

September 2020



THE SPIRE

THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Federated Church Will Remain Closed Through 2020

During these difficult and unprecedented times, we all find ourselves having to make difficult and unprecedented decisions. As such, The Federated Church will remain closed to in-person, indoor activities through the end of the calendar year. This decision did not come lightly or without considerable thought and discussion by the church's lay leadership, clergy, and staff. But it is the most prudent decision for a myriad of reasons.

For **Health & Safety reasons**, closure remains the most assured way to keep our members and guests safe from spreading and catching COVID-19. Since we first made the decision in March to refrain from gathering, the conditions of the pandemic have not changed: contagion and outbreaks are still widespread, cases and deaths continue to rise, and testing, treatments, and preventative measures have not progressed significantly. We maintain that the health of our congregation and community is still the most important consideration, especially for so many in our church who are at high risk.

For **Operational reasons**, the re-opening of our facility would be multi-layered and complicated. It would involve monitoring all attendees for health conditions, requiring/providing personal PPEs, pre-registration to allow for contact tracing, and levying heavy restrictions on the number of attendees, as well as restrictions on distancing and contact behavior between attendees. Some of the things we miss most, like visiting and sitting with friends, chatting before and after the service, singing, and taking communion together would not be allowed at all. We have seen many churches decide to reopen only to have to shut down almost immediately.

For **Spiritual reasons**, we believe it is our duty as good citizens of our community and our world to do everything in our power to help stop the spread of this world-wide pandemic that has already taken the lives of hundreds of thousands. God calls us to be "the light of the world... so that others may see our good works and give glory to God." (paraphrased Matthew 5: 14,16) We want to be leaders in our community setting the example for how to be responsible and loving to each other and the earth.

Our leadership will continue to monitor health and safety guidelines and local COVID-19 conditions from the county boards of health, the state of Ohio, and the CDC. We will continue to consult with medical and public health officials and rely on the scientific understanding of this virus to make decisions going forward.

In the meantime, and most importantly, we will work diligently to find new and creative opportunities for spiritual growth, learning, reflection, worship, and connection with each other. Please be open to new ideas and technologies that can make this possible and if you're inclined to offer suggestions of ways you would like to connect, don't hesitate to provide them.

We hope you understand what is at the heart of this decision and thank you for your support.

God bless you,
Beth Rutkowski, Moderator
Hamilton Throckmorton, Senior Pastor
Melissa Owen, Senior Director of People and Operations

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, September 6

Rev. Mark Simone preaches on theme:
Never Too Late To Love
Communion celebrated
10 am Online Worship*
Music by Marcia Snavelly, Kiko Weinroth & Barry Stees

Sunday, September 13—Rally Day

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches on theme: Forgiveness
10 am Online Worship*

Sunday, September 20

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches on theme: Unearned Blessing
10 am Online Worship*

Sunday, September 27

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches on theme: The Paradox of Good Intentions
10 am Online Worship*

* *The church building is closed and worship has been moved online through the end of 2020. You can access the worship service streams by following the links at www.fedchurch.org.*

From Hamilton's Desk

Dear Friends,

What a gift it is to be the church of Jesus Christ that is Federated Church, and to embark, this fall, on a new program year! With COVID-19 still reverberating in every corner of our lives, it will certainly be a radically different beginning than we have ever had before. And, at the same time, we come together knowing that, no matter what life brings us, God is present and alive.

I

For Mary and me, the summer has been spent mostly in Northeast Ohio. We were also fortunate, after quarantining, to be able to visit my mother, as well as my brother and his family, in Maine; and to see our children, Taylor, outside of Chicago, and Alex and Cynthia and their daughters, Allie and Riley, in Columbus. It has been a summer full of blessings.

II

One of the gifts of summer, for me, is the chance to read much more widely than I am able to do during the rest of the year. I thought I'd give you a little thumbnail about my reading. On the theological front, I appreciated Kate Bowler's *Everything Happens for a Reason*. Bowler teaches at Duke University Divinity School and has also suffered with Stage IV colon cancer. Her book is a candid memoir, and its somewhat sarcastic title is a warning to all of us not to engage in the sort of facile and dismissive false comfort we may be tempted to offer people when they suffer.

Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility* is a brave and bracing acknowledgement by a white consultant on racial issues that we are all unavoidably racist. We are racist not because we are abject moral failures, but rather because the society in which we live has so thoroughly demeaned and dehumanized and subjugated Black people. And we are all part of that culture. Her book is a valuable contribution to our crucial conversation about race at this inflection point in American history.

A special joy for me has been Craig Barnes' *Diary of a Pastor's Soul*. Barnes is the President of Princeton Theological Seminary, and for many years was the pastor of a Presbyterian church in Pittsburgh. His reflections on what it's been like to be a pastor put words to my experiences, as well. He beautifully evokes the struggles and joys, the emptiness and fullness of ministry.

Lynn Casteel Harper has written a stimulating book on our culture's struggle with how to deal with dementia. Part memoir, part impassioned plea, Harper's thesis, in a nutshell, is that we have pushed people with dementia to the margins of society and have not dealt well with caring for those at the end of life. I found it to be immensely engaging, sobering, and hopeful.

Glennon Doyle's *Untamed* was a gift, as well. I had heard of her as the writer of the wonderfully-named Momastery blog, but hadn't read much of her writing. *Untamed* is Doyle's account of her discovery of her deeper identity, and of her fierceness in living her life authentically. She writes beautifully, and I found her book to be lively and refreshing.

Two novels utterly absorbed me. Delia Owens' *Where the Crawdads Sing* had been recommended by several people. Both a whodunit and a remarkable evocation of a young girl's connection to, and love for, her home on the North Carolina coast, it's a gripping story.

The other novel was Mary Beth Keane's *Ask Again, Yes*. Equally absorbing, it's a saga about two families who are neighbors in New York. A terrible act produces an enormous rift. It's a story of self-discovery and forgiveness and reconciliation, tenderly told and evocatively rendered.

In tending to my own spiritual life, I read Thomas Keating's *Open Mind, Open Heart* and David Steindl-Rast's *Gratitude, The Heart of Prayer*. I highly recommend them both as vehicles for helping to deepen the life of the soul.

III

As we embark upon a new program year, I want to first acknowledge the pain of our not being able to gather in person. There is something about bodies sharing space together that is quite unlike any electronic connection. I suspect I speak for nearly all of us in lamenting that loss.

At the same time, we are still the church—blessed by God and called into a joyful, energetic service of this fragile and beautiful world. Our staff and Church Council, commissions and committees are hard at work seeking ways to embody God's presence and call in this strikingly new era.

So join us this fall and be part of life in this remarkable church. Worship with us online on Sunday mornings, or when you get the chance later in the day or the week. Share your hopes and dreams and commitment as Federated works with Convergence on a Visionary Action Plan. Find ways to connect with neighbors and your church family. We are immensely grateful, too, for the ongoing financial support you offer, and invite your continuing generosity.

We are blessed to be a blessing. May we unite this fall to be the joyful, exuberant, generous, and faithful children of God. Nothing could be finer!

Yours in Christ,

Hamilton

News and Info

Federated Launches a Visionary Action Plan

As we head into a new program year amidst unprecedented circumstances, we are taking the time to review and plan for our church's future and how we might make the most of our impact in our community. Many of you have participated in two webinars provided this summer by Convergence and its CEO, Rev. Cameron Trimble. This has set the stage for the launch of our Visionary Action Plan.

On Rally Day, September 13, we will launch the first phase of this plan by releasing an online assessment that we are asking EVERYONE to complete. This will provide the basis for understanding how our members perceive where we currently are and what priorities are at the top of their minds going forward. You will be provided a link through email and can also find it on our website at fedchurch.org/convergence when it becomes available on September 13. Enter password: **FEDERATED76**

The assessment will be available for four weeks. If you or someone you know is not able to participate in the assessment online, please let us know and we will be happy to provide the questions by mail or take your answers over the phone. In order for this process to work most effectively, we need 60% of our active members to complete the assessment. So be on the lookout and be ready to provide your thoughts and opinions.

RALLY DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, September 13 | Family Life Center starting at 12:00 pm

"While we can't be together as we'd like to be – we can come together to feed our community!" This is the theme of our Rally Day celebration this year.

While the pandemic prevents us from gathering in person-to-person meetings, we are hosting an alternative Rally Day that will celebrate our wide array of ministries and enable us to respond to the food needs of our community.

In addition to helping our congregation connect, we will be helping the food ministries of Chagrin Falls Park and the Bainbridge Food for Friends as they minister to their communities in this time of urgent need.

