

Federated is Officially a Creation Justice Church!



From the Desk of Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton...

Dear Friends,

I can't let this issue of the *Spire* go without thanking Melissa Owen for her exceptional work these last four years as Senior Director of People and Operations. She will be leaving us on May 16, and we are immensely grateful for all she has been and done. Melissa began at Federated in April of 2020, one month into the COVID pandemic. It was difficult enough for any of us to figure out how to be the church in the middle of that upheaval, let alone to begin a new job during that period of enforced isolation, and get to know people and learn about policies and procedures of an organization that is entirely new to you. Melissa navigated that challenge with enormous energy and determination and resilience, talking with endless people by phone and conducting numerous meetings by Zoom. Decisions had to be made daily about how to stay safe and to be responsible and not to be undone as a church by this massive disruption. She never seemed the slightest bit daunted by any of it. Few people could have done it well. Melissa did it with grace and drive and imagination. It was as though she were born to that role. We were richly blessed in that period of the church's life by her tenacity, creativity, and dedication.

Nor was that all, though. As time went on, Melissa showed her skill in countless dimensions of church life. She assumed leadership of Primetime and took over the work of being the church liaison to bereaved families planning memorial services, neither task of which had been remotely in her job description. She planned budgets with rare aplomb, organized countless dimensions of church life, and jumped in with both feet to the huge panoply of church activities. She got to know us. She has been deeply invested in us. Our gratitude to her is boundless. And we will miss her greatly. Thank you, Melissa, for all you have given to us and done for us. We are grateful beyond words.

I want you to know that church leadership and I are actively engaged in filling that position. We have had numerous applicants, and we are well along in our process. I am confident that we will find just the right person to work with lay leadership and me in guiding and sustaining this church, not just maintaining what already is but dreaming with us about what could be and what can be. As much as we will miss Melissa, it is also true that God will provide for us in ways we cannot yet imagine.

As we arrive at the end of this month of May at the great festival of Pentecost, we will celebrate God's gift to us of the Holy Spirit. May we be attentive to the blowing of that holy wind in our midst. And may we trust that God will provide in ever new and promising ways.

Yours in Christ,



Federated News & Info

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

May 5, Easter Week 6:
John 15:9-17
"I Have Called You Friends"
Rev. Betsy Wooster preaches

May 12, Easter Week 7:
Mother's Day
John 17:6-19
"Everything You Have Given Me Is From You"
Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

May 19:
Pentecost
Psalm 23
"Everyone Who Calls on the Name of God Shall Be Saved"
Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

May 26, :
Trinity Sunday
John 3:1-17
"Born from Above"
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...)

June Spire Deadline

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

Please email your information to communications@fedchurch.org

by **Friday, May 24th**

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.

Jack Freer– April 10

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

Staffing Update from the Moderator

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that Melissa Owen has accepted another position and will be leaving Federated Church. She has been an integral part of the church staff and has seen us through a significant period of change. Throughout Covid, she helped keep the church running smoothly and made significant improvements in our property, facilities and operations. Please join me in expressing our thanks for her service and dedication, her commitment and hard work, and dedication to the Federated congregation as a whole.

Her last day will be May 16th. We will begin recruiting for her replacement immediately. Let us continue to keep Melissa in our prayers as she embarks on this new chapter in her life.

Blessings,

Steve



Welcome to the Flock!

A warm Federated Welcome to our new members. After attending two Inquirer's Classes, they joined on Sunday, April 28th; the morning began with breakfast provided by the Congregational Care Commission, then stating their membership vows with the congregation during the church service, followed by cake and fellowship. Welcome: **Stephen Behmlander, Kimberly Craig, Owen Foster, Toni Foster, Joan Johnson, Walker Johnson, Barbara Robertson, Marilyn Wise, Darren Wyville, and Lynn Wyville.** Be sure to say hello when you see them!

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Women's Ministries

Circle members, mark your calendars! On May 20th, we'll be going out to lunch. The destination will be announced, and we'll meet at 12:30.

Helping Hands will meet on May 27th at 1 o'clock in the room on the lower level. We'll be stuffing pillows and may work on some fidget pads.

