



FEDERATED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

December 15

Welcome!

Upcoming Activities and Opportunities at Federated

11:30 RISE to Shine Service

"Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn"

"Sanctuary"

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-3a, 17-19

Offering and Passing the Peace

"Glory (Let There Be Peace)"

Scripture: Luke 1:26-35, 38

"Make Room"

Scripture: Luke 2:8-16

"Love Came Down"

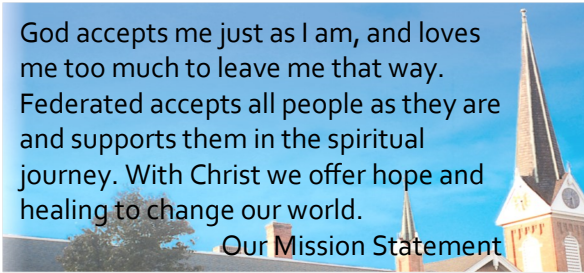
Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

"Joy to the World (Shout for Joy)"

All children are welcome in worship! Childcare is also available for birth-Pre-K downstairs in Room G2o.

God accepts me just as I am, and loves me too much to leave me that way. Federated accepts all people as they are and supports them in the spiritual journey. With Christ we offer hope and healing to change our world.

Our Mission Statement



Ahead At The Fed

Wednesday, December 18

Led by Rev. Susi Kawolics

Service of Solace

7 pm

Sunday, December 22

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Rev. Susi Kawolics preaches

10 am

Traditional Worship and Sunday School

Music by Adult Choir & Bell Choir

Liturgical Dancers

11:30 am

RISE to Shine Modern Worship

Music by RISE to Shine Band

December 22 - Scriptures

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4 pm, 6 pm, 8:30 pm, 11 pm

Candlelighting Services

Details about each service on p. 3

Sunday, December 29

Rev. Mark Simone preaches

10 am

Traditional Worship

Making Hygiene Kits for the Homeless

Stand Down (more info p. 2)

We welcome you to The Federated Church, a place to belong and a place to become.

We are people just like you, who hope and love and hurt, and we have found that Jesus Christ makes a transforming difference in our daily lives.

Your presence matters to us. We open our hearts to you.

Our Staff is Here to Support YOU

We at Federated believe in service. We think of our congregation as Ministers to the World and our church staff as Ministers to the Congregation. Should you have questions or need information, please contact us at 440.247.6490. We look forward to serving you.

Clergy *denotes part-time staff

Hamilton Throckmorton, *Senior Pastor*

Mark Simone, *Pastor of Children's, Youth & 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*

* **Janis Stefanchik**, *Bookkeeper*

* **Trisha Holland**, *Marketing & Communications Specialist*

* **Kiersti Critchfield**, *Pastoral Care Administrator*

* **Dolly Herschel**, *Primetime Coordinator*

* **Laura Taylor**, *Fund Development Associate*

Jake Magalski, *Properties, Maintenance & Grounds Lead*

* **Larry McGurer**, *Custodians*

Music Staff

Joshua Konow, *Director of Music Ministries*

* **Marcia Snavely**, *Organist*

* **Pat Haynish**, *Director of Children's Choir*

* **Thaddeus Quintin**, *Director of Federated Bell 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*

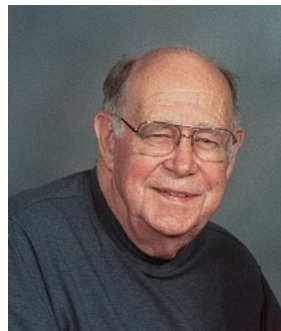
Our Ushers and Greeters are available to answer any questions you may have and will be happy to assist you in any way.

Today's Christmas Cantata

We are grateful that this morning's musical offering, J.S. Bach's Cantata No. 63 "Christen, ätztet diesen Tag," has been underwritten by Alma Faroo and her family in memory of her husband Bob Faroo.

Bob sang in the Federated choir for over 40 years, and loved this church for its music. He died on September 23.

If you would like to offer a gift in thankfulness to God and in memory of Bob, his family would be glad to have you give it to the Federated Church music program.



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.

