

June 2020



# THE SPIRE

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## THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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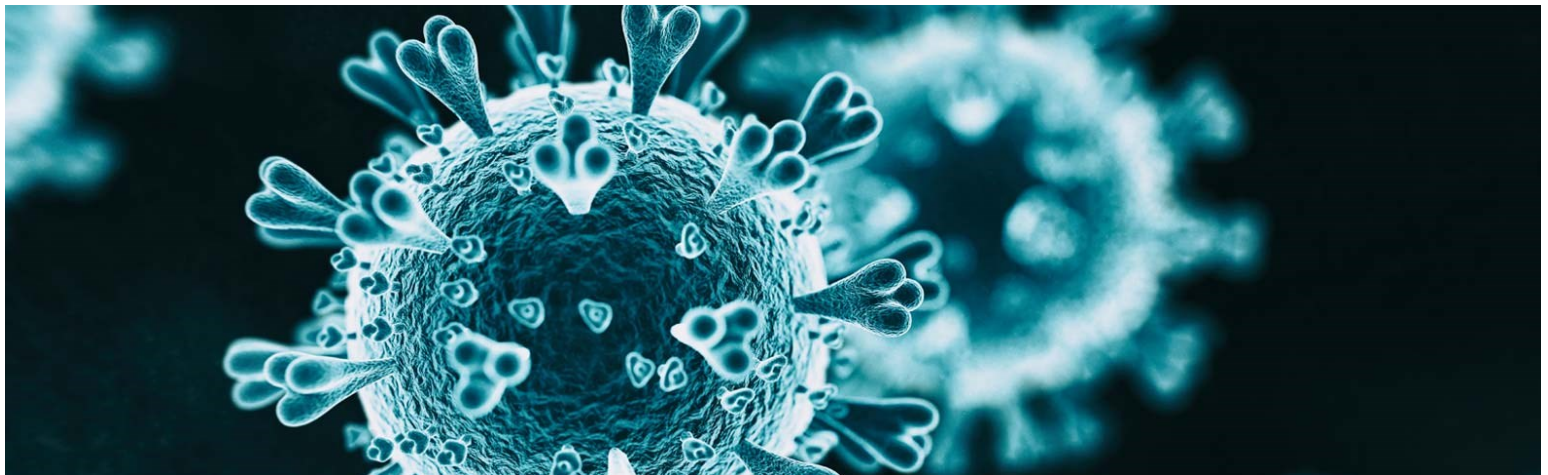
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

### COVID-19 Building Closure Update

Church leadership has extended the closure period for all in-person activity at Bell Street facility **through September 6**. This, of course, brings with it a continued sense of loss for all of us: how we would love to gather again to worship, to connect, to learn, to serve.

There is, however, nothing more important than the health of the congregation. It is vital we take no chances with the health and welfare of the people of the church. This decision is made with *caritas*—the old Latin word for love—at the center. Our commitment to the membership of the congregation is paramount. Gathering in person still poses too great a risk of passing the virus.

Knowing this, church leadership is working on numerous levels to connect the congregation virtually and through phone outreach. We continue to do vital, life-giving ministry and enhance this marvelous community. Please join us as you see new opportunities to form community, to grow in faith, and to care for the larger world. Leadership is also grateful for the ongoing financial commitments made by church members and friends. As we were reminded in worship on May 24, faith, hope, and love have not been canceled. We are blessed to be a blessing!



### Special Worship Service on June 7

On June 7, we have a special opportunity to worship with members and friends throughout our denomination, the United Church of Christ. The service is a pre-recorded video service conducted by leaders throughout the denomination.

The UCC is made up of 36 conferences encompassing the entire country. The conference ministers of all the conferences will lead us in worship, along with members of the national church leadership. The service will include prayers, scripture, a sermon, and a wide variety of music, as well as communion. Join us that morning on our YouTube Channel at [YouTube.com/TheFederatedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/TheFederatedChurch) for worship that connects us with the wider church.