Sit & Stitch will continue to meet every Thursday at 10 o'clock in room 340.

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!

May 5– last names beginning with A or B

May 12– last names beginning with C or D

May 19– last names beginning with E, F, or G

May 26– last names beginning with H, I, J, and K



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 Church presents...

TRINKETS 'N TREASURES

Rummage Sale 2024



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**

FedChurch.org/TNT





Silent Saturday - World Labyrinth Day

Praying through Labyrinth and Centering Prayer

Saturday, May 4, 2024
9:45 am - 1:30 pm
Federated Church
76 Bell St., Chagrin Falls



Do you seek the still, quiet voice of God? Come explore the indwelling presence of God within each of us and our intimate relationship with God. We will learn about and practice contemplative prayer, and also explore praying through labyrinth walking.

Light refreshments will be served for breakfast and lunch. (Freewill offering to cover food).

Morning program will end with lunch at noon. Then join us for labyrinth walking at 1 in honor of World Labyrinth Day's invitation to **"Walk as One at One."** We will travel to the Family Life Center Outdoor Labyrinth(16349 Chillicothe Rd. Bainbridge) weather permitting, or walk a labyrinth at 76 Bell Street.

Presented by Federated Church in conjunction with Contemplative Outreach of Northeast Ohio (Coneo.org). Questions? Contact reverendsusi@gmail.com. Please register on: <https://fedchurch.org/events/> or with QR Code:



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Community Partners



An Interfaith Community Dialogue *with a focus on getting to know your Muslim neighbor*

Federated United Church of Christ invites you to share in conversation with people of different belief systems, ethnicities, racial backgrounds, and cultures. Enjoy a cup of tea and light refreshments. Engage in honest dialogue in a nonjudgmental, respectful environment in which each person has an opportunity to listen and to be heard.

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Registration 2:00-2:30

Program 2:30- 4:00

Federated United Church of Christ

Fellowship Hall 76 Bell St. Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

Register at: fedchurch.org/events or call 440-247-6490 or use QR code:
Walk-ins welcome but early registration encouraged to facilitate check-in
Be aware of street construction in the area – follow detours
Parking in lot behind church for handicapped or park up in adjacent middle school lot



Teatime for Peace seeks to build bridges across different religions and cultures, to heal divisions and overcome stereotypes, to reduce fear of the "other". During guided conversations about faith, values, and family history in America, we experience our commonality and shared humanity.

Be Part of Building the Beloved Community



<https://fedchurch.org>



Teatime4Peace@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook



Council on American-
Islamic Relations, Ohio
www.caircleveland.com

FEDERATED CHURCH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
GROUP

Sundays at 11:30 - 1:00

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING!

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!

This will be our last meeting! Thank you to all who were able to make it a great year!

QUESTIONS? EMAIL GARY OR PAUL

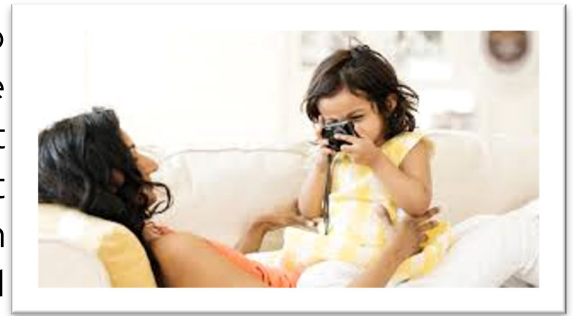
gdd.fedchurch@gmail.com

paulcantlay99mail.com



Mother's Day Pictures Needed

Celebrate the mothers in our lives during our worship service on Sunday, May 12th. Please send a favorite image of your mom to Marty Culbertson at pics@fedchurch.org, noting "Mom Photo" in the subject line. Include your mom's name and send no later than **May 7th**. Let's honor and appreciate all the wonderful moms in our community!



Want to dive a little deeper into
"THE EMOTIONAL LIVES OF TEENAGERS"
by Dr. Lisa Damour?


JOIN US FOR AN IN DEPTH DISCUSSION OF THIS BOOK!


