



THE SPIRE

THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

The Community Life Collaborative Unfurls New Life for Federated's Future

Continuing the status quo is not an option

According to national experts in church growth and vitality, thriving churches are re-inventing what it means to BE the church. One model embraced by growing churches is one that develops a partnership with like-minded nonprofits that will help expand their mission and also share the load. The presentation at our Congregational Meeting on June 23 made a strong case we can all agree on: The status quo is not an option. To be fiscally solvent and morally responsive, Federated needs to plan for substantive change.

The Church Council is developing a comprehensive plan for actions that will position the Federated Church for a promising future. One part of that comprehensive plan involves a partnership between the Federated Church and the Community Life Collaborative: Center for Social and Environmental Justice, a model elevating missional touchpoints between the Church and the wider community while realizing an expansive potential for Federated.

Community Life Collaborative (CLC): Center for Social and Environmental Justice

The CLC is an emerging independent 501(c)(3) designed specifically to partner with Federated Church and utilize the Family Life Center (FLC) for mission-centric programming and services. In this partnership, the Federated Church would maintain ownership of the FLC property in its entirety and develop a net lease agreement with the *Community Life Collaborative (CLC)* reflecting mutual interests. In this way, Federated could leverage the FLC asset to create a fresh outreach component of the church while the CLC would assume the daily operating and staffing expenses and responsibilities for the FLC.

As an extension of Federated's core mission and values, the CLC could establish the FLC property indoors and outdoors as a collaborative of mission-centric spaces for education, advocacy, conversation, engagement and awareness responsive to matters of social and environmental justice. The mission of the CLC would be to advance compassionate and transformational stewardship, connecting our community and protecting our environment. Such a partnership could create rich opportunities for Federated, alongside an expansive circle of the greater community, to empower experiences like Day Missions, community forums, wellness practices, cultivating urban farming projects, and more. The launch of this partnership requires close, thoughtful collaboration between leaders of Federated Church and CLC Board of Directors to shape a fruitful and engaging relationship from the start.

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This mutually beneficial partnership between the *Federated Church* and the *Community Life Collaborative* will:

- Boost Federated's mission impact and engage community participation in social and environmental justice action
- Honor a commitment to develop the FLC as a spiritual legacy of the Federated Church and ensure sacred commitments are fulfilled for the Norling Prayer & Memorial Gardens
- Fully alleviate the financial burden of the FLC operations for Federated
- Reclaim significant staff time and energy to devote to the workings and programs of 76 Bell St.
- Allow for Federated to retain the asset on the balance sheet for the church while supporting a mission magnet
- Widely expose both organizations' mutual commitments to doing justice, seeking peace, and building community
- Lift Federated's efforts to reach more individuals and grow mission, membership, and programming potential

How is the CLC financially feasible?

- An independent, separate nonprofit can access funding sources not available to churches (e.g. donations from the community at large, family foundations, corporate sponsors, and grants)
- The CLC will sublease indoor and outdoor spaces of the FLC to like-minded nonprofits generating operating income
- A growing list of local foundations (eight to date) have expressed preliminary interest to help fund this initiative
- Several local nonprofits have expressed interest in partnering with the CLC concept
- An increasing number of volunteers (from within and from outside the church) are dedicated to carrying through this vision for Federated's future, committing donations of time, talent and treasure

With the blessing of the congregation to move forward, a negotiating team of representatives from our church and the CLC will detail a mutually beneficial lease agreement. Together, and guided by God's grace and wisdom, the CLC and Federated can celebrate the dawn of a new day!

Trinkets & Treasures 2020 is Around the Corner!

It is time to start planning for our major fundraiser, Trinkets & Treasures. The long days of winter are the perfect time for cleaning out closets, attics and basements. We will need your donations. There are a few things that we cannot accept including mattresses, bed pillows, cribs, televisions, monitors, large appliances, large exercise equipment, encyclopedias and magazines. Most everything else is fair game as long as it is clean and in good condition.

