

January 2020



THE SPIRE

THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



The group includes former staff member, Amanda Powell!

Tickets on Sale NOW!

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, purchase between worship services in Fellowship Hall, or contact Joshua Konow at jkonow@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 ext. 120.

TICKET PRICING

Advance purchase (General Admission)—\$35

At-the-door (General Admission)—\$45

Premium seating (Front of house/balcony)—\$60

Student admission (18 and under)—\$15

"Wonderfully fresh... exuding utter authenticity, contagious kinetic energy, and a totally free-wheeling spirit to the nth degree while shedding not a whit of their phenomenal technical polish, exemplifying the kind of art that conceals art. A must-have item; highest recommendation."

— FANFARE Record Magazine

"Spectacularly fine singing and instrumental playing... full of energy and life. Terrific sweep from the ensemble who really swing. A first rate recording."— THE CLASSICAL REVIEWER, UK

"Authenticity and that most elusive of desirable qualities, exquisite taste."— THE CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER

It's a Musical Wondrous Wednesday Event!

Wednesday, January 8

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

Bell St. Fellowship Hall

Mary Beth Ions, a well-known international musician, will play violin for us, creating a close-up and personal experience.

Do you love beautiful music in a friendly environment? ...while you're enjoying dessert and coffee...? This friendly event is for you!

Make reservations for the free dinner by calling the church at 440.247.6490, signing up at the Bell St. reception desk, or emailing katiesharbage@gmail.com. No reservation is needed for the program.

Time is running out to sign up for **Federated's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Jordan** **** April 19 – May 1, 2020 ****

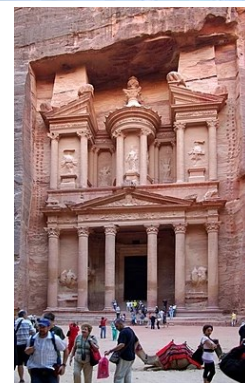
We are partnering with Magi Travel for another Pilgrimage to the Holy Lands. This trip is more than a tour of historical places, but a spiritual journey as stories of our faith become tangible while walking in the footsteps of Jesus and His disciples in Nazareth, Cana, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Galilee, and swimming in the Dead Sea. We'll be able to encounter God in new ways through worship, prayer and communion services led by Hamilton in these hallowed places. 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 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. Register online. The final payment is due January 15. There is still room! But space is limited.

Contact Peggie Jo Shinagawa at pjshinagawa@windstream.net or Magi at info@magitravelinc.com with questions.



Sign up with a friend – what a wonderful way to introduce them to Federated Church! All blood re-sources are critical

If you have any questions, please contact Carole Mason at 440.313.8876 or at wfmason36@gmail.com. Thank you!



From Hamilton's Desk

Dear Friends,

With two notable staff changes happening at the same time, I want to say a word about Associate Pastor, the Rev. Susi Kawolics, who leaves after eight years here, and Senior Director of Operations, Amy Eugene, who leaves after nearly three years here. They have both been enormous gifts to Federated, and I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for their work and their presence.

In thinking about Susi and Amy, three words come to mind that characterize the service of both of them here.

The first is **Commitment**. Susi has led our planning of worship and has invested herself in every aspect of it. She has worked closely with our Stephen Ministry program, with our Social Justice Advocacy Ministry, and with the Chagrin Valley Council of Churches. She has led memorial services, performed weddings, visited church members and friends, and so much more.

Amy, likewise, has been involved in nearly every aspect of church life, staffing our Properties, Human Resources, and Finance Committees, supporting staff in their many and various needs, running from overflowing toilets to contracts with vendors to interviewing and hiring custodial staff. She has had stints working as part-time bookkeeper and as part-time lead custodian in her time here, and so much more.

For both of them, the work has been nearly never-ending. So I both want to acknowledge the toll their work has taken and the exhaustion they have both expressed in leaving, and, at the same time, to express our gratitude for the diligence and commitment they have exhibited. Federated owes them a huge debt.

