

The Spire

The Federated Church Newsletter

United Church of Christ  An Open and Affirming Congregation  A Creation Justice Church



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from Federated Church



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In the Interim...

The angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God".

– Luke 1:30

Dear Friends,

Do not be afraid. These words are repeated over and over in the scriptures we read during Advent. But it is easy to imagine how hard that message was to heed when angel messengers appeared bringing messages that turned lives upside down.

We tend to romanticize the season of Advent and the birth of Jesus. We love the twinkling lights, the candles and the sweet carols playing as soft snow drifts to the ground. But the reality of the season was something quite different.

A messenger comes to an aging man telling him he is about to become a father. An angel appears to a young virgin announcing that she will soon bear God's child. Another messenger seeks to reassure a young man that he should marry his fiancé even though she is pregnant with a child that is not his. And on a cold and lonely night, a bevy of angels appear to lowly shepherds in a field calling them to visit a site where a newborn baby lies who will change the world.

All of this turns the world upside down, making fear a reasonable response. And yet the messengers continue to repeat, "Do not be afraid."

How are we to respond to the call to let go of fear in a world that seems so out of control, in a time where wars are raging and chaos reigns in our own country?

God has promised to send a Messiah who will "execute justice and righteousness in the land." (Jeremiah 23:5) As we enter this Advent season, we must continue to trust in the promises of God and trust that, as in the past, God will fulfill those promises.

In the midst of the wonder, magic and sparkle of this season of lights and waiting, I pray that each of us will spend a few moments remembering the promises of God that are at the core of our faith – the call to execute justice and righteousness in the land. Rise above the rhetoric. Refuse to allow politicians or terrorists to define our faith and divert us from our purpose and call. Treat each person we encounter fairly. Remain in relationship with one another as a part of our relationship with God.

This is the season in which we celebrate the coming of Jesus, whom God has sent so that we "might serve him without fear." (Luke 1:74b) May this Advent be a time when we celebrate the fulfillment of God's promises. May we choose to follow and serve Jesus without fear as we execute justice and righteousness.

Advent blessings,

Vicki



Solstice Service of Solace

Grieving the loss of a loved one? A dream not realized?
The state of the world? If the holidays are making your
pain more poignant, join us for a time to rest in the
comfort of God's presence.

On Sunday, December 21, we will recognize the winter
solstice with a time of prayer, music and reflection
to bring hope and comfort.

Join us for:

11:30 AM Labyrinth walk in the new Meditation Room

12:15 PM Soup Lunch in the Lounge

1:00 PM Service of Solace in the Meditation Room

If you know of someone who might find comfort in
attending this service, you can pick up an invitation in
the Narthex or on the Angel desk to send to them.



You Are Invited to Celebrate

CHRISTMAS EVE

at Federated Church

DECEMBER 24TH

Join us for one of our three services

12:30 PM

**Community
Service**

4 PM

**Family
Service**

7 PM

**Traditional
Service**

A complimentary soup lunch will be offered at
11:30 AM before the Community Service.
Additionally, there will be pre-service music
starting 30 minutes prior to each service.
All are welcome!

76 BELL ST. | CHAGRIN FALLS | 44022

fedchurch.org/events



Christmas Wreaths and Poinsettias on Sale

Holiday poinsettias and wreaths will once again decorate our church during the Advent season. The poinsettias and wreaths may be purchased in your name, In Honor of, or In Memory Of a loved one or friend. The cost is \$20 per plant or \$30 per wreath. A listing of those names will appear in Christmas Eve bulletins. All proceeds from the sale will go to support Federated Youth programs.

All donations are due by Sunday, December 14th. You can drop it into the collection plate on Sunday mornings with the form from the announcement attached. If you are writing a check, note "Poinsettia/Wreath" in the memo line. If giving online visit fedchurch.org/giving, use the memo line to add your dedication. Contact tmozingo@fedchurch.org with any questions.

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Date: _____ No. of Poinsettias: _____ No. of Wreaths: _____

In Memory of/ In Honor of:





WONDROUS WEDNESDAYS PRESENTS...

A Multi-Cultural Christmas

Wednesday, December 17th
6 PM Dinner | 7 PM Music

Start your dinner sipping warm English mulled cider, eating Swedish sweet cured ham & potato bake, and more. Then Marica Snavey's magical fingers will play piano with the 5-Gal Chorus while you munch on multi-cultural Christmas cookies. Bring your kids so you can all burst into song as we do a Christmas Carol Sing-Along.

Sign up on Realm or in the lobby by Fellowship Hall.
Dinner starts at 6 pm and music at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. See you then!

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT [FEDCHURCH.ORG/EVENTS](https://fedchurch.org/events)



Through the 2025 Christmas Eve Offering

The Mission and Service Commission is excited to announce that
Replay for Kids has been selected to receive
the 2025 Christmas Eve Offering.



