

Let Love Be Your Identity



“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things; Love never fails.”

-1 Corinthians 13:7-8

In the Interim...

One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.

– Bryant H. McGill

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we have just completed the last of five meaningful search committee listening sessions. As I noted last month, members of the transition team also attended and listened at each session so that we could listen for things that will help us prepare the congregation for the arrival of a new pastor.

Having attended each session, it was a privilege to hear what is on people's hearts about their church and the pastoral search. As Dan Kershner noted, because you were willing to openly and honestly speak your truth, we have learned so much more than a simple survey could have ever told us

There were definitely some common threads that we heard and, over the next month, the transition team will gather to review our notes and determine how we will proceed in using this information to help prepare the congregation for the new pastor. Watch for announcements about forums to dig deeper into strengths and concerns.

We will also continue our theme of listening into the Lenten season which will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Our worship theme for this season will be "Listen: Hearing God's Still Small Voice and Finding Your Own." The services will have a contemplative tone, allow time for prayer and reflection including writing in beautiful journals that will be shared each week, and of course preaching on meaningful texts that draw us deeper into the season of reflection. Look for more details in this edition of *The Spire* and in the weeks to come.

Thank you for sharing from your hearts over this past month. Now, prepare to listen closely for God's voice speaking to you and leading you in the meaningful season of Lent.

Shalom,

Vicki



Women's Ministries

Women's Fellowship is serving our baked potato luncheon on February 11th... punch will be served at 11:30 AM.... baked potatoes at 12 with all the fixings.... then we will work on our service projects.... making up toiletry kits! looking for donations for the toiletry kits. Call me for further information. We will also be making cards for Valentine's Day. Sending them off to Geauga County department of aging . Join us for a fun and productive afternoon.

Circle will be meeting on February 17th at 12:30 at Coyotes for lunch and fellowship!

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. We have plenty of yarn to share!

Helping Hands will meet on February 24th at 1 PM in Room G30. We will have cancer pillows to stuff and sew shut up 35% to distribute to hospice of the western reserve. If you would like to make some of the pillows, we have some sewing machines for you to use ... and plenty of fabric.....or you can make them at home. We can give you the directions. Hope you can join us. Last month our Helping Hands group has made 277 cancer pillows that have been distributed to hospice of the western reserve for the year and 19 fidget blankets for memory care!

Loaves & Fishes will be serving the folks at St Paul's on February 23rd... If you would like to help him or make some cookies... please let me 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!

- February 2– last names beginning with H, I, J, or K**
- February 9– last names beginning with L or M**
- February 16– last names beginning with N, O, P, Q, or R**
- February 23– last names beginning with S or T**



Celebrating Mardi Gras!

As many people know, Mardi Gras is the celebration that immediately precedes Ash Wednesday and the more solemn season of Lent. This year we will celebrate Mardi Gras in worship on March 2nd with a jubilant parade into the sanctuary. Join us in the narthex to pick up a mask and some beads, then join us as we dance into worship for one final celebration before Ash Wednesday.



After worship, join us in Fellowship Hall for a pancake breakfast sponsored by our youth groups. The tradition of pancakes on this day (or often on Shrove Tuesday) began as an opportunity to use up the surplus of eggs, milk and butter prior to Lent. The Dixieland jazz will be playing, the pancakes will be a flipping, the sausage sizzling and your beads and masks will await you in Fellowship Hall. A goodwill offering will be received for breakfast with proceeds benefitting the youth programs. We hope to see you there!

Ash Wednesday Service



Wednesday, March 5th at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Begin your Lenten journey with worship including prayer, confession, reflection, and the imposition of ashes.

All are invited to participate in this short, simple service as we seek forgiveness and recommitment to our Christian calling.

Lenten Season



This Lent, join us as we listen for God's still small voice and seek to find our own. Our liturgy will change a bit for the season to create more space to listen. In lingering silence, through contemplative music, and in a variety of prayer forms, we will quiet ourselves even as we tune in closely to listen for God's still speaking voice. Watch for more information coming in the next month as we prepare for a meaningful season leading us into Holy week and the resurrection joy of Easter!

Prayers At Federated

Federated Family, we have had a few questions about the different ways that you can share prayer concerns with your church family.