Until April 1, we will have very little storage capacity. We hope you will be able to store your donations until we **begin accepting donations on Saturday, April 25**. The sale will go from our preview night on **Wednesday, April 29 through Saturday, May 2**. Start saving your items to donate, and encourage family and friends to do the same.

Don't forget to set aside your time to help out as a volunteer. It is a great time for families to work together. We need each and every one of you to make Trinkets & Treasures 2020 a big success.

Contact Mimi Bathgate at mbathgate@windstream.net or 440.665.6903 with questions, suggestions or to volunteer.



From Hamilton's Desk

Dear Friends,

As I write, our Annual Meeting is still fresh in my mind and heart. Not only did we pass a budget and elect church members to serve in various roles, but we also took a major step in the decision to lease the Family Life Center to a new non-profit, the Community Life Collaborative.

First a reflection on the process. From the beginning, when church leadership realized that we had more property than we needed to carry out our mission, we have been guided by two convictions: we would act with fiscal responsibility and we would seek to maintain church unity.

There were two major suggestions about how to proceed: we could sell the property, or we could see if there were an alternative possibility for developing that property. When the issue first came up, in the spring of 2019, most of the Church Council, including me, favored selling the FLC, and a decision was made to look for a buyer. It seemed the logical way to go.

What happened next, though, was that a group of Federated members began to dream of other possibilities. Over time, a vision was created for utilizing that property. The suggestion was made to develop it into what came to be called the Community Life Collaborative.

Because numerous church leaders had thought we were headed for a sale, difficult and lengthy conversations then ensued. The two task forces that had been working on noticeably different solutions, the Real Estate Task Force and the Additional Possibilities Task Force, came together to see if they could work out a shared sense of direction. Along with other church leaders, I was convinced that leadership had to come to a shared sense of direction—that if there were a divided Council, it would be extremely difficult to go forward.

Under the inspired leadership of Martine Scheuermann, and with the overall guidance of Moderator, Beth Rutkowski, the two task forces joined together and brought their deepest concerns to the table. After long and sometimes difficult discussions, the group was able to come to consensus. The willingness to stay at the table and work through their disagreements was key to the CLC proposal gaining such traction. I am immensely grateful to the members of those two task forces for working so hard, and for giving up some of what each person hoped for, in order to come to a common sense of direction. The process was marvelous.

In addition to such an inspired process, the result itself is an exciting way forward. The CLC's goal of pursuing social and environmental justice is so in-line with the priorities and sense of mission of the church. The lease arrangement promises to be a kind of symbiotic relationship, in which the two parties will remain related, and each will benefit from the strength of the other. The hope is that other people in the community will be drawn into the church through the CLC. In addition, the CLC is an entity in which Federated members will find it easy to invest, a rewarding way to live out God's call to be people invested in making the world a better place. What a gift, both in process and in result! We are richly blessed. May God be praised!

Yours in Christ,



Hamilton

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, March 1—Youth Sunday

Communion Served

Led by Rev. Mark Simone and Youth

10 am Traditional Family Worship

Music by RISE to Shine Band

11:30 am RISE to Shine Modern Worship

Music by RISE to Shine Band

Sunday, March 8

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School

Commissioning of 2020 Lay Leaders

Music by Federated Choir

11:30 am RISE to Shine Modern Worship

Music by RISE to Shine Band

Sunday, March 15

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

UCC One Great Hour of Sharing collected

10 am Traditional Worship & Sunday School

Music by Bell Choir

11:30 am RISE to Shine Modern Worship

Music by RISE to Shine Band

Sunday, March 22

Rev. Mark Simone 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, March 29—Fifth Sunday Mission

Focus

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



Annual Mtg. Recap

The 2019 Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, February 23, 2020 in the sanctuary. With nearly 200 in attendance, the meeting was called to order at 12:45 pm. Following an opening prayer by Associate Pastor Mark Simone, minutes from both the 2018 Annual Meeting and the Special Meeting of the Congregation on June 23, 2019 were approved.

