



December 2019

THE SPIRE

THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

2019 Christmas Eve Offering Recipient

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you took me in.*
- Matthew 25:35

The Mission and Service Commission recently received 17 applications from a wide variety of health and human services and social service agencies for our Christmas Eve offering. After a period of discernment the commission chose to support **St. Paul's Community Church** for the 2019 Christmas Eve offering.

Federated Church has had a "sister church" relationship with St. Paul's Church for over 55 years. St. Paul's Church has survived and thrived through many challenges throughout its history. Although St. Paul's had some major renovations completed in the past five years, the church building is still in need of several repairs. Our Christmas Eve offering this year will help St. Paul's Church continue their redemptive ministries with many of God's children in crisis by making urgently needed improvements to their building. 60 years of daily use takes a toll. Ultimately, if repairs and renovations are not made, the continued building degradation will result in a space that can no longer provide a safe, healthy environment. Without this building, nearly all of St. Paul's health, human and social programs and services they offer will be eliminated.

The Mission and Service Commission enthusiastically supports this project. Please prayerfully consider joining the commission with your generous financial support of the Christmas Eve offering this year. All non-pledge donations at any of the four Christmas Eve services will be presented to St. Paul's. If you have questions, please contact members of the Mission and Service Commission (listed on p.4).

One of the highlights of the Christmas season at Federated Church is our Christmas Eve offering. We ask you to join the effort to redeem lives through the ministry of St. Paul's Community Church.



A Christmas Journey in Story and Song

A Wondrous Wednesday Event

Wednesday, December 11

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

Bell St. Fellowship Hall

Feed your Christmas spirit with music and storytelling!

We'll be treated to real-life inspirational stories from speakers, including Karen Zoltowicz, followed by Randy Fusco accompanying us in Christmas caroling. But first, holiday dinner of *favorite Christmas foods* by our various cooks.

It's another Wondrous Wednesday event for you, with help from the Congregational Care Commission. **Come celebrate!**

Make reservations for the dinner by calling the church at 440.247.6490, signing up at the Bell St. reception desk, or emailing katiesharbage@gmail.com.



"The Wise Man's Journey"

A Christmas Musical

Sunday, December 8

11:30 am (performed during the RISE to Shine service)

We invite you to the annual Christmas musical, performed by Children's Choir members in K-7th grade.

"The Wise Man's Journey" was written by our very own Abby Goodman, 7th grader.

Directed by: Pat Haynish



Advent by Candlelight: A Cup of Christmas Tea

An Invitation for Women to Prepare for Christ's Coming

Tuesday, December 3 | 7:00 pm

New Location: Bell St. Fellowship Hall

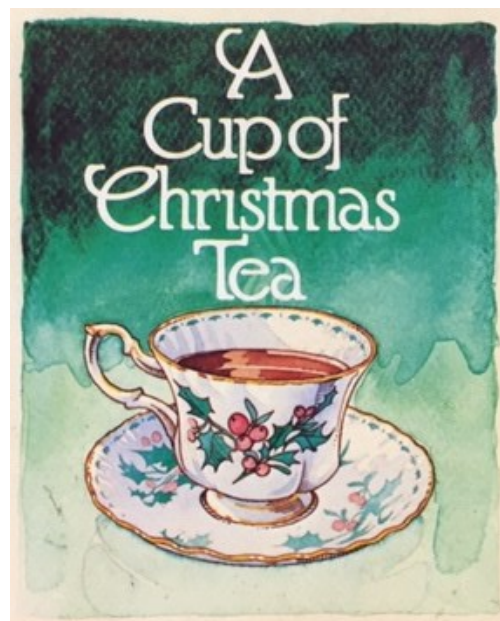
The Congregational Care Commission is again offering an opportunity for women to prepare for the coming of Christ. By beginning the season with *Advent by Candlelight*, we hope that your Advent this year might be more peaceful and your preparations more Christ-centered.

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

RSVPs are appreciated. Call the church at 440.247.6490 or stop by the Bell St. reception desk.

If possible, bring a sweet or savory treat to share. Finger foods are preferred (no nuts, please).

We encourage you to enjoy this event with family members and friends—all women are welcome!



From Susi's Desk

Many people have their favorite season of the year. For me, it's probably Advent, at least as far as the church seasons go. If you were here five years ago for my ordination, you may remember that I received as a gift from the congregation an Advent stole and banners artistically depicting the "O Antiphons," which are names for God prayed during the last seven days of Advent. These antiphons have a special meaning for me as I have based the Advent Reflection Booklet I write each year on these traditional names of God, and then have added some of my own.

The season of Advent is a time of longing, a time of waiting, but also, as Jan Richardson so beautifully puts it in her book *Night Visions*, a time when "there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before. It is not possible to keep it from coming, because it will. That's just how Advent works. What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you." She exhorts us, "So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder... Something is on the horizon."

