

March 2021

  
federated

# THE SPIRE

THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



## Branding Workshops

*Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ~Matthew 5:15*

It's so much more than a logo! The Telling Our Story Rebranding Committee invites you to attend a BRAND WORKSHOP to walk through the new branding style guide.

Let's not keep our light under a basket. It's time to put a spotlight on ALL the programs and we now have Sub-brands to help tell our stories in new ways! Learn how.

NOTE: Hard copy BRAND GUIDE BOOKLETS will be available via CURBSIDE PICKUP, Saturday, March 13 between 11:00 am and 5:00 pm. One per household, please. Or download a PDF at [www.fedchurch.org/branding](http://www.fedchurch.org/branding)

### DATES

**Wednesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. (evening)**

**Thursday, March 18 at 10 a.m. (morning)**

### JOIN ON ZOOM

Click the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83569837977?pwd=VkJQMnRucEt3Q3RIU0s0WkxIRUd2QT09>

Or type in **Meeting ID 835 6983 7977** and **Password 44022**

## Federated Church Performing Arts Series Presents:

### "Spring Varietals"

**Randy Fusco and Marcia Snavelly in concert!**

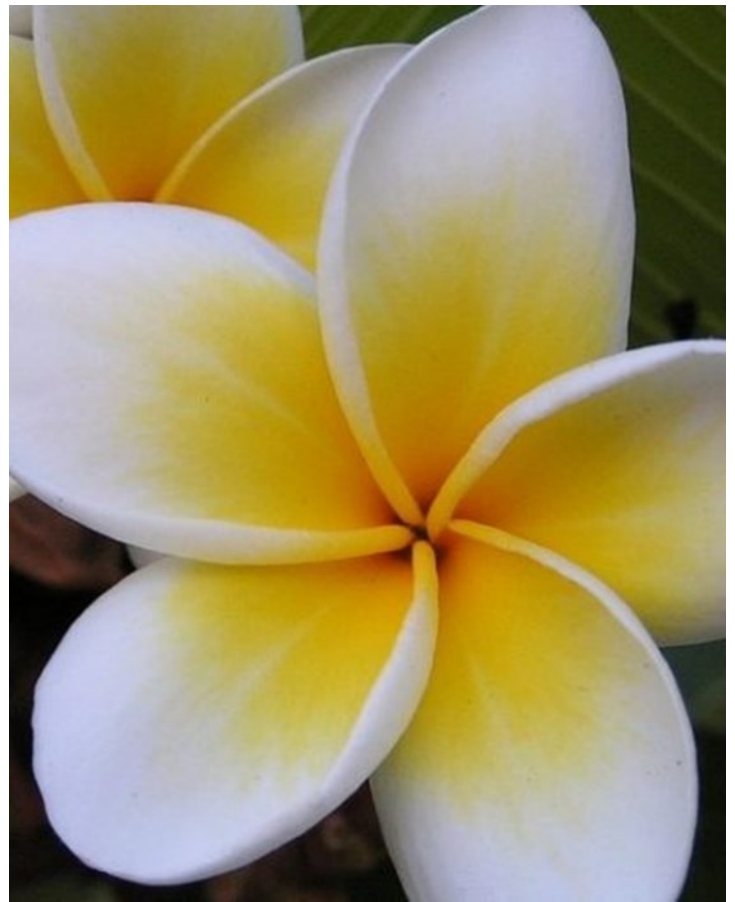
**Sunday, March 14, 4:00**

**Federated Church YouTube Channel:**

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

Pianist Randy Fusco and organist Marcia Snavelly present a festive variety of piano and organ duets along with solo selections! "Spring Varietals" will feature a wide array of styles including classical, spirituals, patriotic, and jazz. Invite the whole family for this joyous concert!

Broadcast online via the Federated YouTube channel, admission is free with an opportunity for a free-will offering to benefit the Performing Arts Series and Federated music program.



