

## All-Church Outdoor Fellowship Event

Wednesday, July 21 | 5:30-9 PM  
Frohring Meadows (16780 Savage Road)

All ages are invited and encouraged to attend this outdoor fellowship event. Feel free to bring a bagged meal. There will be games, cornhole, a nature walk, and fun for everyone in the family.

Come to celebrate time together with love and fellowship.!



*Federated Church's Music Ministry presents:*

## Our Piano Future

**A forum and benefit concert to highlight the Sanctuary Piano Initiative**  
**Tuesday, July 6, 7 PM in the Sanctuary**

Come join Joshua Konow, Marcia Snively, Randy Fusco, and Rebecca Konow for this lively concert and presentation featuring the Bösendorfer piano currently under consideration as our new Sanctuary piano. **Invite the family to this LIVE in-person concert in our Sanctuary. Registration is recommended. Go to [fedchurch.org/concerts](https://fedchurch.org/concerts) or call Joshua Konow and leave a message at 440.247.6490 x120 to tell us you're coming.**

The Music Ministry Sanctuary Piano Initiative team is considering several different pianos to replace our recently retired one. We had a fortuitous trial period during March and April with a Steinway concert grand that is also being considered. At the time, the Federated Performing Arts Series sponsored the "Spring Varietals" concert, which highlighted that Steinway's capabilities alongside our Rodgers organ. **Now, it's time to highlight the Bösendorfer and present our other wonderful piano finalists!**

Having a trial piano in our own space offers our musicians and singers fantastic comparison insight with each piano and our current pianos. Other makers that the team are researching include Mason & Hamlin, Bechstein, and Fazioli. The good news is there is no wrong course. Any of the pianos we are testing would be a fabulous addition to the Sanctuary.

**So, come one, come all to listen to the beautiful musicianship of Joshua, Marcia, Randy, and Rebecca as they put the Bösendorfer through its paces. Read more about the piano initiative on page 5.**

# We are Collecting Back to School Supplies for the kids of The Chagrin Falls Park Community

- School Boog Bags (Back Packs)
- Crayons
- Pencils
- Markers
- Glue Sticks
- 3x3 Post-It Notes



*Bring Supplies to the Church on  
Sunday Mornings Starting  
July 11 Through August 1*

*or Two Saturdays  
July 10 and 17 (10 am – 1 pm)*

This is just a small sample. There is so much more that is needed!  
Full lists by grade can be found at [kenstonlocal.org/announcements](http://kenstonlocal.org/announcements).

## 49 Bells: Tolling the Bells



Many thanks to all the coordinators and participants as we gathered to ring the church bells  
on June 12 in memory of those who lost their lives in the Orlando shooting five years ago.  
You are not forgotten.



## From the Desk of Hamilton

Dear Friends,

As we enter the summer and what I hope is a season of vacations for some, and of healthy and hopeful down time for many of us, we're invited into a season of both reflection and enjoyment.

During this time of transition, we might first of all reflect. As we near the culmination of our Visionary Action Planning (VAP) process, church leadership and I invite us to take stock of our blessings. We have been gifted with the magic of life on this strange little insignificant speck in the universe. How in the world did we ever come to be? How did hydrogen and helium and other atoms get arranged to become the richly varied and complex creatures we are, with our limits and our challenges and our radiant fullness? There's a holy Mystery at the heart of the universe that somehow saw fit to make these sparks of life come into being.

And the issue, as the poet Mary Oliver so trenchantly put it, is "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life" ("The Summer Day"), this gorgeous and complex and painful and rich life we've been given. There isn't just one single thing we're to do, of course. But the issue faces us at every moment: how do we live out the unique spark God has placed in each of us?

*New York Times* columnist and, effectively, public theologian, David Brooks, wrote in a column several years ago about the difference between résumé virtues and eulogy virtues. "The résumé virtues are the skills you bring to the marketplace. The eulogy virtues are the ones that are talked about at your funeral—whether you were kind, brave, honest, or faithful. Were you capable of deep love?" And while our society tends to favor the résumé virtues, it's the eulogy virtues, says Brooks, that are most crucial (<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/12/opinion/sunday/david-brooks-the-moral-bucket-list.html>).