Maybe this is why I love the season of Advent. It is a time that calls us into a slower pace, a reflective spirit, a peace and quiet like no other church season does. And especially for me this year, I am trusting it will be a time when something new is gestating, is growing, is waiting to be birthed.

The word *Advent* means "important arrival." It comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "a coming, approach, arrival: the word *ad* meaning "to" and *venire* meaning "come." It is not coincidental that the word *adventure* comes from the same root.

The Advent O Antiphons end with *O Come, Emmanuel*, which means "God with us." As I retire from my ministry here at Federated Church on the last Sunday of Advent, and say goodbye to you, I indeed bid you Good-bye in the fullest depth of its meaning: "God be with you." I trust that even though our paths will diverge for a while, God will continue to be with each of us, and with this church, every step of our journey.

But while I bid you "Good-bye," I also bid you "Bon voyage." When Hamilton gave the sermon at my ordination, he said this in conclusion: *The travel writer Rick Steves lamented in his column [recently] that, in this overly fearful age in which we live, in which fright is a subtext to so much of life, people now unfortunately wish those leaving on a trip, "Safe travels." No, he says; that's not what we should be saying. Instead, he says, we should be wishing them "Bon voyage" (The Plain Dealer, Oct. 12, 2014, p. K3). Susi, today you embark on the next chapter of this thrilling journey of yours... It will be full of challenges. But it will also be full of marvels. May God go with you and give you abundant grace and a deep peace. Bon voyage!*

This is what I wish for you, my friends and my community. As we sail along on the ship of life into who knows what is on the horizon, we trust God to be our captain, God to be with us, and we are in good hands. And as we follow God's call wherever it may lead, may we live deeply and fully into the adventure that is life. God be with you, and Bon voyage!

Love,
Susi

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, December 1

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

Sunday, December 8

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
Christmas Eve Offering Recipient introduced
10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School
Music by Federated Choir
11:30 am RISE to Shine Modern Worship
Children's Choir performs Annual Christmas Musical, "The Wise Man's Journey"

Sunday, December 15

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School
J.S. Bach's "Cantata No. 63" with choir, orchestra and soloists—A tribute to the life of Bob Faroo
11:30 am RISE to Shine Modern Worship: A Service of Scripture and Song
Music by RISE to Shine Band

Wednesday, December 18

Led by Rev. Susi Kawolics
7 pm Service of Solace

Sunday, December 22

Rev. Susi Kawolics preaches
10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School
Music by Federated Choir & Bell Choir
Liturgical Dancers
11:30 am RISE to Shine Modern Worship
Music by RISE to Shine Band

Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve

Services at 4pm, 6pm, 8:30 pm, and 11 pm
More info on page

Sunday, December 29—A fifth Sunday

Rev. Mark Simone preaches
10 am Traditional Worship
Making Hygiene Kits—More info on page 14

Family Worship— no Sunday School

Please enjoy worshipping as a family on December 29 and January 5.

Sunday School returns January 12!

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



News & Info

Stewardship Update

It's been a fun and meaningful exercise to incorporate our fall liturgical theme into the Stewardship Campaign this season. And just to add the perfect ending to our water theme, look what we found at the post office for the Stewardship Committee - beautiful stamps depicting some of our wild and scenic rivers! Each winter the Committee mails thank you notes to those in our faith family who have pledged funds to the church for the following year and we'll love using these stamps!



Pledging shines a light on our personal priorities and defines the church's budget, which is based only on pledges received. And through those pledges, we become stewards of peace and possibility, deliberately giving over our lives and our resources to something larger than ourselves. We are pleased to say that, as of mid-November, the 2020 Ministry Investment Plan was **59% funded, with 242 pledges received so far**. Follow-up calls – affectionately known as chase calls – will begin soon, so if you have not yet turned in your completed pledge card, we encourage you to do so now. In both receiving and sharing God's abundance, we take God's outstretched hand and are led into healing waters. Join us in taking God's outstretched hand!

Christmas Wreath Dedications

Ten beautiful wreaths adorn our doors throughout the Advent season. The wreaths have been donated by: **Bonnie Borman** in memory of David Goldston, **Doug & Barb Church** in memory of Arlene, Earl, Anne and David Church, and Louise and Gilbert Fisher, **Mary Dixon and family** in loving memory of her husband, John Dixon, son John E. Dixon, and grandson William Dixon, **The Fullmer family** in loving memory of David R. Fullmer, **Rick Jones** in memory of David Broad, **Rick Jones** in memory of Leslie Jones, **Anne Masters** in loving memory of her daughter Sarah, **Wendy Pierce** in memory of her mother, Susan Putnam. **Connie & Don Sperry** in memory of their parents and sisters.

