

# The Spire

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The Federated Church Newsletter

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United Church of Christ  An Open and Affirming Congregation  A Creation Justice Church



**"Whenever we care for creation, we restore the relationship between God, humanity, and nature."**

*— Pope Francis, Laudato Si'*

# In the Interim...

*"The first passion of Jesus was the kingdom of God, namely, to incarnate the justice of God by demanding for all a fair share of a world belonging to and ruled by the covenantal God of Israel" – John Dominic Crossan and Marcus J. Borg in *The Last Week**

Dear Friends,

Although you will read this about ten days after Easter, as I write this morning, we are at the beginning of Holy Week, one of the most challenging weeks for those of us who immerse ourselves in the life and way of Jesus. While I love Jesus' emotion and courage, these are difficult days, full of events that show us both the incredible joys of our faith, but also the reprehensible acts that humans will take when given the power.

On the day on which I write, it seems we have come to a crossroads moment unlike any other in this already-fraught presidency as it appears the administration is willing to ignore the decision of the Supreme Court, spinning our nation and its constitution into uncharted waters. That this comes at the beginning of Holy Week is not an irony lost on many people of faith. It reminds us that our call as those who proclaim to follow Jesus is to stand up and speak out when oppression seeks to silence vulnerable voices, when a domination system asserts its strength and power, when God's justice is being overrun.

When the domination system of the Roman Empire and the collaboration of the temple leaders sought to disregard human life, Jesus refused to sit by and watch. He spoke out, challenged authority and continued to offer the alternative view of God's love and justice. Even in his darkest hour, facing a torturous crucifixion, Jesus chose courage over silence and complicity.

The gift of our faith is that, following the dark days of Holy Week, comes resurrection. Death does not have the last word. Hope is reborn from the pain and struggle that feels like the end. So, too, today we can trust, even when we may feel uncertain and anxious about the state of our country, that there is reason to have hope. As people of the resurrection, we know that even from moments of great struggle will come renewed strength and commitment to justice if we but follow the teachings of Jesus and speak up when those around us are being oppressed and mistreated.

My prayer today is that we will choose to not simply show up at church on Easter Sunday bedecked in our finery to sing "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," but will also take some of the risks that Jesus did to embody our faith and stand with those who are vulnerable. It is only when we commit to doing so that we can bring the realm of God near and ensure that justice overcomes the human desire for power. May we all choose to live out these core tenants of our faith in the days and weeks ahead. Like Jesus, even in our darkest hours, may we choose courage over silence and complicity.

Shalom,

Vicki



# From the Desk of Rev. Betsy

## Gratitude, Confidence, Blessing

As I write my last Column for the Federated Spire, I find myself overwhelmed with gratitude, confidence, and an awareness of God's blessing.

Gratitude for the gifts that I have known in ministry with Federated Church for these past three years. We have been through much together, and I have been blessed to share this passage of our lives together with you. In the past few months, as many of you have shared your love and memories of our time together, the memories come with laughter and tears, and a sense of gratitude to God for all of you. It is you, each of you, that makes this transition bittersweet for me. You are a people of big hearts, wisdom, kindness, curiosity, joy, and love. You have made my tenure here such a joyful space of learning: learning what matters to you about God's work among us and how you look to God to help change the world to reflect God's unending love and welcome.

My confidence is in the future of the Federated Church. It was my privilege to serve with Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton, who was instrumental in my call to serve as Federated's Associate Pastor. His wisdom, and energy, and pastoral gifts are superb, and serving with him, and the deeply good people on our staff, has been a joy and an honor. They all live out a legacy of kindness and open doors to one and all.

My confidence also stems from the members of this church, because I know well your abilities to provide leadership, and the dedication of your support.

I have been praying for the person who will be called as the next settled senior minister and for the person who will be called as the next settled Spiritual Formation pastor. When I hold these people in prayer, whoever they may be, I feel a sense of excitement for them. They don't know how good they will have it.

Surely, God's blessing is evident in the life of Federated Church. God's blessing does not mean that we will not experience hardship, pain, and tragedy. The promises of God are not the promises of the world, yet God's promises do mean that the strength of God's love will bear us up. Nor does God's blessing mean that there will never be disappointments, disagreements, or unwelcome surprises. It does mean that God brings good out of trouble, and reconciliation to the ways in which we fray at the seams. All will be well in the hands of our Maker. I leave you with this closing blessing, which is part of a longer blessing I will share with you on my final Sunday worship with you on May 18<sup>th</sup>:

May God bless you and keep you secure in peace and grace.

