



THE SPIRE

THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Your Generosity Defines Your Experience....

We choose to believe that God has given us an enormous opportunity for **reimagination**. In truth, God has probably offered it constantly and patiently for many, many years. In the solitude of quarantine, we have realized this opportunity and hope you have too. Your Stewardship Committee (affectionately the "Stew Crew") has joined with your Pastors, your incredible Church Staff, and each other to take on the exciting task of a full-on reimagining of Stewardship and Generosity in the coming year, starting right now.

The pillars of this reimagination are bold:

- 1) Envisioning **generosity** not as a seasonal "ugh, this again?" moment, but instead as a front row seat in a year-round life of Spirituality.
- 2) Bringing focus on the G-word literally every week of the Church year with the Generosity Impact Moments, so we are reminded both vividly and repeatedly of what an amazingly generous Federated means to a thirsty community, both inside and outside our walls.
- 3) Constantly rejoicing in the brilliant and rejuvenating energy brought by servanthood and generosity in all that we do. AND
- 4) Faithfully joining your Federated Community in extravagant and sacrificial giving into God-driven purposes.

Today we challenge Federated to reimagine our community in every way, including the primacy of generosity among our entire family. Whether you are seasoned or young, have \$10 or \$100,000, when we join hands (collectively and virtually) **YOUR HAND COUNTS THE SAME**. It's not a circle without you. In this time of reimagination, will you close your eyes right now and imagine Federated achieving **70%** participation in our Generosity Campaign? **80%**?

We believe in community. We believe in tiny hands, grizzled hands, wrinkled hands, supple hands, women's hands, men's hands, and children's hands. And most importantly, we believe in God's hands joining with all of the above and setting the table for a feast to come, a feast not just for those in our Church today, but equally importantly for those who have yet to be extravagantly welcomed into this Federated community. This feast lasts many years and has unlimited leftovers - enough to put Tupperware out of business forever!

What will you bring to the table? Thanks be to God and thanks be to you for setting the table with us for a reimagined future.

Ken Horner
Maren Koepf
Ann Lentz
Martine Scheuermann
Laura Taylor, staff liaison



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*When we join hands, your hand counts
the same. It's not a circle without you.*

Federated News and Info

Addressing COVID-19 at Federated A Note from Operations

It is already November and what a whirlwind! So many of you have reached out to share thoughts and offer new ideas. Some of you have made generous donations that have allowed us to do special projects, such as our livestreaming and much needed maintenance and aesthetic upgrades to the building. Our staff is busy implementing these changes and coming up with ideas to broaden our outreach and provide members with new avenues for worship. Our Outdoor Prayer Services have been successful – small in numbers, but extremely fulfilling for those who participate. The beautiful wooden prayer cross, imagined by our staff and brought to life by John Biel, provides a sacred place for prayers and thoughts. We also recently installed a blue box outside the parking lot doors for prayer requests to be incorporated into our Fellowship of Prayer and Pastoral Care. Many other projects are in process. The building may be closed, but *the church* remains open.

Some of you have expressed frustration with not being able to meet in small groups; others are missing worship in truly profound ways. It was a very difficult decision to remain closed through the end of the year. Even more difficult has been saying 'no' to those of you who have asked to meet in the church building. Churches exist to serve the community and right now some of you feel Federated is not fulfilling that duty because the building is closed, and while we very much hope our members are able to see Federated Church as more than a building, understandably, questions loom. Is it wise to keep the church building closed when other churches are open? Are we going to lose members of the congregation? Are members suffering as a result of not being together?

Some suggest we open for worship services and those who want to come would and those who feel unsafe would stay home. To do this would require clergy, staff, choirs and other volunteers to put themselves and their families at great risk. There remains a 10-person maximum for indoor gatherings and although churches are granted an exception, that exception is not in keeping with medical recommendations. Some have asked about opening for small group events. If one group is allowed to meet inside the building, then fairness dictates all groups be invited. Even small group gatherings would require pre-registration and pre-screening for potential COVID-19 exposure; on the day of the event there would be mandatory temperature

checks, masks, hand sanitizer, gloves and proper distancing. Only one group would be permitted to meet at a time. After each gathering a thorough cleaning would be necessary. Following every event, attendees would be required to watch for specific symptoms and immediately report a positive COVID-19 test result. Everyone in attendance would then be notified, as would the custodial staff, clergy and anyone else who entered the building during or after the exposure. Participants would inform their families and anyone else potentially exposed. Having one small group event is a danger. Having multiple daily events would be challenging to administer and track, and more importantly, doing so would be irresponsible of us as a community leader.

