


April 2024


federated

The Spire

The Federated Church Newsletter

United Church of Christ  An Open and Affirming Congregation

Federated Celebrates Creation Care Month

The earth is the
LORD's, and the
fulness thereof;
the world, and they
that dwell therein.

Psalm 24:1



 federated
live your faith

From the Desk of Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton...

Dear Friends,

When I was growing up, I have fond memories of Easter that revolve around spring and Easter eggs and chocolate bunnies. I especially remember dying the eggs, using a tin egg holder with which to dip the eggs in the dye, and then searching for the hidden eggs that my parents had hidden around our yard. With Easter there came such a fun and hopeful air.

It was not until I had gotten much older that I came to appreciate some of the depths of that resurrection day. I came to have a deeper sense that, no matter what happened in my life and in our life together, God was ever-present. I came to trust much more that, even in the difficult times, grace is the water in which we swim. I came to see that God's love is not bound even by the seeming finality of death, and to see that we are held close to the bosom of God even, and we should say especially, when hope seems to have dried up.

One of the helpful adaptations the church has made over the years is that we now see Easter not as a single day but as a season. When I was a child, Easter was "one and done." Once the brass had concluded and the affirmations that Christ had risen petered out, we were back to the ordinary days of the year. In the last generation or two, though, the church has come to acknowledge that this central moment of Christian life deserved more than a single day. So now we celebrate Easter as a season of seven weeks. All of April and much of May this year celebrates the richness of resurrection life. Now the day of Pentecost on May 19 ends the season of Easter.

I invite us all to be especially mindful, during this special season, of God's holy love animating each moment. No tomb is too tight, no failure too all-encompassing, no death too final that God's magnificence and joy cannot break through the shadows to offer a candle of hope and an indefatigable ray of light.

May we live in that light and pass it to each other and to the wider world as we bask in that resurrection joy.

Yours in Christ,

Hamilton



Federated News & Info

Worship Themes for Easter 2024: "The Magnificence of God"

April 7, Easter 2:

John 20:19-31

"Do not doubt but believe"

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

April 14, Easter 3:

Luke 24:36b-48

"You are witnesses of these things"

Rev. Betsy Wooster preaches

April 21, Easter 4:

Earth Day Celebration

Psalm 23

"Green pastures, still waters, right paths: God's magnificent creation"

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

April 28, Easter 5:

Reception of new members

John 15:1-8;

"Abide in me as I abide in you"

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

Worship Every Sunday 10:00 AM
In-Person at Federated Church
or Online on our YouTube Channel:
[TheFederatedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

May Spire Deadline

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

Please email your information to communications@fedchurch.org

by **Monday, April 22nd**

Include "**Spire**" in the subject line.

In Memoriam

Recognition of those who have passed recently.

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

Jackie Hallack– March 23

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 2PM-5PM

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

'Extravagant E-Welcome'

Please like, share, and subscribe to our



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



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

From the Desk of the Moderator...

Dear Beloved Congregation,

Joy and God's love be with you. As we gather in the warmth of our faith community, I am filled with immense gratitude for our recent Annual Meeting. Your presence, dedication, and willingness to engage together in important discussions shows the true power of our Federated Congregation.

Our Annual Meeting was more than just a formality; it was a sacred space where we came together as a family. We discussed matters close to our hearts, tough matters like our budget, our use of funds, and the decision around the Family Life Center. Your thoughtful participation and commitment to transparency were evident, and I am thankful for each voice that contributed to our collective discernment.

The courage and love displayed during the FLC discussions was inspiring. It was evident that the congregation fully supports the CLC and all they do for the community and the church's activities as part of that community. Our path forward is now to enable the CLC to care for the property and find ways for the day-to-day work of Federated to bridge us closer together. To that end, the council met and agreed on a few key ways to enable this. First, we'll move forward quickly with a lease arrangement through the Finance & Properties Committee, creating a new lease agreement that enables the future. Second, we'll communicate our dedication to a relationship, with this message along with others through the year. Third, we'll have one of the CLC leaders serve as a member of Church Council, ensuring programs can align and any gaps close before they form. And lastly, we'll look for activities that we can plan to leverage the FLC property. We'll start with the May Blossom Time Festival Worship Service on Sunday May 26, 2024, a day the church is normally closed, to host our service at the FLC. That'll be one of many activities that we do going forward.

Our fellowship continues to be a source of spiritual nourishment. Whether we gather in person or virtually, our praises rise as one. Our love of God and of each other binds us together. Thank you for showing up and for allowing God's presence to envelop us. As we move forward, let us hold onto the spirit of unity, compassion, and hope that defines our congregation. May we continue to seek God's guidance, support one another, and extend grace to those around us as we work to grow and serve.