The mission of **RePlay for Kids** is to increase the availability of toys and assistive devices for children with disabilities. We repair, adapt and distribute toys and assistive devices free of charge. In so doing, we strive to raise awareness and increase the number and variety of toys and devices available to the children who need them.



RePlay for Kids believes that every child needs to play and our offering will give many more children the opportunity to play and learn.

The Mission and Service Commission looks forward to sharing more information in the coming season of Joy



WANTED

YOUR FAVORITE SHORT CHRISTMAS STORIES, POEMS OR READINGS

On the Sunday after Christmas, Dec 28, the Bagley-Bonnors will again lead us in a fun and informal "Service of Christmas Songs and Stories". Several of you have mentioned that you have favorite Christmas stories, poems or readings tucked away, or maybe an anthology of short pieces. Well, now is your chance! You are invited to copy them and get the copy to Brian or Judy BB for possible inclusion in the service.

We can't promise that they will all get used, depending on how many come in. But we would really like to see what you have! Because the Bagley-Bonnors will be out town until December 17, you are encouraged to place stories in Judy's staff mailbox in the church office. Please **BE SURE TO PUT YOUR NAME ON THEM** for safe return.



Thank You Federated!

IMPACT...

How our Christmas Eve Offering Transforms, Uplifts and Enriches Lives!

The generous donation from Federated Church (2024 Christmas Eve Offering) has transformed our ability to serve Cleveland's newcomer community in tangible and lasting ways. Through your support, Re:Source Cleveland purchased a refrigerated delivery vehicle for Ohio City Farm, which has enabled us to launch a fee-for-service, direct-to-door delivery program for our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) initiative. This investment has not only expanded access to fresh, locally-grown produce for families throughout the community but has also created meaningful employment. We were able to establish a part-time driver position, which we filled with a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, providing both income and valuable work experience that supports his integration and self-sufficiency in Cleveland.

The impact of this vehicle extends far beyond our CSA program. Each week, it now serves as a critical lifeline for 75 high-priority families who have recently been disenrolled from SNAP benefits, delivering food bank donations and dry goods directly to their doors. This weekly service ensures that families facing sudden food insecurity receive consistent support during a difficult transition. Your investment has created a ripple effect of stability and care throughout our community, and we are deeply grateful for Federated Church's commitment to supporting refugees and immigrants in Cuyahoga County. Thank you for making this work possible.

Patrick Kearns, Ex Dir. Re:Source Cleveland



Generosity Corner



2026 Generosity Campaign

As we look ahead to 2026, we invite every household in our congregation to take part in building a strong and sustainable ministry for the year to come. Your pledge is an expression of gratitude, hope, and shared responsibility—and every commitment, at every level, truly matters.

This year, we are asking not only for your pledge to the 2026 budget but also for your thoughtful consideration of a possible increase. Giving to the church is a vital part of our spiritual practice, and pledging is how we determine our budget for the year ahead—we plan only for what is pledged.

Our goal is to expand participation in pledging from 272 households to 300 households, strengthening both our ministry and our shared sense of community. Please be a part of it!

The charts below show how our current giving is distributed, as well as how even modest percentage increases can make a meaningful impact on our ability to serve, grow, and live out our mission together.

2025 Pledges by Dollar Amount

Annual Amount Pledged	# of Pledging Households
Under \$500	30
\$500 to \$999	33
\$1,000 to \$2,499	89
\$2,500 to \$4,999	59
\$5,000 to \$9,999	43
Over \$10,000	18
TOTAL	272

What increasing your pledge could look like for 2026

Original Pledge Amount	% Increase				
	1%	2%	3%	5%	10%
\$500	\$505	\$510	\$515	\$525	\$550
\$1,000	\$1,010	\$1,020	\$1,030	\$1,050	\$1,100
\$2,500	\$2,525	\$2,550	\$2,575	\$2,625	\$2,750
\$5,000	\$5,050	\$5,100	\$5,150	\$5,250	\$5,500
\$10,000	\$10,100	\$10,200	\$10,300	\$10,500	\$11,000

Commitment beyond crumbs...

