

It's Official!!!



**By Unanimous Congregational Vote, Pastor Betsy Wooster is
Federated's new Pastor of Transformational Ministries**

A special thank you to our Search Committee, Leadership and to our Congregation for supporting the process and welcoming Pastor Betsy with open arms.

Performing Arts Series Review: Cleveland Chamber Choir

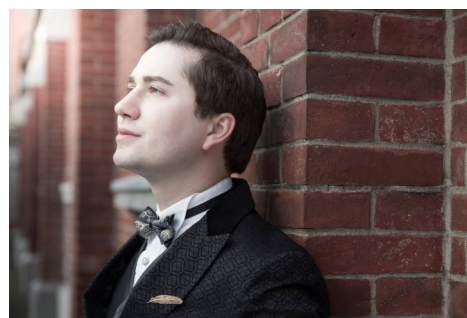
As I sat in stunned silence during the Cleveland Chamber Choir's rehearsal two days before their June 12th concert at Federated, a wave of emotions overtook me. For the first hour of their two-and-a-half-hour rehearsal, they worked in riveting detail on Saunder Choi's "American Breakfast", a piece written in response to the Pulse nightclub shooting on June 12, 2016. Exactly six years later, Federated heard this piece performed in the wake of yet more unthinkable tragedies in Buffalo and Uvalde. The first movement uses quotes from the AR-15 owner's manual, while in the background a haunting "love is love is love" is sang repeatedly through the piece. The various AR-15 text was bitingly emotional in their percussive rhythms and force. The Cleveland Chamber Choir in the rehearsal, and again at Sunday's concert, sang with an energy I seldom encounter in performance. "The trigger rotates... the trigger is set to FIRE!" ... the final text of the opening movement. I don't have words to express how tragic and cutting this piece was. To think, this was only one of the many sensitive pieces on the program.

The entire Cleveland Chamber Choir's concert, called "World of Doubt, World of Faith" contemplated challenging topics: gun violence, reaction to tragedy, faith and doubt, climate change. The program was lockstep with so many topics we passionately commit ourselves to here at Federated. I'm continually proud to work for a church that pursues justice and allows exploration of faith in a wide variety of ways. A special highlight from the concert was a premiere by Kent State faculty member Adam Roberts called "Book of Doubt, Book of Faith" which traced Jewish history through secular psalms. The piece was extremely innovative, very challenging to sing, but constantly engaging with its creative orchestration and vocal effects. I must also make mention of the piece "Requiem" by Eliza Gilkyson, a piece written in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that claimed 230,000 lives. There were a lot of wet eyes after its conclusion, and if that didn't bring tears then surely their encore: "A Ukrainian Prayer" by John Rutter (written in response to Russia's invasion) was beyond emotional.

June 12th concluded the 2021-22 Performing Arts Series season. I am immensely grateful for the support from anyone that attended this season's concerts. We are blessed to have a church with incredible acoustics and world-class instruments. I am deeply committed to the series' future and to help blossom our performances to our broader community. We have a wonderful team of volunteers that make these programs possible, and I want to thank everyone that made these programs run so smoothly! We are excitedly preparing for next season and with *your* support we can enjoy concerts like the June 12th Cleveland Chamber Choir performance long into the future.

Joshua Konow

Director of Musical Ministries



In Memoriam

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

Sandra Evans—May 23, 2022
Eleanor Engel—June 1, 2022
Elinor Harris—June 18, 2022

August Spire Deadline

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

Please email your information to
communications@fedchurch.org by **Friday, July 15.**

Include **"Spire"** in the subject line. Thank you!

FROM HAMILTON'S DESK

Dear Friends,

Let me reflect briefly on two significant matters facing us in these early days of summer.

I

First, as we head into summer, I want to take a moment to look back at the worship we celebrated in June. One of the great gifts of the past few years, to the world and to the church, has been the emergence of far more conversation about, and awareness of, those of our friends and neighbors who are transgender. Not too many years ago, any such conversation was minimal. Our trans family and friends had to hide their identity, with a societal message drilled into them that they were not to talk about it or to express themselves as they knew themselves to be. What an unmitigated sorrow, an exceptionally painful suppression of their identity.

In many quarters, of course, there is still an enormous and ongoing resistance to and punishing of trans life. So what a blessing it has been to have had pockets of acceptance open up in these recent years. I have been immensely grateful, during this time, to be part of a church such as Federated, a church that has embraced the conversation, that has expressed its welcome, that has opened its arms to our trans siblings.

