


December 2022



The Spire

The Federated Church Newsletter

United Church of Christ  An Open and Affirming Congregation



 federated

DECEMBER 2022						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27 First Sunday of Advent	28	29	30	1	2	3
4 Second Sunday of Advent Elf	5 Advent By Candlelight	6 Handel's Messiah, Apollo's Fire	7	8	9	10
11 Third Sunday of Advent	12 Federated Forum Christmas Singing	13	14 Blue Christmas	15 Primetime Lunch at the Cabin	16	17 Family Christmas Festival
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Services
25 Christmas Day Service	26	27	28	29	30	31

'Tis The Season At
Federated!

Join us for all our holiday festivities!

From the Desk of Rev. Throckmorton...

Dear Friends,

Having now had a bout with COVID, I feel as though I'm more connected than ever with the human race! Like many of you, I had avoided it for more than 2 ½ years, and had frankly begun to get a little smug about my great ability to avoid the virus! Ha! And with that latest hubris-balloon now popped, and one more illusion of hoped-for invincibility shattered, I remember that we're all human, and that illnesses and accidents come and go.

While this encounter of mine with COVID was relatively mild, I am reminded, at the same time, by this relatively minor episode, that countless people, including many of you, have been, and are, going through struggles that are far more taxing. In the wider world, we see numbing starvation in East Africa, maybe the worst in 40 years. We see untold fear and suffering in Ukraine, even as there are hopeful signs that the war may be turning. We see Earth's climate taxed beyond the limit by ongoing human disregard for the planet's long-term health.

Closer to home, we see innumerable people shunted to the side by policies that put profit and exclusion ahead of embrace and inclusion. Others suffer from searing illnesses; or they watch spouses and parents and friends succumb to dementia; or they lose people dear to them to death. Teens struggle with ostracism and bullying. So many feel endlessly lonely.

And it's into this world that Christ is born. It's into this world of suffering and loss and starvation and war and death that God takes human form. While we may often wish for a world in which none of this pain existed, and may even pray for a God who would magically remove the suffering that can haunt us, the truth is that such suffering is an unavoidable part of life. And the wonder of Advent and Christmas is that, into the mess of human life, God comes to sit with us and walk with us and laugh with us and cry with us.

My hope for all of us during this season of Christ's coming and birth is that we will find time, even if only a moment every day, to remember and give thanks for the overarching and eternal presence and love of God. This is the God for whom each life is precious, the God who adores you and me, the God who has seen fit to move into our very neighborhood.

And as we give thanks, may we embrace the opportunities we are presented to give back—to offer a meal, to lend a listening ear, to witness for a more just and equitable world. Just as we have been blessed by a God born here to us, so may we vessels of God's love born in, and for the sake of, others. In Christ.

Hamilton



Federated News & Info

Worship Themes for December 2022

Dec. 4, Second Sunday of Advent, Betsy Wooster preaching. The theme will be Peace, and the focus will be on Matthew 3:1-12

Dec. 11, Third Sunday of Advent, featuring the Children's Musical, "Bells of Glocken," featuring our Children's Choir and directed by Pat Haynish. Appropriately enough, the theme for the day is Joy, and Hamilton Throckmorton will offer a meditation on Isaiah 35:1-10 and its reminder that "everlasting joy shall be upon their heads" (35:10).

Dec. 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent, Hamilton Throckmorton preaching. The theme will be Love, and we will reflect on Matthew 1:18-25 and its riveting reminder of the meaning of the word "Emmanuel"—"God is with us." Our Christmas Eve offering recipient, Thea Bowman Center, will be here as well to let us know more about their mission.

Dec. 25, Christmas Day! Hamilton Throckmorton will be telling a contemporary story about Christmas. Come in your PJs if you'd like! We'll sing carols and rejoice in the birth of Christ!

Worship Every Sunday
In-person & Online
10:00 AM

Online Worship on our
YouTube Channel: [TheFederatedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTheFederatedChurch)

January Spire Deadline

Do you have something you'd like to see
in the January Spire?

