



The
TRINKETS
N'
TREASURES

RESULTS ARE IN...

WE RAISED

\$32,450!

Thank You!

BECAUSE OF YOU,
our community
IS STRONGER TOGETHER.



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From the Desk of Pastor Michael...

Still Carrying the Torch of the United and Uniting Movement!

Dear Federated Church Family,

What a joy it is to begin this journey with you. In these first days, I have been listening, learning names, walking through the building, hearing stories, and beginning to see the deep faithfulness that has shaped this congregation for generations. Again and again, one word keeps rising to the surface for me: **belonging**. Belonging, as I am learning, is not a feeling we wait to receive, but a practice we choose together—a covenant we live, a table we set, a community we become.

The Federated Church has always carried a remarkable story. Long before the United Church of Christ was formed, Federated was already practicing a united and uniting spirit through the joining of Disciples of Christ and Congregational streams. That is what our name means. To be “federated” is to be joined together—not by erasing our differences, but by covenanting to belong to one another in faith, worship, service, and love. Later, the UCC itself was born in 1957 from the joining of several historic Christian traditions. Those early denominational streams matter, but the story was never meant to stop there. Since then, many more streams have flowed into this movement. Federated itself is filled with people shaped by different traditions, different questions, and different journeys—people who came here because, somehow, this was the place where faith, conscience, love, and justice could belong together.

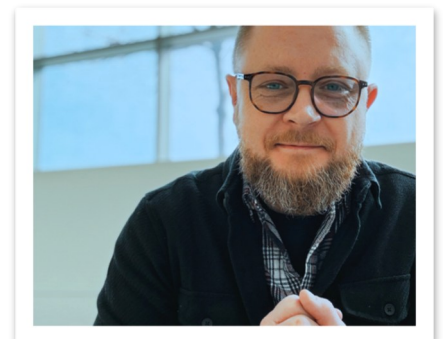
That is why I believe Federated is still carrying the torch of the United and Uniting movement. Unity was not simply something achieved once in a merger. It was, and still is, a movement of the Spirit, calling the church to make room at the table, to listen across difference, and to discover Christ among people who may not all ask the same questions in the same way. **In a fractured world, our name is not only our history; it is our calling.**

We are not merely preserving an institution; we are participating in a living tradition. Here, we practice making room for one another. Here, we learn to bear one another’s burdens. Here, we come to the table of God and are reminded that grace is not scarce, love is not narrow, and no one belongs alone.

I am honored to be your pastor in this season. I cannot wait to see what God will do among us as we listen, worship, serve, and grow together. May we be a church where belonging becomes visible—where strangers become neighbors, neighbors become friends, and friends become companions in the healing of the world.

With Gratitude,

Michael





Meet Olivia Joey Sarang Yi- Howard

This month we will all be getting to know our new Senior Pastor, Michael Anthony Howard, even better. There will be shared worship experiences, we will invite him to our small group meetings and gatherings, and we will break bread together in several settings including in the Fellowship Hall.

Now let me introduce you to Michael's 9-year-old daughter (turning 10 this month!): Olivia Joey Sarang Yi-Howard, or "Joey" for short.

I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Joey. I learned that she likes graphic novels and Manga (her favorite genre!) and that she plays violin.

While her dad served as Minister of Faith in Action for the 130+ churches in the Living Water Association, Joey attended a different church almost every week, so Joey has a variety of experiences with churches. Here are some of Joey's thoughts and opinions about church.

Q: *What are some of your best experiences of being at a church?*

A: **It is interesting to go to different churches. Once I got to go behind and see where the organ pipes were. That was cool. I like meeting people. Some of the "children's baskets [for kids in worship] are nice, especially the drawing supplies and different fidgets. Also, I like when they have food!**

Q: *What should churches hear or know from kids about designing our spaces to welcome your interests and curiosities about God?*

A: **I LOVE math. Anything to do with math. Also art. Not "hard art", but things like fingerpainting, collage, playdough...**

Sometimes kids can feel invisible in the crowds of a church. They may come away on a Sunday wondering if they belong. Not at Federated. We make a point of learning the names, personalities, and interests of the youth. We understand the wisdom and richness each one brings as a unique gift from God.

Please join me in showing a warm welcome to Joey and in helping her feel at home in her Federated Family.

Maren Koepf



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



A CONVERSATION WITH

Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner



MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE

We sat down with Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner to learn more about her role, her deep connection to Federated Church, and her hopes for the future as we welcome our new Senior Minister.

1. How would you describe your role as Minister of Pastoral Care?

Before I answer this question, I think it might help to address the question of what pastoral care is. Pastoral care is a long tradition where the pastoral leadership offers support to individuals or families going through challenging times. It may be a health crisis, a personal or family struggle such as death of a loved one or substance use challenges, or a faith crisis, just to name a few.

My primary role is to make sure that all the pastoral care needs of which we become aware are addressed. Sometimes that means I make the phone calls or visits myself. Or it means I ensure that the need is on another staff person's radar. We make ourselves available as deep listeners, and providers of support, care and prayer.