Federated Church gives you and me the opportunity to practice the eulogy virtues, to engage in the sort of kindness, bravery, honesty, faithfulness, and love that are central to life. Our VAP invites us to engage in any of these five areas:

To help energize participation in this wonderful family of faith;

To engage in the community in ways that make a difference and have an impact;

To deepen ourselves spiritually by engaging in prayer, reading, and embodied faith formation;

To care for the participants and friends of this congregation;

And to ensure our financial sustainability.

*Continued on next page*

### UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

#### Sunday, July 4

Rev. Mark Simone preaches

10 am Livestream & In-person Worship

*Music by Marcia Snively, organ and  
Kiko Weinroth, soloist*

#### Sunday, July 11

Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner preaches

10 am Livestream & In-person Worship

*Music by Marcia Snively, organ and  
Nancy Isham & Kate Breen, vocalists*

#### Sunday, July 18

Rev. Mark Simone preaches

10 am Livestream & In-person Worship

*Music by Marcia Snively*

#### Sunday, July 25

Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner preaches

Christmas in July Offering collected

10 am Livestream & In-person Worship

*Music by Joshua Konow and the  
RISE to Shine Band*

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

**Worship  
Every Sunday  
10:00 AM**

**Online Worship on our  
YouTube Channel:  
TheFederatedChurch**

### August Spire Deadline

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

Please email your information to

[communications@fedchurch.org](mailto:communications@fedchurch.org)

by **Thursday, July 15**

and include **"SPIRE"** in the subject line.

In reflecting on and then committing to any one of these possible areas of focus, our lives will be made rich and full. How will we engage to live our lives to the fullest?

And as we do so, my hope for you is that, in addition to this sort of reflecting, you will also take time this summer to savor the richness and beauty of wherever you are—to swim, to walk, to sit quietly, to run, to play, to visit with friends and family, to listen to the birds, to see the sights, to rejoice in the privilege of this marvelous life, a life given to us by God. Praise be to God for the marvels of life in this world!

Yours in Christ,  
Hamilton



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## Altar Flower Opportunities

There are several opportunities available to donate altar flowers during the month of July. We currently need July 11, July 18 and July 25. This is a wonderful way to honor or memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion.

If interested, please contact Sue Mansour at 440.668.9399 or [sueman@roadrunner.com](mailto:sueman@roadrunner.com).

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## Free Books!

Mark Simone is cleaning out his library at the church and would love for any and all of you to avail yourselves to his books. He can't fit them all in his home office. No need to sign them out. Just browse and take what you would like to have with his blessings. The table is located outside of his office at the church. Hope you find something to love!

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## In Memoriam

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

**Glenn Brown on May 16, 2021**

**Bob Burrows on May 26, 2021**

**Chuck Gates on May 26, 2021**

**Ralph Hegsted on May 26, 2021**

**Ruth Walker on May 29, 2021**

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## A Special Thanks

Many thanks to the Federated Church!!! I am on the road to recovery! I have enjoyed all the cards, flowers, food and phone calls. It really helped!! The Federated sure is loyal to all its' members! I am so grateful

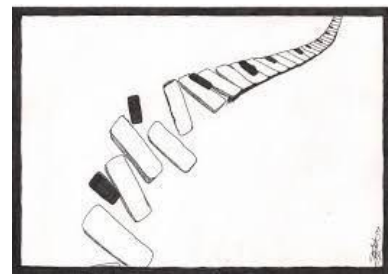
Thanks again,  
Jack Hobbs

# FEDERATED NEWS & INFO

## Music Ministry Sanctuary Piano Initiative

In March, a dear friend of our Music Ministry formally retired. That friend is **our Kawai Sanctuary piano**, diligently in use at our church since 1997 and built in 1981. It ***will no longer remain in tune, no matter how often we tune it.*** As a result of this retirement, a team, led by Joshua Konow and including Marcia Snavelly, Randy Fusco, Bruce Gigax, and others, is searching for a better instrument to accompany and inspire our Music Ministry long into the future.

This is an exciting initiative that is being approached with the utmost care, attention to detail, and prayerful diligence. ***We are looking for a grand or concert grand piano that is responsive to the person playing it, has an inspiring sound that can be shaped and molded to suit any style of music***, and with construction that enables it to tolerate changing environmental conditions (dry or humid sanctuaries).