May God bless you with an abundance of security in your own infinite worth as a child of God's own creation.

May God bless you with love to meet your fear,  
understanding to meet your questions,

healing to meet your wounds, and comfort to hold you through grief.

May the gifts of the years that we have shared continue to enrich our lives  
as deposits in our storehouses of courage and faith,  
and as affirmations of God's love, made known to us in human relationships.

With Love and God's Blessings,  
Rev. Betsy Wooster



# From the Desk of the Moderator...

## Staffing Updates

**Jeff Miller, Moderator and Chair, Senior Pastor Search Committee**

The Senior Pastor search committee completed the church's profile, which announces our open position, and it was posted on the UCC website at the end of March. We have begun to receive some applications for our Senior Pastor position already. We will take our time with this portion of the process, as we have with the overall search, to ensure we are carefully considering the needs of our congregation and listening for God's leadership.

During the recent listening sessions, along with qualities for a Senior Pastor, we also clearly heard a call for prioritizing leadership and programming for our youth and families. With the recommendation of Vicki's Transition Team and the HR Committee, the Church Council has approved a new full-time position of **Director of Youth and Family Ministries**. We have intentionally left this position open to both clergy and non-clergy candidates with the hope of keeping the net as wide as possible to make sure we get top candidates. The Church Council also discussed and decided that it is in our best interest to begin the search right away. Although we considered waiting until after the new Senior Pastor came on board, we didn't want to risk losing our current momentum or having a gap in youth programming at the beginning of the school year.

To make sure we can meet all our pastoral care needs, we are officially bringing Judy Bagley-Bonner back on staff. Judy has been assisting with pastoral care for the past several months but has been doing it somewhat behind the scenes. So, we have created the new position **Minister of Pastoral Support**. She will be able to offer pastoral care, officiate funerals, preach when needed, and help Vicki now and the new pastor when they arrive.

In early May, Kristin LeFeber will be stepping down from her role as **Director of Children's Spiritual Formation**. She recently graduated from Eden Theological Seminary with a master's degree in Spiritual Direction. Although we are sad to lose her on staff, we fully support this new chapter in her life and can't wait to watch what she will do next.

While change can be challenging, the Church Council is very excited about the direction our church is going in, and we are grateful for the strong participation of the congregation as we approach this transition.





# Thank You to Everyone Who Purchased Easter Lillies!

Allison Hawkes In memory of her parents  
Anonymous In honor and memory of all God's creatures great and small  
Anonymous In honor and memory of all God's creatures great and small  
Anonymous In honor and memory of all God's creatures great and small  
Anonymous In honor and memory of all God's creatures great and small  
Becky Carter In memory of Virginia & Paul N. Stewart (parents)  
Becky Carter In memory of Helen Brown (friend)  
Bob & Beth Rutkowski In memory of Jon & Sue Blouin  
Chuck & Thea Mozingo In memory of Charles & Dee Mozingo  
Chuck & Thea Mozingo In memory of Rolf & Therese Hanson  
Dana Korosi In memory of Alexander Korosi, Nina Dannenberg and Marsha Helen Stroud  
Dennis & Kathy Kieta In memory of Robert & Gertrude Ames  
Dennis & Kathy Kieta In memory of Joseph & Geraldine Kieta  
Doug & Lu Bannerman In honor of our family and in memory of our granddaughter Cassie Luckey  
Gary & Dawn Dole Christ is risen.  
Gary & Dawn Dole Praise and joy.  
Georgiann Pace In dedication to my Mother ... Mary Lorraine Pace  
Gylene Pelton In memory of the Pelton Family  
Hannah Stefanchik In loving memory of Janis Stefanchik  
Harriett Rogers With gratitude for Vicki & Betsy  
Harry Rees & Karen Anderson In memory of Joan & Harry Rees and Clarence & Eleanor Anderson  
Jan Blank In memory of Mary Hobbs  
Janet Berlincourt In memory of my grandparents Mr & Mrs. William L. Loudon  
Janet Berlincourt In memory of my grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Weldon B. Berlincourt  
Jeanette Brown In memory of Dr. Glenn Brown  
Joan Rieke & Dan Allen In memory of Jesus Christ  
Joyce McFarland In memory of her dear husband, Jack, and special sister, Joan Hartman  
Louise Rutkowski In loving memory of Peter & Matt Rutkowski  
Marcia Snively In memory of John Laskowski  
Marcia Snively In memory of Scott Snively  
Marcia Snively In memory of the Charles King Family  
Marty Culbertson & Martine Scheuermann In memory of Al & Shirley Culbertson  
Marty Culbertson & Martine Scheuermann In memory of Nancy & George Scheuermann  
Marty Culbertson & Martine Scheuermann In memory of Mike Scheuermann  
Marty Culbertson & Martine Scheuermann In memory of Rich Scheuermann  
Mary Kudasick In memory of Edward Kudasick & Marie Ashmus  
Mike & Vicki McGaw In memory of daughter, Megan  
Mike & Vicki McGaw In honor of all of the people at Federated  
Phyllis Ference in memory of Bob Ference  
Signe Wrolstad-Forbes & Casey Forbes In memory of Sue & Merald Wrolstad  
Signe Wrolstad-Forbes & Casey Forbes In memory of Carol & Jim Forbes  
Walker & Joan Johnson  
Walker & Joan Johnson  
Ward Pierson & Diane Tuuri In memory of Marilyn & Ed Pierson  
Ward Pierson & Diane Turri In Honor of Ann and in Memory of Walter Tuuri