Please email your information to
communications@fedchurch.org

by **Friday, December 16th.**

PASTORAL OFFICE HOURS

**Need to see a pastor? Our Pastors
have Standing Office Hours.
We are here for you!**

**Rev. Hamilton
Throckmorton**
Senior Pastor
P: 440.247.6490
x100
F: 440.247.2516
E: hamthrock@fedchurch.org



Office Hours: Tuesdays 2PM-5PM

Rev. Betsy Wooster
Pastor of
Transformational
Ministries

P: 440.247.6490 x101
F: 440.247.2516
E: bwooster@fedchurch.org



Office Hours: Mondays 1PM-4PM

'Extravagant E-Welcome'

Please like, share, and subscribe to all
Federated's social media platforms.



[www.facebook.com/
TheFederatedChurch](https://www.facebook.com/TheFederatedChurch)



[www.instagram.com/
federatedchurch](https://www.instagram.com/federatedchurch)

It's Beginning to Look A lot Like Christmas At Federated



A festive poster for the Federated Christmas Festival. The background is dark blue with white snowflakes. At the top center is a white 'f' logo with a yellow flame. Below it, the text 'Federated Christmas Festival' is written in yellow. Underneath, 'Saturday, December 17th' is in pink, and '4-8pm at Federated Church' is in white. 'Chagrin Falls' is written in pink. The bottom half of the poster features a gingerbread man, a green mug with a marshmallow, and a small Christmas tree on a snowy ground. Below this, there is a white box with text inviting friends and family to a festive winter evening of fellowship, including activities like cookie decorating, Christmas crafting, and caroling. It also mentions a potluck dinner and scavenger hunt starting at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall, and caroling beginning at 6pm in the Sanctuary. All ages are welcome, and contact information for Kristin LeFeber is provided.

Federated Christmas Festival
Saturday, December 17th
4-8pm at Federated Church
Chagrin Falls

Invite your friends and family for a festive winter evening of fellowship!

A scavenger hunt will lead you to activities such as cookie decorating, Christmas crafting, Christmas stories, Christmas caroling and more!

Potluck dinner and scavenger hunt begins at 4pm in Fellowship Hall

Caroling begins at 6pm in the Sanctuary

All ages are welcome and encouraged!

For more information, please contact Kristin LeFeber:
klfeber@fedchurch.org



A poster for 'Advent by Candlelight'. The background is a collage of musical notes and lyrics. A red banner across the middle contains the text 'You are invited to Advent by Candlelight' in white, followed by 'AN EVENING OF MUSIC, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP' in smaller white text. Below this, 'Music of Advent' is written in a large, elegant script. The program is performed by professional singer and musician Laura Hancock. The event is on Monday, December 5, at 6:30 PM, at the Fellowship Hall, Federated Church. A note at the bottom asks attendees to bring a heavy appetizer or dessert to share. The Federated Church logo is at the bottom center.

You are invited to
Advent by Candlelight
AN EVENING OF MUSIC, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP

"Music of Advent"
Program performed by
professional singer and musician
Laura Hancock

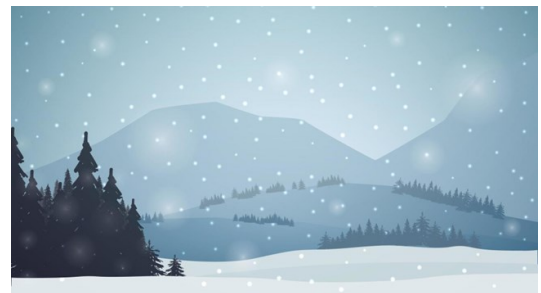
Monday, December 5
6:30 PM
Fellowship Hall, Federated Church

Please bring a heavy appetizer or dessert to share

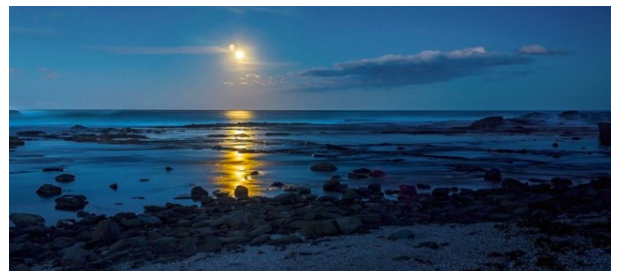
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Blue Christmas Service December 14th at 7 pm Federated Church Chapel

Blue Christmas worship is a holy time to honor our grief in the midst of a season that seems to demand only joy. Join us in this service of love and remembrance to honor the sorrows that live within us as we wait for the promise of the Christ child.



