



October 2020

# THE SPIRE

## THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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

Tell us what you think: [www.fedchurch.org/convergence](http://www.fedchurch.org/convergence)

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. Rev. Cameron Trimble of Convergence was carefully selected by Federated Church Council to guide us into the future.

So far, Rev. Trimble has opened our eyes to: **The Great Unveiling: How the World is Changing and What it Means for the Church** and enlightened us with **Creative Churches: A Virtual Tour of Growing Churches Changing Their Communities**. If you missed out, both webinars are available for viewing at [fedchurch.org/convergence](http://fedchurch.org/convergence).

On Rally Day Sunday, we kicked off the next step of Visionary Action Plan, The Membership Survey, with a video from Rev. Trimble: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dUtBBerp2EjctBet2VOWBl1ieEHPSF8/view>

The Assessment Survey is an opportunity to explain how you currently participate, how you would like to participate, what is working and what could use some work. Your answers will enlighten the Convergence team as to who and where we are now and help guide us in the right direction as we move into the future. We need **full participation from everyone in the Federated faith community**. Your input is vital!

The Assessment Survey is now available. Click the button at: [www.fedchurch.org/convergence](http://www.fedchurch.org/convergence) and will be online until Sunday, October 11. It will take about 15-20 minutes to complete. Please complete it as soon as possible.

Printed copies are available for those who do not have computer access. To request one for yourself or someone you know, please contact [fedchurch@fedchurch.org](mailto:fedchurch@fedchurch.org) or call our office and leave a message: 440.247.6490 x111.



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### Outdoor Fellowship Hour

Sunday, October 4 | 11:30 am—12:30 pm  
Family Life Center Parking Lot

The Congregational Care Commission will be hosting an outdoor Fellowship Hour in the FLC parking lot on Sunday, Oct 4 following the worship service.

Please bring your own lawn chairs to place in the parking lot socially distanced away from other members. You are welcome to bring your own beverages or treats, but no food or beverage items will be shared. This will be a time to fellowship and be together following CDC guidelines, so masks are a must.

We will see you then!

# From Hamilton's Desk

Dear Friends,

As October rolls now into view, we come closer to Thanksgiving and Christmas, two holy days in which we take stock of our blessings and remember that we have been entrusted with much, and that, because we have been so blessed, we have the opportunity to give generously in return.

Some Federated leaders had a chance recently to engage with the Rev. Michael Piazza, a church consultant who thinks carefully and imaginatively about giving. Since we want you to make the church your "charity of choice," I want to remind you of some of what Federated does. And I can think of no better way to convey that generosity than to lift up what you did on Rally Day just a few weeks ago. That day, so many of you brought food and supplies to the Family Life Center so they could be distributed to people in need. During these pandemic times, as we know, countless people have been set way back and need help making it from month to month.

And you responded in spades. I want you to know what you are doing. **On Rally Day, together we contributed some 1500 pounds of food and supplies. There were 315 rolls of toilet paper, 60 jars of peanut butter, 100 cans of soups and sauces, 220 boxes of mac and cheese, 40 cans of vegetables, 140 bars of soap, and 67 tubes of toothpaste. There were boxes of pancake mix, cans of tuna fish, pasta, rice, potatoes, laundry detergent, snacks, bags of flour and sugar, cans of fruit, deodorant, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, maple syrup, toothbrushes, and more. Such generosity! Such a giving spirit!**

I want to remind you that everything you donate to and through the church gets to where we want it to go. The overhead is incredibly minimal, the advertising budget nil. If you want your gifts to reach the intended beneficiary, you cannot do better than to donate through Federated Church.

I also want to remind you that that's just the tip of the giving iceberg here at Federated. In countless ways, people donate their time to visit and feed and knit for others inside and outside the church, as well as to support organizations doing such important work "on the ground." Together we are part of a network of grateful generosity that stretches far and wide, and that makes a notable difference in the lives of so many.

So may we remember that. May you and I remember what God has done for us. And may we continue to give with such joyful generosity! It really is what makes life worthwhile!

Yours in Christ,  
Hamilton

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

### Sunday, October 4

Rev. Mark Simone preaches on theme: Are There Limits to God's Favor?  
UCC Neighbors in Need offering collected  
Communion celebrated  
10 am Online Worship\*  
*Children sing*

### Sunday, October 11

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches on theme: Dressing Appropriately for God's Banquet  
10 am Online Worship\*

### Sunday, October 18

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches on theme: What Belongs to the Emperor and What Belongs to God?  
10 am Online Worship\*

### Sunday, October 25

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches on theme: The Impossible Great Commandment  
10 am Online Worship\*  
*Music by Joshua Konow & the RISE Band*

*\* 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](http://www.fedchurch.org).*

# News and Info

***“Generosity is a privilege that everyone deserves.”***

The Stewardship Committee is taking advantage of this ‘virtual time’ and has been in conversation about intentionally moving away from an annual fall campaign. Instead, we will be working year-round to tell the story about the ministries that are alive and well because of Federated Church – because of you and your faith in action.



