

February 2020



THE SPIRE

THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

One Book One Community

"Let Your Life Speak"

By Parker Palmer

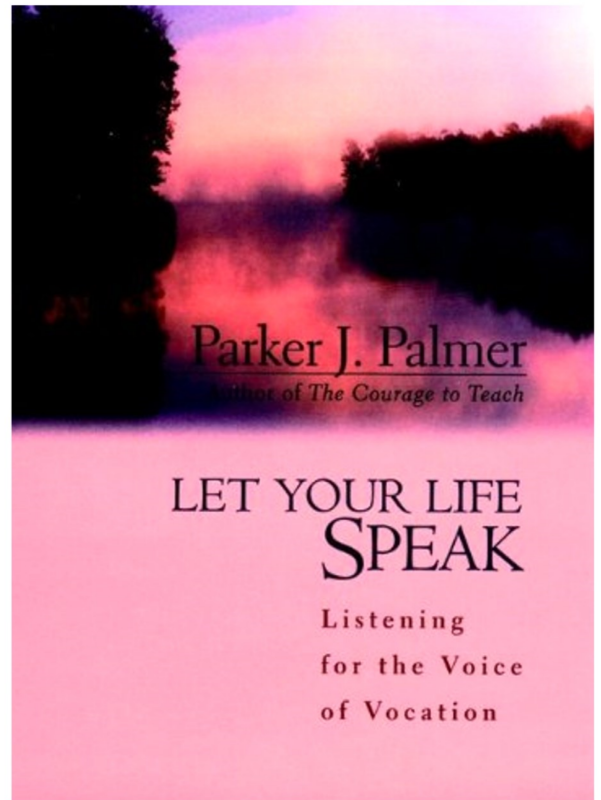
Have you ever wondered about your true calling in life? Are you using your gifts and talents to serve a need in the world that is meaningful to you? Are you living in a way that is true to your deepest values?

Explore these questions and find the inspiration to find your own unique and authentic path as we read *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation* by Parker Palmer during Lent.

Everyone is invited to participate in our annual One Book One Community book study. Small groups will be forming to discuss the book during the six weeks of Lent leading up to Easter on April 12.

Look for sign-ups and purchase a book in Fellowship Hall starting in February. Groups will begin meeting in late February or early March.

Contact Cathy Digel with questions at cathy.digel@gmail.com or 216.409.9714.



Notice of the Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 23 | 12:45 pm | Bell St. Sanctuary

The church's Annual Meeting will be held on February 23.

A meal will be provided prior to the meeting starting at 11:30 am as a fundraiser by the Colorado Kids.

Your presence is important! We need a quorum of 100 members to approve the 2020 budget and candidates for leadership positions throughout the church, and other recommendations brought forth by Church Council.





2020 Homeless Stand Down Recap

A heartfelt thanks to our volunteer team for the 2020 Homeless Stand Down. Our team of 18 was so kind and welcoming to all who attended; it was truly another wonderful way to reach out and touch those in such need. This year a total of 1,487 guests were served at the Homeless Stand Down (HSD), including 256 veterans, and there are so many stories we heard from them.

Because of you, our Federated family, we collected over \$1,000 to go toward much-needed warm winter jackets and boots. If you see one of our volunteers in a church service, coffee hour, or at a meeting, please ask them what stood out to them about our afternoon at the "Hands on" Stand Down. There were so many FREE services offered, such as a hot meal, warm weather gear, haircuts (and shaves), flu shots, medical professionals to consult, legal consulting, a photo ID. Health services included podiatrist services and even mammograms for women, and more. And what many said they valued so sincerely was also the opportunity to be in community, and be surrounded by so many smiles and warm, caring people.

There are so many requests for your time and donations, we know, and we deeply appreciate your participation and generosity in this important event!

In peace,
Cathy Watterson and the HSD team

Monday, February 17

Ski Trip to Peek n' Peak!

Open to Church members & friends

Leaving Monday at 7 am
and skiing, boarding or tubing all day
Returning around 8 pm

Cost is as follows:

GROUP or JOY Youth going without parents will be asked to contribute:

\$10 for transportation

\$10 for lunch

\$8 for dinner

and a la carte for the skiing/boarding (Based on 15 people)

\$40 lift ticket

\$28 for rentals

lessons available, contact Marty

Families joining us are asked to contribute to transportation and will need to pay for lift and rentals.

Food will be their responsibility (but at group discount)

RSVP to Marty Culbertson at mculbert@fedchurch.org by February 15.

From Hamilton's Desk

Dear Friends,

With the month of February comes the time for Federated's Annual Meeting. Set this year for Sunday, February 23, that meeting is, on several fronts, an opportunity.