I say this is my primary role because I do other things as well, including occasional preaching, leading memorial services, and leading book studies and small groups as needed.

2. What does pastoral care look like in the life of our congregation?

Pastoral care is a long tradition where the pastoral leadership offers support to individuals or families going through challenging times. It may be a health crisis, a personal or family struggle such as death of a loved one or substance use challenges, or a faith crisis, just to name a few. We make ourselves available as deep listeners, and providers of support, care and prayer.

3. You've been a trusted and familiar presence at Federated for many years. What has that journey meant to you?

Federated has been an important part of my life since childhood. My long history with Federated means the world to me. I almost think of Federated as a whole, as a person who has been powerfully significant to me for over fifty years. It has steered my life during times of transition and in quiet, everyday ways.



federated
live your faith



I grew up attending both Federated and St. Joan of Arc because my mother was Catholic and my step-dad was a member of Federated. My freshman year of high school, I officially joined Federated, largely because the youth program was so dynamic. After college, I was married in the Federated chapel. Soon after, I decided to go to seminary and pursue ministry, and Federated took me “under care” and mentored me throughout that long process. In 1986, I was ordained in the Federated sanctuary.

Then even though we lived in Minnesota for sixteen years, I stayed in close touch with Federated, often borrowing ideas and programs for my own ministry.

After moving back to Ohio, I served Federated from 2004–2008 as “Spiritual Life Associate.” Then, after moving to Florida, I returned for several temporary stints on staff, filling in summers when Federated clergy were on sabbatical or there was no associate. So I joke that really, my title should be “Back Up Pastor.”

4. As we welcome Michael as our new Senior Minister, how do you see your role supporting both him and the congregation during this transition?

I am happy to report that Pastor Michael has a passionate commitment to pastoral care. Yet, as Senior Minister, he, by definition, must have a number of diverse programs and issues on his radar at all times. Additionally, while he is transitioning, it is like drinking from a fire-hose to receive and process so much new information in a congregation of our size. So I can support him by ensuring that the pastoral care concerns he takes on (to use his metaphor) a baton that he has firmly grasped in the relay.

Additionally, due to my long history in this spiritual community, I can offer “institutional memory” when our communal history is relevant to a conversation. Further, I hope, as a clergy colleague, to be able to offer support in general.

5. What do you hope people feel knowing you are here in this new season?

I hope people gain a sense of steadiness and continuity with our past by my ongoing presence here.

6. What are you most looking forward to as we step into this next chapter at Federated?

Watching how God will take this community—which has always been loving, vital and very high functioning—and steer it into exciting new directions and new ministries.

7. How do you hope to partner with Pastor Michael in ministry? What excites you most about the future of Federated?

I am happy to report that Pastor Michael has a passionate commitment to pastoral care. Yet, as Senior Minister, he, by definition, must have a number of diverse programs and issues on his radar at all times. Watching how God will take this community—which has always been loving, vital and very high functioning—and steer it into exciting new directions and new ministries.



We are grateful for Rev. Judy’s faithful presence, deep care, and unwavering commitment to this community. Thank you, Judy!

2026 TRINKETS 'N TREASURES



TRINKETS 'N TREASURES

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Doug Antil
Ella Antil
Lisa Antil
Macy Antil
Heidi Asplin
Tom Asplin
Debbie Baker
Doug Bannerman
Lu Bannerman
Cindy Barclay
Bob Bathgate
Mimi Bathgate
Tricia Baumgartner
Pete Bednar
Janet Berlincourt
Bill Biggar
Jane Biggar
Barry Biggin
Norma Bobbitt
Shawn Bottcher
Mary Ann Boysen
Allison Brown
Jeff Brown
Kate Brown
Lilly Brown
Peter Brown
Rose Brown
Sammy Brown
Beckett Buescher
Ann Chaney
Marty Culbertson
Gary Dole
Chris Dougherty
Bob Doxey
Sunny Doxey
Nelson Fenner
Leslie Fincun
Sue Fitz
Owen Foster
Toni Foster
Bill Franz
Kathy Franz
Mehan Fulton
Karen Gajewski

Rich Gajewski
Trina Gigax
Emilie Gottsegen
Nancy Haag
Dave Hageman
Mari Hageman
Leah Hassett
Allison Hawkes
Bob Herdman
Dawn Herdman
Ali Hively
Mary Hogan
Michael Hogue
Ken Horner
Karen Hunter
Dan Isaacson
Sandy Isaacson
Nancy Isham
Bo Johns
Karen Johns
Leah Johns
Lee Johns
Dan Kershner
Ruth Kershner
Lynne Kessell
Dennis Kieta
Kathy Kieta
Andrew Kolansky
Kathy Kolcaba
Susan Kramer
Jennie Krutilla
Mary Kudasick
Ian Kwon
Mia Kwon
Joey Lanza
Gloria Lapansky
Ann Lentz
Patti Lyden
Jannine Mason
Jan Mast
Janet Mast
Dick McBride
Sibyl McBride
Casey McMullen

