Open the Church!

A message from the Director of People and Operations

Hello to you all!

First, an enormous THANK YOU! It has been a year of challenges and having your support and input has made me feel welcome and a part of wonderful Federated. Okay, so now let's reopen our building!

Phase One: Groups of 10 or less for meetings/events will begin Monday April 26th. **Phase Two:** Groups of 25 or less for meetings and events will begin May 17th.

Phase Three: Groups of 50 or less for meetings, events and Worship (Target date is June 7th).

This type of graduated approach provides a way to move forward quickly. Some of us have been vaccinated for several months or weeks and have put the anxiety well behind, which is truly wonderful. However, many are just now receiving vaccinations and it is a 6-7 week process to reach immunity. We also need to be cognizant of what is happening outside of our immediate community: some are not so fortunate to have received vaccines; Ohio and surrounding states show increasing COVID numbers (CDC is urging a shutdown in Michigan). It is also essential to consider the data. Currently there is not enough data to determine to what extent the vaccine will protect and for how long, and if it provides protection from new variants. We are hopeful that positive and concrete data will be coming soon. For now, let's move forward with each of us taking responsibility and continuing to protect one another as we come back together!

Continued on next page...

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 by Saturday, May 1.



Continued from previous page...

All Phases:

- Masks: While inside the church building, you must wear a mask covering both your nose and mouth. Your mask must be worn at all times and must be worn whether or not you have been vaccinated.
- Upon entering the church, sanitize your hands; no-touch dispensers will be available.
- Keep to social distancing guidelines (currently 3-6 feet apart from others not living in your household).
- Pre-registration will be required for all events 48 hours prior to the event
- A sign-in sheet must be signed by everyone in attendance.
- Beverages and food will not be provided and shared food/drink should not be made available.
- Groups will have designated lavatories to use near meeting rooms.

Phase 1: Open to Small Groups of 10 or less - April 26

- Groups will only be permitted Monday-Friday before 5 pm.
- Groups must meet in Fellowship Hall, one group per day, and must schedule at least 48 hours in advance through Melinda Smith at smithm@fedchurch.org (preferred) or call 440.247.6490 ext. 111.
- Groups must use designated lavatories.
- Please leave any correspondence, packages, etc. at the Reception/Angel Desk.
- Tables and chairs will be setup in advance and groups will be responsible for putting their trash in the trash receptacles. Staff will not be available to assist during meetings/events. If anything other than tables and chairs is needed, please request 48 hours in advance.

Phase 2: Open to Larger Groups of 25 or less - May 17th

- Groups will only be permitted Monday-Friday before 5 pm (evening hours TBD as we near Phase 2).
- Groups may meet in Fellowship Hall or the Lounge, one group per day per room and must schedule at least 48 hours in advance through Melinda Smith at smithm@fedchurch.org (preferred) or call 440.247.6490 ext. 111.
- Groups must use designated lavatories.
- Please leave any correspondence, packages, etc. at the Reception/Angel Desk.
- Tables and chairs will be setup in advance and groups will be responsible for putting their trash in the trash
 receptacles. Staff will not be available to assist during meetings/events. If anything other than tables and chairs
 is needed, please request 48 hours in advance.

Phase 3: Open to Larger Groups - 50 or less - AND Open for In-Person Worship (limit of 50 people). The TARGET DATE is June 7!

Details to follow.

I also want to make sure everyone knows:

- Online worship will continue indefinitely!
- Our commissions and committees are working together to ensure you are properly welcomed back for worship. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact me directly at mowen@fedchurch.org or call my cell 805.636.4256.

As new information becomes available, we are prepared to relax restrictions or, if necessary, to provide new restrictions. Our goal is to open the church and do so safely, quickly and permanently.

With Joy,

Melissa Owen

Director of People and Operations

PAGE 2 | THE SPIRE FEDCHURCH.ORG

Spring Into Generosity federated

Spring is in the air! The earth is being renewed. The spirit of the resurrected Christ is alive. Generosity is bubbling forth from our congregation. We are a people responding to the call to *Live Your Faith*.