*I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.*
Psalm 121



*My tears have been my food day and night;
Wait for God, whom I shall praise again.*
Psalm 42

Join Federated for All Our Holiday Events!

Sunday, Dec. 4- Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 4- "Elf" at Chagrin Valley Little Theater; Tickets still available! 2PM

Monday, Dec. 5- Advent by Candlelight, "music of Advent", 6:30PM in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, Dec. 6- Handel's *Messiah*, Apollo's Fire, 7PM in Sanctuary

Sunday, Dec. 11- Third Sunday of Advent, Children's Christmas Musical "Bells of Glocken," director Pat Haynish

Monday, Dec. 12- Federated Forum Christmas Song Women's Ensemble 2PM in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 14 "Blue Christmas" Service of Solace; 7PM in the Chapel

Thursday, Dec. 15- Primetime Lunch at The Cabin; 12PM

Saturday, Dec. 17- Christmas Festival, 4PM at Federated Church

Sunday, Dec. 18- Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve Offering Recipient Presentation

Saturday, Dec. 24- Christmas Eve, services at 4PM, 6PM, and 8PM

Sunday, Dec. 25- Christmas Morning; Christmas story told by Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton;
feel free to arrive in PJs



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live your faith

Membership Committee

Are you interested in becoming a member at Federated Church?

Confirm your commitment to the church! Become a voting member at the annual meeting! Participate more fully in the many ministry opportunities!

Sign up for the next Inquirer's classes which will be held January 25 and February 1 with those who choose joining on February 12th.

Already a member? We need you!

Become a New Member Partner to extend a warm welcome to someone in the next class joining the church. You would be paired with a new member or family to welcome them to church when you see them. Inquire where they sit, introduce them to your pew mates, answer questions they may have - or direct them to someone who can provide answers, and encourage participation. Be you - the welcoming church that you are!

Contact Rose Brown (rosebrowncf@gmail.com) to participate or ask questions.

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Women's Fellowship

Join us for our upcoming events:

Women's Circle- Christmas Party

December 19th

12:30PM in Room 240

Come celebrate the holidays with us! Feel free to bring hats, scarves, and gloves for the giving tree!

Sit & Stitch

Thursday Mornings:

10AM-12PM in Room 240

For more information, contact Lynne Kessell:

LynneKessell@hotmail.com.



Fellowship Treats

We are **so excited** to continue Fellowship Hour after Sunday worship services. Members of the congregation take turns bringing in treats for fellowship time following the service on Sundays, as scheduled by the Congregational Care Commission. Of course, anyone is welcome to bring treats at any time!

Please bring ready-to-serve treats in disposable containers. Healthy food choices are especially welcome. *Please no nuts.* Thank you for helping to make our Fellowship time delicious and enjoyable!

December 4– last names beginning with C or D
December 11– last names beginning with E, F, or G
December 18– last names beginning with H, I, J, or K
December 25– last names beginning with L or M



Wear Your Faith

As you **#LiveYourFaith**, you can now **#WearYourFaith**. Federated merchandise is now available. Click [HERE](https://federated2021store.itemorder.com/shop/sale/) to view our online store or visit, <https://federated2021store.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>. View some of the available merchandise below:



Generosity Commission

Office of Fund Development Update

By Laura Taylor

- We are grateful for all gifts from members and friends, alike!
 - ◇ Last month, the church received a donation from someone who creates items by hand, sells the items, and then donates the proceeds of her sales to Federated. And this person is not a Federated member. She's the neighbor of some members. We applied her donation to our Ingathering efforts, making it possible for more food to be purchased and distributed to the St. Paul's Community Church neighborhood. We are very grateful to her – and her neighbors, who are such wonderful church members and Federated ambassadors outside our walls!
- This year's Gratitude Sunday in November was extra special. Thank you to Ken Horner, Dawn Thatcher, and Betsy Wooster who gave us time that Sunday to count our blessings and extend our gratitude to those who make those blessings possible. We'll continue to keep Gratitude index cards in the Sanctuary pew racks so that folks can continue to express gratitude at any time. Thanks for sharing your completed ones with us!
- **#Giving Tuesday** – this year in late November – is a global generosity invitation that promotes engagement and giving back, inspiring people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. For those of you who haven't yet been able to participate in our own generosity invitation, feel free to submit your 2023 intention by:
 - ◇ **mailing or dropping off an Intention to Give card to the church,**
 - ◇ **submitting an online Intention to Give form (fedchurch.org/giving), or**
 - ◇ **responding online via your Realm account.**
- Thank YOU! Generosity 2023 Invitations were mailed in late October to members and friends of our faith community.
 - ◇ Before Gratitude Sunday Generosity 2023 Intentions equaled 36% of our goal.
 - ◇ Our communal act of submitting and dedicating intentions on Gratitude Sunday resulted in reaching 46% of our goal. And another blessing? Eight households have submitted an intention for the first time, or for the first time in years.

