


January 2023

  
federated

# The Spire

The Federated Church Newsletter

United Church of Christ  An Open and Affirming Congregation



A Joyous Holiday Season here at Federated.

Thank you to those who attended our many events, those who participated, organized, led and to those who supported us along the way. We are filled with gratitude as we move into 2023.

# From the Desk of Rev. Throckmorton...

Dear Friends,

As we turn the calendar page over to a new month and a new year, I'm reminded of the richness of life lived in the presence of God. Not only do we come to a new month and year, but we come to a new moment—again and again and again. Each day, each instant, is an opportunity to encounter again the endlessly inventive and renewing energy and Spirit of God.

In a recent newsletter article by our Living Water Association General Minister, Nayiri Karjian, I was reminded of a way in which we might convey that newness and energy and Spirit. Rev. Karjian reflected in her article on the difference between visitors and guests. When people come to Federated for the first time, the temptation is to call them "visitors." A visitor, though, is someone who passes through—someone who makes a brief appearance in a home or town. People visit a variety of places all the time. We visit Mt. Rushmore or the Cleveland Museum of Art or the new neighbors who move in down the street. We might visit a Nebraska church as we drive across the country or a new trail in the MetroParks.

When people come to Federated for the first time, though, unless they come because they're in town to stay with relatives or friends, they come, I'm guessing, because they are seeking something. They may want their children to come to a Sunday School. They may have experienced a recent death or divorce or job loss, and they want to gain some perspective on it. They may be confused or lost and they're looking for a North Star to guide them. They may be seeking friends who share their values. They may be so filled with joy that they want a place in which they might celebrate and give thanks.

Whatever brings them, though, they're probably not just visiting. They likely have a deep need to be welcomed, to be heard, to be understood. They're almost certainly wanting a place to settle. If we treat them as visitors, they will likely not find that place to become part of.

Which is why we're bid to receive newcomers, not just as visitors, but as guests. Guests are people we welcome into our homes. We take their coats and serve them meals and put them up overnight if they're staying for a while. Guests are people we honor with our time and our attention. We care for them. We offer them our hospitality. Guests are people to whom we offer sustenance and support.

I suspect that's how best to convey the love and care of God. Which is, of course, our very mission in life. And, staggeringly, it's precisely the way God treats all of us. We are guests in God's house, guests whom God adores. We are recipients of God's boundless affection. And what else is there for us to do in return but to be God's ambassadors of love to the guests who grace us with their presence.

Hamilton



# Federated News & Info

## Worship Themes for Epiphany, 2023: "Christ Appearing"

"This January, as we move through the season of Epiphany, we will encounter God appearing in our shared life in a huge variety of ways. Epiphany means "appearance" or "manifestation." At the heart of Christian faith is the conviction that the risen Christ is appearing to us again and again and again. So it will be our privilege to explore that manifold appearing in this rich and verdant season.

Jan. 1 Epiphany Sunday, Matthew 2:1-12; Theme: "Overwhelmed with joy"

Jan. 8 Baptism of Jesus, Matthew 3:13-17; Theme: "This is my Child, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased"

Jan. 15 John 1:29-42; Theme: "Come and see"

Jan. 22 Matthew 4:12-23; Installation of Betsy Wooster as Pastor of Transformational Ministries; Theme: "Called to fish for people"

Jan. 29 Matthew 5:1-12; Theme: "'Blessed are . . .': the many blessings of Christ"

Worship Every Sunday  
In-person & Online  
10:00 AM

Online Worship on our  
YouTube Channel: [TheFederatedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTheFederatedChurch)

### February Spire Deadline

Do you have something you'd like to see in the February Spire?

Please email your information to  
[communications@fedchurch.org](mailto:communications@fedchurch.org)

by **Friday, January 20th.**

Include "Spire" in the subject line.  
Thank you!

### In Memoriam

Recognition of those who have passed recently.

A farewell to friends; May God welcome them with open arms.

**Jack Hobbs— November 29, 2022**

### PASTORAL OFFICE HOURS

Need to see a pastor? Our Pastors have Standing Office Hours.  
We are here for you!

Rev. Hamilton  
Throckmorton  
Senior Pastor  
P: 440.247.6490  
x100  
F: 440.247.2516  
E: [hamthrock@fedchurch.org](mailto:hamthrock@fedchurch.org)



Office Hours: Tuesdays 2PM-5PM

Rev. Betsy Wooster  
Pastor of  
Transformational  
Ministries

P: 440.247.6490 x101  
F: 440.247.2516  
E: [bwooster@fedchurch.org](mailto:bwooster@fedchurch.org)



Office Hours: Mondays 1PM-4PM

### 'Extravagant E-Welcome'

Please like, share, and subscribe to all Federated's social media platforms.