## Women's Ministries

**Circle** will meet on Monday, May 19th for a fun lunch outing at Two Café (across from the Chagrin Falls Post Office) at 11:30 AM. Mark your calendars!

**Sit & Stitch** continues to meet every Thursday at 10 o'clock in room 340... we welcome any knitters or crocheters to help us make some prayer shawls or prayer squares. We have plenty of yarn and knitting needles. We can even help you learn how to knit!

**Helping Hands** is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 26th, but please note this may change due to Memorial Day. Stay tuned for updates.

**Loaves & Fishes** usually takes place on the last Sunday of the month, but we're double-checking whether that falls on Memorial Day weekend. We'll keep you posted!

Thanks for your patience as we finalize these details—we look forward to seeing you soon.

If you would like to join any of these activities, all are welcome... just drop in! For more information contact Lynne Kessell, [lynnekessell@gmail.com](mailto:lynnekessell@gmail.com).



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## 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 4– last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y, and Z**

**May 11– last names beginning with A and B**

**May 18– last names beginning with C and D**

**May 25– last names beginning with E, F, and G**





# Thank You for Another Wonderful Wondrous Wednesday Season

We are so grateful to all of our presenters, everyone who brought delicious treats to share, our amazing volunteers, and all who came out to support and participate. A special thanks to Katie Swanson-Harbage for coordinating it all so beautifully.

We look forward to gathering again after the summer for more fun, learning, and fellowship. Until then, enjoy these photos from our most recent Wondrous Wednesday!