During the *pianissimo* phase of the Sanctuary Piano giving opportunity, we reached out to members of our Music Ministry. Already over \$70,000 – more than ½ of our estimated budget – has been committed to this initiative.

*"I feel God's presence when music is floating out of the Sanctuary piano. I can't imagine being in a service or attending a church concert without those Spiritual moments! That is why we gave to the Sanctuary Piano Fund."*

During July, the *forte* phase of this Sanctuary Piano giving opportunity, we are inviting all of the Federated faith family to become partners in this initiative.

Although gifts of all levels are appreciated, we decided to have fun with this initiative by offering a "Piano Key" opportunity at \$250 each.

<u>Donation Category</u>	<u>Dollar Level</u>
Piano Key	\$250
Hymn	\$500
Sonata	\$1,000
Cantata	\$2,000
Symphony	\$5,000
Oratorio	\$10,000

***Would you consider giving to this exciting project?*** Your vocal, instrumental, dance, work, volunteer, advocacy, and financial partnership keep this ministry alive and thriving!

***Checks can be made payable to Federated Church with "Sanctuary Piano" written on the memo line. Or go to [fedchurch.org/giving](https://fedchurch.org/giving), click Give Now, and select Sanctuary Piano in the drop-down menu.***

***Also consider coming to the benefit concert on July 6! See page 1 for more info.***

## Generosity Impact Moments

**"It takes a lot of effort each week to make all of this possible! We are truly grateful for everyone's gifts of time and knowledge, and their willingness to learn new things that served us over the last 15 months and will take us into a new era."**

Generosity Impact Moments = celebrating the many ways that Federated is a premier messenger of grace and love to each member and our wider community. Thanks to the beautiful videography of Marty Culbertson, these Moments were presented by Hamilton and Mark during May and June's Sunday worship services.

Date	Commission	Being Celebrated
May 9	Congregational Care Commission	Mother's Day remembrances
May 30	SJAM Environmental Justice Group	Planting 10 trees at the Family Life Center/Community Life Collaborative
June 6	Mission & Service Commission	Strengthen the Church Offering
June 13	Worship & Music Commission	Tech Crew generosity thank you!
June 20	Congregational Care Commission	Father's Day remembrances
June 27	Congregational Care Commission	Ongoing ministries' generous volunteers

***To revisit these videos, go to [fedchurch.org/live](https://fedchurch.org/live) and view the Generosity Impact Moment Playlist.***

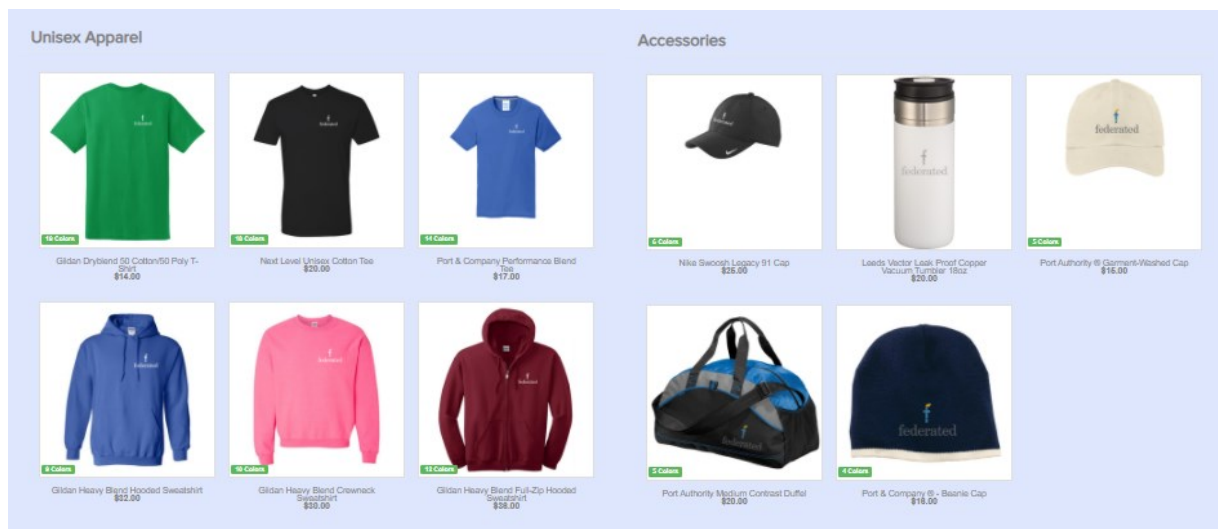
Together, we are making a difference!

