



THE SPIRE

THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

January at
Federated

SUNDAY, January 1
Family Worship and Communion

Rev. Mark Simone
10:15 am
Single Worship Service
Soloist

SUNDAY, January 8

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton
8:45 am
Worship & Church School
The Ensemble
10:15 am
Worship & Church School
Chancel Choir
11:45 am
Alive360 Family Worship
Alive360 Music Team

SUNDAY, January 15
Martin Luther King Weekend

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton
8:45 am
Worship & Church School
The Ensemble
10:15 am
Worship & Church School
Chancel Choir
11:45 am
Alive360 Family Worship
Alive360 Music Team

SUNDAY, January 22

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton
8:45 am
Worship & Church School
The Ensemble
9:45 am Congregational Meeting
10:15 am
Worship & Church School
Chancel Choir
11:45 am
Alive360 Family Worship
Alive360 Music Team

SUNDAY, January 29

Christmas Eve Offering Presented
Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton
8:45 am
Worship & Church School
The Ensemble
10:15 am
Worship & Church School
Chancel Choir
11:45 am
Alive360 Family Worship
Alive360 Music Team & Bells

Governance and Ministry Task Force Update

Since shortly after last February's Annual Meeting, the Task Force has been hard at work creating a new lay governance structure for Federated Church. The objectives for the new structure given to the Task Force by Central Council were:

- Decreased focus on "church work" (management) and increased focus on "the work of the church" (ministry)
- Direct support for existing and new ministry programs, with a goal of creating a "church of 2000 ministers"
- Allow for greater continuity of leadership to support long-term goals and strategies

Over the course of those months, the Task Force has:

- Interviewed other churches that have made similar governance changes
- Created a new proposed structure that meets the objectives
- Presented the new structure to Central Council, board and committee members, church staff, and the congregation at large. Feedback from these groups has been incorporated.

It is now time to take the next step and begin implementation of the Task Force's recommendations. Time is short because the desire is to have a list of candidates for the new structure for the congregation to vote on at the Annual Meeting on February 19th.

In order to accomplish that, Central Council has called for a **Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 22 at 9:45 in the Sanctuary**. A motion will be voted on to "set aside Articles VI and VII of the Constitution for a two year period of discernment while we implement a new structure of Governance and Ministry". The two articles cover the current Central Council and Board structure and responsibilities. This is necessary to allow a different structure to be used.

The approach of "setting aside" the current structure and not voting on a new structure at this time is based upon the recommendation of other churches that have made similar changes. For them, a period of time to "try out" their new structure was necessary to fine-tune it. The new organization will start with the structure recommended by the Task Force, but it will be improved over time. At the end of the two year period (January 2014), a new permanent structure will be presented to the congregation to replace Articles VI and VII of the Constitution.

Central Council and the Governance Task Force urge all Federated members to become familiar with the new Leadership and Ministry plan. The congregational meeting on January 22 will be very brief, because it takes place between church services, so no detailed information will be presented at that time.

Continued on page 5

Jack & Joan Taylor Honored at St. Paul's

On Sunday, December 4 Pastor Doug Horner, Senior Pastor at St. Paul's Community Church and Pastor Lori Tisher, Manager of the Outreach Program at St. Paul's, honored Jack Taylor for his over 20 years of work at St. Paul's as a handyman. Joan was instrumental in helping stock the shelves in the Outreach office food pantry. Jack and Joan have been members of Federated for 50 years and active in Elderlife since its inception over 25 years ago. Blessings to Jack and Joan for their love and dedication to St. Paul's and their continued presence and support of Federated, Elderlife and St. Paul's.





From the desk of

HAMILTON THROCKMORTON

SENIOR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I have never been much for New Year's resolutions. With a January birthday, I've never really wanted to totally give up sweets. And I suppose I've always been a little reluctant to make promises I fear I won't keep.

I'm becoming more tempted by the idea, though, because I sense that perhaps some changes are in order. What I'm finding is that too often my life seems out of balance, too skewed toward busy-ness and noise at the expense of quietness and rest. Is it time for a resolution that builds in a different pace?

I know I'm not alone in this internal wrestling match. I have been struck recently by the number of people who say their fondest desire is for balance in their lives. It may be that the Christmas season brings on this sort of self-examination, what with the number of parties and the amount of shopping, wrapping, baking, decorating, etc. that takes so much of our time. I find myself wondering if people have always felt this way, if they've always slipped too easily into habits and ways of spending time that leave them feeling out of whack. Or is the prevalence of this struggle a more recent phenomenon?

As I was eating lunch with a church member recently, he observed that when he reads on his iPad, he finds himself so entranced by the various links highlighted in his reading that he will look up a word he never heard before, or follow a tangent that interests him. And soon he's lost the train of what he's reading. I've noticed the same thing in myself. I find myself exploring nooks and crannies of the Internet that may lead in fascinating directions, but that also mean I'm jumping here and there rather than following an idea or a train of thought in a more extended way. Most of us can now hardly imagine a world without the Internet, and its benefits are immense, but its gifts also come with consequences. And one of the consequences is a more herky-jerky style of reading and learning. If you're like me, you'll start reading an article, and then an email will arrive, and then a text message will appear. You go quickly from one thing to the next.

