

Join us to celebrate

**Maundy Thursday – April 1**7 PM – [fedchurch.org](https://www.fedchurch.org)**Easter Sunday – April 4**

8 AM – FLC Parking Lot

10 AM – [fedchurch.org](https://www.fedchurch.org)

### Maundy Thursday Service

As we near the end of Lent, we come, on Maundy Thursday, to the story of Jesus' last day—the betrayal and denial by his disciples, followed by trial, mockery, and ultimately ignominious death. Withering as this part of the story is, it's also the fulcrum on which the whole gospel story turns. And it's also, strikingly, our story, especially in this pandemic year that's been so full of loss.

Join us online **Thursday evening, April 1, at 7:00 pm** for a service of Tenebrae on Federated's YouTube channel, [YouTube.com/TheFederatedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/TheFederatedChurch), to hear the gripping story and glorious music of the season, as Federated readers and musicians bring the story to life.

### Easter Morning Parking Lot Service at Family Life Center (FLC)

It is with great delight that we offer to you an Easter Morning Celebration Service on **Sunday, April 4 beginning at 8:00 am in the parking lot of the Family Life Center (16349 Chillicothe Road)**. Our worship will be held in our cars with the service being broadcast to you over an FM channel – directly into your car radio. Randy Fusco will be leading our singing and various members will be offering the readings. We will also celebrate Communion (pre-packaged communion packets will be offered to everyone. There is a gluten-free packet as well.) The service will be offered rain or shine, sunny or snowy! If it is nice, feel free to bring a lawn chair and you may sit outside of your car.

If you would like to join us, we ask that you pre-register so we can be certain to have plenty of communion packets available. RSVP to Kiersti Critchfield at [kcritchfield@fedchurch.org](mailto:kcritchfield@fedchurch.org) or 440.247.6490 x103.

### Easter Online Service

Join your Federated family virtually from the comfort of your own home. We will be livestreaming the Easter service on **Sunday, April 4 at 10:00 am on our YouTube channel: [YouTube.com/TheFederatedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/TheFederatedChurch)**. Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton will be preaching on The Easter Gift of Terror and Amazement. There will be music featuring a Brass Ensemble and singers from the Children's Choir. We hope you will join us.

# An Update from the Senior Director of People and Operations

Hello to you all!

As I write this article it is March 19 and a beautiful sunny, albeit cold day. We are all feeling like normalcy is on the horizon – President Biden's speech has us thinking most of us will be vaccinated by May, June at the latest. Here in Ohio starting today the Over-40s can register for the vaccine and we anticipate by month end everyone over 18 will be eligible. Just as our world shut down to ensure safety of those most vulnerable, we must all be patient as those at the younger end of the spectrum become eligible and are able to get vaccinated. Some of the push to vaccinate is due to concern about new variants, but certainly, there is also the desire to be part of the world again and vaccinating seems the most effective route. Here in Chagrin Falls, Ohio we are very fortunate; we have access and opportunity.

What does all of this mean for opening the Federated Church building? We are committed to opening as soon as it is feasible. Leadership will make the detailed decisions in the next few weeks and members and groups will be informed as to specifics: what measures will be employed indoors, what to expect, what metrics will cause those measures to change and what each individual can do to ensure we all remain safe and have some much deserved fun! Thank you to our leadership for making the difficult decisions and to our members for your patience and support.



Melissa Owen  
Senior Director of people and Operations

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## federated VISIONING 2021

Sunday, April 25, 11:15 am-12:30 pm  
On Zoom

Join us online from 11:15-12:30 pm on April 25 for a congregation-wide online facilitated conversation focused on further developing our vision for our church to guide us forward. We have been through a challenging year and one that has gifted us with exciting new opportunities. Working with Convergence consultant, Rev. Cameron Trimble, and our Federated Visionary Action Plan (VAP) Team, let's discern together where God is leading us.