You are always encouraged to use the blue prayer cards found in the pews and in other places around the church to share with us any concerns you have that could use some extra prayer. These prayer requests are sent to our Prayer & Praise team, which includes staff, ministers and a prayer team made up of church members. You can share as many or as few details as you like. These requests are shared weekly via email with the Prayer & Praise Team.

The Fellowship of Prayer that is listed in the Sunday bulletin is reserved for members who have recently received medical care, been hospitalized or for members who have passed away.

Feel free to reach out to staff with any questions.



Angel Desk

When? Monday Morning from 10AM-1PM, Tuesday 1-4PM, Thursday 1-4PM and Friday 10AM-4PM. We do not need/expect you to work the full day. Most angels work 10AM-1PM and 1-4PM.

What? Be a friendly face for someone visiting the building, give directions and help with mailings and office work.

Please contact Thea at tmozingo@fedchurch.org with any questions or to sign up.



Federated Church Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 23rd
Immediately Following Worship
Sanctuary or via [Zoom](#)

Join us **Sunday, February 23rd**, immediately following worship, for our **Annual Meeting** in the Sanctuary or via [Zoom](#). This is an important time to reflect on the past year, discuss future plans, and participate in the life of our church community.

Watch for the Annual Report and Financial Report, which will be sent via email the week before the meeting. We encourage you to review them in advance and join us for this meaningful gathering.



Fellowship Hour Help

Have you always dreamt of hosting coffee fellowship for your fellow parishioners but have been too afraid to try it? Or thought, I'd love to serve my church in a meaningful way, but can't commit to volunteering every week. If so, the Congregational Care Commission has an amazing opportunity for you! We are seeking volunteers to assist us with hosting coffee fellowship throughout the year. Sign-up today for one Sunday or multiple Sundays – it's a fun and easy way to serve our church! And don't worry, you won't be hosting alone – a member of the Congregational Care Commission will guide you through preparations and clean-up. To learn more about this opportunity, contact Heidi Asplin at 216-577-5658.



Membership & Nominating

Upcoming Inquirers Class

Are you a visitor or frequent attendee or know someone who is? We invite you to become more connected with your Federated Family. Membership is a deeper connection, offers leadership and committee opportunities, and gives voting rights at the annual meeting. But, more importantly, membership is a spiritual decision - a decision to commit to the church, the congregation, and the Missions of the Church. Inquirer's classes for those interested in joining will be held in the fall. Contact the church office to sign up. Watch the Spire and bulletin for further details.

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HELLO
my name is

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.



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Wondrous Wednesday

Be Still and Know: Simple Practices to Return to Peace and Resilience

Join **Polly Manke**, Founder and Director of The Heart Center | Yoga Wellness Reiki, for an enlightening session on nervous system fitness. Polly, a certified holistic coach, yoga therapy practitioner, and Reiki Master, will guide participants through both theory and practice to help navigate today's rapidly changing world.

Discover the science behind the **nervous system, Vagus nerve, and the power of awareness**, and experience simple yet powerful techniques to **increase vagal tone, build resilience, and restore balance and peace.**

Polly reminds us: *"Nervous system fitness is at least as important as physical fitness."* Don't miss this opportunity to learn essential tools for coping and thriving!

February 19, 2025

6 PM Dinner

7-8:30 PM Program.

Members and guests are welcome.!

Sign up at fedchurch.org/events, REALM, or at the Angel Desk.

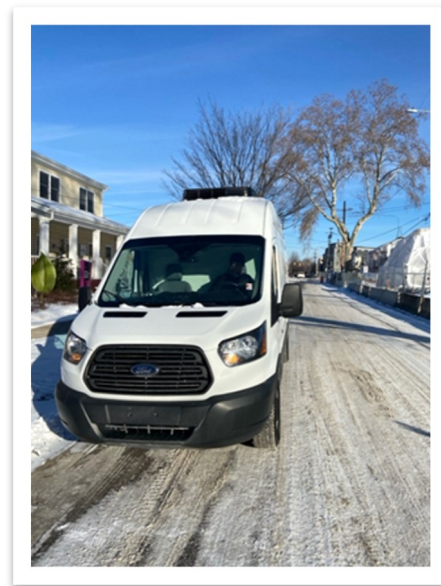
Please indicate whether you will attend the dinner and program OR just the program.



Christmas Eve Offering Update

The Mission and Service Commission would like to express gratitude for this Church Family's continued faithful support of our long-standing tradition of transforming lives through the Christmas Eve Offering. As you know, the 2024 offering went to RE:Source Cleveland to support the Ohio City Farm.