The Rally will take place at the Family Life Center on Sunday, September 13 starting at noon. Members are asked to drive to the Family Life Center where they will pass by the display of banners that celebrate the ministries of our church and proceed to the food trailer where they can place their donations for the hunger centers. (Items listed below)

We are also creating a montage of messages from our members and families and asking each to bring a letter size sheet with your family names and a short message of love, faith or hope for our times. Artistic embellishments are encouraged, but not necessary.

After dropping off your food and message, cars will gather in the parking lot for a short program that will begin at 12:30 pm from Council and our commissions to update you on how our ministries have been carrying on in the midst of the pandemic and what our plans are for the future.

Even though we will only be able to greet each other from our cars, the gathering will give us a chance to see one another and to be reminded that we are still the church – still recipients of grace – still called to follow in the way of Christ our Lord. It will feel good to be TOGETHER – if only at a safe distance. We hope you'll come to celebrate the ministries of our church and to respond to the needs of our community in Christ's name.

Specific items needed for the hunger centers:

Food: Mac-n-cheese, SpaghettiOs, rice, pancake mix and syrup, flour, sugar, saltine crackers, cookies, peanut butter, dried beans.

Personal items: toilet paper, tissues, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, dishwashing liquid, bar soap, disinfecting spray and wipes

Telling Our Story Commission Spotlight

**The building may be closed, but the good news is...
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:

Sunday services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel at 10 am offering a full worship service ([YouTube.com/TheFederatedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/TheFederatedChurch)) to a widening congregation, including beautiful music, with Sunday School via Zoom afterward at 11:30 am;

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

On Wednesday evenings, the Kerygma "**Your Bible! The Study Begins**" class is being conducted online for members and friends alike;

Our **Work Camp** youth program is matching gifts given in memory of the wife of Rev. Ramon Arroyo, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Corozal in Puerto Rico, who hosted them last year. Funds will be designated to their church for relief efforts underway from the COVID-19 pandemic and damage sustained by Hurricane Isaias;

The Pastoral Care team is actively coordinating the **Angel Phone Tree and Errand Ministry**;

Virtual Coffee Fellowship is taking place after Sunday services via Zoom - a great time to catch up with fellow congregants. The first time Ken Horner taught us all how to use virtual backgrounds!

An **Outdoor Prayer Service** with Communion was held in August at the Family Life Center parking lot;

Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) is continuing their movie nights, Zoom meetings, and action steps (See P.11);

This summer Rev. Judy Bagley Bonner offered a second round of her popular **Spirits and Spirituality** program;

Sit & Stitch is meeting Thursday mornings outside at a local park to continue making and distributing much-needed comfort items like Prayer Shawls and Prayer Squares, as well as scarves and hats for when it's not so hot;

The Convergence consulting firm, hired to help Federated create a **Visionary Action Plan**, got their first chance to meet the congregation via two after-Sunday service online forums;

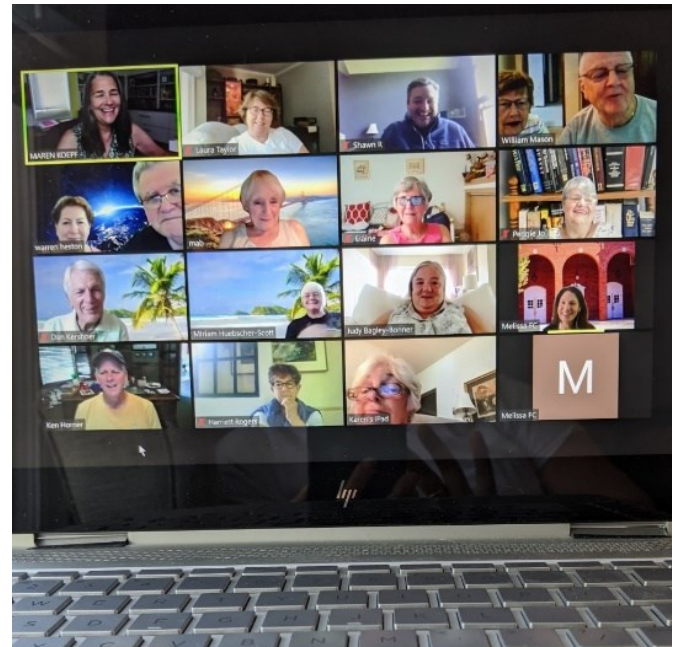
Parish Nurse Ministry opens their clinic every Tuesday for the St. Paul's Community Church neighborhood;

The Friday afternoon **Mahjong players** are playing games together online;

Tributaries: Yoga~Spirit~Renewal is held Tuesday mornings on the Family Life Center Labyrinth (See P. 9);

and **Rally Day** will be celebrated in-car at the Family Life Center on September 13 (See P.3)

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



News and Info

Is this Your Stock Donation?