09 MAY 7 PM


Federated Church
76 Bell Street

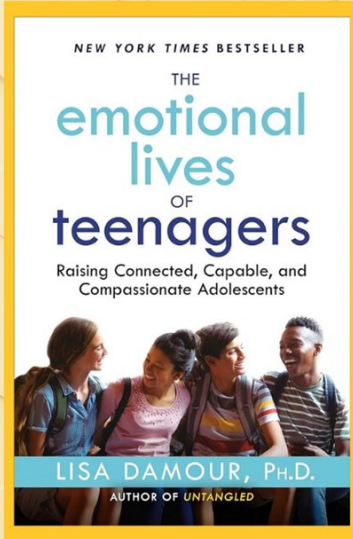
ALL ARE WELCOME!

For more information or to
RSVP email Beth at
brutkowski@fedchurch.org


DR. LISA DAMOUR


federated


Chagrin Falls
Women's League


NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
THE
emotional lives
OF
teenagers
Raising Connected, Capable, and
Compassionate Adolescents
LISA DAMOUR, Ph.D.
AUTHOR OF UNTANGLED

Walkie Talkies

A New Group: WALKIE TALKIES

The Congregational Care Commission is starting a new walking group on Thursday, June 6. It will meet at the church for fun and exercise every Thursday at 9:00 am. We will stay on the sidewalks through the village and all abilities are welcome! For more information, contact Jane Biggar at jcbigggar4@gmail.com.



Federated Church Fellowship Hall 76 Bell Street	Men's Breakfast	8:00am to 10:00am Cost: \$10.00 (includes Hot Breakfast)
	Saturday, May 18, 2024	



Come Hear

Brandon Chrostowski

Founder - Edwins Leadership & Restaurant Institute

Graduate of the Culinary Institute of America

Worked at Senderens in Paris, France

Worked at Le Cirque and Chanterelle in Manhattan

General Manager at L'Albatros in Cleveland

Edwins featured in documentary *Knife Skills*

Topic: Edwins Leadership & Restaurant Institute

Call (440) 247-6490 to make Reservations

Memorial Day Weekend

Sunday, May 26 – Memorial Day Weekend

Our Sunday service will be held at the Family Life Center on May 26. To avoid road closures, as well as parking and traffic issues due to the Blossom Festival and Run, we will meet for worship at the FLC at the usual time of 10:00 am. There will be no Sunday School or childcare, but there will be quiet play-space available for kids.

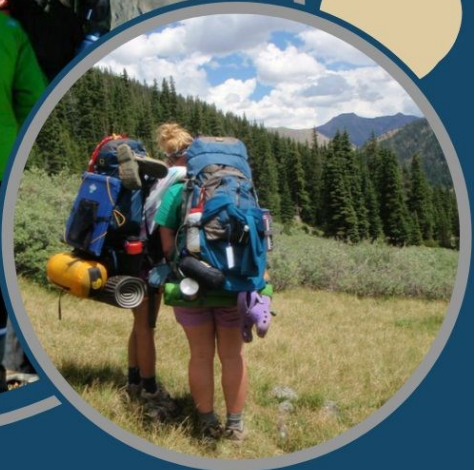
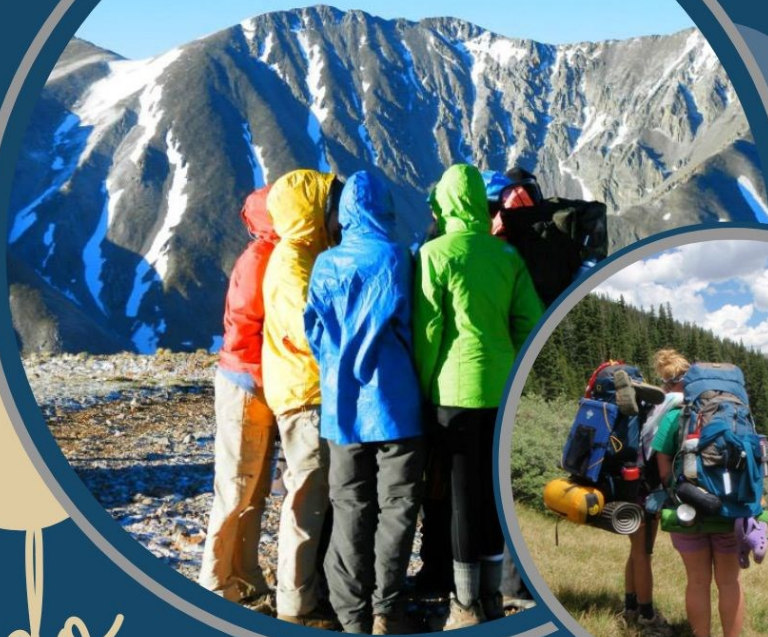