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## Call for Mother's Day Photos

We are ready to celebrate the love shared with our mothers. Submit your favorite photo of you and your mother and if you are a young family, send us a photo of the kids with mom. These will be shown during the worship service on Mother's Day.

Email images to Marty Culbertson at [mculbert@fedchurch.org](mailto:mculbert@fedchurch.org) by Saturday, May 1.



## From Hamilton's Desk

Dear friends,

What a fast-moving world we live in! And when you hear that, you could be excused for thinking, "He's nuts! We've been living the same day again and again for more than a year. Wouldn't it be nice if we really could see some fast change!"

And, of course, from one angle, it may seem as though things are moving like cold molasses running uphill in January, as we used to say when I was a child. The pace of the world went into a kind of hibernation mode for many during the last year. I'm reminded, though, of the pithy line about parenting: "The days are long but the years are short." During the course of the pandemic, the minutes may often have seemed to drag on interminably. But with hope for a new beginning evidently on the near horizon, we are reminded again that life is short, that every moment is precious, and that God graces us every day with new and hope-filled prospects.

At Federated, we've talked a lot recently about our animating new branding theme of living our faith. That is a compelling beacon drawing us forward. In conjunction with that, and as a necessary next step, we're now developing a comprehensive plan for our church's future. The team leading our Visionary Action Plan (VAP) process will, in April, engage the congregation in a process that will help move us toward a visionary, and, at the same time, concrete, present and future.

On Sunday, April 25, immediately following worship, join the VAP team as we will be led by our visionary consultant, Cameron Trimble of Convergence. It will be a great chance to dream about our future and to imagine how each of us might contribute to that future. As many of you already know, Cameron is a tremendously engaging and inspiring leader. Let me quote her as your invitation: "Join us from 11:15-12:45 on Sunday, April 25 for a congregation-wide, online, facilitated conversation focused on further developing the vision for our church to guide us forward. We have been through a challenging year and one that has gifted us with exciting new opportunities. [As we gather that day,] let's discern together where God is leading us."

Please plan to join us April 25. In this Easter season, this season of new life, God is up to something exciting and full of promise. We want all of you to be part of it.

Yours in Christ,

Hamilton

### UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

#### **Thursday, April 1—Maundy Thursday**

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches  
7 pm Online Worship

#### **Sunday, April 4—Easter**

Rev. Mark Simone preaches  
8 am In-Car Parking Lot service at  
Family Life Center  
Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches  
10 am Online Worship  
11 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship

#### **Sunday, April 11**

Rev. Mark Simone preaches  
10 am Online Worship  
11 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship  
11:30 am Online Sunday School

#### **Sunday, April 18**

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches  
10 am Online Worship  
11 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship  
11:30 am Online Sunday School

#### **Sunday, April 25**

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches  
10 am Online Worship  
11 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship

**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

### May SPIRE Deadline

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

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

by **Thursday, April 15**  
and include **"SPIRE"** in the subject line.

# FEDERATED NEWS & INFO

## Capital Campaign Project Updates

For those who were not able to join us for the Annual Meeting, here is a recap of the *Rejoice & Renew* Capital Campaign information presented:

### 2020 Overview

61 pledges were fulfilled during 2020

Representing \$600,000+ in total pledges

At this time, only 1.8% of pledges are not able to be fulfilled

Compare with national campaign average of 4%

Remaining campaign payments total less than \$50,000

Quarterly reviews of each project (completion status, invoices, and budget) is done by Becky Gruss/Brady Hively, Keith Mast, Melissa Owen, Janis Stefanchik, and Laura Taylor. The results of these reviews, and any recommendations, are presented to Church Council.

### Capital Campaign Overall - as of December 31, 2020

Total Raised-to-Date: \$2,957,980

Received commitments from 316 households and foundations

Includes deferred gifts, matching gifts, and gifts-in-kind

Includes 7 funded Gift Opportunities = pledges associated with particular projects

Minimum goal was \$2.3 million; Challenge goal was \$3 million

Church Council approved work on all projects under \$3M level

100+ volunteers devoted (and continue to devote!) **countless** hours to make this such a success.