The large wreaths in the windows are given in loving memory of Eva Jean Trace by the **Trace and Bittinger** families.

Christmas Tree Dedications

The Christmas Trees that stand beside the altar were donated by: **Jack & Mary Hobbs** in honor of their daughter Jody and family, and in loving memory of their son, Jeffrey; **Cal & Kim Lockert** in loving memory of Cal's mother & father, Vern and Millie Lockert, and in loving memory of Kim's mother and father, Wally and Connie Wedemeier; **Byron & Elsie Lutman** in memory of loved ones; **Janet, Polly & Jenny Peters** in loving memory of Don, husband and father; **Ralph Sprester and Judy Holder** in loving memory of Lucille, wife and mother; **Larry Trace** in loving memory of his wife, Nancy, and in honor of their grandchildren, Shannon Marie and Lea Kay Trace and Tyler Matthew Bittinger.

Current Lay Leaders

Church Council

Brendan Buescher, Beth Rutkowski, Maren Koepf, Peggie Jo Shinagawa, Dan Kershner, Ken Horner, Doug Harlan, 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

Do you hear what I hear ...?

Hearing Better with the Loop Audio System in our Church, a message from Jane Kenneweg

Those familiar words from the Christmas carol go through my head as I write about the outstanding, technically advanced **loop audio system** of our church. Federated is only one of a few churches in the area that has this benefit, gifted to our church by a few concerned members. The loop was recently installed in Fellowship Hall, too, funded by the Trinkets & Treasures fundraiser.

Many of us wear hearing aids which allow us to participate in the worship service and programs in Fellowship Hall. Even so, hearing aids are often not enough; we still miss some of the words. Distance from the sound source, the speaker's projection, background noise and echoes all have effects on our hearing.

ENTER THE LOOP!* With this audio system, we can hear very well! The magic is in the *telecoil*, an available program in most hearing aids and all cochlear implants, which must be activated by the audiologist. To use it we just press the button in our hearing aid and the difference is amazing. Sound travels directly from the source to our ears, with the additional benefit of our own aid's microphones, customized for our individual pattern of hearing loss.



So, tune in, and hear what I hear!

* The "loop" refers to an induction system in which a conductor cable is installed under the carpet. Current is amplified by a loop amplifier and sent to this magnetic cable. The loop of cable around the room provides a magnetic field which delivers the high quality sound to the listener's telecoil in the hearing aid or cochlear implant.

Sewing Machines Needed

Woman's Fellowship is looking for a couple of lightweight (feather) sewing machines that we could use at the church for some service projects: cancer pillows, TLC Lap blankets for memory care & hats for the homeless, to name a few. We could then work on the projects together & be even more productive.

If you have one to donate, contact Lynne Kessell at 440.247.5544 or lynnekessell@hotmail.com

Holiday Building Closure

Federated's Bell Street location and the Family Life Center will both be closed December 25—January 1 due to the Christmas and New Years holidays. We are still open for 10 am worship on Sunday, December 29. Enjoy this time with your families.



New, Secure Ways to Pay Your Pledge!

You can pay your 2019 balance or your 2020 pledge online by going to:

- Online: <https://onrealm.org/fedchurch/give>
- Mobile App: Download "Connect – Our Church Community"
- Text: "Fedchurch" to 73256

Questions? Contact Janis Stefanchik, Bookkeeper, x114 or business@fedchurch.org

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!

December 1 – last names beginning with H, I, J or K
December 8 – last names beginning with L or M
December 15 – last names beginning with N, O, P, Q or R
December 22 – last names beginning with S or T
December 29 – last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y or Z

January SPIRE Deadline

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

Please email your information to Trisha Holland at communications@fedchurch.org by **Monday, December 9**. Thank you!

News & Info

2020 Contribution Envelopes

2020 Contribution envelopes will be available for pickup in December. The boxes contain an envelope for each week of the year and are useful in many ways: as a reminder to give regularly, as a means for the church to record cash contributions, or for privacy.

If you used contribution envelopes last year or checked the box on your pledge card indicating that you want a box for 2020, a labeled box will be waiting for you in Fellowship Hall **starting on Sunday, December 1**. New requests and new cancellations should be directed to Melinda in the Church Office at smithm@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 x111.

Interim Associate Pastor Search

Church Council has appointed a search team to find an interim associate pastor after the retirement of the Rev. Susi Kawolics. Chaired by Shawn Rockhold, the team will be responsible for finding a pastor to focus on worship planning and pastoral care, as well as filling a variety of other roles.

Then after the church has done some visioning and strategic planning, we will likely seek what's called a "settled" pastor who will be here for the longer term.

Federated Happenings

Farewell Dinner & Reception

Saturday, December 14 | 6:00-9:00 pm
Bell St. Fellowship Hall

Plan to join us
for a dinner and reception
recognizing and celebrating
the ministry of

*Reverend
Susi Kawolics*

on the occasion of her
retirement from Federated
Church.