Will McMullen
Sandra Meyer
Tom Meyer
Phoebe Mignogna
Tom Mignogna
Cortland Miller
Hadley Miller
Jeff Miller
Lauren Miller
Marah Miller
Cemil Morton
Emerson Morton
Hadley Morton
Lindsey Morton
Toney Morton
Tami Munson
Linda Nichols
Jeff Pierce
Wendy Pierce
Ward Pierson
John Pollack
Lyndsey Pollack
Patrick Quigg
Gabrielle Quintin
Kathy Rayer
Richard Rayer
Harry Rees
Judy
Riemenschneider
Harriett Rogers
Kathy Rohde
Ava Rose
Joe Rose
Linnea Rostek
Carole Rounds
Bob Rowland
Jim Scheuermann
Martine
Scheuermann
Laura Senel
Carolyn Shaul
Peggie Jo
Shinagawa
Todd Smith

Maggie Sonby
Cher Stone
Susan Sulcs
Sue Sullivan
Laura Taylor
Elaine Turner
Diane Tuuri
Nora Wagner
Kristen Walenga
Marilyn Wise
Elaine Witmer
Al Woehrl
Rebecca Woehrl
Karen Wright
Joy Wyatt
Bill Zelazny
Linda Zelazny
Karen Zoltowicz



Mission & Service

Federated Church chose Re:Source Cleveland (<https://www.resourcecleveland.org/>) as the recipient of our 2024 Christmas Eve Offering. Re:Source serves international newcomers, including former refugees, humanitarian parolees, asylees, and individuals with temporary protected status, as they navigate challenges and pursue dreams here in Northeast Ohio. Your gift allowed Re:Source to purchase a refrigerated van used by their Ohio City Farm program.



Members of the Mission & Service Commission, as well as Director of Youth and Families Oliver Mason, recently attended a site visit at their Ohio City Farm location. Our goal was to find ways to continue this partnership. After touring their new farm pavilion, hoop houses, and fields, we are pursuing the following opportunities:

- You now have the chance to buy/split a "Fair Farm Labor" CSA share (~\$640). The weekly drop-off this summer would be Saturday mornings at Federated. Or maybe purchase a share at the "Farm Champion" pricing level, which includes an extra share donated directly to a newcomer family in need (<https://www.ohiocityfarm.com/csa>). Contact Todd Smith to coordinate your interest in this one-stop delivery.
- Each summer Re:Source hosts Game On! Sports Camps for their youth newcomers. The week-long activities conclude with a community meal and Oliver is exploring our youth serving that meal after one camp.
- The weekend before Thanksgiving, Re:Source prepares/delivers 600 meals to clients, as well as shelf-stable pantry items. We're hoping to help deliver this welcoming American cultural meal to their international newcomers.

- This June, the Ohio City Farm's Glick Farm Store will be open for retail business. It's the perfect opportunity for anyone from the Federated faith family, or a Federated group, to support Re:Source Cleveland by visiting the farm and eating a prepared meal they've purchased from the Store.
- Another service opportunity Oliver is investigating: having our youth group spend a workday on the farm alongside the employed newcomers, during both the planting and harvesting seasons.

If you'd like to be included in one of these efforts, contact any member of the Mission & Service Commission who's working on your behalf: Dave Strauch (dhstrauch@yahoo.com), Todd Smith (onetoddsmith@gmail.com), Marty Culbertson (mculbert@fedchurch.org), Caroline McClennan, Joy Wyatt, Terry Rounds, Gay Quintin, Laura Taylor, Gary Dole, Wendy Pierce, or Pete Bednar.



Legacy

Creating a Lasting Legacy at Federated

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." – Matthew 6:21

As followers of Christ, we at Federated Church are called to share our blessings for the good of our community and the world. Generosity is more than an act of giving – it is a spiritual practice, a way of giving back in gratitude for all God has provided.

During this Spring season, we invite you to consider supporting the Federated Church Legacy Fund. The word legacy comes from the Latin legare, meaning "to appoint" or "to send as an ambassador." In that spirit, a legacy gift becomes an ambassador of your faith, carrying your values forward for generations to come.

The Legacy Fund – our church's endowment – strengthens Federated's long-term financial foundation while providing annual support for our ministries. The fund currently has a value of approximately \$850,000 (as of March 31st) and is carefully stewarded by the Legacy Committee, which oversees both its management and its mission. Each year, up to 5% of the fund may be distributed to support the church's operating budget. In 2025, the Church's general fund received an annual contribution of \$38,380.

Your generosity today helps ensure that Federated Church remains vibrant, stable, and mission-driven well into the future. We invite you to prayerfully consider:

- Making a designated gift to the Legacy Fund
- Including Federated in your estate plans or gifting financial assets such as cash, stocks, or real estate

If you choose to make a planned gift, you can share your intentions with the church using our [notification of intent](#) form.

