



August 2020

# THE SPIRE

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## THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

### **Come One! Come All! Be a Part of Federated's Bright Future!**

#### **We're on to the Next Step of Church Council's Visionary Action Plan**

**Federated's future begins with YOU!** Help the church move forward informed and inspired so, together, we can develop clear actionable steps to pivot as a responsive and compassionate community of faith.

#### ***Join Our August Zoom Forums!***

Beginning in August and throughout the coming year, leaders from [Convergence](#) will engage our congregation and staff in critical conversation, self-assessment, envisioning, and then mobilizing action teams.

**Participate in one or both Zoom forums** facilitated by Convergence CEO, Rev. Cameron Trimble, to launch our journey.

On **August 2 at 11:15 am**, following worship, join via Zoom for **The Great Unveiling: How the World is Changing and What it Means for the Church**.

*As we journey through troubling, challenging, and curious days, we are living in a time that feels scary and new. But what if the fractures we are seeing in social order, the ramifications of halting a global economy, and the unleashing of people of faith into a world seeking wisdom but not seeking institutional Church is actually revealing what has been true of our world for a long time? What does this mean for our churches? As people of faith, what is our role to play? What will be demanded of us, and what should we be prepared to offer? Join us on a Zoom webinar as Rev. Cameron Trimble explores these questions and more. We will have a chance to engage her presentation as well as explore the wisdom needed for this pivotal moment.*

On **August 16 at 11:15 am**, following worship, join via Zoom for **Creative Churches: A Virtual Tour of Growing Churches Changing Their Communities**.

*Join Rev. Cameron Trimble for a one-hour Zoom webinar as we tour creative churches around the country and learn from their ministries. We will explore how these churches have improved their communities, build coalitions for change, crossed interfaith divides, shaped dynamic worship experiences, embraced environmental activism and deepened their members' spirituality.*

Mark your calendars! Pick one or both. Join at <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87448601373>.

#### ***Get Inspired!***

**We hope everyone in the whole church** will get the creative juices flowing. Imagine the possibilities for changing our downward trends and living into God's promise for the world! Starting on **Rally Day, September 13**, we will launch an **all-church online assessment** to gather data on what matters most in our church and our surrounding community in this new day. Our goal is for everyone to give voice to current needs and the potential for our future. So join in on the Zoom forums, be still and listen, notice the world around you, and talk with friends and neighbors from other churches and organizations to spark inspiration. Get ready to speak your heart!

#### ***Learn more!***

Rev. Cameron Trimble will guide us all along a shared journey of faith, leadership, and action. As co-founder and CEO of the international church consulting firm, Convergence, Cameron is a frequent speaker and senior consultant laser-focused on shepherding church transformation and leadership. She is an avid pilot, too, and author of a daily devotional called "[Piloting Faith](#)," [several articles](#) on revitalizing church, and recently published the book [Piloting Church: Helping Your Congregation Take Flight](#)." Come meet Rev. Cameron Trimble in the Zoom webinars described above.

Your church leadership looks forward to engaging your questions, thoughts, and full support to launch a collaborative journey to a promising future!

## R&R Capital Campaign Project Update

We are so thankful that 16 more households have completed their capital campaign pledges with final payments since mid-March! Along with those who are continuing to make pledge payments, the capital campaign numbers are looking good. **Thank you for your support!**

In recent months there's been quite a bit of work done on some capital campaign projects:

The Master Capital Campaign Projects List (with projects, timeline, leader and budget) was approved by Church Council,

Senior Director of People and Operations, Melissa Owen, has continued her work organizing our livestreaming equipment needs. Currently, we are using mostly borrowed equipment. The Council's Project List approval included reallocation of a capital campaign audiovisual upgrade at the Family Life Center (\$8,000) to the audiovisual livestreaming project.

A sub-committee of the Telling Our Story Commission has taken ownership of the Rebranding capital campaign project. Led by Diana Weber-Gardner, a communications professional at Cleveland Clinic and long-time member of our church, they are preparing an RFP (Request for Proposal) in search of an agency or consultant to collaborate with the sub-committee to develop and execute the developing vision. Church Council Moderator, Beth Rutkowski, supports the direction that will position the church for its second century while providing clarity for the upcoming Visionary Action Plan.

We are blessed to have such wonderfully gifted members and staff who dedicate their time, talents and treasure to complete Federated's *Rejoice & Renew* capital campaign projects.

### UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

#### Sunday, August 2

Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner preaches  
Communion celebrated  
10 am Online Worship\*  
*Music by Marcia Snavelly and soloist Ken Horner*

#### Sunday, August 9

Rev. Mark Simone preaches  
10 am Online Worship\*  
*Music by Marcia Snavelly and Trio: Laura Otis, Katie Harbage, and Pat Haynish*

#### Sunday, August 16

Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner preaches  
10 am Online Worship\*  
*Music by Joshua Konow*

#### Sunday, August 23

10 am Online Worship\*

#### Sunday, August 30

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches  
theme: "I Am"  
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).**

## Believing in Something Bigger than Ourselves

### Community Outreach by Laura Taylor

I am writing to share some good news: the church recently received a grant from the Progressive Insurance Foundation for over \$8,000!

This grant represents company matching funds for contributions that Progressive employees made to Federated Church in 2019. As noted on their website, when an employee gives any amount from \$20 to \$3,000 to a qualified charity and requests a matching gift, the Foundation commits to matching those dollars up to 100 percent, depending on the number of requests and the company's profitability that year. And religious institutions receive around 65% of their matching grants.

In short, Progressive gives where their employees give; their generosity to us is in response to our members' generosity and the forms that were submitted naming Federated. We wanted you to see the delightful results of this program, which allows as many gifts as possible to be matched by Progressive dollars. During this time, when our mission partners are in such need, this matching grant enhances our ability to serve others. What a wonderful way of sharing the love of God!

Let us know if your company participates in a matching gift program that, like Progressive, will match gifts to religious organizations.

**PROGRESSIVE®**

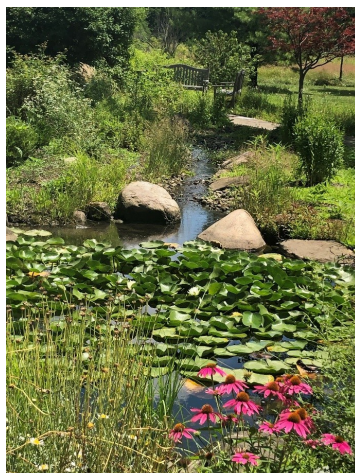


# News and Info

## Have you seen the Norling Prayer and Memorial Gardens lately?

The gardening volunteers, coordinated by the Community Life Collaborative, have been hard at work and the results are magnificent! Take a beautiful, accessible walk down the path from the parking lot to the labyrinth where you can see the pond lilies and waterfall, surrounded by colorful blooms. Walk the labyrinth, soak in the beauty and enjoy the quiet peaceful surroundings.

Thank you, gardening volunteers and Community Life Collaborative!



## Thank You for Thanking Us!

Every Sunday, as we all watch Federated's livestreamed services, one of our pastors will mention the various ways that members and friends can continue to financially support the church during these times.

They'll mention online giving – a convenient link to our e-giving instruments is listed under the caption "Invitation to Generosity" on our YouTube channel. But they will also mention our ability to receive checks mailed to the church building.

It's always a treat to check our mailbox at the closed Bell Street facility weekly because, invariably, we'll get a thank you note, along with a check, from someone.

**"Thank you for the Sunday morning YouTube services"**

**"We all appreciate all that you do!"**

**"You are the absolute best."**

**"Thank You to all the staff at Federated"**

**"For the Glory of God's Church in these challenging times"**

Your gratefulness for the work that the staff and volunteers are doing to keep the church alive during this time touches our hearts. We feel your appreciation and it motivates us!

# Mission & Service

## Parish Nurse Corner

The clinic at St. Paul's on the near westside of Cleveland has been open for eight weeks now and we are slowly rebuilding our clientele. About half of our clients are former faces, who have been doing well during COVID. The other half are new faces just trying us out. We average about six clients per week. Our safety protocols include temperature checks, masks, six feet of distance from the nurse, and sanitizing after the clients are seen. There has been no pushback from the clients on any of this. Leslie Fincun has been helping with the clinic which is open every Tuesday. We continue to offer free hygiene supplies, underwear, referrals as needed, and blood pressure checks when requested.

**Currently, we are in need of summer-weight socks, either the short ankle style or the higher crew socks.** If you wish to help, please drop them off on my front or back porch, both of which are sheltered (84 Hall St. in the Village). Money donations can be made to The Federated Church, 76 Bell St., with a note on the memo line designating the Parish Nurse Fund. Due to the decrease in outside funding, St. Paul's is no longer able to help fund supplies for the clinic.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Kathy Kolcaba, retired RN  
440.655.2098

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## Paper Recycling at the Family Life Center is Available Again!

The service for collecting paper/cardboard is back. Everyone is invited to make use of the paper recycling bins at the Family Life Center (16349 Chillicothe Road) again.