Main dish provided. Please bring a salad or dessert.

Reservations required. Please make your reservations
by **Monday, December 9**.

Go to fedchurch.org/events to find the RSVP link
or call 440.247.6490.

*If you would like to contribute to a freewill offering for Susi, you
may bring or send a check to the church, made to Federated
Church with "Susi Retirement" in the memo line.*

Primetime Federated Forum

Monday, December 9 in Fellowship Hall
Presentation at 1:00 pm **new time*
Refreshments to follow

Presenters: Marian Vogel, lyric soprano soloist, and Marcia Snavelly, piano accompanist and soloist.

Federated Forum is pleased to present a special musical program featuring the renowned operatic soprano, Marian Vogel. She will be accompanied on piano by our own very talented Marcia Snavelly.

Marian has been described as "exquisite," "vocally alluring" and "irresistible." She has won many awards among them is first prize in the Metropolitan Opera National Council District Auditions.

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of beautiful music. This is a chance to see a performance by Marian Vogel, a critically acclaimed professional operatic singer, and to hear our own professional musician, Marcia Snavelly, play the piano and organ which is always a wonderful musical treat.



Federated Happenings

The Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) News

If you are interested in receiving emails about social justice issues and activities, please contact Kathy Franz (440.543.4086 or kfranz17114@gmail.com).

Next SJAM Meeting — Sunday, December 15, 11:30 am , Bell St. Room 240

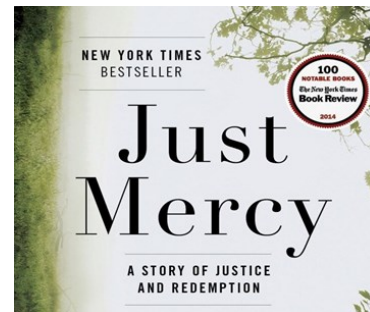
Open to all! This is a good time to hear about updates on various initiatives and topics of SJAM.

Racial Justice

Just Mercy

This month we will read Bryan Stevenson's [Just Mercy](#) -- a true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to end mass incarceration in America.

[The movie](#) by the same name comes out on December 25. We will plan a book study session on January 12 at 11:15 am and a group trip to view it after the New Year (TBD).



Ohio Senate Bill 3

This is a [comprehensive reform of sentencing practices](#) for low-level drug offenses designed to ensure people with drug problems do not end up warehoused in state prisons and marked for life with felony records.

To support Senate Bill 3, text "REFORM" to "67076."

Environmental

This holiday season, many people will be shopping and buying gifts.

Please consider the following:

1. Bring your own shopping bags. Say "no thank you" to plastic bags.
2. Look for items with little packaging and/or no plastic wrapping.
3. Purchase items made of something other than plastic and preferably natural materials.
4. Reuse cards and wrapping paper.
5. Make the gifts you will give.

Gifts to Give that are Earth Friendly

Check out these websites for some amazing gift giving ideas that everyone will love.

1. www.shopetee.com
2. www.eartheasy.com/gifts/
3. www.scarymommy.com/spotted/2019-eco-friendly-gift-guide/
4. www.etsy.com/market/eco_friendly_gifts
5. www.getgreenbewell.com/best-eco-friendly-gifts-green-gift-guide/
6. Make donations to organizations that are helping the Earth
7. Buy gifts from organizations that support fair trade practices

Suicide Prevention

A conversation about mental health and suicide prevention can be found at www.nationwidechildrens.org/family-resources-education/700childrens/2018/08/suicide-conversation-with-kids.

Gun Safety

**OPTIONAL
BACKGROUND
CHECKS?**

**GOVERNOR DEWINE'S "STRONG OHIO"
BILL ISN'T NEARLY ENOUGH**

**SUPPORT SB 183:
BACKGROUND CHECKS
ON ALL GUN SALES**

MOMSDEMANDACTION.ORG

Faith Formation

Service of Solace

Wednesday, December 18 | 7:00 pm | Bell St. Chapel

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

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

Any questions? Contact Kiersti Critchfield at kcritchfield@fedchurch.org or at 440.247.6490 ext. 103 for more information or for pastoral care.



*Isaiah 60:20
Your sun will never set again,
and your moon will wane no more;
the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your days of sorrow will end.*

Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelit Services at Federated

Tuesday, December 24 at 76 Bell Street

4:00 pm—Family Candle-lighting Service: Readings & Carols

Hear the story of Jesus' birth through familiar words of scripture and sounds of favorite carols

Led by Rev. Mark Simone

Children's Choir sings

Childcare available for birth—Pre-K

6:00 pm—Candle-lighting Service

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

Pre-service music by soloists 30 minutes prior to service

Music by RISE to Shine Band & string quartet

Childcare available for birth—Pre-K

8:30 pm—Candle-lighting Service

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

Pre-service music by soloists 30 minutes prior to service

Music by Federated Choir

11:00 pm—Intimate Candle-lighting Service

(in the Chapel)

Rev. Mark Simone preaches

Communion served

Pre-service music by soloists 20 minutes prior to service



Usher and Greeters needed for all Christmas Eve Services

We need lots of ushers and greeters to make people feel welcome, to help with candle lighting and keep people safe on Christmas Eve. No experience necessary. We will train you!