Federated is so thankful to members who have made donations from investments. However, in one circumstance, we don't know yet who to thank!

There was an E*Trade CD Disbursement donation, which the Church received recently with no donor name attached.

Was this from you? And was this a payment for the 2020 Stewardship campaign or for the Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign?

The information the church receives from the investment trading companies does not include the member's name.



If this was from you, please call or email Janis Stefanchik, Federated's bookkeeper at business@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 x114.

October SPIRE Deadline

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

Please email your information to communications@fedchurch.org by **Tuesday, September 15** and include "SPIRE" in the subject line.
Thank you!

Mission & Service

St. Paul's Parish Nurse Supplies Collection

September 23-25, 10:00 am—1:00 pm

76 Bell St. Parking Lot

The Mission & Service Commission will be leading a collection of supplies for St. Paul's Parish Nurse, Kathy Kolcaba. The outreach clinic is up & running & in need of supplies. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Thank you for your help with this very important mission.

- Men's T-shirts and briefs (not "tighty-whities")
- White and dark work socks, men's and women's
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Soap
- Deodorants
- Women's panties, all sizes
- Condoms
- Poise pads (thick and medium)
- Panty liners
- Tampons, all sizes

- Healing skin lotion
- Antibiotic ointment
- Vaseline
- Small packages of baby wipes
- Razors, small shaving creams
- Toilet paper
- Kleenex packs
- Face masks
- Foot powder
- Ace bandages
- Travel-sized shampoo & hand lotion
- Sanitizing Products
- Sets of long underwear
- Winter gloves
- Winter hats

If you have questions about items, you can contact the Parish Nurse, Kathy Kolcaba, at 440.655.2098. Thanks again for all of your support.

Blood Drive Volunteer Coordinator Needed

We need a volunteer to coordinate dates and volunteers for future Red Cross blood drives. Bill and Carole Mason have retired from the position, and we are looking for someone to take their place. It's a great job for one or two people.

If you are interested in volunteering or want to know more, contact Linda Zelazny: linzel65@gmail.com or 440.338.4918.

Faith Formation and Spirituality

Worship Series, Fall, 2020

Confounding Discipleship: The Strangeness of God's Gifts and Expectations

During the fall of 2020, we will be engaging texts and stories from Matthew's gospel, exploring together the richness and mystery of both the grace God offers and the life of discipleship God invites. The gifts are abundant. The expectations are bracing and full of promise. Join us as we attend to God's strange and wonderful assurances, as well as to what it means to live a full and faith-filled life.

September 13, Rally Day: Matthew 18:21-35; Forgiveness

September 20: Matthew 20:1-16; Unearned Blessing

September 27: Matthew 21:23-32; The Paradox of Good Intentions

October 4: Matthew 21:33-46; Are There Limits to God's Favor?

October 11: Matthew 22:1-14; Dressing Appropriately for God's Banquet

October 18: Matthew 22:15-22; What Belongs to the Emperor and What Belongs to God?

October 25, Reformation Sunday: Matthew 22:34-46; The Impossible Great Commandment

November 1, All Saints Day: Matthew 23:1-12; Greatness and Humility

November 8: Matthew 25:1-13; Being Ready for God's Coming

November 15: Matthew 25:14-30; Making the Most of Our Gifts

November 22: Matthew 25:31-46; The Least of These

Having trouble getting past Genesis or beyond Matthew, Mark, Luke and John?

The Bethel Bible Series could be for you! Attend an Info Session

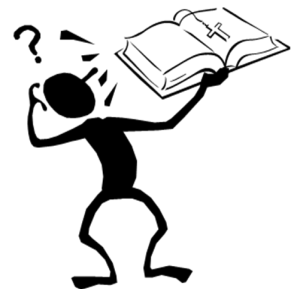
Peggie Jo Shinagawa, a certified Bethel instructor, will be teaching another Bethel Bible Series starting this Fall.