## Federated Store

***Have you looked around at the Federated online store yet?***

You can now purchase Federated branded items! You'll find various apparel items and accessories that you can wear and show off. These are great gift ideas! Delivery to the church is free.

Find the website quickly by going to [fedchurch.org/store](https://fedchurch.org/store).



# MISSION & SERVICE

## UCC Christmas in July Offering

Sunday, July 25

The UCC Christmas in July offering (sometimes called Veterans of the Cross offering ) is an expression of appreciation and caring to those who served as clergy (and certain lay employees) who are now retired or disabled and financially strained. The offering is a profound gift. It helps provide pension supplements, health premium subsidies and emergency assistance to active or retired clergy families and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of retirees and those who are disabled.

We will collect this offering during the worship service on Sunday, July 25. Thank you for giving generously!

- The Mission & Service Commission

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## Homeless Stand Down

I hope you all are healthy and enjoying warm summer activities as the Covid pandemic restrictions become more relaxed.

Please remember our less fortunate neighbors throughout Cleveland who may have recently joined the growing ranks of the homeless—teens, adults, veterans and families: many through job loss.

As you put away your warm weather boots, coats and jackets, we will once again be collecting them late this fall. If you're ready to donate them (or buy new), please put them aside. The new organizer, Business Volunteers Unlimited is now running the event, after several successful years where Hands On NEO managed the Homeless Stand Down.

More details to follow in the coming months. Thanks for your help again this year.

If you have questions, contact Cathy Watterson at [cwstarfish2000@yahoo.com](mailto:cwstarfish2000@yahoo.com).

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# FEDERATED HAPPENINGS

## Summer Sunday School Event

Sunday, July 11 | 2-4 PM

Family Life Center (16349 Chillicothe Road)

Join us for a family meditation activity on the labyrinth, family relay races, snack and time to play together on the playground and fields. Please bring your own drinks and any outdoor toys you'd like to share.

RSVPs are requested for this event. Please email Ms. Kristin, [klefeber@fedchurch.org](mailto:klefeber@fedchurch.org) to attend. This event will be held indoors at the FLC if need be.

## Angel Ministries

The Angel Ministries are gearing up and excited to resume in September when the church is fully reopened. The Angel Ministries include the following:

**Memorial Ministry** – Provides support to families and church staff planning and holding memorial services at the church. The ministry provides logistical help including ushers, greeters, reception hostesses and other services that help to ease the burden on families at a challenging time. *Coordinators: Sue Giles, Sue Mansour, Peggie Jo Shinagawa*

**Memorial Bakers Ministry** – Provides home baked desserts for memorial receptions held at the church. *Coordinator: Sue Giles*

**Angel Food Ministry** – Provides meals to help families dealing with sickness, new births and other circumstances where a prepared meal would be beneficial. *Coordinator: Sue Giles*

**Angel Ride Ministry** – Provides occasional rides to those unable to drive themselves to appointments or other commitments. *Coordinator: Sue Mansour*

**Wedding Ministry** – Provides support to those holding weddings at the church. The ministry provides logistical help including greeters to help guests navigate the building. *Coordinator: Peggie Jo Shinagawa*

Please keep these ministries in mind when a need arises or when looking for satisfying volunteer opportunities. Feel free to contact Sue Giles (440.759.2704, [JGiles3340@msn.com](mailto:JGiles3340@msn.com)), Sue Mansour (440.668.9399, [sueman@roadrunner.com](mailto:sueman@roadrunner.com)) or Peggie Jo Shinagawa (440.543.5974, [Pjshinagawa@windstream.net](mailto:Pjshinagawa@windstream.net)) with questions regarding the ministries' services or volunteer opportunities. See you in September!