### What you can put in the bins:

- All grades books (coated/uncoated)
- Books (hard/soft cover)
- Envelopes (hard/ windowed)
- Folders
- Hard white inserts
- Insoluble glue stock
- Junk mail
- Label stock
- Magazines
- Mixed paper
- Newspaper
- Office paper
- Paper blends
- Phone books
- Rolls, tubes & cores
- Shredded paper
- Thermal mechanical paper
- Baled cardboard
- Boxboard cuttings

- Cardboard filing boxes
- Cardboard Packaging
- Cardboard shipping boxes
- Cardboard storage boxes
- Chipboard
- Loose cardboard

If you are out there at the Family Life Center and you notice that the bins are full and need to be emptied, please contact Sunny Doxey at:

[rdoxey@roadrunner.com](mailto:rdoxey@roadrunner.com)

# Family, Youth, and Children's Ministry

## Call to Confirmation A Message from Rev. Mark Simone

While I don't yet know the format, we fully intend to move ahead in the spiritual formation and education offered to our youth, 9<sup>th</sup> grade and above, through our Confirmation Program. I am investigating and preparing for both an "in church – widely spaced" and fully online program. Next month, I will be sending out a packet of materials to each eligible Confirmation student and their parents covering the program and discussing the format.

While all of this is somewhat tiresome (Who ain't over it?!), I do love the Confirmation experience with our wonderful Federated Church youth. I am looking forward to the program in whatever format it is presented.

For now, I pray for your safety and health, trusting God to be with us in all we face in the months to come. I hope those eligible will join our class!

Blessings and Peace,  
Mark Simone (with Bob Abley and Tony Kotnik)

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## 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.

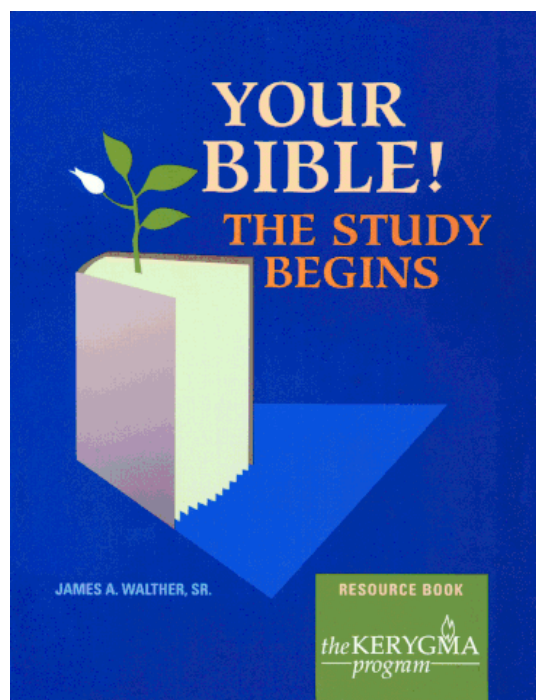
**WHERE:** We will be using Zoom.

**WHEN:** There will be seven sessions starting Wednesday, August 5–Wednesday, September 16 from 7:30–9:00 pm.  
Registration and payment is due by July 28.

**MATERIAL:** A Bible and Kerygma's Resource Book: \$15;  
Large Print: \$16.50 (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/studies](http://www.fedchurch.org/events/studies). Max 12 participants.

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

## 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, August 23, 11:15 am on Zoom (<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/261964671>)**

### Racial Justice

#### Chagrin Park Community Center

Chagrin Falls Park is looking for small groups of five to six volunteers who might be willing to help out on Saturday morning August 8 or Monday morning August 10 doing some trash clean up. There will be dumpsters at the community center and Bainbridge Township is providing front end loaders for large items. This is strictly an opportunity for residents to get rid of their debris and larger trash items, not a general "pick up trash" event. Volunteers are needed to help older residents get items to the curb or to the dumpster. Volunteers will be in small teams, with masks and gloves, socially distanced. Contact Tricia Baumgartner [tricia.a.baumgartner@gmail.com](mailto:tricia.a.baumgartner@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

Chagrin Falls Park residents need dish soap and laundry detergent (unscented). Drop off at the Community Center at 7060 Woodland Ave. Knock on the door and let someone know you have left your donation at the door.

#### Anti-Racism Tip of the Month

Support [bail reform](#) and [The Bail Project](#). The Bail Project™ National Revolving Bail Fund is a critical tool to prevent incarceration and combat racial and economic disparities in the bail system.

