

August 2022


federated

THE SPIRE

THE FEDERATED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Rally Day 2022

Sunday, September
11
at 11:00AM



Celebrate Federated!



Join us at Federated for fun, Faire and food with all the fixins'. This is an all-ages, all community event, featuring Federated!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Melissa:
mowen@fedchurch.org



FROM PASTOR BETSY

Call Out for Love; Call Out for Hope; Call Out for God

Greetings Federated Church! The title of my column comes from Rev. Grace Ji-Sun Kim, in her book *Hope in Disarray: Piecing Our Lives Together in Faith*. The book, published just as the pandemic hit in 2020, is a collection of essays that address the many possibilities of hope in the midst of struggle.

Reading it now, I find parallels to how the global pandemic, and the growing divisions in our country, have left us often feeling helpless to “get back to where we were” before the world changed so abruptly. The pandemic unalterably upended our personal lives, our professional lives, and even our faith lives. Our love for family, our work and our faith didn’t lessen, but it did change our ability to literally be together in the struggle. And yet, in the midst of this awful struggle, we came to understand our interdependence on one another and on God more fully.

As I join you in my call to serve as Pastor of Transformational Ministry at Federated Church, I am thrilled to begin the journey of moving forward from the pandemic’s disruption into a new era of being the church together! Not that Federated Church requires something new in order to be vibrant and faithful, but because the collective experience of disruption and confusion that the pandemic wrought has changed us. At the same time, we are both finding new patterns and yearning for old ones. Over these past few years, we have walked together through collective, and often painful disruption. We couldn’t gather to worship together in person, we couldn’t safely send our children to school or Sunday school with their friends and teachers, parents became full time teachers at home, we lost people we loved, and our work lives changed dramatically. We experienced collective shock as a community and as a nation.

So, how do we now move forward with hope? We begin to slowly rebuild. We take the time needed to talk with, and listen to one another, about our hopes and dreams for our church and our spiritual lives moving forward. We pray together, we dream together about all that is possible, and we commit to supporting one another and our shared work in the ministries of Federated Church. Sharing our hopes and dreams for our faith lives and for our children’s faith lives is a life-giving experience! The most valuable experiences of our lives take time to build. In the months ahead, the focus of my ministry will be to engage in conversations with the community of Federated Church, to get to know each other, and to hear your struggles and your hopes. We don’t need to rush, but as we plan for our church ministries in the year ahead, we can dream, imagine, and pray for God’s guidance as we move forward together with hope. Our hope comes from God. We face what has been lost, and we pray together, work together, study together, feast together, teach our children together, and trust in God’s everlasting presence to renew us.

I can’t wait to get started!

~ Pastor Betsy



FEDERATED NEWS & INFO

Summer 2022 Sermon Series: Profiles in Faith!

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

August 7 **Profiles in Faith Part Six: "Peter"**

Acts 11: 1-18

Pastor Betsy Wooster Preaching

August 14 **Profiles in Faith Part Seven: "Martha"**

Luke 10:38-42

Marty Culbertson preaching

August 21 **Profiles in Faith Part Eight: "Mary Magdalene"**

Luke 8: 1-3, Luke 23:54-24: 10

Pastor Betsy Wooster Preaching

August 28 **Profiles in Faith Part Nine: "Adam"**

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton Preaching



federated

live your faith

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Services: Weekly at 10 AM

Livestream & In-person worship
with Child Care

Sunday, August 7

Pastor Betsy Wooster preaches
- Communion celebrated

Sunday, August 14

Marty Culbertson preaches

Sunday, August 21

Pastor Betsy Wooster preaches

Sunday, August 28

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

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

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

Braiding Sweetgrass: A Review by Jane Kenneweg-Welch

Granted the title of this book is curious, but within its pages lies *the secret of our continuing existence on earth*: “braiding” gratitude for what we have received from our Earth Home, with giving back by replenishing and re-storing the earth and taking only what we need so that others may live.

When our neighboring Bainbridge UCC Church issued an invitation to Federated folks to study this book with them, I was intrigued enough to join a small, but engaged group led by Kay Krejci. I invite you to discover for yourselves what we found so worthwhile.