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## Summer Book Study with Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner

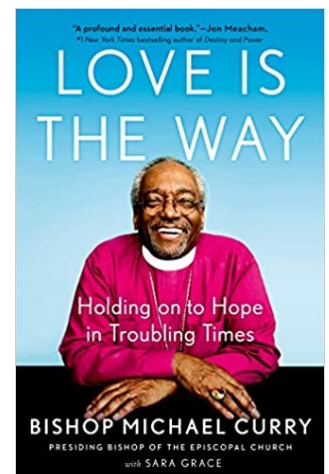
Wednesdays, July 14–August 25 | 10:00–11:15 am  
Church Lounge

**“Love Is the Way” by Bishop Michael Curry—Walk the path of love with one of the warmest, most beloved spiritual leaders of our time, and learn how to put faith into action.**

As the descendant of slaves and the son of a civil rights activist, Bishop Michael Curry's life illustrates massive changes in our times. Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon on the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Here, he expands on his message of hope in an inspirational road map for living the way of love, illuminated with moving lessons from his own life. Through the prism of his faith, ancestry, and personal journey, *Love Is the Way* shows us how America came this far and, more important, how to go a whole lot further.

The way of love is essential for addressing the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing the world today: poverty, racism, selfishness, deep ideological divisions, competing claims to speak for God. This book will lead readers to discover the gifts they need in order to live the way of love: deep reservoirs of hope and resilience, simple wisdom, the discipline of nonviolence, and unshakable regard for human dignity.

Please email Judy to reserve your spot: [jbagbon@gmail.com](mailto:jbagbon@gmail.com).





## 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, July 18, 11:30 AM on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/261964671?pwd=czFEQ1llRzJIUjk2dHE4NGdQaVFTUT09>

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 Focus on Federated's Open and Affirming Commitment

SJAM activities and programs in June and July focus on the Federated Church's commitment to being Open and Affirming. Many of our upcoming activities will focus on our dedication to our welcome and embrace of our LGBTQ+ neighbors.

#### Open & Affirming Statement of The Federated Church

*We, the members of The Federated Church of Chagrin Falls, Ohio believe that God is still speaking and we seek prayerfully to discern God's plan for us today. Acknowledging God's acceptance of us and Jesus' commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we affirm our belief that we are one body in Christ.*

*We welcome people of all races and ages, mental and physical abilities, marital status, gender or sexual orientation. We invite those from different backgrounds of economic class, ethnicity, and varieties of thought, expression and religious tradition to join us in our worship and to participate in the full life and ministry of our church.*

*We celebrate the diversity of God's creation and believe that every person is uniquely made in God's image. We embrace the joy of being accepted and affirmed by God and by one another.*

*We strive for justice and inclusiveness following Jesus' example of love.*

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### **Speakers Night:**

### **Panel Discussion on issues facing the Transgender Community**

**Monday, July 19, 7 PM**

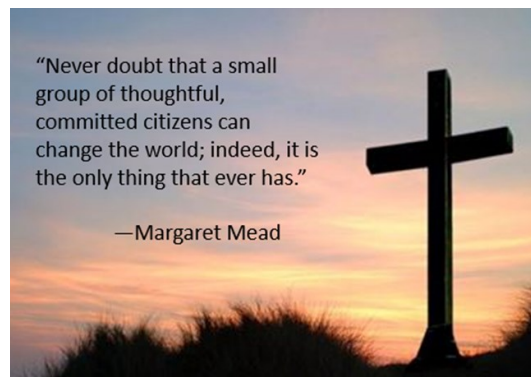
**Online on Zoom**

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

Joining us will be Jaden List, formerly with the CWRU LGBTQ Center and Rev. Phiwa Langeni, a UCC minister. We will learn about what terminology is used by trans people to identify themselves, the use and misuse of Scripture to describe trans people and issues such as legislation facing the trans community today.

