



# Summer AT THE Fed

## A SUMMER OF Belonging

One church.  
Many ways to belong.

Join us all summer long for  
worship, fellowship, learning,  
service, music, and fun for  
every generation.



CONNECTION



FUN



FAITH



COMMUNITY



WELCOME

Everyone. Everywhere. *Every day.*



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# From the Desk of Pastor Michael...

## Many Gifts, One Body

As we move into June, I find myself deeply grateful for the life we are sharing together at Federated Church.

Over these last weeks, we have been listening closely to Jesus' words in the Gospel of John. We have returned again and again to the table, to the commandment to love one another, to the promise of the Spirit, and to Jesus' prayer "that they may be one." At Pentecost, we celebrated the fire of God: the Spirit forming the followers of Jesus into one body, not by making them all the same, but by filling them with a shared life and sending them to speak good news in many tongues.

That, I believe, is part of the direction God is inviting us to walk together.

Federated Church is a congregation of remarkable gifts. I continue to be amazed by the wisdom, creativity, generosity, faithfulness, and compassion present in this community. Some of those gifts are visible on Sunday mornings through music, worship leadership, welcome, prayer, teaching, and care. Others are offered quietly through committees, commissions, visits, meals, repairs, planning, service, and the steady work of tending the life of the church. Still others move beyond our walls through partnerships, creation care, advocacy, generosity, and friendship.

Again and again, I find myself thinking: there is so much here. So much history. So much faith. So much kindness, imagination, and desire to serve. So much possibility!

One of my hopes as your pastor is that we will continue learning how to recognize, bless, organize, and share these gifts. The church is not only a place where we gather. The church is a body – **the Body of Christ** – formed by the Spirit for the sake of the world. Each person brings something necessary. Each gift matters. Each act of care helps reveal the love of God.

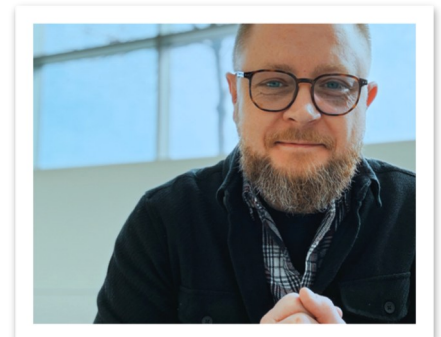
In the months ahead, we will keep asking important questions together. What does it mean for Federated to be a United and Uniting church today? How do we become a community where people know they belong? How do we help each person discover and offer their gifts? How do we carry Christ's love beyond our walls into the hopes and needs of the world around us?

These questions are both spiritual and practical. They shape how we worship, how we welcome, how we care for one another, how we use our buildings and resources, how we serve our neighbors, and how we listen for the Spirit's movement among us.

I am grateful to be walking this road with you. I am grateful for the Spirit's fire among us. And I am grateful for the many ways this church already embodies the dream of God: many gifts, one Spirit, one table, one Body.

With gratitude and hope,

*Pastor Michael*



# SUMMER

AT THE *Fed*



**A SUMMER OF BELONGING**

CONNECTION. FUN. FAITH. FOR EVERY GENERATION.

Plan your summer with us!  
Everyone is welcome. All are invited!

**JUNE 2026** 



**JUNE  
7**

## BBQ & BLUES

Kick off summer with great BBQ, live blues music, and fellowship for all!



**JUNE  
17**

## FRONT PORCH POP-UP

Stop by for popsicles, conversation, and a taste of summer on the porch.



**JUNE  
24**

## BOARD GAMES NIGHT 6-8 PM

An evening of friendly competition and fun for all ages!



**JUNE  
27**

## PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Parents, enjoy a well-deserved evening out—we've got the kids!

# JULY 2026



**JULY  
1**

## **PRIMETIME GUARDIANS GAME**

Cheer on the Guardians with friends!  
A fun afternoon at the ballpark.



**JULY  
8**

## **THEO OF GOLDEN BOOK CONVERSATION**

A thoughtful discussion about this inspiring  
story and its message of hope and inclusion.



**JULY  
9**

## **PRIMETIME PICNIC**

Enjoy good food, great company,  
and summer fun together!



**JULY  
11-18**

## **YOUTH COLORADO TRIP**

A week of adventure, service,  
and faith in the mountains.



**JULY  
13-17**

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)**

A week of faith, fun, and friendship  
for kids! More details coming soon.



**JULY  
15**

## **FRONT PORCH S'MORES NIGHT**

Gather around the fire for stories,  
s'mores, and sweet summer memories.



**JULY  
29**

## **BOARD GAMES NIGHT 6-8 PM**

Another chance to roll the dice,  
laugh, and play!



**LEARN MORE &  
SIGN UP FOR EVENTS**

[fedchurch.org/events](https://fedchurch.org/events)



# AUGUST 2026



**AUGUST  
5**

## FRONT PORCH JAM NIGHT

Bring a chair, your voice or an instrument, and enjoy an evening of live music and community.



**AUGUST  
9**

## ALL CHURCH PICNIC

One church. One picnic. One big day of food, games, and fellowship!



**AUGUST  
13**

## CAPTAINS GAME

Take me out to the ballgame!  
Join us for a fun night with the Captains.

# SEPTEMBER 2026



**SEPTEMBER  
13**

## RALLY DAY

Celebrate a new season of faith and community together!



*Everyone.  
Everywhere.  
Every day.*



## THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU HERE.

Come as you are.  
Stay as long as you'd like.  
There's room for you here.



# Summer AT THE Fed

A SUMMER OF  
*Belonging*

COME AS YOU ARE.

STAY AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE.

THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU HERE.



## Federated Front Porch SUMMER SERIES

SIMPLE GATHERINGS. MEANINGFUL CONNECTION. OPEN TO ALL.