Original Pledge Amount	10% Increase	Your Monthly Pledge Increase	Your Weekly Pledge Increase
\$500	\$550	\$4.16	\$0.96
\$1,000	\$1,100	\$8.33	\$1.92
\$2,500	\$2,750	\$20.83	\$4.08
\$5,000	\$5,500	\$41.67	\$9.62
\$10,000	\$11,000	\$83.33	\$19.23

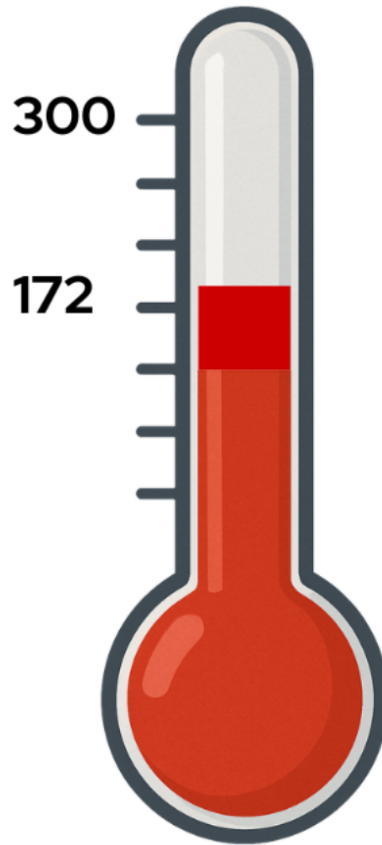
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support

**The Generosity
Commission has set
a goal of 300
pledging households
for 2026.**

**As of today, we are
at 172.**

**Join us as we dream
big in 2026!**

federated 
support



**Please help us by making your pledge now!
You can drop your pledge card off at the church,
you can pledge online through REALM or you can
reach out to Thea to help you set up your pledge.**

**Members of the Generosity Commission will be
reaching out to members during the pledge
campaign. Feel free to contact members of the
commission with any questions!**



Why does your pledge matter?

**The church's annual budget is determined only by dollars pledged.
Your commitment makes a difference!**

Last year nearly 64% of church members gave to the church-of that number 59% of our membership pledged.

This year, the Generosity Commission has three goals:

- Increase the number of pledgers by 10% - this would be an increase from 272 to 300 households committing to pledge in 2026.
- Have "givers" become "pledgers" - we encourage you to reach out to a commission member if you have questions about pledging vs. giving and how it impacts budgets and planning for the next year.
- Educate members - new and old - about the how & why of pledging and giving to your church home.

The Federated Church needs your pledge so our ministries grow, mission reaches further, and Federated leaps forward to a promising future! Pledge what you can. Every pledge counts!

Yours in faith,

Generosity Commission - Houston Bowers, Owen Foster, Ken Horner,
Maren Koepf, Ann Lentz, Michael Quintin, Joan Rieke and Judy
Riemenschneider, Thea Mozingo-Staff Liaison



Celebrate the Past– Commit to the Future

Are you excited about all of the activities and programs that you’ve seen this year?

Pledging allows staff and commissions to dream big for the upcoming program year and plan on even more programs and activities for you and your family.

Without your continuing commitment, these programs would not be possible. Thank you for your support of Federated Church!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Sunday School, Middle and High School Youth Groups– SPIFFY & GROUP, Vacation Bible School, Summer Fun at the Fed, Habitat for Humanity Playhouse Build, Lorax Book Study, Playgroup, Children’s Choir, Trunk or Treat, Reverse Trick or Treat at Hamlet, Youth Group Outings, College Care Packages, Parents Night Out

ADULT ACTIVITIES

Book Studies, Primetime, Sit & Stitch, Men’s Picnic, Helping Hands, Circle, Lake County Captains Game, Choir, Women’s Bible Study, Advent by Candlelight , SJAM, Bridge, Mahjong, Mexican Train, Creation Care Team, Mission & Service Projects, Angel Ministries, Heartland Conference – UCC, Living Waters Association-UCC

ALL CHURCH MINISTRIES

Worship, Fellowship Hour, Rally Day, Wondrous Wednesday, Holy Week, Performing Arts Series, All Church Picnic, Christmas Caroling

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

Community Life Collaborative, AA, ACA, Alzheimer’s Support, Yoga, Scouts, Children’s Guild, DAR, Music Together, Chagrin Documentary Film Festival, American Red Cross Blood Drives, 100+ Women Who Care



Legacy Committee

Creating a Lasting Legacy at Federated

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." – Matthew 6:21

As followers of Christ, we at Federated Church are called to share our blessings for the good of our community and the world. Generosity is more than an act of giving – it is a spiritual practice, a way of giving back in gratitude for all God has provided.

During this season of thanksgiving, we invite you to consider supporting the Federated Church Legacy Fund. The word *legacy* comes from the Latin *legare*, meaning "to appoint" or "to send as an ambassador." In that spirit, a legacy gift becomes an ambassador of your faith, carrying your values forward for generations to come.

The Legacy Fund – our church's endowment – strengthens Federated's long term financial foundation while providing annual support for our ministries. The fund is approaching \$850,000 and is carefully stewarded by the Legacy Committee, which oversees both its management and its mission. Each year, up to 5% of the fund may be distributed to support the church's operating budget – over \$38,000 in 2025 alone.