Sunday School on Break

Elementary and middle Sunday school will be on summer break beginning **Sunday, May 26th**. We look forward to welcoming students back on Rally Day, **Sunday, September 8th**. Childcare will be available throughout the summer.



MAY 15th



*Colorado
Kids*

WONDEROUS WEDNESDAY

**Come to hear about the journey and impact
the Colorado trip has had on so many lives!**

The 2024 Colorado Kids serve a meal that any
hiker would wish they could have on trail!
**Free will donations encouraged to support the
faith journey**

Please register for the dinner
contact Katie Harbage (katieharbage@gmail.com)
or sign up on Realm



FEDERATED PERFORMING ARTS
SERIES PRESENTS...

Jack Sutte
Trumpet

Richard Stout
Trombone

Richard King
Horn

FACTORY SECONDS BRASS TRIO IN CONCERT

Friday | May 17th | 7 PM



Join the trio for an evening of incredible brass trio pieces and original arrangements! A reception will follow the program!



76 Bell Street | Chagrin Falls | OH | 44022

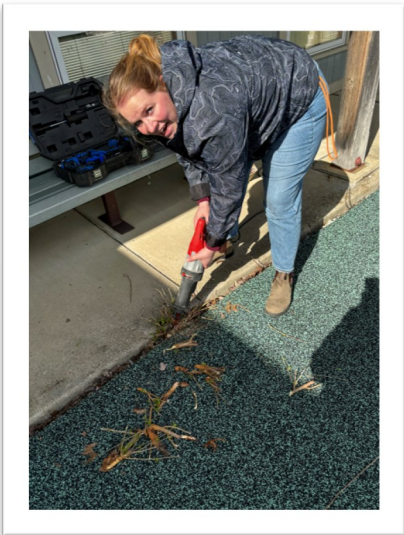
fedchurch.org/pas

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

Fun At Federated




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Primetime Fun!

Primetime Lunch Out: 7 Ladies Tea Parlor Thursday, May 16 at 11:00 AM

7 Ladies Tea Parlor at 107 Center Street, Chardon, Ohio



7 Ladies Tea Parlor located on the Chardon Square and has been lovingly restored to its Victorian era splendor. Join us for tea, laughter and a spectacular lunch.

Only 10 spots available, RSVP ASAP.

Need a ride?

Contact Melissa—carpooling is available!

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Primetime Annual Picnic

Thursday, July 25 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Frohring Meadows, Katydid Shelter
16780 Savage Road
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023

Lunch Menu will include hot dogs, burgers, veggie burgers, beans and potato salad!
Bingo after lunch! Everyone wins a prize!

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

Carpooling available, contact the Office.

RSVP by July 22, 2023



Save These Dates:

- ✓ [Thursday May 16, 11:00 AM: Lunch Out at 7 Ladies Tea Room in Chardon](#)
- ✓ [Friday June 21, Noon: Lunch Out at Welshfield Inn](#)
- ✓ [Thursday, July 25, 11.30 AM: Annual Picnic and Frohring Meadows!](#)

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

Mission & Service

St. Paul's Trailer

Please note, we will not be having a St. Paul's Trailer Collection in May due to the Trinkets N Treasures sale collection. Please save up all your donations for June, or consider donating to Trinkets N Treasures directly. Thank you for your understanding and support!

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



Strengthen the Church Collection

Sunday May 19th

Mission and Service is asking for your support of the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth and young adult ministry, and innovations in existing congregations. This is one of the UCC's 5 for 5 special mission offerings.