Total Spent-to-Date: \$2,481,538 on 27 complex projects

### Capital Campaign Projects Remaining

New Altar Cross

Computer Server (completed February 2021)

Finish new flooring

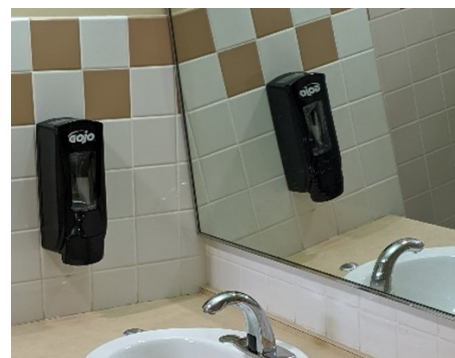
New dishwasher

Bell Street driveway/parking lot improvement

Sanctuary Blinds (completed February 2021)

Finish bathroom fixtures and LED conversion

Fund new options to attract young families





## Sudoku for the Spirit

Sudoku Rules: Fill in the puzzle such that each row, column, and 2x2 quadrant square has all 4 symbols with no repeats.

The symbols for this puzzle are:

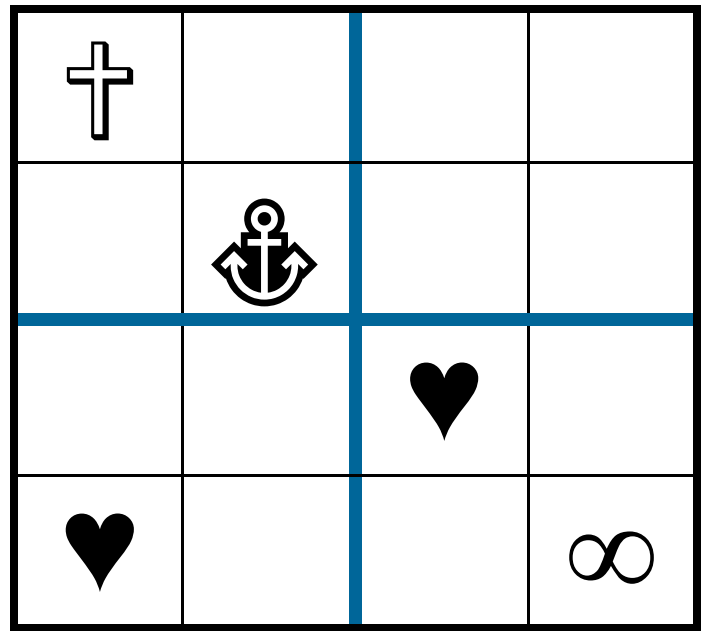
**Cross** – represents faith

**Anchor** – Christian symbol for hope.

**Heart** – Love.

**Infinity** – Lasts forever or has no bounds.

Suggestion: As you fill in a symbol, say the matching word or phrase to remind yourself of what it represents, and to help remember the passage. For example, "Heart: Love" and "Infinity: Infinity means that Love never fails." Enjoy!



<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

<sup>8</sup>Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. <sup>12</sup>For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

<sup>13</sup>And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

—1 Corinthians 13: 4-13

## MISSION & SERVICE

### Parish Nurse Corner

As I write this, we are experiencing the typical weather changes that March in Cleveland always brings. Tantalizing sunny warm days, followed by quick plunges into dark, cold, sometimes snowy days. This makes our planning for needed supplies more challenging as we have to have items for all seasons. Items for cold days are still requested in our clinic, although most of our folks do have shelter. In addition to our Tuesday open clinic hours by either Leslie Fincun or myself, the clinic is also open Wednesday through Friday. On these other days, St. Paul's capable staff opens the clinic to meet the needs for clothing, hygiene, and other supplies that we replenish.