As great a gift as our technology is, it can also burden us in ways that need to be tempered. I was struck, in a recent article about Gov. John Kasich, that his wife Karen has certain rules about their life together. One is that he can't come through the door talking on his cell phone. Another is that he has to turn off his cell phone each evening by 8:30. That's one of the ways they achieve balance. Similarly, a Federated member recently responded on a Monday morning to an email chain about church business that had started late on Friday. He said, "Sorry I'm late responding. I don't engage in any email on the weekends." That's another way to achieve balance.

None of these habits is right for everybody. For a retired person, email on the weekend may be a fine way to spend several hours. It's certainly not true that there's a "one size fits all" set of resolutions that works for everybody. It's only to say that balance is key in every life, and finding a way to do that—by working more if idleness has been too prevalent, or by working less if frenzy has been the order of the day—is crucial for all of us.

In light of the multitude of demands on our time and attention, maybe it's time for some resolutions regarding balance: that we will be sure to get enough sleep; that we will exercise every day; that we will eat right; that we will study and learn and grow; that we will work hard; that we will take time for friends; and, perhaps most of all, that we will take time, every day, for God. We will pray and express our gratitude and absorb the grace that never lets us go. And we will find ways to give in response.

May your life be filled, this year, with a holy balance.

Grace and peace to you,

Hamilton

The SPIRE

A Monthly Publication of Federated Church since 1946



FEDERATED CHURCH
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

If you have any questions regarding The SPIRE or would like to include something in an upcoming issue, please contact Melinda Smith at smithm@fedchurch.org or call 440.247.6490 x124.

Instructions for donating stock

If you are interested in donating stock to the church, please use the following account information to do so:

**Fidelity Investments DTC #0226
Account # Z 49-597350**

As always, PLEASE NOTIFY Federated's financial office that you are making a stock gift. We need to know the number of shares, name of the stock, and the purpose of the gift (general fund, etc.) You may call Toni Cirino at 440-247-6490 ext. 145, email Toni Cirino at tcirino@fedchurch.org, or send a letter to the church, attention Toni. Thank you!

...a gift to the community!



Thank you for all of your support and participation in the Burning River Brass concert. Once again the church was packed like sardines (but happy sardines) and the music was fabulous. Everything went smoothly and it was a financial success as well. We had a larger community choir than ever before and the sound from the carol sing-alongs and descants was thrilling. If this didn't put you in a holiday mood, nothing could.

Special thanks to : Bill Foley (Director, Community Choir), The Olsen Bell Choir (Thaddeus Quentin, Director), Nancy Isham (patrons), Lynne Muzik and Greg Polyak (ushers), the Federated Office Staff (Pat Nichols, Melinda Smith) and to ALL our patrons, choir members, ushers, and all those who participated....

It truly was a gift to the community.

Marcia Snavely and the BRB Committee

Interfaith Book Study

4 weeks beginning Jan 29th - Feb 19th
 Sunday Mornings, 10:00 - 11:30 am
 In the Lounge

The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew - Search for Understanding

By Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, Priscilla Warner

A groundbreaking book about Americans searching for faith and mutual respect, *The Faith Club* weaves the story of three women, their three religions, and their urgent quest to understand one another. After September 11, Ranya Idliby, an American Muslim of Palestinian descent, faced constant questions about Islam, God, and death from her children, the only Muslims in their classrooms. Inspired by a story about Muhammad, Ranya reached out to two other mothers to write an interfaith children's book that would highlight the connections between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. After just a few meetings, however, the women realized that they themselves needed an honest and open environment where they could admit -- and discuss -- their concerns, stereotypes, and misunderstandings. After hours of soul-searching about the issues that divided them, Ranya, Suzanne, and Priscilla grew close enough to discover and explore what united them. A memoir of spiritual reflections in three voices, *The Faith Club* has spawned interfaith discussion groups in churches, temples, mosques, and other community settings. It will make you feel as if you are eavesdropping on the authors' private thoughts, provocative discussions, and often-controversial opinions and conclusions. As the authors reveal their deepest beliefs, you watch the blossoming of a profound interfaith friendship and the birth of a new way of relating to others. And this new edition provides all the materials you need for forming your own Faith Club, including sections in Hebrew and Arabic. Pioneering, timely, deeply thoughtful, and full of hope, *The Faith Club's* caring message will resonate with people of all faiths.

Interfaith Luncheon

Cleveland's unique diversity offers a rich opportunity to share our faith together.

