


June 2023



The Spire

The Federated Church Newsletter

United Church of Christ  An Open and Affirming Congregation




federated 
support



federated 
worship



federated 
act

Our June Spire Cover features the elements of our Fellowship Hall mural. The mural represents who we are here at Federated.

We Support, Worship, Act and Grow. Together.

Read on for the many ways our Federated pillars are actualized.


Enormous Gratitude to the Telling Our Story Committee for envisioning, creating and bringing to life this marvelous addition to Fellowship Hall.

Telling Our Story ensures Federated messaging is on target, on brand and that it reaches and is received by the community. Telling Our Story members include: Diana Gardner, Bob Munson, Jim Scheuermann and Todd Smith (chair).

Lend your creativity and skill to Federated through the Telling Our Story team: fedchurch@fedchurch.org.

 federated
live your faith



federated 
grow

From the Desk of Rev. Wooster...



Song of Songs 2: 11-12

¹¹ for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
¹² The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.



"June is Bustin' Out All Over!" This song from the musical Carousel and the scripture passage from the Song of Songs come to my mind as summer beckons to us. Amidst our June worship theme of "Transformational Encounters" the Rodgers and Hammerstein song transforms my soul for at least two reasons: peonies and my grandmother.

My grandmother taught my kindergarten Sunday school class and was devoted to her faith. She played the piano and sang with us; she read me children's Bible stories; she loved to garden and had a stunning hedge of peonies in her yard that burst into bloom in the month of June. Being with her was like a burst of flowers appearing on the earth.

Because of all the above, my grandmother was, and continues to be, a transformational encounter in my life. She showed me what the love of God felt like and looked like just by being herself. The flowers she cultivated in her garden were an extension of her own beauty, and the peonies that now grow in my yard sing her presence to me still.

There is only one problem with peonies. Their blooming season is short. So much so that I wrote a poem about them once. The first line of the poem is "Come back, I beg you!" And the good news is that they do come back. Every year, in the month of June, they come back, and their gargantuan blooms, so fragrant with the sweetness of summer, remind me that the time for singing has come.



Let us sing together the songs of God as summer comes. Whether it be a song that you love from a favorite musical, a hymn that holds special meaning for you, whether it be a birdsong in the air or the gentle music of a rippling stream, may it awaken you to a new recognition that God is near, and that you can count on God's steadfast love. May the songs of God transform you as summer dawns.

Summer Blessings,
Betsy

Federated News & Info

Worship for June 2023

June 4th: Acts 11:1-18:

A Voice in the Vision

Rev. Betsy Wooster preaches

June 11th: Genesis 32:22-30

God in the Night

Rev. Betsy Wooster preaches

June 18th:

Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner preaches

June 25th:

Rev. Doug Horner preaches

Worship Every Sunday 10:00 AM

In-Person at Federated Church
or Online on our YouTube Channel:

[TheFederatedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvXqzqzqzqzqzqzqzqzqzqz)

PASTORAL OFFICE HOURS

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



Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton
Senior Pastor

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2 PM-5 PM

P: 440.247.6490 x100

E: hamthrock@fedchurch.org



Rev. Betsy Wooster

Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Office Hours: Mondays 1 PM-4 PM

P: 440.247.6490 x101

E: bwooster@fedchurch.org

July Spire Deadline

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

Please email your information to
communications@fedchurch.org

by Friday, June 23rd.

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

In Memoriam

Recognition of those who have
passed recently.

A farewell to friends; May God
welcome them with open arms.

Vivian Platek- May 17, 2023

'Extravagant E-Welcome'

Please like, share, and subscribe to our
Federated social media platforms:



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



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

Fellowship Treats

We are *so excited* to continue Fellowship Hour after Sunday worship services. Federated members take turns bringing treats for Fellowship Hour each Sunday, as scheduled by the Congregational Care Commission.

Of course, anyone is welcome to bring treats at any time!

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

June 4– last names beginning with N, O, P, Q, or R

June 11– last names beginning with S or T

June 18– last names beginning with U, V, W, Y, X, or Z

June 25– last names beginning with A or B



Wear Your Faith

As you **#LiveYourFaith**, you can now **#WearYourFaith**.

Federated merchandise is fun to wear and available!

To view the online store, click [HERE](#).



A Note from Operations...



WELCOME BETH!

We are thrilled to officially announce our **Director of Generosity is Beth Rutkowski**. Along with her beautiful voice and impeccable record as a church layleader, serving as Moderator and on various Committees, Beth also brings to the table a solid and successful background in non-profit fundraising and management.