Moderator Beth Rutkowski and Vice Moderator Brendan Buescher shared a review of the past year and vision for the future. A summary of giving trends was examined, noting that new member growth, pledge dollars, and number of pledges have continued to decline since around 2007. The lay leaders urged the members in attendance not to measure our value as a church by the numbers, but rather to take a proactive and comprehensive approach to addressing the declining trends in the following ways:

- 1) Using the Family Life Center in partnership with the Community Life Collaborative for greater outreach and missions
- 2) Visioning and strategic planning to create three or four actionable ideas and align our resources accordingly
- 3) Reviewing and understanding our stewardship and giving trends and making adjustments for additional opportunities and education

2020 Lay Leadership Slate: Martine Scheuermann, Chairperson, Nominating & Leadership Committee, thanked retiring lay leaders and presented names of incoming Church Council, commission, and committee members for 2020. The motion to elect the slate was approved unanimously.

Annual Financial Report: Church Treasurer Jim Cunningham presented the balance sheet noting that the church is in a very positive financial position. The 2020 budget was presented and following a few questions, the motion to accept was approved unanimously.

Update on Capital Campaign Projects: Keith Mast, Chairperson, Properties Committee, provided a list of projects completed in 2019. There is approximately \$600,000 remaining and another \$200,000 yet to come in. No projects are started until there is cash to complete them.

Legacy Fund Report: Peter Franz, Chairperson, Legacy Committee, provided a five-year summary, noting that both investment earnings and gifts were up significantly in 2019. The committee provides seminars about how estate gifts can provide financial stability for future generations at Federated.

Mission & Service Commission Report: Councilor Dan Kershner reported that total giving to outside missions in 2019 was \$96,476, with \$48,476 to St. Paul's Community Church, Chagrin Falls Park Community Center, Family Promise, JustHope – Nicaragua, and Colorado Kids Scholarship Fund. In addition, over 58 years, \$1.71 million has been distributed through the Christmas Eve offering.

Community Life Collaborative: Stacy Cianciolo provided a description of the type of work and programs to be offered, along with the CLC's mission and vision statements. Maren Koepf listed benefits of the partnership and the basic terms of the lease agreement. Motion: *Federated Church will enter into a partnership with the Community Life Collaborative to lease the Family Life Center, pending agreed upon terms of a lease.* After some discussion, a paper ballot vote was taken with 179 total votes cast; 153 voting yes and 26 voting no.

Senior Pastor Hamilton Throckmorton closed the meeting with remarks and a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

2020 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

Carole Halberg, Diane Tuuri, Judy Riemenschneider, Ruth Kershner, Karen Zoltowicz, Karen Johns, Leah Hassett, (2) openings

Mission & Service

Leslie Fincun, Linda Zelazny (co-chair), Don Hoke, Lynne Kessell, David Telfer (co-chair), Gay Quintin, Karen Anderson, Bill Shaul, (1) opening

Spiritual Formation

Cathy Digel, Sunny Doxey, Mary Senechal (chair), Eric Goodman, Pete Bednar, Alexandra Ziots, Richard Falkenberg, (2) openings

Telling Our Story

Todd Smith (Chair), Laura Taylor, Jim Scheuermann, Carolyn Shaul, Dawn Herdman, Diana Gardner, (3) openings

Worship & Music

Sibyl McBride, Nancy Isham, Dave Strauch, Laura Reed, Gary Dole (chair), Susannah Rutkowski, (3) openings

Elected Committees

Finance

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

Human Resources

Chris Bednar, Bill Franz, Phil Fogarty, Dave Watterson

Legacy

Peter Franz, Alex Taylor, Brady Hively, Robin Harbage, Paul Neidhardt

Membership

Dawn Hall, Ann Lentz, (1) opening

Nominating & Leadership

Martine Scheuermann, Phil Fogarty (chair), Peggie Jo Shinagawa

Properties

Keith Mast (chair), Bill Lentz, John Giles

Appointed Committee

Stewardship Committee

To Be Appointed

Living Water Assoc. Delegates

Susan Lampson, Jim Ogle, Kate Walsh

Heartland Conference Delegates

Susan Lampson, Kate Walsh

News & Info

Easter Sunrise Service Change for 2020

Due to the changes at the Family Life Center, the Easter Sunrise Service will be moved to the shelter at Frohring Meadows at **16780 Savage Road**, Bainbridge Township. Our service will begin at **6:30 am on Sunday, April 12**.