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—Candle-lighting Service

Rev. Mark Simone preaches

Communion served

Pre-service music by soloists 20 minutes prior to service



Ushers for Christmas Eve

Thank you to those who signed up to usher for Christmas Eve. Our 8:30 pm and 11 pm services are fully staffed!

We are still looking for ushers for 4 pm and 6 pm, and an usher captain for 6 pm. It is imperative that we have ushers so we can have a safe and meaningful candle-lighting experience.

If you can help, please contact Gary Dole, gdd.fedchurch@gmail.com or call him at 440.338.3543 or sign up on our website at: fedchurch.org/worshippupport.

Thank you so much for any help you can give us!

Apollo's Fire Tickets on Sale NOW!

Friday, January 24, 7:30 pm | Sanctuary

A reception will follow the concert.

Visit fedchurch.org/concerts for more info and to purchase tickets, or purchase tickets between worship services in Fellowship Hall.

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



"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).

"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 Magazine

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

**** April 19 – May 1, 2020 ****

This pilgrimage 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.

There is still room! The final payment is due on January 15. Space is limited and will be based on a first come basis. Pick up a brochure from the Lobby or see it online at <https://fedchurch.org/trips>. You are welcome to contact Peggie Jo Shinagawa at pjshinagawa@windstream.net or Magi at info@magitravelinc.com if you have other questions.

2020 Contribution Envelopes...

...are available for pickup. 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 is waiting for you in Fellowship Hall. New requests and new cancellations should be directed to Melinda at smithm@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 x111.

Service of Solace

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

Also 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.

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.

Advent Worship Series Continues

Today's Theme: Joy in the midst of despair
(Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10)

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This year for Advent, we will focus on our traditional themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, but with some enhancements. In order to further deepen your Advent journey, we encourage you to try different prayer practices in preparation for each week.

Week IV (12/22) Love in the midst of hate
(Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25)

Begin preparation for this Sunday 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.

Countdown to 28th annual Homeless Stand Down on January 11

Please remember our friends who will attend the Homeless Stand Down for much-needed survival clothing. Over 1100 men, women and children will be served there and receive the items you donate. Sometimes there are good choices at Goodwill stores or Costco for jackets and boots (as well as discount stores like Marc's for gloves.)

Donations of new or clean and gently worn coats, boots and winter gloves, (or checks made out to Federated with **HSD** in memo line) will be collected **through Sunday, January 5**. Remember, just \$20 can buy a new adult size jacket, or boots at their discount. Thanks in advance for your generosity and consideration.

Sign-ups for volunteers (limit 18 adults) take place after worship in the Lobby for the 11:30-3:00 pm shift downtown. Carpools available from Federated at 10:30 am for January 11 Stand Down .

Questions: please contact Cathy Watterson at Cwstarfish2000@yahoo.com or 216.978.1037.

Amy Eugene will be Leaving Staff

Amy Eugene has let us know that she will be leaving her position as Senior Director of Operations here at Federated. After serving so capably in that role for nearly three years, Amy has decided to step away from the intensity and complexity of the work and to move into a new chapter of her life. She has been a wonderful gift to Federated, and has served with commitment, skill, and a deep passion for the mission of this church. We will miss her greatly.

Her last day with us will be Sunday, January 5, when we will have a chance to say good-bye to her in worship. Thanks be to God for the blessing she has been to Federated.

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.

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 Spresser 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.

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

Weekly Calendar

Activities in *bold italics* take place at the Family Life Center. Rentals, Scout and non-church related community events are not listed.
Find the full calendar of events on our website at FEDCHURCH.ORG/CALENDAR

SUNDAY December 15—Third Sunday in Advent

9:00 am Facilities Information & Sharing Session
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service
10:00 am Sunday School (K-8)
10:00 am Kids Cove Childcare
10:00 am Confirmation Class
11:00 am Coffee Fellowship
11:30 am RISE to Shine Modern Worship
11:30 am Kids Cove Childcare
11:30 am SJAM Mtg
4:00 pm JOY goes to dinner in the village
6:30 pm GROUP (Sr. High Youth Group) Mtg
8:00 pm AA Sunday Open Hearth Mtg