An idea brought up by SJAM inspired The Mission & Service Commission and The Generosity Commission to invite you to join in a special opportunity for the members and friends of Federated Church to support the vibrant missions of our church and the United Church of Christ this spring.

We have seen the generosity of this congregation create lifegiving changes through our Christmas Eve offering which enabled four of our mission partners to address the crisis needs caused by the pandemic. We are filled with gratitude!

In realizing how many of us have not been negatively impacted by the pandemic, we are now taking on the challenge of continuing to support Federated's mission partners in their ongoing needs, including Our Church's Wider Mission, an important part of the United Church of Christ; to name a few of these missions, UCC Disaster Ministries, Recovering Hope, Global Ministries and Refugee & Migration Ministries. (Visit UCC.org for a full description of their ministries).

We believe that we are blessed to be a blessing. We live our faith by using our resources to help others. We believe that as we share our resources for God's work, lives are blessed, hearts are opened and the light of God's love shines. Jesus said, "As you did it to the least of these, you did it unto me."

Please prayerfully consider joining us as together we Spring into Generosity!

You can mail a check to 76 Bell Street, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022, or go to www.fedchurch.org/giving and specify Spring into Generosity when making your contribution.

Thank you. GENEROSITY springs from the love that God has poured into our hearts. Let it flow. Let it flow!

- The Mission & Service Commission and The Generosity Commission



UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, May 2

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

Sunday, May 9

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches 10 am Online Worship Music by singers from the Children's Choir 11 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship 11:30 am Online Sunday School

Sunday, May 16

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

Sunday, May 23

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches UCC Strengthen the Church offering 10 am Online Worship 11 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship 11:30 am Online Sunday School

Sunday, May 30

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

Worship: fedchurch.org/live

Coffee Fellowship: tinyurl.com/

<u>fedfellowship</u>

Sunday School: Contact Kristin for the link at <u>klefeber@fedchurch.org</u>

Online Worship:

Every Sunday 10:00 AM

on our YouTube Channel: TheFederatedChurch

June SPIRE Deadline

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

Please email your information to communications@fedchurch.org

by **Saturday, May 15** and include "**SPIRE**" in the subject line.

FEDERATED NEWS & INFO

Generosity Commission Update

Our congregational vote to form a new Generosity Commission initiated a movement in stewardship and giving from a traditional paradigm to an emerging paradigm...

The Emerging Paradigm
Perspective of Abundance
Vital part of your spiritual journey to create change
Aspirational giving
Year-round drive toward impact

Opportunities to impact specific ministries and mission partners

The Mission & Service Commission asked us to partner with them to offer a **Spring into Generosity** opportunity (see page 3 for more details).

Celebrations of impact

Our worship lifts up the many ways Federated transforms lives by weekly highlighting Generosity Impact Moments in worship (see page 6 for more details). A huge shout-out to Marty Culbertson for helping us **celebrate your impact** through her videography!

Workshops that inspire & educate

How can we live more generous lives as stewards of all that is God's? Watch for programming created with our fellow Commissions and Committees

Expressions of gratitude for service and generous acts

See how the Federated Church is becoming a "Charity of Choice" for our congregation and the community at large:

A community member who attended Federated while a resident of Hamlet recently donated funds to the church after hearing that her family really enjoyed our livestreamed Easter service. We're so glad that, regardless of their location, members and friends – and their families! – are able to join us for Sunday services. Livestreamed services bring us all together.

And together with God, we are making a difference!

With Gratitude,
Eric Goodman
Martine Scheuermann, Chair
Ken Horner
Dawn Thatcher
Maren Koepf
Laura P Taylor, staff liaison
Mike Quintin

PAGE 4 | THE SPIRE FEDCHURCH.ORG

Easter Lily Plants Donations

With a generous offer from the Work Camp leaders (who, in years past, have been the recipients of the fundraiser), last month **our Livestream Music Ministry raised funds through the sale of Easter lilies**. Every year it is an honor to give our members and friends the opportunity to express their remembrance and thoughts of someone dear to them.