## WONDROUS WEDNESDAY

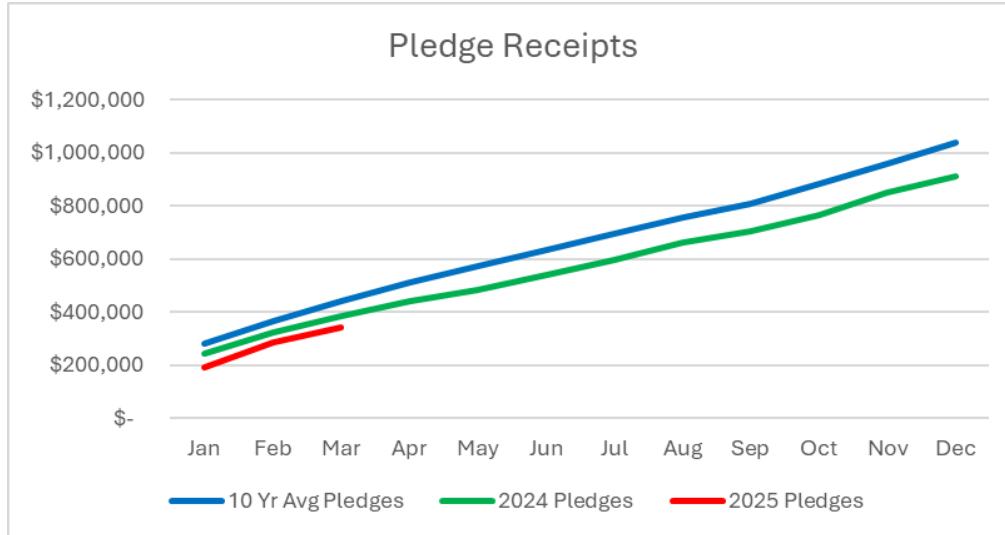


## Composting 101

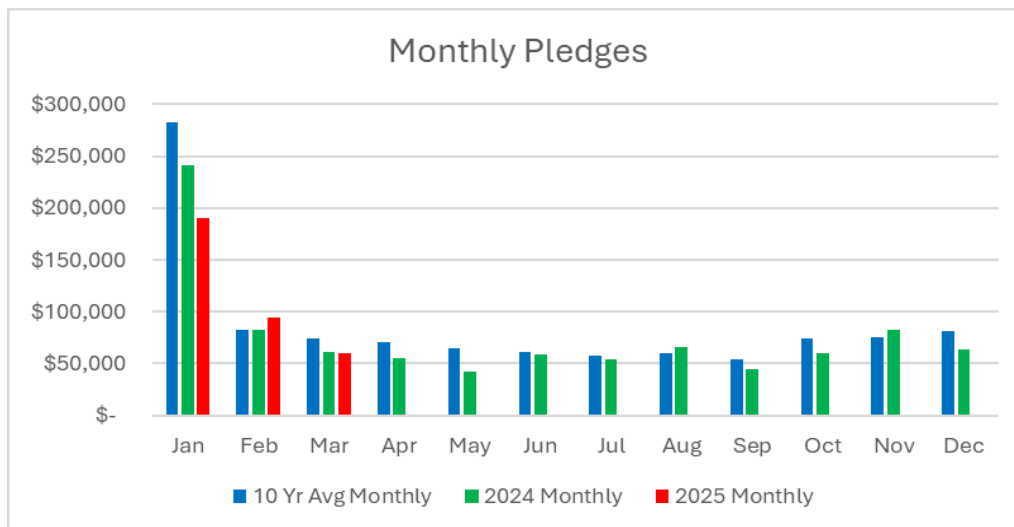


# Church Financial Update– 1st Quarter of 2025

On behalf of the Federated Finance & Properties Committee, I'd like to share an update on our financial position. Through the first three months of the year, we have collected \$344,769 in Pledge Receipts. That is 39% of the pledges that we budgeted to receive for the entirety of 2025. On average over the past ten years, through the first three months we have \$439,616 in pledge receipts making up 42% of the total budgeted for the year. The chart below shows how much we received in pledges on average over the past 10 years in blue, the pledges we received in 2024 in green and the pledges we received this year in red.



During most years, we receive a large percentage of our pledges in January. Pledge receipts decrease significantly in February and generally stay around that level until October, at which point pledges start to increase through the end of the year. The chart below shows how much we've received on average each month over the past 10 years in blue. The bars in green show how much we received each month in 2024. The bars in red show how much we received each month thus far in 2025.



The Finance & Properties Committee would also like to acknowledge that 2025 has been a year of volatility from a market perspective. Beyond the investments that Federated has through our Legacy Fund, we also invest a portion of our assets. Those assets are in our Operations Investment Account. For the first three months of the year, the Operations Investment Account decreased in value by 2.6%. For context, over the past twelve months, the Operations Investment Account increased in value by 3.6%. We will continue to invest our assets in a responsible manner that provides more than sufficient liquidity, while allowing our assets to grow over time.





# FEDERATED CHURCH PRIMETIME NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



## Upcoming Events

May 20th - Widow's Dinner Out - 5:30 to 7:30pm at the Village Martini Bar  
Dinner out with other ladies who are widows - we will join for dinner at the Village Martini Bar at 516 East Washington St, Chagrin Falls at 5:30pm. Please RSVP so we can get a reservation for all who want to participate. We hope to make this a regular or semi-regular event.

June 11th - Guardians Game 1:10pm - There is a limit of 33 tickets! We will meet at the Family Life Center at 11:00am to board the bus and travel downtown for a game against the Cincinnati Reds. Ticket cost is \$35 per person and we will be in section 138. The bus is covered by the church so save your dollars for a hot dog and a coke!

July 10th Picnic at Frohring 11:30-2:00pm and there will be BINGO!

August - TBD

September 11th - Rooftop Restaurant near Pinecrest - 11:00am (self-drive). We will create an event in REALM so we have a count for the reservation.

October 9th - Middlefield Trip Mary Yoder's, Cheese Factory, Middlefield - Hartville Hardware Store if it is open? TBD

November 13th - Program and Lunch Here at the Church/Cleveland Memories 13th - Noon-2:00pm

December 11th - Lunch at the Cabin in Aurora (self drive/self pay)

January 8th - Pizza and Games here in Fellowship Hall - Noon-2:00pm

Next planning meeting is 5/19 at 3:00pm here in Fellowship Hall and all are welcome. If you are not able to attend and want to recommend an outing, please contact Thea.