Bethel provides auditory and visual tools for the Old and New Testaments to help you establish a sound Biblical knowledge involving emphasis on key Biblical concepts and 40 professionally prepared "teaching" pictures with corresponding lessons. Bethel Bible Study requires a discipline and commitment. The entire course is made up of 43 or 44 classes that usually span two years, but with COVID, we are likely to complete the course within 12 months. The decision to take a break, and/or how long a break, will be made by the class at the appropriate time.

Classes will be on Zoom and are 1.5 hours in length. There is some homework involved, but not checked. Lessons are recorded in the event you need to miss a class. Class size is limited to 15 students, with a minimum of 8. The cost is \$50 for digital versions, or \$120 (including \$5.00 to share the shipping costs) for printed versions of the materials. You will also need a good study Bible, if you don't already have one.

Please attend any of the following one-hour Zoom sessions to learn more about Bethel and to share the day and time that best works for you. The schedule of the Bethel class will be tailored to meet the needs of the majority of the students.

- Thursday, August 27 at 10:30 am
- Saturday, August 29 at 11:00 am
- Monday, August 31 at 7:30 pm
- Wednesday, September 2 at 1:00pm



Join at <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89081126556?pwd=Y304TUZ2U05HMFJ3U2NIWUNxdll1QT09>

If you have any questions please contact Peggie Jo Shinagawa at pjshinagawa@windstream.net.

Mission & Service

Mission and Service Commission will not be Soliciting Applications for the 2020 Christmas Eve Offering

How many ways can a pandemic change how we do things at Federated? Add the Christmas Eve Offering to the list.

The Mission and Service Commission carefully thought out how to best proceed in 2020 with the knowledge that our current mission partners are suffering financially under the strain of COVID19. In the next two months the commission will be studying the needs of our current mission partners and will present a plan for the Federated Church Christmas Eve Offering for December 2020.

Thank you for your understanding and prayerful support.

Parish Nurse Corner

Word has been getting out that the Parish Nurse is available on Tuesday mornings. Folks have been very grateful for the assistance in a variety of ways: first aid, hygiene supplies, a chance to ask questions about COVID19, dealing with anxiety over normal procedures (dental or podiatry), blood pressures that are too high, and the overlay of constantly changing COVID news. A 57-year-old client needed to talk about his ex-girlfriend who was unfaithful to him. "I am too old to start over..." It's a bleak time for those who are living day to day, with unreliable shelter, transportation, and food. They also come to us for the human connection because they trust us for our friendship and good will.

I say "we" because my friend Leslie Fincun substituted for three weeks in August while I was on vacation. She loves the staff and parishioners at St. Paul's as much as I do, and often comes in to help with paperwork when not needed in the clinic. Paperwork is an essential part of the mission at the church, because of lost or stolen identification and the many hoops needed to get through for replacements of driver's licenses, birth certificates, and social security numbers. Leslie also serves as a liaison between St. Paul's and the Mission and Outreach Commission at Federated.

As always, donations are appreciated, as St. Paul's no longer is able to contribute to the hygiene supplies that are so much in demand. A check can be mailed to the church, with Parish Nurse in the memo line. Or supplies like toothpaste, deodorant, lotion, and even cool weather gear can be dropped off at my house, 84 Hall Street, on my back porch. The screened porch is not locked and in nice weather, supplies can also be left on the deck attached to the porch.

Thank you for your interest and support of the Parish Nurse Program at St. Paul's. If you are interested in volunteering or hearing more, please call me at 440.655.2098. We are also having a special collection of supplies (read more on p.5).

Sincerely,
Kathy Kolcaba

Virtual Fundraiser for HOLA

In lieu of its annual gala held at the Family Life Center, HOLA Ohio is planning a month-long virtual raffle in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, **September 15 - October 15**. The raffle will feature a variety of items from local Chagrin Falls and Greater Cleveland area businesses, including Lowes Greenhouse, The Popcorn Shop, Chagrin Yoga, Loganberry Books, Heinens, and many more. Support HOLA's work keeping Latino and immigrant families together, while also supporting your neighborhood small businesses. Please find details at holaohio.org and facebook.com/holaohio.

HOLA Ohio is a 501c3 nonprofit organization based in Painesville with a mission to improve quality-of-life opportunities and empower the Latino community through outreach, education, civic engagement, entrepreneurship and skills development. HOLA is proud to be a mission partner of The Federated Church.

