

Together in Love, United in Faith



hearts united,
lives connected,
and love shared.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

- Colossians 3:14

In the Interim...

Each day holds a surprise. But only if we expect it can we see, hear, or feel it when it comes to us. Let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy. It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity. – Henri Nouwen

Dear Friends,

Although I am not a person who thinks that the world is going to change simply because we have turned the calendar to a new year, there is something about the possibilities of new beginnings that I find exciting! As we begin this new year at Federated, there will be new beginnings and joyful surprises as the work of calling a new pastor begins in earnest.

In addition to the work of the search committee, I have recently formed a transition team who will work with me over the remainder of my time with you. I am pleased to share that Beth Rutkowski, Adam Graves, Padi Joseph, Robin Harbage and Peggie Jo Shinagawa will help to prepare the congregation for the arrival of the new pastor.

While the search committee's focus is on creating a church profile to advertise the opening and then interview and select a candidate, the transition team will work to prepare the congregation for the arrival of the new pastor. We will be considering the history of the congregation, identifying its greatest achievements and moments of great pride while also identifying any unresolved conflicts. We will prayerfully consider who God is calling the church to be in this time and ensuring that the infrastructure is in place when the new pastor arrives so that you can thrive.

As you know, the search committee has planned a series of listening sessions this month to hear what you are seeking in a new pastor. Members of the transition team will also be present at each session, carefully listening to what you share. We will then compile what we learn and use it in our preparation work.

Change can often be hard for people, but my prayer is that we will be able to embrace Henri Nouwen's wise words and celebrate as a surprise the opportunity to open a new place in our hearts to welcome a new pastor and celebrate our shared humanity.

Shalom,

Vicki



Contacting Pastor Vicki

Because Vicki's contract is only for $\frac{3}{4}$ time and because her responsibilities for aiding us through our transition are a bit different than those for a settled pastor, she will not be reliably in the office. However, she wants to be available to members of the congregation whenever the need to chat with the pastor arises.

The best way to schedule a meeting with Vicki is to text, call or email. Please reach out with any needs at 216.849.1942 or vmcgaw@fedchurch.org. Vicki's commitment is to return all calls as promptly as possible.

Women's Ministries

Circle will be meeting on January 20 for lunch at 12:30pm. Destination to be announced.

Sit & Stitch continues to meet every Thursday from 10 am to 12 pm in Room 340. Looking forward to some new knitters and crocheters to join us to make prayer shawls and prayer squares and we always need hats and scarves.

Helping Hands will be meeting on January 27th at 1pm. Time to stuff some more cancer pills for hospice.

Loaves & Fishes will be serving lunch on January 26. If anyone would like to donate some cookies please let Lynne know.

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!

January 5– last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y, or Z

January 12– last names beginning with A or B

January 19– last names beginning with C or D

January 26– last names beginning with E, F, or G



Senior Pastor Search Committee Updates

The search committee for our next senior pastor is hard at work. The first stage in this process is for us to gather information from you, the congregation, about who we are as a congregation and who we believe God is calling us to be. Once we have heard from you, we will gather this information into a document, called our Local Church Profile, which will be circulated to potential candidates.

To help us gather this information, we will be holding a series of listening sessions throughout the month of January. We ask you to attend ONE of these sessions. Please watch your weekly email and the Sunday announcements for details as some of these sessions will be in person, some will be held via zoom.

As you come to these sessions, reflect on the following: An example of Federated's strengths; the key qualities you value in your senior pastor; and who you believe God is calling Federated Church UCC to become.

Listening session dates and times:

In-Person after Worship:

- **Sunday January 12th**
- **Sunday January 19th**
- **Sunday January 26th**

Virtual via Zoom:

- [7pm Tuesday January 14th](#)
- **7pm Thursday January 23rd**

With gratitude for your prayers and participation,

The Senior Pastor Search Committee

Jeff Miller, Maren Koepf, Dave Watterson, Dan Kerschner, Kelly Lawrence, Harriett Rogers, Jill Harkins Goodman



Federated Nametags

Federated Family, we are starting phase one of our nametag project. Over the next several weeks, we will have a table with name tags in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sundays. Check the table for more details!