We are so grateful to the following Federated members and friends who donated Easter lilies for our Chancel. And what an extra special treat it was for those - like the choir

members, musicians, and leaders - who videotaped their online worship service participation ahead of Easter morning. Being in the presence of those flowers allowed them to capture the thoughtful gestures behind each flower and relay that through their heartfelt Easter service participation.

Many thanks to:

A Friend

In honor of Ed and Mary Ann Ponce, and in memory of David Ponce

Anonymous

In honor of Melody McClurg

Sue Beattie

In honor of Nancy Schroeder Carpenter, and in memory of David Joel Carpenter

Janet Berlincourt

Bonnie Borman

In memory of David Goldston

Bill & Lauren Brandon

Bob & Lindy Bryson

In memory of Mary Lou and Don Chester, Pixie Ferlito, and Ruthie and Nat Bryson

Tom Dantimo

Mary Griffith

In memory of Noelle

Allison Hawkes

In honor of Elizabeth Hawkes

Ted & Betsy Hellmuth

In memory of Barbara Drain

Rick Jones

Bill & Cheryl Koza

In memory of their parents

Greg Polyak & Marcia Snavely

Laura Reed

Martine Scheuermann & Marty Culbertson

Cindy Scott & Miriam Huebscher-Scott

Alan & Peggie Jo Shinagawa

Barry & Melinda Stees

In memory of Arthur R Stees

James & Alexandra Ziots

In memory of Alexandra's stepfather Bernard, her lovely Hannah, her brother Hubert, and her dad Miguel

Generosity Impact Moments

What a blessing it has been to celebrate all the ways that Federated is a premier messenger of grace and love during our Sunday services. Thanks to the beautiful videography of Marty Culbertson, Hamilton and Mark shared these Generosity Impact Moments during Sunday worship services in February and March. To revisit some of these videos, go to the Generosity Impact Moment playlist on our YouTube channel (YouTube.com/TheFederatedChurch, or through the Federated website at fedchurch.org/live). Without YOU, we could never have achieved so much! And together, we are making a difference.

Date	Commission	Ministry Area	Being Celebrated
February 7, 2021	Spiritual Formation	Feeding Spiritual needs	Prayer cross, Prayer services, "Coping with COVID" inspirational messages
February 14, 2021	Congregational Care	Angel Ministries	Calls being coordinated, the prayer note writers, reaching out to our members
February 21, 2021	Congregational Care	Memorial Garden	Replacement stones in our sacred space at the Family Life Center
February 28, 2021	Worship & Music	Choirs, Band, Musicians	# of choir members involved last year, instrumentalists hired, hours to prep and pre-record music
March 7, 2021	Spiritual Formation	Youth Sunday	Youth Faith Formation during the pandemic
March 14, 2021	Mission & Service	One Great Hour of Sharing	One of the 5 for 5 UCC special offerings

Update from the Visionary Action Plan Team:

Peter Franz, Ann Lentz, Melissa Owen, Beth Rutkowski, Bill Shaul, Peggie Jo Shinagawa, Hamilton Throckmorton

We have now concluded the Assessment Phase of our Visionary Action Plan with Convergence. You can view the Executive Summary of the Assessment Report prepared by Rev. Cameron Trimble and Dr. Anna Hall by clicking HERE or going online to our website, or by requesting a mailed copy from the church office. The full report, containing 25 pages of narrative and data with detailed demographic information, was presented to the Church Council at its April 6 meeting. The report was compiled based on information received from 278 completed online surveys from the congregation, 28 personal interviews with church and staff members, and another 20 interviews with community leaders. We hope you will take a few minutes to review this report. It is an honest assessment with an important message of hope for the future of Federated. You can find it online at fedchurch.org/convergence.

The next phase of the process begins on Sunday, April 25 with congregation members participating in an online, facilitated conversation to review the themes that emerged from the Assessment Phase. Led by Rev. Cameron Trimble of Convergence, and hosted by the VAP (Visionary Action Plan) team and members of Church Council, small online groups discussed a selected theme and brainstormed ideas about how we might act on the theme as a congregation. A leadership retreat for staff, commission and committee members will take place on May 16 and further planning will take place based on the ideas generated from the congregation on April 25.