Please sign up for these events on REALM or by contacting Thea at [tmozingo@fedchurch.org](mailto:tmozingo@fedchurch.org)

Federated Church  
76 Bell St  
Chagrin Falls OH  
440-247-6490  
[www.fedchurch.org](http://www.fedchurch.org)



# Building for the Future

our faith in action



Family Life Center Capital Campaign

A Capital Campaign for the Family Life Center (FLC) building was approved by the congregation at the annual meeting this year.

A FLC Capital Campaign Committee, sanctioned by Church Council, is actively developing a successful campaign. Our goal is to raise \$800,000 to address these needs, with a stretch goal of \$1,000,000.

These improvements will not only preserve the Family Life Center's use but will also allow us to continue providing a unique and welcoming space for the congregation, community and church fellowship activities.

## Wanted

### *Mother's Day Photos*

**Send in a photo of the  
mothers in your life  
for a Celebration  
Video on May 11th**

**Send via Email ONLY  
To: [Pics@fedchurch.org](mailto:Pics@fedchurch.org)**

**Include your name and  
the names of the moms  
you are celebrating**

**No Later Than 5/6/25**



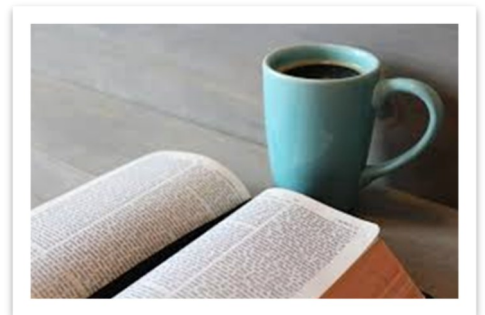
*Shirley Culbertson*



## Women's Friday Morning Bible Study

Are you interested in the Bible? Would you like to find out what it might say about:

- today's troubles and/or stress?
- giving you courage for the road ahead?
- providing comfort for your loss or grief?
- examples of personal strength?
- love and forgiveness?



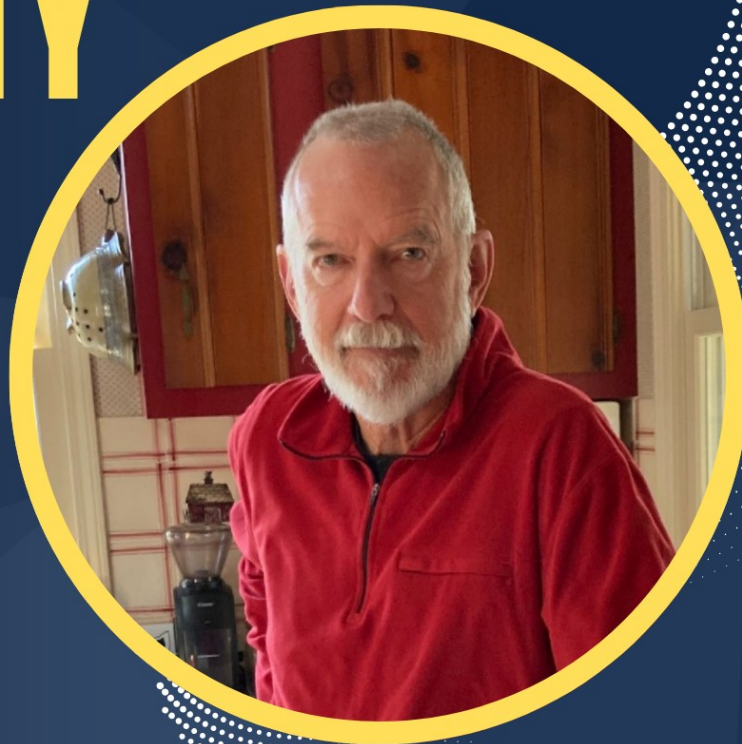
On Friday mornings, from 10-11:30am, a group of women gather in the Lounge to discuss these issues and more. We are self-led and choose books, videos and the lectionary to further our understanding of what the Bible can teach us. We share from our backgrounds knowing we're in a safe, non-critical and non-judgmental environment. We're curious. We want to explore and try to understand what meaning the Bible can bring to our lives in today's world. Please join us for a cup of coffee, conversation and study. Friends are waiting for you!