### Environmental Justice

#### Electronics Recycling

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

#### Environmental Tip of the Month

1. *Styrofoam cups, plates or bowls* – they are not biodegradable. (Buy paper or compostable instead.)
2. *Farm raised salmon* – high levels of toxins and PCBs. (Buy wild caught instead.)
3. *Beauty/body care products with parabens and phthalates* – these chemicals are linked to birth defects and cancer. (Choose products that have signed on to the Campaign for Safe Products.)
4. *Plastic wrap* – it has PVCs which are toxic and leach into your food. (Use glass storage or reusable lids.)
5. *High VOC paints and finishes* – can cause health problems like dizziness and lung, kidney damage. (Choose low- or no-VOC paints, stains, and varnishes.)
6. *Bleached coffee filters* – contaminated with dioxins during the bleaching process, linked to cancer. (Buy unbleached paper filters or a reusable filter.)
7. *Over-packaged foods and other products* – over 33% of our household trash is due to over-packaging. (Buy products with minimal or reusable packaging or buy in bulk and use your own containers.)
8. *Teak and mahogany* – 27 million acres of rain-forest is destroyed every year from harvesting these woods. (Look for Forest Stewardship Council certified wood.)

# 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>
- 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.

#### **Movie Night—Monday, August 17 at 7:00 pm**

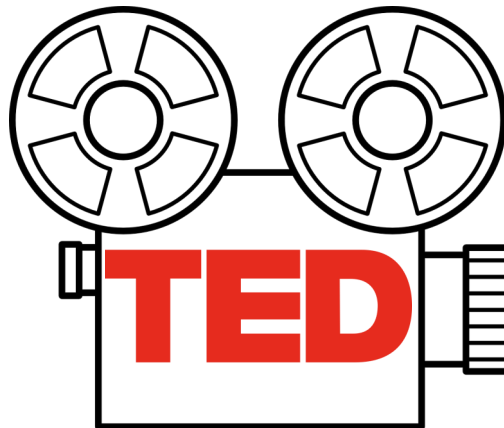
At your leisure, watch these three TED Talks about voting. Each one is about 13 minutes.

1. There is no such thing as not voting—Eric Liu: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqOjj1FCcVY>
2. What's needed to bring the US voting system into the 21st century—Tiana Epps-Johnson:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PK8PR22-c\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PK8PR22-c_U)
3. Immigrant voices make democracy stronger—Sayu Bhojwani : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=od6iSvF1UmA>

Log into Movie night Zoom call on **August 17 at 7:00**. Hope to see you there!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?pwd=U1VxZU5SZoNjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVlWdzog>

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



# Faith Formation and Spirituality

## Spirits and Spirituality is Back!

"Spirits and Spirituality" is back this summer, and is meeting via Zoom at **7:00 pm on Mondays, July 27 and August 10**, with Judy Bagley-Bonner facilitating.

This is a program where people meet to discuss intriguing questions about life such as, "What is your favorite time of day?" or "do you believe in an afterlife, and if so, what kind?" or "Who has most influenced your faith?" The facilitator will provide the questions each week.

It is called "Spirits and Spirituality" because when meeting in person, the group meets at a pub. But you do not have to drink "spirits" to attend! We do follow a few general guidelines such as: There are no wrong answers; No judging; No political discussions; Share "air time."

Because we will be meeting on Zoom, which can be cumbersome, the groups will be limited to 15 participants each time and registration is required. Please email Judy directly at [jbagbon@gmail.com](mailto:jbagbon@gmail.com) to register and note for which night/s you are registering.

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# Telling Our Story Commission Spotlight

## The good news is this: Church has not been cancelled!

Because of you and the time, talent, and treasure you bring, Federated's "doors" are swinging wide open. You are helping us learn new ways of "being together while we're apart."

**Federated has pivoted in near-miraculous ways to offer, in part:**

**Sunday services livestreamed** on our YouTube channel at 10:00 am offering a full worship service ([YouTube.com/TheFederatedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/TheFederatedChurch)), including beautiful music (and already two baptisms!) with Sunday School via Zoom afterward;

The UCC **White Privilege Curriculum** (via Zoom) this summer (*five full classes* being offered!), which invites church and community members to engage in safe, meaningful, substantive, and bold conversations on race;

A **"Still We Sing" choral workshop** for all singers to join members of the Federated Choir in a unique virtual devotional on Thursday evenings, led by former Music Director Amanda Powell;

Online **Confirmation and Inquirers classes** culminated in new young adult and adult members;

The Monday evening **"Spirits & Spirituality" sessions** where people meet via Zoom to discuss intriguing questions about life - facilitated by Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner, who's with us this summer;

And a **nonperishable and canned food drive** for St. Paul's food pantry to fill their empty shelves, as well as a **cleaning supplies drive** for our neighbors in the Chagrin Falls Park community.

Thank you for being with us and inspiring us during these times. We continue to be the church because of you!