Two events in June highlighted this openness. First, on June 5, Sol Rizzato preached in our Sunday morning worship. It was an extraordinary sermon, vulnerably laying out his transgender journey, overlaid with a conviction of God's call and presence in it all. If you weren't here, you will be well-rewarded by viewing and/or reading it on our website. It's a gem.

Then the following Sunday, June 12, we blessed a new member of the congregation who had done her own gender transition. We ritualized the ending of her birth name and celebrated the new name she has chosen for herself. It was a milestone moment for her and for us as a congregation. It's crucial that we honor the identities and journeys of our members and friends. As we did so with Ava, I sensed the love and support of the congregation, and was

immensely glad to be able to be able to mark such a significant and marvelous moment.

In both of those services, the presence of God was richly evident. God has made each of us as a holy treasure. And our honoring of that is a privilege beyond words. May we continue to find joy in the mystery and marvel of human life. And may we continue to be a witness to the grandness of God's relentless, embracing love for all people.

II

Second, I write on the day the US Supreme Court has just released its opinion overturning Roe v. Wade. I recognize that some Federated members will likely cheer such a ruling. And I am acutely aware of the ambiguity that lies at the heart of many such thorny moral questions. Nevertheless, while, as I noted in a recent sermon, I am unabashedly *for life*, I also know the crucial importance of maintaining a women's right to choose what should happen with her pregnancy. So I mourn the legal decision that will, in many cases, remove the possibility of ending a pregnancy in so many states. And I pray that, as a congregation, we will continue to value life, as well as choice and personal autonomy. As the dean of my divinity school wrote in response to that ruling, "May we find ways to promote life, not political agendas. May we find ways to discuss our differences, not build higher walls" (Gregory E. Sterling, Yale Divinity School).

Yours in Christ,

Hamilton



FEDERATED NEWS & INFO

Summer 2022 Sermon Series: Profiles in Faith!

Join us for worship in July when we'll explore these people of the Bible whose names are often better known than the important stories they tell:

July 3 Profiles in Faith Part One: – “Jonah”

Jonah 2: 1-10, 3: 1-5

Pastor Betsy Wooster Preaching.

July 10 Profiles in Faith Part Two: “Sarah/Hagar”

Genesis 21: 8-19

Pastor Betsy Wooster Preaching

July 17 Profiles in Faith Part Three: “Esther”

Esther 4: 10-17

Pastor Betsy Wooster Preaching

July 24 Profiles in Faith Part Four: “The Bent Over Woman”

Luke 13: 10-17

Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner Preaching

July 31 Profiles in Faith Part Five: “Susanna”

Daniel 13 (Apocrypha); Luke 8:1-3

Rev. Susi Kawolics Preaching

Watch for the August Spire for the people we'll encounter next!



federated

live your faith

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Services: Weekly at 10 AM

Livestream & In-person worship
with Child Care

Sunday, July 3

Pastor Betsy Wooster preaches
- Communion celebrated

Sunday, July 10

Pastor Betsy Wooster preaches

Sunday, July 17

Pastor Betsy Wooster preaches

Sunday, July 24

Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner preaches

Sunday, July 31

Rev. Susi Kawolics preaches

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

Online Worship on our
YouTube Channel:
[TheFederatedChurch](#)

Generosity & Gratitude Update

There is a definite power to the number One and each of us can practice that power at Federated. There is also a power to community, partnering together to make an impact in the world beyond our doors. This Spring's Ukraine Emergency Relief giving opportunity was a perfect example of coming together to make a large impact – donating \$8,765! Can we double that impact with our Truck of Hope giving opportunity?

The Power of One.

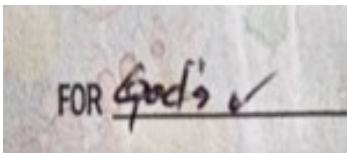
One tree can start a forest;
One smile can begin a
friendship;
One hand can lift a soul;
One word can frame a goal;
One candle can wipe out
darkness;
One laugh can conquer
gloom; One hope can raise
our spirits; One touch can
show you care; One life can
make a difference,
Be that one today.

— BJ Gallagher
LifeLearnedFeelings

It's been quite a while since we have been able to organize a work trip to Chacraseca, due to Nicaragua's political unrest and now the pandemic. Until we can return there, we want to continue our partnership with JustHope Inc in Chacraseca. **With that in mind, the Mission & Service Commission is participating in JustHope's \$31,000 Truck of Hope campaign, hoping to raise \$16,000 of their goal here at Federated.** Their community truck has broken down beyond repair, leaving the people of Chacraseca without transportation for essential functions that so many of us take for granted, like:

- Transporting COVID patients and pregnant women to the hospital.
- Taking doctors on house calls.
- Maintaining the water system.
- Helping with emergency needs during disasters.
- Delivering program supplies to local schools.