In joy and fellowship,

Steve



Women's Ministries

Circle News: Join us for game time in Fellowship Hall at 1:00 on April 15th! We'll be playing Mexican train and enjoying some fellowship and treats. It's sure to be a fun afternoon!

Helping Hands: Our next meeting will be in our wonderful new room on the lower level at 1:00 on April 22nd. We'll be stuffing and sewing the cancer pillows and continuing our work on the fidget pads. Your help makes a real difference!

Sit & Stitch: Don't forget, Sit & Stitch continues to meet every Thursday at 10:00 in room 340. We're creating beautiful prayer shawls, blessing blankets, and prayer squares. Join us for a relaxing and rewarding time!

Loaves & Fishes: We'll be serving a meal at St. Paul's on April 28th. If you'd like to donate some cookies to add to the meal, please let me know. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



For more information contact Lynne Kessell, lynnekessell@gmail.com.

Fellowship Treats

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!

April 7– last names beginning with L or M

April 14– last names beginning with N, O, P, Q, and R

April 21– last names beginning with S or T

April 28– last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y, and Z



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](#).



Federated Art Gallery

International Artist, Mary Ann Boysen, Featured at Fed!

Do you see cracked glass over her 1st painting, with the red vase? *Is it really cracked?* It's a great place to start the tour! You may know Mary Ann as the owner of the framing/gallery shop on Main Street for many years. Now you can visit her work in the Gallery Space *that she created for us 10 years ago.* Her works will hang through May.



Membership and Nominating Committee

New Member Partners Needed!

Are you already a member of our church? We need your help! Become a New Member Partner and extend a warm welcome to someone in the next class joining the church. As a New Member Partner, you will be paired with a new member or family to welcome them to the church community. Your role will include inquiring where they sit, introducing them to your pew mates, answering any questions they may have, or directing them to someone who can provide answers, and encouraging their participation. Be yourself - the welcoming church that you are!

If you're interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Rose Brown at rosebrowncf@gmail.com. Your involvement will make a meaningful difference in the lives of new members as they join our church family.



Wondrous Wednesday

April 17, 2024 6:00 PM – Dinner with the Program at 7:00 PM

This year, the Creation Care and Justice ministry team is focusing on food and climate change as the theme for Earth Day Month – April. Join us for an inspiring program featuring a local boy, turned rancher/farmer, who does this work to mitigate the climate crisis.

“Common Ground: Cultivating Connections Between Our Faith, Our Food, and the Climate”

Darrell Kendall presents: Broken Yoke Ranch

Grass-Finished Beef * All-Natural Pork * Pastured Poultry and Eggs



Broken Yoke Ranch started by accident with a couple of chicks from the local farm store. As Darrell Kendall got deeper into the world of food production, it became clear that there was a better option than what he had come accustomed to buying from the store---grow it on the farm!.

Please register for the dinner – contact Katie Harbage
katiesharbage@gmail.com or sign up on Realm

Tour of the Broken Yoke Ranch and Organic Farm

April 27, 2024, tour at 11:00 am

Meet in the church parking lot at 10:00 am to form car-pools. If you want to drive yourself and meet us there, go to: 8181 Madison Rd, Thompson, OH 44086

This year, Federated Church Creation Care and Justice ministry team is focusing on food and climate change as the theme for Earth Day Month – April.

This is a family friendly event for a hands-on tour of a local ranch/farm. Learn about how this ranch/farm cares for the earth while supporting those on the margins to learn work/job skills.

Please register for the tour by April 24th, on Realm



Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies purchased this year to honor and remember loved ones.

(Received by noon on March 29.)

All proceeds from the sale will go to support Replay for Kids, a youth service project.

Thank you for your support and for helping to beautify the Sanctuary.

Anonymous in honor of the staff & lay leaders that help make Federated strong & the congregation that makes it great!

Anonymous in honor of Melody McClurg and Family

The Asplin Family in honor of our family and friends

Eric & Tricia Baumgartner in memory of Ed & Betty Baumgartner and Frank Novak, Jr.