## Generosity Impact Moments

In February, Hamilton and Mark shared these Generosity Impact Moments during Sunday worship services. If you didn't get the chance to join us then, be sure to watch these worship service videos on our YouTube channel ([YouTube.com/TheFederatedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/TheFederatedChurch)).

Date	Commission	Ministry	Details
February 7	Spiritual Formation	Prayer Services	Recent spiritual life offerings: Coping with COVID inspiring quotes, Prayer services, Prayer cross, Spirituality 101
February 14	Congregational Care	Angel Telephone Ministries	Faith Witness: by Peggie Jo Shinagawa about Generosity through volunteering time; <i>"going home by another way"</i>
February 21	Congregational Care	Norling Prayer Memorial Gardens	Replacement stones project
February 28	Worship & Music	Choirs, Band, Musicians	Highlighting all involved in offering music during livestreamed services

## From Hamilton's Desk

Dear Friends,

If you weren't part of this church, what would make you want to become part of Federated or of any church? This is the sort of "thought experiment" I sometimes engage in to reflect on the question of how we at Federated do what we do. This can be a way of thinking about how we do in attracting others to this community of faith.

The four areas we identified as part of our recent rebranding process help me to frame the question. In the first place, I still think worship has an extremely worthwhile place in the life of the world. We need communal spaces in which we can give thanks, in which we can grieve and mourn, in which we share exuberant joy. We need spaces in which we can acknowledge that we are but creatures, and that something bigger and grander than we are has bestowed on us the incomparable gift of life. If we don't raise our heads and lift our sight and learn to trust in something greater than we are, we have succumbed to a kind of spiritual malaise. Lively, engaged, spirit-filled worship is crucial to human life. The pursuit of "awed" worship animates me week after week.

A place where I can support and be supported also matters immensely. As some of you may remember, when I moved to Chagrin Falls, I was in the midst of a disabling bout with an inner-ear balance issue that left me so dizzy I couldn't even open my eyes. Here Mary and I were, new in town, and a group of singers came to our house to sing me healing songs. A Federated member visited to practice Reiki on me. And an enormous card, signed by literally hundreds of church members, was hand-delivered to our house. At a challenging time, I felt immensely supported. People who may be open to a church experience need to know that sort of support.

We all need a place, as well, to grow. Growth looks different to different people. But it always entails a process in which we become more than we are at the moment. Not busier. Not more frantic. Just more. We shed old prejudices. We let go of roadblocks and addictions. We develop in our capacity for forgiveness and acceptance. Federated's role is, in part, to facilitate such growth.

And lastly, we need a place to act. We need to be encouraged in our own ministries. No life is complete when it is only or primarily receptive and passive. It can be a tempting tendency to succumb, without even noticing it, to a sense of entitlement that makes us think the world and the church are there to serve us, rather than our being there to serve the church and the world in God's name.

As we journey through this Lenten season, may we be reinvigorated in the church's fundamental mission: to worship, to support, to grow, and to act. Not only will this enrich us who are already here. It will be the qualities that entice others to join us. May we be passionately invested in this lively and glorious mission. May we live our faith.

Yours in Christ,

Hamilton

### UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

#### Sunday, March 7—Youth Sunday

Rev. Mark Simon preaches

Communion celebrated

10 am Online Worship

**Music by singers from Children's Choir**

11 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship

11:15 am Online Sunday School

#### Sunday, March 14

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

UCC One Great Hour of Sharing received

Daylight Saving Time Begins

10 am Online Worship

11 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship

11:30 am Online Sunday School

#### Sunday, March 21

Rev. Mark Simone preaches

10 am Online Worship

11 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship

11:30 am Online Sunday School

#### Sunday, March 28—Palm/Passion Sunday

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

Communion Celebrated

**Music by singers from Children's Choir**

10 am Online Worship

11 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship

11:30 am Online Sunday School

**Worship:** [fedchurch.org/live](https://fedchurch.org/live)

**Coffee Fellowship:** [tinyurl.com/fedfellowship](https://tinyurl.com/fedfellowship)

**Sunday School:** Contact Kristin for the link at [klefeber@fedchurch.org](mailto:klefeber@fedchurch.org)

## Online Worship:

## Every Sunday 10:00 AM

on our YouTube Channel:  
**TheFederatedChurch**

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

### April SPIRE Deadline

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

Please email your information to  
[communications@fedchurch.org](mailto:communications@fedchurch.org)

by **Monday, March 15**  
and include **"SPIRE"** in the subject line.