Gifts are like electricity
– they fuel and power
our ministries so our
Federated light can shine.



The Community Life Collaborative

Community Life Collaborative Amps Up

As 2022 draws to a close, the [Community Life Collaborative](#) is amping up staffing, structures and collaborations for a promising new year.

The CLC is excited to announce that two recent grant approvals will benefit the CLC making it possible to increase our social media presence and hire a part time Development Director to help expand our reach, our impact and our messaging!

Throughout October, the CLC hosted PRISM conversations and celebrations giving voice to needs and challenges through the PRISM of abilities in collaboration with local organizations. Our culminating Leaf Party brought “unbe-LEAF-able” success with more than 250 families and friends gathering at the Family Life Center (FLC) to play, to connect, and to advocate together with inclusion in mind.

January launches our “**Reclaiming Reflections**” series focusing conversations on destigmatizing addiction and recovery. Economic hardships, educational barriers, and systemic practices can push some folks into downward spirals of addictive habits. Collaborative social justice work can help to destigmatize the disease, connect people to resources for help, and create spaces and communities ready to help folks “reclaim their reflection” and regain personal and social dignity.

While the CLC manages the expenses and operations of the FLC, use of the FLC building and grounds can be coordinated for church programming with church set up. Please contact CLC Executive Director, Peter Bode at ed@communitylifecollaborative.org to coordinate schedules and plans in advance. The CLC is a separate 501(c)3 nonprofit partnering with Federated Church to nurture transformation through collaboration for a just and sustainable world. To get involved or to partake in the forums, subscribe to our email blasts, follow us on social media, or reach out anytime!

Maren Koepf
Member of Federated Church
Secretary on the BOD for the CLC



Mission & Service

St. Paul's Outreach

You may have noticed that I did not have a monthly message in the last issue of the Spire for which I do apologize. But change comes to all, and I am no exception. On September 29th, I stepped away from the position of Director of St. Paul's Outreach. In my stead now is Paula Miller who is now responsible for Outreach Operations among other things at St. Paul's. She brings years of experience working with our homeless and low-income population. I am quite confident our work will continue as before.

When I took this on some 2 ½ years ago, I never intended it to be a new career although it did go on a bit longer than expected. I will continue as a volunteer with both our nurse, hygiene, and clothing ministries and know that I do so with your able support.

You did leave me with a wonderful going-away gift. This year for some reason overall donations from the surrounding community have been down a bit and we have been a bit low in our sock inventory. The bottom of the sock bin was a bit more evident than we would like until I received a call from one of your volunteers telling me about your sock drive and the amazing results. Within a day or two, he and his wife arrived with 3 or 04 large bins of new socks.

At almost 80 years of age, I tend to hold down my excitement a bit, but the arrival of those socks did give me new hope. The sock bin is once again full, many feet are a bit warmer and there is a sense of goodwill in the air. Thank you.

I will still be around. I will just be doing a bit different balance between those in need and my 25 Grandchildren and 5 Great Grandchildren. You are all very special to me and I look forward to continuing to say thank you for all you do.

Tim Walters
St. Paul's

St. Paul's Thrift Store Collections

Saturday, December 17th, 9 AM–Noon

The St. Paul's Thrift Store is a very important ministry of our long-standing relationship with this community church on the near west side of Cleveland. Proceeds from the sales of goods from the shop support the operations of the church and their outreach programs.

The third weekend of each month, we will have the mission trailer and volunteers in the church parking lot to receive your donations. Things that are not acceptable to donate: Old TVs (that are not flat screen), winter skis and ski boots, anything that has broken parts, used undergarments. If you don't want it because it is damaged or stained, please dispose of it. We will accept gently used items and clothes that still have a good life ahead of them. Thank you for continuing to support this ministry in this new way!

Christmas Eve Offering

Christmas Eve Offering recipient has been selected.