Mission & Service

Cleaning Supplies Needed for the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center



Items Needed

- ❖ Sprayer Cleanser with Bleach
- ❖ Ajax or Comet
- ❖ Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- ❖ Scrub Brush
- ❖ Murphy's Oil Soap
- ❖ Mr. Clean/Lysol
- ❖ Paper Towels
- ❖ Sponges
- ❖ Windex
- ❖ Pinesol
- ❖ Laundry Detergent (No HE machines)



*Collecting now through May 23rd
See Marty or Cathy Watterson if you have questions*

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 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.



We strive to become well informed, provide opportunities to educate ourselves, balanced with opportunities to take action. Live Our Faith! To learn more, please contact sjamfedchurch@gmail.com.

Next SJAM Meeting: May 19, 2024 at 11:30 at Bell Street in Lounge, Or join by Zoom using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?pwd=U1VxZU5SZONjcEVkbEcxXpsbVIWdz09>

May Event: Teatime for Peace: Sunday May 5, 2 pm – 4 pm, Fellowship Hall

Come build bridges across different religions and cultures as we enter into conversation with our Muslim neighbors. Details in flyer on page 20.

In MAY, we will be distributing milkweed plants that help the butterflies!

Did you know that monarch butterflies are in a steep decline? One reason for this is that milkweed is the only plant monarch caterpillars can eat. People have been spraying milkweed with weed killers and destroying the wild areas where it grows, leaving the monarchs without a habitat or food. We can help them by planting milkweed in our gardens! The swamp milkweed we're giving out is a beautiful flowering perennial, 2-3 feet tall, that is non-invasive and grows just about anywhere that's sunny. Plant this and other native plants and you should see monarchs in your garden!



The milkweed plants will be available for pick up after worship services on Sundays in Fellowship Hall during May. We are not quite sure yet which Sundays they will be available, so keep an eye out for details. We are suggesting that when you pick up your milkweed plants, you also make a donation at that time to help offset the cost of these wonderful plants.

See details in bulletin on how to get it to plant in your own yard.

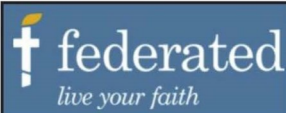
Coming In JUNE:
Affirming our LGBTQ Brothers, Siblings and Sisters:
Cleveland Pride: Saturday, June 1

10AM in Public Square with the march stepping off at 11AM.
To carpool downtown, please email sjamfedchurch@gmail.com

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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



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
- DVD and CD Players
- Cable boxes
- Media player
- NO TVs this time.**



Electronic Recycling Collection

Drive-Through Event

May 11, 2024

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

at the Family Life Center

16349 Chillicothe Rd, Chagrin Falls, Ohio



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

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

Questions, contact: Diane Tuuri - dianeandward@gmail.com

Please spread the news of this important recycling event!

NO TVs will be accepted at this recycling drive.

For more information, go to the recycler website, RET3.org, to learn about how this electronic recycling collection is done safely and securely.

Mission and Service and SJAM

Supporting the



Diapers Needed #2 and #3



Collection will go through
May 23rd

Please leave donations in the Church Lobby

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

May Environmental Tip of the Month

7 DIY Seed Pots From Common Household Items for Starting Seeds Indoors

They are items you likely have in your home!

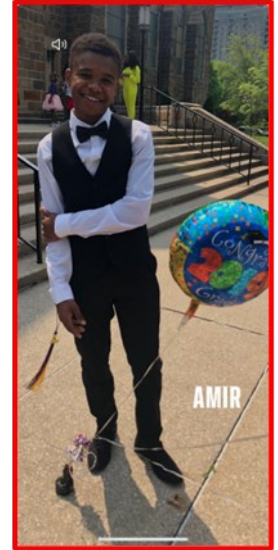
- 1. Newspaper:** Rolled or folded newspaper can be transformed into seedling pots. Here's a [video](#) on how to make newspaper pots!
<https://www.shopetee.com/blogs/news/diy-seed-pots>
- 2. Egg Cartons and Shells:** These can serve as biodegradable containers for seedlings, seamlessly transitioning from indoor to outdoor planting.
- 3. Paper Towel or Toilet Paper Tubes:** These household staples can be repurposed into seedling pots with minimal effort.
- 4. Yogurt Cups & To-Go Containers:** Single-serving plastic containers can be given a second life as seedling pots, promoting reuse and reducing waste.
- 5. Paper Coffee Cups / Milk cartons:** Excellent seedling and planting trays. For milk cartons, lay them on their side and cut one side open.
- 6. DIY Seed Pot Trays:** To keep water and soil contained, you can thrift various containers or boxes to hold your pots.