Your generosity today helps ensure that Federated Church remains vibrant, stable, and mission driven well into the future. We invite you to prayerfully consider:

- Making a designated gift to the Legacy Fund
- Including Federated in your estate plans or gifting financial assets such as cash, stocks, or real estate

If you choose to make a planned gift, you can share your intentions with the church using our [notification of intent](#) form.

Thank you for considering a gift that will bless our church family for years to come. Your legacy of faith and generosity truly makes a difference.

Sincerely,

Federated Church's Legacy Committee

federated 
support



Women's Ministry

Circle will meet on **Monday, December 15 at 12:30 pm in Fellowship Hall**. Harriet Rogers will share one or two Christmas stories, and we invite everyone to bring a sweet or savory dish to share. We hope you can join us for this festive gathering.

Sit & Stitch Sit & Stitch will continue meeting **each Thursday at 10:00 am in Room 340**. All are welcome to join us for fellowship, knitting, and crocheting.

Helping Hands will **not meet in December**, but will resume in January as we continue stuffing cancer pillows for hospice.

Loaves & Fishes will meet on **December 28**. If you would like to help serve at St. Paul's, please contact **Jim Scheuermann**. If you would like to donate Christmas cookies or treats, please leave them in the church kitchen **marked "Loaves & Fishes"** by **Sunday, December 28 before 9:00 am**. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

If you would like to join any of these activities, all are welcome... just drop in!

For more information contact Lynne Kessell, 440-487-9104
or lynnekessell@gmail.com.



MEET THE ARTIST

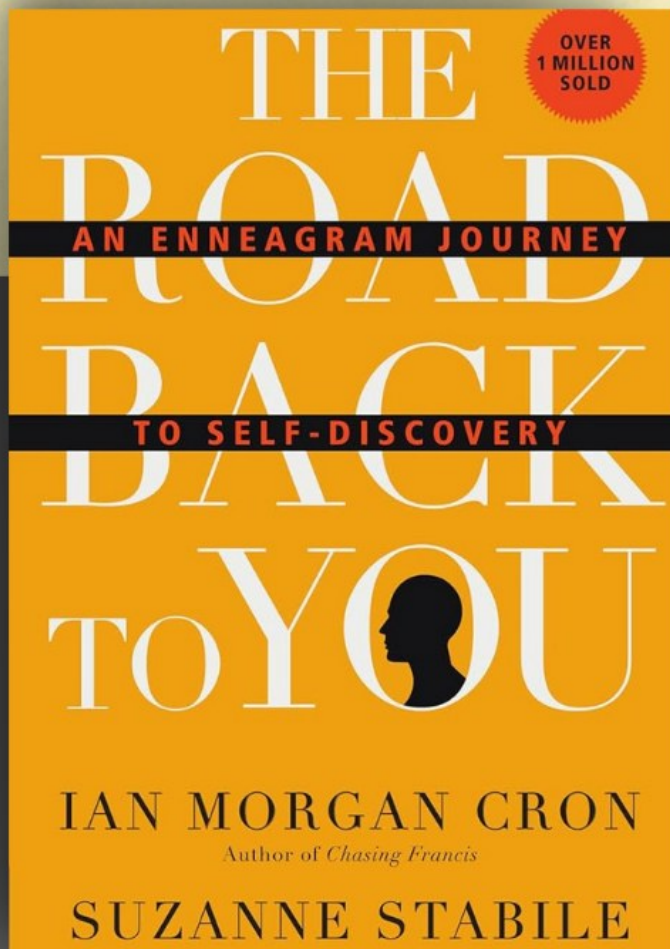
Our own Norma Bobbitt created the beautiful hooked rugs hanging on our Gallery Walls. She was introduced to the craft 30 years ago at a thrift store. She volunteered with a friend who was taking home wool skirts and pants from the store. Why, she asked? You can deconstruct them to create material for hooking rugs! Norma was interested, learned the craft, and joined a Hooking Guild that meets once a week. Her rugs will hang on our walls through Christmas.





BOOK STUDY

**Thursdays
Jan 8-February 12
10-11:30 AM**



We will be using the book, *The Road Back to You: An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery* and its companion study guide by the same title, purchased separately.

What you don't know about yourself can hurt you- and your relationships- and how you make your way in the world. It can also keep you in the shallows with God. Do you want help figuring out who you are and why you repeatedly stumble into the same self-defeating patterns? Would you like new spiritual food to chew on? Consider the ancient personality type system called the Enneagram, a map of human personality dating back to the desert mothers and fathers of the fourth century, or even earlier. Its ancient wisdom has much to offer.

Please purchase both the book and the separate study guide in which you will be doing homework on your own. Please start reading now as we will discuss three chapters per week. Also please take the free assessment tool which will help determine your Enneagram "type."



For mor info, call Judy Bagley-Bonner:
440-478-0159 or email at
jbagbone@gmail.com



CHRISTMAS *Bake Sale*



SUN., DECEMBER 7TH

Join us during Fellowship Hour as the youth group hosts a festive Bake Sale filled with homemade sweet treats!