# GENEROSITY

| *Spotlight* |

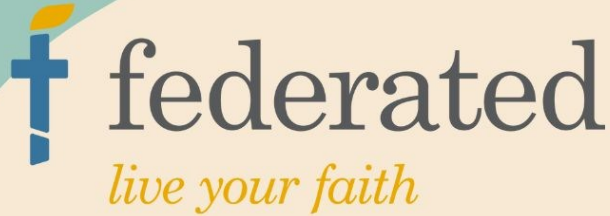
**MICHAEL  
QUINTIN**



After many years of attending church in our local community, we decided it was time to go church “shopping.” I attended a summer service at the Family Life Center and was welcomed as if I had been a long time member. We both went to our first Bell Street service on Rally Day in 2002. Wow, what a reception! We were hooked, getting involved in different music programs, various committees and, for me, the Scout program that was affiliated with the Federated Church. Having been a Scout as a youth and an adult leader while our son was in Scouting, transferring to the Federated Scout Troop seemed natural. I have spoken about how I learned what stewardship was all about because of my involvement in Scouting. After all, not only is a Scout reverent, but they promise to help other people at all times. The mark of a true Scout is to leave the world a little better than they found it. Our giving to Federated and all of its mission partners is probably the best way to help other people at all times. We love being generous with our time, talents and funds.

**Thank you Michael for all you do!**





## Federated's Legacy Committee invites you to PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

This program is for those interested in learning key points regarding estate planning and preparing for the later stages of life.

Whether you are helping your aging family members navigate this stage of life, care and costs or seeking information for yourself, this program provides important information.

Please Join Us  
Wednesday MAY 7TH  
Complimentary Light Supper 5:30- 6:00 PM  
PROGRAM & Speakers 6:00PM – 7:00PM  
Panel Q/A After  
Please RSVP on REALM by 4/30

### Presenters:

**Meg Pauken-Attorney, Pauken Legal Services LLC**

Experienced in Estate Planning, Trusts, Wills, Special Needs Planning, Elder Law, Medicaid, Asset Protection, Guardianship, Probate

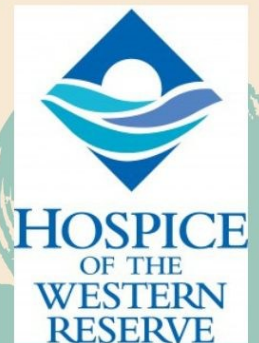
**Jo Perko BSN, RN, Case Manager Care Coordinator, Anna Maria of Aurora**

40 years' experience in post-acute care as a Nurse and Case manager, levels of care and senior living options

**Lynn Hermensky, Provider Relations Manager, Hospice of the Western Reserve**

30 years experience in Home Healthcare, Assisted Living, Palliative Care and End of Life Hospice Care

federated   
*grow*



# TRINKETS N' TREASURES

**MAY  
7-10**

**Federated Church Family Life Center  
16349 Chillicothe Rd (Rt 306) Bainbridge  
Twp**

Household goods, furniture, toys, games,  
antiques, books, jewelry, clothes,  
electronics, sporting goods, art work, linens  
and more!

**Cash and credit accepted**

**First Opportunity to Buy (\$10 admission  
for this time only) Wednesday, May 7th  
5:30-8:00pm**

**Thursday/Friday, May 8th & 9th 9:00-5:00**

**Saturday, May 10th (Bag Day/Half Price)  
9:00-Noon**



## TRINKETS N' TREASURES DROP OFFS

**MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> THROUGH 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**9:00AM-5:00PM AT THE FAMILY LIFE  
CENTER**



Sponsored by the Federated Church of Chagrin Falls



**DONATE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.**

**Blood Drive**  
**Federated Church UCC**

Fellowship Hall  
76 Bell Street  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

**Wednesday, May 28, 2025**  
**12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter Sponsor Code: FedChurch or sign-up via the Red Cross Blood Donor App.



Scan to be directed to  
RapidPass®



**Come to give blood May 19 to 31 for a limited edition  
Red Cross solar lantern, while supplies last!**



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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# Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM)

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

## Social 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: May 18, 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=U1VxZU5SZ0NjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVIWdz09>**

## SAVE the DATE:

### SJAM Documentary & Discussion: "Where The Olive Trees Weep"

**Monday, June 16 at 6:00 PM | Family Life Center**

Join SJAM for a powerful screening of *Where The Olive Trees Weep*, a compelling documentary that explores the colonization of Gaza and Palestine. The film offers thoughtful, multi-faith commentary and sheds light on many lesser-known details of the region's history (pre-October 7).

The evening will include guest speakers and a Q&A discussion following the screening. All are welcome to engage in this important conversation.



