

The Spire

The Federated Church Newsletter

United Church of Christ 🥖 An Open and Affirming Congregation

Thank You Federated





Federated News & Info

Our Worship Themes for August 2023 are the "Metaphors of God"

August 6th: Rev. Laurel Koepf preaches

August 13th: Marty Culbertson preaches

August 20th: Rev. Betsy Wooster preaches

August 27th: Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

Worship Every Sunday 10:00 AM In-Person at Federated Church or Online on our YouTube Channel: <u>TheFederatedChurch</u>

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: Resumes in the Fall P: 440.247.6490 x100 E: <u>hamthrock@fedchurch.org</u>



Rev. Betsy Wooster Pastor of Spiritual Formation Office Hours: Mondays 1 PM-4 PM P: 440.247.6490 x101 E: <u>bwooster@fedchurch.org</u>

'Extravagant E-Welcome'

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



www.facebook.com/ TheFederatedChurch



www.instagram.com/ federatedchurch

September Spire Deadline

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

Please email your information to <u>communications@fedchurch.org</u>

by Monday, August 21st.

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

In Memoriam

Recognition of those who have recently passed.

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

Jane Peters – July 14, 2023 Mary Dixon – July 17, 2023 Carole Halberg-July 17, 2023 Becky Bartter– July 18, 2023

Thank You Federated...

Your prayers and support have been felt by me and the hundreds of kids that have come through our youth programs and our annual Faith Journey to Colorado over the last 27 years in my ministry with the kids here at Federated Church. Lives, including my own, have been changed for the better over this era and the support of this Church Family has made it all possible! Thank you!

On my last journey west with the youth this past July, I was able to spend time reflecting on how this journey has enriched my life, deepened my own relationship with God and how I was often taught lessons by the kids participating.

I have been in awe of the beauty, from the majestic mountains to the wildflowers and birds, the flowing streams, and the Arkansas River. Even more inspiring is the vulnerability and openness of our youth. Their willingness to open themselves up to love God offers them reminds me that we must always be listening and watching for the moments God is Speaking to us.

Parents will tell you that their kids were forever changed by the "Colorado Trip". Some have gone as far to say this trip saved my child's life. That is not something we should not take in lightly. Profound, life changing experiences have turned the table, redirected kids, to healthy life choices. We are blessed to be a blessing.

Years ago, out on the backpacking trail with a group of our youth, one of our guides asked the group "What is one thing you want to accomplish in life?", that is a big question of kids 13 or 14 years old! I have no recollection of how they answered, but I remember mine. "If I can impact the life of one child in my ministry, I will know that this was all worth it." The reaction from the kids was funny, yet it has humbled me and lifted me up all the years since. I got a resounding "Well Duh!"

I feel good about moving on and letting go. The Youth Ministry and the Colorado Trip are in good hands going forward! On to all things Missions and Services!

Peace,

Marty Culbertson





A Note From Operations...

Hello to you all!

Time for an update on projects going on at 76 Bell Street...

SANCTUARY CEILING

Recap from the Annual Meeting (February 26, 2023): We have identified the problem and while we think it has been rectified, the prudent thing to do is to wait until the Air Conditioner is running so we can be 100% certain all is fixed before we repaint the ceiling. What you are seeing was the result of the compressor running constantly and not being regulated, causing a great deal of humidity, so much so that the paint would no longer adhere to the area around the vents. In any case, we plan to paint the ceiling during the summer, and touch up the other peeling areas you see, restoring the sanctuary to its former glory.