First, at the meeting we will pass a budget for the 2020 church year. It's a budget that will fund programs and support staff and reach out to serve the wider community and pay for supplies and utilities. The budget is an expression of our priorities and our values. It's a visible, physical way to show what matters to us. If you have made a pledge to support this budget, thank you! It's a gift that makes a palpable difference in the world. If you have not yet made a pledge, I invite you to do so. With our pledges, we have the opportunity to share from our abundance. And with the budget we put together, we have the opportunity to shape the world with the values of God—to strive for a world in which justice and love are at the forefront. What could be better?

Second, at the meeting we will make some decisions about the future of our facilities. Some church members would like to sell one of our facilities. Others would like to develop the Family Life Center into the Community Life Collaborative. When feelings are strong, it can sometimes be difficult to find common ground. Church at its best, though, continues to seek a way that all can live with. When we compromise, we can sometimes feel as though we've lost something dear to us. When we reframe the dilemma, though, we remember that a shared way, in which each of us both gives up something and receives something, can be the greatest way of all.

Third, and related to that need to compromise, we have the chance, at our Annual Meeting, to be the community Christ calls us to be. We get to be in the same space together—to laugh together, to cry together, to listen carefully, to reason things out, and maybe most of all, to remember that our strength isn't in our individual righteousness but in our collective and shared bonds. It doesn't really matter how right I am about any particular issue. I may be the most right person in the history of the world, and if I'm that by myself, my life is poverty-stricken. Far more important than being right is being kind, being loving, being forgiving: "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love."

Last, our Annual Meeting gives us the chance, once again, to return to God as the source of our vitality and joy. If it all depends only on us, we will accomplish little. Our strength will be sapped, our energy will flag, our sense of purpose will waver. When we rely on the Holy One who gives us life, though, we will be renewed and blessed. "Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

May we gather at our Annual Meeting with exuberant joy and a deep sense of purpose.

Yours in Christ,



Hamilton

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, February 2

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, February 9

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

Sunday, February 16

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, February 23

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

Wednesday, February 26

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches
7 pm Ash Wednesday Service



News & Info

A Message From Church Council

Throughout most of 2019, the Church Council and appointed task forces have spent time in discovery and research regarding the Family Life Center. In November, a letter went out to the congregation with summaries of reports from the "Additional Possibilities Task Force" and the "Real Estate Task Force."

Four listening sessions – on December 1, 7, 8 & 15 – were held at the church and congregation members were invited to hear the task force presentations in person and to ask questions and share thoughts about the ideas.

These questions from those who attended were gathered and became part of the on-going work. Also in December, a combined group from the task forces, called the Joint Task Force Recommendation Team, began meeting to see if there was a way to pursue the new use idea, proposed by an emerging non-profit organization, in a way that accomplished the financial goals needed for sustainability.

The Church Council plans to bring a recommendation with information to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on February 23 at 12:45 pm. We ask for your continued prayers for all of those working to bring about needed change that will add support to our staff and programs at Federated.

Membership Reminder

Active membership is determined by recorded attendance at worship and gifts to the general fund. Please remember to sign in when you are here on Sunday mornings. Thank you!

Current Lay Leaders

Church Council

Brendan Buescher, Beth Rutkowski, Maren Koepf, Peggie Jo Shinagawa, Dan Kershner, Ken Horner, Doug Harlan, Elaine Witmer, Shawn Rockhold, Stacy Cianciolo

Commissions

Congregational Care

Jane Biggar (chair), Carol Kelly, Carole Halberg, Diane Tuuri, Judy Riemenschneider, Ruth Kershner, Karen Zoltowicz, Karen Johns (1) 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, Mary Senechal (chair), Eric Goodman, Pete Bednar, Alexandra Ziots, (3) openings

Telling Our Story

Todd Smith (Chair), Laura Taylor, Jim Scheuermann, Carolyn Shaul, Dawn Herdman, (4) openings

Worship & Music

Abby Patton, Curtis Grube, Nancie Skonezny, Sibyl McBride, Nancy Isham, Dave Strauch, Laura Reed, Gary Dole (chair), Adel Heinrich, Susannah Rutkowski

Elected Committees

Finance

Becky Gruss (chair), Steve Patton, Rob Goble, Don Rice

Human Resources

Chris Bednar, Bill Franz, Phil Fogarty

Legacy

Peter Franz, Alex Taylor, Brady Hively

Membership

Rose Brown, Ann Lentz, (1) opening

Nominating & Leadership

Martine Scheuermann, Phil Fogarty, Bob Abley, Peggie Jo Shinagawa

Properties

Keith Mast, Bill Lentz, John Giles

Appointed Committee

Stewardship Committee

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

Living Water Assoc. Delegates

Susan Lampson, Jim Ogle, Kate Walsh

Heartland Conference Delegates

Susan Lampson, Kate Walsh

News & Info

Paper Recycling at the FLC on Break

For several years, Federated Church has participated in a paper recycling program with the Abitibi Company. There was a small return on our recycling program. On December 18, 2019, Abitibi went out of business and sold the collection dumpsters to Rumpke Waste & Recycling Company. Rumpke had a recycling program but there is a charge for the service.