Please go to fedchurch.org/worshipsupport to sign up on our SignUpGenius, or contact Gary Dole at 440.318.4803 or by email gdd.fedchurch@gmail.com.

Faith Formation

Advent Worship Series

This year for Advent, we will focus on our traditional themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, but with some enhancements. As Christians we believe that there is hope, peace, joy and love in the midst of proclamations of the victory of decline and death all around. It is especially in this season of expectant hope that we can instead proclaim the awe-inspiring presence of God's reign that continually makes all things new, that we proclaim hope in the midst of hopelessness, peace in the midst of conflict, joy in the midst of despair, and love in the midst of hate. (Inspired by Marcia McFee *Worship Design Studio*, www.worshipdesignstudio.com/)

Each Sunday in Advent, our Federated Choir will be singing a beautiful Introit *Light of Light* (J. Raney) to bookend our candle-lighting rite as we explore these themes. In order to further deepen your Advent journey, we encourage you to try different prayer practices in preparation for each week. You may also want to use the Advent Devotional *O Come Dawn of Hope* available at the church or online at www.adventreflections.org.

Week I (December 1) - Hope in the midst of hopelessness (Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5)

Begin preparation for this Sunday on November 25 with spiritual practice of **Gratitude**.

You are encouraged to begin each day with the intention of being aware of where you see hope. Be grateful for those people, places and things, and perhaps even journal about them. There is hope in this world, but often we are too blinded by hopelessness to notice. Making it a practice to notice hope in the world enables us to better become that hope for others.

Week II (December 8) - Peace in the midst of conflict (Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10)

Begin preparation for this Sunday on December 2 with spiritual practice of **Centering Prayer**.

You are encouraged to begin each day with the praying of the reflection, and then spending some time in quiet contemplation. Ideal time for such a practice is twenty minutes of silence, focusing on a sacred word, and releasing all thoughts. Spend however much time is comfortable for you centering yourself by resting in the arms of your loving God, and carrying that peace with you the whole day through.

Week III (December 15) - Joy in the midst of despair (Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10)

Please note that to deepen our joy, there will be a special cantata this Sunday in memory of long-time choir member Robert Faroo. See page 10 for details.

Begin preparation for this Sunday on December 9 with spiritual practice of **Praying with the Arts**.

You are encouraged to begin each day with opening yourself to joy that comes from some kind of art. Find a picture that draws you in, a poem that moves you, a piece of music that touches a place deep within. Prayerfully sit with it, opening yourself, asking the spirit to guide you as you pay close attention, as it evokes feelings, insights thoughts. Let the art become a vehicle to a deeper relationship with God, and bring you joy.

Week IV (December 22) - Love in the midst of hate (Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25)

Begin preparation on December 16 with spiritual practice of **Prayer through Service**.

You are encouraged to make your work your prayer. Put feet to your prayer by living in service to others, following the example of Jesus who through his ministry to people was a tangible sign of God's love.

Federated Happenings

Special Christmas Cantata

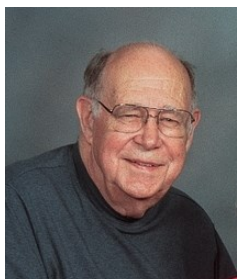
Join us for J.S. Bach's festive and inspirational "Cantata No.63 (Christians, Engrave This Day!)" at the **December 15 10:00 worship service**.

An 18 member orchestra will join the Federated Choir and guest soloists for the performance.

The cantata celebrates the birth of Christ and the inevitable victory over darkness.

Beginning and concluding with triumphant choruses, this cantata is sure to delight your Christmas season.

Performed in memory of Bob Faroo,
long-time choir member.



Always, We Begin Again SPIRITUALITY 101 RETURNS

Six Wednesdays:

January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 19, 26
7:00-9:00 pm | Bell St. Room 240

St. Benedict wrote that "Always, we begin again." No matter how many years we have worshiped and prayed, we can choose to become beginners in the spiritual life. Each new day offers the opportunity to be more aware of God's presence and movement in our life. Each encounter with our loving God grows us in faith, hope and love, in patience and wisdom.

Through discussion and practice, we seek to deepen our relationship with the Holy One and one another. Mary Senechal, hospice chaplain, and Judith Brown Bryan, spiritual director and retired Presbyterian minister, will provide short readings, facilitate conversation, and guide a variety of prayer practices that have sustained Christians over the centuries. Because each of us brings our unique gifts and experiences, this series is intended for men and women of all ages and stages in their spiritual journey.