[www.facebook.com/  
TheFederatedChurch](https://www.facebook.com/TheFederatedChurch)



[www.instagram.com/  
federatedchurch](https://www.instagram.com/federatedchurch)



## Fellowship Treats

We are *so excited* to continue Fellowship Hour after Sunday worship services. 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!

January 1– No Fellowship Hour

January 8– last names beginning with H, I, J, or K

January 15– last names beginning with L or M

January 22– last names beginning with N, O, P, Q, or R

January 29– last names beginning with S or T



## Wear Your Faith

As you **#LiveYourFaith**, you can now **#WearYourFaith**. Federated merchandise is now available. Click [HERE](https://federated2021store.itemorder.com/shop/sale/) to view the online store or visit, <https://federated2021store.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>. View some of the available merchandise below:



## All Skiers and Snowboarders of all ages

We are going to plan a group trip to  
Peek'n Peak

Keep your Eyes and Ears open for details

If you are interested  
and want to be the  
first to know  
Contact

Marty Culbertson  
[Mculbert@fedchurch.org](mailto:Mculbert@fedchurch.org)  
to get on the list



## Women's Retreat Coming March 2023!

**Save the date!** We are excited to offer a women's retreat the weekend of March 10. We will be exploring how we can work with dreams as a way to deeply explore our spiritual journeys of transformation and wholeness.

Our facilitator for this weekend is Janice Bachman O.P. a Spiritual Director and Jungian Dream Therapist. More details to come. Please plan to join us for this special offering.

*They said to him, 'We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them.' And Joseph said to them, 'Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me.' -Genesis 40:8*

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### Women's Fellowship

#### Circle:

One of the service projects for November was to put together hygiene kits for Phil Fogarty's "under the Bridge" mission benefitting folks mostly living outdoors. Phil goes out every Tuesday evening accompanied by young people from St. Ignatius, which is Phil's alma mater. He has been doing this for almost 4 years. Phil knows just where to find these folks and always distributes bag lunches, along with whatever supplies he has on hand. The 20 kits included a pair of socks and a washcloth along with hotel sized shampoo, soap, toothpaste and brushes, etc. If you would like to donate supplies to this mission, new or lightly used face towels would be welcome. Thank you to all participants.

Also in November, the Circle group made scarves out of fleece, cinnamon sugar for toast, and items for the St. Paul's Christmas sale, including 25 Christmas mugs with cocoa mix, candy canes, tea bags, etc. This group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday every month in the afternoon in room 240.

**Helping Hands:** This group made about 3 dozen hospice pillows for Hospice of Western Reserve. With the left over scraps, the ladies make "cat pillows" for Rescue Village! This group meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month, 1-3 PM in room 240 and includes the Primetime members.

**Sit & Stitch:** Ongoing projects include knitted or crocheted Prayer Shawls, Prayer Squares, and Baptismal Blankets, all available at the desk in the lower lobby. (Please notify Melissa or Brook if you deliver a Prayer Shawl to a friend/relative in need. Winter scarves and hats are an ongoing project as well. This group meets every Thurs from 1-3PM in room 240.

Women's Fellowship will be hosting a baked potato luncheon Feb 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 in Fellowship Hall. A service project after the luncheon is also on the agenda. Women of all ages are welcome to join in any or all of these activities. These busy people can always use more "working hands." Please call Lynne Kessell at 440-487-9104 if you have questions.



# Generosity Commission

## Office of Fund Development Update

By Laura Taylor

*By faith, we live into our gratitude.*

As we reflect on all  
the blessings that touched us  
throughout 2022,  
here are more  
expressions of thanks  
submitted by our faith family:

"I am grateful for...

- visiting my brother as he is battling cancer and so grateful for all our years we've had together.
- the \$1,200 raised at the youth bake sale on December 11<sup>th</sup> to allow 14 of our youth to purchase more toys for the St. Paul's Christmas Tree ministry.
- the blessing of Federated continuing our food donation efforts in support of Thanksgiving Ingathering. I am grateful for all the associates at Federated that make our church so special and, as a symbol of my gratitude, will submit my Generosity 2023 intention soon.
- Thank you to all who have submitted a big-hearted 2023 Intention to Give!  
◊253 member and friend households have submitted Intentions this year totaling \$817,700 as of January 2, 2023.