All proceeds will go toward purchasing toys for our sister church, St. Paul's, helping their congregation provide affordable Christmas gifts for their children.

Come support our youth, enjoy some delicious goodies, and help spread Christmas joy!



Come One, Come All to...

FEDERATED

Wonderland

FOOD ● CRAFTS ● KARAOKE
AND MORE!

Join us in Fellowship Hall after the musical for a festive,
intergenerational Advent celebration!

Sunday, December 14th
Immediately Following Worship

Come celebrate the season, create special
keepsakes, and satisfy your sweet tooth as
we enjoy this joyful time together!





FEDERATED SUNDAY SCHOOL

K-5 HAPPENINGS

Our K-5 children have learned all about the Golden Rule throughout October and now we begin the season of Advent. We have many fun, faith-filled and festive happenings in December!

December 7th - This coming Sunday, December 7th, is Kids Church where we will gather in our Chapel for a service co-created by the children and youth. For this second Sunday in Advent our focus will be Peace. Please remember to send in coins for our Coin Collection Contraption, this week's collection will support Youth Groups shopping trip for St. Pauls.

December 14th - Children are invited to worship with their families and enjoy the Pageant led by our Children's Choir. Newly stocked Borrow Bags are available too! Following the service, allow a little extra time to spend in Fellowship Hall as we will be hosting "Federated Wonderland"; a special holiday celebration for the ENTIRE family with lunch, treats, crafts, and Christmas Karaoke! There will be a free will offering will support our Colorado Kids!

December 21st - This fourth Sunday in Advent we will celebrate love.

Wishing you a wonderful and wonder-filled Advent
filled with hope, peace, joy and love!



Federated Kids Church

-in our very own Chapel-
a place to belong and become

After the passing of the peace in the Sanctuary, children will head to church school for a brief period before going to the Chapel for a fun-filled time of learning, laughter, music and love as we grow in God's Word together!

THE FIRST
SUNDAY OF
EVERY MONTH

CO-CREATED
WITH OUR KIDS
FOR OUR KIDS



What to expect:

- Children lighting the candles
- Joyful songs and praise
- Children leading prayer
- Bible stories made fun and easy
- Games and activities
- Children invited to play music
- Fun and fellowship
- Coin collection (please send them in)
- Ringing of the bells after worship

For more information:

 omason@fedchurch.org



FEDERATED CHURCH PRIMETIME NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025



We would love to have you join us for one or all of the upcoming Primetime events! You do not need to be a member of the church to join us. Church members can sign up on REALM. Feel free to sign up by contacting Thea Mozingo at tmozingo@fedchurch.org or by calling 440-247-6490

Upcoming Events

December 11th - Lunch out at The Cabin

A favorite for many years - join your Primetime friends for lunch out at The Cabin in Aurora. Enjoy food, fun and a cozy atmosphere all decorated for Christmas.

Widow's Dinner is on pause for December! Watch the newsletter for upcoming dates.

January 8th - Valentine Craft with Kathy Rayer & Lunch

Join us in Fellowship Hall as we make Valentine cards with our very own Kathy Rayer.

Federated Church
76 Bell St
Chagrin Falls OH
440-247-6490
www.fedchurch.org



Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM)

A ministry for action as we live into our call for Care and Justice for all of God's people and creation

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 or receive our emails, please contact sjamfedchurch@gmail.com

No General SJAM Meeting in December.

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 25, 2026 in the LOUNGE at 11:30 AM

This will be an Open House for anyone interested in learning about SJAM. Soup lunch will be served!

Come and join us! More details to follow in January SPIRE



WE ARE DREAMING OF A
GREEN CHRISTMAS!



Eco-product Sales – Now through December 21st

Consider buying Eco-Friendly stocking Stuffers and Gifts.

The Creation Care team will have a variety of Eco-Friendly Items for Sale on Sundays after worship in Fellowship Hall. Stop by to do some shopping. See flyer for details.

December 8th at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall

Workshop on Communicating with those we disagree with

Braver Angels skills – led by Bill Shaul

Focusing on skills to interact with family and friends we care about who are on opposite sides. We will be practicing skills. See attached flyer for details. All are welcome!

SJAM is co-sponsoring:

Community Forum – The Criminal 'Justice' System

December 6, 2025 Noon - 4 PM

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland, 21600 Shaker Blvd.

Light lunch served.

RSVP to: racialequitybuddies@gmail.com

See attached flyer for details.