Running this initiative through mid-August – we are inviting everyone to participate in this life-giving opportunity that will make such a difference to our friends in Chacraseca. **Thank you for thoughtfully considering your response to this invitation.**



"God's check" on the memo line!! Janis and I loved processing this donation check for the church! Generosity is a spiritual practice - and this one hit the nail on the head.

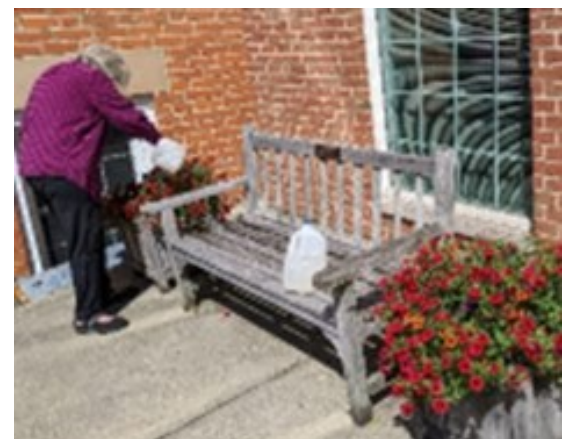
Three cheers to Pete Franz, Robin Harbage, and Hamilton Throckmorton for participating in the Legacy Fund committee's fabulous Generosity Impact Moment video. Marty's videography work made them look good! Seriously though - we appreciate their efforts on behalf of Federated's Legacy Fund, helping us to plant the seeds today for tomorrow's trees. They are living into Ralph Waldo Emerson's words: *Be an opener of doors for such as come after thee.*

Federated is full of generous angels. A warm-hearted "thank you" to our angel who makes sure that the parking lot entry area looks lovely and welcoming. The flowers are beautiful!

In Gratitude,

Laura

Laura Piper Taylor
Fund Development Associate
Generosity Commission staff liaison
Legacy Fund Committee staff liaison



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!

July 3 – last names beginning with N, O, P, Q, or R
July 10 – last names beginning with S or T
July 17 – last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y, Z
July 24 – last names beginning with A or B
July 31 – last names beginning with C or D



Inaugural Garden Gala for the Community Life Collaborative Funds Future Programming

Who puts the FUN in FUNdraiser? The Community Life Collaborative! More than 150 generous souls contributed to a lively celebration at the Family Life Center to help fund future programming through the CLC. Due to the bountiful outpouring of support, the CLC is better equipped to advance its mission to engage communities in social and environmental justice by empowering untapped relationships, collaborations, and understandings across boundaries. A huge Thank You to so many Federated members who brought energy and resources to planning the Gala event: Martine Scheuermann, Harriett Rogers, Darlene Nichols, Heidi Asplin, Jim Scheuermann, Ann Lentz, Alexanra Ziots, Anne Burr, Linda Nichols and Marty Culbertson. Thank you, too, to those who attended our first Gala event and contributed to the generous spirit!

Throughout the coming months, there is so much to look forward to with the CLC. We are curating a forum series highlighting local organizations as, together, we educate the community and call for specific actions in response to social and environmental issues. Watch upcoming Thursday email blasts for invitations to programming around Differently Abled Celebration and Awareness, Refugee Response Actions, and Destigmatizing Addiction, to name a few.

Please give yourself the gift of walking the Labyrinth and Memorial Gardens this summer. These treasures of Federated's have been recently refurbished and offer peaceful refreshment of the spirit. The CLC has committed to maintaining the gardens for Federated and we need more volunteers to help keep the gardens beautiful. A couple hours each week bonding with Federated friends is a welcome treat. Contact Anne Burr aburr51@gmail.com to join or add a team to our hosts.

The Community Life Collaborative 501(c)3 nonprofit (CLC) continues nurturing transformation through collaboration for a just and sustainable world. Join us as we grow and make a difference. Thank you to so many Federated members for your enthusiasm and willing participation!



MISSION & SERVICE

Christmas in July: Veterans of the Cross Offering Sunday, July 24, 2022

The UCC Christmas fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the church for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross is managed by the UCC Pension Boards.