### Father's Day Photos

For our Father's Day worship service (June 21) we'd love to have you send us a picture of your father that we will show during worship that day. Please let us know his name, but not on the photo itself, in order to honor his privacy (since the video of the service will be available for anyone to see).

Please send your picture to Marty Culbertson at [mculbert@fedchurch.org](mailto:mculbert@fedchurch.org) by Thursday, June 18.

# From Hamilton's Desk

Dear Friends,

As you may well be wondering about the church's plans as we go forward, I thought I would share a little of the thinking of church leadership. First, and maybe most important—and maybe also most frustrating—is that we are still living in the middle of a giant “I don't know” about life going forward. How reassuring it would be if we could say, “On X date, we'll be back with in-person worship and gatherings at church.” In this time of such great upheaval, it would be a palpable comfort to be able to declare, with assurance, that we would be back to “normal” at a particular time. And we are unfortunately, and probably unsurprisingly, unable to say that. If you had asked me, in March, when we would be back together in person, I might have guessed six to eight weeks. And I would have been way off.

Some have suggested that we resume in-person worship soon. I confess I don't think that would be a good idea, for several reasons, most having to do with how easily the virus could be promulgated in a church setting. Federated is a place in which we shake hands and touch. We wouldn't be able to do that. Just breathing together in an enclosed space over an extended period poses a significant risk. “Remember the formula,” says biologist Erin Bromage: “Successful Infection = Exposure to Virus x Time.” To be indoors for an hour or more provides just the sort of setting in which COVID-19 could easily be spread.

So it will unquestionably be some time before we are able to gather again in person. We have already decided, in fact, to keep the church building closed at least through September 6. In the meantime, we are developing new ways of being community. One of my out-of-state colleagues wrote recently that he had often used the words “strange” or “weird” to describe the times in which we're living. Then a member of his church suggested to him that we think of this, instead, as a time of learning: we're learning to be the people of God, and we're learning to be community, in fresh ways. We're learning to live out the four essential pillars of the church in new and vital and important ways. We continue to worship the Most Holy God who is at the center of all life. We are increasingly finding ways to learn and grow, with several online study groups having grown up in recent weeks. We're connecting and finding ways to bless each other by phone and social media and email and the ever-present Zoom. And we continue to find ways to serve God: in addition to members making masks for healthcare workers and church members and friends, and the church continuing to support our many mission partners, one of the most caring things we do is to stay away from each other. It may sound strange to call that mission, but it is: we show our care for each other by honoring the need for social distancing.

In this interim time of upheaval, I miss seeing you, and I will continue to miss seeing you. I also trust, though, that God is ever-present, and that we are learning new ways of expressing our faith and being together and serving God. May we continue to grow and learn as we honor the God who has given us life and breath.

Yours in Christ,



Hamilton

For further reading, see these two important resources:

<https://www.erinbromage.com/post/the-risks-know-them-avoid-them;>

<https://www.wichurches.org/2020/05/08/church-music-covid19/>

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

### Sunday, June 7

Recorded video service led by UCC leaders  
10 am Online Worship\*

### Sunday, June 14

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches  
New Members Join  
10 am Online Worship\*

### Sunday, June 21

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches  
10 am Online Worship\*

### Sunday, June 28

Led by Marty Culbertson on “Lessons from the Mountain”  
10 am Online Worship\*

**\* The church building is closed and worship has been moved online through September 6. You can access the worship service streams by following the links at [www.fedchurch.org](http://www.fedchurch.org).**



# News & Info

## Church Council Update

The Church Council has been meeting virtually each month since March. We have been able to maintain our basic meeting format and continue to carry on needed discussions and decision-making for the business of the church. Some highlights from the last several months are:

- Received and approved an updated structure for the **Tributaries** programs from the Spiritual Formation commission;
- Welcomed **Melissa Owen** to the Council as the new SDPO;
- Approved application for and the acceptance of a **Paycheck Protection Program** loan through the SBA (For more information, contact [mowen@fedchurch.org](mailto:mowen@fedchurch.org));
- Continued to review and move toward a process for **Visioning and Strategic Planning** to begin this fall;
- Received and approved updates from the **Capital Campaign Project** committee;
- Continue to receive updates on the lease negotiation and transition to our partnership with the **Community Life Collaborative** (CLC);

We also hope that you have been able to continue worshipping with Federated on Sundays through the **livestreaming** format on YouTube. Many of us on the Council have shared ways that this new format has blessed and fulfilled us. **We hope you have felt those blessings too.** We also want to thank you for continuing to provide your **regular tithing and giving** to the Federated Church. Although the doors are closed, the work and the mission of the church continues on and your giving makes that possible.