For other events you may be interested in go to: To see events that may be of interest to you - go to:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/15o1wV1KY9yPpMqiLsQww0uMA-0SmuIT_og24PCblya4/edit?usp=sharing

Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM)

A ministry for action as we live into our call for Care and Justice for all of God's people and creation



Seeking a way to deepen your Advent experience? Come to:

**Silent Saturday -
Introduction to Centering Prayer**

Saturday, December 6

Federated Church
76 Bell St., Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
Lower Level meeting room

9 – 9:30 AM Registration, Refreshments
9:30 – 12:30 Program

Centering Prayer Introductory Workshop

Do you seek the still, quiet voice of God? Come explore the indwelling presence of God within each of us and our intimate relationship with that presence.

Experienced practitioners, commissioned by Contemplative Outreach, Ltd., will present a method of Christian meditation - **Centering Prayer**. We will discuss the benefits of Centering Prayer in ordinary life and experience two periods of practice. Discover the meaning of Psalm 46:

"Be still and know that I am God."

Breakfast, beverages and snacks provided.

Please register so we can plan:

Email: reverendsusi@gmail.com or text: 440.533.5860

If you can come at the last minute, but aren't registered, please come!



Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM)

A ministry for action as we live into our call for Care and Justice for all of God's people and creation



Injustice to JUSTICE
Sponsored by: Racial Equity Buddies
A community forum on
The Criminal 'Justice' System
December 6, 2025 Noon - 4 PM

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Cleveland
21600 Shaker Blvd, Shaker Heights, OH 44122



Featuring Christina Swarns
Executive Director Of
The Innocence Project

- Testimonials from individuals who have been wrongfully charged, incarcerated, and exonerated
- Panel discussion exploring restorative justice
- Panel discussion on present efforts to eliminate injustice

A few of our panelists



Mark Chupp
Prof Case Western

Latoya Logan
CEO, Project Lift

Matthew Ahn
Director, Beyond Guilt, at OJPC

Also:

- Kim Corral, Esq., who represents wrongfully convicted individuals

-Pat Dillard (GCC's Pretrial Justice Team and the birthing of the UCC Pretrial Support Team)

We are also honored to have one of Kim's clients, who was recently exonerated, who will share his harrowing experience of being falsely accused, wrongfully arrested, indicted, and convicted—before ultimately being exonerated.

Justice Will Not Be Served Until Those Who Are Unaffected Are As Outraged As Those Who Are

Light lunch will be provided

RSVP to racialequitybuddies@gmail.com

***Sponsors:** ACLU, Pretrial Support Team, Unitarian Universalist of Cleveland, Racial Equity Buddies of Greater Cleveland, Social Justice Advocacy Ministry of Federated Church at Chagrin Falls, SURJ NEO, Undoing Oppressions Task Force of West Shore UU Church



Is your anger easily triggered by a political comment from a relative?
Is your response to a friend's political position to get "Silent or Violent"?
If political issues are so contentious that you are losing valued closeness
with a friend or relative, would you like to learn how to re-engage with them in a
constructive way? Consider attending a mini-workshop on:

Skills for Managing Difficult Conversations

Monday, December 8th at 7:00 pm

In Person at Federated Church

(76 Bell St., Chagrin Falls)



Facilitated by Bill Shaul, Co-founder of the NE Ohio Chapter of **Braver Angels**, a national, grassroots, non-partisan organization that seeks ways to depolarize the country. It has developed skills to help us re-connect with those we care about and who differ from us.

The holiday season can be a particularly challenging time for families dealing with political disagreements—and these can be very emotional. Whether you lean **Red, Blue, or Purple**, we invite you to join us to learn and practice some of these skills.

Questions? Contact Bill Shaul at bshaul@braverangels.org





SUPPORT MILITARY

CHAPLINS

Opportunity to support our UCC military chaplains.

Opportunity to support our UCC military chaplains.

We have recently learned about the difficulties our UCC military chaplains are facing, especially in seeking to minister to our LGBTQ siblings in the military. They are receiving new government directives frequently restricting what they can say and do in providing support.

If you would like to offer support to our chaplains, here is what you can do. First of all, hold them in your prayers. Secondly, write a letter of support. We will be collecting letters/cards for them, and delivering them to the UCC national offices for distribution. There will be cards available after worship on December 7th and 14th in Fellowship Hall in which to write a note of encouragement, and we have a list of 48 names, and our goal is to have at least one card per chaplain. If you are not able to come to Fellowship Hall after the service to write a card and still want to participate, contact Rev. Susi Kawolics (reverendsusi@gmail.com) or call 440.247.6490 ext. 114.

A note may say something like:

- Recently, I/we have been made aware of some of the challenges that our UCC military chaplains are facing.
- I/we want you to know that you are in our deepest prayers as you minister to our nation's service members.
- I/we wish you many blessings during this Christmas season. May you know the presence and peace of Christ now and always.

Thank you for supporting our military chaplains at this difficult time.



Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM)

A ministry for action as we live into our call for Care and Justice for all of God's people and creation



WE ARE DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS!



