group

Are you active on Facebook? Have you joined in the Federated Group yet? As we approach the 2019-2020 program year, we are looking into ways to build community and keep the congregation informed about what is happening in our many ministries.

This is a "closed group" for members and regular attendees of Federated. Only those who have joined the Facebook

group can see the content and any members of the group can post. It can be a place to share prayer requests, give/get updates on church events, look for volunteer help, ask questions, and extend discussions as a church beyond Sunday mornings. We encourage you to join in and be part of the conversations.

Go to [facebook.com/FedChurchCongregation](https://facebook.com/FedChurchCongregation) or search for "Federated Church Congregation" on the Facebook app.



**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*  
\* Dan Kershner, *Pastoral Care Pastor*

#### 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, *Fund Development Associate*

Jake Magalski, *Properties, Maintenance & Grounds Lead*  
\* Larry McGurer, \* Wilson Taylor, *Custodians*

#### Music Staff

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

#### Children's Ministries Staff

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

**We're launching a  
New Program Year...  
Rally Day is September 8!**

**10:00 am  
Worship and Sunday School**

**11:30 am  
RISE to Shine Worship  
(Returns September 15!)**