Sue Beattie in memory of Nancy & David Carpenter

Janet Berlincourt in loving memory of my uncle Ted Berlincourt

Janet Berlincourt in loving memory of my uncle Bill Thomas

Jeanette Brown in memory of Glenn Brown

Lisa Buescher in memory of Thomas Tidd (father)

Becky Carter in memory of Virginia & Paul N. Stewart (parents) and Helen Brown (friend)

Phyllis Ference in memory of Bob Ference

From A Friend in honor of Ed & MaryAnn Ponce and in memory of David Ponce

Dawn Herdman in memory of Janet & Norman Tatsapaugh (parents)

Dawn Herdman in honor of Abigail Mae (granddaughter)

Lee & Karen Johns in memory of John Hurst (Karen's brother)

Lee & Karen Johns in memory of Peter Johns (Lee's brother)

Dennis & Kathy Kieta in memory of Robert & Gertrude Ames

Dennis & Kathy Kieta in memory of Joseph & Geraldine Kieta

Mary Kudasick in memory of Edward A. Kudasick

Mary Kudasick in memory of Marie Ashmus

Joyce McFarland in memory of Jack McFarland and Joan Hartman

Thea Mozingo in memory of Therese Anne Hanson

Thea Mozingo in memory of Karl Rolf Hanson

The Oliver Family in memory of Joseph Rea

The Oliver Family in memory of Michael Rea

Joy Robertson in memory of Stanley Robertson and Scott Robertson

Martine Scheuermann & Marty Culbertson in memory of Al & Shirley Culbertson

Martine Scheuermann & Marty Culbertson in memory of George & Nancy Scheuermann

Martine Scheuermann & Marty Culbertson in memory of Mike Scheuermann

Martine Scheuermann & Marty Culbertson in memory of Rich Scheuermann

Martine Scheuermann & Marty Culbertson in honor of the staff of Federated Church

Martine Scheuermann & Marty Culbertson in honor of the lay leaders of Federated Church

Cindy Scott & Miriam Huebscher-Scott in honor of our Federated Family

Marcia Snavely in memory of Scott Snavely

Marcia Snavely in memory of the Charles King Family

Janice Swanson in memory of Marge & Alan Cook

Katie Swanson-Harbage in memory of Richard Swanson (parent)

Katie Swanson-Harbage in memory of Lois T. Galloway (parent)

Joy Wyatt in memory of Joy M. Wyatt and James Wyatt



COMING IN MAY!

TRINKETS 'N TREASURES

2024



DONATIONS ACCEPTED:
May 4-6 from 9AM- 5PM
May 7 from 9AM-Noon

PREVIEW SALE:
May 8
5:30-8PM
(\$10 admission)

GENERAL SALE:
May 9 & 10
9AM-5PM

**Half Price
Bag Sale:**
May 11
9AM-NOON

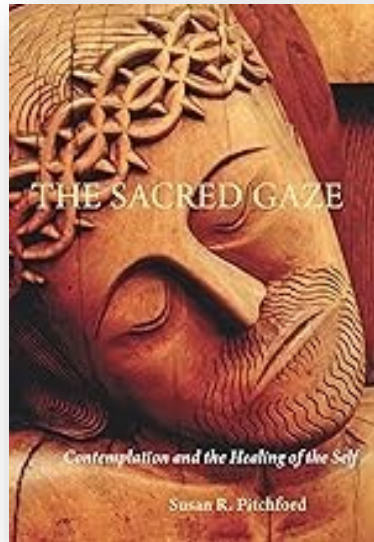
Family Life Center
16349 Chillicothe Road
Chagrin Falls, Ohio, 44023

Volunteers Needed!



Sign up in the church lobby or on Realm beginning April 7.
For more information, contact Beth Rutkowski at brutkowski@fedchurch.org.

Rev. Betsy's Spiritual Formation Corner



Get your book discussion chops ready!
Betsy is leading a four-week book study this Spring:
The Sacred Gaze
Contemplation and the Healing of the Self
By Susan R. Pitchford

When? Wednesdays at 1:00 PM at the church from April 24th - May 15

If you would like to join the study by zoom, please email Betsy with your interest.

**You can register to join this book group on Realm,
Or register in person beginning April 7th after worship in fellowship hall.**

This read is both an insightful overview of the relationship between healing and spirituality and the meaning and depth of contemplative prayer. Susan Pitchford takes us on a journey in which we learn to see our own reflection through the eyes of God, often a very different view than we have of ourselves.

Please join me in reading and discussing this wonderful book!
**The book is available on Amazon, and you can also find it on used book websites
such as AbeBooks for a reduced cost.**

Come! Let us explore our identity in Christ together!
Please contact Rev. Betsy Wooster at bwooster@fedchurch.org with questions.