Please see Mark Simone (msimone@fedchurch.org) for any questions.



Hamilton Going on Sabbatical

Senior Pastor Hamilton Throckmorton will be on sabbatical during 2020 beginning April 20 and going through August 24. During most of this time, he will be away and devoting his time to study, worship planning, reading, and in silent retreat. The last sabbatical for Hamilton was in 2015, five years ago, which is customary for a Senior Pastor.

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!



- March 1** – last names beginning with S or T
- March 8** – last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y or Z
- March 15** – last names beginning with A or B
- March 22** – last names beginning with C or D
- March 29** – last names beginning with E, F, or G

April SPIRE Deadline

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

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

Federated Happenings

Wondrous Wednesday

Wednesday, March 11
6:00 pm FREE dinner, 7:00 pm program
Fellowship Hall

Mrs. Harriet Smith, from Mount Zion UCC Church speaks on discovering her family roots, finding family pictures, and slavery. She will share her pictures and her research techniques. Would you like to discover *your* family roots?



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 if attending only the presentation.

Lenten Dinner with NOICA

Sunday, March 22, 4–7 pm
Fellowship Hall

In January, our Turkish friends and neighbors at the Northern Ohio Intercultural Association (NOICA, formerly Turkish American Society) hosted a cooking demonstration that was enjoyed by all who attended. Now it is our turn to host. On Sunday, March 22, Federated will be hosting a Lenten dinner that includes a presentation on what Lent means and a fun activity for the kids. This event is open to ALL Federated and NOICA adults and children.

The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 5-12, and free for children under 5.

Please RSVP by calling 440.247.6490 or stop by Fellowship Hall on Sundays between worship services.

Federated Happenings

Primetime Federated Forum

Monday, March 9 in Fellowship Hall
Refreshments at 1:30;
Program at 2:00 pm

Presenter: Carol Lucas

Program: "Send in the Clowns"

"Send in the Clowns" is such a fun topic and covers some of our favorite comedians in history, including those in the Circus, Vaudeville, movies, and television," says Carol. We know them for their fuzzy hair, painted cheeks and pratfalls that make us laugh one moment and cry the next. Who dwells behind such masks? Carol explores the lives of some of the world's most fascinating comedians.

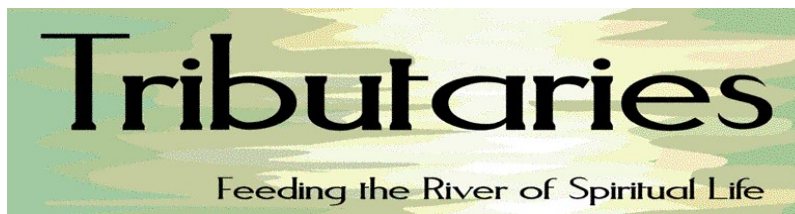


Primetime Lunch Out: 56 Kitchen

Thursday, March 26 | 12:00—1:30 pm

This month, the Primetime crew will be traveling to 56 Kitchen at 33587 Aurora Rd. in Solon. Meet us at the restaurant at noon for a fun afternoon.

RSVP: Call 440.247.6490 by Friday, March 20.