The Properties Committee directed staff to contact Rumpke to pick up the dumpsters and to not enroll Federated Church in their recycling program. The Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) will examine other ways to participate in sustainable practices. The SJAM Environmental Justice Team will keep us all updated.

Pan-African Flag

We fly the Pan-African Flag during the whole month of February in honor of Black History Month and to highlight Federated's work towards Racial Justice. See racial justice activities on page 9.



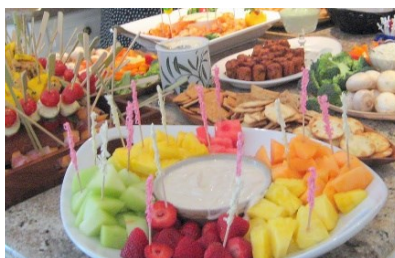
Holiday Building Closure

Federated's Bell Street location and the Family Life Center will both be closed **Monday, February 17** for President's Day.

Fellowship Treats

Members of the congregation take turns bringing in treats for fellowship time between the services on Sundays, as scheduled by the Congregational Care Commission.

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



February 2 – "Soup"-er Bowl: Soup and treats provided by Jr. High Youth Group

February 9 – last names beginning with L, M

February 16 – last names beginning with N, O, P, Q and R

February 23 – last names beginning with S and T

March SPIRE Deadline

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

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

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.

News & Info

Love Thy Neighbor – Federated In Action

On December 9, Federated Church began providing space to a “homeschooling resource” that had been operating at Kelly’s Working Well Farm on South Franklin Street in Bainbridge Township. It is called the Chagrin Valley School and was shut down earlier this fall by Bainbridge officials and the Bainbridge Fire Department. What was thought to be a misunderstanding that could be quickly resolved has turned into something much more lengthy which now includes court proceedings.

The students from the school, ranging in age from preschool to 17 years, were in need of a space to meet while this is being resolved, so the Federated staff decided to offer them Rooms 230 and 240, Monday-Friday from 8 am to 5:30 pm. After taking a look at the rooms, the teachers and kids decided that they did indeed want to take advantage of our offer and rent space here.

This school caters to homeschooling families and usually offers a curriculum focused on farming and animals, so our village location is not ideal for them. They are anxious to return to the farm. But until things are sorted out with the officials in Bainbridge, that cannot happen.

The staff members of the school are very grateful to have classroom space at Federated. Federated staff members are enjoying the youthful presence of the students and their families as they use the otherwise empty rooms.

So if you are in the building during the week and hear the excited chatter of children in the stairwell or some thumping overhead while you are meeting in the Lounge, know that those are the sounds of Federated helping a neighbor in need.

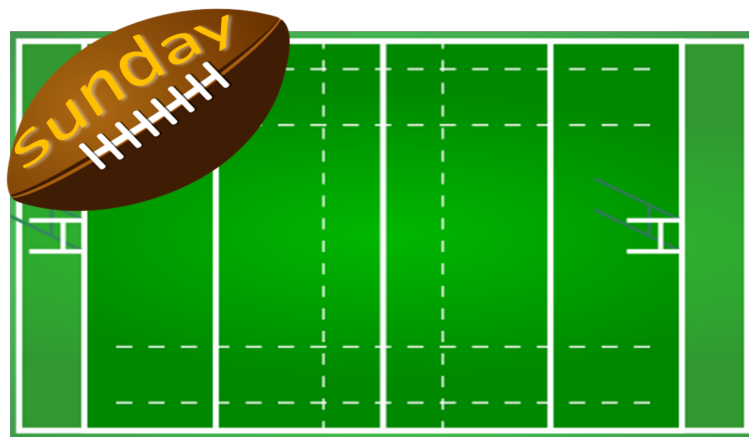
Puerto Rico Earthquake Disaster Relief

Donations Needed

You can use any one of four methods to contribute through Federated Church:

- **Text FEDCHURCH PR EARTHQUAKE \$\$\$\$ to 73256**
- **Use the RealmConnect App**
Select “Giving” then “Make a Gift”
Select PR Earthquake
- **Go to the fedchurch.org/giving**
Click the Give Now button and
select the PR Earthquake fund
- **Write a check or donate cash – designated PR Earthquake Relief**

“Soup”er Bowl



Sunday, February 2

JOY kids will be serving yummy soup and treats following each worship service in Fellowship Hall.