Not only do you reduce your environmental footprint and save money, you also gain valuable insight into which pots and trays work best for your gardening needs. See the link below for the full article.

By [Derek Markham](#)

<https://www.treehugger.com/diy-seed-pots-common-household-items-starting-seeds-indoors-4858790>

Community Partners



[Tree of Life Witness by Sharena Zayed, whose 15-year-old son Amir was shot dead in Cleveland while walking home from a friend's house](#)

The Community Life Collaborative's **2024 Our Nature Series** continues programs around "Healing the Planet, Healing Communities, Healing Ourselves". 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 communities at work protecting the earth and its people for generations to come. (Above photos show the Tree Of Life Ceremony at Elizabeth Park, Akron, and a sneak peek at the CLC Garden Gala fun)

Learn details about CLC events and register at communitylifecollaborative.org/events/
Saturday, May 4 in Cleveland Heights 9-noon – Getting Our Hands Dirty: Join volunteers in urban community gardens across from Coit Farmers Market in East Cleveland.

May 18 at the FLC 9:30-10:30 at the FLC –Getting Our Hands Dirty: Models of Mobilizing Local Systems for Food Security, the policies that led to food apartheid in Cleveland, and neighborhood solutions that are turning the tide.

May 3-11 at the FLC: Federated's Annual Fundraiser "Trinkets & Treasures" epic rummage sale. Go to Realm to find out how you can contribute, volunteer, or purchase!

May 26 at the FLC: Federated Memorial Day Worship service

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.

Community Partners



Join us at the 3rd Annual Garden Gala

Dancing on **Dewdrops**

Benefiting the Community Life Collaborative

Saturday June 8, 2024

6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Family Life Center
16349 Chillicothe Rd
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023



FAMILY LIFE CENTER

WALK & ROLL

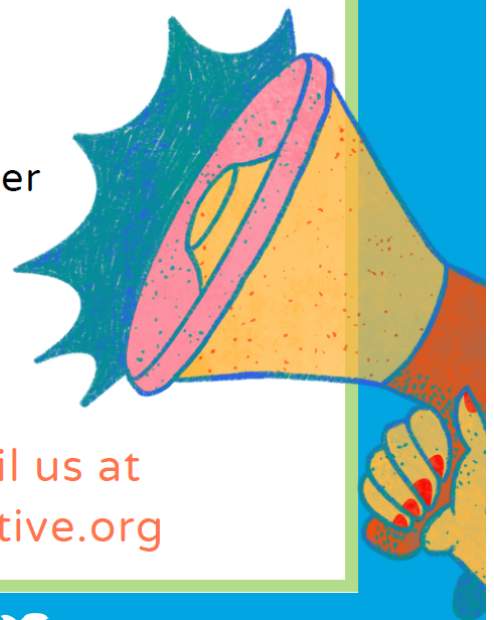
Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays
9:00am - 12:00pm

Visit the Family Life Center,
16349 Chillicothe Rd. Chagrin Falls,
Ohio 44023, for a refreshing walk or
stroll during our open gym walking
hours. Come walk with us and
embrace a healthier, happier
community together.

Note: Wheelchairs, walkers and other
walking support welcome;
No roller-skates, skateboards etc.

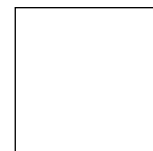
FOR QUESTIONS

Call us at 931-286-6751 or email us at
events@communitylifecollaborative.org



Donations Appreciated





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. 99 No. 30 MAY. 2024
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