After the Annual Meeting I learned the Sanctuary ceiling condition has been a recurring problem and had been addressed through various means over the years: repainting, insulation, and finally with Capital Campaign updates to the HVAC system. The only thing that has not been addressed is the directional flow of the air. Many buildings with high concave ceilings are prone to this problem – basically, the air gets stuck up toward the ceiling and the solution to this problem is to diffuse the air, ensuring the air is forced to flow directionally downward. This is accomplished with diffusers. In May, diffusers were ordered and when the insulation was removed for the final measuring, it was learned that what was special ordered to retrofit would not be large enough. The order was revised and the new order was placed on June 8th. The new diffusers were expected in 8-12 weeks and once the diffusers arrive, they will be installed and the HVAC will be properly calibrated. When the work is done and when schedules permit, the Sanctuary ceiling will be painted. Thank you for putting up with the current appearance a bit longer, resolving the issue beyond the aesthetics ensures we not in the same position another 3-5 years from now going through the expensive and inconvenient process of repainting.

GROUND FLOOR

Recap from the Annual Meeting: As for the ground floor (preschool)– a pipe burst and it flooded just after Christmas; this is an insurance claim and all should be covered; the demo is complete and renovation should begin in the next couple of weeks. The plan for that floor to become a multipurpose area, giving us additional meeting rooms, classrooms and looking further into the future, music and art room space. We all LOVE the preschool being on the second floor. The kids and parents are thrilled with their new space and pre-school was not at all interrupted, Shawn, her team and Mr. Jake (as the kids call him), did a fabulous job making the space into their new home. Our plan is to replace the flooring in the upper hallways and some of the offices at the same time we do the flooring for the ground floor level.

The plan is still the same and it will save us money to do the flooring and painting in conjunction with other projects, like the expansion of our Sunday School (and Preschool) into Room 240. Also, as predicted, there has been a shift in availability of materials and people to do the work which will help us best maximize funds. Much is happening behind the scenes and the work will soon be complete.

LIVESTREAMING

Over the past couple of months, we have been working with the Paladin Group to help us improve our livestreaming operations by analyzing sound, software, microphones, camera and control options, wiring and connectivity. In the coming months we will move to an entirely digital system which will allow us to streamline many of our processes. We will also change the software used to run the Livestream and slides. The staff will continue to do setup and while the setup may be more labor intensive, the Sunday outlay will vastly improve and it will be more enjoyable for our volunteers to run the system and to be a part of Sunday Worship. The streamlining also gives us back use of the full facilities in the children's room (currently there is a sound mixer in the bathroom vestibule and that bathroom is unusable).

COPIER

Our copiers have been our biggest office expense and has been our biggest source of office angst. After some relationship building we were able to move from the old contract into a new one and just last Tuesday we said goodbye to the beasts and hello to Beauty, our glorious new copier. The new copier and all of its accoutrement will be less expensive AND will allow us to do production quality work inhouse! We will be able to print flyers, post cards and other items we had previously outsourced. This will take our communication next-level, lower cost and eliminate waste (no more bulk orders). Woohoo!

PHONES

The current phones are too old to support updates and we are unable to properly use certain features or make changes on the physical phones. Not to worry, we are all still getting our voicemails, however, since the equipment we have does not work with current system we will be converting to a new system which will allow for more efficient communication and seamless forwarding of calls and messages. We will also have the option of forgoing the physical phone altogether in favor of a virtual extension. The cost difference from the current system will net out and ultimately save us money and free us from the frustrations experienced with the large carrier option.

Other projects in the works include security enhancements, improved processes and procedures. We are also working on the staff hallway/kitchen/main office and second floor and continue to replace our old light fixtures replacing with LED friendly fixtures. A generous donation was given to redo our Senior Pastor's office and that project will wrap up in Q4. also in Q4, we will resume the process of tuckpointing.

What else is on the Horizon? In thinking forward to 2024, we should have some funds to update the Lounge and we will work to find funding to renovate the Fellowship Hall level lavatories, the Mens' is quite worse for the wear and the Ladies is not far behind. We are also in the process of reviewing what needs to be done at our other properties so we can plan accordingly and ensure there are no surprises.

There is always something happening and while it may seem things move at a glacial pace, all is done with thoughtful intention to maximize the funding you so generously provide. It helps me to know what ails you – what do you see? What do you want to fix, upgrade or change? Thank you—we so appreciate your valuable insights and support.