The second word that comes to me about both Susi and Amy is **Partnership**. Nothing, for either of them, is about ego. They both spend enormous energy connecting people to each other and to ministries that will fulfill them. Susi has partnered with SJAM and Stephen Ministry and everyone who shares in worship leadership. Amy has partnered with the committees she staffs, with the church staff, and with Church Council. And both of them have been, for me, exceptionally close partners in the day-to-day work and ministry of the church. I have deeply treasured both partnerships.

The third word that comes to me about them is **Joy**. Each of them radiates an energy and spirit for life that are contagious. They laugh readily and exude a deep delight and revel in the deep mysteries and graces of life. Both of them look for solutions rather than just identify problems. They create and transmit an infectious spirit. They leave their mark, and they make their communities better places.

Along with countless Federated members and friends, I will miss Susi and Amy greatly. I am abundantly grateful for their deep commitment to Federated, for their work as partners in service to the good news of God, and for the radiance they exude. I wish them both God's peace as they move into new chapters of their life. May God always hold them close.

Yours in Christ,



Hamilton

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, January 5

Communion Served

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

10 am Traditional Worship

Music by Federated Choir

11:30 am RISE to Shine Modern Worship

Music by RISE to Shine Band

Sunday, January 12

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, January 19

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, January 26

Rev. Mark Simone preaches

10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School

Music by Bell Choir

Presentation of 2019 Christmas Eve Offering

11:30 am RISE to Shine Modern Worship

Music by RISE to Shine Band

Family Worship— no Sunday School

Please enjoy worshipping as a family on January 5.

Sunday School returns January 12!

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

Weather Closing Procedure

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

News & Info

Every quarter, a group of folks meet to determine: **Capital Campaign Projects - Where Are We Now?** Keith Mast, Becky Gruss, Amy Eugene, Laura Taylor, and Janis Stefanchik met in December to make sure that we are keeping track of all campaign payments that are coming in, paying all capital campaign project bills, and monitoring the progress of each capital campaign project that was approved by Church Council.

Regarding the capital campaign projects, the goal of the operations staff and the Properties Committee is to focus on the following projects in 2020:

- Installing a key card entry system,
- Renovating and replacing bathroom fixtures,
- Reupholstering the final six conference room chairs that currently reside in the Sanctuary,
- Purchasing an altar cross,
- Replacing more Bell Street carpeting,
- Conducting a sound study,
- Installing additional blinds in the Sanctuary,
- Continuing the transition to cost-effective LED lights and safer electrical systems,
- Allocating funds for Deferred Major Maintenance and Equipment, and
- Resurfacing the Bell Street parking lot – including evaluating whether there are funds to install a heated section under the entrance/exit ramp hill.

In the meantime, recently completed work entailed patching and repairing the west stairs. This is one of those campaign projects that isn't necessarily aesthetically interesting, but is so vital to the safe and efficient running of our buildings.



Before



After

Membership Reminder

Active membership is determined by recorded attendance at worship and gifts to the general fund.

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

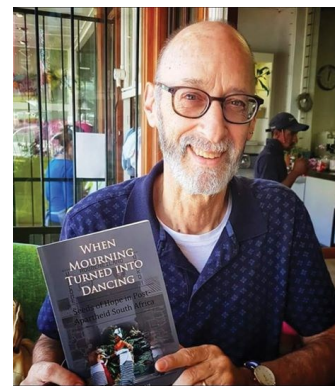
After over two decades and 17 trips to South Africa, I have compiled a book of stories and accounts of life during and after Apartheid in South Africa. The book, *When Mourning Turned into Dancing: Seeds of Hope in Post-Apartheid South Africa*, is being offered to Federated members and friends for \$14 (nearly at cost from the retail price of \$18.95) in deep appreciation for how much Federated is part of this story.

In our missions in South Africa, in the presence of the over 180 missionaries we have sent on work camps over the years, and in deep appreciation from me, I want to acknowledge that Federated is a key part of the book. The title of the book is taken from Psalm 30:11 which says, "You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy."