**#Year-End Giving** is the opportunity that most people take to:

Count Your Blessings,  
Touch Hearts,  
Zealously Support a Worthy Cause.



# Generosity Commission

## Office of Fund Development Update

For those of you who haven't been able to participate in our own generosity invitation, feel free to submit your 2023 intention by:

- ⇒ mailing or dropping off an Intention to Give card to the church,
- ⇒ submitting an online Intention to Give form ([fedchurch.org/giving](https://fedchurch.org/giving)), or
- ⇒ responding online via your Realm account.

For those who want to maintain their monthly (or recurring) 2022 payment schedule throughout 2023, email our bookkeeper, Janis Stefanchik ([business@fedchurch.org](mailto:business@fedchurch.org)) and she'll make sure your intentions are honored.

A Note of Gratitude:

*"On behalf of the JustHope team and network of partners, thank you so much for your generous gift to JustHope's Truck of Hope campaign. **It warms my heart to see the outpouring of support for our neighbors in Nicaragua.** In Peace & Solidarity, Ali Hawkins, Executive Director.*

We celebrate the generosity and the light that Christ brings to all.

In Gratitude,

Ken Horner

Maren Koepf

Michael Quintin

Martine Scheuermann

Dawn Thatcher

Laura Piper Taylor, staff liaison



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## 2023 Contribution Envelopes...

...did not arrive at the church in 2022. The church office ordered them well in advance of Fall 2022 but received word from the printing company that our order would be delayed. Thankfully, there are plenty of Cash Envelopes available for your use, located in the Sanctuary pew racks or right next to Generosity box in the Narthex.

The numbered Contribution Envelope boxes contain an envelope for each week of the year and are a useful reminder to give regularly. If you used Contribution Envelopes last year or checked the box on your Generosity 2023 intention card indicating that you want a box for this year, we will let you know as soon as they arrive and are available for pickup. Please direct New requests for Contribution Envelopes and new cancellations to Laura at [ltaylor@fedchurch.org](mailto:ltaylor@fedchurch.org).

# Christmas Eve Offering

Our Christmas Eve Offering of 2022 will be given to The Thea Bowman Center located in The Mt. Pleasant Community of Cleveland.

This community is part of the “Digital Divide” that many urban communities deal with. This offering will provide resources to bridge the gap and educate 150 youth through seniors how to navigate the internet and provide access to computer training.

If you have already made your gift, Thank you! If not, there is still time! Gifts will be accepted throughout January 2023.

Thank you for prayerfully considering a generous donation to Offer hope through the Thea Bowman Center



**Narrowing the Digital Divide  
with our  
Christmas Eve Offering 2022**

**federated**   
*act*





# The Community Life Collaborative

## Garden View Gallery at the Family Life Center

**Engage. Empower. Understand.**

Come! See the Gardenview Gallery at the FLC and be inspired! The Community Life Collaborative is reimagining the *Youth Room* of the FLC into a space to hearten senses and sensibilities. Newly titled the *Gardenview Gallery (GVG)*, that room and hallway will host installments spotlighting issues and celebrations around diversity, equity, inclusion and justice across the year.

**ALL are invited** to visit our first curated exhibit: *Wings Over the Cuyahoga* by recognized photographer Jim Roetzel. Habitats around lakes indicate climate health and Roetzel's images connect people to the beauty, challenges and successes within our Northeast Ohio environment. engagement to communities through art. During the last year, the CLC offered programming exploring our (dis)connection with our local ecosystems and the socio-economic, spiritual, and habitat issues we need to address. Public viewing days in January will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays @ 11-4pm and Thursdays from 3-7pm. And **drop by the GVG on January 18 for the Gallery's Public Opening Reception between 3pm-6pm**. Then February 6th-12th in the GVG: Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry presents *"Stitch, Breath, Speak- George Floyd Quilts"*.

January launches the CLC **"Reclaiming Reflections"** series focusing on destigmatizing addiction and recovery. Collaborative social justice work can help to destigmatize the disease, connect people to resources for help, and create spaces and communities ready to help folks "reclaim their reflection" and regain personal and social dignity. Watch email and Facebook for details coming soon.

And mark your calendar as Evening Bainbridge Swing Dance returns to the FLC on February 4, 2023!

The CLC manages operations and covers the costs of the FLC. To schedule church programs at the FLC, please contact CLC Executive Director, Peter Bode at [ed@communitylifecollaborative.org](mailto:ed@communitylifecollaborative.org) for details.