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, through May 26

Location: 76 Bell St. Fellowship Hall

Presenter: Polly Manke

Contact/Register: pjmanke5@yahoo.com

Tuition: Seven classes \$85 / \$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, March 5—26

Location: 76 Bell St. Room 230

Presenter: Dawn Dole, RYT200

Contact/Register: newdayyoga.dawn@gmail.com

Tuition: Ten classes \$100 / \$15 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 / \$10 Drop-in

Federated Happenings

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).

New Bulletin Board!

As you enter Fellowship Hall look to the right to see the Bulletin Board highlighting the Social and Environmental Justice activities at Federated and become involved. You are Welcome and Needed.

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

Racial Justice

100 Things to do for Racial Justice

To celebrate Federated's 100th Anniversary and in honor of Black History Month we have compiled a list of actions you can take to work for racial justice. Look for our display in the Lobby and pick up a copy.

March Wondrous Wednesday

March 11, Dinner at 6:00, Program at 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall. Mt. Zion UCC member, Harriet Smith will present her family's story. Other Mt. Zion UCC members will join us. More info on p.5.

March Movie night

Monday March 16, 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall. Bryan Stevenson TED Talk: "We need to talk about Injustice" and Ran Jayadev TED Talk: "Participatory Defense" followed by discussion and snacks.

White Privilege Curriculum

This curriculum developed by the UCC is thought provoking and interesting. If you haven't had a chance to take this course yet, now is your chance. Starting with the week after Easter, this six-session course explores the history of race in the USA. Sign up in Fellowship Hall between services starting March 15. Choose Sundays at 11:15 am or Fridays at 1:00 pm.

Immigration Reform

Vigils

Join us for a monthly vigil the first Thursday of each month at 4:00 pm at Lakeside and E. 9th. March 5 is the next vigil. For more information contact Bill Shaul at theshauls@msn.com.

Economic Justice

NEOCH Annual Meeting

Plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless on Thursday, March 12 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at St. Paul's Community Church. Learn about the current state of homelessness in our community. This event provides a chance to get involved, learn about NEOCH's advocacy efforts and build community. To register go to www.neoch.org.

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 March, please get in touch with Trish Baumgartner (trishneric@aol.com). The next trash-pick up day is **Saturday, March 21** from **10 am - 12 noon**. Meeting at St. Malachi's church. Bring trash bags, gloves and whatever you might need to do the trash pick-up.

Continued on p.8.

Federated Happenings

Continued from p.7.

Planting Seeds - The New Creation has come: The Old has gone, the New is here

Take action for environmental justice during worship on March 29 and get ready for April and May Environmental Justice activities at Federated! Stay tuned for details.

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](https://www.ucc.org/pollinator) to get regular updates from our UCC Minister for Environmental Justice, Rev. Brooks Berndt. <https://www.ucc.org/pollinator>

Environmental Tip of the Month: Green Pet Care

Pets can be exposed to harmful toxins in their food, litter and flea medicine. These GREEN ideas could help extend their life and help the environment.

- Use low carbon (footprint) diet, especially poultry based rather than beef and lamb.
- Use repurposed doggie bags, even more than "biodegradable" ones that end up in landfill. Use bags from junk mail, clothing and food.
- Use natural, non-clay litter, made from wheat or corn or recycled newspaper or reclaimed pine shavings.
- Compost! But don't add pet waste to garden pile; you can compost that separately.

Voting Rights

Primary Election

March 17! Your vote counts! Be sure to vote in Ohio's Primary Election either in person on March 17 or with early voting in person at your County Board of Elections or by mail.



Faith Formation and Spirituality

Lenten Worship Series: "Finding God in the midst of challenge and struggle"

This Lent, we will explore the presence of God as we face the challenges of life. It is sometimes difficult to affirm the presence of God when we are in the midst of struggle. We will delve into the richness of the biblical testimony, which both affirms our struggles, and, at the same time, declares that the power of God overcomes those struggles.