The final phase of the process will be the development of a written Visionary Action Plan for the Federated Church.

PAGE 6 | THE SPIRE FEDCHURCH.ORG

Stephen Ministry Offers Support

Our Stephen Ministry is offering short term support for members of our congregation who are experiencing adverse effects from the prolonged pandemic.

If you are experiencing loneliness, sadness, or worry that you think would be helped by talking with a caring listener, you may want to consider having a Stephen Minister as someone you can talk with on a weekly basis, or for a caring conversation as needed.

Stephen Ministers are lay people from our congregation who are specially trained to provide support to people who are encountering difficult situations in their lives. Their ministry is confidential.

If you would like to engage the services of a Stephen Minister, please contact Dan Kershner at 330.425.8902 or drekersh@gmail.com.

In Memoriam

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

Betty Ryan on March 29, 2021 Barbara Gates on April 15, 2021

THANK YOU CORNER

Federated received several thank you notes from members:

"Thank you for continuing your work during this very challenging time."

"We watched your Easter Service and enjoyed it so much."

"Bless your heart for year after year satisfying the hopes of those remembering or honoring someone important and/or dear in their lives..."

"I wish all at Federated Church only the best in their journey and have been grateful to have shared the path."

MISSION & SERVICE

Strengthen the Church Offering

To Be Collected June 6

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church to cooperatively build up the UCC. Local Conferences and the national UCC equally share the gifts given by our local congregation. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry,

and innovation in existing congregations.

By your generosity to this special mission offering, you build up the Body of Christ. You help plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.



We welcome your donations on or before June 6th.

You can mail a check to 76 Bell St. Chagrin Falls, OH 44022, or go to fedchurch.org/giving, click "Give Now" and note "Strengthen the Church."

"White Sock" Collection

Saturday, May 15, 10:00 am-2:00 pm 76 Bell St. Parking Lot

For our Parish Nurse Ministry at St. Paul's Community Church

White Socks needed for men and women.

Drop off at the Bell Street Parking Lot on Saturday, May 15, 10 am until 2 pm.

Thank you

The Mission and Service Commission

Parish Nurse Corner and Thrift Shop

"What's happening at St. Paul's?" you ask. Well, the nursing clinic continues to be running very well. Our clients come fully masked, get their temperatures taken, and generally stay socially distant while waiting to see the "nurse" or one of the staff. They appreciate the hot coffee and conversation with their friends and staff. Leslie Fincun and I alternate Tuesdays and sub for each other when necessary. I shop for supplies using money that the congregation has given so generously. We share overflow supplies with Phil Fogarty and he distributes them to his homeless population on Tuesday evenings with the help of students from his high school alma mater. T-shirts, white socks, and briefs are the items most frequently requested. As always my home at <u>84 Hall St.</u> in the Village is a convenient drop off point for any donations and we are grateful!

Another need has come to my attention, which is housewares for the Thrift Shop. Since Pastor Doug is gone and there is still a pandemic to cope with, the items that used to flow in are not available any more. Those items are things you might donate to the Trinkets and Treasures housewares section. But TNT is not going to happen until possibly October this year. So I am volunteering my garage as a mini-collection point. Items that are in demand are: pots, pans, lamps, Corningware, small appliances, towels, small furniture and brick-a-brack. No china or clothing is needed at this time. If you are clearing out your kitchen or downsizing and are looking for a place to donate, look no further. I only request that you pack things up and put in a sturdy box so I can put the box directly into my car for delivery. Please label the box with the items you have packed. You can place your boxes on the walk next to the garage and if it is wet, place the boxes inside the garage through the side door. Thank you!