*Please join us in welcoming the
 The Turkish American Society of Ohio - Cleveland
 to Federated with*

Dr. Zeki Saritoprak

The Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies at
 John Carroll University
 presenting

Common Themes of

Islam, Christianity & Judaism

with information about the Qur'an

**Sunday, January 22nd
 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.**

A traditional Turkish lunch will be offered in Fellowship Hall
 followed by

Dr. Saritoprak's presentation & discussion

The Turkish American Society will be providing the lunch

Our gift to them - \$5.00 per lunch

***R.S.V.P. during coffee hour or at the
 Reception Desk 440-247-6490***

The Adult Nurture & Fellowship Board, invites you to attend a forum offered by a local Muslim community in Mayfield Heights. The forum will center on the teachings of Nursi, a renowned scholar of the Qur'an. If you would like to carpool, please contact Dan Kershner at 330-425-8902.

*The Turkish Muslim's in Mayfield invite
 us to an open forum on*

Nursi Readings

starting Thursday, January 12th at 7:30 p.m.

and every other Thursday thereafter

360 Alpha Park, Highland Heights

(271 & Wilson Mills)

440-460-0379

Bediuzzaman Said Nursi, an Islamic Gandhi for modern day Turkey, was a social activist guiding Islam in the heart of their transition to Western influence after WWI.

His "Risale-i Nur" or the Treatise of Light is a 6,000 page commentary on the Qur'an that sheds light on contemporary issues regarding belief.

Today 13.5 million Muslims study the Risale-i-Nur every week in conjunction with their study of the Qur'an.

Nursi offers original solutions to modern life problems and has strongly supported dialog between Christianity and Islam.

*A person who sees the good in
 things has good thoughts.*

*And he who has good thoughts receives
 pleasure from life." Nursi*



Donated food becomes Thanksgiving Dinner for St. Paul's Families

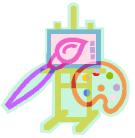
Pastor Lori Tisher, St. Paul's Outreach Manager, and Judy Phipps of St. Paul's oversee the distribution of the Thanksgiving Baskets of food which go to the needy in the St. Paul's neighborhood. The bags and bags of food that the Federated family donated as part of the annual Ingathering were carried to the altar by the children and blessed at Sunday worship on November 20 at Federated. Larry Trace and his crew then loaded the food into a trailer and John Bourisseau delivered it to St. Paul's. At St. Paul's Pastor Lori's crew unloaded the trailer and organized it on tables in the gym of St. Paul's.

Judy Phipps has been coordinating the Thanksgiving baskets for over 25 years. Thank you to Larry, John, Pastor Lori, Judy, all of the volunteers and all of the donors who make this wonderful collaboration possible each year.

*Come one,
Come any and all...
...Artists, known and unknown.*

The Elderlife Committee invites you to put your creative juices to work to design new "Care Cards". Use your favorite medium and present your ideas to Karen Perry and the Elderlife Committee.

The Committee will choose a few Spiritually inspired designs to be reproduced on note cards. The Cards offer "comfort and healing", "get well wishes and thoughts of "thinking of you".



Contact Karen Perry at 440-247-5513

A Thank You from St. Paul's celebrates Federated's Women's Fellowship...

At our November luncheon we took a free will offering and were able to send St. Paul's \$165. This collection enabled them to purchase bus tickets for our St. Paul's friends to get to doctors appointments. In addition, the Women's Fellowship was able to do some service projects that day; including, making up 20 outreach toiletry kits, collecting some white tube socks, making up Thanksgiving Day cards for the Geauga Department of Aging and sewing up several cancer pillows for Hospice.

The Women's Fellowship is also busy with a prayer shawl ministry, knitting scarves for the U.S.O., making Izzy dolls and now an outreach program for Independence Place, a home for about 26 women who have aged out of the foster care system.

The needs are varied and many. If you would like information on Independence Place or any other outreach programs we are working on, please contact Lynne Kessell, 440-247-5544.

Thanks to all the women who are dedicated to many outreach programs and especially for your help with our service projects at the November luncheon!

Interested in a New Federated Memorial Ministry?

There is some growing interest to establish a new ministry that would provide help to families who are suffering the loss of a loved one in ways both spiritual and practical. Areas of ministry may include visiting with the family from the time the church is notified until they come home from the memorial service, serving as Federated's Host/Hostess before, during and after the memorial service, and/or baking goods for receptions.



If you have the slightest interest in this ministry and wish to learn more, please come to this 30-minute gathering on SUNDAY January 15th at 9:30am in the Lounge. While pre-registration for the session is not required, it would be helpful if you could contact Peggie Jo Shinagawa at FedGPS@gmail.com, sign up at the Angel Desk or contact the church office to let us know you are planning to attend the session.

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

Saturday, January 28th
9AM - 6PM

5-player maximum per team
2-game minimum per team
Trophies & Cash Prizes
23 & over only

\$100 ENTRY FEE

All proceeds will go towards the cost of gym 'floor and lighting' improvements.

For more information call:
Duane Drotar at 216-280-2100
duanedrotar@yahoo.com

Christmas Sale was a Huge Success!

In spite of the rain, people lined up to get into the Christmas Sale - our two-day sale allowed many families to have a Merry Christmas.

Thanks to all the "Angels" at Federated who made this happen.