### *Popsicles* ON THE PORCH WITH PASTOR MICHAEL

Grab a popsicle and chat with Pastor Michael! Bring the kids, your questions, and a friend.



**JUNE 17**  
6:00 - 8:00 PM



### *S'mores* & STORIES NIGHT

Gather around the fire for s'mores, stories, laughs, and connection for all ages.



**JULY 15**  
6:00 - 8:00 PM



### *Lemonade* & LISTENING

An acoustic jam session open to all artists and listeners. Come to play, or come to enjoy!



**AUGUST 5**  
6:00 - 8:00 PM



A WELCOMING COMMUNITY  
ROOTED IN FAITH, OPEN TO ALL,  
AND HERE FOR GOOD.

Learn more at  
[FEDCHURCH.ORG](http://FEDCHURCH.ORG)



# SUMMER Book Study



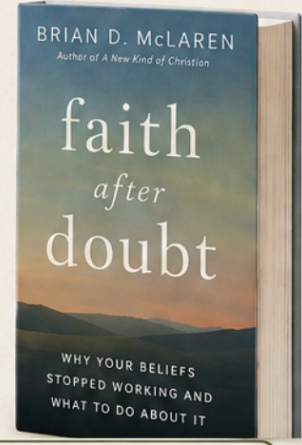
ON THE BOOK

## Faith After Doubt BY BRIAN MCLAREN

Lead by  
Judy and  
Brian Bagley-Bonner

*Faith After Doubt* is for people who wonder if their faith is falling apart. Using his own story and the stories of a diverse group of struggling believers, Brian McLaren, a former pastor and now an author, speaker and activist, shows how old assumptions are being challenged in nearly every area of human life, not just theology and spirituality. His four-stage model of faith development—Simplicity, Complexity, Perplexity and Harmony—shows how questions and doubt are not the enemy of faith, but rather, a portal to a more mature and fruitful kind of faith.

*Spirituality and Health* magazine calls this book “*deeply reassuring to anyone who questions their faith or the existence of God.*”



WE WILL MEET  
**MONDAYS**  
FROM  
**JUNE 15–AUGUST 17**



**MORNING GROUP**  
Live at Federated  
**10:30 A.M.**



**EVENING GROUP**  
Online via Zoom  
**7:00 P.M.**

*We understand if you have to miss the occasional meeting due to summer travel.*

## Sign up TODAY!



Scan the QR code  
to sign up today!



Please obtain the book on your own, and read the preface, introduction and chapters one and two for the first meeting.





# ONE-TIME *Summer* BOOK CONVERSATION: *Theo of Golden*



**WEDNESDAY, JULY 8 • 7:00 P.M.**

*Lead by Judy Bagley-Bonner and Susi Kawolics*



If *Theo of Golden* touches your imagination, stirs your spirit, or leaves you thinking long after the final page, you are warmly invited to an evening of conversation and reflection.

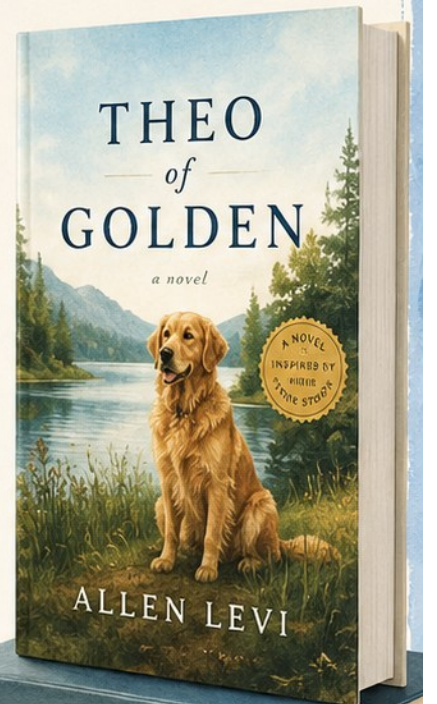


Together we will explore the book's themes, symbolism, characters, spiritual insights, and the many ways readers have found hope, beauty, and inspiration in its story. This gathering is intended especially for those who connected with the book and would enjoy discussing what it meant to them.



Because responses to *Theo of Golden* can vary widely, our focus for the evening will not be on debating the book's literary merits, pacing, or style, but rather on engaging the ideas and experiences that resonate with many readers.

Whether the book made you smile, wonder, reflect, or see faith and community in a fresh way, we hope you'll join us for a thoughtful and enjoyable conversation.



Please sign up on Realm or at Coffee Hour.

# Staff SPOTLIGHT

Rev. Susi Kawolics

BOOKKEEPER



**1** Many people at Federated know you from your years serving as Associate Minister, but your role has evolved over time. Can you share a little about your current role at Federated and what your day-to-day work looks like now?

My current role on staff now is that of part-time bookkeeper. I work about 8 to 10 hours a week, and enter all our financial donations and expenses into our software programs. I also pay bills, prepare reports, reconcile statements, etc. In addition, I attend the weekly staff meetings, where I hope I bring my pastoral gifts as well as my practical bookkeeping skills.

**2** What led you to return to Federated in your current position as bookkeeper?

In September of 2023, our bookkeeper, Jan Stefanchick, was scheduled for surgery and medical leave for two months. Melissa Owen, our Administrator, knowing I had a background in bookkeeping, asked if I would come and learn the job to substitute for her while she was recovering. Although I had other part-time jobs, I felt I would be able to handle those extra hours for two months. Sadly, Jan passed away. After having worked at Federated for those months, I found that I really loved being back on staff, and using my bookkeeping knowledge for Federated. I gave up some other jobs so that I could stay on as the bookkeeper here.

**3** Even though your official role has changed, the congregation still sees you helping lead worship, preaching occasionally, serving communion, and supporting ministries like SJAM and Creation Care. What has it meant to continue being involved in those areas?