The Mission and Service Commission, after much thought and discussion, have chosen the Thea Bowman Center to receive the 2022 Christmas Eve Offering. The commission believes that the programs offered at Thea Bowman Center will be greatly impacted by our gifts. The Thea Bowman Center is in the Southeast side of Cleveland has provided educational and support programs for all ages, from youth to seniors in the community of Mt. Pleasant since 2001.

Sr. Thea Bowman believed and dedicated her life to helping people be the best they could be. She would say "Don't let that light go out." A charismatic African American nun, she was an advocate for intercultural awareness and inspired everyone she touched. Her memory lives on in the compassionate help the Thea Bowman Center provides today.

Many of us benefit from the internet infrastructure present in our local community, but not everyone does. The Mt. Pleasant Community is part of the "Digital Divide" many urban communities deal with. The Federated Christmas Eve offering will provide resources to bridge the gap and educate 150 youth through seniors how to navigate the internet and provide access to computer training. These funds will enhance the opportunity for residents to appreciate and learn how to use technology overall and to be in tune with the digital world outside of this community for jobs, healthcare, and other resources. Seniors will benefit by meeting financial and social needs, residents seeking employment will gain digital literacy skills to be prepared for the workforce and children will learn skills to enhance talents and skills for future successes.

As a church community rooted in the knowledge that Christ calls us to work for equity and justice for all his children, this offering is a wonderful opportunity to speak with our actions and our gifts. For more than 60 years the tradition of the Christmas Eve Offering at Federated Church has lifted organizations and their programs that work tirelessly to lift up God's children. Join the Mission and Service Commission in the effort to make our world a more just and equitable place for all.

Thank you for holding the Thea Bowman Center in your prayers and consider how your gifts will enhance the lives of the Mt. Pleasant community.

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Contact Marty (Mculbert@fedchurch.org) with questions

Reverse Advent Calendar

Try something different and fun this December! A REVERSE advent calendar. Instead of taking one item from the calendar, try putting one item in a box, daily, Dec 1-25. A list is provided on the Mission and Services informational board. All donations will be distributed in January.

Questions? Contact Gay Quintin
glqchicken@gmail.com



Social and Environmental Justice (SJAM) News

The mission of the Social Justice Advocacy Ministry is to be a voice and witness to God's love for all people and creation and to advocate for justice for those who are marginalized, discriminated against and denied their inherent rights as children of God and citizens of our nation and world.

We strive to become well informed, provide opportunities to educate ourselves, balanced with opportunities to take action. Live Our Faith!

To learn more, please contact Kathy Franz (440.821.7795 or wfranz@roadrunner.com).

Next SJAM Meeting January 2023. Date to be determined



Racial and Economic Justice

SJAM is announcing a second 3-week series on Racial Allyship starting in January; January 12, 19, and 26 at 7:00 pm. This series will focus on **Institutional Racism in the Criminal Justice System**. Topics covered will include Mass incarceration (War on Drugs/Law and Order/ Bail); Police and Prosecution; and Capital Crimes. All three meetings will be on Zoom, Thursday evenings, and will last 90 minutes. Interested participants may contact either Robin Harbage (robin.harbage@gmail.com) or Bill Shaul (theshauls@msn.com)



Immigration

Antony Martinez needs our support – Antony Martinez is an asylum seeker being represented by Attorney Brian Hoffman. He's currently in the Seneca County jail with no family in this area. So, our cards and notes of support are very important to him.

Antony's attorney wrote yesterday: "I just heard from the Board of Immigration Appeals that they have granted an emergency stay of removal for Antony. He might still be transferred to another jail, but he can't be removed until further order of the Board." Good work, Brian!

Please keep the letters going to Seneca County jail until we hear that he's been moved - which might or might now happen. write Antony, send your cards to him at: **Antony Paisano Martinez, Seneca County Jail, 3040 OH-100, Tiffin, OH 44883.**

He's also in need of financial support to use in the commissary for personal hygiene and snacks. To send money to him, go to JailATM.com and look him up under his last name, "Paisano Martinez", or his ID, 252491. His first name will be listed as Adonis.