Tributaries

Feeding the River of Spiritual Life

A spiritual growth academy for the wider community. A portion of proceeds support programs of Federated Church.

For additional details, please visit fedchurch.org/tributaries.

Yoga~Spirit~Renewal

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

Dates/Times: Tuesday mornings, 10:00—11:15 am

Location: 76 Bell St. Fellowship Hall

Presenter: Polly Manke

Contact/Register: polly@pollymanke.com

Tuition: Seven classes \$85 / Drop-in \$15

Gentle Slow Flow Yoga

Everyone is welcome to join in this gentle yoga class where basic yoga postures are introduced and serve as our foundation for each class sequence. Engage in the intentional practice of meditation, movement, and breath work by connecting our entire being - body, breath, mind and spirit. A sense of balance, centering and peacefulness prepare us to better live into our faith and to be available to serve others. Bring a yoga mat, blanket and dress comfortably. Please email to let Dawn know you will be attending.

Dates/Times: Wednesday and Thursday evenings

7:00—8:15 pm, through December 19

Location: 76 Bell St. Room 230

Presenter: Dawn Dole, RYT200

Contact/Register: newdayyoga.dawn@gmail.com

Tuition: \$10 drop-in fee per class suggested

Balance, Balls and Bands

A new integrative mind body approach to improve your balance strength & flexibility. Exercises are done in a chair and standing with chair support and modified to each individual's tolerance.

Dates/Times: Thursday mornings, 10:30—11:30 am

Location: 76 Bell St. Fellowship Hall

Presenter: Carol Kelly, LPT

Contact/Register: schakell51@aol.com

Tuition: Six classes \$60 / Drop-in \$10

Federated Happenings

Sugarloaf Mountain: An Apollo's Fire Concert Friday, January 24, 7:30 pm | Bell St. Sanctuary

A reception will follow the concert.

"Sugarloaf Mountain" is created and directed by Jeannette Sorrell, creator of Apollo's Fire hit crossover programs "Come to the River" and "Sephardic Journey," both Top 10 bestsellers on BILLBOARD Classical. The program has toured to New York City, the National Gallery in Washington, Pittsburgh's Renaissance & Baroque Society, and universities up and down the East Coast, in addition to over 15 sold-out performances in Cleveland. The CD recording on British label AVIE debuted at no. 5 on the Billboard Classical Crossover chart (2015).

For tickets, visit fedchurch.org/concerts or purchase between worship services in Fellowship Hall.

TICKETS

Advance purchase (General Admission)—\$35
At-the-door (General Admission)—\$45
Premium seating (Front of house/balcony)—\$60
Student admission (18 and under)—\$15



Search for the Christ Child An interactive Journey to Bethlehem

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

Federated Church: 76 Bell Street
* note new location! *



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

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



Telling Our Story Spotlight

Checking in with HOLA, 2018 Christmas Eve Offering Recipient

A member of the Telling Our Story Commission, Laura Taylor, recently met with Kelsey Fischer, HOLA Ohio's Program Manager, to get an update about the contribution that members and friends of Federated donated to HOLA during our Christmas Eve services last year. HOLA is a nonprofit Latino organization based in Northeast Ohio focusing on community organizing, leadership development, and civic engagement.

Kelsey, and the rest of the HOLA Ohio team, are so thankful for our generous Christmas Eve offering gift. Totalling over \$34,000, the funds are earmarked for the capital campaign they are conducting to build the HOLA Community Center in Painesville. Specifically, the funds will be used to construct the educational area, an adaptable space with moveable walls, which will include a classroom and a small meeting room. The educational area will be used for their adult and youth programming – including English as a Second Language classes, citizenship tutoring, workforce and entrepreneurial trainings, and voter education programs.

The beginning of 2019 saw HOLA bringing together a Capital Campaign Committee that has already been working hard to raise additional funds. That committee, as well as their Board of Directors, held a beautiful private donor event at The Country Club in Pepper Pike, with NFL Hall of Famer Anthony Muñoz as the keynote speaker. Muñoz is a former American football offensive tackle who played 13 seasons for the National Football League's Cincinnati Bengals. In 2015, Muñoz received the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Medallion of Excellence for his contributions to the Hispanic community.

Since then, HOLA has raised almost 50% of their goal, with a pledge from the Cleveland Foundation for capital support as another of their highlights. More exciting news continued for HOLA as they also celebrated receiving the official notification of their 501(c)3 status. They are now securing financing for the remainder of the capital costs, and expect financing to be in place, with preliminary construction to begin, in early 2020. HOLA has retained an excellent architectural team, DS Architecture, that will oversee construction. In addition, they have obtained unanimous approval from the City of Painesville Planning Commission for a conditional use permit. Project supporters include the City of Painesville, TeamNEO, the Auburn Career Center, Lakeland Community College, the Western Reserve Resource Conservation and Development Council, and others.