St. Paul's Thrift Shop Volunteers

St. Paul's



Central Council Highlights from the December 6 Meeting

- Council received an update from the Leadership and Governance Task Force regarding the proposed changes to our governing structure and a timeline for implementing these changes. *Information about the new structure is available on the church website* and will be updated at a special meeting for the congregation on Sunday, January 15, as well as in articles in the Spire. There will be a table in Fellowship Hall for four Sundays prior to this date with information. People from the task force will be there to answer questions.
- The Telling Our Story Task Force has been developing a marketing plan for the church, and has mailed out postcards regarding our Advent and Christmas Eve services and activities to all people in the area who have moved here within the last year.
- Council is collecting donations from the congregation for the Staff Christmas Fund; the proceeds will be divided evenly among the staff and checks will be presented to them on Staff Appreciation Sunday, January 8, 2012.

For additional information or clarification, please contact Helen Pointer, Chair of Central Council.

Tai Chi Classes

Monday mornings in Fellowship Hall

10:00am – 11:30am

Next 8-week session begins January 2

Cost: \$100/ person or \$170/couple

A word from the instructor, Sifu Edward Niam, Tai Chi Institute USA:

For more than a year it has been my privilege to conduct classes for members of Elderlife at The Federated Church in Chagrin Falls. They are an incredible group of intelligent, quick witted, hard working and dedicated students. Their training consists of the Yang Style Tai Chi-Long Form as well as exercises from Shaolin Kung Fu and Qi Gong. The program, "The Movement of Life", involves dozens of complex and intricate movements requiring practice and dedication. They are moving along at an incredible pace and are learning the material better than any other comparable class that I have ever taught. This training is difficult and I am proud of the discipline, dedication and hard work everyone in the class exhibits. They are a joy to work with.



Why not join us for HOT soup and a COOL movie?

Save the date.. Friday, January 20
for dinner & a movie *with the*
Green Committee in the Bell
Street Lounge



Continued from page 1 **Governance and Ministry Task Force Update**

So please take advantage of the following opportunities to become informed:

- Materials are available on the website – www.fedchurch.org/governance.
- On January 8th & 15th there will be a table in Fellowship Hall manned by members of the Task Force and Central Council who can answer your questions.
- Materials will also be available in the church office in printed form.
- On Sunday, January 15th there will be a presentation and Q&A session at 10:00 am and 11:15am in the Lounge.
- Materials available will include:
 - The presentation given to the congregation on November 13 on the Task Force's work and recommendations
 - The Policy Manual that will be used as an operating document for the new organization
 - The current constitution, so Articles VI and VII can be reviewed.

So please become informed, ask questions, and participate in Federated's next step in moving towards a church fulfilling its purpose:

**The purpose of Federated Church is to joyfully embody the living spirit of
God, welcome all people, transform lives, and enable everyone to love and
serve the world by the power of Jesus Christ.**

The Governance and Ministry Task Force members:

Sunny Doxey

Bill Kenneweg

Lori Urogdy Eiler

Ken Horner

Trish Rouru

David Lewis

Helen Pointer

Barbara Hudson

Martine Scheuermann

Central Council members:

Helen Pointer

Phil Fogarty

Todd Smith

Christian Brown

Hamilton Throckmorton

Dan Kershner

Paul Libby

Pete Bednar

Thea Mazingo

Marc Vitantonio

Joe Hudson

Barb Church

Welcome "Home" Susi Kawolics

Dear Federated friends and family-

"There's no place like home for the holidays" is one of the choruses that has been running through my head these past few weeks. This is the first year that our two daughters are not living in the Cleveland area, and so having them both come home for Christmas is indeed a special joy. And for me, I feel like I have come home in a sense as well. As of December 1st, I became the newest member of the Federated Staff, but I have actually been a member since 2005. I have not been participating here, however, because I have been serving as temporary Pastor at Bainbridge Community UCC for the past two years, which became a second church home for me in that time. But now I am back at home here, and will be serving as your licensed / part-time / interim / associate pastor. Much of what I'd like you to know about me is contained in the rather cumbersome title.

Licensed: I came to Federated Church and to the UCC denomination itself in 2005 from the Catholic Church. As such, I have a Master's degree in Ministry from Ursuline College, and not a Master of Divinity, as most pastors have. I have since supplemented my education with courses through the UCC school of lay ministry. In 2008, I became a licensed minister for Federated Church, which means that while I am not yet ordained (I am working on it), I am officially licensed to do everything an ordained minister can do for ministry at Federated Church.

Part-time: My current position here at Federated is for 20 hours a week. I also have another job working in an office, which keeps me occupied two days a week.

Interim: Your Search Committee is working to call a full-time permanent associate minister to replace the position Dan DeWeese had before retiring. Until that minister is called, I will be filling in to do much of the work that Dan did. When a new minister is hired, I plan to continue to minister to this church community in a less official capacity, while taking time to finish the requirements I need in order to get ordained.

Associate pastor: I have been working with Dan through the month of December to learn what he does, and I know better than to think I could ever replace him. However, since over and over, I've been hearing from people that when Dan would ask them to do something, they just "couldn't say no to Dan." In that sense, I hope you will consider me a replacement for Dan! I have been away from active participation in this church for over two years. I invite you to please introduce or reintroduce yourself to me, come see me, email me, call me. I am here to get to know you, and to serve you, and I truly look forward to ministering to and with you. I am thrilled and grateful to be back home in this church community.