Copies are available after church in Fellowship Hall at the display table. As I am part of the RISE to Shine service, I am only able to greet folks for a few minutes between services. However, you can buy a signed book by dropping a check into the box (to Mark Simone), or, if you want a personal inscription, please fill out one of the information sheets at the table and I will personalize the book for you or for anyone you wish. I'll also have copies in my office.

Thank you Federated Family for all of your work and love for places where our light has shined in South Africa (and all over the world.)

- Mark Simone



Melinda Stees - An Artist who makes you See AND Think

Melinda captures human and animal personalities and "messages I'd have a hard time delivering in person" in knitted images - by turning the one stitch=one pixel image of photography *on its head*. Her images speak to us in their large poster-sized frames. Come close and you see knitted stitches... Back up and they pop into focus sharing visual stories with us.

When Melinda is not singing with the Federated Choir, it's because she is busy creating and installing fiber art exhibitions and speaking in panel discussions and educational programs. She has exhibited in New York City and Washington, D.C!

You can see her knitted fiber art next to Fellowship Hall in the Federated Gallery Space on the lower floor. Come enjoy a unique form of art!

Secure Ways to Pay Your Pledge!

- Online: fedchurch.org/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!

January 5 – last names beginning with A or B
January 12 – last names beginning with C or D
January 19 – last names beginning with E, F or G
January 26 – last names beginning with H, I, J or K

Holiday Building Closure

Federated's Bell Street location and the Family Life Center will both be closed Monday, January 20 for MLK Jr. Day.

February SPIRE Deadline

Do you have something you'd like to see in the February SPIRE?

Please email your information to communications@fedchurch.org by **Wednesday, January 15**. Thank you!

Federated Happenings

Church Family Ski Trip

Monday, February 17

All are invited! Please contact Marty to express interest and reserve your spots: mculbert@fedchurch.org. Watch for details in your Sunday bulletins and February SPIRE.



NOICA Cooking Class

Last May, our Turkish friends and neighbors hosted an Iftar dinner during their Holy days of Ramadan. It was a huge success and a wonderful way to begin building some great relationships. The Northern Ohio Intercultural Association (NOICA, formerly Turkish American Society) is now offering a cooking demonstration and meal to be held in Fellowship Hall. This event is open to ALL Federated - adults and children.

Sunday, January 19, 4—7 pm

The cost is \$15.00 for adults, \$5.00 for ages 5-12, and free for children under 5.

Please RSVP by calling 440.247.6490 or sending an email to info@noica.org.



Primetime Federated Forum

Monday, January 13 in Fellowship Hall

Refreshments at 1:30; Program at 2:00 pm

Presenter: Eric Kish

Program: *How Immigrant Composers Invented Hollywood Movie Music.*

The rise of the talkies coincided with the rise of Hitler, and so those Jewish artists who could get away did just that. Three giants came to Hollywood: Erich Wolfgang Korngold, Max Steiner and Franz Waxman. Their film scores defined the Hollywood movie scores for decades. EVERYONE will remember the tunes once he plays them!

Eric's radio program, "Musical Passions" on WCLV 104.9, has been on the air since 2004. He was involved with the Ohio Chamber Orchestra and the Cleveland Chamber Music Society. He has given many talks about music, and regularly presents courses on musical subjects.

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, visit fedchurch.org/tributaries.

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'll be attending.

Dates/Times: Thursdays, 7:00—8:15 pm, January 9—February 27

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

Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) News

SJAM is a group of Federated folks learning about and taking action on a wide variety of societal justice issues such as gun violence, criminal justice, LGBTQ+ rights, environmental issues, racial justice, voter registration and immigration as well as other areas of concern. Sound interesting? We welcome you to join us at our next meeting. Bring a friend. SJAM is open to all in the community who are looking for ways to work for social justice. If you would like to learn more, please contact Kathy Franz (440.543.4086 or kfranz17114@gmail.com).