On January 19, 2024, Federated presented Re:Source: Cleveland with a gift of \$31,876 and in the following week more funds were donated. These additional funds will be sent and our 2024 Christmas Eve Offering will reach nearly \$33,000. Our Gift was put to work immediately, ReSource: Cleveland has already secured their much needed refrigerated van to expand the reach of the Ohio City Farm. Over 90% of the cost of the van was covered with our gift. So again... THANK YOU!



Family Life Center Updates

Dear Federated Church congregation,

At last year’s Annual Meeting (held on 2/25/24), the congregation voted 221 to 96 **NOT to sell** the Family Life Center (FLC) property at 16349 Chillicothe Road. As a result of this decision, your Church Council has worked closely with the Community Life Collaborative (CLC) over the past year to thoughtfully address the following requirements:

- 1) An extension or a replacement of the current 4-year management agreement between the Federated Church and the CLC, set to expire on March 31, 2025.
- 2) A responsible financial solution to provide for the Deferred Capital Maintenance needs of the FLC property, which are estimated to be between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000 over the coming decade.

Church Council is pleased to share that the terms and conditions of a new management agreement have been aligned between representatives from the Federated Church and the CLC. In accordance with the Church’s constitution (e.g. items that exceed a financial impact of \$100,000), a congregational vote will be held at this year’s annual meeting (set for 2/23/25) to approve the key terms of this new agreement. Additionally, in service of addressing the long term cost of ownership of the FLC, the Federated Church will conduct a capital campaign between February and May of 2025 with the goal of raising \$1,000,000 to provide for the future capital maintenance needs of the FLC property. In advance of the annual meeting, we ask that you take note of and thoughtfully consider the following information.

What changes in the new management agreement?

	Expiring Agreement	New Agreement
Duration	4-year term ending on 3/31/25	5-year term ending on 3/31/30, incl. rollover option
Fees Paid	\$1 in years one and two, \$20,000 in year three and \$30,000 in year four	\$25,000 per year in each of the 5 years
Purpose of Fees	Federated Church’s annual operating budget	Designated Fund for Deferred Major Maintenance on the FLC property

What Deferred Capital Maintenance needs are being assumed in the FLC Capital Campaign and what amount is currently available in the Church’s designated fund?

Family Life Center Capital Needs	Estimates
HVAC	\$350,000
Roof/Siding	\$200,000
Parking Lot Paving and Drainage	\$190,000
Unforeseen Capital Expenditures	\$200,000
Subtotal	\$940,000
Designated Funds Available	(\$140,000)
Minimum Capital Campaign Requirements	\$800,000

Note: Itemized estimates are subject to bidding and will be reviewed with the congregation



Next Steps

- 1) Church Council recommends that you attend the Annual Meeting on 2/23/25 and vote in favor of the New Management Agreement between the Federated Church and the CLC.
- 2) Please thoughtfully consider giving to the FLC Capital Campaign in service of addressing Federated Church’s long term cost of ownership of the FLC. Stay tuned for additional information on this initiative.

Rev. Betsy's Spiritual Formation Corner

JOIN OUR ALL- CHURCH LENTEN BOOK GROUPS THIS SPRING!

Supported by the Spiritual Formation Commission

This March & April we'll read and discuss the book

The Last Week:

A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem

Written by Marcus J. Borg & John Dominic Crossan

At the heart of this book is the depiction of "Jesus giving up his life to protest power without justice and to condemn those who lack concern for the poor. We meet not only the historical Jesus, but the Jesus who engages us and invites us to follow him."

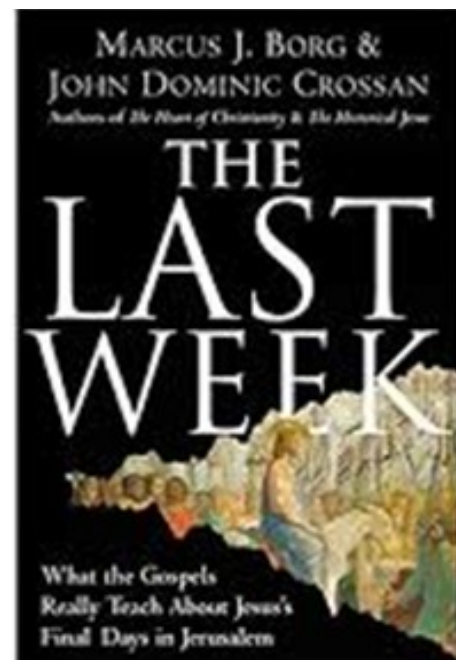
Book Study Dates and Time(s)