Many people at Federated remember me in my role as Associate Pastors from December 2011 to December 2019. I absolutely love being able to serve this church in different capacities. The bookkeeping work is the work that I get paid for, the worship work and Social Justice work is what I do as a volunteer, as any member of the church would, using my gifts and talents to serve the Federated community. Because I am ordained, I am always a "minister," and hope that no matter what I am doing for the church, I can do it pastorally, with compassion, love, and integrity.

**4** One of the unique things about your role is that it blends both behind-the-scenes work and pastoral presence. How do you see those two parts of your work connecting?

I am not sure I am unique in my role. I think that is part of what everyone on our staff does. We all have work that everyone sees, all the "practical" work that needs to be done. But then there are always other opportunities that come up – occasions to connect with people, to support them, to just be with them. I feel that everyone on staff sees their work as ministry, that all staff members bring their heart and their love of God and others into all aspects of their jobs.

**5** Federated is entering a new season with new leadership and new energy. What has it been like for you to witness and be part of this transition?

I have loved being on staff during this time! I had worked with Vicki previous to her coming to Federated as our Interim, and I was so happy to work with her again. I think she did a wonderful job of preparing us for our transition to a new Senior Pastor. I was, and still am, so inspired by the dedication and leadership of the whole staff, and so grateful to the Search Committee and all their hard work that resulted in calling Michael Howard as our new Senior pastor. Throughout those transitional months, it was amazing to see how steady, how hopeful, and non-anxious the staff was. I feel like we set the tone for the congregation and were really well-prepared for our new leadership. I am excited and hopeful about our future!

**6** Are there particular ministries or initiatives that you feel especially passionate about right now?

The Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) team started while I was Associate Pastor here, so it is near and dear to my heart. We have such a dedicated group of people who care deeply about so many issues and are willing to educate themselves and take action on what they are passionate about. And at the same time, members of this ministry team are willing to engage in conversation and build bridges across divides. I hope we will continue to open our hearts and our welcome, as well as our circle of concern, wider and wider.

**7** For those who may not know you as well yet, what would you like the congregation to know about you?

I am a Certified Labyrinth facilitator, and also a volunteer with the Labyrinth Society as Regional Representative and Membership Coordinator. One of my goals is to walk a labyrinth in every state in the US. (I have done 35 so far!) I feel extremely fortunate that Federated Church has one of the most beautiful labyrinths in the country at the Family Life Center, and that we now have one at our Bell Street location in room 330. Feel free to talk to me about labyrinth anytime!

**8** What do you think makes Federated such a unique and special community?

I fell in love with Federated when I came to my first worship service here back in 2005. This church saved my soul from despair, and gave me new hope for finding a path to ministry. They welcomed me with open arms, affirmed my gifts, and eventually called me as pastor so I could be ordained.

I have seen this church grow and change, and I truly believe that we are a community guided by and trusting in God's ever-present spirit of love. We seek to embody that love in our decisions, in our relationships, in our ministries inside and outside the walls of the church.

I continue to be inspired and sustained by so many people in the Federated Church community and am so grateful to have found this community, and to be part of it, ministering in whatever way I am needed.

♥ Thank you, Susi, for your gifts, dedication, and heart!



Strengthen  
the Church

SENT FORTH IN

**LOVE**

Offering to be  
received  
June 7, 2026

A Special Mission Offering of  
the United Church of Christ  
supporting new church,  
leadership, and youth  
cultivation through our  
Conferences and  
National Ministries.



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

UCC.ORG/STC



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST








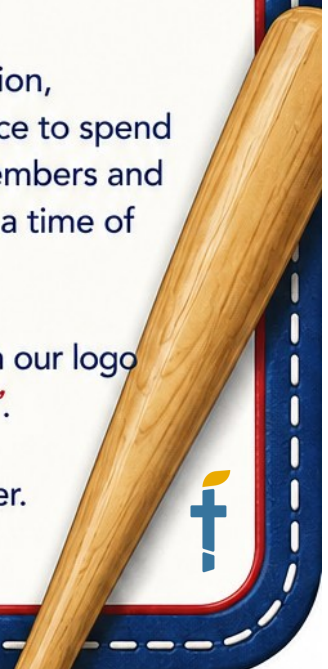
# CHURCH CO-ED SOFTBALL TEAM

— JUNE 2026 —



*Take me out  
to the ballgame*

- 
- “Take me out to the ball game...” will be a new invitation this summer with our church joining the Kenston Community Education Church Co-Ed Softball League.
- 
- We have a team of 16 enthusiastic players who will be managed by recent member Steve Behmlander and will play on Sunday afternoons from June 7 through August 9. The weekly schedule will be posted in our e-blast and Sunday bulletin. The games will be held at the River Road Park located at **17535 Chagrin River Road** (between Solon Rd. and Bainbridge Rd.)
- 
- The park has picnic areas including a sheltered pavilion, playground and walking trails and is an excellent place to spend a Sunday afternoon. The team is hoping that our members and friends will come out to root for our team and enjoy a time of fellowship together.
- 
- Our team will be wearing royal blue team jerseys with our logo brightly witnessing to our theme of *“live your faith”*.
- 
- Plan to come enjoy the summer fun together.



# Generosity SPOTLIGHT



## Sunny Doxey

Volunteer at Chagrin Falls  
Park Community Center



Federated Church is honored to recognize **Sunny Doxey** for her extraordinary dedication and lasting impact at the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center.



Upon her retirement from a distinguished career teaching first grade in the Kenston schools, Sunny became the driving force behind the success of the after-school tutoring initiative for elementary students. Sunny's leadership was instrumental in developing and expanding the tutoring program. She not only organized and trained a team of volunteers to provide one-on-one support, but also served as the primary tutor, ensuring each child received personalized attention. By collaborating closely with local teachers, Sunny made certain that the tutoring program complemented classroom learning and addressed the unique needs of every student.