Praying for you to feel God's love and comfort now and always,  
Beth Rutkowski  
Moderator

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## Shopping at Amazon? Use Amazon Smile!

One result of our stay-at-home mandate is that more of us are probably ordering household items through Amazon. And if that's the case for you, please remember that Federated can benefit from your shopping list!

The other day I wanted to order cat litter, silver polish, and coffee beans through Amazon, but this time I made sure to log onto to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). By logging onto [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) rather than just [amazon.com](https://amazon.com) there is one huge benefit - for eligible purchases, Amazon will donate a % of the item price to the charity of your choice. And my charity of choice is: **Federated Church of Chagrin Falls, Ohio**.



You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, and other account settings are the same. However, on your first visit to AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)) - before you begin shopping - you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases. They will remember your charity from then on, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

Over the years, AmazonSmile shoppers who have designated Federated as their charity of choice have purchased \$73,500+ worth of items and Federated has received a % of the price – an actual check donation is mailed to the church. What a great way to support the church, while we are all staying at home!

- Laura Taylor, Fund Development Associate



# News & Info

## The Community Life Collaborative Cultivates New Beginnings

Good news! The mutual partnership between The Federated Church and The Community Life Collaborative (CLC) is emerging into focus! In February, the congregation resolutely affirmed the formation of this partnership so now they can combine forces to do great things in service to the community.

The CLC received official approval as a tax-exempt charitable organization for serving the wider community and is preparing to assume operations at the Family Life Center this summer. With leasing details being solidified alongside a comprehensive partnership agreement, reciprocal opportunities open for both Federated and the CLC to grow and thrive.

And things are already buzzing with the CLC. Literally!

Local beekeeper, Trish Harness ([chickabuzz.org](http://chickabuzz.org)) installed beehives in the front acreage of the Family Life Center (FLC) to support and protect pollinators important to flourishing local crops.

Volunteer teams, coordinated by Darlene Nichols, are digging in to restore the Norling Prayer and Memorial Gardens with practices of prayer and physical distancing. We encourage volunteers to dedicate their service in honor of the next generation, naming a specific person and holding them in prayer and wholeness while caring for the planet. The gardens are sectioned into 30 zones to support distancing and dedication. Contact Darlene at [darnichols10@gmail.com](mailto:darnichols10@gmail.com) to be part of the action.

Master gardener, Jeff Griff from Lowes Greenhouse, volunteered to launch a series of quick demonstration videos on sustainable gardening called "At the Root". Diana Weber-Gardner is posting these on the CLC Facebook page to spread the good news.

A 3-section composting bin constructed of discarded skids now sits behind the FLC ready to cultivate healthy soil.

A program for distributing fresh produce to food pantries is also underway. Watch for more details for how you can share the bounty of your home vegetable gardens this summer.



Check out these YouTube videos for more info on **Invasive Weeds**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-as8drAPRw> and **Building a Compost Bin**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvPdqfvgWk8>

## Restore the Gardens, Refresh Your Soul!

Federated seeks volunteers to help restore the Memorial Gardens this spring with safe guidelines for social distancing. Bring your family and be part of the exciting transformation.

Contact Darlene Nichols at [darnichols10@gmail.com](mailto:darnichols10@gmail.com) to pick a time slot.



# Mission & Service

## Strengthen the Church Offering

June 28

Strengthen the Church is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the United Church of Christ. Shared at the conference and national levels, this offering largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Federated will receive the Strengthen the Church offering on June 28.