- A Men's Book group on Tuesday evenings, 7-8:30PM
Tuesdays **March 18-April 15**, Led by **Dan Kershner**
- A Book group on Wednesday Afternoons, 1-2:30PM
***This is a hybrid option both in person and by Zoom.**
Wednesdays **March 12-April 16**, Led by **Betsy Wooster**
- A Book group on Wednesday evenings, 7-8:30PM
Wednesdays **March 12-April 16**, Led by **Vicki McGaw**

How to sign up?

- You can sign-up for the book group(s) on Realm beginning **February 16th**.
- Or, you can Sign up in person after worship starting on **February 16th**
 - Look for the Spiritual Formation Commission Table in Fellowship Hall!
 - *There will be a supply of books for purchase at the sign-up table.
 - *If and when all books are sold, you can easily purchase the book online.

Please Join us to Read and Explore this world changing week in Jesus's life and in the Christian Faith that is our Home.



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.

Save the Dates!



February 13th 12:00pm Primetime Lunch Out:
Pub Frato, Chagrin Falls (self pay event)

March 13th Noon to 2:00pm Violinist Mary Beth Ions – Program & Lunch here at the church in Fellowship Hall (lunch and program, \$10)

April 17th 11:00am to 4:00pm Lunch at Mario Fazios at 11:30am and then a trip to Lake Farmpark for the Quilt Show We will meet at the FLC and take a bus. Lunch is self pay and tickets to Farmpark, including the Quilt Show, are \$8. The church will cover the cost of the bus.

May 15th Noon – 2:00pm Mary Ann Boysen Art Project and Lunch here in Fellowship Hall. Art project is a jar/vase project and cost is \$10 to Mary Ann for supplies. Lunch is on the house!

June 12th – TBD

July – Picnic at Frohring

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**Next Primetime planning meeting is February 17 at 3:00pm
in the Lounge and all are welcome!**

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: February 16, 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

**It is February and Spring is just around the corner.
Time to Think TREES... a wondrous Gift from God!**



Trees...

Increase the health, vitality, and happiness of our local habitat and planet. Planting and caring for trees in our neighborhoods and cities is **an act of love.**

Increasing the tree canopy in urban areas provides numerous environmental and social benefits, *including*; **reducing the urban heat island effect** by providing shade, **improving air quality** by filtering pollutants, **managing stormwater runoff**, **enhancing biodiversity**, **boosting property values**, **improving mental health**, and **creating aesthetically pleasing urban landscapes.**

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

Creation Care

People are healthier and happier living with trees.

Cleveland's tree canopy is declining, and the city has a plan to reforest it. The goal is to increase tree canopy to 30% by 2040. To achieve this, Cleveland needs to plant more than 28,000 trees each year.

Trees Reduce:

- Crime
- Domestic violence
- Utility Bills
- Stress-related diseases
- Heart attacks
- Strokes
- Lung disease
- Asthma
- Automobile accidents

Trees Increase:

- Neighborhood stability
- Property Values
- Clean air and water
- Cooling Shade
- Carbon sequestration



Look into supporting the organizations working to increase tree canopy:

[Cleveland Tree Coalition](#): Working to reverse the decline of Cleveland's tree canopy

[Holden Forests & Gardens](#): Offers support for planting and caring for trees, including instructional toolkits, guidance on tree selection, and free virtual classes

[Reforest Our City](#): Western Reserve Land Conservancy

How many trees can you help plant this spring?



A PROGRAM TO HONOR....

