



FEDERATED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

July 12

Welcome!

Upcoming Activities and Opportunities at Federated

Worship Services Online

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, **all in-person worship services are canceled through and including September 6.**

View an online stream of worship at:

[YouTube.com/TheFederatedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/TheFederatedChurch)

The building will be locked up .
All events and meetings are canceled.

Latest updates can be found at

[fedchurch.org/covid](https://www.fedchurch.org/covid).

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

Ahead At The Fed

Sunday, July 19

10 am Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner preaches
Online Worship
*Music by Marcia Snavely and a trio:
Laura Otis, Susan Brooks & Kathy Muzik*

July 19 - Scriptures

Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 26

10 am Rev. Mark Simone preaches
UCC Christmas in July offering collected
Online Worship
*Music by Joshua Konow and a duet:
Ted Rodenborn and Keith Mast*

We welcome you to The Federated Church, a place to belong and a place to become. We are people just like you, who hope and love and hurt, and we have found that Jesus Christ makes a transforming difference in our daily lives. Your presence matters to us. We open our hearts to you.

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).

Next SJAM Meeting — Sunday, July 12, 11:15 am on Zoom
(Meeting ID: 261-964-671 Passcode: 44022).

Movie Night—Monday, July 20 at 7:00 pm

Watch “Suppressed: The Right to Vote” at your leisure. This 38-minute film deals with voter suppression in Georgia in 2018 and is all the more relevant following June’s primary election. Follow this link to view the film: <https://vimeo.com/user49077866/fighttovote>

Log into Movie night Zoom call on **July 20 at 7:00** for one hour of discussion and action steps planning! Hope you can join us by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?pwd=U1VxZU5SZoNjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVlWdz09>

Contact Kathy Franz (440.543.4086 or kfranz17114@gmail.com) with questions.

Christmas in July Offering

Next Sunday, July 26

The Christmas in July offering (sometimes called Veterans of the Cross offering) is an expression of appreciation and caring to those who served as clergy (and certain lay employees) who are now retired or disabled and financially strained. The offering is a profound gift. It helps provide pension supplements, health premium subsidies and emergency assistance to active or retired clergy families and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of retirees and those who are disabled.

August SPIRE Deadline

Do you have something you’d like to see in the August SPIRE?

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

Secure Ways to Pay Your Pledge!

- Online: <https://onrealm.org/fedchurch/give>
- Mobile App: Download “Connect – Our Church Community”
- Text: “FEDCHURCH” to “73256”

Questions? Contact Janis Stefanchik, bookkeeper, x114 or business@fedchurch.org

Convergence to Lead Federated Toward Visionary Action Plan!

Why do we need an action plan?

Millions of Americans hunger for the kind of grace, purpose, community, and hope God can realize through Federated. So why is our church membership, participation, and financial sustainability declining year after year? It doesn't have to continue that way. Instead, we need to develop a comprehensive action plan.

At February's Annual Meeting of the Congregation our moderator, Beth Rutkowski, named a three-pronged approach to dealing with declining trends: 1) Partner with the Community Life Collaborative (CLC); 2) Develop a clear vision and actionable steps that identify community needs and align resources; and 3) Better understand and review our stewardship trends and behaviors. Your Church Council is dedicated to this three-pronged approach in order to mitigate decline and develop the capacity and structures for Federated's bright future. **An action plan will focus our energies and align our resources** so we can pivot as a responsive and compassionate community of faith.

Why now?

The world as we know it has been turned upside-down. People all around are in crisis, the world is crying out for deep listening and substantive action, and the church stands at a crossroads between the past and the future. **Extraordinary times call for extraordinary action.** Fortunately for Federated, even before the pandemic-related shut down, our Church Council was already in the process of researching and interviewing organizations skilled in guiding church transformation. We selected Convergence to guide our pathway forward.

Why collaborate with Convergence?

By collaborating with an organization like [Convergence](#), we believe the congregation will be able to conceive our future within a larger context and with fresh, innovative ideas. We selected Convergence to help us navigate this process because their **leadership represent front lines of church reform and forward thinking**. We spoke with congregations they had worked with who consistently heralded substantive change and supported action. Additionally, Convergence offers continued coaching to leadership teams and staff so we move strategically from plan to action that is sustainable for many years to come. Beginning August 2020, leaders from Convergence will engage our congregation and staff in critical conversation, self-assessment, envisioning, and then mobilizing action teams.

In preparation for a Zoom Forum with Convergence CEO, Rev. Cameron Trimble, we invite all members to read [Ten Ways the Church Will Be Changed By COVID-19](#), written by Cameron in April 2020. We look forward to engaging your questions and thoughts to launch a collaborative journey to a promising future!

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

Doug Yaecker, 75 Olive St., Chagrin Falls, OH 44022-3116, who is hospitalized with health concerns.

Each week, we ask your prayers for two of our staff members. This week please pray for **Larry McGurer** and **Kin Barber**.

For July, the Mission & Service Commission is asking us to keep in prayer one of our church's mission partners, **GROUP Work Camp and its scholarship fund**.

The Fellowship of Prayer Note Writers for this week are:

Myia Sterling, 440.338.4893; Carol Kelly, Elsie Lutman, Janet Peters, Sonja Solar, Nelson Fenner.

Please forward prayer requests to Kiersti Critchfield kcritchfield@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 x103. Our Pastoral Care Team and our Prayer and Praise Team will pray for your requests.

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

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