Peace, Susi Kawolics

Labyrinth & Prayer in the Lounge

THE LABYRINTH

"Walking a Sacred Pathway"

Come early and walk our smallest

indoor Labyrinth set up in the

Lounge for everyone

Sunday Mornings

Jan 8 and 22.



An update on Alive360

Happy New Year! We experienced fruitful and engaging worship at Alive360 this past Advent and Christmas season. Many thanks to our wonderful team of lay leaders that put together a fabulous advent experience at Alive360: Maren Koepf, Kat Easterday, Kevin McMunigal, Polly Manke, Gary Mynchenberg, Andrew Moran, Anna Araca Davies, Caroline Young, Paul Koepf, Ric Eickhoff, Marilee Rickert, and Linda Nichols. You might have noticed the beautiful prayer chain draped in the Chapel. This ever-growing chain includes prayers from the Federated community that we include in our weekly prayer circle at Alive360. We hope to keep this prayer chain going into the new year as a symbol of our inter-connectedness with one another and the world; feel free to stop by and add a prayer!

As we look ahead to the season of Lent, we seek to gather a group of volunteers who will shape the vision for this reflective season at our 11:45 Sunday worship. First in a large group, and then within smaller teams, we will imagine ways to observe this season that will both reflect and inspire our community.

Participating requires only an open heart, a willingness to imagine new things, and a desire to collaborate. We'll have fun, get to know each other, and create meaningful worship together.

We will meet on two Saturday mornings, 10:00 am to noon at Bell Street: January 28 and February 11. For more information, contact Ruth Garwood at rgarwood@att.net

As we celebrate the coming of a new year, let us continue to carry the light of Christ with us as we journey forward, even into the darkness of winter! May each of us let our light shine brightly into a world in need of hope, peace, joy and love.

Alive360 Song of the Month:

Let it shine! Let it shine!

Let it shine!

The light of the world
that shows the way!

Let it shine! Let it shine!

And show us peace today!



The Ensemble is looking for more voices

The Ensemble seeks a few strong altos and sopranos to balance out the choir for the 2012 season! A love of singing is necessary and previous choral experience desired. Must be able to commit to Tuesday evening rehearsals (7:30-9:30) and Sunday morning services (we meet at 7:45) If you are interested in singing, please contact Amanda at apowell@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 x165



Koinonia Groups are Off and Running

Check out the new Koinonia bulletin board for groups that are in the planning stages and may be looking for more people who might be interested. The bulletin board is located here at Federated in the stairwell between the first and second floors.

Contact anyone listed below to join a group:

Bible/Book/Topic Discussion:	Linnea Rostek (linros65@hotmail.com)
Dinner/Wine/Events Out/Travel:	Ed & Marilyn Pierson (m.e.pierson@roadrunner.com)
Hiking/Sports/Fitness	Bob & Jan Varnon (jcvarnon@yahoo.com)
Service	Cindy Barclay (cindybarc@usa.com)
Vegan Cooking	Mary Ann Leonard (lifesabanquet@adelphia.net)
Parents of Teenagers	Sue Kluchar (newsueklu@gmail.com)
Young Families	Robin Polack (rlp555@yahoo.com)
Hamlet Village	Karen Perry (karenperry65@sbcglobal.net)

If you have your own idea for a group or would like help in finding a group for you, please fill out a **Koinonia Interest Form**. Hard copies of the form are available at the reception desk, or go to www.fedchurch.org/koinonia to submit an online form. For complete details about how Koinonia Groups work, look for our full brochure also online.

Questions? Contact Elizabeth Goodin at megoodin@sbcglobal.net or call 440-498-7494

Sponsored by the Board of Adult Nurture and Fellowship

Contemplative Prayer *By Susi Kawolics*

As a minister, I often hear from people “I just don’t know how to pray” or “I just don’t know what words to use in prayer.” Most of us have a heart-felt desire to communicate with God, and to get it right. Ultimately, however, there is no “right” way to pray – and no matter what words we wrap around our prayers, the truth is that God already knows what is in our hearts, sometimes even better than we ourselves do.

One form of prayer that acknowledges this and honors it is contemplative prayer. Contemplative prayer is meditative, and involves not speaking, in fact, not even thinking about what we want to tell God. It is a practice which leads us into a quiet place of clearing our minds, and filling ourselves with God’s presence.

We have a group that meets weekly to engage in this practice. You will find us gathered together every Wednesday morning at 7:30 AM in the Hearth Room at the Family Life Center (We gather at the Labyrinth when weather permits). We begin our time with a brief period of inviting each person to give a short “check-in”, and then we hear a Psalm before entering into 20 minutes of silent prayer. This prayerful silent time is, as Thomas Keating writes, “*Pure gift of God. It is the opening of mind and heart – our whole being – to God, the ultimate mystery. . . . Through grace we open our awareness to God whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking.*” This kind of prayer does not replace other kinds of prayer, but rather it illuminates and deepens their meaning. It is a movement beyond conversation with God to communion with God.