The COVID-19 conditions are evolving and despite mask and distancing rules, cases are again on the rise; additional spikes are expected as weather gets colder and flu season begins. Other countries are going back into lockdown and many states have implemented a 14-day quarantine for travelers from 35+ states where COVID-19 cases are on the rise, including Ohio. There is some positive news regarding forward movement with a vaccine and availability of distribution once it is ready. 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. Thank you to those of you who have already reached out to offer your thoughts, challenges, support, to volunteer and to offer financial gifts as we navigate the current situation and beyond. Your generosity gives us all the strength and confidence that anything is possible.

With Gratitude,



Melissa Owen
Senior Director of People & Operations
440.247.6490
mowen@fedchurch.org

Hamilton's Desk

Dear Friends,

In his luminous book, *Gratefulness, the Heart of Prayer*, Brother David Steindl-Rast reminds us essentially that at the center of a rich and full life is the act of giving thanks. To be grateful, he says, is to be surprised, again and again, by the wonders life puts in our laps. Intrinsically tied to gratefulness is that we are surprised by the manifold gifts that come to us.

I wonder what surprises have come to you, just today or this week. Maybe the mail carrier has smiled and waved at you. I live in a neighborhood in which Joel, the man who collects our trash, is unfailingly gracious and warm not only to me, but to everyone. Maybe you've latched onto a series on Netflix or Amazon Prime that has totally engrossed you, as happened to Mary and me recently with the gem of a series called, strangely, *Schitt's Creek*.

Maybe you have been surprised by the way a child of yours has developed. I remember how shocked and delighted I was the first time our older son Alex, then probably an older infant or toddler, intentionally made Mary and me laugh. Maybe you were surprised by the way your partner proposed to you, or the Christmas gift someone got for you.

And maybe you were surprised to sense, one day, that the God who had given you life also adored you and was holding you close at every moment.

When we're open to it, we will likely find that we are being surprised again and again. We become increasingly attuned to the little, and big, gifts that come to us from the hand of God.

In the month of November, we celebrate many of the ways in which we have been filled and enriched by the loving embrace of God. On All Saints' Day, November 1, we remember and give thanks for those from our number who have blessed us in life, and who have died in the past year. On November 15, with Commitment Sunday, we acknowledge the countless ways in which God has surprised us by grace, and commit ourselves and our financial resources to support and enhance this marvelous church of which we are a part. On November 22, with Ingathering Sunday, we celebrate the bounty we know and return a portion of it to those who are impoverished.

All of this is part of giving thanks—Thanksgiving—and it's a crucial part of our life with God. As the pandemic continues to exert its hold, may you and I continue to be surprised by grace. May we live gratefully. And more and more, may we give generously in return. Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,
Hamilton



UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, November 1—All Saints' Day

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches on theme: Greatness and Humility

10 am Online Worship

Special organ/piano duets by Marcia Snively and Randy Fusco

11 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship

11:30 am Online Sunday School

Sunday, November 8

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches on theme: Being Ready for God's Coming
New Members join

10 am Online Worship

Children sing

11 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship

11:30 am Online Sunday School

Sunday, November 15

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches on theme: Making the Most of Our Gifts

10 am Online Worship

11 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship

11:30 am Online Sunday School

Sunday, November 22

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches on theme: The Least of These
Ingathering Sunday

10 am Online Worship

11 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship

11:30 am Online Sunday School

Sunday, November 29—First Sunday of Advent

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

10 am Online Worship

Music by RISE to Shine Band

11 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship

11:30 am Online Sunday School

Worship: fedchurch.org/live

Coffee Fellowship: tinyurl.com/fedfellowship

Sunday School: Contact Kristin for the link at klefeber@fedchurch.org

Online Worship:

**Every Sunday
10:00 AM**

**on our YouTube Channel:
TheFederatedChurch**

fedchurch.org/live

From Church Council

Wow, how things have changed since our 2020 Annual Meeting on February 23! I know I couldn't have imagined then where we would be right now, but here we are. We presented a couple of important things during that meeting and I would like to provide an update.