# FEDERATED NEWS & INFO

## Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign Project Updates

Thank you for your continued faith and investment in Federated's mission and ministries – and **for recognizing that Federated is a valuable partner in your faith journey.**

**So many updates from recent Capital Campaign Projects Committee meetings!**

**Project Management:** Melissa Owen, Laura Taylor, Becky Gruss, Brady Hively, and Keith Mast met to review all projects/budgets completed in 2020 and those beginning in 2021. An updated report was created and distributed to Church Council for review.

**Rebranding:** The Rebranding sub-committee of the Telling Our Story Commission, led by Diana Weber-Gardner, has been rolling out the new Brandwork and messaging.

**Brand Guide Workshops:** There will be workshops for Commission and Lay Leaders about how to use the primary Brand, sub-Brands and messaging to market their ministries to our faith family and the community at large.

**Building Signage:** A small group of the Rebranding sub-committee toured the Bell Street building to create a list of all the directional and welcoming signs/posters/pew-rack cards that need updating.

**Sanctuary Shades:** New window shades have been installed on the southern windows of the Sanctuary. This project was a funded Giving Opportunity – a couple associated their pledge to the campaign with this particular project – and we are so grateful for their thoughtfulness.

**Altar Cross:** this year work will begin on a new Altar Cross for the Sanctuary. This project was also a funded Giving Opportunity and we are so grateful for this couple's thoughtfulness.

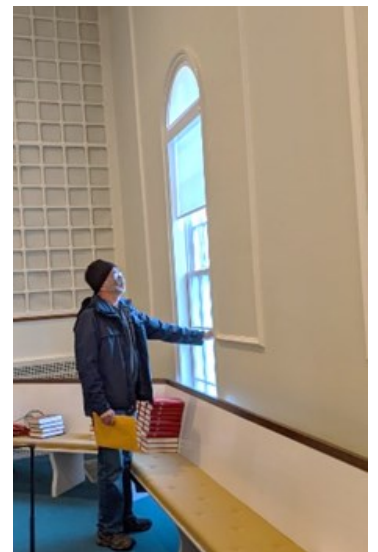
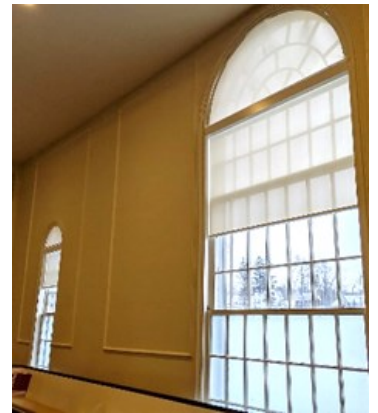
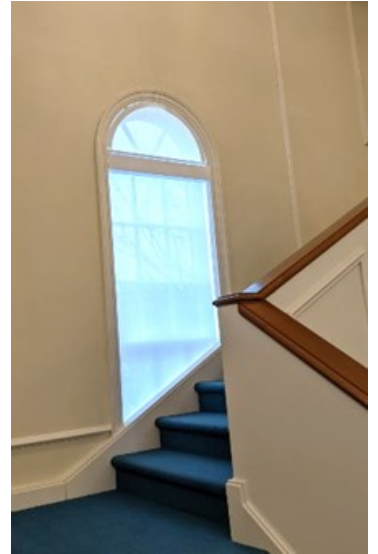
**Bell Street Parking Lot:** The Properties Committee will initiate the electrical work necessary before reaching out to vendors regarding installation of a heated coil system under the exit ramp and the repaving of our church building parking lot.