Thankfully, the donations keep coming to my home, and in March we received many homemade small blankets and throws which were shared with Phil Fogarty for his Tuesday evening mission. Not only did those throws provide needed warmth, they telegraphed our caring for them. (Thank you so much for really caring!) The generosity of our congregation is so heartfelt and heart-warming. We are grateful to be a conduit for your desire to help those who struggle daily to find food, warmth, and basic hygiene needs (including toilet paper). To be a part of the informal, safe, and warm gatherings at St. Paul's (over a hot cup of coffee) as well as being able to meet some material needs of our inner-city brethren is our privilege and blessing. Thank you Federated for making this possible.

Kathy Kolcaba  
440.655.2098

# 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, April 18, 11:15 am on Zoom

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/261964671?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/261964671?pwd=czFEQ1llRzJlUjk2dHE4NGdQaVFTUT09)

[pwd=czFEQ1llRzJlUjk2dHE4NGdQaVFTUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/261964671?pwd=czFEQ1llRzJlUjk2dHE4NGdQaVFTUT09)

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!

### **In April and May, the SJAM activities and programs focus on Environmental and Creation Justice**

Environmental and Creation Justice - If the followers of Jesus today care about the air we breathe, the water we drink, or the world in which we live, then such ministries need to be an integral part of the life of the church and congregation. The UCC has a Creation Justice Church program that aims to help churches put these ministries at their core.

"Here we are, God – a polluted planet. Purify our vision that we may perceive ways to purify our beloved lands, cleanse our precious waters, de-smog our life-giving air for all people, animal, plants and all of the earth."

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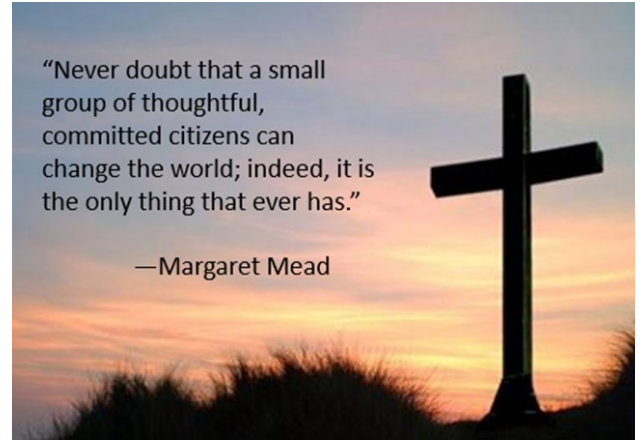
### **Planting Trees Saves the Earth**

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, we encourage all of us to plant trees! Consider becoming a member of the [Arbor Day Foundation](https://www.arborday.org/).

Join national efforts to restore forests in need of replanting and to add to the much-needed canopy to our communities. Membership offers you 10 free trees to plant in your yard or in a forest in your honor.

Trees provide so many benefits to our everyday lives. They filter clean air, provide fresh drinking water, help curb climate change, and create homes for thousands of species of plants and animals. Planting a Billion Trees can help save the Earth from deforestation.

[The Nature Conservancy](https://www.thenatureconservancy.org/) (Make a donation towards planting trees.)



## **Book Study—All are welcome to join**

**Sunday, April 18, 8:50–9:50 am (for one hour before the church service)**

### **on Zoom**

Book: **2040: A Handbook for the Regeneration** (Based on the documentary 2040) by Damon Gameau and Paul Hawken (2019)

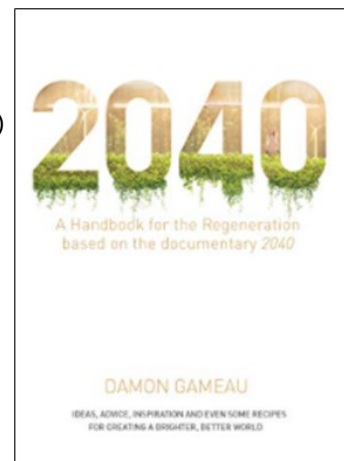
About the book: Today's climate crisis calls us all to a spiritual and moral response! Join us in a conversation around simple and immediate actions we can take as Christians in response to climate change. We'll use this book as a catalyst for our conversation. Feel free to join us whether or not you've had time to read the book.