Generosity Corner

Dear SPIFFY Middle School Youth Group:

Thank you so very much for your generosity and compassion for the animals in our care. Your support for the animals and mission of Rescue Village is greatly appreciated. Your in-kind donation of dog care items via Amazon Wish List is making a world of difference.

We are so glad to here that you enjoyed the tour and we are so grateful for your service project work!

Rescue Village is a community center for animals and their people. We are about keeping you and your pets together. We offer support for each animal from the moment they arrive at here until well after they are adopted and placed in a permanent home, including behavioral training and advice, and more. Rescue Village is a place where vulnerable dogs, cats, horses, donkeys, pigs, chickens, guinea pigs and even alpaca (to name a few) are given shelter, veterinary care, training, and a dedicated team of people who work 365 days a year to find them a permanent home with a caring family.

Rescue Village is a shelter that also helps reduce the number of kittens born to feral, stray, and community cats through its Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) effort that is aided by a dedicated team of cat-loving volunteers. In Geauga County, Rescue Village also investigates cases, educates people about, and if necessary, enforces Ohio's humane laws – protecting the helpless from abuse.

This important work is done at a 19,000 square foot facility that sits in a park-like setting on 14 acres of wooded land in the heart of Cleveland's eastern communities. The dogs have paths in the woods where volunteers take them for walks. A barn and paddock provide shelter to barn animals in need. And, volunteers foster Rescue Village's animals in their homes, creating a virtual shelter on couches and in barns across the area - reducing the stress of shelter life for the animals and in turn helping us get them adopted sooner.

All of this is made possible by donors like you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Clarke
Executive Director



S.P.I.F.F.Y. NEWS

Service Projects Initiated From Federated Youth

March meetings were spent making toys & treats for animals at Rescue Village, capped off with a visit & group tour. Thanks to everyone who contributed donations!



Upcoming Events

We'll meet every Sunday afternoon in April.

Watch the weekly e-mails for full details!

FEDERATED CHURCH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Sundays at 11:30 - 1:00

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING!

April:

7 and 14: No GROUP

21: Trash cleanup day. Details to be sent out

28: Loaves and Fishes at St. Paul's. Meet at St. Paul's church at 10:00 or at Federated at 9:15 for a ride. We should finish by 1:00.

MAY 5: Help at the FLC with unloading deliveries for Trinkets and Treasures. Session runs from 1-4 PM. Come for the entire time or when you can. Pizza will be supplied for the workers!

QUESTIONS? EMAIL GARY OR PAUL

gdd.fedchurch@gmail.com

paulcantlay99mail.com



HANDS-ON SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Saturday, April 20th

10 am – 12 pm

Federated Church Fellowship Hall

Ages 12 & up (minors with parent)

Come “play” with toys

and make a difference in the lives of kiddos with disabilities!

RSVP: to kristinlefeber@gmail.com

RePlay for Kids

because **every** child needs to play



The mission of **RePlay for Kids** is to increase the availability of toys and assistive devices for children with disabilities. We pursue this mission by repairing existing devices, adapting mainstream toys, designing new devices, and educating families and clinicians.

SAVE THE DATES: Performing Arts Series '23-'24 Season

Full concert details and are available at fedchurch.org/PAS

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



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

Fun At Federated




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Primetime Fun!

Primetime Lunch Out: Glenwillow Grille Friday, April 19 at Noon

Join us at Glenwillow Grille 29765 Pettibone Road, Solon, Ohio 44139

The Glenwillow Grill has a diverse menu with everything from proper fancy meal options to a perfectly crafted burger – they are passionate about food & beverage and you will taste the love in every bite and sip. Join us for lunch and laughter!

[RSVP](#)—Need a ride? Contact Melissa—carpooling is available!



federated 
grow



Save These Dates:

- ✓ [Friday April 19, Noon: Lunch Out at Glenwillow Grille](#)
- ✓ [Thursday May 16, Noon: Lunch Out at 7 Ladies Tea Room in Chardon](#)
- ✓ [Friday June 21, Noon: Lunch Out at Welshfield Inn](#)

RSVP via [REALM](#) or to Melissa: mowen@fedchurch.org / 805.636.4256

Mission & Service

St. Paul's Trailer

Sunday, April 7, 9:30-11:30 AM

The St. Paul's Trailer will be open on the first Sunday of the month from 9:30-11:30 AM to receive your donations. Clean clothing, household items, and small appliances are acceptable. Please, no undergarments or TV's.

We hope this new time will make it more convenient for you to make donations. Come to church early or stay late to drop off treasures you no longer need!

Contact Marty Culbertson if you have any questions. Mculbert@fedchurch.org.