Date	Theme	Scripture
March 1	Children and Youth Sunday. Finding God's call—a children and youth perspective	I Samuel 16:1-13
March 8	Finding God in the darkness: waiting (im)patiently for God	John 3:1-17
March 15	Finding God when we suffer or are in pain	Romans 5:1-11
March 22	Finding God in the midst of temptation	Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 32
March 29	Fifth Sunday Mission Focus: Finding God in the crisis of climate change	Ezekiel 37:1-14
April 5	Palm/Passion Sunday: Finding God in the presence of death	Philippians 2:5-11

TOS Spotlight

Prayer Squares

Have you ever noticed the homey Prayer Squares that are available in the Narthex and at the Reception Desk in the Lobby? This is a part of the Congregational Care Commission's Sit & Stitch Ministry. They are lovingly crafted by **Lynne Kessell, Joyce McFarland, Jane Hoover-Plow, Linnea Rostek, Linda Zelazny, Sally Kaas, Sally Harrold, Alexandra Ziots, Janet Fitch, and Jane Campbell**, for members, friends, and visitors alike.

This is a beautiful gesture that lets someone know that our church and church members are thinking of them. Jane Campbell crochets her squares while volunteering as the Reception Desk Angel on Friday mornings. In a recent conversation, she mentioned that a lot of thought goes into these Prayer Squares. Her 4" squares are crocheted with 13 stitches across, representing Jesus and his apostles. And each square includes a border, which holds in her prayers of love and hope for the recipient. Once the squares are created, Lynne and Janet attach the cross and notecard, and distribute them

These Prayer Squares are popular. Just last month, Laura Taylor of the Telling Our Story Commission attended a memorial service of a church member in the Sanctuary and noticed a family member/friend read the Prayer Square sign and took one. This ministry obviously touched his heart. And Laura took two recently and sent them to a cousin whose husband just recently died from cancer and to a cousin whose husband passed away unexpectedly. She says it felt good to be able to send something that represented her thoughts and prayers for them.

Our pastors have taken them on their overseas travels and the pastoral care team have included them in their visits, also. The Prayer Squares can be given for other reasons - maybe you know someone who's going through a tough time, dealing with unexpected/unwanted changes in their life, or are nervous about choices they need to make. Church is about community and connection. And the Prayer Squares are a great way to connect with our own faith family and those beyond our walls.



Capital Campaign

Members of our Properties Committee and Properties staff have been very busy coordinating a few capital campaign projects in the last few months:

- A new electrical panel and dimmers were installed to adjust the lighting in our Sanctuary – no more scary buzzing noise when the lights are dimmed!
- The final six Sanctuary armchairs were reupholstered.
- Both the snowplow and salt-spreader have been repaired.
- Our new gator has already been used to snowplow and spread salt on the sidewalks.
- The top three steps connecting our parking lot to the school's lot are now heated with heat mats. This has come in real handy on those snowy/icy Sundays!

Keith Mast, Becky Gruss, Janis Stefanchik, and Laura Taylor met in mid-February to verify capital campaign payments received, bills paid, and funds allocated in preparation for more projects to begin this spring and summer. *Rejoice & Renew!*



Mission & Service

Parish Nurse Corner

From my past letters in THE SPIRE, you know that winter is an expensive time of year for the clinic. My main nursing goal is to prevent frost bite and respiratory illnesses. So far, this goal has been addressed with hand and toe warmers, warm socks and gloves, stocking hats and scarves and thermal underwear. These items fly off the shelves faster than I can restock. The clinic has gotten so popular that I now use numbered tickets to prevent chaos in the hall outside my door. If a person is not present when I call that number, he or she has to get a new number from my helper.

Most of the men I see are working full time at low paying outside jobs and on the worst shifts. Most are also sleeping in shelters where their meager possessions frequently are stolen as they sleep or use the bathroom. I caution them all, "Keep your eyes on your stuff!" This week, Brandon told me that his backpack with all his stuff was stolen: meager clothing, medications, birth certificate, social security card, and Ohio ID. He was so exhausted that he fell asleep immediately at the shelter and forgot to put his backpack under his head.