Facilitators: Stacy Cianciolo and Maren Koepf

Let us know you will be joining. Please RSVP to Maren Koepf - [marenkoepf@gmail.com](mailto:marenkoepf@gmail.com).

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

Get the book at the local library or on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target.



## **Earth Day Activity: Family and Youth Environmental/Nature Activity**

**Sunday, April 25, 2:00–4:00 pm**

### **Family Life Center Grounds (16349 Chillicothe Road)**

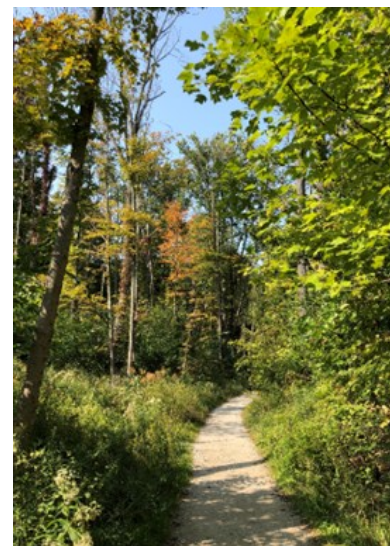
The Environmental/Creation Justice team of SJAM in collaboration with the Sunday School program and JOY (middle school youth) of Federated Church and the CLC (Community Life Collaborative) is hosting a Family/Youth activity.

The afternoon will be full of fun and exploration. Included will be:

- Sunday School Message
- Nature Hike using our Senses
- Scavenger Hunt
- Seedling Planting Activity (to bring home and plant)
- Healthy Snack

What to expect:

- Masks must be worn.
- Dress for the weather. (Slight rain: we will still meet. Heavy rain: we will postpone it to May 2 at the same time.)
- Expect to get muddy or dirty playing in the outdoors.
- Bring your own water bottle. (suggestion: no single-use plastic bottles)



Please let us know you will be joining this activity, email Kristin LeFeber: [klefeber@fedchurch.org](mailto:klefeber@fedchurch.org).

## **April Movie Night: Creation Justice Film Discussion**

**Monday, April 26, 7:00–8:00 pm**

### **On Zoom**

The Environmental/Creation Justice committee of SJAM will host a discussion of three short films on Environmental and Racial Justice. The films clarify the sometimes unrecognized connection between environmental concerns and racial justice. These films give new insight and knowledge as to how decisions about the environment are often made without regard to their impact on minority communities. All are welcome. Invite your friends and family too.

*Continued on next page...*





Watch these videos before you join the Zoom call:

[Environmental Justice Explained](#) (3 min)

[Climate Change and Racism Are About You - Dr. Atyia Martin](#) (17 min)

[How Climate Change Reinforces Racism by ClimateAdam](#) (4 min)

Film discussion led by Dan Kershner.

Zoom link to join the discussion: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?pwd=U1VxZU5SZ0NjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVlWdz09>

## **SJAM Movie Night—aka Panel Discussion Night—All are welcome!**

**Monday, May 3, 7:00–8:30 pm**

### **on Zoom**

Are you curious about alternatives to electricity and natural gas? Have you thought about looking into alternatives for your home? How much could you reduce your electric bill while reducing your impact on the environment?

Here's an easy way to learn about both in one evening. We have invited a panel of people experienced in both fields to present on Monday May 3rd from at 7–8 pm. Questions are encouraged! It is a Zoom presentation so you can sit at home in comfort and take it all in.