Freewill offering will go to funding Ohio City Power’s Soup for the Soul, a mission through St. Paul’s & Federated Church

News & Info

Looking to Expand our Flock of Angels

Isn't it wonderful to be greeted by a smiling face or pleasant voice when you enter or call the church? We refer to those volunteers as our "Angels" and we can use a few more to cover open shifts and serve as substitutes. It is fun and rewarding, but don't take my word for it. Read below about what they enjoy about the work, in their own words. If you want to join the fun, contact me, Melinda Smith at smithm@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 x111 and I will get you fitted for your wings!

This year there is no need to put your Angel Wings away after the holidays. Put them on and volunteer to help at the Angel Desk by taking a three-to-four-hour weekly shift or by being a substitute Angel. Angel work is never boring by answering calls, making calls, taking reservations, and greeting all who come to the church. It is very rewarding to help and be involved with other activities that take place at Federated Church. There are current Angels waiting to help you get started. - Marilee Biel

I look forward to my time at the Angel Desk each week. It's fun to be the welcoming face of Federated to all who come through the door or call on the phone. There are a lot of opportunities for quick "catch-ups" with Federated members who stop in. I always learn a few things about what's happening at the church as well. - Sue Mansour

It's hard for me to write just one thing I like about being an office Angel because I've enjoyed everything about it. The other angels have made comments with which I totally agree. Additionally, however, being here on a regular basis has afforded me the wonderful opportunity of getting to know some of our staff members much better. Currently I have the Monday shift and, in addition to answering the phones, I get to be the welcoming face to all who come through our doors for some of the many activities offered: Tai Chi, a Course in Miracles, Chagrin Valley School, the Village Nursery School preschool, Primetime's Federated Forum and the adorable Children's Choir participants and parents. In my estimation, being an "Angel" at church is about as good as it gets! - Harriett Rogers

Right now we are cruising around South America so I am grateful that I am able to "Angel" part time. I like that each Wednesday afternoon is so different...I never know what to expect...who might come through the door, who might call with which question but it is easy to be cheerful and almost always possible to be helpful. - Becky Bartter

I love being at the Angel Desk for the people who come in and the people who call. I love helping find answers or making connections where needed and I really enjoy being the welcoming face of the church to our visitors and members as they come through the door. It really is fun and interesting each day. - Jane Campbell

On a more serious note, you get to be the friendly face & voice of the church you love. You have a chance to help our hard-working staff in a very tangible way. On a lighter side - you get to see The Spire & Primetime Newsletters hot off the press. - Peggie Jo Shinagawa

I enjoy greeting people, seeing the children as they come and go from preschool, assisting people getting where they need to be, and just helping in any way I can. - Carol Laird

Being an Angel is a wonderful way to be connected to the church. I enjoy chatting with people – church members and others – as they come and go. Being the face/voice of the church to many people is a role I enjoy. Flexibility of the commitment is key for me. If I can't be there for a shift I can usually find someone who is willing to trade or substitute for me. Since Doug retired we are travelling more, so I am glad I still can fulfill this commitment. - Barb Church

*Although the Sunday Angel's position is different than those during the week (not so many phone calls)... the Angel is needed to answer questions... greet newcomers... give directions, and just be there with a **SMILE**. I have come to realize that not only do the people need me, as an Angel, **and miss me when I am gone... I NEED THEM!** Since I have become slightly disabled... I don't get out as much; therefore, Sunday is important to me. Although I am not in the Sanctuary for the service... I do hear it over the speakers... and that is important. I get "fed" in two different ways. Thank you for the opportunity!*

- Susan Schreiner

Federated Happenings

Melinda Stees Art Tour

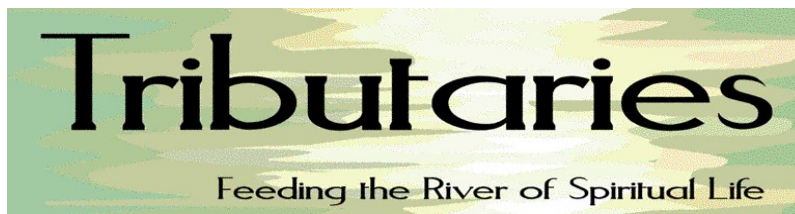
Sunday, February 2 | 11:15 am

Are they prints? Paintings? *Knitting?*

Artist **Melinda Stees** will answer all your questions when she takes us on **a tour of her art on Sunday February 2 at 11:15 am**, right after the 10:00 service.

Meet her by the art gallery, at the bottom of the blue stairs used to exit the Sanctuary. You will see multiple panels of her intriguing artwork hanging right there.

How does she create it? Why? Is it true that her artwork is currently hanging in Pittsburgh, and transitioning to a Denver gallery next? Come join us & find out!