After prayer, we spend time in the practice of Lectio Divina, where we hear a scripture that will be used in the up-coming Sunday worship service, and we share how this passage touches our lives and speaks to us this day. Our whole morning session lasts about one hour, and people come just for prayer time, or for both prayer and lectio.

This group is ecumenical, and all are invited to come on any Wednesday morning. Whether or not you have ever practiced this way of praying, please feel free to join us. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact me at the church or email: skawolics@fedchurch.org. Also, if you are interested in finding out more about contemplative prayer, you can visit the website for the Contemplative Outreach of Northeast Ohio: <http://coneo.org>.

Creative Community

Tuesday, January 25

7:00-8:30pm

Fellowship Hall



**Would you like to reconnect with your creativity?
Reconnect your body and spirit?
Reconnect with other people?**

What if it were easy to do these things? Sometimes we try so hard to be renewed that we add to our stress rather than relieve it.

Amanda Powell and Ruth Garwood will lead an evening of singing, storytelling, and movement for teens and adults. All that’s required is your presence and your willingness to try some new things, laugh, get to know people better, and get body and spirit into the same place.

JustHope 2011 Christmas Eve Offering Recipient Presentation on January 29: Discussion on January 30

JustHope Director, Leslie Penrose will be here to receive our gift of the 2011 Christmas Eve Offering on Sunday, January 29.

In addition, Leslie would love to spend some time with anyone interested in learning what is possible with our new partnership.

*Please join the Mission and Outreach Board on Monday, January 30, 7-9pm in the Lounge. We will discuss how we can put ourselves to work (right away!) ...making our Christmas Eve Offering grow in exciting ways!
See you on Monday, January 30!*

YOUTH MINISTRIES - B12 (Birth to Grade 12)

Happy New Year!

Grades K-6

KIDZ Church

No...
...on January 1st. Please enjoy worshipping with your families!
Next Kidzchurch - February 5th!



J.O.Y. in January

Happy New Year! No J.O.Y. meeting on the 1st

January 8th - Regular J.O.Y. at the FLC - \$5 for Pizza

January 15th - Regular J.O.Y. at the FLC - \$5 for Pizza

Tuesday

January 17th - Special Event "My So Called Enemy"
Pot Luck dinner and discussion 5:30 - 7
7:30 screening of this powerful film (CFMS)

January 22nd - Regular J.O.Y. at the FLC - \$5 for Pizza

January 28th -29th - Annual J.O.Y. trip to Peek'n Peak



As you shop in January, please remember these needed items for....

Food for Friends
A 2011/ 2012 Church School
Mission Partner

January Shopping List:

- Dishwashing Soap
- Shampoo
- Canned Fruit
- Pancake Syrup
- Pancake Mix



Look for the shopping cart by the Helping House!

YOU  HELP!

JANUARY GROUP SCHEDULE

1/8 - LETTER TO SELF. BE WATCHING FOR YOUR LETTER IF YOU WROTE ONE LAST YEAR! COME AND WRITE A LETTER TO YOURSELF THAT I WILL MAIL TO YOU IN A YEAR. VERY COOL!

1/15 NBNGN - NOTHING BUT NEW GAMES NIGHT

1/22 - INTRO TO GROUP QUAKE WHAT ARE THE ESSENTIALS TO OUR FAITH?

**1/29 - WINTER JAM AT THE WOLSTEIN CENTER
10 BANDS FOR \$10!
CHIPOTLE BEFORE!**

Notes of Thanks

A group of construction workers were standing around a barrel with a fire in it at a construction site in Canada one cold winter day. It was break time and they began playing a "what if" game. "What if someone gave you a million bucks? What's the first thing you'd buy?" one asked the others.

"The first thing I'd buy," said one of the workers is a new pickup." "The first thing I'd buy," said a second, "is that new home, we've always wanted." They looked at a third coworker, awaiting his answer. "What about you, Charlie? If someone gave you a million bucks, what's the first thing you'd buy?" Charlie thought a minute and then said quietly, "I think if someone gave me a million bucks, the first thing I would buy would be a thank you card."

So, merci, danke schon, muchas gracias, arigato, grazie or, as we say around this neck of the woods, thank you. Thanks for the memories.

Thank you for the wonderful farewell gathering given for me on Sunday evening, December 4. The music, beginning with the Alive360 musicians and two of my favorite songs, "From the Rising of the Sun" and "Amazing Grace," and later the combined choir with their moving rendition of Isaiah 52:7, "How Beautiful upon the Mountains" – left me with a lump in my throat.

The delicious catered meal topped off with an equally delicious cake left me with a comfortably full tummy. We got to take some of the cake home, so enjoyed it again the next day.

The "this is your life" presentation, which was both heartwarming and humorous. Some of those photos I had either never seen or had forgotten.