The CLC is a separate 501(c)3 nonprofit partnering with Federated Church to nurture transformation through collaboration for a just and sustainable world. To get involved or to partake in the forums, subscribe to CLC email blasts, follow us on social media, or reach out anytime!



NEW Community Life Collaborative Gardenview Gallery (GVG) at the Family Life Center

# Mission & Service

## St. Paul's Outreach

Greetings. My name is Paula Miller and I am the Community Engagement Coordinator for St. Paul's Community Outreach. I'm looking forward to taking over from Tim who did a great job through these difficult last few years and growing our Outreach program through more collaboration with our partners. A little bit about me. I have lived on the near west side of Cleveland for 25 years working in community development with a focus on housing. I am a member of the Cleveland Catholic Worker community, an intentional community that is part of an 89 year old movement to live out the Works of Mercy in our daily lives. Through the Catholic Worker and our Store-front ministry in the neighborhood I have been privileged to know and accompany many of our residents experiencing homelessness. I also spent 4 years in the Southern Arizona borderlands doing humanitarian aid work accompanying our brothers and sisters crossing the desert and in immigration detention. On a personal note I am a long time birder, an avid reader and enjoy swimming and the outdoors.

Thank you for all your support over the years of our Outreach program and I look forward to working with you. You're always welcome to stop by Tuesday and Thursday mornings and have a cup of coffee with us!

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## MedWish International

Federated Church has reconnected with MedWish International. MedWish, a past Christmas Eve Offering recipient, Saves Lives and the Environment by repurposing surplus medical supplies and equipment to provide humanitarian aid to people in need. Recently, MedWish was elated to receive Federated's first delivery of donated medical supplies. Most of the items Lee Johns delivered were wheelchairs and walkers that had been stored at the church and FLC for years. Executive Director Brittany Latz said they could use many more wheel chairs, as they are in short supply, and badly needed. Other mobility devices are also welcome. If you have a wheelchair or other Medical Equipment to donate, contact Marty Culbertson or bring items to the church during business hours. We are also excited to announce we are starting a monthly volunteer opportunity to sort donated supplies at the MedWish facility. Possible times are weekdays, both am and pm, and on Saturday mornings. Groups of us could carpool to their facility at 1625 E. 31st St. in Cleveland. Contact Kathy Kolcaba if you are interested and for further information.; [Kathykolcaba@yahoo.com](mailto:Kathykolcaba@yahoo.com).

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## TUTORS NEEDED!

Are you aware that 66% of adults in the greater Cleveland area are functionally illiterate?

Seeds of Literacy is an award-winning, innovative adult literacy program that provides free, individual tutoring in basic education and high school equivalency test prep in adults. From the comfort of your home, you can tutor by Zoom once a week for two hours. Complete training is provided. For more information, contact Silvia or Bill Kenneweg at 440 510 8247.



# Christmas Tree, Wreath, & Poinsettias Fund

Federated's **Special Missions** is so appreciative of all those who purchased a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one. Thank you for your support, for beautifying our Sanctuary during this holiday season, for remembering someone special in your life this way. Federated is a premier messenger of Grace and love - your thoughtfulness makes that possible.