A spiritual growth academy for the wider community. A portion of proceeds support programs of Federated Church. For additional details, visit fedchurch.org/tributaries.

Yoga~Spirit~Renewal

Is your nervous system stuck in over-drive? Let yoga be your re-set button. A prayerful, reflective yoga practice in a warm and inviting community offers an answer. Move & Breathe, Relax & Center. When you're healthy in body, mind, and spirit you can be of better service in the world and enjoy your family and life with greater pleasure & ease. Please join us for this gentle, meditative yoga class.

Dates/Times: Tuesdays, 10:00—11:15 am, January 7—May 26

Location: 76 Bell St. Fellowship Hall

Presenter: Polly Manke

Contact/Register: pjmanke5@yahoo.com

Tuition: Seven classes for \$85 or \$15 Drop-in

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. You may also bring a yoga blanket and blocks if you wish. Please email Dawn Dole to secure your spot in the class and let her know you will 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

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, February 9, 11:30 am, Bell St. Room 240

Racial Justice

Movie Nights for African-American History Month

Henry Louis Gates's four-part series, "Reconstruction in America"

February 3, 10, 19 (Wednesday), and 24 at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Chagrin Documentary Film Festival Encore Series, "Station Hope: A Conversation" and "The Infamous Future"

Two short movies followed by a panel discussion

Thursday, February 20, 7:00—9:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$12 at the door or online at chagrinfilmfest.org (See p. 10 for details)

Immigration Reform

Vigils

Join us for a monthly vigil the first Thursday of each month at 4:00 pm at Lakeside and E. 9th. Susi Kawolics is leading the February 6 vigil. For more information contact Bill Shaul at theshauls@msn.com.

Gun Violence

Power of Moms: Ohio 2020

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America: Explore training and volunteer opportunities.

Guest speaker: Nan Whaley, Mayor of Dayton, **Sunday, February 16, 3:00 pm, Rocky River United Methodist Church**, 19414 Detroit Rd. Rocky River, OH 44116. Contact Judy Majcen if interested: jomajcen@gmail.com

Economic Justice

Food Pantry Distribution

University Settlement, 4800 Broadway Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, February 3 from 10:00 am-12:30 pm, Contact Judy Majcen if interested at jomajcen@gmail.com.

Environmental Justice

Creation Justice Team at St. Paul's Church

Doug Horner leads the Creation Justice Team at St. Paul's church and each month they gather to do a Trash Pick-Up along roads and paths on the near west-side. We have been invited to join them for these events. If you are interested in joining the group in February, please be in touch with Ann Lentz (alentz@dix-eaton.com). The next trash-pick up day is **February 15, Saturday, from 10:00 am-12 noon**. Meeting at St. Malachi's church. Bring trash bags, gloves and whatever you might need to do the trash pick-up.

The Pollinator: The UCC newsletter on Creation and Environmental Justice

The Pollinator is a digital platform of the UCC for the sharing of ideas and inspiration. Its focus is the building of a faith-filled and faith-rooted movement for the care of creation. *Sign up to receive the Pollinator newsletter to get regular updates from our UCC Minister for Environmental Justice, Rev. Brooks Berndt.* <https://www.ucc.org/pollinator>.

Environmental Tip of the Month

Candles in Your Home: We love to burn candles in our home for pleasure to create a cozy and intimate atmosphere. However, many candles could be filling the air in your home with toxic chemicals.

Check the ingredients - Do not burn candles with:

Paraffin wax, Synthetic scents, and Toxic wicks made with lead (older candles - before 2003).

Be sure your candles:

are 100% beeswax or vegetable-wax, have cotton wicks, are scented with 100% natural essential oils, have the wick trimmed to 1/8 inch, are safe candles bought from certified green businesses.

Federated Happenings

Primetime Federated Forum

Monday, February 10 in Fellowship Hall
Refreshments at 1:30; Program at 2:00 pm

Presenter: Dr. Mari Halkovich

Program: Glitz and Glamour in the White House: Seven Presidential First Ladies from Ohio, Their History and Fashion

After retiring as a school district superintendent, Dr. Mari Halkovich began a second career that combines her interest in history with her love of antique and vintage jewelry. She started her antiques business, Vintage Vanities, and began participating in antique shows, often traveling to other states to buy, sell, and appraise jewelry.

Mari is constantly updating and expanding her knowledge of vintage jewelry. She attends conferences and classes nationally. She is a member of the Gemological Institute of America, American Society of Jewelry Historians, and Costume Jewelry Collectors International.



Primetime Lunch Out: Mangia Mangia

Thursday, February 27
12:00—1:30 pm

This month, we will be traveling to Mangia Mangia at 11081 Kinsman Road in Newbury, OH (at the corner of 87 and Auburn Rd.). Meet us at the restaurant at noon for a fun afternoon.