Her influence has spanned generations—some of the children she has mentored are the children and even grandchildren of her former first-grade students. Sunny has been a passionate advocate for Chagrin Falls Park children, working with the Kenston administration to champion their needs.



A gifted educator, Sunny inspired students both academically and personally. She nurtured their growth with encouragement and high expectations, celebrating their achievements with praise and meaningful incentives. Her generosity extended beyond the classroom: Sunny donated hundreds of books and established a library for the Community Center, thoughtfully curating selections by Black authors and with Black characters so children could see themselves reflected in the stories.



Sunny's love for teaching and her unwavering commitment to the children of Chagrin Falls Park are evident in her remarkable **18 years of volunteer service**. Her legacy is one of compassion, excellence, and transformative impact. We are deeply grateful for all that Sunny has given to our community.

“  
*The impact  
of one  
generous  
heart  
can last for  
generations.*  
”



# Women's Ministry

**Circle** will not meet during the summer months and will resume in September. Enjoy the summer, and we may even gather for a lunch outing before then. See you in the fall!

**Sit & Stitch** continues to meet every Thursday at 10:00 AM in Room 340. We have plenty of yarn, knitting needles, and crochet hooks available. Together we create prayer squares, prayer shawls, and blessing blankets for those in need. New participants are always welcome!

**Helping Hands** will meet on Monday, June 22 at 1:00 PM in the Lower-Level Meeting Room. Join us as we stuff and sew pillows for Hospice of the Western Reserve. Fabric donations are always appreciated and may be left behind the Angel Desk. We look forward to sharing fellowship and service together.

**Loaves & Fishes** will provide lunch for our friends at St. Paul's, our sister church, on Sunday, June 28. If you are able to donate cookies or other baked treats, please leave them in the church kitchen by 9:00 AM that morning and mark them "Loaves & Fishes."



Thank you for your continued support—we appreciate it!

For more information contact Lynne Kessell, 440-487-9104 or [lynnekessell@gmail.com](mailto:lynnekessell@gmail.com).

*Looking for*

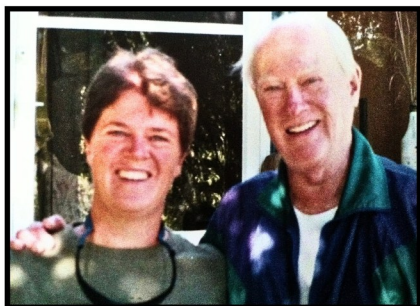
**FATHER'S  
DAY  
PICTURES**



**Share the Fathers in your life!**

**Send pictures to  
Pics@fedchurch.org**

**include the name of the fathers pictured in your email**



*all pictures need to be received by  
June 16th*





# FEDERATED CHURCH PRIMETIME Newsletter



JUNE 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 Mzingo at [tmozingo@fedchurch.org](mailto:tmozingo@fedchurch.org) or by calling 440-247-6490.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**TUESDAY, JUNE 16TH**  
**Widows' Dinner at The Washington Street Diner**  
5:30pm-7:30pm  
*Join your friends for dinner out at their new location!*



**THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH**  
**Happy 250th Birthday USA – Donuts & History**  
10:00am-11:30am  
We will meet at the Chagrin History Center for a fascinating talk by John Bourisseau including several items in their collection with ties to the early days of the US.



**PRIMETIME BRIDGE**  
June 2 & 16 • 1:00pm-3:00pm  
Fellowship Hall – Contact Harriett Rogers to schedule



**PRIMETIME MAHJONG**  
Every Friday • 1:00pm-4:00pm  
Fellowship Hall – All experience levels welcome



Please sign up on REALM or contact Thea ([tmozingo@fedchurch.org](mailto:tmozingo@fedchurch.org)) if you need a ride. We will try to help find you a ride.



**TUESDAY, JUNE 16TH**  
**Widows' Dinner** – Please RSVP on Realm, to Thea or Judy Harvey. Dinner starts at 5:30pm.



**THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH**  
**Donuts & History**  
Join us for donuts and coffee and an engaging presentation at the Chagrin History Center.



**WEDNESDAY, JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> – SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Primetime goes to the Guardians.** Please sign up by Friday, May 29th on REALM.



**THURSDAY, JULY 9TH**  
**Primetime Picnic at Holbrook Hollows** – all the good eats and usual fun and, YES, there will be Bingo!



We will have a planning meeting on 6/22 at 3:00pm in the Lounge. If you are not able to attend and want to recommend an outing, please contact Thea.

*Save the Date!*



**PRIMETIME GOES TO THE GUARDIANS**  
Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> • Sign up by Friday, May 29th on REALM!



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



# SECOND SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL



THOSE SUNDAYS ARE

★ June, 14<sup>th</sup>

★ July, 12<sup>th</sup>

★ August, 9<sup>th</sup>

Our Sunday school year has come to a close, yet we will still be having one Sunday a month where we will have Sunday school activities.



NEW THIS SUMMER!

# WEDNESDAY WORSHIP & WIGGLES!

FOR PRESCHOOL &  
RISING KINDERGARTENERS



WEDNESDAYS

JUNE & JULY

10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

at Federated Church (76 Bell St.)



You and your child will receive a warm, extravagant welcome where we will celebrate God's beautiful world, learn about being a kind neighbor, and dance out our wiggles.



This energetic 90-minute program is tailored specifically for young attention spans. Through our summer theme, "God's Big Backyard," little learners will enjoy action-packed songs, interactive storytelling, simple games, and creative crafts—all rooted in the message of God's love, inclusion, and care for our world.



### SPACE IS LIMITED

to ensure a safe, fun environment. The program is **FREE** as a gift to our community, but **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!**



### SIGN UP TODAY!

Visit [fedchurch.org](http://fedchurch.org) to register.