Thank you for considering a gift that will bless our church family for years to come. Your legacy of faith and generosity truly makes a difference.

Sincerely,

Federated Church's Legacy Committee



Generosity



The 2026 Generosity Commission celebrates YOUR Generosity!

Thank you to all who participated with their personal "Leap of Faith" for this year's Generosity Campaign.

- 114 households increased their pledges
- 20 Household who did NOT pledge in 2025, pledged in 2026

Even in a transition year without a settled Senior Pastor, we saw increased giving to support our annual pledge campaign. THANK YOU!

federated 
support

Blood Drive

Federated Church UCC

Fellowship Hall
76 Bell Street
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

Wednesday, May 27, 2026
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Women's Ministry

Circle will meet on Monday, May 18 for lunch at Washington Street Diner at 11:30 am. All are welcome—come join us!

Sit & Stitch continues to meet every Thursday at 10:00 am in Room 340. We have plenty of yarn and knitting needles available—please join us for stitching and fellowship.

Helping Hands will not meet in May due to Memorial Day. We look forward to gathering again in June.

Loaves & Fishes will not have an event for May, but stay tuned for additional updated.

Thank you for your continued support—we appreciate it!

For more information contact Lynne Kessell, 440-487-9104 or lynnekessell@gmail.com.



Wanted

Mother's Day Photos

Send in a photo of the mothers in your life for a Celebration Video on May 10th

Send via Email ONLY
To: Pics@fedchurch.org

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

No Later Than 5/6/26



Shirley Culbertson

FEDERATED CHURCH PRIMETIME NEWSLETTER



MAY 2026



We would love to have you join us for one or all of the upcoming Primetime events! You do not need to be a member of the church to join us. Church members can sign up on REALM. Feel free to sign up by contacting Thea Mozingo at tmozingo@fedchurch.org or by calling 440-247-6490

Upcoming Events

May 19th – Widows’ Dinner at The Orchid House Winery **5:30pm-7:30pm**

Join your friends for dinner out at this beautiful spot!

May 26th – Holden Arboretum Tram Tour & Lunch **11:00am - 1:00pm**

We will meet at Holden for a Tram Tour at 11:00am. Tram is limited to 13 people. All are invited to join us for lunch and continued visit at the Arboretum.

Primetime Bridge

May 5th & 19th 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Fellowship Hall - Contact Harriett Rogers to schedule

Primetime Mahjong

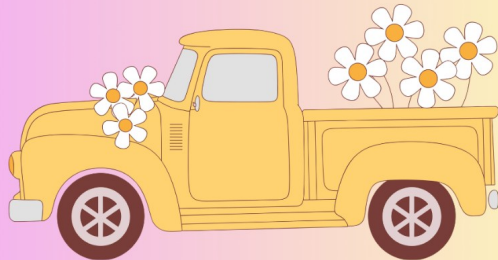
Every Friday from 1:00-4:00pm

Fellowship Hall - All experience levels welcome

Federated Church
76 Bell St
Chagrin Falls OH
440-247-6490
www.fedchurch.org



Youth & Family



Blossom Time 2026

Park@the FED

May 21st-25th



Blossom Time Weekend Parking @ the Fed - Youth Program Fundraiser

Do you have a few hours to spare
Memorial Day Weekend?
The Spiritual Formation
Commission invites you to sign
up to volunteer for this fun Fed
fundraiser.

Volunteers will sign up for a two-
hour timeslot Thursday- Sunday
of Blossom Time Weekend.

Please click here to sign up. All
funds raised will support youth
programs at the church!

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to Sign Up!



SAVE THE DATE...

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Saturday, June 13th

Stay tuned for more details!





FEDERATED CHURCH

Welcomes you to

"GOD'S BIG BACKYARD" VBS 2026



13-17
JULY

9 AM- 12 PM



FAMILY LIFE CENTER

K - 5TH GRADE

JOIN US IN EXPLORATION!

Calling all kids Kindergarten–5th Grade!

Join us for a week of fun, faith, and discovery as we explore God's Big Backyard—learning how to care for God's creation through earth stewardship and environmental themes.

MORE INFORMATION
[FEDCHURCH.ORG/VBS](https://fedchurch.org/vbs)



COLORADO
KIDS...



H.A.C.K. IS BACK!



Hire A Colorado Kid! We've Got You Covered!

Are you in need of help around the house this Spring? Are your flower beds overgrown? Are there branches in need of removing from your yard? Look no further than the HACK program here at Federated Church! "Hire a Colorado Kid" is a program we are relaunching in order to help fund the Youth Group's trip to Colorado. We ask that you donate \$100 per 4 hours of work to the Colorado fund. This donation can be made in cash or by logging into Realm. If your snow looks like a sheet, then take a seat, because it is quite the feat, what our kids can complete!