With Gratitude,

Melion

Melissa Owen, Sr. Director of People and Operations <u>mowen@fedchurch.org</u>



Federated Church's 2023 Lay Leadership – Updated

Church Council		
Position	Lay Leader	Representative to
Moderator	Adam Graves	
Vice Moderator	Stephen Downey	Membership & Nominating
Past Moderator	Rick Bryan	
Clerk	Peggie Jo Shinagawa	Membership & Nominating
Treasurer	Brady Hively	Finance & Properties Committee, Legacy Committee
Admin. Councilor	Doug Harlan	Councilor to HR & TOS Committees
Councilor 1	Diane Tuuri	Congregational Care
Councilor 2	Ken Horner	Generosity
Councilor 3	Dan Kershner	Mission & Service
Councilor 4	Sunny Doxey	Spiritual Formation

Commissions

Congregational Care Commission

Karen Zoltowicz (chair), Karen Johns, Leah Hassett, Judy Riemenschneider, Jodi Elioff, Heidi Asplin, Carolyn Shaul ,(1) opening

Generosity Commission

Maren Koepf, Michael Quintin, Martine Scheuermann, (chair), Dawn Thatcher (5) openings

Mission & Service Commission

Gay Quintin, Kathy Kolcaba, Linda Zelazny (chair), Dave Strauch, Karen Godenschwager, Patti Lyden, Emilie Gottsegen (2) openings

Spiritual Formation Commission

Pete Bednar, Bill Kenneweg, Silvia Kenneweg, Betsy Mast (chair). Zach LeFeber, Sandra Meyer, Katie Swanson-Harbage, Ali Hively*, Allison Graves*

Appointed Delegates

Living Water Association Delegates Susi Kawolics, Judy Bagley-Bonner, Jim Ogle Heartland Conference Delegates Susi Kawolics, Judy Bagley-Bonner

Elected Committees

Finance & Properties Committee

Brady Hively, chair, Joe Rose, Padi Joseph (2) openings

Human Resources Committee

Chris Bednar, Dave Watterson, Bill Franz (chair), Phil Fogarty, Eric Baumgartner

Legacy Committee

Robin Harbage (Chair), Tricia Baumgartner, Jeff Miller, Allison Graves (1) opening

Membership & Nominating Committee

Rose Brown (chair), Dawn Herdman, Jennie Krutilla, (2) openings

Telling Our Story Committee

Jim Scheuermann, Todd Smith (chair), Diana Gardner, Bob Munson, (1) opening

> *-New appointment/position since Annual Meeting held February 2023





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!

August 6– N, O, P, Q, or R August 13– last names beginning with S or T August 20– last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y, or Z August 27– 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 <u>HERE</u>.



Performing Arts Series '23-'24 Season

Save the Dates!

We are thrilled to resume the Performing Arts Series this fall!

Full concert details and a season announcement are coming soon, but In the meantime, save these dates for a exciting season!

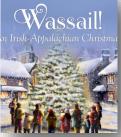


Saturday, October 14, 2023, 8pm Apollo's Fire: "Splendour in London"

Saturday, December 2, 2023, 7pm

"Celebrating Marcia Snavely: 30 Years at Federated Church" Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra and Federated musicians





Saturday, December 16, 2023, 8pm Apollo's Fire: "Wassail! An Irish-Appalachian Christmas"

> Saturday, February 24, 2024, 7pm Sonya Headlam, soprano Celebrating Black History Month



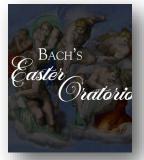


Saturday, March 2, 2024, 7pm Cleveland Celtic Ensemble with a Community Dinner!

Thursday, April 25, 2024, 7:30pm Apollo's Fire: "Bach's *Easter Oratorio*"



Friday, May 17, 2024, 7pm. Factory Seconds Brass in Concert





Our Music Program Welcomes You!