## Many thanks to:

*Gary & Dawn Dole in memory of Loy W. Cooperrider*  
*Gary & Dawn Dole in memory of John D. Dole*  
*Marcia Snavelly in memory of Ruth, Charles, and Larry King*  
*Marcia Snavelly in memory of Marian & Geoff Snavelly*  
*Jeanette Brown in memory of Glenn Brown*  
*Jeanette Brown in memory of Helmut Foehler*  
*Jeanette Brown in memory of John Laskowski*  
*Jeanette Brown in honor of Marcia Snavelly Polyak*  
*Jeanette Brown in honor of Brown/Boebinger Family*  
*Steven Girouard in memory of Elizabeth & Michael Girouard*  
*Steven Girouard in memory of Ron & Ginny Keim*  
*Rebecca Carter in memory of Virginia & Paul N. Stewart*  
*Hively Family in memory of Tom Hively*  
*Hively Family in Honor of Hogan Family*  
*Hively Family in Honor of Hively Family*  
*Janet Berlincourt in memory of Rick Jones*  
*Janet Berlincourt in memory of my dear Aunt Ellie*  
*Jim Whitelaw in memory of our parents and Kevin*  
*Jim Whitelaw in honor of Eric, Jenn, Matt, Jon, Sarah, and Tim*  
*Mary Lou Riegel in memory of Myron "Skip" Riegel*  
*Martine Scheuermann & Marty Culbertson in memory of Al & Shirley Culbertson*  
*Martine Scheuermann & Marty Culbertson in memory of Nancy & George Scheuermann*  
*Martine Scheuermann & Marty Culbertson in memory of Rich Scheuermann*  
*Martine Scheuermann & Marty Culbertson in memory of Mike Scheuermann*  
*Martine Scheuermann & Marty Culbertson in Honor of our Awesome Staff & Lay Leadership*  
*Derek, Stacey, Asshton and Aubrey Taylor in memory of Tyler Davis*  
*Derek, Stacey, Asshton and Aubrey Taylor in memory of Mike Fetter*  
*Derek, Stacey, Asshton and Aubrey Taylor in memory of Ruth Vendetti*  
*Derek, Stacey, Asshton and Aubrey Taylor in memory of the Taylor Family Grandparents*  
*Derek, Stacey, Asshton and Aubrey Taylor in memory of Jane Taylor*  
*Mark & Kathleen Davis in loving memory of Richard R.G. Hobson*  
*Don & Connie Sperry Celebrating our 63 years of marriage!*  
*Cheryl, Allan, Holly, and Penny Schinagle in Honor of Allan Schinagle*  
*Cheryl, Allan, Holly, and Penny Schinagle in Honor of Cynthia Schinagle*  
*The Horvaths in Honor of Diarmaid Ring*  
*The Horvaths in Honor of Clare Ring*  
*The Horvaths in Honor of Owen Ring*  
*The Horvaths in loving memory of Jack Hobbs*  
*Abby, Molly & Josie Godenschwager in Honor of Abby, Molly & Josie G*  
*Abby, Molly & Josie Godenschwager in Honor of Grandad Yost*  
*Byron & Elise Lutman honoring Larry Trace*  
*Margaret Fullmer in memory of David R. Fullmer*  
*Judy Holder In Loving Memory of her parents, Ralph & Lucille Spresser & their dear friend Jack Hobbs*  
*Vicki Jones in memory of Rick Jones*  
*Gayle Bauer in memory of Dr. William Bauer*  
*Jan & Cameron Blank in memory of Terra & Karman*  
*Larry Trace in loving memory of his wife, Nancy, and in honor of their grandchildren, Shannon Marie and Lea Kay Trace, Tyler Matthew Bittinger*  
*Trace and Bittinger families in memory of Eva Jean Trace*

# 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!

Everyone is welcome to participate in SJAM activities. We have an e mail list of over 140 folks and about 10 different areas of focus. You can learn more about and participate in issues that you are passionate about. Or just come and listen and see if you are intrigued. Criminal justice, LGBTQ issues, Voter Advocacy, Domestic Violence are a few examples. We are open to new focus areas at the interests of the group dictate (perhaps education or health care). If you would like to added to the SJAM e mail list, contact Kathy Franz [wfranz@roadrunner.com](mailto:wfranz@roadrunner.com) or 440=821-7795. You may also select SJAM as one of your interest areas on Realm and you'll receive SJAM information.

Next SJAM Meeting January 15, 11:30 at Bell Street in Room 240

Or join by Zoom using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?pwd=U1VxZU5SZ0NjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVIWdz09>



## Immigration

### Donations needed:

Did you know that Cleveland is a major resettlement city? We can be proud of our city's welcome to folks from all over the world. This past year saw a large increase in immigrants (about 1,800) with a huge increase in those from Afghanistan.

SJAM is in communication with three organizations in Northeast Ohio that focus on issues of refugees and immigrants. We learn of needed donations and often the need is an emergency. From time to time volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks. Notice of these needs are sent to all on the SJAM e mail distribution list. If you would like to receive this information, just let Rannigan know and we can add you to the list.

Questions? Contact Rannigan Walsh, SJAM Immigration lead: [ranni@me.com](mailto:ranni@me.com)

## Reverse Advent—there is still time!



It's not too late! You have until January 15 to turn in your box of staple items. 25 necessary items in a box—a list of items are provided on the Mission and Services Informational Board located inside Fellowship Hall.

Please turn in your box of items at the front desk (aka Angel Desk) in the Church Lobby.

federated  
support

Question? Contact Gay Quintin [glqchicken@gmail.com](mailto:glqchicken@gmail.com)



# Racial and Economic Justice

In January and February our focus will be on Racial Justice. Many important and impactful events are planned including, in January, watching the film **Till** as a group and following up with discussion. On February 6-12, our community will host a traveling collection of Sacred Quilts created in response to the George Floyd murder with opportunities to reflect and interact with this important art. Watch these pages and the church website for details. Plan now to set aside time to learn and act.