Federated Happenings



Yoga on the Labyrinth

When: Tuesdays 8:30-9:30 am—Tuesdays

Calm the anxious mind with a gentle practice. Suggested donation: Seven classes for \$85 or \$15 drop-in. We will practice safe distancing, you are welcome to wear a mask, but they are not required.

Contact Polly Manke at polly@pollymanke.com to register and get more information.

Gentle Slow Flow Yoga

with Dawn Dole, RYT 200

7:00 pm on Thursdays, September 10, 17, 24. (Virtual, online - join from the comfort of your own home.)

And 10:00 am on Mondays, September 14, 21, 28. (This class may be available both virtual and outside on the Labyrinth at the Family Life Center with physical distancing. Yet to be determined. Let Dawn know you are interested in Monday morning class and she will communicate with you about the details.)

In these stressful times dealing with COVID and social unrest in society, we need opportunities and skills for reducing stress and anxiety. We can learn and create ways to experience calm and peace and yoga combined with breath and meditation is a wonderful way to do this.

In this **Gentle Slow Flow Yoga** class we link breath, movement, and poses together. Balance, calm and peacefulness result from attention to the breath as we move through the physical postures. All levels of yoga participants can find their personal challenges, as they slowly and mindfully move through the class. 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: newdayyoga.dawn@gmail.com.

Gentle Chair Yoga Class

with Dawn Dole, RYT 200

We are exploring to see if there is an interest in a Gentle Chair Yoga offering. Please let us know if you are interested. This 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, reducing stress and anxiety, and improving 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.

The day and time of this class is yet to be determined.

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 (440.821.7795 or wfranz@roadrunner.com).

Next SJAM Meeting — Sunday, September 20, 11:15 am on Zoom

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/261964671?pwd=czFEQ1lRZlJlUjk2dHE4NGdQaVFTUTog>

Voting Rights

Our Faith, Our Vote

The problems in our world often seem too big to confront. We see injustice every day and feel that change can't or won't happen. But our faith is infused with hope and built on a foundation of action. By serving the vulnerable, feeding the hungry, and standing in solidarity with the oppressed, we serve as God's hands. Your voice is your vote.

Our Faith, Our Vote is an initiative of the UCC at the national level. SJAM members have attended online seminars and access resources. You can too <https://www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote>

National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 22, 2020

As part of Our Faith, Our Vote and as part of National Voter Registration Day, we are offering a voting education Zoom session on **Tuesday, September 22 7:00- 8:00 pm**. Hosted by SJAM, this event will provide an opportunity to hear from local leaders and ask questions about voting. We can help with voter registration and verify that you are registered. And, as always, the chance to chat with fellow Federated friends is an extra bonus. Log onto this Zoom call at 7:00 pm.

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?pwd=U1VxZU5SZoNjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVlWdzog>

* Movie Night Note

This National Voter Registration Day event will take the place of the September Movie night. In October and thereafter Movie nights will revert back to the third Monday of the month.

Voter Education

Do you have a plan for voting? Voting by mail, early voting and going to the polls are all options.

If you have questions, Federated's Social Justice Advocacy Ministry team is here to help. Judy Majcen and Tricia Baumgartner are active with several voting advocacy groups. If they cannot answer your questions, they will be sure to find the answer and get back to you. They are also more than happy to get the application for voting by mail to any who might not be able to access the form online.

Judy Majcen: 216.570.8982 or jomajcen@gmail.com

Tricia Baumgartner: 440.708.6231 or tricia.a.baumgartner@gmail.com

Voting Volunteers

Ways to get involved: All of these voting advocacy organizations are non-partisan and looking for volunteers. Sign up or register on any of these websites! Remember every vote counts.

- NOVA-Ohio, <https://nova-ohio.org/>
- Protect the Vote: A non-partisan election protection coalition of organizations including LWV, ACLU and SPLC.
- Rock the Vote www.rockthevote.org
- Mobilize the Vote <https://www.mobilize.us/>
- Mom Demand Action for Gun Sense in America endorsing Gun Sense Candidates clevelandmomschapter@gmail.com
- League of Women Voters Greater Cleveland <https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-greater-cleveland>
- Vote Forward www.votefwd.org They provide non-partisan letters for you to print out that encourage voters to vote.