**Our work through Federated impacts people’s lives every day.** So, taking our historical practice of talking about contributing to God’s work once per year and intentionally shifting our focus to conversation about giving as a spiritual practice all year round is a natural progression. **It’s about you having the opportunity to take that action at any time and make a difference as it moves you and as it moves God.**

We, as a church, are making a difference to those within our own congregation and to those in our communities. You, as a member or friend of this church, are making that happen. We couldn’t be a **charity of choice** without You.

Stewardship should not be a “once-a-year” consideration. It’s an ongoing part of our individual faith journey – honoring God’s commitment to be present for us throughout the year. Currently, there is a church member who feels moved and wants to commit now! A year-round stewardship process would welcome her generosity at any time of the year- because she deserves the privilege to put her generosity in place anytime. And we’re inviting you to join her faith in action.

**You will be receiving a mailing in mid-October** and, as these unprecedented times demand, the contents of the letter will offer several ways that you can live into your faith by stating your intention to make a financial commitment to next year’s work. We can’t be together in our church building, so we won’t have the opportunity to bring our intentions up to the altar. Instead we’re putting processes in place for you to state your intentions via mail, and online via the church’s website or your individual Realm account.

We invite everyone to participate in this important initiative – pledging a portion of what God has so generously given.

Ken Horner  
Maren Koepf  
Ann Lentz  
Martine Scheuermann  
Laura Taylor, staff liaison to the Stewardship Committee

## Children’s Choir Fall Performances

The Federated Children's Choir is excited to perform on a limited basis this fall. Director Pat Haynish will meet with singers in small groups of three or four families each month to prepare to sing on October 4, November 8, and December 13.

The children will rehearse in the Sanctuary socially distant from each other. Masks must be worn to rehearsals. For the performances, the singers will be spread out across the altar area using separate microphones as the adult quartets have done over the summer, with siblings sharing a microphone.

If you have a singer currently in grades 1-8 who is interested in singing, please contact Pat Haynish ([phaynish@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phaynish@sbcglobal.net)) New families are always welcome!

## November SPIRE Deadline

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

Please email your information to [communications@fedchurch.org](mailto:communications@fedchurch.org) by **Thursday, October 15** and include **“SPIRE”** in the subject line.  
Thank you!



# News & Info

## Garden Guardians

All summer long, while volunteers gardened out at the Family Life Center, we've harvested heart-warming stories as grateful visitors crossed our paths. We wanted to share one story with you here.

Gardeners were weeding the side beds one evening when a couple approached the labyrinth to walk it in silence. Afterwards, they talked with us. The couple told us that the woman was battling cancer three years ago and heard about this place. They prayerfully walked it together. Her cancer is now in remission and the couple now makes an annual journey from Medina, Ohio, to walk our labyrinth in gratitude.

Please join me in a big THANK YOU to the 20+ Federated Church volunteers who collectively donated more than 350 hours of time, sweat, and prayerful dedication tending the Prayer and Memorial Gardens at the Family Life Center!



## Special Thanks

Even though our buildings are closed, their contents still need to be cleaned, sterilized, and updated. Jacob, Kin, and Gillian are cleaning, sterilizing, painting rooms and offices, installing hands-free faucets, replacing ceiling tiles, waxing floors, building shelves, etc.

Many thanks to the whole crew for keeping up with these tasks. You're taking care of our spiritual home and we are grateful!!



# Mission & Service

## A Morning in the Life of Your Parish Nurse

By Kathy Kolcaba (client names are changed for confidentiality)

I arrive at St. Paul's at 9:15 am and find a parking spot. I take a box of newly purchased supplies into the clinic and return to my car for another box.

Nina, one of the essential office workers, is setting up our greeting table in the hall which serves to make sure clients get seen in order of their arrival (with raffle tickets), that they are wearing masks or need a new one, and have used hand sanitizer. I check the table for completeness and replenish items as needed.

After briefly chatting with the two other office workers, I begin to put away my donated and/or purchased supplies when my first client, Charles, arrives. At the same time, Leslie Fincun arrives to assist and observe. Charles is so glad to see her, as Leslie directed him to a dentist on one of her sub days, as well as listened to his tale of woe regarding a failed relationship. They have a warm reunion and Leslie also provides for his request for assorted supplies.