BIG NEWS

We will be creating a new Church Picture Directory in 2025! Stay tuned to church publications for more details.



Wondrous Wednesday

Blue January Wondrous Wednesday Event!

Join us for Blue January on January 15, 2025 from 6:00pm-8:00pm. The New Year can be a time of celebration, but it can also be a difficult time of year for us and those we love.

We will be joined by a presenter from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)-Cleveland who will give an overview about mental illness and the stigma that surrounds it. We will share supper together before the presentation. Please RSVP so we have the right amount of food.

Sign up for the dinner at fedchurch.org/events or at the Angel Desk.



Thank You For Your Generosity!

We are so grateful for the extraordinary generosity displayed during our Christmas Eve services. Your heartfelt gifts embody the true spirit of the season, bringing hope and support to those in need.

For over 60 years, Federated Church has supported organizations that profoundly impact lives, and this year we are proud to support **Re:Source Cleveland** as the recipient of our 2024 Christmas Eve Offering.

Re:Source Cleveland works at empowering resettled families to grow roots, achieve self-sufficiency, and become contributing members of their new communities.

Re:Source Cleveland bridges the gap for these individuals and families, offering personalized education, support, and programs such as Youth Mentoring, Teen Response, Adult Tutoring, and the Ohio City Farm.

Your generosity during the Christmas Eve Offering helps sustain this vital work by supporting the purchase of a Refrigerated Truck for the Ohio City Farm.

If you didn't have the chance to give, donations are still being accepted at fedchurch.org/giving.

To learn more about Re:Source Cleveland visit resourcecleveland.org.

Thank you for sharing God's love and hope with those who need it most. We are truly blessed by the kindness and compassion of our congregation.

With Christ's Love,

The Mission and Services
Commission



Christmas Wreath or Poinsettia Fund

Federated's **Youth Programs** are so appreciative of all those who purchased a poinsettia or wreath *in honor* or *in memory* of a loved one. Thank you for your support, for beautifying our Sanctuary during this holiday season, and for remembering someone special in your life this way. Federated is a premier messenger of Grace and love - and your thoughtfulness makes that possible.

Many thanks to:

The Antil Family	In memory of Joel E. Novak, Lisa's Dad
Tom and Heidi Asplin	In honor of our family and friends
Eric & Tricia Baumgartner	In memory of our parents
Janet Berlincourt	In memory of my parents, Mr. & Mrs Don Berlincourt
Janet Berlincourt	In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ted Berlincourt
Barry Biggin	In loving memory of his mother Phyllis Biggin and his sister Gerry Ann Draeger
Kathie Biggin	In loving memory of her parents Clark and Jean Zimmerman
Jan Blank	In memory of Charles Blank and Michael Slocombe
Jeanette Brown	In memory of John Laskowski
Jeanette Brown	In memory of Helmut Fochler
Jeanette Brown	In memory of Dr. Glenn Brown
Becky Carter	In memory of Virginia & Paul Stewart (parents) and Helen Brown (friend)
Marty Culbertson & Martine Scheuermann	In memory of Al & Shirley Culbertson
Marty Culbertson & Martine Scheuermann	In memory of George & Nancy Scheuermann
Marty Culbertson & Martine Scheuermann	In memory of Mike Scheuermann
Marty Culbertson & Martine Scheuermann	In memory of Rich Scheuermann
Marty Culbertson & Martine Scheuermann	In honor of Jim Scheuermann and Loaves & Fishes
Mark and Kathleen Davis	In loving memory of Richard Hobson and Will Dav
Gary and Dawn Dole	In loving memory of Dawn's dad - Loy Cooperride
Gary and Dawn Dole	In loving memory of Gary's dad - John Dole
Steve and Kelly Downey	In honor of loved ones
Phyllis Ference	In memory of Bob Ference
Tom & Amy Groneman	In memory of Anne & Dix Dishong
Tom & Amy Groneman	In memory of Ruth & Robert Groneman
Leon & Joy Haddix	In memory of Bill Haddix
Judy Harvey	In honor of the Harvey Family
Ali & Brady Hively	In memory of Tom Hively
Lee & Karen Johns	In memory of Lila, Bill and Peter Johns
Lee & Karen Johns	In memory of Margaret, Norman and John Hurst
Vicki Jones	In memory of Rick & Leslie Jones
Don & Charlene Krejci, Sarah Krejci and Patrick Cox	In memory of Charles W. and Frances Bates
Don & Charlene Krejci, Sarah Krejci and Patrick Cox	In memory of Jerry and Evelyn Krejci
Anne Moore Layne and Extended Family	In memory of Joyce Moore
Anne Moore Layne and Extended Family	In honor of Larry Moore
Thea & Chuck Mazingo	In Memory of Charles and Dee Mazingo
Ward Pierson	In memory of Marilyn Pierson
Judy Riemenschneider	In memory of Dr. Tom Riemenschneider
The Ryan Family	For Larry Trace, A Great Friend
Cindy Scott & Miriam Huebscher-Scott	From the Huebscher-Scott Family
Marcia Snavelly	In memory of Scott Snavelly
Marcia Snavelly	In memory of Larry, Charles & Ruth King
Marcia Snavelly	In memory of Marion & Geoff Snavelly
Jim Squire	In honor of Linda's 80th Birthday on 12/27
Darren & Lynn Wyville	In memory of Glenn Wyville, we miss you Papa
Darren & Lynn Wyville	In honor of Marilyn Wyville, we love you so Grandma
	In honor of Federated Church Staff
	In honor of Federated Church Lay Leaders



Rev. Betsy's Spiritual Formation Corner

Our Eighteen Confirmation Students of 2024-25!

"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*



Confirmation Sunday May 4th – Save the Date!

We look forward to these youth affirming their Baptism and entering into full membership at Federated Church by the solemn rite of Confirmation during Sunday worship service on May 4th! It seems far away now but will be here before we know it!

A Re-Cap of this Year's Confirmation Class so far:

Throughout the year, our Confirmation classes are designed to support our youth as they have explored the faith of their childhood through the lens of a growing adult. Confirmation Class is a sacred space in which our youth can gather in friendship to share a meal, explore their faith, ask questions, and share experiences with one another. Our teens experience the Confirmation journey through:

- Story
- Small group discussions
- Personal reflection
- Group Scripture reflections and prayer
- Questions and Study
- Regular meetings with their Confirmation Mentors to support their journey.
- Good humor and more!
- More fun and an "off campus" outing coming in the months ahead!

The culmination of these experiences, and others that will happen in the months ahead, are shared on Confirmation Sunday, where our youth are invited to affirm their baptism and confirm their faith in the presence of their church family. Please be sure join us on this special day to celebrate and support this wonderful group of students!