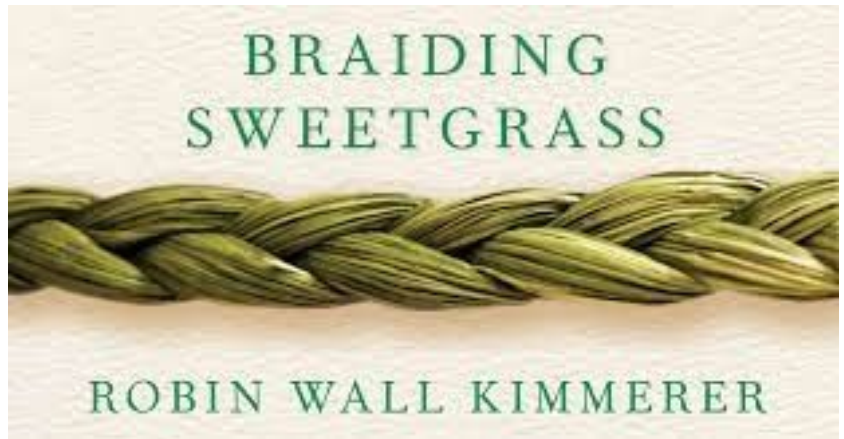
The author, Robin Kimmerer, like a good storyteller, gathered us in by telling stories of her experiences as an indigenous person, botanist, “on the ground” teacher and researcher. For example. she illustrates how plants, as the sweet smelling grass with which baskets are crafted, will flourish or not; vegetables can be planted in combinations to survive the sun; and salmon can be brought back “home” to restored waters by literally *lighting* the way upstream. The evidence is persuasive.

Her book of honed wisdom reads like poetic prose. At the same time, she is raising timely, confronting questions: **“Can Americans, as a nation of immigrants, learn to live here as if we were staying?” Can we treat the earth as our Home, realizing that we share this home with other living plants and animals, as well as people of all hues and faiths: a “democracy of species”?** Can we practice more gratitude to Mother Earth, . . . water, plant foods, celestial bodies . . . we are all one? Can we harvest honorably by buying thoughtfully, considering the cost in terms of what is consumed (trees, air, animals, water, etc.)? Finally, what can we gift to our earth, others and future generations? Our “wealth means having enough to give away.”

My takeaway is this: it’s all about community . . . realizing it, contributing to it and being enriched by it, as I was in this community of the study group.

Today we have gathered and when we look upon the faces around us we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now let us bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as People. Now our minds are one. . . . (Thanksgiving Address from the Haudenosaunee Confederacy).

~~Jane Kenneweg-Welch



In Memoriam

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

Molly Jones— July 2, 2022
Bobbie Walker— July 2, 2022
Nancy Martt— July 8, 2022
John (Jack) Kinley— July 14, 2022
Debi Thomas— July 22, 2022
Mike Scheuermann—July 25, 2022

September Spire Deadline

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

Please email your information to
communications@fedchurch.org by **Friday, August 19.**

Include “**Spire**” in the subject line. Thank you!

Fellowship Hall Mural by Nancy Martt



Upon her passing, The Federated Church would like to formally recognize and thank Nancy Martt for her longtime commitment to Federated Church. We would especially like to thank and honor her for the beautiful mural that she painted for Fellowship Hall back in 1965. The mural continues to bring beauty and joy to our church to this very day. To hear about the creation of The Mural in Nancy's own words, please visit the link below:

<https://youtu.be/9XnNy-O8dcU>

Nancy Martt will be forever loved, cherished, and remembered in our hearts.

Thank you Nancy.

Upcoming Primetime Trips

Primetime Lunch Out: Welshfield

Thursday, August 25, Noon

Primetime: Nautica Trip

Thursday, September 1, 10:30am
Cost: \$45



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

Generosity & Gratitude Update

An ancient Hebrew proverb states

“One man gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly but ends up impoverished.”

The Buddha teaches

“Giving brings happiness at every stage of its expression.”

A Hindu proverb holds that

“They who give have all things, they who withhold have nothing.”

And Jesus of Nazareth teaches

“Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.”

A recent study has confirmed that the more generous Americans are, the more happiness, health, and purpose in life they enjoy. The association between generous practices and personal well-being is strong and highly consistent across a variety of generous practices and measures of well-being. Pick up a copy of the book “The Paradox of Generosity: Giving We Receive, Grasping We Lose” by Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson for more details about their study. Fascinating read!