Next SJAM Meeting — Sunday, January 19, 11:30 am, Bell St. Room 240

Racial Justice

Just Mercy

Grab a copy of the book *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. It is a true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to end mass incarceration in America. Read it and join us for one of two **book discussions: Sunday, January 12 at 11:15 am or Friday, January 17 at 1:00 pm** and/or **movie viewing: Monday, January 13 at 7:00 pm, to view *Just Mercy* with SJAM friends at Chagrin Cinemas.** (Note: for January only, this replaces the monthly social justice movie at Bell St.)

Immigration Reform

Vigils

Join us for a monthly vigil the first Thursday of each month at 4:00 pm at Lakeside and E. 9th. For more information contact Bill Shaul at theshauls@msn.com.

LGBTQ+

My Kid's Out

Bainbridge UCC is offering an event for parents. "My Kid's Out" is on January 25 at 10:00 am. Parents of LGBTQ+ are invited to attend at 17751 Chillicothe Road.

Creation Justice

Creation Justice Environmental Subgroup meets January 14 at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room.

Green Tip of the Month

100% Renewable Electricity. Did you know that you can switch your electric energy to 100% renewable energy? Yes, it's available for everyone! Ask for the **fixed rate and 100% renewable electricity**. To opt-in call the NOPEC customer care line at 855.667.3201. It's a great way to care for the earth.

Winter Energy Saving Tips

Take Advantage of Heat from the Sun - Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night.

Cover Drafty Windows - Tightly seal them with clear plastic sheets covering the frames.

Adjust the Temperature - When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills.

Find and Seal Leaks - Seal the air leaks around utility cut-throughs for pipes, gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Reduce Heat Loss from the Fireplace - Keep the damper closed when it is not in use. Close the doors leading into the room.

Lower Your Water Heating Temp - Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F).

Good News! Glass recycling has been reinstated in Russell!

Voting Rights and Voter Registration

Our Voices, Our Vote: Courage and Persistence in Black Women's Struggle for Voting Rights

Joy Bostic: Women's Empowerment Lecturer

January 28, 7:00—8:30 pm, Tinkham Veale Center, CWRU

This talk will delve into the core values and organizing strategies Black women use locally and nationally in the struggle for inclusive voting rights in the United States. This series is held in partnership with League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland. Free and open to the public. Register online: mylvw.org/ohio/greater-cleveland.

SJAM volunteers are active with NOVA (Northern Ohio Voter Advocacy) and Mobilize the Vote 2020. Both organizations need volunteers for the effort to register voters. If interested, come to the SJAM meeting to learn more, contact Kathy Franz or reach out to the organizations.

Faith Formation and Spirituality

Epiphany Worship Series

The New Year brings the season of Epiphany, a time of revelation, of discovery, of new beginning. Often we use this time to reassess who we are and where we are going in life. This year, we will journey through Epiphany, January 5 through February 26, reflecting on the deep question of Who we are, which is ultimately linked to Whose we are, and who we are to become. Following the lectionary and the Marcia McFee's Worship Design Studio's theme of: Who Are You?, here are the topics for each week in Epiphany:

Date	Theme	Theme	Scripture 1	Scripture 2
January 5	Follow	Your Star	Isaiah 60:1-6	Matthew 2:1-12
January 12	Connect	With Your Belovedness	Isaiah 42:1-9	Matthew 3:13-17
January 19	Know	Your Name	Isaiah 49:1 or Psalm 139	John 1:38, 41
January 26	Claim	Your Vocation	Isiah 9:1-4	Matthew 4:12-23
February 2	Embody	Beatitude Living	Micah 6:1-8	Matthew 5:1-12
February 9	Live	With Integrity	Isaiah 58:1-12	Matthew 5:13-20
February 16	Create	Right Relationships	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Matthew 5:21-37
February 23	Proclaim	Transformation	Exodus 24:12-18	Matthew 17:1-9

What amazing things could happen if we lived into our most, most passionate, loving selves? We hope you will join us in our Epiphany journey of transformation of knowing who we are, embracing whose we are, and living into who we are called to become!

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.

Contact Mary with questions—msart@windstream.net or 440.338.3312. Thank you!

Confirmation—Still Time to Join!

There is still time for any interested teenager, grades 9 and above, to join our 2020 Confirmation Class.