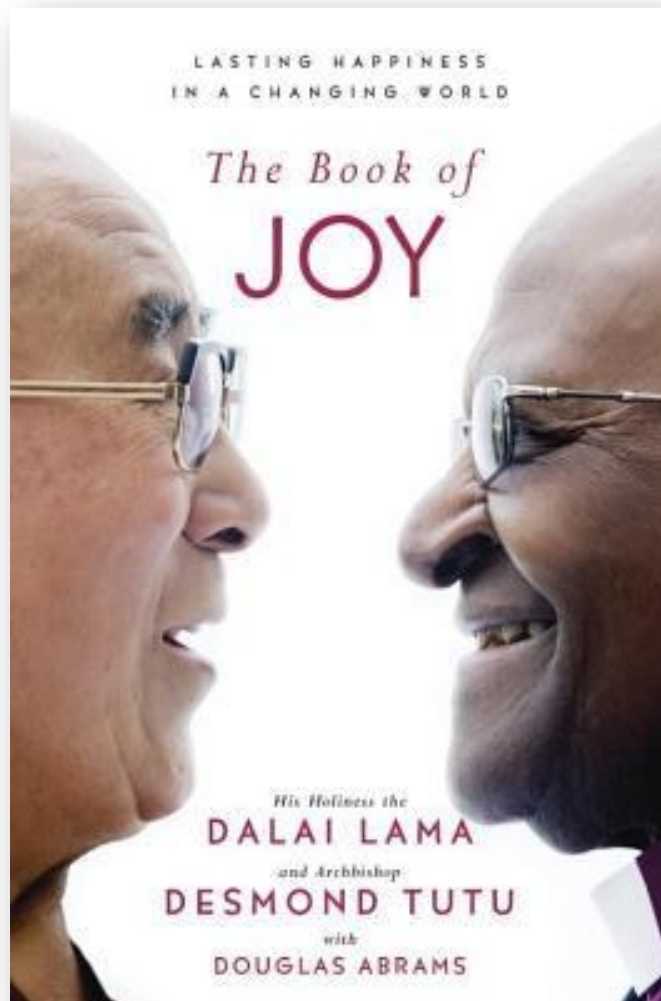
January-February Book Study

January-February Book Study: *The Book of Joy*

Join us to explore *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by Douglas Carlton Abrams, the Dalai Lama, and Desmond Tutu. Choose one or both options to participate:

- **Traditional Book Study:** Wednesdays, January 15 - February 19, at 1 pm in Room G30, led by Cathy Digel.
- **One-Night Discussion:** Read the book or watch the documentary independently, then gather for a discussion on February 26 at 7 pm in Room G30, led by Marc Arnold.

Visit fedchurch.org/events to [RSVP](#). Don't miss this meaningful opportunity for reflection and connection!



Generosity Corner

Are you ALL In?

Thank you for your pledges! As of this writing, we have received 47% percent of pledges returned. Our goal for 2025 is to have 75% of households pledge.

As we prepare for 2025, we ask that you keep a few things in mind. *We can only budget on dollars pledged.* If you love worship, music, Wondrous Wednesday, Book Groups, SPIFFY & GROUP, Sunday School, the Spire, Fellowship Hour, the Performing Art Series, Mahjong, Bridge, Sit & Stitch and so much more, WE NEED YOU! Your pledges help us support the heart, mission and day to day of your church home.

We also want to make sure that we have a strong budget as we look to attract and call a new minister.

You can still pledge now through REALM, by turning in a pledge card or by emailing Thea at tmozingo@fedchurch.org. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Thank you for your support and we wish you a blessed New Year!

Thea Mozingo

tmozingo@fedchurch.org

440-247-6490 x115



Primetime Fun!

We would love to see YOU at a Primetime event! Primetime is for church members and non-members alike—bring your friends. Even if you have never been and just want to learn more, we would love to have you join us. Contact Thea at tmozingo@fedchurch with any questions.

Lunch Out at Two Cafe

Thursday, January 9th

Noon

Two Cafe

Let's join together for a fun lunch out at a great new place that is doing amazing work in our community!



We will meet at Two Cafe at Noon. Please RSVP so we can get the correct number for a reservation. Contact Thea at tmozingo@fedchurch.org to RSVP.

Primetime Committee Meeting

Monday, January 20th

3 PM

Lounge



Calling all Primetime members! We're kicking off the new year by planning an exciting lineup of trips, events, and outings for 2025. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your ideas and help shape the year ahead. Whether you have specific destinations in mind or unique activities to suggest, your input is invaluable.

We can't wait to see you there!

Contact Thea at tmozingo@fedchurch.org, for more information.

Save The Date: Save the date for some Primetime Fun! Watch the website and publications for updates!

- **February 13th: TBD**



RSVP via [REALM](#) or to Thea: tmozingo@fedchurch.org / 440.247.6490

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.