- **SJAM January Movie Night: Wednesday January 25 Dinner at 5:30, Film “Till” at 6:30.**  
Federated Church (76 Bell St., Chagrin Falls). Or on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?pwd=U1VxZU5SZONjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVIWdz09>  
**Movie discussion Sunday January 25 (time and place to be determined)**  
(see elsewhere in the Spire for further details and check Fedchurch.org)
- **Institutional Racism in the Criminal Justice System**  
SJAM is offering a second 3-week series on Racial Allyship on January 12, 19 and 26 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Topics covered will include Mass Incarceration (War on Drugs/Law and Order/Bail); Police and Prosecution; and Capital Crimes. Classes will last 90 minutes. Interested participants may contact either Robin Harbage (robin.harbage@gmail.com) or Bill Shaul (theshauls@msn.com)
- **Special Exhibits at the Maltz Museum**
  1. From Hough to Ludlow: Exploring Cleveland’s History on the Civil Rights Trail. Wednesday, January 11, 7pm In-person *\$10 General & \$5 Museum members*  
Hop onto the Cleveland Civil Rights Trail website and you’ll be greeted by an invitation to “walk the path to equality and learn the history that was made across Cleveland during the 1950s, 60s and 70s—history that’s still being made today.” Not all cities are so fortunate as to have a historical resource like this one, where visitors can literally stand in the place where change happened and become immersed in the powerful stories of Cleveland’s courageous contributions to legislative and social progress. Learn about the early grassroots organizing efforts by civil rights leaders who helped reshape our city and about the civil rights trail that documents their path.
  - 2.. Hear Our Voices: Annual MLK Day Celebration, Monday, January 16, 11am – 5pm  
In-person Programs & Online Workshop. *Free with registration*  
Join us for free all day at the Maltz Museum! Honor iconic civil rights leader the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and everyday citizens who fought against discrimination while celebrating the everyday hero in you. Tour the Maltz Museum’s permanent collections and special exhibitions.  
Featured Keynote Speaker **Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, III** For the launch of his new book, *DANCING IN DARKNESS*, a life-affirming guide to the practical, political, and spiritual challenges of our day. Drawing on the teachings of Dr. King, Howard Thurman, sacred scripture, southern wisdom, global spiritual traditions, Black culture, and his own personal experiences, Dr. Moss instructs you on how to practice spiritual resistance by combining justice and love. This collection helps us tap the spiritual reserves we all possess but too often overlook, so we can slay our personal demon, confront our civic challenges, and reach our highest goals.  
<https://www.maltzmuseum.org/events/hear-our-voices-annual-mlk-day-celebration/>  
On going Exhibitions:
  3. Explore the special exhibition *This Light of Ours: Activist Photographers of the Civil Rights Movement* on an hour-long tour led by a knowledgeable docent who will guide you through our gallery.  
<https://www.maltzmuseum.org/events/drop-in-tour-this-light-of-ours/>
  4. Explore the Maltz Museum’s most popular objects and artifacts on an hour-long tour led by a knowledgeable docent who will guide you through our permanent collections, *An American Story*, and *The Temple-Tifereth Israel Gallery*.  
<https://www.maltzmuseum.org/events/drop-in-tour-maltz-museum-history-and-heritage/>

If interested in ride sharing contact Darlene Nichols 440-821-9963 or [darnichols@gmail.com](mailto:darnichols@gmail.com)

# Environmental and Creation Justice

- **Gardenview Gallery Public Opening Reception January 18, 2023 from 3-6pm: Family Life Center**  
Make a moment to visit the NEW Community Life Collaborative Gardenview Gallery (GVG) at the Family Life Center! Jim Roetzel's *Wings and Voices* exhibit has been installed as the kickoff to a new chapter of engagement to communities through art. It will spawn both communal and intrinsic conversations to allow community and personal growth around expanding our knowledge of social and environmental issues.
- **Environmental Tip of the Month:**  
**Candles in Your Home:** We love to burn candles in our home for pleasure to create a cozy and intimate atmosphere. However, many candles could be filling the air in your home with toxic chemicals.  
*Check the ingredients - Do not burn candles with:*
  - Paraffin wax, Synthetic scents, and Toxic wicks made with lead (older candles - before 2003).*Be sure your candles are:*
  - 100% beeswax or vegetable-wax - choose clean-burning soy wax or beeswax, but be sure to look for 100% on the labels, and, when possible, select wax that is naturally derived or sustainably sourced.
  - Have a 100% cotton wick or look for a wick made of wood, like cherrywood, which doesn't create ashy, sooty residue inside the container or surrounding walls.
  - Candles that use 100% naturally derived [essential oils](#), are phthalate-free, or further explain the "fragrance" to be natural and nontoxic.
  - Trim wick to 1/8 inch
  - Buy safe candles from certified green businesses.