Contact Oliver, omason@fedchurch.org, for more information. [@reallygreatsite.com](https://www.reallygreatsite.com)



Habitat for Humanity Build – Volunteers Needed

Happy Spring, Federated! We're excited to take part in a Habitat for Humanity build on **Saturday, June 6 from 9 AM to 2 PM.**

We are currently seeking teenage volunteers and adult chaperones to join us for this meaningful opportunity to serve and support affordable housing in our community.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Oliver Mason, omason@fedchurch.org.

Learn more about the project:

<https://www.clevelandhabitat.org/news-events/popeleovillage/popeleovillage.html>

federated 
grow

federated 
act


federated
live your faith

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 or receive our emails, please contact sjammedchurch@gmail.com

Next Meeting: Sunday, May 17, 2026
LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM
Come and join us! ALL ARE WELCOME!



To see events that may be of interest to you – go to:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/15o1wV1KY9yPpMqiLsQww0uMA-0SmulT_og24PCblya4/edit?usp=sharing

The Creation Care and Justice team is once again selling Milkweed Plants this Spring, helping our Neighbors, the **Beautiful Butterfly!** In May or June SJAM will once again be selling Milkweed plants to support our butterfly friends. We do not know exactly when the plants will arrive so be looking for information later in May.

We invite people to buy one (or more) for themselves and then buy one to donate to FLC/CLC for planting in their butterfly garden.

Prayer Vigils – Ohio Is Home – Ohio Immigrant Alliance

Ohio Immigrant Alliance will be holding vigils from **May 23rd to May 30**. Communities across Ohio are coming together for a statewide interfaith vigils in solidarity with people held in civil immigration detention centers (a.k.a. ICE jail). Faith leaders, organizers, and community members will raise their voices, hold space for reflection, and stand in collective action. Visit: www.ohioishome.org

The week of prayer vigils will start on May 23 outside Seneca jail. They will end in Youngstown on May 30 outside the Mahoning jail. Organizers would love other people to organize in their areas, even if they don't have a jail. These are vigils, not a protest format. The event in Geauga is at the Geauga County Jail – May 28 vigil from 7:00 – 8:30PM. Learn more at <https://www.ohioishome.org/events/may-30-prayer-vigils>

- Rannigan shared that she attended an AMIS event last night with Austin Kocher, research professor at Syracuse University, who has a substack blog at <https://austinkocher.substack.com/>. He keeps the nation informed on ICE operations, detention data and immigration enforcement. Kocher has been studying detention centers for twenty years. Detention centers across the US hold 70,000 immigrants. The goal is to hold 100,000. There is one death every week in one of the centers. Louisiana is a main hub for detentions, and it's here where planes are filled with people from many different countries and then delivered to one place which isn't associated with their culture.
- Pride in the CLE Saturday June 6, 2026 – March at 11:00. Event is 11-6 pm. We are sponsors and will march with the UCC. Susi is coordinating.
- SOGI Family Pride Saturday June 27, 12 – 4 pm FLC (Chris) We are sponsors, will have a table there, will need volunteers to man the table. Stay tuned for details-

Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM)

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

Social and Environmental Justice (SJAM) News

Other Topics

- SJAM Speaker Night - (Cathy)

Christians in the Holy Land – Wednesday

May 13 Bell St (Cathy). Speaker Mother Agapia scheduled to come 6-9 pm. Cathy has arranged time for her to speak with other congregations of various faiths. We discussed using SJAM funds to underwrite her travel expenses. Cathy will give us an amount for Mother Agapia's travel and SJAM will reimburse. In addition, a free will offering for her organization will be accepted. She will speak about Christians in the Holy Land; she's a powerful advocate for peace in Palestine. Flyer is available.

Joint Christian Advocacy Summit. May 5-7 (Cathy W) Cathy shared information about this event in DC. Christians uniting for justice in Palestine and Israel. To learn more visit: <https://jointsummit2026.com/>

Day of Healing and Peace –Saturday, May 16th

9 am - 12 pm – At Federated Church

- Drop in, stay as long as you like, format,
- ALL ARE WELCOME! ACTIVITIES FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN
- Volunteers needed. Let us know if you can help. This is a big effort. Help and ideas are welcome. The concept is to have various healing activities at Bell Street.- Reiki, Yoga, Prayers, Labyrinth. etc. small group conversation, Kids yoga, painting, an activity to get hands into the dirt, and plant seeds to take home – “Seeds of Hope”. Other ideas welcome. Planning committee could use help, too.
- We want to create a Peace Pole – will need funds to buy materials. Dawn is working with Jake on the details and Paul Koepf has agreed to make the pole. High School student will be our artist to design and to help us paint it.
- English, Spanish, Arabic, Ukrainian Peace on Earth (in four languages)
- Contact: Dawn Dole, Susi Kawolics, Catherine Schneider or Marilyn Wise, or sjamfedchurch@gmail.com



Christians in the Holy Land

Wednesday, May 13th - 6 pm (Snacks will be served)

The Federated Church
76 Bell Street, Chagrin Falls



Speaker Mother Agapia scheduled to come 6-9 pm to speak about Christians in the Holy Land; she's a powerful advocate for peace in Palestine.