Collaboration with the CLC

As you will recall, we held a congregation-wide vote to approve the Church Council's recommendation that we seek a "partnership" (not in the legal sense) with the Community Life Collaborative (CLC) to lease the Family Life Center (FLC), pending the agreed upon terms of a lease. Those members who were present voted overwhelmingly to approve this recommendation. Shortly after, things across the country began to shut down due to COVID-19, and these shut-downs, along with the drastic change in general work practices, caused there to be some understandable delays for both the CLC and the Church in moving forward. However, work did begin and a lease agreement was being developed.

During this work, it was advised that the Church would need to seek permission to amend the existing Conditional Use Permit of the FLC from the Bainbridge Zoning Board before going into a lease agreement with another entity. We submitted an application and representatives from CLC and the Church presented the request during the August meeting of the board. Unfortunately, the request was not met with a positive response and many questions were raised, given that the FLC is in a Residential zone. So rather than risk a denial of the request, which would be voted on at the September Zoning Board meeting, both the CLC and Federated chose to withdraw the application.

We are now working together to reach an alternate arrangement that would satisfy the spirit of the collaboration and allow us to move ahead with the important community outreach work, as well as the need for the CLC to assume financial responsibility for the FLC, which has not yet begun. The CLC has been asked to present an updated plan to the Church Council at our November meeting.

Challenging Trend in Membership and Pledges

Also during the 2020 Annual Meeting, we discussed the decline of both membership and pledges over the last 10 or so years. The Finance Committee reported that, although Federated remained in a fairly strong cash position, this was mostly due to unfilled staff positions. This same scenario remains true here in the final quarter of the year: expenses have remained low, partially due to the COVID-19 closure, and while pledges are mostly on budget, non-pledge giving and rental revenue (FLC and 102 Bell St.) are significantly below budget.

Additionally, the church has absorbed expenses of the FLC beyond what was budgeted. So while our current financial position is stable, we acknowledge that the overall financial structure, which is based on member pledges, is not sustainable for our long-term future. As outlined during the Annual Meeting, we are taking a three-pronged approach to address this: 1) work to increase revenue through pledges (Stewardship), 2) engage a visioning process to ultimately restructure our resources (Convergence consultancy), and 3) partner with the CLC to use the FLC to expand community outreach that potentially increases membership. I am pleased to say that all of these things are currently underway despite the worldwide pandemic in which we are living.

We continue to seek God's guidance in all that we do, putting the best interest and healthy future of our church at the forefront of the work.

Beth Rutkowski
Moderator



Federated News & Info

Legacy Fund Update

This is the perfect time to talk about legacy giving. All Saints' Sunday is coming up on November 1 and at Federated, we're blessed to have generous saints who have given gifts to our church over the past 12 months.

Some of our saints left gifts in their wills to The Legacy Fund, our endowment fund, which annually supports our church operations and ministries.

Other saints, who are still active members of Federated, designated memorial gifts in memory of their loved ones to Federated and its ministries, like Primetime or our music ministries.

And still other saints make current contributions to the Legacy Fund from their desire to ensure Federated's long-term sustainability.