## Parish Nurse Corner

Another conversation with Tim, the Outreach Director at St. Paul's, revealed some news on reopening some of their programs. For example, the food pantry and the clothing shop are opened now with limited hours. Last month, my husband and I took a few dozen "hospitality bags" over containing basic hygiene supplies, and I did so again today. The decision to gradually open the clinic was made by Pastor Doug, Tim, and myself, as I am eager to get back. So our official reopening will be June 2, starting with one day a week. If all goes well, we will expand to two days per week (Tuesday and Wednesday) and if not, we will temporarily close again. We all want to see if the community we serve will comply with CDC guidelines which Doug insists are to be followed closely. Hopefully, we will have ample masks and testing, provided by Metro Hospital. As with all of our new lives, carefully reopening will be a work in progress! I will keep you posted.

Because St. Paul's Church is nearly broke, they cannot send support money to the Parish Nurse Clinic as they have been doing. Therefore, your monetary donations will be greatly appreciated (designate PN Program on the memo line of your check). We will also need supplies like toilet paper, socks, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc. These supplies can be dropped off at my home, 84 Hall St., in the Village. I have a sheltered front and back porch. It's time to restock the Parish Nurse Clinic!

Thank you soooo much,  
Kathy Kolcaba  
440.655.2098

## The Bikes Arrived—Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who donated a bike or two to the kids of Lesotho in Africa. They have arrived and the kids are thrilled!



# Family, Youth, and Children's Ministry

## 2020 Summer Work Camp and Colorado Trip Cancelled

It is with a very heavy heart that I have to cancel our GROUP Work Camp to St. Ignace, Michigan. As the leaders reviewed all aspects of the trip, we realized that we cannot ensure appropriate safety measures for the work campers. It is a huge disappointment. Those who have made deposits will receive their checks back in the mail soon.

We also made the difficult decision to cancel the annual Colorado Kids trip for similar reasons. We are planning ahead to resume in 2021.

We are still looking at the possibility of a work camp trip to South Africa for all ages in March of 2021. Plans are very tentative at this point, but we are maintaining our connections with the touring company. And of course, we are expecting a great work camp here at home in 2021 as our world gets back on its feet!

Please let us know if you have any questions. Contact Mark (msimone@fedchurch.org or 440.463.9439) or Marty (mculbert@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 x131).

- Mark Simone, Marty Culbertson, and the Advisors

## Our Confirmation Class of 2020

On Sunday, May 17, we presented to our online congregation the wonderful students who endured the strange circumstances of completing Confirmation using the internet. It was a huge adjustment and learning curve for all of us, but Bob Abley, Tony Kotnik and I feel that this class has performed wonderfully in these strange times.

They lived the value of a growing faith in a changing world, continuing to adapt to living for Christ in all circumstances. While we all missed the face-to-face gatherings, we were able to continue our studies online.

It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you:

**Madeline Davis**  
**Jonas Grunden**  
**Kendall Guddy**  
**Ben Gurd**  
**Charlie Kress**  
**Henry Ryan**

May God's blessings encourage continued growth and love in each of these new Federated Church members.

- Mark Simone

# Federated Happenings

## Kerygma Course *Your Bible! The Study Begins*

Since 1977, The Kerygma Program of Bible study has been used by a wide variety of denominational groups to increase biblical knowledge & understanding, enhance personal spiritual growth and deepen appreciation for worship.

**WHAT:** *Your Bible! The Study Begins* is an introduction to the Bible that paves the way for future study and deeper understanding.

**WHO:** Individuals who want to learn more about:

- How the Bible came to be;
- What the Old and New Testaments are about;
- How to study the Bible and consider its place in our lives.

**WHERE:** We will be using Zoom.

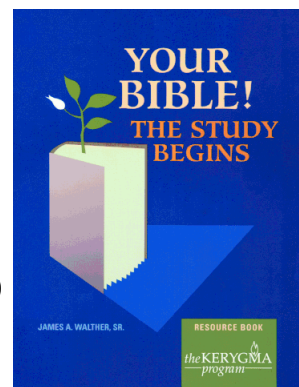
**WHEN:** There will be seven sessions starting Wednesday, June 10–July 22 from 12:30–2:00 pm.