Mother Agapia Stephanopoulos

Mother Agapia's connection to the Holy Land spans over many years. Her voice carries the weight of lived experience: the intimate truths that never make headlines, and the moral clarity that only emerges from proximity. She reminds us that the Palestinian people's struggle is cultural, spiritual and profoundly human.

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

A Time of Peace, Healing, and Hope For Self, Community & and the World

Everyone - Adults and Children of all ages and genders - are invited to join together in community for healing, creating hope, and grounding yourself in peace.

ALL ARE WELCOME to join us:

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Anytime between 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Federated Church

76 Bell St., Chagrin Falls

Chagrin Falls

Come experience grounding, prayerful, healing practices throughout the day as your schedule permits. At various times Yoga, Guided Meditation, Sound Bath and Reiki will be offered, as well as painting and creative prayer practices. If you'd like a Reiki session, you must sign up.

Sign up sheet, as well as schedule for the day can be found on website:

<https://fedchurch.org/events/>

All day the indoor labyrinth will be available, as well as community space of the Fellowship Hall, with music, foods, drinks, and resources for individual prayer practices.

While this is a free event, we will be accepting donations to go to

AMIS Cleveland

(Americans Making Immigrant Safe)

Questions? Contact sjamfedchurch@gmail.com.

Sponsored by:



SOCIAL
JUSTICE
ADVOCACY
MINISTRY
federated
act

The HEART @ CENTER

federated
live your faith

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

Living with Hope & Peace: For Self, Community, & World
Federated Church, 76 Bell St. - Saturday, May 16, 2026 9 am - 12 pm
Open to all the community

Times:	9:00-9:20	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45	11:45-12
Room:				
Lower Level Meeting room G30		Yoga Adults Dawn Dole	Chair Yoga Adults Dawn Dole	
Lower Level Meeting room G20		Children's Yoga Catherine Schneider	Children's Yoga Catherine Schneider	
Sanctuary		Guided Meditation with Judy Macjen	Sound Bath with Polly Manke	
Lounge- 1 st floor	Contemplative Prayer	Guided Meditation with Maren Koepf	Readings, Poems, Prayers, Songs or Contemplation with Marilyn Wise	
Fellowship Hall – Lobby Area	Open for Fellowship / Food / Conversation / Rock Painting Anytime			
Choir Room – Lobby Area	Open for Quiet Prayer / Mandalas / Journaling / Other prayer practices Anytime			
Portico	Planting Activity - Anytime			
Chapel	Half hour Reiki Sessions – Sign up at https://fedchurch.org/events/ to schedule a session			
Healing Room – Room 330	Labyrinth Walking - Anytime			

You are welcome to come to any sessions. Fellowship Hall is open for gathering to chat, to share food, to enjoy activities.

If you would like a quieter space to pray, the Choir room is available with some suggested prayer activities.

If you would like a Reiki session, please sign up at <https://fedchurch.org/events/> for a time. Please bring a sheet (and pillow if you'd like).

For Yoga sessions, and Sound Bath, you may want to bring a mat.

All sessions are free and open to anyone who would like to participate.

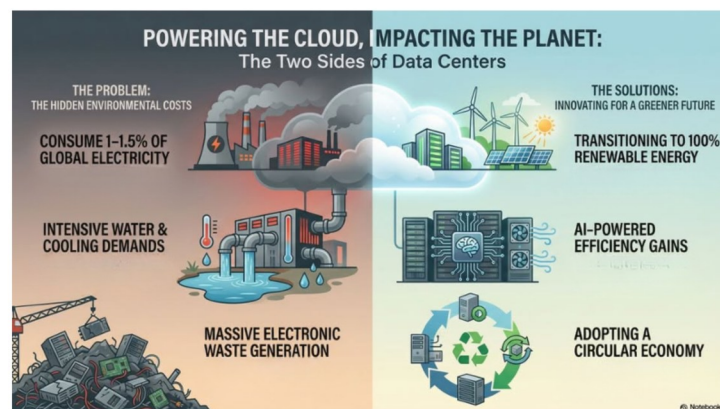
We are accepting free will offerings for AMIS. Please make check payable to: Federated Church, and put SJAM/AMIS in the memo line, or scan QR code.

Creation Care May Tip of the Month

Become Informed of the Good and the Bad...

Data centers power the modern digital economy, offering essential cloud storage, AI processing, and internet connectivity while driving regional tax revenue and infrastructure investment.

However, they present significant challenges, including immense water usage for cooling, high energy consumption, localized noise pollution, and minimal long-term employment creation in local communities.



While proponents argue that the construction of these facilities can be managed to mitigate impacts, critics emphasize that, the immediate, localized, and long-term negative effects are substantial, leading to increasing community resistance to new projects.

Many communities are fighting back, demanding bans or at least a moratorium on DCs until a regulatory framework can be developed to protect people and the natural world.

What can we do? Become Informed!

Go to conserveohio.com, foodandwaterwatch.org,

datacenterwatch.org

Research and learn more!