The '23-'24 program year is almost upon us! Federated has long been known for its various music ministries and we invite YOU to be a part of them! We are blessed with incredible facilities and instruments to glorify God through sound as a community.

The **Federated Choir** will resume rehearsals on Thursday, August 31st from 7 – 9 pm. The choir rehearses every Thursday 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. The group is dynamic and enjoys rising to challenges involving a wide range of repertoire. Any experience is welcome to join!

The **Federated Bell Choir** will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6th from 7 – 8:30 pm. Last season, we welcomed three new ringers, but we would love to grow even further! Growing the group would unlock our ability to play more diverse and exciting music! The ringers are very welcoming and enjoy bringing anyone up to speed on how to ring. The Bell Choir is a uniquely connected group that emphasizes community, trust, and listening to our neighbor. They rehearse weekly and play at a service every 6–9 weeks.

The **RISE to Shine Band** is a high energy, fun, contemporary group that typically plays the final Sunday service of each month. They rehearse on Tuesday evenings twice a month from 7 – 9 pm. Vocalists are especially welcome, but all talents are celebrated! The group has almost too much fun rehearsing and would love to see you as part of the team.

To learn about our ensembles, or any of our various music programs, please contact Joshua Konow at <u>jkonow@fedchurch.org</u> or 440.247.6490 x 120.

Children's Choir

Come one, come all to Federated Children's Choir this Fall!



Pat Haynish is inviting all children who will enter grades 1-8 this Fall to our first Children's Choir rehearsal **Monday**, **August 28th at 4 pm** in the large choir room (on the parking lot entrance level). We will rehearse each Monday this Fall from 4-4:45 pm except for Labor Day (9/4)

entrance level). We will rehearse each Monday this Fall from 4-4:45 pm except for Labor Day (9/4) and October 16th (Chagrin Falls Schools fall break) as we prepare to sing in September, October, and present our Christmas Musical on December 10th!

We have a broad base of very talented children for this choir. NO experience is needed! We will use fun props and instruments as well as our singing voices. Families do not need to be members of Federated to participate. Pat is looking forward to another exciting year as we grow and praise God together through music!

Please bring your children and their friends to the first rehearsal Monday, August 28th at 4 pm (Chagrin Falls Intermediate School students are welcome to come at 3:15 pm following dismissal). If you have any questions, please contact Pat Haynish at <u>phaynish@sbcglobal.net</u>, or 440.263.3356.

Youth & Family

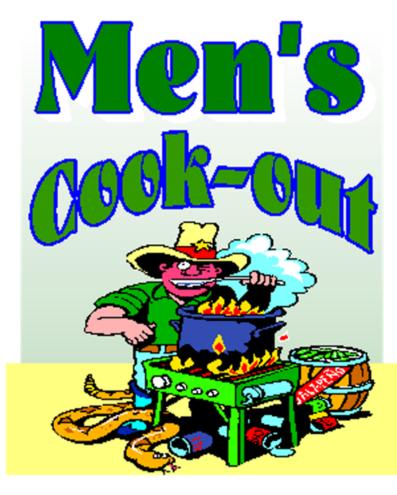
A LED PLA Starting Sept. 13th Wednesday Mornings 9:30-10:45 am

Federated Church & Village Nursery School welcome you and your little ones to our weekly playgroup! Join us for free play while moms/caregivers enjoy socializing with refreshments. All ages are welcome.

For more info contact Kristin Lefeber 703-434-9851 or klefeber@fedchurch.org

Federated Church Fellowship Hall, 76 Bell St., Chagrin Falls

Men's Ministries Presents



Tuesday, August 15, 2023 *At Frohring Meadow*

From 6:00pm till 8:30pm

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs provided Bring your own drink (cooler provided) Plus, bring a small side or appetizer.