Have your Christmas Lights  
**Dimmed?**  
**Gone completely Dark?**

**Don't throw them away!**

Recycle those **Burned Out**  
light strings and  
**Damaged** extension cords.

Bring them to the Church Lobby  
through **January 15<sup>th</sup>**

**The Creation Care and Justice Ministry**  
will deliver them to the  
Cleveland Zoo to be recycled.



## **Wondrous Wednesdays are rising again!**

Come join us in fellowship as we explore the difficult topic of racial injustice and its call for us to act.

### **Free Community Dinner at 5:30pm on Wed. Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall of Federated Church at 76 Bell Street, Chagrin Falls.**

Enter through the back door of the building.  
Think pulled pork and other yummy foods!

**Then stay for the movie “Till”** which will play at 6:30 pm. It runs for about 2 hours and portrays the brutal murder of Emmitt Till at age 14 in 1955, and the impact it had on the community, as seen through the eyes of his mother.



A powerful and disturbing movie, but important part of our history. We will talk about opportunities for follow-up discussions

**Please use the sign-in sheet** at the Angel Desk near Fellowship Hall, or go to <https://fedchurch.org/events/> to let us know if you're coming.

We want to have enough food!

Federated Church UCC, <https://fedchurch.org/>, 440.247.6490





# NEOCH Recap

Thank you to all the wonderful donors who so kindly included our unhomed Cleveland neighbors in their November plans. You shopped the sales, the resales, and your closets to wrap these folks in care and concern on the cold Cleveland winter days!

And here's a special shout out to 3 very Creative contributors!

- ♥ Elsie, a 5th grader, made these 13 socks filled with hygiene items and other goodies
- ♥ Susan, our personal "angel", hand knit lovely scarves in cheerful colors
- ♥ Betsy, invited her Thanksgiving dinner guests to add to the collection

Our total collection that we delivered to NEOCH earlier in December were:

ADULT Jackets (GOAL 50) 104

Coats 13

Boots 20

Sweaters/Fleece 70

Gloves/Socks 122

Hats/Scarves 174

KIDS Jackets 32

Fleece 2

Snow Pants (all sizes) 8

CASH Donations \$100

THANKS to my special team of Volunteers and drivers:

Pat Lyden and her son, Patrick Killian

My husband, Dave

My friend and dog park buddy, Erica

FEDERATED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS FILLED 3 SUVs + 1 Van with YOUR DONATIONS!!! What an amazing community of care we share!

In gratitude,  
Cathy Watterson





## Federated Church Creation Justice Process

Did you know that Federated Church has embarked on the process to become designated as a *Creation Justice Church* by the national UCC office?

**What is Creation Justice?** (<https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/justice/faithful-action-ministries/environmental-justice/creation-justice-churches/>)

The UCC's Creation Justice Church program assists and recognizes congregations that make the ministry of environmental care and justice an integral strand in the DNA of their faith community.

*Seeing the world as Creation is a radical act that counters modern notions of nature as either a resource to be exploited or as something entirely separate from humanity.*

Jesus calls us to build the Kingdom of Heaven on earth (Matthew 6:10). By restoring Creation -- God's people and planet -- we are creating Heaven on Earth. That's Creation Justice. When we protect God's creatures (people, animals, plants) and places, we protect that which God loves. That's Creation Justice.

**Why become a Creation Justice Church? The five reasons to become a Creation Justice church:**

**It's our first calling!** In the opening pages of Genesis, we learn that the first job that God gives to us humans is to care for God's creation (Genesis 2:15).

God instructs Adam to "till and keep" the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15). In an agrarian society, this instruction means much more than to maximize yields. Ellen Davis offers a compelling translation of this verse, writing in *Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture* that God is instructing Adam to "work it and serve it, observe it and preserve it." *Creation is a gift which we are to care for lovingly and skillfully. The work of this care necessitates the fight for justice among God's people and planet.*

**It's what Jesus would do!** The apostle Paul spells out how Jesus sought to put right the broken covenantal relationship between God and all of creation (Romans 8:20-24).

**Clean air, clean water—those are good things!** If there is something that should bring together Christians in common cause, it is protecting the gifts of creation. Who doesn't want and deserve clean air and water?