Watch for Milkweed Plants
to go on Sale in late May
in Fellowship Hall

Support the Monarch Butterflies,
feed the caterpillars
and watch them grow and transform!

Celebrating, Honoring and Caring for the Earth Every Day

What is God calling us to do for the Earth right now?

*What kind of world do we want to leave to our children
and grandchildren seven generations from now?*

- We offer a prayer booklet and invite you and/or your family to Pray for the Earth. Pick up your copy of the **Prayers for the Earth booklet** at the Angel desk, in the narthex after worship, in Fellowship Hall after worship and at our **Action Tree** in the lobby.
- We also invite everyone to create Actions for the Earth - things that you can do individually, as a family or with friends. We will have our **Action Tree** set up in the church lower lobby, write on a leaf the things that you are doing to support God's

Pill Bottle Reuse/Recycling



Did you know your used pill bottles might be able to help improve medical care in developing countries while lessening the burden on the planet?

Matthew 25: Ministries (m25m.org) is an Ohio-based non-profit that provides international humanitarian aid and disaster relief. They accept donations of clean, empty, recapped, label and residue-free pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies. This includes any size prescription and over-the-counter bottles of pharmaceuticals and supplements that meet the above criteria.

Federated is collecting these bottles and organizing them to send to Matthew 25: Ministries.

Please drop bottles off in **the marked drawer/bin next to the angel desk**. Please include **ONLY** bottles that are **clean**, **empty**, **recapped**, **label and residue-free**! (You should remove the stubborn labels and glue at home easily with hot water soaking and/or a water-based adhesive remover.)

If you cannot remove the labels or the residue, those prescription bottles can be dropped off for recycling in the lobby of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District (cuyahogarecycles.org) at 4750 E. 131st St., Garfield Hts., 44125. Bottles and lids are collected separately. The lobby is open M-F, 8:30 to 4:30. They will be recycled by Industrial Recyclers in Sydney, Ohio.

Please don't ever throw the (hard plastic, colored) **prescription** bottles in curbside recycling!

But over-the-counter vitamin and wellness product bottles, along with solid white larger-supply pharmaceutical bottles, CAN be put in residential curbside recycling bins, as long as bottles are **larger than 2" in diameter**. Recycle with lids on, just like other plastic bottles and jugs.

FEDERATED CHURCH PRESENTS...

2025-2026

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES



ROMAN RABINOVICH, PIANIST

THU, OCT 9, 2025 - 7 PM

TICKETS: \$25-\$45 | STUDENTS \$10

Renowned pianist and ChamberFest Cleveland co-director performs Haydn, Debussy, Beethoven & Schumann.



BURNING RIVER BRASS
"OUR KIND OF CHRISTMAS"

SAT, DEC 20, 2025 - 7 PM

TICKETS: \$30-\$50 | STUDENTS \$10

Celebrate the season with a festive mix of carols, swing, and a jazzy Big Band Nutcracker! A holiday concert sure to have you singing along.



APOLLO'S FIRE- "WINTER SPARKS"

SAT, JAN 31, 2026 - 7:30 PM

TICKETS: ASSIGNED SEATS

Virtuoso chamber works by Bach, Telemann, Vivaldi, and Marais, featuring dazzling soloists on flute, oboe, violin, and viola da gamba.



**CLE CONCIERTO- "CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH"**

SAT, MAR 21, 2026 - 7 PM

TICKETS: \$25-\$45 | STUDENTS \$10

Celebrate women composers of the 17th century featuring the music of Strozzi, Bembo, and Leonarda.



AUSTIN WALKIN' CANE- "BBQ & BLUES"
SUN, JUNE 7, 2026 | 4 PM

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

TICKETS: \$30 | KIDS (12U) \$10

A crowd-pleasing blues performance paired with our annual dinner. Featuring a community BBQ cookoff!



FOR MORE INFO: JOSHUA KONOW (JKONOW@FEDCHURCH.ORG)
OR 216.247.6490X120 OR VISIT [FEDCHURCH.ORG/PAS](https://www.fedchurch.org/pas)



Community Partners



A COMMUNITY PREPARING ITSELF

By Joe Worthy, Program Manager, Community Life Collaborative

I went to school here. My family has been rooted in this community for generations. I'm also the Program Manager at the Community Life Collaborative. From both of those places, I want to say something about the two convenings we're hosting next month: why they look the way they do, and why this particular moment needed programming of this particular kind.

At CLC, we put on a lot of programming, and much of it is designed to be generative and enlightening. These are spaces to gather, to learn together, to come away encouraged. That matters. A community should have those kinds of spaces, and we'll keep building them.

But not every moment calls for that kind of programming. Sometimes a community has to prepare itself for harder work. The two convenings coming next month, *Called to Act* and *What Is Ours to Do*, are designed for that second kind of moment.