Next SJAM Meeting: January 19, 2025 at 11:30 at Bell Street in the Lower Level Meeting Room Or join by Zoom using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?pwd=U1VxZU5SZONjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVIWdz09>

Creation Care December Tips of the Month



LET'S KEEP THOSE BURNED-OUT LIGHT STRANDS AND EXTENSION CORDS OUT OF THE LANDFILL.

PLEASE RECYCLE THEM AND HELP THE LION AND CHEETAH CONSERVATION PROGRAM AT THE CLEVELAND METRO PARKS ZOO

BRING YOUR OLD LIGHTS AND EXTENSION CORDS TO THE CHURCH LOBBY (OFF THE PARKING LOT) ANYTIME AFTER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY THROUGH JANUARY 26TH



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

Social Justice Advocacy Ministry

Presents a series

on

Reparations

Part 1 of 2

Monday Jan. 13 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Local Efforts toward Repair and Restoration

Family Life Center ([16349 Chillicothe Rd., Chagrin Falls](#))

Featuring a panel discussion:

**Quentin Smith on Forest Hill Presbyterian's Task Force on
Racial Repair and Restoration**

**Michael Howard, Minister of Faith in Action, Living Waters
Association, UCC: "Building Community Resilience"**

**Ann Watson, founder of "Bridging the Gap", which raises
money to support youth in Chagrin Falls Park.**

Moderated by Bill Shaul

SJAM

Social Justice Advocacy Ministry

Presents a series

on

Reparations

Part 2 of 2

February 10

(Mark your Calendar)

Expanding the discussion:

National Reparation efforts

A discussion led by Robin Harbage, member of the Board of Trustees for the College of Wooster, on some possible directions Colleges and Universities are taking in light of recent legal decisions that dilute Affirmative Action efforts.

Brainstorm further action we can take as a result of what we have learned after these two monthly presentations.

Youth & Family
Ms. Kristin's



Birth - 8th grade

There's "Snow" Friend Like Jesus!



Happy New Year, Federated families! As you look forward to all that 2025 has to offer and bring your way, remember that God is always with you. That in Jesus, you always have guidance and support.

This month, Sunday School is back to focusing on the lessons being studied in "big church." My challenge to you - spend some time each week discussing what everyone in the family learned on Sunday and make connections.

January 5th: What is Epiphany?

January 12th: Giving back

January 19th: What we believe about the Bible

January 26th: Healthy in Mind, Body and Spirit

Federated Church

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

'24-'25 Season



Saturday, September 14, 2024, 7 PM, FREE

Brian Wilson Plays Beethoven and Chopin

Brian Wilson, pianist and technician



Saturday, October 12, 2024, 7 PM, FREE

**In Tribute to Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton:
The Arts and Faith**

*Featuring the Federated Choir, chamber orchestra,
Federated musicians, and special guests!*



Sunday, December 22, 2024, 4 PM

**The King's Brass:
Christmas Celebration**

Tickets: \$30-\$50. Student tickets: \$10



Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 7 PM

**Voices from the Other Side:
evocative chamber works for cello octet with soprano**
*CD Release concert in collaboration with the Cleveland
Cello Society and composer Margi Griebing-Haigh*
Tickets: \$25-\$45. Student tickets: \$10



Saturday, April 12, 2025, 7:30 PM

**Baldwin Wallace Men's Chorus and
University School Glee Club: "Music Within"**

Tickets: \$20-\$40. Student tickets: \$10



Saturday, May 17, 2025, 6 PM
Family Life Center

**Sammy Deleon y su Orquesta
(Latin Jazz with a Latin-inspired dinner!)**

Tickets: \$20. Kids 12 and under: \$5

federated
grow



f federated

Tickets can be found at fedchurch.org/pas
Federated Church | 76 Bell Street | Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

Community Partners



The Community Life Collaborative to Co-sponsor Workshops with Spark Acumen in 2025

Change-makers, assemble!