### Questions?

Email Jannine Mason at [janninemason@gmail.com](mailto:janninemason@gmail.com)

A joyful, active mid-week program with songs, stories, games, and crafts— all about **God's love** and our **beautiful world!**

Back By Popular Demand...

# Parents' Night Out!

**A night of fun, friends,  
and fellowship for kids!**

Need a night to unwind? Dinner? Movie? Quiet time? We'll take care of the little ones while you enjoy a worry-free evening out!

**For Kids  
K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- Pizza
- Games
- Movies
- Crafts
- LEGO building
- Quieter activities for those who enjoy a more serene environment.

\*Limited spots pre registration required



**Sat., June 27th  
6 - 8:15 pm**



Federated Church  
[fedchurch.org/events](https://fedchurch.org/events)  
76 Bell Street, Chagrin Falls, OH, 44022

# 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 | 9 AM - 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](mailto:omason@fedchurch.org).



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT:

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

*Building homes.  
Building hope.  
Building community.* 

# AS WE *FLY* TOWARDS THE COLORADO TRIP *this June*

**(LESS THAN TWO MONTHS!!)**

As we fly towards the Colorado Trip this June, we'd love to push for a final round of fundraising by promoting it through the Church's Facebook page.

If we are just able to each send this link to **5 people** we know (whether it is family, friends, coworkers, etc.), it is quite possible to have a great turnout of fundraising.



Please send the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/2882872468733510/>

*Thank you for all you do!* 

BEST OF LUCK WITH THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR!

ADVENTURE

FAITH

MAKING  
A DIFFERENCE



FEDERATED CHURCH

Welcomes you to

# "GOD'S BIG BACKYARD" VBS 2026



13-17  
**JULY**

9 AM- 12 PM



FAMILY LIFE CENTER

**K - 5<sup>TH</sup> 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.

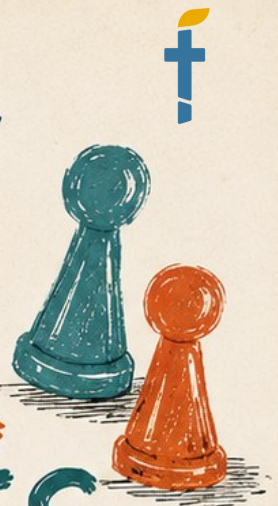
## MORE INFORMATION

[FEDCHURCH.ORG/VBS](https://FEDCHURCH.ORG/VBS)





# BORED SUMMER BOARD GAMES



with Oliver

COME JOIN OLIVER  
at Federated this summer on  
the following dates:

6/24 & 7/29  
FROM 6-8PM

- ★ Fancy a change of pace over the summer vacation?
- ★ Are you interested in games?
- ★ Are you interested in making new friends?



THERE WILL BE  
SNACKS, DRINKS,  
GAMES, AND FUN!



OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN FROM  
5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AND UP.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT OLIVER: [omason@fedchurch.org](mailto:omason@fedchurch.org)

# NEW AND IMPROVED Sanctuary FAMILY ROOM!



Come and check out our  
**warm** and **welcoming**  
family room off the Sanctuary.



The perfect place for  
little ones to  
*wiggle and coo,*



while parents and  
caregivers can still  
feel **part of the**  
**Sunday service.**

**BIG SHOUT OUT TO**

*Jannine Mason*  
for the sprucing up!



*A special space for our littlest ones  
and their people.*



Save the Date!



JOIN US FOR

# Confirmation CLASS

for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders  
in the 2026-2027 programming year.



We will reach out with more details about class times, activities, and registration **in the fall**.



Watch **church publications** for additional details.



Feel free to **contact the office** with any questions.



# Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM)

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

## Social and Environmental Justice (SJAM) News

The mission of the Social Justice Advocacy Ministry is to be a voice and witness to God's love for all people and creation and to advocate for justice for those who are marginalized, discriminated against and denied their inherent rights as children of God and citizens of our nation and world.

We strive to become well informed, provide opportunities to educate ourselves, balanced with opportunities to take action. Live Our Faith!

To learn more or receive our emails, please contact [sjamfedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:sjamfedchurch@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](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](http://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-

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**Next Meeting: Sunday, 14, 2026**

**PLEASE NOTE: SECOND SUNDAY!**

**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/15o1wV1KY9yPpMqiLsQwwOuMA-0SmulT\\_og24PCblya4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15o1wV1KY9yPpMqiLsQwwOuMA-0SmulT_og24PCblya4/edit?usp=sharing)

## The Creation Care and Justice team is once again selling Milkweed Plants

We are once again helping our Neighbors, the **Beautiful Butterfly!** This month, SJAM will once again be selling Milkweed plants to support our butterfly friends.

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. Cost will be \$5.00 per plant and will be sold in Fellowship Hall after worship services.

## June is PRIDE MONTH



federated   
act

## Pride in the CLE

**Saturday, June 6th - 11 AM Downtown Cleveland**

**(Carpool from Federated at 9:45 AM)**

SJAM is once again a co-sponsor for **Pride in the CLE**. This takes place on **Saturday June 6, 2026** -at 11 AM. We will march with the UCC group. We will carpool from **Federated Church parking lot, meeting at 9:45 AM** that morning. Wear your Federated T-Shirt, or a bright/rainbow color and come march with us. If you want to carpool, email: [sjamfedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:sjamfedchurch@gmail.com) so we know you're coming.

# Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM)

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## SJAM Speaker Night and discussion

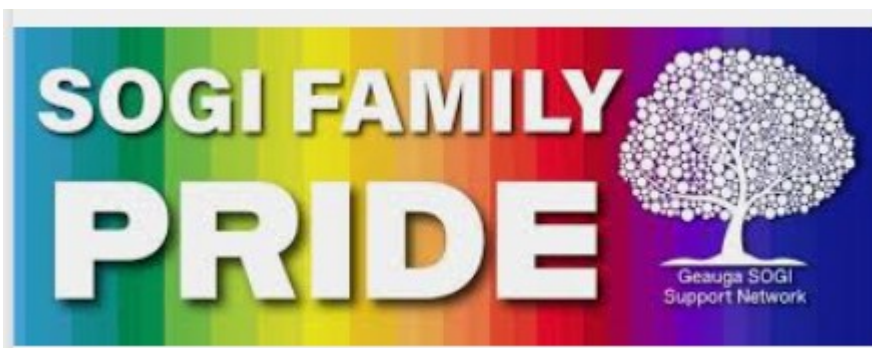
Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> - 7-9 PM

At 76 Bell St. – Fellowship Hall

### DE-MYSTIFYING AND UNDERSTANDING TRANSGENDER: STORIES FROM OUR TRANS-SIBLINGS

Come watch excerpts from the documentary "Mama Bears," and also hear stories from our Trans-siblings and parents.

See flyer on [page ...](#) for more details



## SOGI Family Pride

Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> - 12 pm – 4 pm

Family Life Center, 16349 Chillicothe Rd., Bainbridge

Please join us at the **SOGI Family Pride** event, which SJAM is also co-sponsoring.

It will be **Saturday June 27, 12 – 4 pm** at the Family Life Center. We're looking for volunteers to help with the event, and to staff our table.

Email [sjamedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:sjamedchurch@gmail.com) if you're interested in helping, otherwise, just come and enjoy!



# 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



Federated Social Justice Advocacy Ministry  
(SJAM) presents

## DE-MYSTIFYING AND UNDERSTANDING TRANSGENDER: STORIES FROM OUR TRANS-SIBLINGS MOVIE AND SPEAKER NIGHT

**Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall**

Celebrate PRIDE month, and gain a better understanding of transgender people and their families: their joys, their challenges, their everyday reality.

We will watch excerpts from the documentary "Mama Bears," and also hear personal stories.



Snacks provided.

Questions? Email: [sjamfedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:sjamfedchurch@gmail.com)





# WE ARE A CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH,



committing ourselves as individuals and as a congregation to responsibly care for creation.

*Do you know.....*

## WHAT THE IMPACT FRACKING HAS ON CREATION?



**Fracking** (hydraulic fracturing) is the process of extracting gas or oil by injecting water, sand, and/or chemicals into the ground at high pressure. Fracking uses hundreds of different chemicals and releases radioactivity from the bedrock, **polluting the air, land, and water** and harming human and animal health. Fracking can lead to **groundwater contamination** and **cause earthquakes**.



Injection wells are used to store the briny waste by-product of fracking, super salty fluid that contains heavy metals, radioactive chemicals, and “trade secret” compounds. Ohio has over 200 class II injection wells, which have the potential to **leak and contaminate groundwater**.



According to Save Ohio Parks, the oil and gas industries are heavily favored in Ohio, while solar and wind power have been made almost impossible to site. This spring, the Ohio Oil and Gas Land Management Commission approved **8500 acres of public land for fracking** at the Egypt Valley Wildlife Area and Salt Fork State Park. The approval came at the end of a short meeting, **despite the known harms to the environment and wildlife and strong public opposition**. And, Ohio plans to build additional fracking waste injection wells in Washington Co. despite objections from residents, environmental groups, and town governments. While the risks of unconventional drilling are felt in local communities, as of 2024, **one third of energy produced in the U.S. was exported to other countries**.



*Join us in learning more.*

Check out the resources below or do your own research and see how you can help make a **Difference**.



Fracking/Definition, Environmental Concerns, & Facts/ Britannica (fact Based)



The FracTracker Alliance at <https://www.fractracker.org/>



The Ohio Environmental Council at <https://theoec.org/>

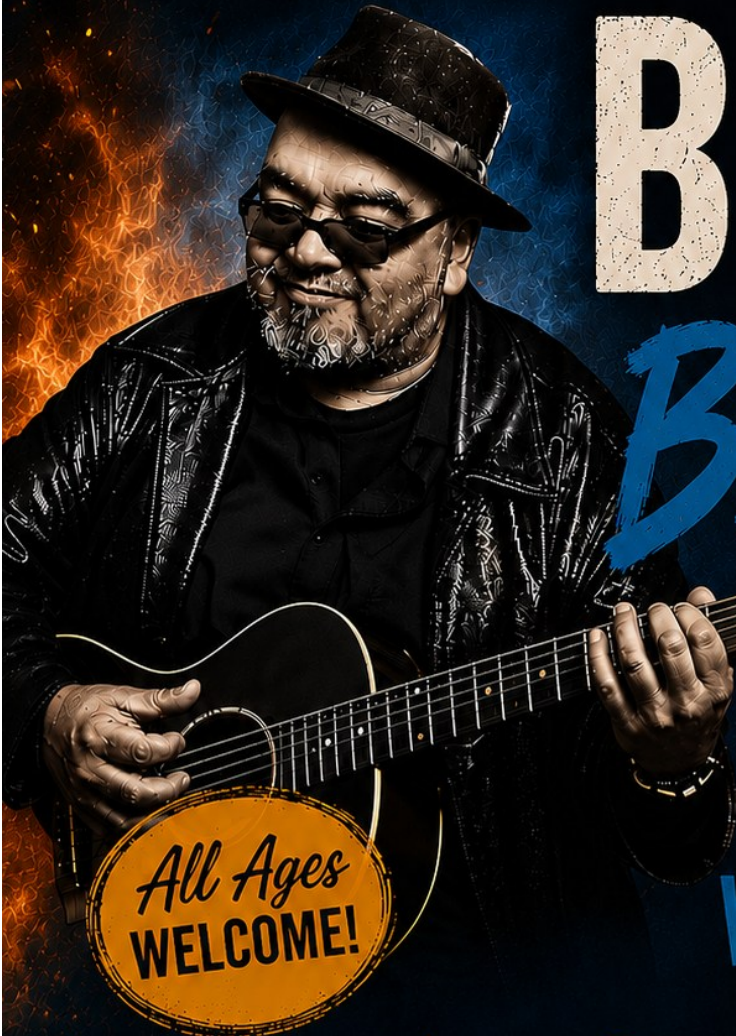


EPA – Effect on Drinking Water:  
[https://cleanwater.org/sites/default/files/EPAFrackAssmt\\_Threats\\_Final\\_0.pdf](https://cleanwater.org/sites/default/files/EPAFrackAssmt_Threats_Final_0.pdf)



THE PERFORMING ARTS SERIES PRESENTS...