**Registration and payment is due by June 3.**

**MATERIAL:** A Bible and Kerygma's Resource Book: \$15; Large Print: \$18.50 (includes \$1.00 for shipping) They will be shipped to Peggie's house and she will advise later how they will be distributed.

**REGISTRATION AND PAYMENTS:** To RSVP and pay, visit [www.fedchurch.org/events/bookstudies](http://www.fedchurch.org/events/bookstudies)

The course is being offered by the Spiritual Formation Commission and will be led by Peggie Jo Shinagawa. You can direct questions to her at [pjshinagawa@windstream.net](mailto:pjshinagawa@windstream.net).





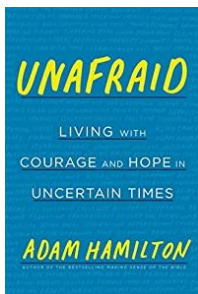
# Federated Happenings

## "Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times"

Book Study begins May 28

Romans 8:26: "In the same way, the spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

During this unprecedented time of perhaps fear, anxiety, confusion and loneliness, do you ever wonder how you will continue to manage?



For five weeks beginning on Thursday, May 28 from 7:00-8:00 pm we will be discussing the book "Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times" by Rev. Adam Hamilton.

Richard Rohr calls this book "A road map for facing our fears with faith." You don't need to read the book to be a part of the discussion or you can check out the first chapter on YouTube.

Please plan to join us via Zoom - RSVP to Darlene Nichols at [darnichols10@gmail.com](mailto:darnichols10@gmail.com).

## Creating Calm in the Midst of COVID

Everyone is welcome to join in these virtual offerings through Zoom. This program is designed to help us deal with the stress of the COVID-19 situation.

Bringing a sense of calm, peace, and relaxation is good for our health, our mind, our heart and our soul.

**When: 7:00-7:50 pm - Mondays in June**

**June 8** - Calming the anxious Nervous system - Polly Manke (breathing & meditation)

**June 15** - Calm Mind, Relaxed Body - Dawn Dole (breathing, chair stretching & gentle movement)

**June 22** - no program

**June 29** - Mindfulness Meditation - Judy Majcen (guided meditation)

To register, send an email to Dawn Dole at [coopdole@gmail.com](mailto:coopdole@gmail.com). Please let her know which sessions you wish to attend.

You may join using this zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86841461439>

## Tributaries

### Gentle Slow Flow Yoga

**When: 7:00 PM on Thursdays in June**

Online - join from the comfort of your own home.

This online class is a Gentle Slow Flow which links the breath, movement, and poses together. All levels of Yoga practitioners can find their personal challenges, as they slowly and mindfully move through the class. Balance and peacefulness result from attention to breath as we move through physical postures in our yoga practice. Modifications will be suggested as needed. This class is open to everyone with the ability to move through seated, standing, kneeling, and reclined positions unassisted.

For all the information and to register, email Dawn Dole, RYT200, at [newdayyoga.dawn@gmail.com](mailto:newdayyoga.dawn@gmail.com).

### Chair Yoga Class

We are exploring now to see if there is an interest in a Chair Yoga offering. If you are interested in taking a Chair Yoga class, it would be an online virtual class. You would join through a Zoom link and participate from the comfort of your own home.

Chair Yoga is a gentle form of yoga that can be done while sitting. Chair Yoga is great for anyone who wants the wonderful health benefits of yoga without having to be on the floor on a mat. This is a safe, simple way to improve your flexibility, concentration and strength, while boosting your mood, and reducing stress and improve circulation. Some poses are also done standing using a chair for support. We also engage in breathing exercises and short meditation, both of which can relieve stress and anxiety.

If you are interested, please email [newdayyoga.dawn@gmail.com](mailto:newdayyoga.dawn@gmail.com). The day and time of this class are yet to be determined.