**Bathroom fixtures:** Five hands-free faucets are being installed each month and hands-free dryers will come next.

**Computer Server:** a new server was installed in February.

***It's through your generosity that we are able to continue with these projects.***

Thanks be to God.



## Stewardship Updates

**The collective impact of individual intentions brings vital ministries and missions to life. Thank you for your part!** Here's a recap of why we're celebrating the Generosity 2021 effort we began last fall.

**As of February 12, 2021:**

- The number of intentions or pledges = **315**
- The total dollar amount submitted = **\$956,606.41**, though we know more are being submitted...

That's only a 7.23% decrease from the prior year.

**What a life-giving, hope-filled expression of ministry – especially in conjunction with all the uncertainty we experienced during 2020!!**

- The average dollar amount submitted = \$3,037

Up from \$3,015 last year

- 115 households submitted an increased intention or pledge.

Representing \$52,000+

15 of these had a percent change equal to or greater than 50%.

- **Our outreach and livestream efforts are working!** We have something to offer – community, friendship, prayer, peace, growth, worship, and ministry with those in need. By extending our outreach through livestreaming, we have given others an opportunity to participate in the spirit of what we are about.

26 households connected with Federated and submitted brand new intentions or pledges, totaling \$39,000+.

Some represented brand new givers and some converted from non-pledge giving, thereby helping Federated with planned contributions.

Some households reconnected and recommitted after 5-10 years!

Intentions and pledges were received from Texas, Florida, Georgia, Washington, and North Carolina.

- Celebrating new 24/7 capabilities!

65 households took advantage of our online Intention to Give submission form.

Others set up their own pledges and pledge payment schedules in Realm.

Our greater purpose is to provide life enrichment by fostering the spiritual growth of our members, while positively impacting the larger community. These results validate that Federated is a valuable partner in our faith journey.

**Together with God, we're making a big impact!**

With Gratitude,

Ken Horner

Maren Koepf

Ann Lentz

Martine Scheuermann

Laura Piper Taylor, staff liaison

# MISSION & SERVICE

## Parish Nurse Corner

Baby, it's cold outside! Our folks at St. Paul's and those all over the inner city are experiencing night after night of frigid weather under bridges, on benches, in tent cities, and over sewer grates. Louise is one of these folks, and one of our most regular clients. She comes to St. Paul's often, mostly to see her friends and share a cup of coffee along with their stories. Leslie was "on duty" at the clinic the day Louise (not her real name) confided that she didn't have a sleeping bag, even though she slept every night alone in a flimsy tent. [This was her choice, because she didn't trust anyone in shelters, apartments, or on the street. She was her own person (with past traumas). She also happened to have a beautiful voice when she felt comfortable enough to share some of her favorite spirituals.] Picturing her sleeping in a cold huddle in her tent city broke our heart, and it was an easy decision for us to purchase a snug sleeping bag out of our Parish Nurse budget. The leader of the outreach program of which we are a part is Tim. He will give the bag to Louise, so as not to appear that we nurses have favorites. Thank heavens for this fund which gives us the flexibility to act above and beyond when called for.

Another blessing to ward off the cold was a large garbage bag full of small blankets to be distributed to those in need by Tim who knows who these people are and who keeps an eye on them. Moreover, he is at St. Paul's 4-6 days per week. The blankets came from Lynne Kessell's groups of ladies who have been consistently generous in their financial and material support of the PN program for the last 7 years. Thank you Lynne and ladies!

If you care to donate to our program, you can drop your contributions off on my front or back porch anytime. If a monetary donation, you can write a check to the Federated Church indicating "Parish Nurse Program" on the memo line. Thank you in advance!