In faith, Kathy Kolcaba, Parish Nurse, 440.655.2098 84 Hall St. Chagrin Falls, OH

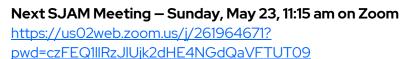
PAGE 8 | THE SPIRE FEDCHURCH.ORG

FEDERATED HAPPENINGS

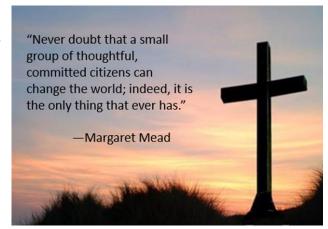
Social and Environmental Justice (SJAM) News

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).



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!



SJAM Environmental and Creation Justice activities and programs continue in May

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."

<u>Tree Planting Event</u> Sunday, May 2, 1:00 pm Family Life Center (16349 Chillicothe Road)

SJAM Creation Justice team is planting trees at the Family Life Center in conjunction with the Community Life Collaborative and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Trees are donated to this effort by Stacy Cianciolo who collected donations for her birthday last year and used those funds to buy trees. Thank you, Stacy.

Interested in helping? Contact Rebecca Woerhle. rfwoehrle@gmail.com

Don't forget your mask! Join a movement and be part of the solution!



<u>Learn about Solar and Geothermal Energies for your Home</u> 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 3 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 cofounders 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
- Solar www.energy.gov/eere/solar/solar-energy-technologies-office www.energy.gov/eere/solar/homeowner-s-guide-going-solar www.energysage.com/solar/why-qo-solar/
- UCC webinar on solar power https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvE0ehr3bvY&t=5s

Book Study—All are welcome to join Wednesday, May 5, 7:00—8:30 pm on Zoom

Book: Gonna Trouble the Water by Miguel A. De La Torre, Pilgrim Press

About the book: "Gonna Trouble the Water" considers the sacred nature of water and the ways in which it is weaponized against non-white communities. With compelling contributions from scholars and activists, politicians and theologians, "Gonna Trouble the Water" decenters the concept of water as a commodity in order to center the dignity of water and its life-giving character. Firmly grounded at the intersection of environmentalism and racism, "Gonna Trouble the Water" makes clear the message: to deny water is to deny life. In addition to Dr. De La Torre, contributors to the book include former Colorado governor Bill Ritter, global academic law professor Ved P. Nanda, Detroit-based activist Michelle Andrea Martinez, and more.

Facilitators: Linda Robertson and Maren Koepf

Let us know you will be joining. Please RSVP to Maren Koepfmarenkoepf@gmail.com. GONNA
TROUBLE
THE
WATER

Ecojustice,
Water, and
Environmental
Racism

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

PAGE 10 | THE SPIRE FEDCHURCH.ORG

Electronic Recycling Collection – Drive-through Event

Saturday, May 8, 9:00 am-2:00 pm 76 Bell Street Parking Lot

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

Please spread the news of this important recycling event!

Acceptable Items for Collection:

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

Feed charged on:

- Older type model, console projection TVs:
 \$1.00 per diagonal inch of the screen
- Older CRT monitors:

\$3.00/each for terminal,

\$5.00 for 17" flat screen monitor

\$10.00 each for 19" and up flat screen monitor







Gentle Slow Flow Yoga

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

Mondays at 9:30 - 10:45 am (May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31) Wednesdays at 6:00-7:30 pm (May 12, 19, 26)

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.

Yoga Spirit Renewal

Tuesdays in May 9:30-10:30am

Family Life Center (16349 Chillicothe Road)

Move & Breathe, Relax & Center. A prayerful, reflective yoga practice in a warm and inviting community offers an answer to the stressors of our time. Ease in body, mind, and spirit allows us to be of better service in the world, a vessel of hope and light, and to enjoy the gifts of life with joy. Please join us for this gentle, meditative yoga class... in person at the Family Life Center (safely distanced) or via Zoom from the comfort of your home. Go to 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 (16349 Chillicothe Road)

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. Registration deadline is May 28, but space is limited, so register soon.

To learn more go to https://mailchi.mp/38cb31860cbc/reiki-training.

PAGE 12 | THE SPIRE FEDCHURCH.ORG