RSVP: Call 440.247.6490 by Friday, February 21.



"Celebrating
Black History
Month"



CHAGRIN DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

ENCORE

Winter / Spring 2020

Series

February,
20th 2020.
7pm - 9pm

**Station Hope:
A Conversation**



Following the screenings, there will be a panel discussion with local organizations referencing how the topics in these impactful films are being addressed in Northeast Ohio.

The Infamous Future



In Fellowship Hall
Tickets \$12 at the door or online at chagrinfilmfest.org.

TOS Spotlight

Federated Art Gallery 2019 Annual Reflection

One of Federated's seven core values is Boundless Beauty:

We encourage and celebrate individual and communal expressions of beauty in our worship and surroundings as examples of the Holy elegance of God.

Years ago, Mary Ann Boysen took this to heart by establishing the Federated Art Gallery using wall space in our main stairwell and Lobby area. For 25 years she scheduled the artists, as well as set up the display fixtures and special lighting to make their work stand out.

Since 2018 Katie Swanson-Harbage has been the curator – ably coordinating the exhibits that celebrate who we are and visualize the artistic ways in which God is still speaking. This past year we were delighted by the work of:

SPRING

January - February 15: **Mary Hobbs**, Well-known artist of watercolor and charcoal drawing, focusing on portraits of people and animals. She was an award-winning fashion artist in the Cleveland area for many years.

February 15 - March: **Mary Ann Boysen**, Internationally known artist in watercolor, oil, and charcoal. It was her vision to set up an Art Gallery at Federated.

April - May: **Fran Bayless**, International Wildlife Photographer. Each one of her photographs taken during her travels has a story behind it, with a specific reason for taking the picture.

FALL

September - October: **Kristen Walenga**, Fiber Artist. Her works reflect the many places she has been. Their colors and textures allow you to experience those places as well.

November 5 - December: **Brian Jacobs**, the oil paintings on display were his required thesis work for his Master of Fine Arts degree. He was very excited to display them publicly for the first time.

While looking over this past year's schedule, it became obvious that The Federated Art Gallery had a year of artists who have all been a close part of our faith family. Federated has been touched by each of them in different ways: either as members, staff, or regular visitors.

The first artist to present her work during 2020 also follows this pattern. Check out **Melinda Stees's** work in knitting artistry. It's fascinating to not only see the way in which she creates her work, but also to read the message that each work portrays.

It's a bonus when Katie can organize an artist or two as presenters at a Wondrous Wednesday program. Then we get to hear the story of the artist, how they were called to their art, and the challenges/successes of their artistry. In addition, artists are sometimes available to give a Tour of their art after the 10:00 am service. This allows us time to ask lots of questions!

Melinda Stees will guide us through her large knitted works on Sunday, February 2 at 11:15 am. Meet next to the main stairwell where five of her panels are currently hanging. (See p.8)

Living in God's Grace, we value the boundless beauty that is present in the world and delight in the myriad ways that that beauty is expressed at Federated.

Faith Formation and Spirituality

Epiphany Worship Series Continues

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 those we are, and living into who we are called to become!

Date	Theme	Theme	Scripture 1	Scripture 2
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

Wondrous Wednesday: Free Dinner for Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 26 | 6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

There will be a free dinner available before the Ash Wednesday service to make it easier to attend. It will feature savory chicken vegetable soup and warm garlic bread.

Call 440.247.6490 or email katiesharbage@gmail.com to reserve your meal.



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 26

7:00 pm
Chapel

Join us in the Chapel for the Ash Wednesday Service of Communion and Imposition of Ashes. The service this year will be led by Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton.

A Note of Thanks

I wanted to thank you for your kindness in allowing the Chagrin Falls Fire Department to use your church facilities for our annual family pot luck dinner which was held on December 12.

We arrived around 5:00 pm to set up and decorate for the evening. To our surprise, your maintenance crew had all the tables in place along with a table set up with coffee, tea and hot water for our guests. It is this type of service and kindness that we strive for with our members on a daily basis which makes it even more satisfying when it is affected upon us.

Thanks again for the hospitality provided to us on December 12.

Sincerely,
Chief Frank M. Zugan

Mission & Service

Parish Nurse Corner

After a two-week closing of St. Paul's (except for church services and Loaves & Fishes), I was eager to hear how some of my regular clients had spent their holidays. One story stands out: Wayne was so grateful that New Year's Eve was *quiet*. When I asked him what he meant, he said, "Only a few gunshots in the evening, and then only a pop-pop-pop [of a gun] after midnight. I could actually sleep in my apartment most of the night." He described the usual amount of gunshots as "endless." He lives in a HUD apartment on the near west side, near the lake and he walks to St. Paul's for spiritual and practical support, a trip of about five miles. He talks to me because we have developed a trusting relationship which started when I made a special effort to bring him a pair of boots from home that I thought would fit. Even though the boots were too small, he was comforted by the fact that I had tried, and that I had remembered him over my two-week absence.