Kathy Kolcaba  
440.655.2098  
84 Hall St.  
Chagrin Falls, 44022

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## One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

**Collected Sunday, March 14**

As part of Our Churches Wider Mission, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering of the United Church of Christ carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis.

The United Church of Christ works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and healthcare, small business micro credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, plus emergency relief and rehabilitation. This offering also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Ways to demonstrate our generosity through giving to One Great Hour of Sharing offering:

- Mail a check to Federated Church, 76 Bell Street, Chagrin Falls, OH and note "OGHS"
- Online—go to [fedchurch.org/giving](http://fedchurch.org/giving) and click "Give Now," Select the fund "UCC—One Great Hour"

# FEDERATED HAPPENINGS

## Social and Environmental Justice (SJAM) News

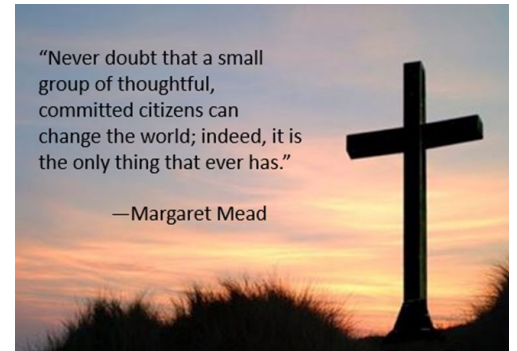
SJAM is a group of Federated and community folks learning about and taking action on a wide variety of societal justice issues such as gun violence, criminal justice, LGBTQ+ rights, environmental issues, racial justice, voter registration, and immigration as well as other areas of concern.

Sound interesting? We welcome you to join us at our next meeting. 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](mailto:wfranz@roadrunner.com)).

### Next SJAM Meeting – Sunday, March 21, 11:15 am on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/261964671?pwd=czFEQlRzJUJk2dHE4NGdQaVFTUT09>

Please feel free to log onto the call and check us out! No obligation. Just join the Zoom and see if what we are about speaks to your heart. We welcome you!



## Vigil for Healing and Peace for Our Nation

### Interfaith Prayer Vigil

**March 3, 7:00 pm on Zoom**

Read more on Page 9

## Women's Issues

### Women's History Month

SJAM continues its 2021 monthly series on topics related to social and environmental justice and their intersection with racism. We invite all in our congregation, as well as those near and far, to attend these inspiring and thought-provoking events.

March is Women's History Month and Monday March 8 is International Women's Day.

### March Movie/Book Nights

**March 15, 7:00 pm on Zoom**

To celebrate the achievements of women our monthly movie will be the film "Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice" which documents the dramatic life and turbulent times of the pioneering African American journalist, activist, suffragist, and anti-lynching crusader of the post-Reconstruction period.

Though virtually forgotten today, Ida B. Wells was a household name in Black America during much of her lifetime (1863-1931) and was considered the equal of such well-known contemporary African American leaders as Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois. Nobel Prize-winning author, Toni Morrison reads selections from Wells' memoirs and other writings in this multi-award winning film.

It can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/7NUyPFAJE9M> at your leisure.

We will then have a discussion on Monday, March 15 at 7:00 pm. Join the Zoom discussion with this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?pwd=U1VxZU5SZ0NjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVlWdz09>

### March 22, 7:00 pm on Zoom

As a follow-up to the March movie, there will be a book study on "Finish the Fight! The Brave and Revolutionary Women who Fought for the Right to Vote" by Veronica Chambers. It is a story about women of color who were instrumental in the passing of the 14th amendment and the women's right to vote. The book can be purchased at Fireside Book Shop in Chagrin (buy locally). As you read this historical and timely book be thinking about these questions: Which woman (or women) during the suffrage movement fascinated you the most? Were you surprised by any of the statistics?