### Yoga on the Labyrinth

**When: 8:30-9:30 am—Tuesdays June 2-August 25**

Suggested donation: Seven classes for \$85 or \$15 drop-in (if you can, free if you can't, but would be supported by a gentle practice. 30%, as always, goes to Federated in June, CLC in July & August.)

We will practice safe distancing, you are welcome to wear a mask, but they are not required.



Contact Polly Manke at [polly@pollymanke.com](mailto:polly@pollymanke.com) to register and get more information.

# Federated Happenings

## Social and Environmental Justice (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 on Zoom. 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](mailto:kfranz17114@gmail.com)).

**Next SJAM Meeting — Sunday, June 14, 11:15 am on Zoom (Meeting ID: 261-964-671).**

**COVID-19 Response** — Recognizing the devastating impact COVID-19 has on the most vulnerable among us, in April, SJAM members pooled our resources to quickly send monetary support to the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH) and HOLA. These two organizations were selected because SJAM members have direct knowledge of their work and contributions were able to be directed to food and shelter. The most basic human needs. Going forward, there will be other needs we will hope to help meet. Join our SJAM meeting on Zoom to be part of the conversation!

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### Economic Justice

#### **Poor People's Campaign: Digital—Saturday, June 20**

In 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. launched a Poor People's Campaign believing that people joining together could create, "*a new and unsettling force in our complacent nation.*" Over the last two years, UCC members and congregations have been participating in the continuation of this work through the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival by national and state direct actions, education and organizing. The campaign has united tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy and ecological devastation while centering the voices and experiences of poor, low-wealth, and vulnerable communities.

This year The Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March is going digital! On June 20, we will hold the largest digital and social media gathering of poor and low-wealth people, moral and religious leaders, advocates, and people of conscience in this nation's history. A global pandemic is exposing even more the already existing crisis of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy and militarism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. On June 20, the 140 million poor and low-wealth people across this nation will be heard!

To register, visit <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/rsvp-for-june-20-2020-mass-poor-peoples-assembly-moral-march-on-washington?source=UCC>

#### **Chagrin Falls Park Community Center**

There is a need for cleaning supplies. If you are able to help out, leave your donation outside the door of the Community Center, 7060 Woodland Ave. Chagrin Falls. Then call 440.247.6030 and let the staff know you have left some supplies. They'll come out and get them.

### Environmental Justice

#### **Plant a Tree!**

It is not too late to plant a tree in honor of Earth Day and send a photo to Marty at [mculbert@fedchurch.org](mailto:mculbert@fedchurch.org).

#### **Electronics Recycling**

Rescheduled to October 24, 2020. It is important to keep our old recycled items out of landfills! Save them for the electronic recycling opportunity and save the earth.



# Federated Happenings

## Social and Environmental Justice (SJAM) News, continued

### Voting Rights

#### Voter Registration

ELECTION 2020! This is the most important action we can take. Get involved with the 2020 November election. Many nonprofit organizations are looking for volunteers. Check out these websites:

- NOVA-Ohio, <https://nova-ohio.org/>
- Rock the Vote [www.rockthevote.org](http://www.rockthevote.org)
- Mobilize the Vote Ohio, [mobilizethevote2020@gmail.com](mailto:mobilizethevote2020@gmail.com)
- Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America endorsing Gun Sense Candidates  
[clevelandmomschapter@gmail.com](mailto:clevelandmomschapter@gmail.com)
- League of Women Voters Greater Cleveland <https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-greater-cleveland>  
Their virtual Annual Meeting is being held June 13 at 9:00 am.
- League of Women Voters Geauga County <https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-geauga-county>
- Sign up or register on any of these websites! Remember every voice counts.

#### Socially Distanced Postcards—Saturday, June 6 from 2:00-4:00 pm

Drive-through or tailgate. Shaker Heights RTA. This sounds fun!