You are our saints! The Legacy Fund Committee would like to thank all of those in our faith family who, since All Saints' Day 2019, have supported Federated by telling us they have included the church in their estate plans or contributed in each of these three ways:

Bequests

Claude and Rae Ellen Folkes
Shirley Zook

Legacy Fund gifts

Bill and Silvia Kenneweg
Alex and Alice Taylor

Memorial Gifts in memory of

Tim Jenkins
Bill Foley
Chuck King
Tom Harvey

Jane Davis
Cindy Denney
Bill Wagren
Ruth Daniels

Shirley Malzer
Bob Faroo
Shirley Zook

If you are considering leaving a legacy gift to Federated in your will, please let us know. Contact Laura Taylor at rejoiceandrenew@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 x115 for more information. Death is serious business, but it's also a chance to celebrate a life well lived. And, leaving a legacy gift that keeps on giving is a great way to bless others long after you have passed. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions:

Peter R. Franz, CFA, CFP

440.724.9365 or franze35@gmail.com

Chair, Legacy Fund Committee

December SPIRE Deadline

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

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

Federated News & Info

Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign Project Update

So many good "next steps" came from a recent Capital Campaign Projects Committee meeting thanks to the hard work of Becky Gruss, Keith Mast, Melissa Owen, Janis Stefanchik, and Laura Taylor. It's an exciting time for the Rejoice & Renew capital campaign as folks are continuing to fulfill their capital campaign pledges. With those funds in hand, our projects are continuing:

- The Rebranding Sub-committee of the Telling Our Story Commission, led by Diana Weber Gardner, has been working with consulting firm OrgStory to develop and execute a new brand to position Federated for its second century. As the interviews, focus sessions, and survey came to a close in October, they reviewed the findings in a presentation with OrgStory and this month are working on Brand strategy and Identity development.
- Senior Director of People & Operations Melissa Owen continued her work implementing our livestreaming equipment needs by improving lighting for the Chancel area of the Sanctuary. At the same time, she'll have new window blinds or shades installed for the Sanctuary that will also affect the lighting and will be a blessed relief to those sitting in the pews once we're holding in-person services again! This is an important campaign project as it was a funded Giving Opportunity – a couple associated their pledge to the campaign with this particular project.
- In addition to the church's A/V needs, Melissa will be working with the administration staff, the operations staff, and custodial crew to:
 - Replace the bathroom fixtures. Five hands-free faucets are being installed each month and hands-free dryers will come next.
 - Upgrade the church's computer server before its shelf-life has expired!
 - Begin transitioning the outdoor lights to energy-efficient LED fixtures.
- Melissa will work with a vendor to update the carpeting on the first-floor hallway and a good portion of the main stairwell, complementing our new carpet in the Lobby and Sanctuary.



We are truly blessed! Thanks be to God.

In Memoriam

Recognition of those who have passed recently.

A farewell to friends;

May God welcome them with open arms.

Ruth Daniels—9/12/2020

Shirely Malzer—9/13/2020

Helen Edwards—9/25/2020

Dave Carpenter—10/6/2020



Ruth Daniels



Shirley Malzer



Helen Edwards



Dave Carpenter

Federated News & Info

Generosity Impact Moments

This year's Stewardship Committee - Ken Horner, Maren Koepf, Ann Lentz, Martine Scheuermann, Laura Taylor, and Pastors Hamilton and Mark - have begun transitioning toward year-round opportunities to lift the practices and scriptural basis for living generously.

Part of this transition involves sharing a Generosity Impact Moment each Sunday. Since beginning this tradition in September, Hamilton and Mark have shared some ways in which Federated makes a difference throughout the year. It's just amazing to see the impact that our Federated faith family has!

September 20, 2020	Rally Day Food Drive for Chagrin Falls Park Community Center and Bainbridge Food for Friends	\$1,500 and 1,500 lbs. in donated food and supplies
September 27, 2020	Parish Nurse Ministry Supplies drive	\$350 plus 3+ months in donated goods, shared with other downtown CLE programs for the homeless
October 4, 2020	Work Camp Puerto Rico fundraiser in memory of host Pastor's wife	\$1,400 including a Work Camp match, plus the relationship-building of our youth with people outside their own community
October 11, 2020	Mark's Ministry	30 years with children and youth faith formation, music ministry, and youth/ adults in service to the world!
October 18, 2020	Prayer Cross Pastoral Care ministry	Made by John Biel. Feeling part of a community makes such an impact during these isolating times. A place to share our prayers and thoughts with God.
October 25, 2020	Guitar Donations	A local business that knows that Federated is the go-to church for missions and service to the community, gave us 14 guitars for Mark to deliver to youth in need.