# BBQ & BLUES!



All Ages  
WELCOME!

FEATURING

## AUSTIN WALKIN' CANE



SUNDAY,  
JUNE 7TH, 2026  
4-6 PM



FEDERATED  
FAMILY LIFE CENTER  
16349 CHILlicoTHE ROAD  
CHAGRIN FALLS, OH 44023

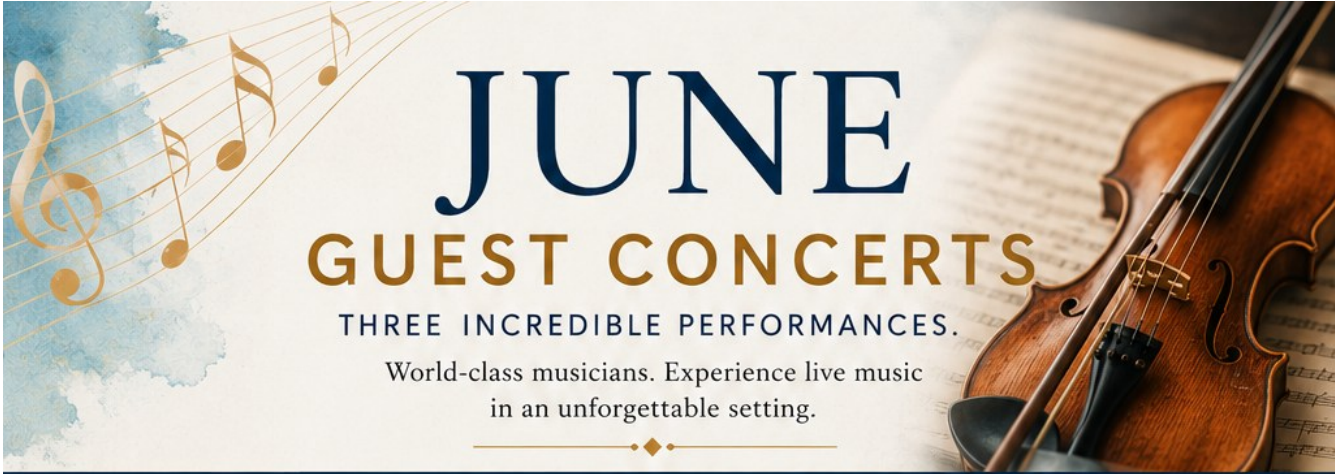


TICKETS:  
**\$30 ADULTS**  
.....  
KIDS 12 AND UNDER: \$10



Our season wraps up with our annual “dinner and a concert” event. Austin Walkin’ Cane is sure to get the crowd moving with his powerful blues band, accompanied by a delicious BBQ dinner meal.





# JUNE GUEST CONCERTS

THREE INCREDIBLE PERFORMANCES.

World-class musicians. Experience live music  
in an unforgettable setting.

LINKS TO TICKETS ARE IN THE DESCRIPTIONS

**ENCORE**  
CHAMBER MUSIC  
INSTITUTE



SATURDAY  
**JUNE 6**  
7:30 PM

## Fantasies of Aino Sibelius

### PROGRAM

- Jörg Widmann: Études No. 1 and No. 2 for Violin Solo
- Jean Sibelius: Five Pieces for Violin and Piano, Op. 81
- Arnold Schoenberg: Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night), Op. 4

### PERFORMING ARTISTS

- Jinjoo Cho, Min-Jeong Koh, violin
- Ettore Causa, Mathieu Herzog, viola
- Max Geissler, Valentin Radutiu, cello
- Hyunsoo Kim, piano



TICKETS:  
[encorchambermusic.org/musicideasfestival-ticket2](https://encorchambermusic.org/musicideasfestival-ticket2)



**ENCORE**  
CHAMBER MUSIC  
INSTITUTE



SATURDAY  
**JUNE 13**  
7:30 PM

## In Your Arms At Last

### PROGRAM

- Richard Wagner: *Siegfried Idyll* (arr. Glynn Davies for String Quintet)
- Ludwig van Beethoven: *Zärtliche Liebe (Ich liebe dich)*, WoO 123
- Robert Schumann: *Widmung* (arr. Auer for Violin and Piano) from *Myrthen*, Op. 25
- Richard Strauss: *Metamorphosen* (arr. Rudolf Leopold for String Septet)

### PERFORMING ARTISTS

- Verona String Quartet
- Jinjoo Cho, Min-Jeong Koh, Brenda Shea, violin
- Lynne Ramsey, Eric Wong, viola
- Brannon Cho, Max Geissler, cello
- Hyunsoo Kim, piano



TICKETS:  
[encorchambermusic.org/musicideasfestival-ticket4](https://encorchambermusic.org/musicideasfestival-ticket4)



**ChamberFest**  
Cleveland



SATURDAY  
**JUNE 20**  
7:30 PM

## Summer Music

### PROGRAM

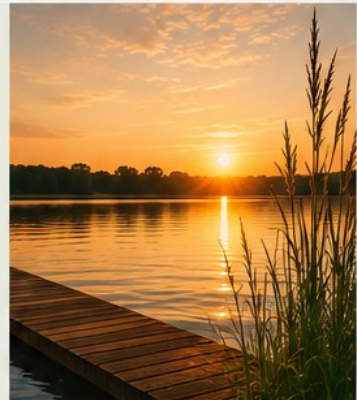
- Karen Ouzounian: *Songs of the Sap*
- Samuel Barber: *Summer Music* for Woodwind Quintet
- Benjamin Yusupov: *Quintet* for Marimba and Strings
- Franz Schubert: *Piano Trio* in B-flat major, D. 898