Consider buying Eco-Friendly stocking Stuffers and Gifts

The Creation Care team will have a variety of
Eco-Friendly Items for Sale on Sundays in Fellowship Hall
from Mid November – December 21
or until we Sell Out



Shopping for Eco-Friendly
products is fun and helps
the Earth and All
Living things



**Bring Holiday Cheer
and remove Plastics
from the Environment**



Creation Care Tip of the Month

Celebrate a Green Christmas: Sustainable Tips for a Joyful Holiday

A few ideas to consider:

- Buy less stuff. Make a charitable donation in honor of the recipient.
Give experiences, such as a shared meal, a subscription,
a membership to museums or the zoo or event tickets, etc.
 - Make gifts, or maybe find gently used items at Thrift Stores
 - Consider materials as you make purchases
and choose packaging: choosing natural and renewable over plastic when possible.
 - Wrap gifts in comics, fabric, reusable bags, etc.
 - Center gatherings around music, stories, games, and other ways of sharing joy.
Reduce emphasis on material gift giving.
 - Send ecards or homemade cards.
Glitter (is just shredded plastic) and foil cards cannot be recycled.
 - Use energy saving LED lights. Turn them off at night.
Recycle old Christmas lights. (Bring to the Church during the first 2 weeks of January)
 - Buy a balled tree to plant in your yard after the holiday, shop for a
small locally and sustainably grown cut tree.
Artificial trees make sense if used for ten years or more
(bonus—find one at a charity thrift store!)
 - Refuse plastic shopping bags.
Keep reusable bags in the car and take them into the store with you.
 - Minimize food waste by planning realistic quantities,
sending food home with guests, freezing the rest.
Serve more plant based foods; buy local and organic when possible.
- Enjoy the holidays, spread love and joy, and share with family and friends
how you are going “green” this year.



federated 
act

LIGHTS FOR
LIONS
COLLECTION


federated

Federated's Mission & Service Commission and Creation Care Ministry are teaming up to collect non-working Christmas lights and electrical cords to benefit the Lights for Lions program at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo supports the work of [Lion Landscapes](#) using revenue generated from recycling the copper found in donated light strings and electrical cords. These funds directly benefit conservation initiatives that protect large carnivores – including lions, leopards, cheetahs, African wild dogs, and spotted hyenas – along with their habitats. The program also helps local communities and livestock coexist safely alongside these iconic species, creating a lasting impact for both people and wildlife.

When: Jan 4th through January 25th

Where: Fellowship Hall in the Blue Bins

FEDERATED PERFORMINGS ARTS SERIES PRESENTS...

BURNING RIVER BRASS

"CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD"



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH | 7 PM
76 BELL ST. | CHAGRIN FALLS

TICKETS: \$30-\$50. STUDENTS: \$10
RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM.



fedchurch.org/PAS
440.247.6490 X120

Community Partners



Convening Communities of Practice: “Youth Immersions. Climate Ambassadors”



A **Community of Practice** is a group of people who share a concern, a set of problems, or a passion for something they do and who interact regularly to learn how to do it better. These groups foster a sense of belonging and shared identity, enabling members to learn from each other’s experiences and expertise. The CLC convenes *Communities of Practice* to build relationships and to find common solutions.

Youth Immersions: A CLC Community of Practice

Working alongside nonprofits and educators in Northeast Ohio (NEO), the CLC recognized a need for more opportunities to collaborate, learn, and grow in nature specifically for youth in urban centers like Cleveland and Akron.

We partner with NEO organizations that serve youth to craft and customize “green” youth immersions for transformative impact by introducing young people to the critical concepts of climate justice and environmental stewardship— allowing them to enjoy the many emotional and health benefits of nature.

These immersions provide a platform for youth across communities to engage directly with experts, activists, and peers, fostering a deeper appreciation of urgent environmental challenges and the social justice ties to climate change.

Some partners include Organic Connects, Food Strong, Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition, Living Water Association, Northern Ohio Recovery Association, and more.

Together, we can...

- Offer interactive workshop encounters at the FLC

- Equip youth with leadership skills

- Annually confirm youth in acquiring certification as a Youth Climate Ambassador under the national organization

- Encourage participants to become advocates for sustainable solutions in their own communities

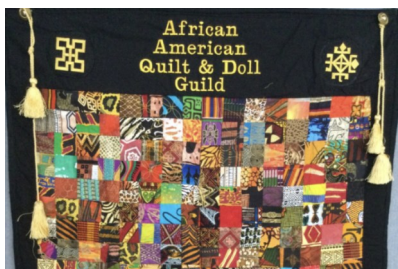
Help us inspire a generation of informed and motivated leaders to take action and to contribute to creating a more just and sustainable future for all !