Voting Rights—A Message from the Moderators

The work of SJAM around Election Engagement has been very thoughtful and impactful and we want to express our support. SJAM (Social and Environmental Justice Group), a ministry group of the Mission and Service Commission, focuses their work on understanding and responding to the issues of justice: social justice, racial justice, economic justice, environmental justice. These issues affect our lives and the lives of others in our community, and we believe God requires us, as Christians, to take a stance. Throughout their activities, SJAM is careful to present the issues but does not focus on a political party. The recent work of voter registration and education is not partisan and in their communication they focus on defending the underserved and vulnerable -- a shared value. SJAM has focused on

access to voting, which is an issue of social justice. As Christians, we seek God's guidance and call in the whole of our lives, as was beautifully expressed in Hamilton's sermon this past week. Therefore, we must work toward justice, inclusion, mercy, and compassion -- in our faith witness, our sermons and conversations, our whole and messy lives. These Christian values sometimes get connected with parties and politics, but that is not the intention of SJAM or Federated Church. The goal is to make witness to and embody God's love and acceptance of all people.

God's Peace and Love to You All,
Beth Rutkowski, Brendan Buescher, Maren Koepf
Church Council Moderators

Telling Our Story Spotlight

New Prayer Cross

At a staff meetings, Kiersti Critchfield, our Pastoral Care Associate, mentioned her desire to start a Prayer Cross ministry during these times of isolation. It would be a way to leave our meditations, thoughts and considerations anonymously when we can't come inside into the Sanctuary or Chapel.

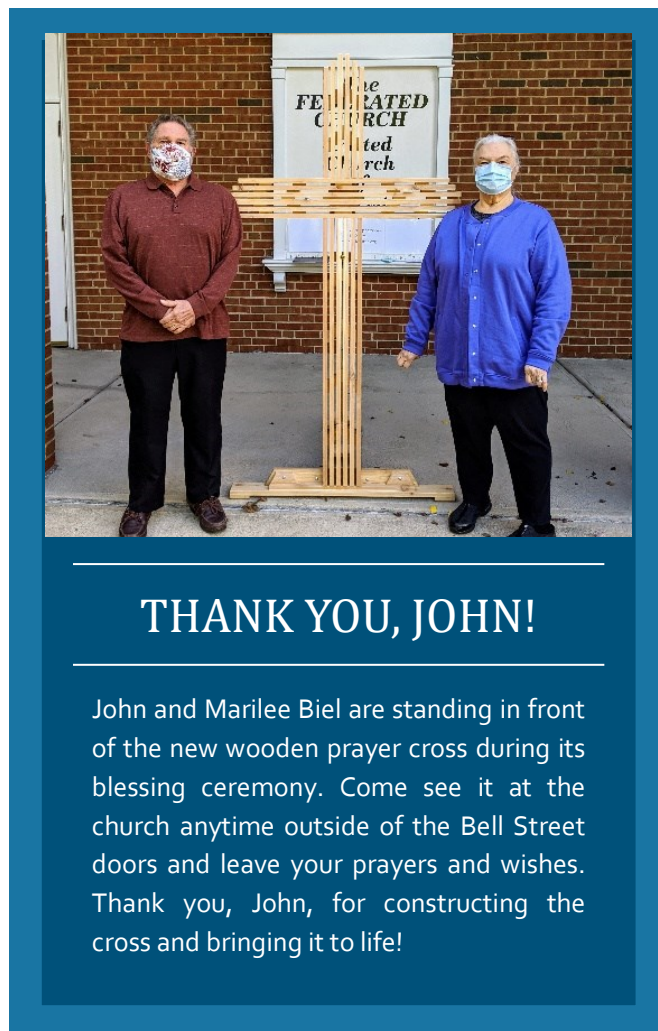
When she directed the young children's Faith Formation Ministry at Federated, Kiersti wanted a small mailbox on a stand – a place for our Sunday School children to leave their private thoughts and messages on Sunday mornings to "mail to God." Knowing his interest in woodworking, she asked John Biel to make her one, and it turned out wonderful, so she looked to him again with her new idea.