Join us for the book discussion that will meet on Monday March 22 at 7:00pm with this Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?pwd=U1VxZU5SZ0NjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVIWdz09>

### Other suggestions to celebrate Women's History Month:

Send donations to WomenSafe at 12041 Ravenna Rd., Chardon, OH 44024 or go to: [www.womensafe.org](http://www.womensafe.org).

Watch a movie or documentary with a woman in the lead role.

Send a thank you note to a woman friend.

Check out the website: [womenhelpingwomen.org](http://womenhelpingwomen.org) to learn more about domestic violence and ways to help.

Purchase a candle at Thistle Farms to help women survivors of trafficking, prostitution, and addiction.

[thistlefarms.org](http://thistlefarms.org).

Join Women Against Gun Violence at [wagv.org](http://wagv.org).

### Creation Justice

#### **Recommended Webinar: Evangelical Christianity and the Climate Crisis**

Co-hosted by the Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt of the United Church of Christ Environmental Justice Ministry and the Rev. Michael Malcom of Alabama Interfaith Power & Light and the People's Justice Council.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=no0mCd1brJk>

With its size and its collective power, evangelical Christianity has had a significant presence in the political, cultural, and religious landscape of the United States. As such, it becomes critically important to understand evangelical Christianity today in relationship to the climate crisis. How do evangelical Christians regard the climate crisis? What are the political implications of this? To address these questions, this webinar features Dr. Robin Veldman who authored "The Gospel of Climate Skepticism: Why Evangelical Christians Oppose Action on Climate Change" along with the Rev. Kyle Meyaard-Schaap of the Evangelical Environmental Network and Emily Robertson of Young Evangelicals for Climate Action.

### Economic Justice

#### **Women's History Month**

Chagrin Falls Park residents need dish soap and laundry detergent (unscented). Drop off at the Community Center: 7060 Woodland Ave. Knock on the door and let someone know you have left your donation at the door.

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## Trinkets & Treasures is Cancelled

A note from Mimi Bathgate, the Trinkets & Treasures Coordinator— "I have finally bitten the bullet to cancel Trinkets 'n Treasures definitely for April 2021 and maybe for the year. We might take another look as we get close to the fall, but I'm not sure that people will be willing to work at or attend such an event this year. If you have questions, just give me a call at 440.665.6903 or email at [mbathgate@windstream.net](mailto:mbathgate@windstream.net)."



## Interfaith Prayer Vigil

### Prayers for Healing and Peace for our Nation

**Wednesday, March 3, 7 – 7:30 pm**  
**Virtually on Zoom**

Join with your neighbors of many faiths as members of Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Baha'i communities lead prayer vigils. Gather to pray for peace and healing.

Join us on Zoom through the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82048952251?pwd=MW82dnlQQ3VKRHR0L1R5eUdzZzVBZz09>

Thank you to: Chagrin Valley Council of Churches, Chagrin Valley Islamic Center, Greater Cleveland Board of Rabbis, Northern Ohio Intercultural Association, Chagrin Valley Baha'i Community

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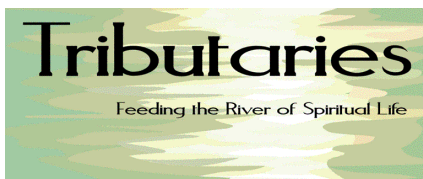
## Philippians Book Study

As the James study is coming to a close, Rev. Mark Simone has decided to continue on with a study of Philippians.

Mark Simone is offering another Bible study which will consider the Letter to the Philippians. Philippians is known for its presentation of the joy of the Christian experience. This theme of rejoicing is the dominant theme running through the letter by Paul. We will be offering the study according to the following schedule which will accommodate other important service for Federated. All meetings are on Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 via Zoom. The schedule will be:

- March 11** – Intro and part of Chapter 1
- March 18** – Finish 1 and Chapter 2
- March 25** – No Class... Adult Communion Class available (see p.9)
- April 1** – No Class... Maundy Thursday
- April 8** – Chapter 3
- April 15** – Chapter 4
- April 22** – Catch up and finish as needed.