Clients are now waiting quietly in the hall with their tickets and Leslie and I tag team for a while to get caught up. We take instant temperatures and get them signed in to our clinic. Rob has an open blister on his heel, from his ill-fitting shoe. I teach him to cleanse it, and apply antibiotic ointment and band aids to help it heal. I explain that these measures help prevent infection until he can replace his shoes. We discuss the fact that adults' feet usually grow one shoe size or more as they get older. Helen comes in for her weekly supplies for incontinence care, followed by George who needs some clean underwear and laundry detergent (desperately, judging by the clothes he had on). Raymond requests hand sanitizer or wipes, as well as socks and underwear.

On it goes: about 15 clients this morning, all of whom are regulars and very special. I leave at noon.

A typical morning at St. Paul's. Fun, rewarding, interesting... and no judgements.

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## We Need Coats and Boots for the Homeless!

Saturdays, October 17 and 24, 9 am—2 pm | Sundays, October 18 and 25, 11:30 am—2 pm  
76 Bell Street Parking Lot

For two weekends in October, the Mission and Service and our youth will be in the church parking lot to collect warm, water-resistant coats and boots for the approaching cold winter months.

Please take advantage of sales happening now! Donate new or clean, gently used XL and XXL coats, and large water-resistant boots for men and women. We will always take warm hats, gloves, socks and underwear (*new only please*)!

As always, financial donations will be accepted. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

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## Neighbors in Need Offering

To Be Collected Sunday, October 4

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of Neighbors in Need funds support the Council for American Indian Ministries of the UCC. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.



# Mission & Service

## Wine for Water 2020: A Virtual Event

"13 Going on 30: The Power of Collaboration"

Thursday, October 8, 8 pm

JustHope has been collaborating with our Nicaraguan friends for 13 years, and with the continued collaboration of our US partners we can keep it up for another 30 years!

This year's Wine for Water will be a virtual event. Though we'd love to get all our supporters together in person, the pandemic makes this impossible for this year. The good news is, that our supporters from other parts of the country can also participate in Wine for Water and place bids in the online auction.

Tickets to the Virtual Event are \$13 and are available at [JustHope.org](https://www.justhope.org). All proceeds support JustHope's work in Nicaragua.



# 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](mailto:wfranz@roadrunner.com)).

**Next SJAM Meeting — Sunday, October 18, 11:15 am on Zoom**

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/261964671?pwd=czFEQ1lRZjJlUjk2dHE4NGdQaVFTUTog>

### Our Faith, Our Vote

#### 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](mailto:jomajcen@gmail.com)

Tricia Baumgartner: 440.708.6231 or [tricia.a.baumgartner@gmail.com](mailto: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.

- Protect the Vote: A non-partisan election protection coalition of organizations including LWV, ACLU and SPLC.
- Rock the Vote [www.rockthevote.org](http://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](mailto:clevelandmomschapter@gmail.com)
- League of Women Voters Greater Cleveland <https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-greater-cleveland>
- Vote Forward [www.votefwd.org](http://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—Criminal Justice Reform

#### White Privilege Classes

New sessions of White Privilege forming this fall. If interested contact Bill Shaul. Dates/ times will be determined by participants' availability. The 7 (hour and half sessions) will be held over a seven week period. To take a look at the materials go to <http://privilege.uccpages.org>. Last sessions had participants from all over the country! Invite friends. Bill Shaul [theshauls@msn.com](mailto:theshauls@msn.com) or 513.280.2836.

### Environmental Justice

Electronics Recycling: See. P. 8.

### Immigration

#### HOLA News

We are all used to supporting HOLA at their annual fundraiser held at the Family Life Center. This year they have had to go virtual. Go to <https://go.rallyup.com/holaohio> until October 15 at 7 pm to bid on gift baskets or to donate! Now more than ever, HOLA needs our support!

### Women's Issues

#### Guest Speaker for "Movie Night"

Monday, October 19, 7 – 8 pm | Online via Zoom

We will host a Zoom event with Cathy Studer, Author of **Broken to Beautifully Whole**. Her book will be made available to participants for free.

We invite you join to us for a compelling message about hope, healing, and empowerment by author, speaker and coach, Cathy Studer. She authored the book "Broken to Beautifully Whole" that shares the steps she followed as she moved through her own pain of carrying shame, very low self-worth, and humiliation after suffering six years of childhood sexual abuse. Cathy models how it is possible to recover from intense hurt or abuse, and create a life filled with value, purpose, and joy. The six attributes shared can initiate healing while reducing the occurrence of depression, anxiety, and PTSD. Her message would not be complete without also sharing practical actions for every single person to take to eliminate sexual abuse tragedies as she is passionate about defeating these statistics.



Cathy lives in Ohio with her husband, and a loving yellow lab, and has two adult children. Join us as Cathy shares her purpose and her passion.