The beautifully done album full of cards and notes with memories from the past to the present. I have yet to sit down and really absorb everything that is in it. That will happen during the week between Christmas and New Years, when we are in Upstate New York with Kylie, John and Amelia.

A week at the Abbey of Gethsemane, located about 70 miles southwest of Lexington, Kentucky. It has long been one of my dreams to visit the Trappist monastery, which was home to Thomas Merton, a favorite author of mine since the late 1970's.

For the planners and the servers and the "set uppers" and the coordinators and everyone who had a role in creating a wonderful evening and a memory I will long savor, thank you.

-Dan DeWeese

A huge "THANK YOU" to the donors of the generous Giant Eagle gift cards received in December for our Church School Mission!
Bless you for making the holidays brighter for so many in need. For YOU we are truly grateful!



Food for Friends, so grateful, let us know that your gifts will help provide assistance to 50 families this season !

"Give and it will be given to you" Luke 6:38

Federated Family & Staff,

Thank you for all the phone calls, and cards along with the "hugs" and expressions of sympathy at the time of Herb's illness and death. I know he loved you all.

Thank you Hamilton, Dan and Mark for your visits. Your words of comfort and prayers meant so much to all of the family.

Bless you all, Ruby Henderson & Family

What is Elderlife up to?

@ Federated Forum

January 9, 2:00pm

Chagrin Falls in the Civil War – presented by Federated member, John Bourisseau

@ Monthly Luncheon & Program

January 26, 12:30pm

Show Stoppers Singing Sensations singing and dancing to all types of music from Broadway to swing.

Upcoming trips:

Trip To Football Hall of Fame – Thursday, January 5

Trip to hear Cleveland Orchestra – Friday, January 13

For details, pick up a yellow Elderlife newsletter or call the Church Office to get onto the mailing list. These folks are always on the go.

Lisa Braun, Elderlife Coordinator, 440.247.6490 x160

Trinkets and Treasures Returns May 3-5, 2012

The Federated Church sale -- known as "TNT" because it's *dy-na-mite* -- will be back next spring! What can you do to help right now? As you sort through closets, drawers, and attics, start saving items for the sale. (Special "treasures" that are vintage, antique, art, etc. get priced individually so they make great donations!) Storage is available in Chesterland for large items you can't keep yourself. Get the key and map at the Family Life Center or the Reception Desk at Bell Street. Pick up can be scheduled if needed.



A large group of volunteers really eases the burden so, if you can help out, please call. There are jobs prior to the sale checking electronics, getting signs made, etc. as well as the week before and days of TNT.

Please contact one of the sale co-chairs: Anne Swegan at 440.247.4747 (swegan@sbcglobal.net) or Liz Manchester at 440.557.5023 (lmanche1@live.com).

Healing Gatherings at the Labyrinth

~ Begin with a personal sharing about a healing journey ~

**Wednesdays; February 8th, March 7th & April 18th
7:00 - 8:30 pm**

begin in the Bell Street Chapel

Join us for a meditative gathering around the Labyrinth;

Taize Singing,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmxXwAgkhWQ&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbCfgO1OHBM&feature=related>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwRMT2_pi9c&feature=related

Reiki & prayers for healing,

Communion in the center of the Labyrinth

Anointing Oils Blessing

To RSVP call the Reception desk 440-247-6490 ☺

Sponsored by the Friends of the Labyrinth



Federated's 2012 Holy Land Pilgrimage Is Filling Up Fast!

The information night for Federated's Holy Land Pilgrimage in 2012 was a huge success; 21 people reserved their place by providing deposits for the trip. Since then, other reservations have been placed. Space is limited and will be guaranteed as deposits are received. Information on the trip can be found on our website at: www.fedchurch.org/pilgrimage and in brochures by the Reception Desk and outside the Lounge. Deposits may be mailed or phoned into Magi Travel. Information for them is in the brochure. If you have any questions, you may contact Peggie Jo Shinagawa at FedPilgrims@gmail.com.

WINE TASTING PARTY

Sponsored by the Boomers Fellowship Ministry
Wine lovers aged 21 to 99 years are invited



January 21, 7:30pm
Home of Barry & Kathie Biggin
10820 Stella Lane, Chagrin Falls (in Auburn Township)

Todd Smith will be our wine steward as we spend an evening sampling great-tasting and affordable wines. Whether you are a wine novice or a wine geek, you will learn something new and have fun!

The theme is "90/20". All wines will be rated at 90 points or higher (outstanding) by one or more wine critics, and are available for \$20 or less. If you are not familiar with the 100-point wine rating scale, just know that these wines will be world-class examples of their types, and represent terrific values. We are planning to sample a mix of reds and whites totaling 12 wines, subject to availability of those meeting our criteria.

**Cost: \$30/person. Checks should be made out to:
Todd Smith and mailed to 311 East Washington St, Chagrin Falls 44022
Prepaid registration required by January 16.**

Please reserve your spot by calling 440-247-6490 or emailing Melinda Smith at smithm@fedchurch.org.

Elderlife Clyde Transportation Fundraiser Saturday, February 4

Pack your overnight bag for a day and night of pampering and relaxation at *Tara – A Country Inn* in nearby Clark, Pennsylvania... A prize valued at \$450-\$500!