“

The film gives background to the current crisis in Israel/Palestine and brings to light the lives of people we met on our 2022 journey in the occupied West Bank. Their universally human stories speak of intergenerational pain, trauma and resilience. We hope they touch your heart, stir compassion and understanding, and give rise to a pursuit for justice. For without justice, peace remains an empty slogan.

About  
[whereolivetreesweep.com](http://whereolivetreesweep.com)





# 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

## Environmental Tip of the Month

### Food Waste Harms the Environment

Wasting less food is one of the simplest and most effective actions we can take to reduce environmental harm.

Consider that:



- 40% of food in the U.S. goes uneaten, nearly all of which ends up in landfills. Food waste makes up nearly 60% of landfill waste.
- Landfills are the largest source of human-caused methane, a potent greenhouse gas.
- Along with each pound of wasted food are the planetary costs of all the land, water, energy, and labor used in production, transportation, processing, and distribution.

Reducing food waste saves money:

- The average family spends over \$3,000 on uneaten food.
- Nationally, food waste represents a dollar cost of over \$160 billion.

Food waste is also a social justice issue: ***food should feed people, not landfills.***



Using food more responsibly requires intention, commitment, knowledge, and daily practice. Here are some good websites to help get you started:

- <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/preventing-wasted-food-home>  
EPA's excellent tips for preventing food waste at home, with helpful links to related topics.
- <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/food-safety/safe-food-handling-and-preparation/food-safety-basics/food-product-dating>  
USDA's explanation of best-by/use-by/sell-by dates.  
Other than for infant formula, product dates indicate only peak quality, not safety! If food is properly handled and stored, and shows no signs of spoilage, most outdated food is likely still fine to eat.
- <https://savethefood.com>  
Very practical website worth bookmarking. It includes an interactive storage guide for every type of food by category; planning tools for shopping and hosting; and recipes for cooking with food scraps and using up food past its prime.

**This is one easy way we all can Care for God's Creation and People.**

# SJAM MOVIE NIGHT

Monday, May 12, 2025

7:00 PM

At the Family Life Center, 16349 Chillicothe Rd, Chagrin Falls

*Hosted by the Creation Care and Justice Team of the Social Justice Advocacy Ministry at Federated Church and the Community Life Collaborative*

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Adults and Youth Alike** – Join our documentary watch followed by shared conversation about the problem & its solutions. Less consumption, less in our landfills, less plastic pollution too.

## **BUY NOW: The Shopping Conspiracy**

is a documentary about the impact excess shopping has on the world. This documentary unpacks the tricks brands use to keep their customers consuming -- and the real impact they have on our lives and the world. It focuses on big-name companies and their tools of manipulation to make shoppers buy more and replace more often, as well as the environmental impact of the waste generated from the process. Adults and teens may find it interesting to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes and how we can be savvy to the tricks involved, as well as how we might adapt our own behavior toward positive change. Over consumption impacts our earth and the environment in ways we need to understand. Our choices can make a difference.



Come learn about this issue and explore what we as consumers can do about it.  
Invite your friends and family to join you.

For more information email: [sjamfedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:sjamfedchurch@gmail.com)





# Youth & Family



## MAY 2025

Dear Federated families,

It has been an honor and a privilege to minister to you over the past five and a half years as the Director of Children's Spiritual Formation. Spiritual care is my passion, and it is my hope that I have been able to offer that to each of you in some small way during this time. Please know my own family and I plan to remain committed members of Federated Church and are looking forward to new ways of serving our lovely community. I welcome continued connection with all of you as I discern what is next for me. Part of that will be building my Spiritual Direction practice which I invite you to explore at [www.dwellingspace.org](http://www.dwellingspace.org)

Thank you for all your love and support.

Grace and Peace,  
Ms. Kristin





## SAVE THE DATE: COMMUNION CLASS

Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Federated Church

Kiddos in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and above who have not yet taken communion class are invited, with their parents, to join Pastor Vicki and Ms. Kristin to learn about the meaning and importance of this holy sacrament. The evening will include hands-on instruction, scripture scavenger hunts and an intimate communion service in the chapel. New communicants will be recognized at the Youth Worship Service on Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.



Grow in Faith. Have Fun. Change the World.

# VBS IS BACK!

**June 23 – 27, 2025**

**9:00 am – 11:30 am**

**Family Life Center**

**Ages: 3 – entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Questions: [tmozingo@fedchurch.org](mailto:tmozingo@fedchurch.org)**



FEDERATED PERFORMING ARTS SERIES PRESENTS...