Kiersti envisioned a portable cross - one that could withstand the outside elements, but designed to handle flowers, garlands, or ribbons draped around/throughout it. The cross needed a support stand and slats to hold the inserted meditation slips – both at a relatively tall level and at a shorter level, for adults and children alike. After John and Kiersti's initial discussions, John got to work designing the cross with those needs in mind.

It took two weeks for the cross to be completed. To handle the Northeast Ohio weather, John chose cedar wood – leaving it unvarnished so that the wood appears the way that God grew the tree from which it came. The cross slats are held together with several supporting/ connecting pieces whose layout is very intentional - the vertical ones face upwards and the horizontal ones face inwards, representing our inward support from God and our upward connection to God.

Once completed, there was a blessing ceremony of the cross on September 30 with John and Marilee Biel present. They were able to offer up the first prayers inserted into the cross. Pastors Hamilton and Mark blessed the cross and anointed it with oil. Check out a recording of the ceremony on Federated's YouTube Channel! ([youtube.com/TheFederatedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/TheFederatedChurch))

John has been delightfully surprised at how much attention the Prayer Cross has gotten: attending the Prayer Cross blessing and receiving quite a few calls about it from fellow members. He was thrilled to make a contribution to Federated during this time when folks can feel so removed from the church and our congregation. What a nice way to bring folks together safely and continue to feel part of a community.



Prayer is an important part of our spiritual life. Federated knows how important this communication is to each one of us and wants to give congregants more opportunities to further invite God into our lives through prayer. Initially the cross has been placed outside of the church's front doors facing Bell Street, underneath the portico. Church members and community members alike are encouraged to write their prayer requests down on a piece of paper (paper will not be provided) and come to the church, roll up your prayer request and slip it into a slot inside the wooden cross. These prayers are completely anonymous, will not be read, and will only be known to the One Great Creator. You can then take as much time as you would like to stand and pray or meditate while this holy symbol watches over you. Allow this sacred space to be a time of refuge and renewal for your soul.

Many thanks go to Kiersti and John for making this ministry come alive!

Mission & Service

Parish Nurse Corner

On October 28, Leslie Fincun called me to say she had the supplies in her car that were donated to the Parish Nurse Clinic over the weekend. These supplies were in response to a "Drive" organized by the Mission and Service Commission for commonly used items in the clinic for which I provided a lengthy list. When I saw what she had, I was stunned with the size and variety of the load – and the pure generosity of Federated Folks. This was a divine intervention, heartwarming and unexpected! Socks, underwear, feminine hygiene products, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste were all there and in quantities that could fill the needs of poor people for a long time and in expanded locations. We are truly blessed to be able to give with abandon!

With the approval of Lynne Kessell, we will partner occasionally with Phil Fogarty in the distribution of this bounty. Phil has been going to Cleveland's near east side every Tuesday evening with young men and women from local Catholic schools fulfilling their "community hours." (Phil is an alumnus of that school system.) They take lunch bags filled with nutritious food to the poorest of poor in low income housing, as well as to tent people who are well known to Phil. When my supplies are overflowing, like they are right now, I prepare bags of hygiene products for his homeless group and for St. Paul's. It is wonderful to be able to share the wealth with another church-based program. Please know that your generosity is abundantly utilized and appreciated by everyone at St. Paul's and the surrounding areas. On their behalf, THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

Kathy Kolcaba, Parish Nurse
440.655.2098

Youth Ministry

JOY and GROUP

On September 29, JOY (Middle School Youth Group) and GROUP (High School Youth Group) gathered together to kick off the new program year. It was great to be together again!



Federated Happenings

Social and Environmental Justice (SJAM) News

SJAM is a group 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 more. Sound interesting? We welcome you to join us at our next meeting. SJAM is open to all in the community who are looking for ways to work for social justice. To learn more, please contact Kathy Franz (440.821.7795 or wfranz@roadrunner.com).

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/261964671?pwd=czFEQ1lRZjUjZkdHE4NGdQaVFTUTog>

Vigil for Peace and Healing

During these trying times, and anticipating the need for reconciliation after the election, SJAM will be offering several Interfaith Prayer Vigils during the month of November. The focus will be on peace and healing for our nation. Please watch for more information on Sunday mornings and on the Thursday email blast and plan to attend!

