

July 12, 2026



federated

*live your faith*

**Take Root**

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

Rev. Michael A. Howard

Gathered at Federated Church: 76 Bell Street  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

Also streaming live at [YouTube.com/TheFederatedChurch](https://YouTube.com/TheFederatedChurch)



July 12, 2026

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

10 AM

*Chimes indicate the service is starting, and silence is appreciated to prepare for worship.*

Prelude

*Finlandia (W. Kerr)*

Marcia Snavelly, organ

Announcements & Welcome

Rev. Michael A. Howard

Introit

*All Good Gifts from "Godspell"*

Kate Breen and Nancy Isham, vocal duet  
Marcia Snavelly, piano

\* Call to Worship

Kate Breen

One: Before the harvest comes the work of preparing the field

**All: We come to make room for God's life among us.**

One: God is the giver of every good seed.

**All: May we receive it with open hearts and willing hands.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: Let us worship our life-giving God.**

\* Opening Hymn

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

No. 586

Prayer for Truth

Kate Breen

One: God of life, you scatter the seeds of your kingdom with generous hands.

**All: Prepare us to receive what you long to grow.**

One: Where the ground has become hard, soften us.

**All: Make room for your life among us.**

One: Where stones keep your Word from taking root, clear the field.

**All: Give us courage to do the work of cultivation.**

(A Moment of Silence)

Words of Grace

Kate Breen

One: Hear the Good News: God never gives up on the field. The Sower is faithful, the seed is good, and God's mercy is always making room for new life.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Message for the Young at Heart

Kate Breen

\* **Passing of Christ's Peace**

\* **Praise Response** *This is the Day* No. 286

**Gospel Reading** *Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30* Kate Breen

**Sermon** Take Root Rev. Howard

**Hymn of Response** *Quiet Center* No. 575

**Congregational Prayer** Rev. Howard

**Invitation to Generosity** Rev. Howard

**Anthem** *By My Side* from "Godspell" (Hamburger/Gordon) Kate Breen and Nancy Isham,  
vocal duet  
Marcia Snavelly, piano

**Doxology** OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise the One who gathers all;  
Praise Christ, who breaks dividing walls;  
Praise Spirit, making all things new;  
One God of grace, we worship you.

\* **Prayer of Dedication** Rev. Howard

\* **Closing Hymn** *Touch the Earth Lightly* No. 693

\* **Commissioning and Benediction** Rev. Howard

**Postlude** *Psalms XIX.* (B. Marcello) Marcia Snavelly, organ



This Sanctuary is equipped with a **Hearing Loop system** that works with all **Telecoil-equipped hearing aids** to amplify sound with excellent clarity.

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**Depart in Peace**  
Now, go in love to serve.

## UPCOMING WORSHIP

### **Take Root • Grow • Bear Fruit • Sow**

- July 12 – **Take Root:** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
- July 19 – **Grow:** Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
- July 26 – **Colorado Kids' Sunday**
- August 2 – **Bear Fruit:** Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52  
**(Communion Sunday)**
- August 9 – **Sow:** Matthew 14:13-21  
**(Worship @ Family Life Center)**

*If you do not wish to take it home, please recycle your bulletin in the recycling bin in the narthex on your way out.*