Questions? Contact Rannigan Walsh, SJAM Immigration lead: ranni@me.com

SJAM December Movie Night: Monday, December 12th at 7:00 pm in person at Federated Church (76 Bell St., Chagrin Falls) **or on Zoom:**

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



Bridging Divides in our Families, Communities, and Country Speaker: Bill Shaul

Braver Angels is a national, grassroots, non-partisan organization that has been confronting the challenge of bridging the political and cultural divisions in our country. The growing polarization threatens the fabric of our Democratic Republic. Passions run high on both sides with increasing anger, disrespect and even violence evident all around us. Federated members Kelly Kimball and Bill Shaul have played significant roles in establishing the NE Ohio Alliance. of Braver Angels. Bill will present an overview of Braver Angels and outline some of the specific strategies taught in it workshops. SJAM hopes that some of the information and skills demonstrated will make some of the holiday conversations feel less contentious and more civil, allowing us to be “more curious and less furious”.

Please join us on Monday evening Dec. 12 at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall or on Zoom

(Note: second Monday of the month)

Environmental and Creation Justice

What can we all do to help care for the earth as we enter into the holiday season?

Eco-Friendly Holiday Tips

- **Eco-Donations** – Make a donation to an environmental charity instead of meaningless spending this holiday.
- **Thermostat Downtime** – Counteract your increased winter electricity bill by turning down the thermostat when you go to bed.
- **Keep It Local** – Do your best to keep food and purchases this holiday season organic, local, and sustainable.
- **Lights** – Use LED Christmas lights and save more than 95 percent of energy overtime. Go for mini lights instead of larger lights, and shut them off when you go to bed.
- **Make or Reuse Decorations** – Rather than splurging on new Christmas décor, give a DIY or Pinterest project a whirl; or make a tradition out of reusing family and vintage Christmas décor.
- **Trees** – Buy a locally farmed Christmas tree, or buy a “Balled” Christmas tree and plant it in your yard.
- **Recycled Paper** – Wrap your gifts in recycled paper or even newspaper.
- **Reusable Wrap** – Use reusable bags as a fun way to wrap gifts. Another cool idea is to wrap gifts in decorative boxes, reusable vessels, or wearable items like scarves.
- **Select Gifts Carefully** – Some gifts come in ambiguous containers or boxes and don’t need wrapping, others are small enough that they require less paper. Also think about gifts that are not made of plastic or packaged in plastic.
- **Give Digitally** – Sending digital cards is an effective way to reduce waste, check people off your gift list, and ensure that your beloved ones will like what they receive. [Wrapp.com](https://www.wrapp.com) is another fantastic option— the iPhone app allows users to send digital gifts directly to any friend's Facebook wall.
- **Card Composition** – If you choose to send cards, try to be mindful of where the paper is sourced. Look for recycled paper or wildflower-seeded cards, and recycle cards you receive.
- **Use The Web** – Send an ECard for the holidays.

But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! **Amos 5:24**

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Primetime

Hello Everyone!

Happy Holidays! Primetime has traditionally been a group for Seniors, well, truth be told, the term 'Seniors' encompasses a growing population of vibrant, active adults. Primetime is now joining the Spire so we can reach that greater population. We are a warm and wonderful group offering comradery and fun—reach out and say hello or better yet, join us for one of our marvelous events!

Here is what we have coming up, take part and invite a friend:

Sunday, December 4, 2PM: 'Elf' at Chagrin Valley Little Theatre—tickets still available, call ASAP!

Monday, December 5, 630PM—Advent by Candlelight in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 6, 7PM—Apollo's Fire performing Handel's Messiah

Monday, December 12, 2PM –Federated Forum—Sing Christmas with Northcoast Women's Ensemble

Thursday December 15, 12PM: Lunch Out at The Cabin at Mario's

Thank you all for your participation – we love being together! Looking ahead we have much on the horizon and much to be grateful for, including each other.

With Gratitude,

Melissa Owen

Senior Director of People and Operations, Primetime Liaison

mowen@fedchurch.org / 440.247.6490 ext. 110 / text: 805.636.4256



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Elf, The Musical

Sunday, December 4 at 2PM (lunch 12PM)

You will love this musical adaptation of the must-see Christmas movie of the same name. "Elf" is the story of Buddy, a human raised by Santa's elves at the North Pole. When he travels to New York City to seek his real father, he discovers that his childlike and joyous nature doesn't always fit in with society.

Meet us for lunch at Noon at the Federated Church, then walk or drive to Chagrin Valley Little Theatre for the 2PM Elf Performance.

Tickets are still available!