You may be the lucky winner of a reverse raffle
**Saturday, February 4 in Fellowship Hall from
9:00 to 10:30 a.m.**

So join us for a wonderful hot breakfast and watch the suspense build as names are pulled until finally one lucky winner is left!!! The lucky winner can leave immediately to enjoy the rest of the day, night and breakfast at Tara. (See package details below.)

Only 100 tickets will be sold at a price of \$50 each and must be purchased from Lisa Braun (440.247.6490 x160 or lbraun@fedchurch.org) by Saturday, Jan. 29. All proceeds benefit a new Elderlife Van.



The Winner gets a Weekend Dinner Package at *Tara, A Country Inn* (in Clark, PA — 1 ½ to 2 hour trip – straight out 422 to Sharon then north to Tara) in the Georgia Plantation Room which has a King-Size Bed & Sofa Bed welcome tray of fruit, cheese & Champagne, Afternoon Tea with pastries, an Informal Hospitality Hour A Formal (jacket & tie required) Seven-Course Dinner at Ashley's Dining Room, Turn-Down Service, Three-Course Breakfast at Ashley's, and a tour of Tara.

The Men of Chagrin In Concert

Under the direction of Bill Foley

Sunday January 15, 3:00pm

Hamlet Retirement Village *In the Atrium*

The Men of Chagrin of Federated Church have been singing together for over 15 years, and have a repertoire that includes many varying musical styles. They are equally at home singing serious sacred music, ranging from the Renaissance to the 21st century, to pop music, 50's doo-wop, folk songs, spirituals, ballads and novelty numbers.

The public is welcome!

Please call Karen to reserve 440-247-4676

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, Jan. 21, 8:00am at the Family Life Center

Cost: \$10

Speaker: Hector Marinaro

- Head Coach, Men's Soccer at John Carroll University
- Former Professional Indoor Soccer Player
- All-time leading scorer in Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL) history
- Nine time MISL scoring champion.
- Named an All-Star fifteen times
- Led Cleveland Crunch to three league championship titles

All men are welcome. Bring a friend.



FEDERATED CHURCH
United Church of Christ
 An Open and Affirming Congregation

76 Bell St. | PO Box 60 | Chagrin Falls, Ohio | 44022-0060

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 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO HELP YOU

- Hamilton Coe Throckmorton**, Senior Pastor
- Mark Simone**, Assoc. Pastor, Children & Youth Ministries
- ***Susi Kawolics**, Interim Associate Pastor
- ***Trish Rouru**, Coordinator of Administration
- Toni Cirino**, Financial Manager
- ***Wendy Pierce**, Director of the Family Life Center,
 Director of Marketing
- ***Lisa Braun**, Elderlife Coordinator
- ***Bev Krofta**, Director of Children's Ministries, Infant-K
- ***Carol Fishell**, Dir. Children's Ministries, Gr. 1-6
- ***Marty Culbertson**, Junior High Youth Program Dir.
- ***Marcia Snaveley**, Organist
- ***Bill Foley**, Dir. of Chancel Choir & Men of Chagrin
- ***Pat Haynish**, Children's Music Ministry Coordinator
- Amanda Powell**, Music Dir. of The Ensemble,
 Alive360 Music Team & FORTE
- ***Ruth Garwood**, Alive360 Coordinator
- ***Pat Nichols**, Pastoral Care Assistant
- Melinda Smith**, Congregational Life Administrator
- Larry Trace**, Properties Manager
- ***Bryan Kinches**, **Larry McGurer**, ***Don Newrones**,
- ***Mike Swigonski**, ***Derek Volk**, **Gordon Vojtech**,
 Custodians
- ***Tosh Whaley**, "God's House" Keeper
- ***Bill Cale**, Family Life Center Groundskeeper
** Part time Staff*

New Book Studies for the New Year

Sponsored by The Adult Nurture & Fellowship Board



A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life
 by Parker J. Palmer.

Facilitated by Mary Senechal

Thursday evenings – January 12 through February 16 7:00 – 8:30pm
 Room 350

In this book the author speaks to our yearning to live undivided lives – lives that are congruent with our inner truth – in a world filled with the forces of fragmentation. Palmer describes a form of community that fits the limits of our active lives. Defining a “circle of trust” as “a space between us that honors the soul,” he shows how people in settings ranging from friendship to organizational life can support each other on the journey toward living “divided no more”

The Heart of Christianity by Marcus Borg

Facilitated by Dan Kershner

Sunday mornings – January 15 through April 1 10:00 – 11:00am
 Daily Bread Classroom

While millions of people have turned away from the traditional beliefs about God, Borg shows why the Christian life can remain a transforming relationship with God. The Christian life is essentially about opening one's heart to God and to others. The book study will be enhanced by the use of the 12-week study guide Living the Heart of Christianity.

You may register for these book studies by calling 440-247-6490 or registering online at www.fedchurch.org. Please plan to purchase the book on your own prior to the first class.