Across Ohio right now, neighbors are watching their neighbors get caught in federal enforcement actions. Families whose status was settled a month ago are living in uncertainty. Rural communities that used to feel insulated from national politics are finding the politics have arrived anyway. And the people making local decisions about how to respond (whether to cooperate, resist, or look away) are not strangers in this community. They are people we know. The easy response is to stay quiet, to protect the relationship, to tell yourself someone else will handle it.

For years, decades even, we've watched the hard news from elsewhere with the distance to watch it. We've cheered or booed from the sideline. We've shaken our heads at what was happening in other states and other communities. That time is over. It is at our doorstep now. We are no longer spectators. We are no longer commentators. What is happening is happening here, to people we know. The question is what we do about it.

I'll include myself in that "we." I moved back to my grandmother's home, our family's home for generations, in part because I wanted distance from the politics I work on everywhere else. I thought this was a place I could rest from it. I was wrong. It came here, too.

There is a kind of love that requires speaking, not silence. The love a parent has for a child about to do something harmful isn't expressed by looking away. It's expressed by saying *no*, clearly, and holding the line because you care. That same love belongs between neighbors. A community that cares about itself tells itself the truth, even when the truth is uncomfortable, even when the person who needs to hear it is someone you'll see at the hardware store on Saturday.

Love, in that sense, is not quiet.

Community conversation and community collaboration are not always easy. Speaking hard truths in love is a practice, and practices require preparation. That's the lens I brought to designing these two convenings. They are spaces where people in this community can get ready for the conversations this moment is asking of us.

The first, *Called to Act*, is a half-day gathering for people of faith, facilitated by Dylan Sellers, pastor of Purpose Community Church in Cleveland. It's built around a question a lot of people in pews are asking quietly: what does my faith actually ask of me, right now, in this political climate? Not in the abstract. Not next year. Now. The session brings people across traditions into honest conversation about scripture, conviction, and what discernment looks like when the pressure is real. If you've felt the tension between what you believe and what you're watching unfold, this is the space to bring it.

The second, *What Is Ours to Do*, is a full-day intensive led by Reckon With. It's not a lecture and it's not a strategy session. It's a practice. Participants move through small-group exercises that surface the conditioning we each carry, examine the histories of the places we live, and rehearse the real conversations. The ones you'll actually have this week, with people you actually know. It begins from the premise that before we ask what's wrong out there, we have to reckon with what we bring in here. The program was built around climate justice originally; we've expanded its scope because the questions it asks apply to every justice issue we're facing right now.

Neither convening will hand you a script. Both will give you practice.

What we're building, through these programs and the ones that will follow, is a community preparing itself. Not for a fight with its neighbors, but for the kind of honest, loving, unflinching conversations a community has to be able to have if it's going to stay whole. The work ahead is real. Our democracy is hanging by a thread. And the work starts with showing up.





Thank You

Dearest Friends,

How do I begin to thank you for the privilege of having served as your interim pastor for the past seventeen months and for the gracious sendoff you gave me? From the standing ovations that brought me to tears to the gorgeous vase from the Glass Asylum that I love lighting up nearly every night to the stack of cards and heartfelt messages, I feel (and return) your love. And then came the cash gift that was beyond generous! Thank you all from the bottom of my heart!

I continue to pray for you daily with thanksgiving for the opportunity to have served with you and with hope that you will embrace this new phase of your faith journey and will continue to listen closely for where the Spirit is calling you. May God continue to richly bless you all!

With Love, ♡

Vicki



thank you

to Friends of Just Hope

Over the past few years JustHope activities have been in transition, working to transition from a North American based non-profit to a truly local Nicaraguan organization led by Nicaraguans, especially the micro-credit women in Chacraseca. This transition is now complete and JustHope will cease all US operations as of July 1, 2026.

We celebrate all that has been accomplished by partners and friends of JustHope. It has been a good 20 years and we give thanks for all who shared the journey with us. Many of us will continue to support women who need microcredit loans, and students who need scholarships to University. If you would like to be part of supporting these ongoing programs, please contact JustHope's Founder, Rev Leslie Penrose at lesile@justhope.org.

For more information, contact Michael Quintin,
t150scouter@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 3– last names beginning with A & B**
- May 10– last names beginning with C & D**
- May 17– last names beginning with E, F, and G**
- May 24– last names beginning with H, I, J, and K**
- May 31– last names beginning with L & M**



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Instagram: [@federatedchurch](https://instagram.com/federatedchurch)

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO HELP YOU

CLERGY

Michael Anthony Howard, *Senior Pastor*
Judy Bagley-Bonner, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

Administration Staff

Beth Rutkowski, *Senior Director of People and Operations*
Brooke Strong, *Director of Communications*
Thea Mzingo, *Director of Generosity*
Oliver Mason, *Director of Youth and Families*
* **Susi Kawolics**, *Bookkeeper*
* **Marty Culbertson**, *Director of Missions*
* **Allison Hutchins**, *Administrative Specialist*
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

* **Jannine Mason**, *Children's Activities Leader*

* denotes part-time staff



federated

**Hope to see you
this Sunday!**

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