Community Outreach

Believing In Something Bigger Than Ourselves

Double the Donation! Last month, Federated received a \$7,600+ matching grant from the Progressive Insurance Foundation. This grant represents **corporate matching funds for contributions that Progressive employees made to Federated Church.**

For those companies that have a matching gift program, when an employee gives any amount within a given dollar range, they can request a matching gift. The corporate foundation commits to matching those dollars up to 100 percent, depending on the number of requests and the company's profitability that year.

In short, companies like Progressive give where their employees give; their corporate generosity to us is in direct response to our faith family's generosity. So, **help us double the donation and let us know if your employer participates in a matching gift program** that will match gifts to religious organizations.

In other good news, your Generosity has not taken a vacation!

As of July 14th:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| • Generosity 2022 intentions (313) | \$1,009,610.54 |
| • Generosity 2022 payments received | \$598,837 (59%) |
| • Generosity 2022 payments paid through Realm* | \$124,343 (21%) |
| • Generosity 2022 intention/pledge already fulfilled | 83 |

*easy debit/credit card charges or checking account deductions

With thanks,

Laura

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

Truck of Hope Giving Opportunity

JustHope “Truck of Hope” Giving Opportunity – From Sunday June 26th through Sunday August 14th, we are collecting contributions for the JustHope “Truck of Hope” initiative.

The Mission & Service Commission is participating in JustHope’s \$31,000 Truck of Hope initiative, 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. This initiative will save lives.

Mr. Joaquin, who contracted COVID-19, could not find any friends who would drive him to the hospital in León because they were afraid of getting sick themselves. Thankfully, JustHope’s partners had assigned specific drivers to transport patients in the community truck. If Mr. Joaquin hadn’t gotten a ride to the hospital in the community truck, he would have died from low oxygen saturation.



Beyond functioning as an ambulance, the truck also travels to refill the oxygen tanks for ill community members. When it’s running, the community truck journeys on average 125 miles/week and costs \$200 in gas/month.

What a blessing you are to our church and our partners! The Mission and Service Commission thanks you for your early support. Two weeks into this giving opportunity, we are more than ¼ of the way to our Truck of Hope giving opportunity goal of \$16,000. **Can we reach \$8,000 to help motivate a potential matching gift?** What a powerful message that would send!

Join Federated in supporting a valued partner in ministry. Make checks payable to Federated and designate “Truck of Hope” in the memo line or Give Online at fedchurch.org/giving and choose “Truck of Hope” in the drop-down menu.

Community Life Collaborative

Ripe for Advocating Action

The Community Life Collaborative invites YOU to be informed and be part of positive solutions! A successful [Garden Gala fundraising event](#), grant applications, and foundations expressing interest in supporting our mission add up to greater capacities for CLC programming and operations.

Our team is developing a multi-platform forum as a central resource for social and environmental Justice education and action throughout northeast Ohio. We are collaborating with a multitude of partners to ensure inspiring content and up-to-date opportunities to be involved. Expanding on the successful forums of “The Freedom Speaker Series” (jurisprudence, restorative justice), “Welcome Kettle” (immigration, refugee response), and “Our Nature” (environmental justice, biodiversity), 2022 will expand the conversation into topics of accessibility and adaptivity for distinctively abled individuals in our “Prism Series”. Watch *Featured at Federated* for updates and invitations into many exciting ways to stay informed and be involved.

There is also growing interest among the community and resources at the table to curate a gallery space soon at the Family Life Center to be called *Garden View Gallery* (formerly the Youth Room). Gallery displays will raise awareness and engagement around issues of justice.

Thank you to the Garden Guardians for all your dedication and time making the memorial garden and labyrinth restorative and healing spaces.

To schedule church programs and meetings at the FLC, please contact the CLC with at least 24 hours notice so we can create space for you. For questions or to use FLC spaces, contact Peter Bode at executivedirector@communitylifecollaborative.org. The Community Life Collaborative 501(c)3 nonprofit continues nurturing transformation through collaboration for a just and sustainable world.