The Community Life Collaborative is partnering with Spark Acumen to provide *FREE workshops* to develop community organizers. Join a multi-generational workshop equipping individuals & groups with leadership skills for nonviolent community organizing and how to increase the success of their climate justice advocacy and movement.

Saturday, January 18, 9am-4pm at the FLC: **Making Our Actions Count—An Introduction to Strategic Nonviolent Organizing.**

This training is designed to equip participants with the skills, strategies, and principles of nonviolent resistance, enabling them to organize for social and environmental justice with clarity and compassion. Through interactive and hands-on activities, you'll learn how to effectively engage in peaceful direct actions, and advocate for policies that protect both people and the planet.

Rooted in the principles of nonviolence, this training emphasizes the power of collective action, community-building, and peaceful resistance as tools for creating lasting social change. Whether you're new to organizing or looking to **deepen your impact**, this training will provide you with the knowledge and confidence to **be a catalyst for positive environmental and social transformation**. **Free workshop, lunch included. Donations encouraged. [Registration required.](#)**

Joe Worthy, of **Spark Acumen**, will lead the workshop. He is the Director of Education at the Albert Einstein Institution, where he **coaches young nonviolent activists in leadership skills** and develops the project planning capacities of the Institution. Joe is a Community Organizer by trade, building and leading community organizing projects that have ended Zero Tolerance Policies in Boston and overhauled Cleveland's Citizens Review board in response to the police homicide of Tamir Rice and Tanisha Anderson. Previously, he was the **National Organizer of the Children's Defense Fund**, working to end the Cradle to Prison Pipeline. Additionally, Joe was a Community Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School where he further developed his skills as an organizer and political scientist. **Spark Acumen— We bring together purpose and expertise to drive revolutionary change.**

Thursday, Feb. 6, 6-8pm at the FLC: **[Sprout and Share: Cultivating Connections & Sustainable Gardening Practices.](#)** A thinktank for cross-pollinating ideas and initiatives for meaningful change.

SAVE the DATE June 14, 2025 for CLC Garden Gala: Cultivating a Better tomorrow

The CLC is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit fostering community collaborations for a just and sustainable world. We are proud to be strategic partners with the Federated Church to advance community engagement in critical issues and shared solutions. To get involved or engage in initiatives, subscribe to CLC email blasts, follow us on social media, or reach out anytime! 440-708-1961. Contact admin@communitylifecollaborative or check out our website at communitylifecollaborative.org



Destinee Burse, CLC Executive Director



Allen Garland, Facilities Manager





MAKING OUR ACTIONS COUNT: AN INTRODUCTION TO STRATEGIC NONVIOLENT ORGANIZING

This training is designed to equip participants with the skills, strategies, and principles of nonviolent resistance, enabling them to organize for social and environmental justice with clarity and compassion. Participants will work together to solidify their commitment, define their purpose, and develop a plan for progress.



What we'll Do:

- ✓ Connecting with Purpose
- ✓ Introduction to Organizing
- ✓ Understanding Strategy
- ✓ Understanding Tactics

Jan **18** SAT
9AM

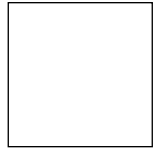
Family Life Center
16349 Cillicothe Rd, Chagrin
Falls, OH 44023

***Join us in cultivating a better tomorrow and leaving a
lasting impact on history.***

[Free registration required.](#)



76 Bell Street
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022



Contact Us!

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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

Vicki McGaw, *Interim Pastor*
Betsy Wooster, *Pastor of Spiritual Formation*

Administration Staff

Beth Rutkowski, *Senior Director of People and Operations*
Brooke Strong, *Congregational Life Administrator*
Thea Mazingo, *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 Snavelly**, *Organist*
* **Pat Haynish**, *Director of Children's Choir*

Children's Ministries Staff

* **Kristin LeFeber**, *Director of Children's Faith Formation*

* denotes part-time staff


federated
**Hope to see you
this Sunday!**
10:00 AM
In person and Online