Text, Call or Email ASAP

805.636.4256

email: mowen@fedchurch.org



An Evening with Johnny Mercer

Saturday, January 28 at 5PM, 730PM

Our Huckleberry Friend: The Lyrics of Johnny Mercer w/ The Musical Theater Project

The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra joins forces with The Musical Theater Project, for their 7th collaboration, to celebrate Johnny Mercer, commonly regarded as the finest lyricist of the mid 20th century. Mercer collaborated with Harold Arlen, Hoagy Carmichael, Henry Mancini, and so many more. We'll be joined by vocalists Michael Shirtz, Evelyn Wright and Vince Mastro.

Cost: \$25 ticket only, \$35 for ticket + transportation

Transportation from FLC, meet at 5PM

We will go to dinner then the performance:

Maltz Performing Arts Center

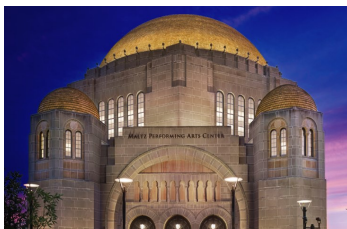
1855 Ansel Road

Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dinner Location TBD

RSVP via Realm or Melissa

mowen@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 x110.



Federated Forum: Christmas Song

Monday, December 12 Gather at 1:30PM

We are thrilled to welcome the brilliant Northcoast Women's Ensemble, a talented, dedicated group of entertainers. Sing along to your favorite Christmas tunes! Join us for Christmas treats before and a special reception following so you can mingle with and meet the performers. Join us!

Singing starts 2PM

Fellowship Hall

No RSVP needed

Cost: Free



Primetime Lunch Out: The Cabin

Thursday, December 15 at Noon

Join us at The Cabin (Mario's)
360 Aurora Commons Circle
Aurora, Ohio 44202

Join us at the Cabin Restaurant
for a delicious lunch. The Cabin
will be decorated for Christmas!



Lunch and transportation on your own—carpooling available, contact Melissa if you need a ride !

RSVP via Realm or to Melissa at
mowen@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 x110.

Save the Date(s):

✓ **January 9, 2PM Federated Forum**

✓ **January 28 An Evening w Johnny Mercer**

RSVP via Realm or Melissa

mowen@fedchurch.org

call 440.247.6490 x110

text 805.636.4256



Youth & Family

"You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives..."

(Matthew 5:13-16 The Message, Eugene Peterson)



Confirmands Gathered at the Church In-Gathering

These students spent their class time this week putting their faith into action as they sorted food donations for our annual Thanksgiving "in-Gathering" ministry of faith in action. Check out these photos of our youth leading the way with thankful hearts!



Be sure to put Saturday, December 17th, 4-7PM in Fellowship Hall, on your calendar for the next youth service opportunity:

Join our intergenerational Federated Christmas Festival by helping out with the younger kids.



2022-23 Confirmation Class

A Re-Cap of Confirmation Commissioning Sunday

In late October, our congregation gathered to bless and commission our Confirmands as they begin their year of learning and discernment together. The entire congregation laid hands on them in prayer and blessing as a sign of God's love, and our love, for them. God is good, and God is present in the lives these fascinating young people who are exploring the Christian faith and what it means to be part of the Federated Church community of love and support.



Confirmation students reading and reflecting on passages of Scripture.

Communion Classes



5th Graders and Above: SAVE THE DATE – **Communion Classes**

Communion classes will be held on Wednesday, February 22nd and Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 7pm at Federated. Communicants will be recognized at the 10 am service on Sunday, March 5, 2023.

These classes are offered to 5th graders and above who have yet completed them. More information will be available in the February SPIRE and via email.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin LeFeber at (440) 247-6490 x130 or klefeber@fedchurch.org

2022-2023 Performing Arts Series



Federated Family Christmas Carol Festival **Saturday, December 17th, 4pm**

Join our combined community chorus for an evening of Christmas cheer and some of the most beloved Christmas carols.