# SAMMY DELEON

## Y SU ORQUESTRA

*Latin Jazz with a Latin-inspired dinner!*



**SATURDAY • MAY 17TH • 6-8 PM**  
**FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

**(16349 CHILLICOTHE RD., CHAGRIN FALLS, OH. 44023)**

**TICKETS \$20 | KIDS 12 AND UNDER ARE \$5**

**LATIN  
DINNER!**

**EXPERIENCE THE  
KING OF SALSA!**

**DANCING!**

**FINAL '24-'25  
PAS SEASON  
CONCERT!**

federated  
grow

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT  
[FEDCHURCH.ORG/PAS](https://fcdchurch.org/pas)  
OR SCAN QR CODE**



# 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 Griebeling-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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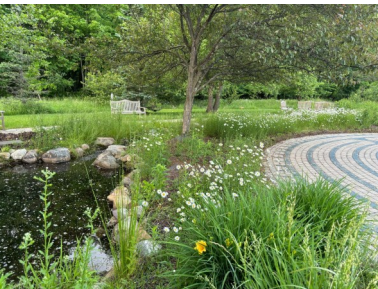
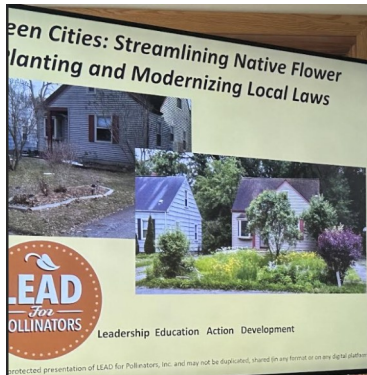
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Tickets can be found at [fedchurch.org/pas](https://fedchurch.org/pas)  
Federated Church | 76 Bell Street | Chagrin Falls, OH 44022



# Community Partners

## Planting Native Contributes to the Wellbeing of All



In April, the CLC hosted **Sprout & Share: Cultivating Connections & Sustainable Gardening Practices**, a talk led by Michele Colopy. Attendees explored how native flower planting and policy updates can support greener cities, drawing inspiration from Michele's hands-on experience transforming urban spaces into pollinator havens. The presentation quickly became an intimate conversation with Colopy's guidance on the transformation being planned by attendees for their landscapes.

According to Colopy, a great question to ask yourself about what to plant is *"Is it doing anything for anyone else?"* This question invites reflection not only on how we care for our environment but also on how we contribute to the well-being of those around us. Our actions—whether in the garden or in advocacy—should serve a greater good.

The CLC is developing programming to increase the knowledge and skills necessary to transform our homes into nature-centered spaces. These small steps are critical as the CLC partners with organizations across Northeast Ohio to transform communities through programs such as *Tree Up Akron*, where we've provided hundreds of native plants and trees in Akron neighborhoods.

**To do your part in planting native. Check out these free resources:**

Native Garden Design software: <https://www.nativegardenplanner.com/>

Lists of Native Plants [Wild Ones of Greater Cleveland](#); [Northeast Ohio Native Habitat corridors](#)

<https://plantnative.org/16-ground-cover-plants-to-grow-in-ohio.htm>

**Garden Planting & Party at the Labyrinth** Sunday **May 18, 1- 4:00** at the **FLC**. Join us at the Labyrinth as we install 100's of new native plants! Thank you to the generous donations from *Native Landscapes & Gardens* from *Good Nature*

The CLC has BIG plans to reclaim native planting around the FLC property with local partner organizations over the next few years. Watch for upcoming programming on rain gardens & composting.

**Nature Includes YOU: Photo Exhibit** Come visit this traveling photo exhibit & program series at the FLC, exploring the rich relationships that people of color have with nature in Northeast Ohio, past and present. The exhibit will be at our **FLC** from now through **May 25**. [Learn more details here](#). Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursday, & Fridays 9am-1:00pm.

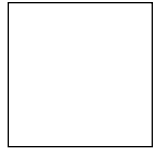
**Purchase tickets** to attend our **4th Annual CLC Garden Gala: Cultivating a Better Tomorrow** **June 14, 2025**. Early Bird discounts and details available by [clicking here](#). Can't join us? Check out these amazing experiences to bid on through the [online silent auction](#), closing 9pm June 14.







76 Bell Street  
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022



## Contact Us!

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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 Mozingo**, *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*

\* denotes part-time staff

# federated

**Hope to see you  
this Sunday!**

**10:00 AM**  
**In person and Online**