



# FEDERATED CHURCH

## United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

September 6

# Welcome!

Upcoming Activities and Opportunities at Federated

## Worship Services Online

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all worship services will take place online through the end of 2020.

View an online stream of worship at:  
[YouTube.com/TheFederatedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/TheFederatedChurch)

Online Fellowship Hour takes place on Zoom after worship.

Visit [tinyurl.com/FedFellowship](https://tinyurl.com/FedFellowship)

The building will be closed, but activities are still going on! Latest updates can be found at [fedchurch.org/covid](https://www.fedchurch.org/covid).

## Ahead At The Fed

### Sunday, September 13—Rally Day

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches on theme: Forgiveness

- 10 am Online Worship
- 12 pm Rally Day Celebration at the Family Life Center
- 11 am Online Fellowship Hour

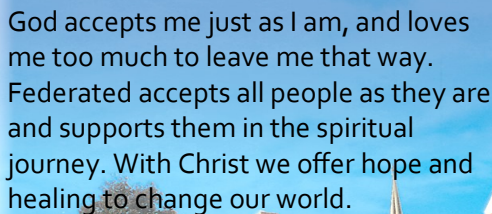
### September 13 - Scriptures

Exodus 14:19-31  
Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21  
Genesis 50:15-21  
Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35

### Sunday, September 20

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

- 10 am Online Worship
- 11 am Online Fellowship Hour



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.

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.

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## **RALLY DAY CELEBRATION**

**NEXT 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, 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.

**Items needed include:** Mac-n-cheese, SpaghettiOs, rice, pancake mix and syrup, flour, sugar, saltine crackers, cookies, peanut butter, dried beans, toilet paper, tissues, toothpaste, shampoo, toothbrushes, deodorant, dishwashing liquid, bar soap, disinfecting spray and wipes. We’ll also assist these organizations with monetary donations. Mark your donation as “Rally Day.”

Members are asked to drive to the Rally at the Family Life Center starting at noon 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.

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. You can also submit electronic versions to [communications@fedchurch.org](mailto:communications@fedchurch.org). We will place these in the Sanctuary pews for Hamilton to see while he is preaching.

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. You will be able to hear the program through an FM station in your car radio!

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!

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## **Choir is Back!**

**Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:30 pm, Starting Thursday, September 3**

Choir rehearsals will resume online for the fall. 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! Confirm your participation by emailing Joshua Konow at [jkonow@fedchurch.org](mailto:jkonow@fedchurch.org).

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## 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 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](https://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.

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## Bethel Bible Study Series

**Monday Evenings starting September 28 | 7:30—9:00 pm**

Bethel provides professionally prepared auditory and visual tools to help you establish a sound Biblical knowledge involving emphasis on key Bible concepts with 40 "teaching" pictures with corresponding lessons.

Find link to register at [www.fedchurch.org/events/studies](http://www.fedchurch.org/events/studies) by **Sunday, September 20.**

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## 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. We will work diligently to find new and creative opportunities for spiritual growth, learning, reflection, worship, and connection with each other.

We hope you understand what is at the heart of this decision and thank you for your support. The full letter from Federated leadership is available at [fedchurch.org/covid](https://fedchurch.org/covid).

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

Each week, we ask your prayers for two of our staff members. This week please pray for **Dolly Herschel** and **Laura Taylor**.

For September, the Mission & Service Commission is asking us to keep in prayer one of our church's mission partners, **Family Promise of Greater Cleveland**.

### **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](mailto: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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