In the Federated Lobby, there is a large cardboard box labeled Parish Nurse Donations. This is separate from the shopping cart in which food is placed for the pantry at St. Paul's. Please try to keep the two collections separate. If the PN box is full, just put your donations alongside of it, NOT in the grocery cart. This facilitates my picking them up every Monday. And, as always, you can make a monetary donation by writing a check to the Federated Church, with a note on the memo line "Parish Nurse Fund." I do get a list of PN donors at the end of every month so that I can write thank you notes.

Thank you all so much for your generosity and compassion.

Kathy Kolcaba
440.655.2098

One Great Hour of Sharing

March 15

(Third Sunday of Lent)

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis.

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons and emergency relief and rehabilitation.

One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.



A Note of Thanks

Thank you for your prayers and flower deliveries. They have been a source of comfort during my husband's illness and now since his passing. —*Louise Rutkowski*

Thank you to Harriett Rogers and Coline Kiehne for holding a bridge lesson last week and for being our leaders for our bridge games.

Thank you to Becky Gruss for the extra effort she put into preparing the budget because Amy was not here to help her. She did a great job.

Here's a shout out to Keith Mast, who has taken on additional volunteer responsibilities while we're looking for a new Senior Director of People & Operations. He's approving and paying properties/maintenance invoices, as well as coordinating capital campaign projects. And that's in addition to his Federated Choir membership and Properties Committee chairmanship. Thanks Keith!

Family, Youth, and Children's Ministry

GROUP Work Camp 2020

Rev. Mark Simone is delighted to share that the Sr. High Youth have been invited to return to the Mackinac Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians in St. Ignace, Michigan for work camp the week of **July 11 to 18**. Lisa Powers, the head of the tribe, has asked us to come and continue the work we began in 2018, when we replaced windows and doors, resided the building, firmed up the foundation and the roof line among other jobs.

This trip we are being asked to install kitchen cabinets, insulate and dry wall the great room, and maybe roof the building. Lots of cool things to do.

The cost of the trip will be under \$600 and it is open to any Federated High School youth and their friends. Day off will be to explore Mackinac Island.

We will have a parent and camper meeting in the Chapel on Tuesday, March 3 from 6:30 to 7:30. Paperwork will be distributed, and a \$50 non-refundable deposit will be collected. **FRIENDS WELCOME!**

Communion Congrats

Please include in your prayers the 5th and 6th graders who recently completed a series of Communion classes led by Revs. Throckmorton and Simone. On two wonderful evenings, the students and their parents explored the meaning behind this holy sacrament. We are always amazed by the breadth and depth of the questions that come out of these evenings. And that's just the parents!

Please greet and celebrate these outstanding young people as they take Communion with the congregation for the first time on Sunday, March 1.

Annmarie Cianciolo

Brady Kaas

Brooke Lawrence

Reese Siebenschuh

Sarah Turner

Zoe LeFeber

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.



Easter Flower Order Form

Please help us grace our Sanctuary on Easter morning by purchasing an Easter Flower *In Honor of or In Memory of* a loved one or friend. Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office with your payment of **\$16 per plant**. You are welcome to take the plant home with you after either Easter worship service at Bell Street. Orders must be received by **Sunday, March 29**.

All proceeds benefit GROUP,
our Senior High Youth Program,
to help fund the annual work camp trip.

Paid by: _____ **Phone:** _____

Circle: *In Honor of...* *In Memory of...* **Name:** _____

of plants: _____ ☐ **Check #** _____ **Amount:** \$ _____ **OR** ☐ **Cash Amount:** \$ _____



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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*
Kin Barber, * Gillian McNamara, * Larry McGurer, *Custodians*

Music Staff

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

Children's Ministries Staff

* Marty Culbertson, *Director of Youth Faith Formation*
* Kristin LeFeber, *Director of Children's Faith Formation*
* Alex Bell, Lianna Davis, Trisha Holland, *Childcare Providers*
* denotes part-time staff

**Hope to see you this
Sunday!**

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

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