MISSION & SERVICE

Good Day,

I am writing these words a couple days after hearing the Gospel of the Samaritan and the injured man. It struck me as to how our Nursing and health care Program with your lives up to the message within that gospel. On a regular basis, we reach out and respond to a variety of medical and health care concerns of those in need. People who have unfortunately been passed by more than a few. Our offering can range from band-aids to burn ointment to skin lotion. It also includes items that help maintain a better life such as soap, deodorant, razors and feminine hygiene. Each in its own small way says that we see you, we care about you, and we respond to you. Maybe it is not as dramatic as the Samaritan, but it can be equally important to those in need. I thank you for being there with us.

Tim Walters
St. Paul's Outreach



St. Paul's Thrift Store Collections

Saturday, August 20, 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!

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!

August 7— last names beginning with E, F, or G
August 14 – last names beginning with H,I,J, or K
August 21 – last names beginning with L or M
August 28 – last names beginning with N, O, P, Q, or R
September 4-last names beginning with S or T



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 August 21 at 11:30 at Federated Church in Room 240

Or join by Zoom using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?pwd=U1VxZU5SZ0NjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVIWdz09>



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) **A Used Car** - Ansly Damus is looking for a used car to buy for a reasonable cost. If you have one you'd like to sell to him, please contact me and I'll put you in touch with Ansly.
- 2) **Diapers, Backpacks & School Supplies** - The USCRI (US Committee on Refugees and Immigrants) is seeking donations of backpacks and school supplies for children in all grade levels. There are Ukrainian and Afghan families with school-age children who will need these items for school in the fall. In addition to the backpacks, the items needed include:
 - pencils, pens, erasers
 - scissors (safety type for young children and sharp scissors for older kids)
 - magic markers, crayons
 - notebook paper, spiral notebooks, construction paper, index cards
 - staplers, pencil sharpeners, rulers, pencil pouches
 - glue and glue sticks
 - Calculators

They also need disposable diapers, all sizes, for the young ones coming from Afghanistan and Ukraine. You can drop off any donations at the USCRI storage space at 3167 Fulton Rd, Suite 100, Cleveland anytime on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10a-3p. In the alternative, you can drop donations at the Beth-El Synagogue, 3246 Desota in Cleveland Hts. You'll need to call Joe at 216-320-9667 to make sure he's there before you stop by.

- 3) **Interested in tutoring English?** Now that Habibou, Rahim and their 6-month old daughter Aichau are living in Cleveland Heights. We're hoping to find another woman who would be willing to tutor Habibou at their apartment on Kirkwood Ave. in the Noble neighborhood. Habibou is anxious to learn English but she needs more assistance than she is currently getting. If you're interested in tutoring Habibou, please contact Judy Charlick at jcharlick@ameritech.net.

Racial and Economic Justice

Centering God, Decentering Whiteness There is still room for people to sign up for "Centering God, Decentering Whiteness." Participants from many different churches will explore how Whiteness works and how it decenters God's presence in people's lives. 8 monthly sessions beginning in October. \$200 registration fee. For more information, contact Barry Stees (steesbassoon@gmail.com)

Racial Allyship Last chance to sign up for the Racial Allyship series starting August 4. It will run weekly for 8 weeks on zoom and be co-facilitated by Robin Harbage and Bill Shaul. It has a secular orientation and is free. Anyone interested should contact Bill (theshauls@msn.com)

Our Faith Our Vote

The United Church of Christ's Our Faith Our Vote Campaign is our ongoing commitment to equip you with the tools for nonpartisan faithful engagement in our democratic process. The campaign is made up of three main components; voter registration, issue education, and voter empowerment. Politics is often taken to be a dirty word, but political processes are simply the way communities organize their common life. For people of faith, public policy is never merely politics. It is a way of living out the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is fitting for local congregations and church structures across the country to develop non-partisan programs to help the faith community reflect upon the political order.

SJAM folks are involved with several "Get Out the Vote" organizations. If you are interested in becoming involved, be sure to attend the August 21st SJAM General Meeting. In the meantime, contact Kathy Franz (see above) or Tricia Baumgartner 440-708-6231 or tricia.a.baumgartner@gmail.com

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

Environmental and Creation Justice



YOUTH & FAMILY

Family Fellowship is back at Federated

Sunday, August 28th, 2 PM
The LeFeber home in Chagrin Falls

Federated Families! Join us on Sunday, August 28th at 2pm at the LeFeber home for a time of back-to-school prayer, 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!



TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRIES

Summer Isn't Over Yet! Let's Get Outside Together!

A picnic and hike for all ages and stages on Sunday, August 14th!

Young and old, lovers of the great outdoors or lovers of air conditioning, hiking guru or not kidding guru, come join the fun with pastor Betsy and Federated friends for a picnic, prayer walk and the Nature Center at West Woods Park after worship on Sunday, August 14 from Noon – 2PM. Can't stay that long? No worries! Come and enjoy for the length of time that works for you.

Please bring a packed lunch and water bottle for yourself and/or your family (or grab food to go after church)! We'll meet at Deer Run Shelter at Westwoods Park around noon to begin our picnic.

If you are new to Federated, never fear. You will have new friends within moments of arriving at the picnic. We'll take a prayer walk and stroll on the park's paved trails, where we'll watch and listen for the ways God is blessing us through nature.

Federated Intergenerational Picnic and Hike

Sunday, August 14, 2022

Meet at Noon at West Woods Park Deer Run Shelter

West Woods Park

9465 Kinsman Road (RT. 87)

Russel & Newbury Townships

It won't be the same without you, so please sign up on Realm, and reach out to Pastor Betsy, bwooster@fedchurch.org if you have questions!

OUR MUSIC PROGRAM WELCOMES YOU!

While the summer is feverishly passing along, it is never too early to plan for our wonderful upcoming program year! At Federated, we are blessed with incredible facilities to make music within. Our acoustically satisfying sanctuary, our wonderful instruments, a refreshed rehearsal room, not to mention our historic chapel all contribute to safe environments to glorify God through sound. The only thing is, we need *your* voices and talents to bring these spaces to life!

The **Federated Choir** will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 1st from 7 – 9 pm. The choir rehearses weekly and sings at 2-3 services per month, Christmas Eve, and Maundy Thursday. We joyfully connect our music to the weekly sermons and prepare far in advance for special services involving orchestra, like Maundy Thursday. Any experience is welcomed to join!

The **Federated Bell Choir** will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 7th from 7 – 8:30 pm. We NEED more ringers and no experience is necessary! Our ringers are very welcoming and would enjoy bringing anyone up to speed on how to ring. The Bell Choir is a uniquely connected atmosphere that emphasizes community, trust, and listening to our neighbor. We rehearse weekly and play at a service every 6-9 weeks.

To learn about either ensemble, or any of our various music programs, please contact Joshua Konow at jkonow@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 x 120.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Hello Federated Families,

I would like to invite **ALL children entering grades 1-8** to participate in the Federated Children's Choir for the 2022-23 school year! Children/Families do not need to be members of the Federated Church to participate. Regular weekly rehearsals will begin on **Monday, August 30 at 4:00 PM** in the Choir Room.

The Children's Choir performs about every 4-6 weeks beginning in early October. On December 11 we will perform our annual Christmas musical complete with costumes and sets! In addition to singing, we use various props and percussion instruments to add to our performances. Please encourage your child or grandchild to join in the fun!

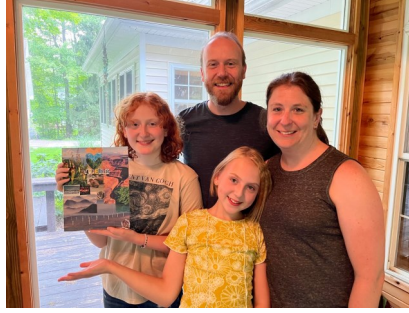
Please respond to: phaynish@sbcglobal.net if your child can participate in the Federated Children's Choir during this school year! Please contact me if you have any questions!

I am looking forward to a wonderful year with these talented young singers!

Pat Haynish (Children's Choir Director)
phaynish@sbcglobal.net



FUN AT FEDERATED



FUN AT FEDERATED



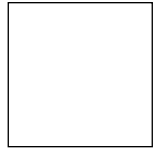


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Contact Us!

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO HELP YOU

CLERGY

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

Administration and Staff

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

Music Staff

Joshua Konow, *Director of Music Ministries*
* **Marcia 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