### PERFORMING ARTISTS

- Sophia Jean, flute; Izaiah Cheeran, oboe; Jay Shankar, clarinet; John Clouser, bassoon; Nelson Perez, horn
- Julia Schiltz and Andrew Wan, violin; Njord Fossnes and Milena Pajaro-Van de Stadt, viola; Julie Albers and Karen Ouzounian, cello
- Adam Golka, piano; Jeff Stern, percussion



TICKETS:  
[chamberfestcleveland.com/event/summer-music/](https://chamberfestcleveland.com/event/summer-music/)



# Community Partners



Dear Friends and Partners at Federated Church,

As we reflect on the work and relationships that continue to shape the Community Life Collaborative, we are filled with deep gratitude for your partnership and all that it represents.



So often, partnership is spoken about in abstract terms. But our relationship with Federated Church has shown us what true partnership looks like in practice. A shared commitment to community, courageous collaboration, and a belief that faith must move us toward justice.

Your support has gone far beyond sponsorship or participation. Federated Church has amplified our mission by helping bring visibility, credibility, and compassionate leadership to the work of environmental and social justice in Northeast Ohio.

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One of the most meaningful expressions of this partnership has been your willingness to open the Family Life Center as a true community hub and brave space. A place where people from all backgrounds can gather, learn, organize, and imagine a more equitable future together. As we continue to welcome 33,000 visitors annually, we recognize that we live in a world where many communities lack spaces that foster belonging, dialogue, and transformational action, your hospitality has created opportunities that otherwise would not exist.

Together, we have cultivated spaces of healing, remembrance, and connection. We have built a brave space where families come for soccer, lacrosse, basketball and to commune with one another, where gardens invite reflection and restoration, and where trees and pathways honor the lives of neighbors no longer here with us. These sacred spaces remind us that community is not only about what we build for the future, but also how we remember, celebrate, and carry forward those who shaped us.

We are equally grateful for the many donors, volunteers, leaders, and members of Federated Church who continue to embody our shared vision by showing up with generosity, compassion, and action. Our partnership is evidence that lasting change happens when institutions choose collaboration over isolation. To continue advancing our work, we invite you to attend our Annual Garden Gala. To learn more and purchase your tickets, [click here](#) to go to our website.

Thank you for walking alongside us in this work. We are honored to be your partners and deeply hopeful for all we will continue to accomplish together.

With gratitude,

*Destinee Burse*

# JUNETEENTH

# Celebration



TRUST DRUM CIRCLES  
CREATE • COMMUNITY • RHYTHM

FAMILY

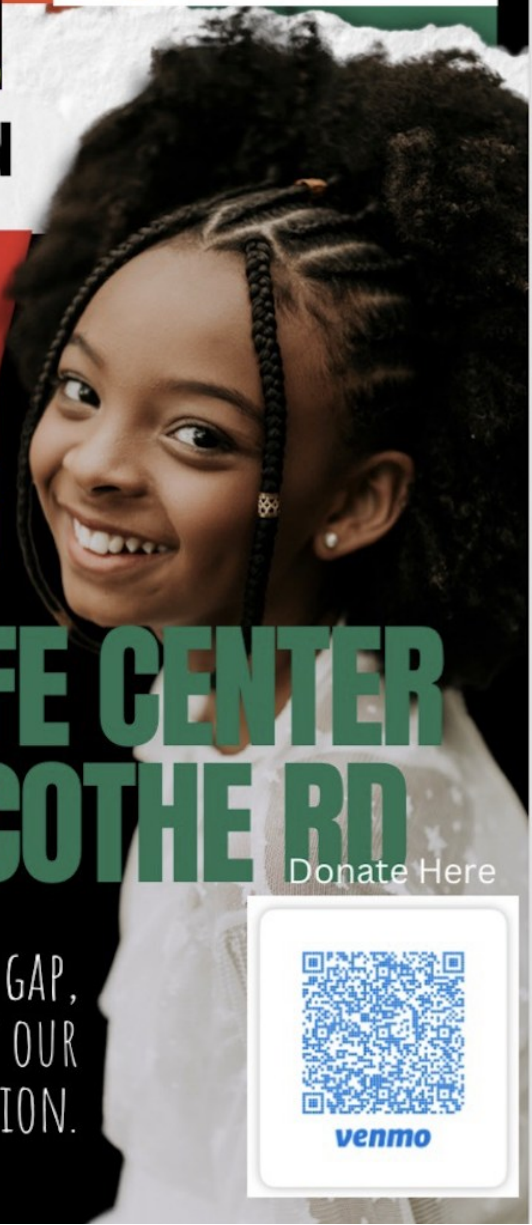
FOOD

FUN

# SATURDAY

## JUNE 20TH | 1PM-5PM

# @ THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER 16349 CHILlicoTHE RD



JOIN US TO SUPPORT BRIDGING THE GAP,  
A NONPROFIT TO HELP SUPPORT OUR  
STUDENTS TO FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION.

Donate Here



venmo

# 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!

**June 7– last names beginning with L & M**

**June 14– last names beginning with N, O, P, Q, & R**

**June 21– last names beginning with S & T**

**June 28– last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y, & Z**



## Contact Us!

[www.fedchurch.org](http://www.fedchurch.org)  
[fedchurch@fedchurch.org](mailto:fedchurch@fedchurch.org)

Phone: 440.247.6490

Fax: 440.247.2516

76 Bell St. | Chagrin Falls | OH | 44022

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

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**