MONDAY December 16

10:00 am Primetime Tai Chi Class
10:15 am Monday Morning Miracles Mtg
1:00 pm Women's Fellowship Circle Mtg
4:00 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal
5:00 pm Liturgical Dance Rehearsal
**5:30 pm *Primetime Trip to Nighttown
for A Christmas Cabaret***
6:00 pm Finance Committee Mtg
7:00 pm Telling Our Story Commission Mtg
7:30 pm Intro to Music Class (final)

TUESDAY December 17

10:00 am Pastoral Care Mtg
10:00 am Tributaries: Yoga~Spirit~Renewal
12:30 pm Primetime Bridge
6:00 pm Worship & Music Commission Mtg
7:00 pm Men's Third Tuesday
7:30 pm RISE to Shine Band Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY December 18

7:30 am Contemplative Prayer—away
12-7 pm Indoor Labyrinth available for Prayer Walk
3:00 pm THE SPIRE Newsletter Preparations
5:00 pm Properties Committee Mtg
5:15 pm Same Boat Friends meet for dinner
7:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Service of Solace
7:00 pm Tributaries: Gentle Slow Flow Yoga
6:30 pm Women on the Move AA Mtg
7:30 pm SLAA/Augustine Fellowship Mtg

THURSDAY December 19

8:30 am Men's Discussion Group
9:00 am Ladies Prayer Group
10:00 am Sit & Stitch
10:30 am Tributaries: Balance, Balls & Bands
2:00 pm Primetime Bowling—away
6:00 pm Women's Happy Hour AA Mtg
6:30 pm ACA Mtg
7:00 pm Federated Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Tributaries: Gentle Slow Flow Yoga

FRIDAY December 20

9:30 am Women's Bible Study
12:00 pm Friday Noon Big Book AA Mtg
1:00 pm Mahjong
8:00 pm Chagrin Falls Friday AA Mtg

SATURDAY December 21

9:00 am Joint Task Force Recommendation Team Mtg
10:00 am Rehearsal for Christmas Eve Services

SUNDAY December 22—Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:00 am Traditional Worship Service
10:00 am Sunday School (K-8)
10:00 am Kids Cove Childcare
11:00 am Coffee Fellowship
11:30 am RISE to Shine Modern Worship
11:30 am Kids Cove Childcare
6:30 pm GROUP (Sr. High Youth Group) Mtg
8:00 pm AA Sunday Open Hearth Mtg

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER: *Please include in your prayers this week....*

Catalina, Emma and Isabella Hay, 11705 Pekin Rd, Newbury, OH 44065-9506, on the death of their husband/father Federated member, **Paul Hay** who passed away on Monday, December 9.

Each week, we ask your prayers for two of our staff members. This week please pray for **Marty Culbertson** and **Kristin LeFeber**.

For December, the Mission & Service Commission is asking us to keep in prayer one of our church's mission partners, **EDWINS Leadership and Restaurant Institute**.

The Fellowship of Prayer Note Writers for this week are:

Jody Halley, 440.591.8703; Gayle Bauer, Vivian Platek, Trina Gigax, Martine Scheuermann.

If you have other concerns or praises you would like held in prayer, please fill out a Blue Prayer Card and put it in the prayer box, or email kcritchfield@fedchurch.org. Our Prayer and Praise Ministry Team and our staff will pray for your request. If you would like to be on this ministry team, please email Harriett Rogers: harriett.rogers41@yahoo.com.

Fellowship Treats: Thank you to **members with last names beginning N, O, P, Q or R** for providing today's treats. We invite you to join us in Fellowship Hall between the services for food and fellowship.

Each week, certain members are invited to bring treats to share. Please bring ready-to-serve finger foods in disposable containers. They can be set on the treat table in Fellowship Hall. Healthy choices are especially welcome, but please *no nuts*. Thank you in advance for your participation.

December 22 – **members with last names beginning S or T**

December 29 – **members with last names beginning U, V, W, X, Y or Z**

Photo Release Policy: Families and others in attendance at a Federated Church function acknowledge that they may be photographed or videoed and their images used in church publications and/or promotional materials.

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