As mentioned at the Annual Meeting, leadership created a new, full-time staff position to support internal and external fundraising, marketing, collaborations, events and community outreach. Some of these responsibilities are a broadening tasks done by previous staff members, some make official what was being done behind the scenes, and some of Beth's responsibilities are brand new – with the intention of carrying Federated forward to become a more sustainable entity.

Beth began as Director of Generosity in April and already her impact is being felt. As she navigates her new role, Beth will help to fulfill much of what is outlined in our **Visionary Action Plan** centered around *bringing the community to Federated and bringing Federated to the community*.

Beth will seek opportunities to raise the involvement and profile of our church as an amazing resource for the Chagrin Valley. Beth is here to elevate events, maximize existing giving opportunities, make possible new giving opportunities and to help raise our performing arts profile.

Beth will help us to be strategic in our endeavors, taking a comprehensive view of any activities that include or need funding through **fundraising, grant writing, donor development and community support**. Whenever Federated members support a cause or a need, we have shown we can make a significant impact. Beth is tasked with leading a coordinated and year-round effort to make sure our impact is felt and our members have the opportunity to **show their generosity** and **live their faith** in multiple ways.

- ✓ If you have questions or ideas about how Federated can serve the community, talk to Beth.
- ✓ If you have ideas about fundraising, talk to Beth.
- ✓ If you want to support an idea from your Committee or Commission, talk to Beth.
- ✓ If you want ideas about connecting an activity with a community partner, talk to Beth.

Please join me in welcoming Beth to our Federated Staff Team. The office of the Director of Generosity is now officially open. Talk to Beth: brutkowski@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 x115.

With Gratitude,

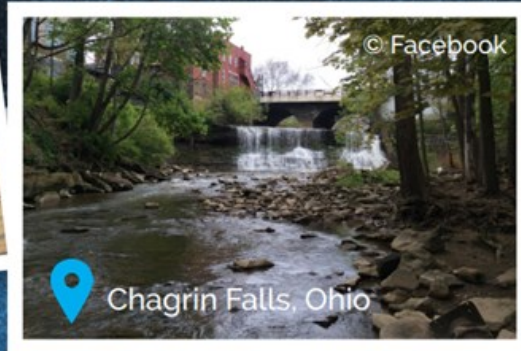
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa".

Melissa Owen, Senior Director of People and Operations

federated 
grow



06.21 7:00 p.m.



© Facebook



Chagrin Falls, Ohio

IT HAPPENS HERE

ADDICTION IN OUR COMMUNITY: CREATING A CULTURE OF COMPASSION & ACTION

Please join us for a presentation and paneled discussion around the addiction and mental health crisis in our community.

SPEAKERS:

KRISTIN HESS, RN, BSN, Clinical Education Specialist,
Office of Opioid Safety, The MetroHealth System

CAROLE NEGUS, RN, Director of Nursing,
Stella Maris, Inc.

RODERICK HARRIS, DrPH, Health Commissioner,
Cuyahoga County Board of Health

ROSE DEROIA, Pharmacist

WHEN & WHERE:

June 21, 6:30 p.m. Doors Open, 7:00 p.m. Program
Federated Church, Fellowship Hall
76 Bell Street, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022



in partnership with



CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH
YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION



Announcing a New Ministry: The Loose Screws Ministry

The Loose Screws meet every other week on Friday morning beginning at 9AM and will expect to finish by 11:30 am. Their goal is to provide volunteer work around the church as determined by the staff in their weekly meeting. Volunteers are welcome to attend when available. Coffee will be on hand in Fellowship Hall as we catch up and receive our assignments.

Typical activities could include: hanging banners; replacing light bulbs; cleaning windows; helping members of the congregation navigate simple tech or home tasks.

The goal is Happy People; keeping the church up-to-date; and good use of able retired members of the congregation seeking to help and enjoy fellowship on a Friday morning.

First day is Friday June 2nd.

Come at 9AM.

Meet in Fellowship Hall.

No need to sign up in advance.

Wear work clothes and be willing to share and help out.

Any questions? Contact: Rick Bryan:

richardcbryan@gmail.com or (716) 913-0565



Honor the Dads in your life

Share your Father's Day Photos with us!

Send to Marty by June 12th To:

Pics@Fedchurch.org

(Note new Email Address for Pictures)



Youth & Family

Looking Ahead to Fall 2023 Senior High Youth Ministries!

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

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



Senior High Youth News for Fall 2023

While we are on a summer break for the months ahead, keep an eye out for news later this summer with the details about next fall's 9th grade Confirmation Class and Sr. High Youth Group!

Questions or suggestions? Please reach out to Rev. Betsy Wooster at bwooster@fedchurch.org.

Family Fellowship Event

Sunday, June 11, 2023

5 pm in Solon

at the home of the Goodman Family

Join your Federated family for a cookout!

Guests are asked to bring a side or a dessert.