They say money doesn't make you happy. But we know that having enough to live is essential. The peace that accompanies these monthly grants cannot be quantified. Literal lives are at the other end of our donations when we contribute to the Christmas Fund. Our offerings are but one way we can express our love for God and the people our ministries serve.

Our Christmas in July offering will be received on July 24 this year. You may contribute via offering envelopes available at the church service, or on-line at Fedchurch.org/giving.

St. Paul's Thrift Store Collections Saturday, July 16, 9 AM — 2 PM

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!

Altar Flower Donor Opportunities

There are two opportunities to donate the altar flowers on Sundays in July. We currently have 7/17 and 7/31 available. This is a wonderful way to honor or memorialize a loved one or a special occasion, as well as brighten our Sanctuary for the worship service! Please contact Sue Mansour at (440) 668-9399 or sueman@roadrunner.com if interested.

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

Next SJAM Meeting July 17th at 11:30 at Federated Church in Room 240
Or join by Zoom using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?pwd=U1VxZU5SZ0NjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVIWdz09>

LGBTQ+

In June, folks from Federated participated in a wide variety of events and commemorations at our church in in the wider community. Living our faith and acting as allies feels so good. We walk the walk and talk the talk. Here are a few of the highlights:



If you would like a Federated rainbow t-shirt (\$15), contact Tricia Baumgartner. 440-708-6231 or tricia.a.baumgartner@aol.com

Immigration

SJAM embraces immigrants to Northeast Ohio by supporting a network of organizations including Heights Friends of Immigrants (HFOI), Americans Making Immigrants Safe (AMIS) and HOLA.

From time to time we learn of immediate needs of immigrants. Do you want to take action? One of these opportunities may be just what you are looking for!

1) Drivers for Soccer League - The Refugee Response is looking for volunteer drivers to drive kids to soccer practices and games at the Zone Recreation Center on the near westside. The soccer program starts June 14 and ends August 11. It's on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-4 pm at the Michael J Zone Recreation Center (corner of Lorian and W. 65th). If you're interested contact Noah at The Refugee Response at Noah@refugeerresponse.org.

2) Court Monitoring Begins Again - Cleveland Jobs with Justice and the Immigration Working Group CLE are looking for volunteers to act as Court Monitors to observe and record the proceedings in the Immigration Court in Cleveland. We will be using the information gathered to update our initial report released in 2020. The Cleveland Immigration Court is located in the Federal Courthouse at 801 W. Superior Avenue, Suite 13-100, in Cleveland; there are currently ten administrative judges hearing cases. We ask that you commit at least one morning or afternoon every couple of weeks when we resume the project, hopefully within the next month or so. We will be providing training at a date to be determined within the next few weeks. You will be provided the forms to use in the court, and we will continue to work with you after the training and during the entire process. If you are interested, please contact Deb Kline at dkline@clevelandjwj.org.

3) Cards to Antony Martinez - please continue sending cards to the young Honduran man who is in the Seneca County jail and has been for months. He is seeking asylum. He's never been to school and is self-taught in reading and writing so please keep what you write to him simple and, if possible, write it in Spanish. You can send cards to: Antony Martinez #A252491, Seneca County Jail, 2040 OH-100 Tiffin, OH 44883

Immigration Good News!

1) Read the celebratory story about Walter Martinez: Go to amisohio.org to find

[Free & Legal at Last! Walter Malara Martinez' Story](#)

2) HOLA News Entrepreneur chefs Javier and Eduardo have been busy preparing menu options and perfecting recipes to make sure flavors and textures are on point! The first catered event is this month, the Lake County Development Council, which is hosting a panel discussion on immigrant entrepreneurs in Lake County.

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

Environmental and Creation Justice

It is summertime and being outdoors in the heat makes us thirsty. It is too easy to reach for that plastic water bottle.

But, we need to stop using plastic water bottles!!

Why?

- Almost 1 million plastic bottles are used **every minute**
- That's almost 1.5 billion plastic bottles **per day**
- This means that [63 billion gallons of oil](#) are used to supply the United States with plastic bottles each year
- Only 9-12% are recycled, the rest goes into landfills, our oceans and literally everywhere
- Plastic does not ever truly decompose. It is with us forever

Did you know:

- 55% of the water used to fill plastic water bottles is pumped from natural springs and this water is then transported to the manufacturing facilities using gas and oil to transport it
- The rest is taken from municipal aquifers and then treated, meaning 45% of bottled water that you buy is just filtered tap water

So what do we do?