Most of my clients cannot benefit from the Homeless Stand Down in which Federated so generously participates. Why? Because they have no means of transportation. Bus passes are too expensive, and if they have one from one of the charities, the bus routes are rarely convenient. They don't own cars nor do most of their friends. For the most part, they are working low wage jobs and/or living on the streets. Life is made harder when their supplies for daily living are stolen while they sleep in shelters, or even go to the bathroom. And yet, at St. Paul's, there is laughter in the halls. The community of impoverished people is tightly knit and knows how to enjoy each other. A little compassion gives them courage and hope.

Our most pressing needs right now are gloves, hand warmers, hygiene kits, underwear, and toilet paper. (There is a large box in the Lobby for your donations). I welcome anyone who would like to visit or volunteer. Thank you for all that you do!

Kathy Kolcaba
440.655.2098

Women's Fellowship Service Project Luncheon

Tuesday, February 11 | 11:45 am
Bell St. Fellowship Hall

Please consider joining us for a couple of hours of service and fellowship. We think you could be very helpful! We are having a punch bowl mixer at 11:45 am, and at noon we will enjoy some baked potatoes, with all the trimmings.

We will be putting together toiletry kits for St. Paul's outreach program. If you can add to these kits, **please bring items to the reception desk by February 11:** soap, shampoo, conditioner (hotel/travel size), toothbrushes, toothpaste, lip balm, deodorant, combs, razors, and white tube socks.

We will also stuff cancer pillows that have been made by Tapestry Circle and make Valentine's Day cards for Geauga County Department of Aging.

For reservations or more information, contact Lynne Kessell at 440.247.5544. **Reservations must be made by Friday, February 7.**

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).

Family, Youth, and Children's Ministry

Guitar Choir

Calling all players or those who would like to learn to play guitar.
We meet every Thursday at the church from 3:45 to 4:30 in Room 320.
Bring your guitar or borrow one of the guitars we loan out to students.
Friends are welcome. Don't play guitar? Then come and learn how!
Questions? Contact Mark at msimone@fedchurch.org.

Work Camp 2020

We don't have a firm location as yet, but we do have our dates. **Work Camp will be from July 11 to 18 and Work Camp Sunday will be July 19.** Mark your calendars! Details coming soon.
Work Camp is open to high school youth.

Upcoming with GROUP and Confirmation

GROUP is the Sr. High Youth Group program at Federated Church for students in grades 9-12. Contact Mark Simone at msimone@fedchurch.org for more information about GROUP or Confirmation.

February 2 – Superbowl Sunday

Movie afternoon. Closer to the date we can pick an early matinee and go after church to see something fun. We'll be home in time for Super Bowl!
No Evening GROUP meeting.

February 8 –

All Church Skate Party. See announcement on p.15. GROUP is invited. Let me know if you want to go (msimone@fedchurch.org) or RSVP to Kristin.

February 9 –

Confirmation: The Greatest in LOVE. 10:00—11:15 am in Room 340.
GROUP: 6:30—8:00 pm in Room 340. Discussion: What would you do if...? We will give you some hilarious and some serious endings to this question for you to fill in. Bring a snack to share. Beverages provided.

February 16 –

Confirmation: God Q's. 10:00—11:15 am in Room 340
GROUP: 6:30—8:00 pm in Room 340. Taco Night! Yep, we are going to make tacos at GROUP. Bring something to add. Onions, guacamole, cheese, whatever. GROUP will provide taco meat, beans and shells. Discussion: As it is an ethnic traditional meal, let's talk about racism, immigration, cultures and ethnic identity. We will also talk just a bit about Youth Sunday. Speakers, readers, musicians.

February 23 – Annual Meeting

Confirmation: What is Sin? 10:00—11:15 am in Room 340.
GROUP: 6:30—8:00 pm in Room 340. We have some ice cream and toppings left. Sundae Night! Discussion: What exactly is the church? In light of our Federated Church Annual Meeting, it might be cool to talk about what church really is. And what is your place in this wonderful mess we call Federated! Final Youth Sunday plans.

February 29 –

Youth Sunday rehearsal. 10:00 am—12:00 pm. For speakers, readers, band and ushers/communion servers.