**ENVIRONMENTAL
AND CREATION
JUSTICE**
federated
act

“Worship with Nature”

*A Ministry Team of the
Spiritual Formation Commission*

Common Ground: The Earth and our Faith

Sunday, April 28

Metro Parks - South Chagrin Reservation

Meet at the Sulphur Springs Picnic Area

Plan on arriving at 4 pm

*Worship at 4:30 pm and Fellowship
time following Worship*

[Click on the link for more details](#)

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

SJAM MOVIE NIGHT. Monday, April 22, 2024

**7:00 PM – Movie + Discussion in Fellowship Hall
76 Bell St, Chagrin Falls**

Join Federated Church Creation Care and Justice ministry team in focusing on soil and climate change as the theme for Earth Day Movie Night.



**“ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL,
ILLUMINATING AND VITAL
WAKE-UP CALLS SINCE FOOD, INC.”**

NYC Movie Guru

Watch the trailer here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxi8Jr6foHb5KpeJx5URVKA>

This film profiles a **hopeful** and **uplifting** movement of white, black, and indigenous farmers who are using alternative “regenerative” models of agriculture that could balance the climate, save our health, and stabilize America’s economy – before it’s too late.

AFTER the MOVIE, we will have a discussion with a local business leader, **Marc Wise**, who focuses on NATIVE PLANTING for our yards and gardens. He will share his wisdom and knowledge with us to consider planting native as one way to help deal with the climate crisis.



SJAM (Federated's Social Justice Advocacy Ministry) along with Racial Equity Buddies is sponsoring **Robin Pease**, Artistic Director of www.KULTUREKIDS.org and proud descendant of Indigenous Americans. Robin brings Native music, stories, and traditions to life in an immersive performance. This isn't just a viewing experience; it's an invitation to engage actively, culminating in a Q&A session that promises to deepen our collective understanding and connection to Indigenous culture.

April 27th, 4:00 PM

Forest Hill Church

3031 Monticello Blvd

Cleveland Heights, OH, 44118

To register, please email: racialequitybuddies@fhcpresb.org

Community Partners



On behalf of the staff & Board of Directors of the Community Life Collaborative, THANK YOU for the resounding support of the congregation to allow more time for living into the legacy and promise of Family Life Center for Federated's future together. Already, Federated staff and commission members are developing fresh collaborations with the CLC as strategic partners for growing meaningful community engagement!

This spring, the **2024 Our Nature Series** continues programs focused on environmental issues and solutions throughout April and May. Sponsored by the Heartland Environmental Care & Justice Network and Living Water Association, churches across Northeast Ohio are sending green teams to be inspired, equipped and engaged in protecting the earth and its people for generations to come!

Learn more and register at communitylifecollaborative.org/events/ **Saturdays at the FLC:**

Sat, April 6 at the FLC-- First Saturday Swing Dance; lessons 8-9:00, dancing 9-10:00pm

Sat, April 13 at the FLC-- Making Our Actions Count: An Introduction to Strategic Nonviolent Organizing

April 20 at Akron's Elizabeth Park-- Tree Of Life Ceremony

May 4 in Cleveland Heights -- Getting Our Hands Dirty: Join volunteers in urban community gardens

May 18 at the FLC -- Getting Our Hands Dirty: Mobilizing Local Systems for Food Security

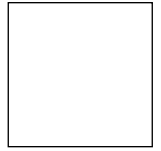
Tickets are available for our 3rd Annual Fundraiser--Garden Gala: Dancing On Dewdrops!

June 8 at the FLC from 6:00pm-10:00pm [Get Tickets Here](#)

Dancing – Lucky Draw Raffle – Silent Auction – Wine Pull – Great Food – Wine & Beer

Support the work of creating a just, healing, and healthy world for all!

The CLC manages community uses and covers the operational costs of the Family Life Center for the Federated Church. To schedule church programs at the FLC, connect with a church staff representative and contact CLC Executive Director, Destinee Burse at ed@communitylifecollaborative.org for details. The CLC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit collaborating with Federated Church to nurture transformation through collaboration for a just and sustainable world. We are proud to be strategic partners with the Federated Church to advance community engagement. To get involved or engage in programs, subscribe to CLC email blasts, follow us on social media, or reach out anytime! 440-708-1961.



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://instagram.com/federatedchurch)

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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*
* **Susi Kawolics**, *Bookkeeper*
* **Marty Culbertson**, *Director of 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




federated

Hope to see you
this Sunday!

10:00 AM
In person and Online