Join at Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?pwd=U1VxZU5SZoNjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVlWdzog>

### Economic Justice

#### 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.

# Federated Happenings

## Electronic Recycling—Drive-through Event



### Acceptable Items for Collection

- Computers/ laptops
- Tablets/e-readers
- Monitors (CRTs, LCD, LED Flatscreens)
- Keyboards, mice, cords, and other peripherals
- Printers
- Cell phones
- Telecom equipment
- Networking equipment
- Servers
- Video games
- Stereo equipment
- Electronic equipment batteries
- All accessories and cables
- Ink and toner cartridges
- DVD
- CD Players
- Cable boxes
- Media player
- Televisions (fee needs to be paid)

**October 24<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
at the Bell St. Parking Lot**

**What:** Collection will happen on this day only.  
Drop off ONLY to the TRUCK in the church parking lot.  
This is a drive-through event so you don't get out of your car.

*Masks are required when dropping off your items.*

*Please do not drop off any items before this day and time.*

*Questions, contact:* Diane Tuuri - [dianeandward@gmail.com](mailto:dianeandward@gmail.com)

Please spread the news of this important recycling event!

Fee charged on—older tube model, console projection. TVs— cost is \$1.00 per diagonal inch of the screen.  
Older CRT monitors— cost is \$3.00/each for terminal, \$5.00/each for 17" flat screen monitor and \$10.00 each for 19" and up flat screen monitor.



## Our Fall Inquirers Class, for those who want to consider membership at Federated, will happen on Zoom!

**Wednesday, October 28 | 7-9 pm  
Online via Zoom**

We are not going to let the current circumstances keep us from welcoming new members into the Federated community. Senior Pastor Hamilton Throckmorton and the Membership Committee will be offering our Fall Inquirers Class via Zoom. It couldn't be easier to learn more about becoming a member of Federated Church – just two hours of your time, one evening, from the comfort of your home.

If you are interested in learning more about Federated and about the United Church of Christ, and you are comfortable joining a Zoom meeting, we invite you to sign up for this class. Contact Melinda Smith at [smithm@fedchurch.org](mailto:smithm@fedchurch.org) to sign up or register via your Realm account and she will arrange to send you the Zoom link.



# Faith Formation and Spirituality

## Last Outdoor Prayer Service of the Season!

Saturday, October 24 | 6:30—7:30 pm

Family Life Center Parking Lot

Come let us pray as one community! You are invited to join us for our last outdoor prayer service of the season. Gathering in our cars at the FLC parking lot, we will hold an outdoor prayer service. Volunteers will direct each car to a slot that is socially distant for our safety. A bulletin and factory-sealed communion packets will be placed on your car hood for you to collect. You may choose to bring your own lawn chairs and sit outside directly in front of your car.

The service will be led by Rev. Mark Simone and staff using a PA sound system and FM radio frequency. It will include prayers for us to pray together, scriptures and songs. In all things, we will be following the CDC and state guidelines.

Following the service, if you desire personal prayers, Rev. Mark will be available for drive-up prayers. There will be a space on your bulletin to write your requests.

If you want to join us, we need your reservation. Please email Kiersti at [kcritchfield@fedchurch.org](mailto:kcritchfield@fedchurch.org) or register via your Real account.



## "Reading the Bible from the Margins" Bible Study

Six week study: Saturdays, October 17-November 21 | 1-2:30 pm

Online via Zoom

Led by Barry Stees

"Reading the Bible from the Margins invites its readers to look at scripture from an entirely different perspective, through the eyes of the poor, the outcast, those who are different. It challenges the status quo, the "comfortable" way one can read the Bible, picking and choosing what seems "nice," while thinking the challenge is for someone else, or that perhaps it doesn't apply to the 21st century.

Reading through the eyes of those who are marginalized turns the world upside down and gives status to those who seem insignificant. De la Torre's book inspires a new vision and a deeper understanding of the Word of God. It invites the reader to recognize a God who really loves those who are oppressed as well as the oppressors. In this is freedom for both the "haves" and the "have not's." Anyone with a willingness and the courage to be uncomfortable, to be led to conversion of heart and deeper wisdom will find this book a means to that end."

Primary Texts:

- Bible (NSRV or other translation)
- *Reading the Bible from the Margins* by Miguel de la Torre (purchase on your own)

Secondary Texts-Barry will provide excerpts from:

- The People's Companion to the Bible
- *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James Cone
- *Womanist Midrash* by Rev. Dr. Wilda Gaffney
- And others

If you are interested in the study group, register via your Realm account or contact Barry Stees for more information: [steesbassoon@gmail.com](mailto:steesbassoon@gmail.com).