Cost is \$5.00

Sign up Sunday after Worship in Fellowship Hall or via Realm by clicking here: <u>Men's Cook-Out</u>

Membership & Nominating Commission Upcoming Inquirers Class

Are you a visitor or frequent attendee or know someone who is? We invite you to join the Federated Family! An Inquirers Class will be offered this coming fall and is an opportunity to learn more about Federated, meet others who are also new, and talk about your own faith journey.

The class meets twice and is a wonderful way to bond and share a deeper meaning with others also are considering making this spiritual decision and commitment.

Contact Brooke Strong, our Congregational Life Administrator, federated to reserve your spot in the next class: <u>bstrong@fedchurch.org</u>.

New Grief Support Group Starting in September

BEREAVEMENT COMPANIONING

AND GRIEF SUPPORT A person's life is changed forever

by the death of someone love

10 weeks sessions starting September 14th at the Federated Church in Chagrin Falls 9:00 am to 11:00 am no charge Registration Required to 440/279-2062 OR

TJORDAN@CO.GEAUGA.OH.US

THIS GRIEF IS LIKE A ROLLERCOASTER AND I FEEL LIKE THIS GROUP IS OUR SEATLBELT.

QUOTE FROM MOTHER WHO LOST HER SON

FACEBOOK: geauga loss grief group www.friendsgeaugalossteam.com

Love Goes Where Loss Lives



federated

Primetime Fun!

Primetime Lunch Out: Welshfield Inn

Thursday, August 17th at Noon

Join us at the Welshfield Inn: 14001 Main Market Road Burton, Ohio 44021

The Welshfield Inn is located in the heart of Amish country, amid 19 acres of lush farmland in Burton. Fresh, local and seasonal foods grace the menu and the friendly, attentive staff embody the spirit



of this historic establishment that has been celebrated for well over a century. Please <u>RSVP</u>.

Meet Lady Caroline: Nautica Boat Cruise + Lunch and Transporation

Thursday, August 31, 10:30AM-3:30PM



Board the new Nautica Lady Caroline and cruise around Downtown Cleveland. See the sights and enjoy a delicious buffet lunch. We will also hopefully see the planes practicing for the Air Show!

Transportation provided, meet at the Family Life Center at 10.30AM and jump on the bus!

Nautica Boarding begins 11:00AM, Set Sail at Noon! Cost: \$50

RSVP by August 18 via <u>Realm</u> or to Melissa

ARE YOU FUN? We are looking for help planning trips and events! Join us at 1.30PM on Monday September 18th in Fellowship Hall and share your ideas with our Primetime Board. Primetime Board. Primetime Board.

Save the Date(s):

- Reminder: August 3: Everly Brothers
 +Lunch at the Hartville Kitchen
- ✓ August 17: Lunch Out at Welshfield Inn
- ✓ August 31: Nautica Cruise!
- ✓ September 10: RALLY DAY @ Federated
- ✓ September 22: Lunch Out at Blazin' Bills