RSVP to Ms. Kristin: klefeber@fedchurch.org



federated 
grow

Middle School Youth Group News!

May was a month of service for moms! We took a group of kids to help at Zelig's Home, and made Mother's Day packages for the new moms in the home. Our last meeting was a time to care for Mother Nature. We planted more than 40 trees at the CLC, and celebrated a great restart to the MS youth group.

The kids have also come up with a name for the group!
S.P.I.F.F.Y. Service Projects Initiated From Federated Youth

SPIFFY will regroup in September, and we would love to help out with any projects for the community and beyond. Please share any service opportunities with Emily Moore and Bill Wright (emoore@fedchurch.org, bwright@fedchurch.org)



Colorado Kids need your support!

Please consider a financial donation
to the annual Faith Journey
to the Colorado Rockies

Trip dates are July 6th - 13th

Help transform the lives of our youth with your donations

Recent comment from a former "Colorado Kid"
"One of the best experiences of my life"

From a parent
"This trip saved my son"

"This trip changed the trajectory of our entire family"

Checks can be made out to Federated Church "Colorado"
Or give online at Fedchurch.org/giving

Your contribution will have a life-long impact... Thank you!

Primetime Summer Fun!

Primetime Lunch Out

Thursday, June 15 at Noon



Barrel Lodge Bar & Grill
at Boulder Creek Golf Club
9700 Page Road, Suite A
Streetsboro, Ohio 44241

Barrel Lodge offers a delicious and diverse menu—everything from yummy burgers to fab chicken paprikash. And, wow, what a view—the course, and, of course, your dining companions!

Carpooling available, contact Melissa.

Primetime Annual Picnic

Thursday, July 20 11:30AM - 2:00PM

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

Lunch Menu will include hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie options!

Bingo after lunch! Everyone wins a prize!

Cost: \$10 (fine to pay at the picnic)

Carpooling available, contact Melissa.

RSVP by July 15, 2023



Lunch + George M. Cohan

Sunday, June 25 from 12:30PM - 4:30PM



What was America feeling at the dawn of the 20th century? Protean songwriter-performer-director-producer George M. Cohan had his finger on the pulse of this so-called American Century. Immortalized on film by James Cagney, the legendary Cohan emblazoned his signature with hundreds of songs including "You're a Grand Old Flag," "Over There" and "Yankee Doodle Boy." His story cracks open a crucial time capsule.

Join us! Meet at Solon Burntwood Tavern at 12:30 PM for Lunch and a bus will take us to the Maltz Performing Arts Center is located at 1255 Ansel Road in Cleveland, Ohio; performance begins at 3:00PM.

Cost: \$50 (lunch not included)

RSVP by June 15, 2023

Save the Date(s):

- ✓ June 15: Lunch Out at Barrel Lodge
- ✓ June 25: George M. Cohen at Maltz
- ✓ July 20: Primetime Picnic!
- ✓ August 3: Everly Brothers +
Lunch at the Hartville Kitchen
- ✓ August 31: Nautica Cruise!

No Summer Forum.



RSVP via REALM or to Melissa: mowen@fedchurch.org or 805.636.4256

Mission & Service

St. Paul's Mission

Collecting these Staple items for the **St. Paul's Food Pantry**
(Leave items in Grocery Cart in Church Lobby)

- ✓ Peanut Butter
 - ✓ Jelly or Jam
 - ✓ Chicken Noodle Soup
 - ✓ Canned Fruit
 - ✓ Canned Chili
 - ✓ Cereal or Instant Oatmeal
-

Wish List of Items for the St. Paul's Hygiene Program

- White crew or tube socks only (no dress or black socks thanks!)
 - Men's white t-shirts - all sizes
 - Men's Boxer briefs - all sizes
 - Women's underwear - sizes 5-10
 - Deodorant
 - Lotion
 - Back pain relief patches
 - Ibuprofen or Tylenol
 - Tums
-

JOIN ST. PAUL'S GARDEN CLUB

Saturday, June 17th from 10am-12pm

Do you have a green thumb or just like being outdoors? Then we have the place for you this summer! At St. Paul's Patch—the Community Garden across the street from the church on W. 45 Street, we have three garden beds to grow fresh produce for the Food Pantry. We will have scheduled work days this summer starting this month. Stay tuned for additional days or if you would like to work in the garden at other times we can let you in! Contact Paula at paula@stpaulscommunityucc.org if you are interested in helping out.

federated 
support

Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM)

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

**Social
Justice
Advocacy
Ministry**

Upcoming Events for June

Saturday June 3rd
-Electronic Recycling Collection
9 am-2 pm
Church Parking Lot

Monday, June 12th
-SJAM Movie Night
Pride
A poignant funny, true story
6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
(dessert and discussion following)