Environmental Justice

Three Ways to Care for God's Creation

Learn About Indigenous Heritage from Where You Live

Indigenous People's Day was October 12. To honor this, let's brush up on your knowledge. Take time to acknowledge the indigenous people from your area & consider acknowledging them by name when you pray. Visit www.creationjustice.org/indigenous to download the Environmental Justice with Indigenous Peoples resource. Some questions to research are:

1. What is the name of the native nation from your area?
2. How does this nation relate to the land and ecosystems where I live now?
3. How can I support the wishes of this native nation?
4. Are there any political actions I can take to stand in solidarity?



Evaluate Your Coffee and/or Tea Habits

Do you use a reusable or disposable cup and filter? Do you prefer loose leaf tea or do you use tea bags? Is it ethically sourced? If not, find out how you can make the switch.

Try Cooking a One Pot Meal

Try using one pot to cook your meal, you save on electricity, gas, and water; which reduces your footprint and may even give you leftovers for the week!

@CreationJustice—Find out more about how you can #CareForCreation at www.creationjustice.org.

Immigration

Movie Night

Monday, November 16, 7 – 8 pm | Online via [Zoom](#)

On your own time, watch on YouTube "[What Happens when ICE Separates a Mother from Her Children](#)" (10 minutes) and "[When ICE Comes for Your Family](#)" (27 minutes). You can also find these links at fedchurch.org/events. Then log onto [Zoom](#) for a one hour discussion. Questions? Contact Kathy Franz (info above).

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.

Living Wage

Think about patronizing businesses that provide their employees with a living wage. We can all make a difference.

Federated Happenings

Do you feel like you have a “Calling” for calling?

The Congregational Contact Ministry is looking for volunteers to make five calls a week from our church directory to have a one-time personal check in.

You will be provided with a list of people to call each week and a script of upcoming events and news to share with each call recipient. When could be a better time for us to reach out to one another and just let someone know their church family is thinking about them?

This is a great way to get involved and meet new church members from the comfort and safety of your own home. Our goal is to get through the entire church directory and let each household know that Federated loves and cares for them.

Contact Peggie Jo Shinagawa for questions or to sign up at pjshinagawa@windstream.net or 440.543.5974



Gentle Slow Flow Yoga

with Dawn Dole, RYT

Virtual class on Zoom. Open to everyone.

Mondays at 10:00 - 11:15 am (November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, December 7, 14, 21)

Thursdays at 7:00 - 8:15 pm (November 5, 12, 19, December 3, 10, 17)

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 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. 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.

To register, or if you have questions, email newdayyoga.dawn@gmail.com.

Advent by Candlelight

Monday, December 7

Save the Date!

This year, we will be having a virtual version of Advent by Candlelight over Zoom.

Stay tuned to next month's SPIRE and weekly emails for additional details.



Federated's Doors May Be Closed... But We Are Still Active and Lively!

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. Our website lays out everything that is going on! Take a look and find something new!

[Fedchurch.org/events](https://www.fedchurch.org/events)

For upcoming events and additional information, registration links, and more

[Fedchurch.org/get-involved](https://www.fedchurch.org/get-involved)

For a list of groups and activities still going on during the pandemic time

[Fedchurch.org/calendar](https://www.fedchurch.org/calendar)

For a complete list of all meetings and events, including their dates, times, and locations

[Fedchurch.org/live](https://www.fedchurch.org/live)

For livestreaming services and recordings of past worship services

KEEP CONNECTED AT FEDERATED!

This printed version of The SPIRE newsletter is unique because of its coinciding with the Generosity 2021 Campaign mailing. This is a great opportunity to bring you up-to-date! The church's Stewardship Committee wanted you to know about all of the exciting happenings at Federated, even during this time of social distancing. Electronic copies are always available online at www.fedchurch.org/publications



Are You Subscribed to Our Weekly E-Blast?

Every Thursday, we send out the newest and most relevant information of the week. This is a great way to stay informed about what is happening at Federated. To subscribe, go to www.fedchurch.org/contact.



FEDERATED CHURCH
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

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