RSVP via REALM or to Melissa: <u>mowen@fedchurch.org</u> / 805.636.4256

Mission & Service

HARVESTING

HOPE



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th

DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM 530 PER TICKET

Heavy Appetizers BYOB federated Raffles

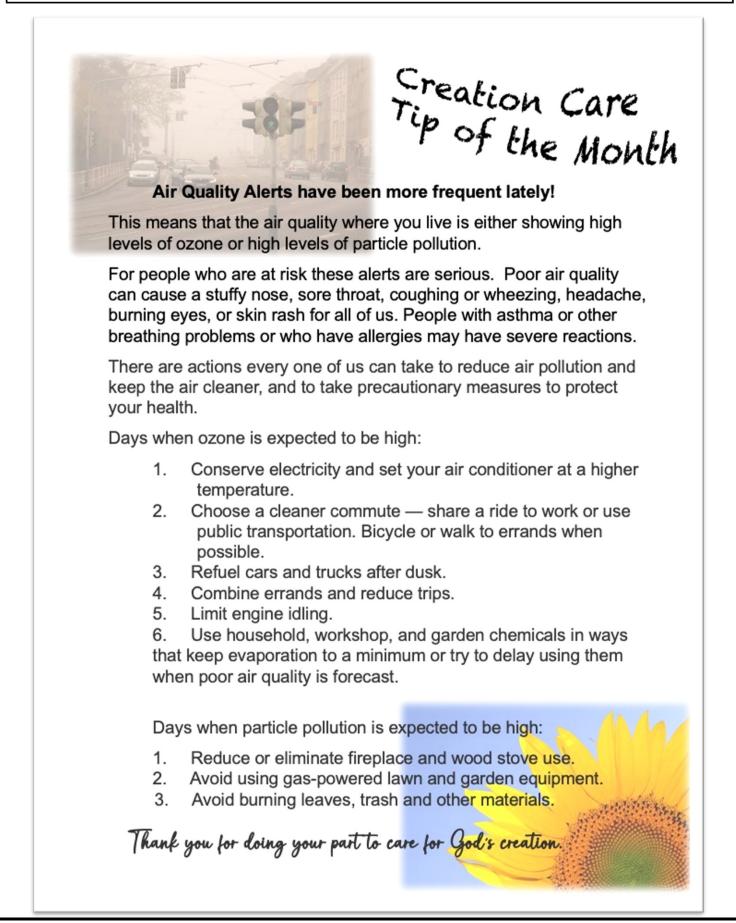
support



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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 (SJAM)

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

Federated Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) presents:

DESSERT AND DISCUSSION: What does the Bible REALLY SAY about LGBTQ+ Persons and Issues

Monday, August 7th 6:30 - 9 pm

Speaker Rev. Dr. Laurel Koepf In Person at Federated Church (76 Bell St., Chagrin Falls)

Current debates regarding human sexuality and gender often center around the Bible. In this evening event, biblical scholar Rev. Dr. Laurel Koepf will engage participants in the content and context of scripture, with particular attention to gender in the Bible and the many ways it is expressed and discussed. We will compare the ancient world that produced the Bible with our own ideas about gender expression, division of labor, beauty and adornment. Join us to discuss how all of this can be a part of our faith!



Rev. Dr. Laurel Koepf

Rev. Dr. Laurel Koepf is Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible and Director of DMin Programs at McCormick Theological Seminary. She is ordained in the United Church of Christ and the author of *Give Me Children or I Shall Die: Children and Communal Survival in Biblical Literature*. She is co-chair of the LGBTI/Queer Hermeneutics section of the Society of Biblical Literature. Most recently, she authored the latest revision of the Sexuality and our Faith curriculum for Our Whole Lives.

Dr. Koepf grew up at Federated Church and now lives in Chicago with her two sons.

Questions: Contact sjamfedchurch@gmail.com





The Community Life Collaborative



The CLC: New Chapter, New Vision, and Programming Continues

Throughout the summer, the CLC continues to turn toward advancing positive change. In June, our Executive Director, Peter Bode was called to a new position. He was not looking to move, but was sought out by a national search firm with an opportunity he could not pass up: President & CEO of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. We wish Peter well in his new role. In his year leading the CLC, he set us up for a strong transition into a new chapter. The CLC Executive Search Committee received 64 applications for the posted role and, in the process of our screening and interviewing, we narrowed the list to an exceptional group of highly capable and promising candidates. We will keep you all posted on progress.