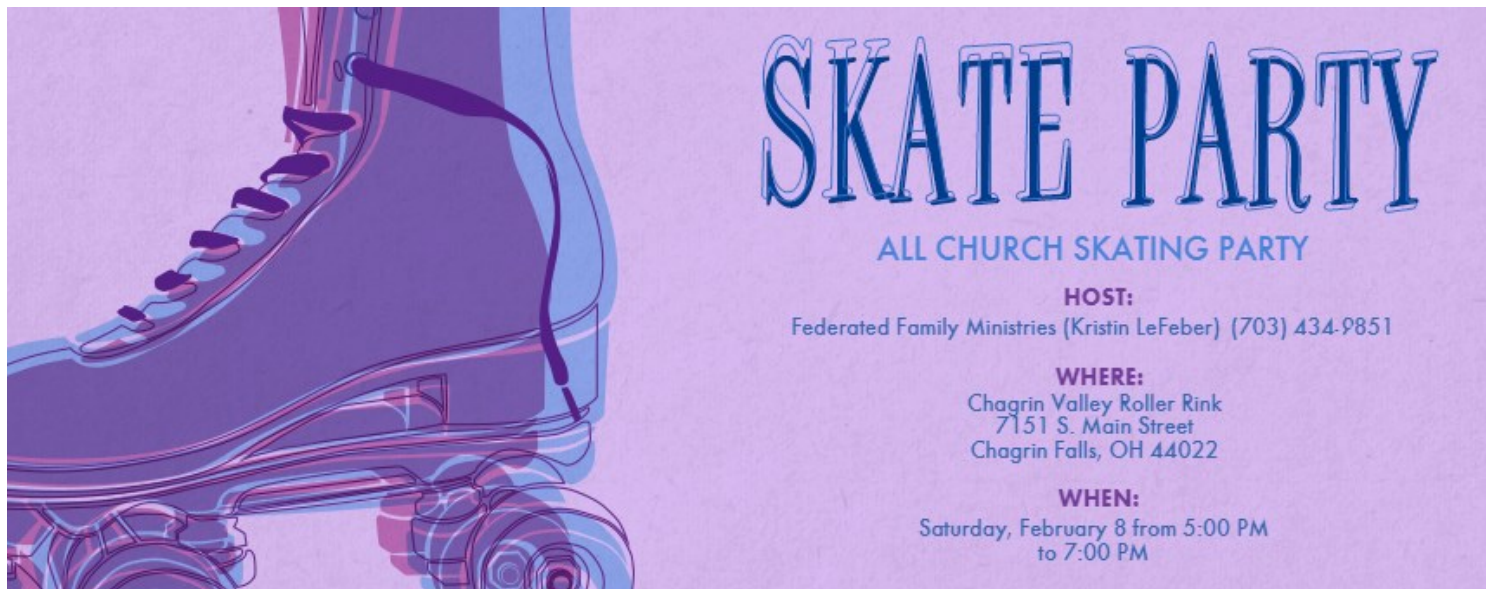
March 1 – Youth Sunday at both services (10:00 Traditional & 11:30 RISE to Shine)

Lunch and movie out.
No Evening GROUP meeting.

March 8 –

Confirmation: Art Project. What is a Christian? 10:00—11:15 am in Room 340.
GROUP: 6:30—8:00 pm in Room 340. Topic TBD.

Family, Youth, and Children's Ministry



Contact Kristin LeFeber with questions and to RSVP at klefeber@gmail.com or 440.247.6490 x130.

Youth Sunday

There will be No Sunday School on **Sunday, March 1** – Youth Sunday.
Enjoy worshipping with your families!

Childcare for children Birth-PreK will still be offered at both services downstairs in room G20.



Federated Communion Classes

Fifth Grade children and older, along with their families, have a wonderful opportunity to participate in our Communion classes led by Reverend Hamilton Throckmorton and Reverend Mark Simone.

This year, these classes will be held on **Thursday, February 20 and Tuesday, February 25 from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Bell Street Lounge**. Please plan on attending both evenings.

Designed with 5th graders **and** their parents in mind, these classes focus on the meaning and mystery of this sacrament and include lecture, dialogue, small group discussion and fellowship. The second evening concludes with a beautiful evening chapel Communion service followed by a reception in the Lounge. Children will also receive a Bible of their own as a gift from their Federated church family. The Lord's Supper is at the very core of our faith, making this a most meaningful step in the religious journey of these children.

Children completing the class will be recognized on
Sunday, March 1 at both services.

Also invited to participate in these classes and Communion are 6th, 7th and 8th graders and their families who have been unable to attend in past years or are new to Federated. Welcome!

Registration is requested by Thursday, February 13
Please contact Kristin LeFeber at 440.247.6490 x130 or klefeber@fedchurch.org.



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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*
* Dan Kershner, *Pastoral Care Pastor*

Administration and Staff

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 Snavelly, *Organist*
* Thaddeus Quintin, *Director of the Federated Bell Choir*
* Pat Haynish, *Director of Children's Choir*

Children's Ministries Staff

* Marty Culbertson, *Director of Youth Faith Formation*
* 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**