<https://www.mobilize.us/opalmissionvote/event/273712/>

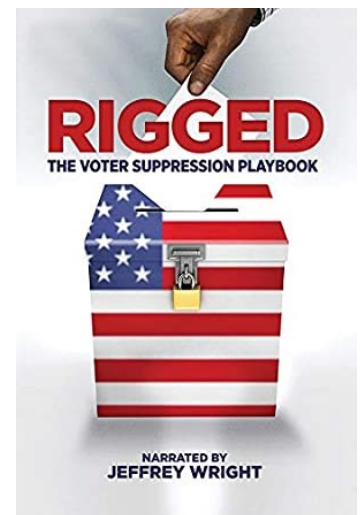
#### Movie Night—Monday, June 22 at 7:00 pm

Watch "Rigged: The Voter Suppression Handbook" at your leisure. Find it streamed on Amazon Prime or go to the film's website for more options:

<https://www.riggedthefilm.com/>

Log into Movie night Zoom call on **June 22 at 7:00** for a one hour of discussion and action steps planning! Use meeting ID **261-964-671**.

Contact Kathy Franz (440.543.4086 or [kfranz17114@gmail.com](mailto:kfranz17114@gmail.com)) with questions.



### Angel Telephone Tree Ministry

This ministry contacts families who might not have internet access and offers to play the sermons over the phone each week or snail mail the sermons to them. The ministry then expanded to contact prospective members and our elder members.

So far, there are 23 individuals who have reached out to 133 households. Amazing!

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Peggie Jo Shinagawa at [pjshinagawa@windstream.net](mailto:pjshinagawa@windstream.net).



# TOS Spotlight

## Ministries Continue During Building Closure

We would all much rather have face-to-face connection than the current social distancing situation, but it's been wonderful to see church lay leaders, members, and staff continue the work of Federated's ministries under the current restraints. And a huge bonus is seeing how these formats are able to reach an extended number of Federated's faith family. Both people from afar and people who normally are unable to make it to Bell Street are able to connect with the church and each other in these new ways.

It's apparent that God is with us - making something happen out of these uncertain times. We are blessed that:

- Sunday services are now livestreamed on our YouTube channel at 10 am ([Youtube.com/TheFederatedChurch](https://Youtube.com/TheFederatedChurch));
- The Angel Telephone Tree Ministry Team, Primetime Coordinator, Fellowship of Prayer Note Writers, and Pastoral Care staff are busy making calls and sending notes;
- One of our youth members has formed a new ministry - Angel Errands - to help others by running errands, picking up groceries, etc.;
- We participated in the May 3 United Through Prayer YouTube event hosted by the Northern Ohio Intercultural Association, praying with our brothers and sisters of the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian faiths;
- Our members are making masks and donating them to retirement communities, which, in turn, has prompted gifts to Federated that our Mission & Service Commission is forwarding to local nonprofits in need;
- Confirmation classes continued and culminated in youth participation during Confirmation Sunday;
- Our Loaves and Fishes leader has created a "safe distance" format that allows us to continue this ministry - providing 100 much-needed bagged lunches every month;
- The Music Room received a fresh coat of paint and the Bell Street floors are being waxed;
- The Mission & Service Commission is coordinating a nonperishable and canned food drive for St. Paul's food pantry to fill their empty shelves;
- Our Bell Street grounds are being spruced up with perennials donated by our members
- Our ministries are continuing via Zoom:
  - Men's Breakfast Bunch on Wednesdays
  - Primetime Tai Chi classes throughout the week
  - Sunday School classes via Zoom on Sundays and via YouTube on Saturdays
  - White Privilege Study on Saturdays
  - Tributaries Yoga classes on Thursday evenings
  - Men's Third Tuesday monthly
  - Men's Discussion Group on Tuesday mornings
  - Council, Commission, and Committee group meetings continued
  - Stephen Ministry book study for continuing education
  - Women's Bible Study on Fridays

If you are interested in using the Federated Church Zoom account to hold your meeting or event virtually, you can contact Trisha Holland at [communications@fedchurch.org](mailto:communications@fedchurch.org) to discuss setting it up.

These are just some of the ways that we continue to give ourselves into the hands of God and to look for God's direction and sustenance during this crisis. Thanks be to you and God!