Upcoming [Community Life Collaborative events at the Family Life Center:](#)

All About US: Our Quilts and Dolls Reception & Artist Talk Thursday, December 18, 5:30-7:30 We welcome [The African American Quilts and Doll Guild](#) and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture at a reception to hear powerful stories by Northeast Ohio artists.

African American Quilt & Doll Guild Exhibit December 18-February 16 Monday to Thursday 10:30am-3:30pm Take an incredible journey filled with inspiring stories of culture, history, traditions, and justice. Celebrate the vibrant creative process of textiles and needlework that strengthens and ties communities together.

The CLC aligns with the mission of the Federated Church and manages the day-to-day costs & operations of the Family Life Center (FLC) for the Federated Church. The CLC is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit collaborating with Federated Church to foster transformation through collaboration for a just and sustainable world. We are proud to be strategic partners with the Federated Church in advancing community engagement. To get involved or engage in initiatives, subscribe to CLC email blasts, follow us on social media, or reach out anytime! Contact 440-708-1961 or executivedirector@communitylifecollaborative.org



Presented by



All About Us: Our Quilts and Dolls

Celebrate culture, history, and community through the art of quilting!
Join us for a vibrant display of handcrafted quilts and dolls: each
telling powerful stories of creativity, tradition, and social justice.

Alongside



African American
Quilt and Doll Guild

RSVP TODAY
SEATS LIMITED



<https://givebutter.com/aaqdg>

FREE + OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC



Opening Reception &
Artist Talk
Thursday

Dec. 18

5:30-7:30 pm

Gallery Open
Through Feb.14



Generously
Supported by



EXPERIENCE THE ART. HEAR THE STORIES.

CLC GARDEN VIEW GALLERY
16349 CHILLICOTHE ROAD, CHAGRIN FALLS

thank you ♡

A huge thank you to you all for a tremendous and rapid response this fall to our NEOCJH (Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless) drive, that we accomplished in only a month, compared to over 5 weeks last year!

We outdid last year's financial contributions by 200% to \$3188 raised. This enables NEOCJH to fill many voids in the needs of the families, veterans, seniors, and teens who they serve.

Some they find in "tents", living in their cars, or as we heard from our NEOCJH speaker in the past, even over grates near or under some buildings downtown. It's so easy to for us to forget this is going on daily, when we rarely see it in the suburbs of our city. NEOCJH also doesn't forget those temporarily living in the shelters.

We collected nearly 200 gloves and new socks, over 60 fleece and sweaters, 85 hats (many handmade), over 20 scarves (many handmade as well), almost 40 sturdy winter boots, 31 kids' jackets and snow pants, and 45 adult jackets. It was a tremendous outpouring of love from you. Our co-chairs were also joined by helpers Chris Kutso, Tom and Sandra Meyer, as well as the Young people of Federated and the Boy Scout group as we packed and sorted everything to drive downtown!

With genuine gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for all that YOU do to support Federated's many missions, including this one! You REALLY can make a difference in a life by your care and generosity.

Peace, Cathy, Patti, and Pete





St. Paul's Christmas Store Collection



Collecting
New Unwrapped Toys,
Crafts and Games
for Kids of all ages!

Novemeber 30-
December 7



Place under the Tree in the Church Lobby



Thank you



Dear Federated Church,

As I look out the window at the rain and wind while anticipating the addition of snow shortly, I cannot help but feel an overwhelming sense of thanks for your clothing donations. Most of it made its first appearances in our gym some days ago and was joyfully received by members of our homeless community and others in need in our neighborhood. It was and continues to protect them from the elements in these cold days that are upon us. I know they join me in extending thanks to you for your generosity.

Peace,
Tim Walters
St. Paul's Community Outreach and Church

Fellowship Treats

Federated members take turns bringing treats for Fellowship Hour each Sunday, 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 7– last names beginning with L and M

December 14– last names beginning with N, O, P, Q, and R

December 21– last names beginning with S and T

December 28– last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y, and Z



Contact Us!

www.fedchurch.org
fedchurch@fedchurch.org

Phone: 440.247.6490
Fax: 440.247.2516

Facebook: facebook.com/thefederatedchurch

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

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO HELP YOU

CLERGY

Vicki McGaw, *Interim Pastor*
Judy Bagley-Bonner, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

Administration Staff

Beth Rutkowski, *Senior Director of People and Operations*
Brooke Strong, *Director of Communications*
Thea Mozingo, *Director of Generosity*
Oliver Mason, *Director of Youth and Families*
* **Susi Kawolics**, *Bookkeeper*
* **Marty Culbertson**, *Director of Missions*
* **Allison Hutchins**, *Administrative Specialist*
Jake Magalski, *Properties, Maintenance & Grounds Lead*

Music Staff

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

Children's Ministries Staff

* **Jannine Mason**, *Children's Activities Leader*

* denotes part-time staff



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**Hope to see you
this Sunday!**

10:00 AM
In person and Online