Kelsey made sure to mention that the folks at HOLA are so thankful for the partnership with Federated that saw us hosting their August 10th annual fundraiser at our Family Life Center, as well as thanking the many Federated members who were able to attend and support the event. This was their most successful fundraiser to date, raising over \$41,000!

Laura's talk with Kelsey ended warmly when Kelsey said that she and Veronica Dahlberg, their Executive Director, are so proud to be a mission partner with Federated – a relationship that they both look forward to continuing in the future. This type of relationship is a perfect example of what we hope to attain with recipients of our Christmas Eve offering. We, in turn, want to thank HOLA for the experiences they have given us.



Mission & Service

Homeless Stand Down (HSD) Collections

If you'd like to contribute time, talents or financial support, you can be a part of the Federated Church Homeless Stand Down efforts this year!

We will be making hygiene kits again (see p. 14). Due to shortages of some hygiene items last year, we suggest you donate money so we can fill each kit equally. Not all bags were equally filled last year. Please put **"HSD kits"** in the memo line of your check. Then this year's "fill the bags" event on December 29 will be a great opportunity for all ages to help. The HSD clients receiving them really appreciated everything from the new toothbrush and shampoo to a new washcloth, etc.

Collections begin for the winter jackets on Monday, December 9, after the Giving Tree gifts are removed (See p.14 for details about that opportunity to donate).

Since we ran out of men's jackets at last year's event, they have asked that we concentrate on men's larger and XL warm winter jackets and warm winter waterproof boots. Certainly if you have extra or outgrown (clean and gently worn) ladies or kids jackets, we can collect them as well.

If you'd prefer, we can also accept donations for the HSD organization to buy the needed items at a greatly reduced price. Please just add **HSD** to the memo line of your check.

The deadline for all collections will be Sunday, January 5, so items can be sorted for distribution on Stand Down day.

Sign up sheets for our volunteers will be posted as collections start, but if you'd like to plan to save the date, mark January 11 on your calendar. We have space for 18 (age 18+ please) volunteers for the afternoon of Saturday, January 11 (from 11:15 am—3:00 pm downtown at Public Hall). We will carpool, so no one has to drive alone! It's such a worthwhile and heart warming event! Please consider joining us.

So whether you invest time, donations, or financial support, you can really make a difference for families, women and men who are without a home. Thanks for your consideration.

Questions? Contact Cathy Watterson at 216.978.1037 (cell) or cwstarfish2000@yahoo.com

"It Means Love"

Parish Nurse Corner

A message from the parish nurse

I have read that there is no greater meaning in life than connecting with other people. And, after volunteering at St. Paul's for four years, I would add "connecting with people who are different than you" is even more meaningful. Recently, a woman of about 40 years of age came into the clinic, covered with bites from bed bugs. She was scratching herself all over, almost frantically. Fortunately, I had some cortisone cream on hand and gave her the tube, for which she was very grateful. Where did she get these bedbugs? From a mattress at a homeless shelter! Two weeks later I saw her again, healed and smiling, especially when I greeted her by name. It's hard to imagine living like this *and smiling*.

A member of our church gave the clinic four large bags of winter goodies: a sleeping bag, kids jackets, a woman's puffy long coat, and lots of fleece blankets in various patterns, tied up by a cozy matching neck scarf. The moms that got the blankets were going to save them for Christmas presents (I don't know if they will have trees or if the blankets will be the only gifts the children receive.) It's hard to imagine living like this, but the moms were so grateful.

Another church member donated a check to cover 20 sets of thermal underwear. And on Mission Sunday this month, I sold 30 additional "sponsorships," each for one set of thermal underwear at \$10 per set. This filled the gap for folks who had not yet received their one set per winter, as they are not in my budget without donations. (I received a one-time check for \$200 from St. Paul's for this purpose, in addition to the \$400 they give me monthly to purchase regular supplies.) Others have given food for the pantry, miscellaneous supplies, and money for the cook who prepares lunch twice a week for our clients. Archbishop Tutu would call all of these donors "prisoners of hope" and that includes me as I strive to bring messages of hope, in different forms, to those who could easily be forgotten. And as I imagine myself living like my clients, I would surely be grateful for a place like St. Paul's.

In faith,
Kathy Kolcaba
440.655.2098

Mission & Service

Hygiene Kits for Homeless Stand Down

This year our congregation will be putting together hygiene kits on Sunday, December 29. Instead of having everyone shop for the items, we are asking that you please make a cash or check donation and we will buy everything in bulk to get the most for your donations.

We hope to put together at least 100 kits for men and women.