Alla Boara featuring Amanda Powell **Performing Arts Series Fundraiser Gala** **Saturday, February 25th, 7pm**

This incredibly festive evening will feature an Italian meal, dancing, raffles, and giveaways to uplift and support our Performing Arts Series. The featured performer of the evening is Alla Boara, a group which seeks to revitalize Italian folk music. The group features drummer and composer Anthony Taddeo, vocalist Amanda Powell, guitarist Dan Bruce, trumpeter Tommy Lehman, bassist



Antonio Pompa-Baldi and Emanuela Friscioni, **pianists**

Saturday, April 29th, 7pm

Tickets: Premium: \$45, Gold Level: \$38, Blue Level: \$30, Students: \$15

World renowned pianists Antonio Pompa-Baldi and Emanuela Friscioni will perform a two-piano program featuring works by Rachmaninoff. Re-

Tickets will be available through Realm or in-person. Full details available at fedchurch.org/PAS.

Check your emails, bulletins, and newsletters for tickets to go on sale.

Contact Joshua Konow with questions at ikonow@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 x120.

Apollo's Fire at Federated

100 tickets for each program will be made available to Federated Church. Please purchase directly from



Handel's "Messiah"

Tuesday, December 6th, 7pm

Sonya Headlam & Erica Schuller, *soprano*

Kimberly Leeds, *mezzo-soprano*

Steven Caldicott Wilson, *tenor*

Edward Vogel, *baritone*

Sound the trumpet! Jeannette Sorrell, soloists, and chorus bring their nationally acclaimed interpretation of Messiah back home to Northeast Ohio. The singers become musical storytellers, bringing spirituality and theatricality to Handel's richly layered masterpiece.



Vivaldi's Four Seasons rediscovered – Tour Send-Off Concert

Saturday, April 8th, 2023, 7:30pm

Join us for a festive send-off as our musicians warm up their 2 programs for our European tour. – Or better yet, plan to come with us! London (UK), Heidelberg (Germany), and more...!

Tickets will be available through Realm or in-person. Full details available at fedchurch.org/PAS.

Check your emails, bulletins, and newsletters for tickets to go on sale.

Contact Joshua Konow with questions at jkonow@fedchurch.org or

federated
grow

Fun At Federated



Dear Federated...

Dear Federated Church Members,

Thank you for the Halloween treats. They brightened my day- also delicious :)! Thanks again for caring.

D.M.

Hamlet Senior Living

Dear Federated Women's Fellowship:

Thank you for the Veteran's Day card. It is so nice to be acknowledged.

Thank You,

D.S.

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.*

-John 13:34

Dear Angel Flower Ministry:

Thank you for the lovely bouquet of roses, reed, and Peruvian pepper tree (had to look that one up!)- oh, and with a sprig of eucalyptus!

Your delightful creations make such a difference to us receiving them. Thanks for your prayers and support.

With Love,

L.F.

Dear Sit and Stitch Needlework Group,

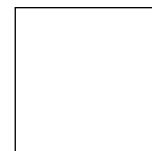
Many, many months ago I received a lovely open-weave prayer shawl. I want to let all of you know how much this shawl means to me. The color of my shawl brings sunny blue skies to mind, even on the dreariest of mornings. Every morning and night, as I sit in bed and practice contemplative prayer or read, it wraps perfectly around my chilly neck and shoulders, touching me with its warmth and comfort, and with my quiet prayer of thanks for your gift. Your shawls represent the very special, actively compassionate community we share at Federated which literally touches everyone who receives the loving works of your hands.

With Love,

L.F.



76 Bell St.
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022



Contact Us!

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Instagram: @federatedchurch

VOL. 81 No. 13 DEC.. 2022
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OUR STAFF IS HERE TO HELP YOU

CLERGY

Hamilton Throckmorton, Senior Pastor
Betsy Wooster, Pastor of Transformational Ministries

Administration and Staff

Melissa Owen, Senior Director of People and Operations
Brooke Strong, Congregational Life Administrator
* **Janis Stefanchik**, Bookkeeper
* **Laura Taylor**, Fund Development Associate
Jake Magalski, Properties, Maintenance & Grounds Lead

Music Staff

Joshua Konow, Director of Music Ministries
* **Marcia Snively**, Organist
* **Pat Haynish**, Director of Children's Choir

Children's Ministries Staff

* **Marty Culbertson**, Director of Youth Faith Formation
* **Kristin LeFeber**, Director of Children's Faith Formation
* **Alex Bell, Lianna Davis, Tanya Goff, Shawn Bottcher,**
Emma Bottcher, Sunday School Teachers

* denotes part-time staff



federated

Hope to see you
this Sunday!

10:00 AM
In person and Online