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Reparations

**The Repair of Historical Harms: National Efforts
plus, Affirmative Action and DEI:
Where Do We Go from Here?**

Video excerpts from

Danielle Bainbridge, author, Northwestern University

Ta-Nehisi Coates, author, journalist

William "Sandy" Darity, Jr. Economist, Duke University

Followed by discussion, moderated by Bill Shaul

The Future of Affirmative Action and DEI

Discussion led by Robin Harbage and Bill Shaul

Date: Monday February 10

Time : 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Location: Family Life Center 16349 Chillicothe Rd., Chagrin Falls

Sponsors: Federated Church, UCC

(Social Justice Advocacy Ministry)

Community Life Collaborative

(Light snacks provided)

Youth & Family

Day Off of School | VBS Experience

God Has A Spot For You

MONDAY, MARCH 3RD
9 PM- 1 PM
FEDERATED CHURCH

Don't sit home bored on your day off of school! Join us for games, stories, crafts, snacks and more inspired by the parable of the mustard seed and be reminded that God has a spot for you!

\$20/CHILD
LUNCH AND SUPPLIES INCLUDED

Please RSVP To
klefeber@fedchurch.org



GROUP Takes on Top Golf in January!

On a cold wintery day in January, GROUP (Federated Church's High School Youth Program), headed to Top Golf to hit some golf balls at a bunch of targets. It was a fun time for all with Anna pretty much destroying everyone. When asked if she golfed, she said that she did not, but did play tennis. Gary thought that was pretty much the same thing as they both entailed hitting a ball.



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

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

THE FEDERATED CHURCH PERFORMING ARTS SERIES WITH SUPPORT FROM
THE CLEVELAND CELLO SOCIETY PRESENT:



VOICES *from the* *Other Side*

ALBUM RELEASE CONCERT



"This debut album is felicitous on all fronts, combining accessible, enjoyable works performed expertly and conducted with professional-quality leadership by Steven Smith. The package is rounded out with the informative composer's notes, full texts, and excellent recorded sound."

~Fanfare Magazine

ADMISSION:
\$25-\$45;
\$10 STUDENT
TICKETS



**FEATURING WORKS BY ARVO PÄRT, HEITOR VILLA LOBOS,
AND CLEVELAND COMPOSER MARGI GRIEBLING-HAIGH**

25 FEBRUARY 2025 | 7 PM

76 BELL STREET
CHAGRIN FALLS, OH

- CDs Available for Purchase
- Reception Following the Concert



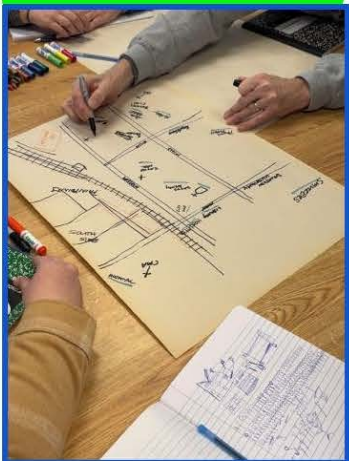
PERFORMING
ARTS
SERIES
federated
worship

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
FEDCHURCH.ORG/PAS

Community Partners



Youth Summits/Retreats: Where the CLC's Deep Passion Meets the Church's Great Hunger



In January 2025, The Living Water Association, Orrville UCC, & the Community Life Collaborative piloted the 1st of many 2-day

Youth Retreats on Environmental Justice.

Across 1 ½ days, High School and College youth explored the complex concepts of *justice* and "*place-keeping*" in the context of their hometown.

While mapping the assets and pain points and reflecting on the question "*How can the place where I live become a just place?*", teams grappled with complex issues of food insecurity, invisibility, poverty, and the power of representation and shared resources in the solution-finding process. As a culminating event, each team created models proposing actions and the collaborating partners needed to deepen relationships, elevate dignity & access, and shift real circumstances from pain points to assets related to just one aspect of the food systems and distribution of "power" within Orrville.

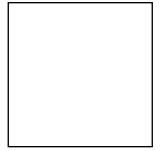
The CLC will continue to co-design and facilitate several Youth Summits and Retreats among faith communities, including Federated, across northeast Ohio to mobilize action in response to climate justice.

What else is going on at Federated's Family Life Center?

- All-Day Workshop: An Introduction to Nonviolent Organizing
- Meals On Wheels, every weekday
- New Year's Dance with live music
- Weekly basketball groups and 1:1s
- Girls volleyball practice
- Weddings
- LGBTQ Game Nights



76 Bell Street
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022



Contact Us!

www.fedchurch.org
fedchurch@fedchurch.org

Phone: 440.247.6490
Fax: 440.247.2516

Facebook: [facebook.com/
thefederatedchurch](https://facebook.com/thefederatedchurch)

Instagram: [@federatedchurch](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