No General SJAM Meeting
in June

Sunday, June 25th
-Family Friendly Pride Event
Geauga SOGI
Noon-5 pm
at Burton's Century Village

**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**
federated *act*

Electronic Recycling Collection – Drive-Through Event



Acceptable Items for Collection

- Computers/ laptops
- Tablets/e-readers
- Monitors (CRTs, LCD, LED Flatscreens)
- Keyboards, mice, cords, and other peripherals
- Printers
- Cell phones
- Telecom equipment
- Networking equipment
- Servers
- Video games
- Stereo equipment
- Electronic equipment batteries
- All accessories and cables
- Ink and toner cartridges

June 3, 2023
9:00 am to 2:00 pm
at the Bell St. Parking Lot



What: Collection will happen on this day only.
Drop off **ONLY** to the TRUCK in the church parking lot. This is a drive-through event so you don't get out of your car.

Please do not drop off any items before this day and time.

Questions contact: Diane Tuuri - dianeandward@gmail.com

Fees charged on - Older Tube model, console projection TVs- cost is \$1.00 per diagonal inch of the screen. Older CRT monitors cost- \$3.00/ea. for terminal, \$5.00 for 17" flat screen monitor and \$10.00 each for 19" and up flat screen

Federated Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) presents

MOVIE AND DESSERT NIGHT

Monday, June 12th at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

To celebrate PRIDE month, join us for the watching of the movie:



This poignant, funny, historical comedy-drama film is based on a true story. It depicts a group of lesbian and gay activists who raised money to help families affected by the British miners' strike. And unlikely alliance develops between the groups that is beautiful and heart-warming, and bridges two worlds, creating respect and understanding.

Please note that this will be the **Second** Monday of the month, and begins at **6:30 pm** because of the length.
Come watch and then share in dessert and discussion.

 **federated**
live your faith

**SOCIAL
JUSTICE
ADVOCACY
MINISTRY**
federated *act*

The Community Life Collaborative



*A Garden Stroll
Twinkling Fireflies
Magic in the Air*

YOU'RE INVITED TO A WHIMSICAL EVENING OF FARM-TO-TABLE FOOD, DRINKS, LIVE MUSIC, RAFFLES, SILENT AUCTION, AND SPECTACULAR FUN SUPPORTING THE CLC MISSION

BEER PROVIDED COURTESY OF



Scan here for
TICKET INFORMATION
OR VISIT [HTTPS://GIVEBUTTER.COM/C/GARDENGALA23](https://givebutter.com/c/gardengala23)



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY



QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS?

440-708-1961 // admin@communitylifecollaborative.org

The CLC manages operations and covers the costs of the FLC. To schedule church programs at the FLC, please contact CLC Executive Director, Peter Bode at ed@communitylifecollaborative.org for details.

The CLC is a separate 501(c)3 nonprofit partnering with Federated Church to nurture transformation through collaboration for a just and sustainable world. To get involved or to partake in the forums, subscribe to CLC email blasts, follow us on social media, or reach out anytime!



Celebrating Generosity



Members of the Women's Friday Morning Bible Study placing a marker at the Serviceberry Bush planted in memory of Marjorie Fow.

Dear Federated Members,

Thank you for all the wonderful notes, cards, and phone calls; also the lovely altar flowers while I was still in Chagrin.

You don't appreciate our church until something like this happens. So keep up the good work! You do a wonderful job!

Yours Faithfully,
Mary Dixon

Our beloved Mary Dixon moved to Florida to be near her family.
We love you Mary!

Celebrating Generosity



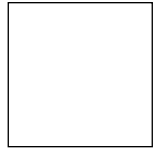
Our beloved Don Hoke moved to Michigan earlier this year to be near his family. He is doing well and is dearly missed. Don recently sent us this picture. Here is Don and behind Don on the wall is the memory quilt created for him by members of our Federated Primetime group.

We love you Don!

federated
support



76 Bell Street
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 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

VOL. 88 No. 20 JULY, 2023
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO HELP YOU

CLERGY

Hamilton Throckmorton, *Senior Pastor*
Betsy Wooster, *Pastor of Spiritual Formation*

Administration Staff

Melissa Owen, *Senior Director of People and Operations*
Brooke Strong, *Congregational Life Administrator*
Beth Rutkowski, *Director of Generosity (new as of April 3)*
* Janis Stefanchik, *Bookkeeper*
* Marty Culbertson, *Transitional JOY/Missions*
Jake Magalski, *Properties, Maintenance & Grounds Lead*

Music Staff

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

Children's Ministries Staff

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

* denotes part-time staff



federated

Hope to see you
this Sunday!

10:00 AM
In person and Online