- DRINK TAP WATER
- BE MINDFUL
- USE A REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE
- AND MAKE DECISIONS THAT CONSIDER THE PLANET WE ALL SHARE



Dear God,

Forgive us for not caring enough about this beautiful earth you gave to us to care for. You asked us to be stewards of this earth for all beings, life and for all time. Help us to do what we know in our heart is right. It may not always be the easiest way, but please guide us to do it anyway.

Amen



Primetime Annual Picnic

Thursday, July 21 11:30AM - 2:00PM

West Woods at The Turkey Ridge Shelter
9465 Kinsman Road
Novelty, OH 44072

Lunch: Back by popular demand, we will have hot dogs and hamburgers!

Bingo after lunch!

RSVP to via Realm or to Melissa by July 15:
mowen@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 x110.



Upcoming Primetime Trips

Full information at fedchurch.org/primetime. Contact Melissa Owen with your interest at mowen@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 x110.

Blossom Festival Concert:
Salute to the USA
Sunday, July 3, 5:30 PM
Cost: \$50

Primetime Annual Picnic
Thursday, July 21, 11am
Cost: \$10
Primetime: Holden Abortion Tour
Thursday, July 26, 10:30am

YOUTH & FAMILY

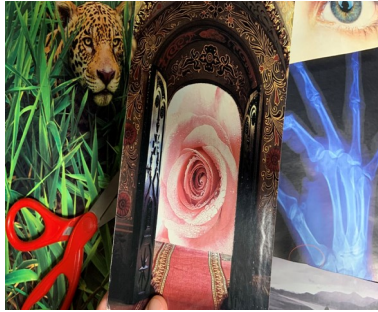
Family Fellowship is back at Federated

Sunday, July 24th, 2 PM

The LeFeber home in Chagrin Falls

Federated Families! Join us on Sunday, July 24th at 2pm at the LeFeber home for a time to create and share Family Soul Collages, fellowship and snacks.

RSVP to Ms. Kristin:
kfeber@fedchurch.org



Help our Kiddos Collect Change for St. Paul's Community Church!

The collection contraption, which hangs in the main stairwell of the church, is now collecting money to support St. Paul's Community Church in Cleveland. Help our kiddos collect change by bringing yours into church to give to a kiddo to put down the contraption. Or, place the coins down yourself and enjoy the joyful noise of giving! Thank you!



SPECIAL THANKS

Dear Friends at Federated Church,

I want to thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers during my surgery and recovery time in May and June. The cards and messages of hope and comfort were deeply appreciated. I also loved the flowers by Debbie at The Flower Ministry last week. My family and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Love,

Carol Kelly

Dear Church Members,

I don't know where to begin with this "thank you". The Federated Church is filled with abundant love and faith. The 29th of March, Martine took me for my shoulder replacement. I was told I could go home the same day, however, this 80+ year old body said otherwise! See things were pushed around and my body wasn't too happy; intensive care, hospital, , back to hospital, ect!!! Ended up with heart trouble and needed more attention. Throughout this ordeal our friends would be there for Jack and me. Our church rallied around us for weeks with food

Thank you so very much! I don't have the words to express our gratitude!! This stone wall Jack and I have hit may do us in, but we will never forget your thoughtful cards, food, and call. Especially your kindness and love.

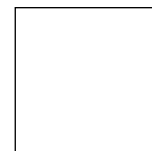
With our deepest gratitude to EVERYONE!

Love,

Jack & Mary Hobbs



76 Bell St.
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022



Contact Us!

www.fedchurch.org
fedchurch@fedchurch.org

Phone: 440.247.6490
Fax: 440.247.2516

Facebook: [facebook.com/
thefederatedchurch](https://facebook.com/thefederatedchurch)

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO HELP YOU

CLERGY

Hamilton Throckmorton, *Senior Pastor*
* **Betsy Wooster**, *Designated Associate Pastor*

Administration and Staff

Melissa Owen, *Senior Director of People and Operations*
Brooke Strong, *Congregational Life Administrator*
* **Trisha Holland**, *Director of Marketing & Communications*
* **Janis Stefanchik**, *Bookkeeper*
* **Laura Taylor**, *Fund Development Associate*
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

* **Marty Culbertson**, *Director of Youth Faith Formation*
* **Kristin LeFeber**, *Director of Children's Faith Formation*
* **Alex Bell**, **Lianna Davis**, **Tanya Goff**, *Childcare Providers*

* denotes part-time staff



federated

Hope to see you
this Sunday!

10:00 AM
In person and Online