As a queer, Black, trans person from an immigrant family, the Rev. Phiwa Langeni is quite skilled at detecting and decreasing various societal gaps, especially with/for those with multiple minoritized identities. Since ordination in 2011, Phiwa has served

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The Rev. Phiwa Langeni  
they/them/their pronouns

in just about every local church setting possible: a thriving progressive church, multi-charge rural churches, a large suburban church, small churches deeply rooted in political and social justice, and a new church start/nonprofit hybrid. They currently serve as the Ambassador for Innovation and Engagement in the United Church of Christ's Center for Analytics, Research & Development, and Data. Phiwa is also the owner of a few small creative businesses, including their most recent adventures in fashion design. They solo parent an adult daughter who challenges them in brilliance and beauty. In their free time, Phiwa enjoys reading, upcycling, 90s R&B, dad jokes, and creating all manner of things.

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## **SJAM Environmental Tips for Summertime**

**God's Earth needs our love and care. As stewards, there are things we can do to help...**

Summer may be many people's favorite time of the year, but it's not necessarily the best time for our planet. As temperatures rise, so do our energy and water use, as does our carbon footprint. But there are ways we can combat this stressful time of year for our planet. With some simple steps – from what you eat to how you vacation and do your household chores – it's easy to be eco-friendly and still have a fun summer.

Here is a short list of relatively easy things you can do to shrink your carbon footprint, lead to more green actions, and initiate change on a larger scale.

1. Avoid disposable products for outdoor cookouts and picnics
2. Use reusable water bottles instead of disposable ones
3. Shop second hand
4. Clothesline dry laundry in summer sun
5. Pull down your shades during hot summer days
6. Eat less meat
7. Eat local
8. Compost
9. Walk and bike more
10. Find creative ways to conserve water
11. Use reef-friendly sunscreen
12. Volunteer to clean beaches
13. Use reusable straws
14. Wear eco-friendly sunglasses
15. Choose a propane grill
16. Try natural products for your summer remedies
17. Unplug electronics when you are out + try solar power chargers
18. Use indoor plants as natural air purifiers
19. Save on your electricity bill by letting in natural daylight
20. Take an eco-friendly summer vacation

List from: "20 ways you can save the planet this summer," By: Cristabelle Tumola

[www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/08/02/20-ways-to-make-your-summer-more-environmentally-friendly/39866829/](https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/08/02/20-ways-to-make-your-summer-more-environmentally-friendly/39866829/)

# Yoga on the Labyrinth

A Community Life Collaborative Offering

**Tuesdays through August 31, 8:30 - 9:30 AM**

**Family Life Center Labyrinth (We move indoors for inclement weather)**

Move & Ground, Breathe & Relax. A prayerful, gentle outdoor yoga practice grounded in nature and community offers an answer to the stressors of our time.

Ease in body, mind, and spirit allows us to be a vessel of hope and Light, and to enjoy the gifts of life with joy. Class is also available via Zoom from the comfort of your home or Summer travel destination.

Go to [pollymanke.com](https://pollymanke.com) or Contact [polly@pollymanke.com](mailto:polly@pollymanke.com) for details and/or zoom link

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

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## Relax, Refresh, and Renew at the with the Community Life Collaborative:

Your first class is *free*! Then, you can choose an 8-class package for \$96 or drop in for \$15. View classes below.

Taught by Certified Yoga instructor, Cathy Varley, RYT-200. At the Family Life Center (16349 Chillicothe Road.)

Call: 440.429.3233 or email: [cnvarley@gheartyyoga.com](mailto:cnvarley@gheartyyoga.com) to register.

### Restorative Yoga:

**Wednesdays beginning June 30, 9:30 - 10:30 AM**

**Family Life Center**

This restful practice uses props like blankets, bolsters, and blocks for support and comfort. Done entirely from the floor, gentle yoga stretches and postures are held for a longer duration to open and release the body and calm the mind.

Reduces stress, boosts the immune system, rebalances the nervous system, and so much more! Ends with a soothing guided meditation to bring mind, body and spirit into harmony.

### Chair Yoga:

**Wednesdays beginning June 30, 11 AM - 12 Noon**

**Family Life Center Labyrinth**

A wonderful yoga flow and core strengthening class using the support and stability of a chair. Perfect for those with limited mobility, or for someone who is recovering from an injury. Especially supportive for people with MS, osteoarthritis, or anyone who deals with chronic pain.

Breathing techniques are emphasized to de-stress and rebalance the body and mind. Benefits include increased flexibility, improved balance, and reduction of anxiety. Ends with a beautiful guided meditation.