Guest Panelists: Gatsby Bodnar from YellowLife, a solar energy company and Dan Fant, one of the co-founders of Geothermal Professionals



Join the panel discussion hosted by the Environmental Justice Committee on Zoom:

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

Here is some background information for you to look at before you join the panel discussion:

- Geothermal heat pumps - [www.energy.gov/eere/geothermal/geothermal-energy-us-department-energy](http://www.energy.gov/eere/geothermal/geothermal-energy-us-department-energy)
- Solar - [www.energy.gov/eere/solar/solar-energy-technologies-office](http://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/solar-energy-technologies-office)  
[www.energy.gov/eere/solar/homeowner-s-guide-going-solar](http://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/homeowner-s-guide-going-solar)  
[www.energysage.com/solar/why-go-solar/](http://www.energysage.com/solar/why-go-solar/)
- UCC webinar on solar power - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvE0ehr3bvY&t=5s>

## **Racial Justice**

### **The Sacred Conversations to End Racism**

This group with Mt. Zion Congregational Church has formed and will have its 3rd meeting on Saturday, April 10. Facilitated by Barry Stees. If you have questions, contact [steesbassoon@gmail.com](mailto:steesbassoon@gmail.com).

### **White Privilege Courses**

If you are interested in participating in a future White Privilege course, please contact Bill Shaul at [theshauls@msn.com](mailto:theshauls@msn.com).







## 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**

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).

## Yoga Spirit Renewal

**Tuesdays April 6 – May 25 9:30-10:30am Family Life Center**

Move & Breathe, Relax & Center. A prayerful, reflective yoga practice in a warm and inviting community offers an answer. When you're healthy in body, mind, and spirit you can be of better service in the world and enjoy your family and life with greater pleasure & ease. Please join us for this gentle, meditative yoga class...in person at the CLC / FLC (safely distanced, class size is limited) or via Zoom from the comfort of your home or winter destination. Go to [pollymanke.com](http://pollymanke.com) or contact [polly@pollymanke.com](mailto:polly@pollymanke.com) for details and/or the Zoom link.

7 classes for \$85 or Drop-in \$15

## Reiki I & II Training

**Friday, June 4 6:00-9:00pm & Saturday June 5, 2021 9:30am – 4:30pm Family Life Center**

Reiki is an ancient energy healing technique that promotes health & well-being, relieves stress, speeds healing, and reduces pain by supporting a sense of deep relaxation where one's own innate healing ability is activated. Learn to employ this energy in your everyday life to support yourself, and to offer support to friends and family. At the end of this class, you will be certified as a first AND second degree Reiki practitioner.

**Reiki I** includes: The History of Reiki, What is Reiki, How does Reiki heal, Reiki hand positions for self and others, Complete treatment for self and others.

**Reiki II** includes: Reiki II symbols and how to use them, Using Reiki for specific conditions, How to heal unwanted habits, Distant healing.

The training is a combination of lecture, discussion, and experience. Practice time is included for the topics listed above; however, practice after class will be necessary to gain experience and the confidence you need to fully utilize the Reiki training.

Cost is \$297

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## In Memoriam

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

Bob Lapsansky on March 17, 2021  
husband of Gloria Lapsansky



# THANK YOU CORNER

Dear Federated... On February 16th this year, Jack went to get the mail, slipped on the ice in our driveway, fell on his left side and shattered his shoulder and hip. It is with sincere gratitude to our friends at Federated for your love! The cards, phone calls, food and prayers and immense caring has humbled us with your concern. We both wish to thank you for all you have done to make this accident seem tolerable. We thank you and love each and every one of you for your outpouring of kindness!

Gratefully, Jack and Mary Hobbs

## 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.



## Last Call for Easter Lilies

This is the last call to purchase Easter Lilies. 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. If you have not turned in your form yet, and wish to do so, please do so online NOW. Go to [fedchurch.org/giving](http://fedchurch.org/giving), click on "Give Now" and select the Easter Lilies fund. **The deadline is Friday, March 26.**