Confirmation is the process in which a young adult interacts with issues and views of our Christian faith. We meet every 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sunday from 10:00—11:15 am. The class is interesting and truly a great deal of fun.

For more information, please contact Mark Simone at msimone@fedchurch.org or 440.463.9439.

Men's Thursday Morning Discussion Group

All men are invited to join us each Thursday at 8:30 am in the Bell Street Lounge for coffee, fellowship, and a reading of the lectionary verse for the coming Sunday. We end at 10:00 am.

For more information contact Nelson Fenner, cell: 216.316.2509 or email: fenner.nelson@gmail.com

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 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.

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!

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

Volunteer sign-up sheets for the Stand Down are in Fellowship Hall. We have space for 18 adult volunteers for Saturday, January 11 (11:15 am—3:00 pm downtown at Public Hall). We will carpool. 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

Parish Nurse Corner

A message from the parish nurse

This is a story of serendipity that I want to share. Before our first snow and ice event in November, a Federated member donated a bunch of fleece blankets, scarves, AND two brand new winter jackets for boys. I didn't look at the sizes at the time, because I didn't know who would show up in need of boys' outerwear. I then gave them to Bob, a volunteer in St. Paul's Thrift Shop, as he gets most of the requests for outer clothes and coats, etc. (while I get requests for underwear and socks).

About ½ hour later, Bob came to my office. He was **so** happy and excited, I could see he was bursting to tell me something. It seems that just after Bob received those coats from me, a Puerto Rican family came to his shop. The family had been displaced by Hurricane Maria, and finally made their way up to Cleveland. Bob and I don't know how they found St. Paul's, but they were in desperate need of winter coats for their two sons. Like so many "coincidences" here, the two jackets that had just been donated fit those two boys perfectly – and everyone, including me, was elated. Imagine their discomfort with their first winter! What a joy to be able to help.

There are other things that St. Paul's Outreach Ministry did that benefited this family: help with paperwork (driver's license or state ID, Social Security, bus passes, housing vouchers), food supplies from our pantry, backpacks, resources for medical care, etc.

And thanks to the many donations, we also offer thermal underwear, regular underwear, hygiene supplies, and first aid. By the end of next month we will have given out 110 sets of thermal underwear and 100 pairs of heavy duty winter boots, the latter courtesy of Avon UCC!

And so, I humbly thank you all for your tremendous and ongoing support for our sister church. May you all have a meaningful and special New Year, blessed to be blessings.

In faith,
Kathy Kolcaba
440.655.2098

"It Means Love"

St. Paul's Food Need

Ohio City Power, managed by Lisa Braun (former Primetime coordinator), collects food donations to be used by a cook at St. Paul's Community Church in preparation of lunches (Soup for the Soul). These lunch meals provide food for the needy from the area around St. Paul's. For some folks, this may be the only meal of the day. About 40-60 people partake daily.

While there is a regular supply of bagels (donated by Einstein's, collected by Jane Biggar), donations of other items for meal preparations are now in short supply. The most needed item is meat of various kinds (e.g. poultry, beef, pork, bacon, sausage). Eggs are needed, also (arrange for delivery in advance). Donations would be greatly appreciated.

If you are inclined to help the needy in this way, you may put your donation in the chest freezer in the tunnel at Federated Church labeled clearly OCP and advise Kathy or Don. The food is transported to St. Paul's weekly by Kathy Kolcaba (parish nurse) or Don Hoke.

For further information, contact Lynne Kessell (lynnekessell@hotmail.com), Kathy Kolcaba (kathykolcaba@yahoo.com), Lisa Braun (lisabraun@ohiocitypower.net, 440.289.1657) or Don Hoke (dhoke44022@yahoo.com, 440.338.8219).



Telling Our Story Spotlight

100th Birthday Greetings!

A big Happy 100th Birthday greeting on January 8 to our very own Ralph Spreser during this year-long celebration of our church's 100th Anniversary. Ralph has been a member of Federated for almost half of his life and half of our church's life. Such a blessing!