Federated Happenings

Social and Environmental Justice (SJAM) News, continued

Racial Justice

Ohio Anti-Racism Sunday

The Ohio Council of Churches has designated September 20 Anti-Racism Sunday. Federated will devote parts of the service that Sunday to this topic.

Anti-Racism

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.

Chagrin Falls Park Community Center

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.

Music Fundamentals Class

When: Monday evenings, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

How: Online via Zoom

Dates: Every Monday, September 21 - November 23 (10 weeks)

Following up on the "Intro to Music" class offered last fall, the "Music Fundamentals" class will take a deeper dive into music notation, theory, structure, and patterns. Participants in the class will learn how to read music from the ground up, gaining new confidence to sing weekly hymns, learn to play simple melodies on the piano, count rhythm confidently, and understand why music is written how it is.

Everyone is welcome to attend no matter if you're a seasoned music veteran or a new beginner. This 10 week course will be participatory and responsive giving participants an opportunity to have their questions answered! Led by Joshua Konow, Director of Music Ministries, and taking advantage of Zoom technology, this class will be immersive and engaging.

Register by contacting Joshua Konow at jkonow@fedchurch.org or calling 440.247.6490 x 120

Choir is Back!

When: Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:30 pm

How: Online via Zoom

Starting Thursday, September 3

Despite not being able to rehearse in-person, choir rehearsals will resume online for the fall. Director Joshua Konow will lead Zoom sessions with weekly piece selections that will be emailed to all choir members before each rehearsal. The choir will then be taught parts, hear the accompaniment, and discuss interpretive ideas that would bring the piece to life. While Zoom prevents simultaneous group singing, it does still allow us the ability to gather as a group and regain a small bit of that community the choir so dearly normally enjoys. Each rehearsal will end with group prayer and a chance to connect.

If you have ever been interested in singing in the choir, or have a love for music in general, this is a perfect, low-stress opportunity to get involved! Even if you are not a well-versed music reader, you can still come to the Zoom sessions to learn about how choral music is brought to life and try to sing a few of the parts! Simply confirm your participation by emailing Joshua Konow at jkonow@fedchurch.org or calling 440.247.6490 x 120

Federated Happenings

Electronic Recycling Drive-through Collection

Saturday, October 24 | 9:00 am—2:00 pm

76 Bell St. Parking Lot

Masks must be worn when dropping off items to the truck in the lot. DO NOT drop off items before this date and time.

Acceptable Items for Collection: Computers, tablets, keyboards, mice, cords, printers, cell phones, telecom equipment, networking equipment, servers, video games, stereo equipment, electronic equipment, batteries, cables, ink cartridges, DVDs, CD players, cable boxes, media players. TVs and monitors accepted with a fee payable on drop-off.

Details to come in the October SPIRE, or go to fedchurch.org/events to see more now.

Family, Youth, and Children's Ministry

GROUP Updates for Senior High Youth

Hello GROUP members!

Even in these nutty times, GROUP is moving ahead for another year of cool, relevant and spiritually thought-provoking programs. This will all begin on Sunday, September 20. Our hope is to have some outdoor, mask-to-mask meetings in various places around town and in some of our parks. We are putting together a very fun collection of gatherings which we will send to you soon. For now, please be on the lookout for an email.

It would be so helpful to us to have your correct and current email address and your phone number. Please text them to me at 440.463.9439. I am trying to update our communications contacts. Emails will be very infrequent. We will send you a weekly text as a reminder of what is going on. GROUP is open to all teens in grades 9 to 12.

Thanks!
Mark Simone

Confirmation Families – Please Help

We are working hard to develop a different type of Confirmation experience for our 9th graders and up during this challenging time. I have a parent and student mailing that I want to get to you ASAP, but we are in need of email addresses for our families. If you have a new 9th grader and plan for her or him to be part of this year's awesome program, please send me both parent and student emails. This remains our best means of communication. Also, we would love to have student phone numbers so we can text reminders and unexpected changes.

Additionally, we hope to begin Confirmation on Sunday, September 20. We are going to strive to have some outdoor classes in September and October so we can be together, but in accordance with CDC and Ohio mandates. This promises to be very fun and a new way to experience our spiritual formation.

Thanks for your help on email addresses and phone numbers. You will be hearing from us very soon with a full schedule and other news.

Blessings and Peace,
Mark Simone