Additionally, the CLC convened the board and key collaborating partners, including Federated, in a strategic planning process. We set forth actionable goals to move our mission forward and crafted a fresh aspirational vision statement: *The Community Life Collaborative will spark meaningful conversations and amplify voices, igniting transformational action as the regional center and catalyst for social and environmental justice.*

Join us in the Upcoming CLC Programming:

Wed. Aug 9 Our Nature: "Crooked River Contrasts" Garden View Gallery* wine reception 5:00-8:00 at the FLC, An open reception for our latest photograph exhibit celebrating the history and transformational strategies restoring the Cuyahoga River. *Exhibit Co-Curator Joseph Valencic, International speaker and curator for museum exhibits, will share his deep knowledge of the significant role the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie continue to play in drawing people from all over the world to power Ohio's industry and economy. Free to all.*

Saturday, Aug 12 Our Nature: Rejuvenate Your Landscape 10:00 am-noon at the FLC. *Do you want to plant with native plants, but you're unsure where to start? Join Marc Wise of Native Landscaping & Gardens or a morning of fun and education. Learn about the importance and benefits of native plantings directly from the experts. Free to all and every participant will receive a starter kit of native plants!*

SAVE-the-DATE: Mark your calendar for the 2nd Annual *Oak-y Dokie 5K* fundraiser and Leaf Party October 21. This Capstone Event to our PRISM Series celebrates neurodiversity in a community of support as we explore the needs of inclusion and acceptance.

The <u>Community Life Collaborative</u> manages all operations and covers repair costs of the FLC for Federated. To schedule church programs at the FLC, please contact CLC Interim Executive Director, Anne Burr at ed@communitylifecollaborative.org for details. The CLC is a separate 501(c)3 nonprofit partnering with Federated Church to engage transformation through collaboration for a just and sustainable world. To get involved or stay informed, subscribe to CLC email blasts, follow us on social media, or reach out anytime!

See details on our website: <u>communitylifecollaborative.org/events</u>.

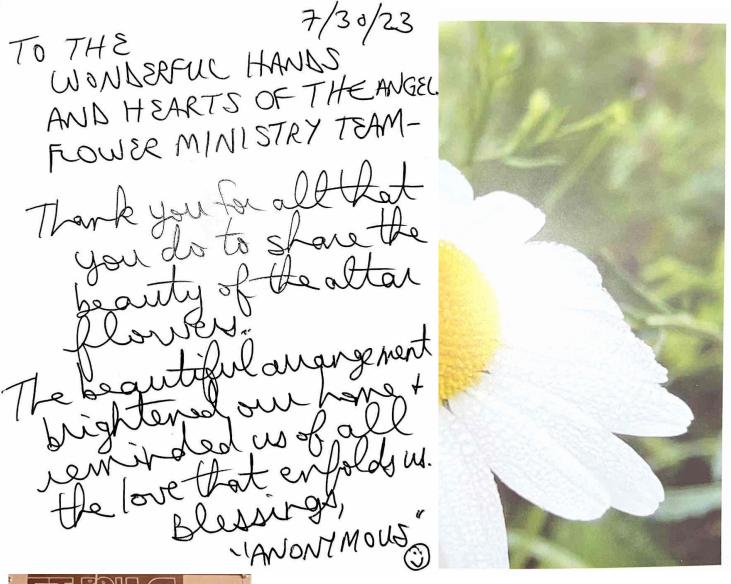
Fun At Federated

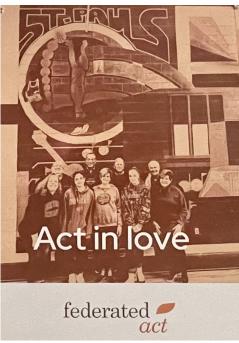




NOAH

Flowers and 'Flowers' At Federated





Many thanks for the beautiful flowers that arrived on my door step last week! They were just beautiful! Your angel Flowers carry warmth and love. It is a wonderful service From our church. Appreciately,

July 1, 2023



Contact Us!

www.fedchurch.org fedchurch@fedchurch.org

Phone: 440.247.6490 Fax: 440.247.2516

Facebook: facebook.com/ thefederatedchurch

Instagram: @federatedchurch

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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 * Janis Stefanchik, Bookkeeper * Marty Culbertson, Transitional JOY / Missions 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 * 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