Please mark your donations for "HSD kits." We will see you on December 29 for the "fill the bags" event. More about the Homeless Stand Down on p. 12.

Christmas Giving Tree for St. Paul's: Gifts Collected until December 8

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

Items will be collected under the Christmas tree in the Bell St. Lobby **November 25—December 8** and they will be delivered to St. Paul's on Monday, December 9. Thank you for making the holidays a time of great joy for these children and their families!

A Note of Thanks

We collected 33 pints on our goal of 22! Which is fantastic; thanks for your time and efforts to help make our drive a big success! That equates to 99 potential people in need we helped.

Our next blood drive is Monday, January 6 from 1:00 pm—5:30 pm. Let me know if you need anything as we get closer to our January drive date. And thank you for your continued support in our life saving mission; it's greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,
Rob Reynolds
Account Rep
American Red Cross

Dear JOY Kids,

Was so surprised to come home from church Sunday to find a Treat at my door at Hamlet Hills.

Thank you so much, I am a new resident and it made me feel very welcomed. Thank you again for your kindness.

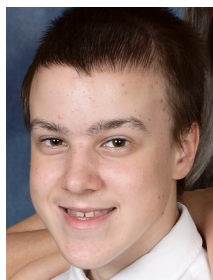
Dianne Sweet

Dear JOY Kids,

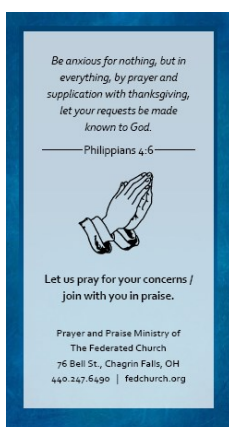
Thank you for Reverse Trick or Treat last Sunday. It brought fun and brightness to an otherwise gloomy, rainy day! Your happy faces were such a blessing!

Carol Basler

A special thanks goes out to **Eric Reed** for running the PowerPoint slides on Sunday morning during 11:30 am RISE to Shine services.



We are thankful for our new Blue Prayer Cards, which were printed and donated by a family who is grateful to be a part of Federated!



I wanted to send a big thank you to the Federated Church for helping me with my rent for the month of September. It was such a blessing for me and my kids. Times have been really hard, but I have been taking things one day at a time.

With continued health struggles and being a single mom, things have taken a toll on me. I am going to continue to pray and keep the faith. Thank you to everyone at the Federated Church!

Sincerely,
Shakira Thomas

Christmas Poinsettias on Sale

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



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

Name: _____

Phone: _____ No. of Plants: _____

☐ In Memory of:

☐ In Honor of: _____

Time is running out to sign up for Federated's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Jordan

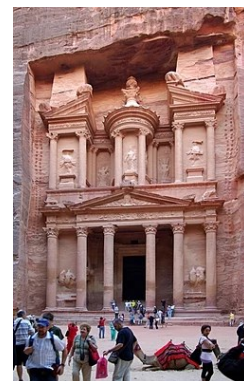
**** April 19 – May 1, 2020 ****

We are partnering with Magi Travel for another, similar but different, Pilgrimage to the Holy Lands, and this time, we are going to Jordan. This trip is more than a tour of historical places, but 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 swim 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. There will be a moderate amount of physical activity, as the terrain can be rough, cobblestone streets and long stairways. A color brochure with complete details of the costs and itinerary is in the Lobby outside Fellowship Hall and on our website at fedchurch.org/trips.



Highlights of the trip include:

- Red Rose City of Petra
- A lunch and tour of a kibbutz on the Sea of Galilee
- In small groups we'll lunch at the homes of local Christian families and hear about their daily life
- Visit the Dome of the Rock where Muslims believe Muhammad ascended into heaven
- Visit the Western Wall, the holiest site for Jews
- Two nights on the shore of the Dead Sea including a morning swim, if you wish



The cost is \$3,995 for double occupancy in five-star hotel, dedicated tour bus, local guide and head sets, all breakfasts & dinners, and gratuities for local guide and bus driver. Israel and Jordan departure tax (~\$70), most lunches and all items of a personal nature are not included. Optional Group Airfare of \$1,895 round trip from and to Cleveland is available. You may register online for the trip with a refundable deposit of \$500 per person.

There is still room! The final payment is due January 15, 2020. Space is limited and will be based on a first come basis.

You are welcome to contact Peggie Jo Shinagawa at pjshinagawa@windstream.net or Magi if you have other questions.



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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*
* Kiersti Critchfield, *Pastoral Care 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 Snively, *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*
* Kristin LeFeber, *Director of Children's Faith Formation*
* Alex Bell, Lianna Davis, Trisha Holland, *Childcare Providers*
* denotes part-time staff

**Hope to see you this
Sunday!**

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

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

**See page 8
for special holiday services**