If you wish to participate in this group, contact Mark Simone at [msimone@fedchurch.org](mailto:msimone@fedchurch.org).



## Gentle Slow Flow Yoga

Open to all levels. Virtual class on Zoom. From the comfort of your own home.

**Mondays at 9:30 - 10:15 am & Thursdays at 6:00 - 7:15 pm**

This Gentle Slow Flow class links the breath, meditation, movement, and poses together. All levels of Yoga practitioners can find their comfort level, as they slowly and mindfully move through the class. Balance, focus, and peacefulness result from attention to breath as we move through physical "asana" or poses in our yoga practice. 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.

You will need a computer or iPad to join the class via a Zoom link from the comfort of your own home/space.

To register, or if you have questions, email Dawn Dole, RYT200 at [newdayyoga.dawn@gmail.com](mailto:newdayyoga.dawn@gmail.com).

## Adult Education Communion Class

Thursday, March 25, 7:00 pm  
via Zoom

Please save the date and join us for a one-night adult education class on the holy sacrament of communion. Revs. Mark Simone and Hamilton Throckmorton will walk you through a history, meaning and significance of communion and how it relates to our walk as Christians.

Contact Kiersti Critchfield at [kcritchfield@fedchurch.org](mailto:kcritchfield@fedchurch.org) or 440.247.6490 x103 if you have any questions or to reserve your spot.

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## FEDERATED SPOTLIGHT

### Membership Committee

Active and engaged members are an integral part of a thriving church community. At Federated Church, the Membership Committee oversees current church membership and coordinates programs and initiatives related to the needs of new members.

The Membership Committee:

- Provides classes for prospective new members
- Develops programs for assimilating new members
- Provides church leaders with information on attendance, activity, retention and attrition of members
- Maintains the membership rolls of the church and keeps them current.

Serving on the Membership Committee is a wonderful way to meet new people and learn about an individual's faith journey including what brought them to Federated. If you have the gift of hosting and welcoming people into relationship with others, you would be a great match for the Membership Committee.

At this time, the Membership Committee is in need of members. If you are interested in joining this rewarding group and serving Federated Church in this way, please contact Peggine Jo Shinagawa, Chair of Nominating and Leadership at [pjshinagawa@windstream.net](mailto:pjshinagawa@windstream.net)

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### In Memoriam

Recognition of those who have passed recently. A farewell to friends; May God welcome them with open arms.



**Roger Pettibone—2/16/2021**



**Dona Sutherin—2/17/2021**  
Wife of Jim Sutherin

# Electronic Recycling Collection – Drive-Through Event

## May 8th

### 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

### at the Bell St. Parking Lot



#### 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)

**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!



Fees charged on -  
Older Tube model,  
console projection  
TVS- cost is \$1.00 per  
diagonal inch of the  
screen. Older CRT  
monitors cost- \$3.00/  
ea for terminal, \$5.00  
for 17" flat screen  
monitor and \$10.00  
each for 19" and up  
flat screen monitor.

## Easter Lilies Order Form

With a generous offer from the Work Camp leaders (who, in years past, have been the recipients of the fundraiser), this year **our Livestream Music Ministry is raising funds through the sale of Easter lilies**. These holiday flowers will decorate our Chancel during the Easter season, as in years past.

The lilies may be purchased in your name, In Honor Of, or In Memory Of a loved one or friend. The cost is \$16 per plant. A listing of those named will appear in our May Spire newsletter.



This year, after their use, **we will donate the lilies to local retirement communities and assisted living facilities**, unless you let us know that you'd like the flowers delivered **to your home**.

Fill out this form (please print) and mail it to the church **by Friday March 26**. If writing a check, note "Easter Lily" in the memo line. If giving online, select the Easter Lilies fund and add your dedication in the memo field. Thank you!

Paid by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle: In Honor of... In Memory of... Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OR ☐ Cash Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_