A Note of Thanks

We wish to express our gratitude to the staff and members of the Federated church for their many acts of kindness while Tim was sick and during the celebration of his life. The loving visits made by Susi will never be forgotten as well as the wonderful words of comfort shared by Hamilton. So many of the staff guided us through the preparation for his service. Those in charge of the food, programs, flowers, music, ushers, and recordings were all incredibly helpful to us. You made a very difficult time easier to bear and we thank you. The members of this church made a difference as they showered us with their condolences. We received loving cards, phone calls, and emails.

Hugs, food for our bodies and wisdom for our souls. We are so grateful for all you have done to make this journey a little less painful for us. Thank you for being there with your thoughts and prayers. We felt your loving energy embrace us. Thank you.

Joan Jenkins and family

A special and hearty thanks goes to Peggie Jo Shinagawa for stepping into the role of Pastoral Care Assistant last year on a completely voluntary basis while the church was looking to fill that position.

In this role, Peggie Jo oversaw Federated's response to the needs of our congregants. In several passages, the Bible talks about giving time, talents, and treasure so that the work of God will be able to flourish. Well, Peggie Jo shared each of those in abundance during 9 ½ months and the church and the congregation are so grateful!



Dear Federated Church Family,

I thank you from the depths of my heart for the wonderful retirement dinner you planned and delivered on December 14. I especially want to thank the planning and set-up team: Darlene Nichols, Karen Zoltowicz, Alexandra Ziots, Judy Riemenschneider, and Beth Rutkowski. You provided a lovely setting, and delicious and abundant food. Also, the program musicians Randy Fusco and Barry Stees played beautifully to add to the specialness of the evening. And those who spoke about me really touched my heart: Darlene Nichols, Gary Dole and Hamilton Throckmorton. I know there were many

others who also helped and contributed, even some who weren't able to attend. I thank you all!

The gifts you presented will warm me inside and out. But the greatest gift was being able to celebrate with you, to share a meal and conversation, and to have been made to feel so loved.

I will carry all of you in my heart and my prayers as I go forward and will always treasure the years that I have been your pastor here.

Many blessings and much love,
Rev. Susi Kawolics

Search for the Christ Child Final thoughts.....

I offer up a huge and humble thank you to everyone who supported our efforts to bring our fifth annual "Search for the Christ Child" to Bell Street this year...

To the adults and high school students who donned costumes and enthusiastically acted out parts
 To the animals and their owners who graciously donated their time to make the outdoor sets authentic
 To the babies who played the role of Jesus and to their parents who trusted us with their little ones
 To the Congregational Care Commission who readied the cookies and hot chocolate for our guests
 To the bakers who prepared hundreds of beautiful and delicious cookies
 To the seamstresses who sewed costumes
 To the set up crew who hung sheets, ironed costumes, climbed ladders, set out candles and countless other tasks
 To the Telling Our Story Commission and office staff that helped spread the word
 To our 6th, 7th and 8th graders and their advisors who cheerfully served cookies and hot chocolate to our guests
 To our greeters who welcomed guests to the Federated Church at Bell Street
 To our Federated family members who made time to come out and experience "The Search"
 To our set designers who designed and constructed and painted sets
 To the clean-up crew.....who took it all down and stored it all away
 To our own special Federated custodial staff who hung stars and lights and ran errands and cleaned up after us and did every little thing I asked of them
 And to those of you who I may have forgotten to list separately...those who lifted us all up in prayer, who contributed financial support....all of you.

THIS is how we can love others... by throwing open our doors and offering an extravagant welcome to all... by sharing the story of Christ's birth with our friends and neighbors. Together, we were able to offer a precious gift to our Federated family and the community at large. Let's do it again next year!

With humble gratitude,
 Kiersti Critchfield





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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*
* 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*
Jacob Evans, *Head Custodian*
Ken Tranter, * Larry McGurer, *Custodians*

Music Staff

Joshua Konow, *Director of Music Ministries*
* Marcia Snavely, *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**

On 12/29—single service at 10 am

*No Sunday School on 12/29 and 1/5
Kids Cove (Nursery-Pre-K) still open*