**It's about justice!** As Christians, we seek justice—to be in right relationship with God, our neighbors, and all of creation. From racial inequities to the ongoing legacy of colonialism, creation justice is deeply intertwined with multiple matters of justice. The current climate crisis gives matters of justice utmost urgency.

**It's in our DNA!** The UCC's Commission for Racial Justice was the central organization in the watershed events of the environmental justice movement. It is one of the most significant parts of our denominational heritage, and every UCC church has the opportunity to continue this powerful legacy.

**How can you learn more?**

We invite you to learn more by attending two Q+A, listening sessions in **February – Sundays, Feb. 5 and 12**, right after the worship service. Location to be determined. The members of the SJAM subcommittee for Creation Care and Justice will be hosting these conversation hours. Please plan to join us.

Please feel free to reach out to anyone on our Creation Care and Justice team.

Yours in Christ,

Dawn Dole   Daniel Kershner   Sunny Doxey   Gay Quintin  
MaryAnn Viveros   Maren Koepf   Dianne Tuuri



# Primetime

Hello Everyone!

Happy New Year! What a fun 2022 we had—remember our trip to Gervasi? The fun we had on the Nautica Queen? Johnny Cash? Van Gogh (well a rendition of his art, anyway)? Our picnic? Lunches at Bass Lake, Welshfield, Barrel Lodge and of course, The Cabin? All of the wonderful performances and shows!

These are just some of the wonderful things we did in 2022. We have moved to The Spire so we can invite everyone to join our fun—please join us for an event, lunch or to learn something new. We love being together! Looking ahead we have much on the horizon and so very much to be grateful for, including each other.

With Love and Gratitude,

Melissa Owen, Senior Director of People and Operations, Primetime Liaison

[mowen@fedchurch.org](mailto:mowen@fedchurch.org) / 440.247.6490 ext. 110 / text: 805.636.4256



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## An Evening with Johnny Mercer

Saturday, January 28 at 5PM, 730PM

*Our Huckleberry Friend: The Lyrics of Johnny Mercer with The Musical Theater Project*



Cleveland Jazz Orchestra joins forces with The Musical Theater Project to celebrate the music of Johnny Mercer. Mercer is commonly regarded as the finest lyricist of the mid-20th Century. He collaborated with Harold Arlen, Hoagy Carmichael, Henry Mancini, and so many more. The program will also include vocalists Michael Shirtz, Evelyn Wright and Vince Mastro.

Cost: \$25 ticket—**Hurry only four tickets left!**

We will carpool from the FLC, meet at 5PM and join us for dinner, then attend the 730PM performance:

Maltz Performing Arts Center  
1855 Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

RSVP via Realm or to Melissa: [mowen@fedcurch.org](mailto:mowen@fedcurch.org)  
or call 440.247.6490 x110 or text 805.636.4256

## Primetime Lunch Out: Buckeye Cafe

Thursday, January 19 at Noon

Join us at Buckeye Chocolate Cafe  
8555 Tanglewood Square  
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023



Join us at the Buckeye Chocolate Café for a delicious lunch. Try a variety of locally sourced products from Northeast Ohio vendors like Middlefield Cheese, Sage's Apples, Great Lakes Cheese, and Great Lakes Growers. The menu changes with the season, so come see what's new!

Lunch and transportation on your own—carpooling available, contact Melissa if you need a ride!

RSVP via Realm or to Melissa: [mowen@fedcurch.org](mailto:mowen@fedcurch.org)  
or call 440.247.6490 x110 or text 805.636.4256

## Federated Forum: FUTURE

Monday, January 9 Gather at 1:30PM

We are reformatting our Federated Forum...

**Join us and share your thoughts.**

- ☞ What interests YOU?
- ☞ Who would you like to meet?
- ☞ What would you like to see?
- ☞ What would you like to learn about 2023?

Refreshments at 1:30, Meeting starts 2PM

Fellowship Hall ; No RSVP needed ; Cost: Free

## Night Out: Dinner and Theatre

Friday, February 17 at 5:30PM, 8PM



THE PLAY THAT GOES  
WRONG

Meet at **Balaton Restaurant** in Bainbridge. This popular Shaker Square restaurant just moved to Chagrin this January—just in time for cozy eats!

After dinner, drive/carpool to Aurora Community Theater for the opening night of the Broadway hit *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Things quickly go from bad to utterly disastrous in this hilarious 1920s whodunit. Part Monty Python, part Sherlock Holmes, this Olivier Award-winning comedy is guaranteed to leave you aching with laughter! Cost: \$25

RSVP via Realm or to Melissa: [mowen@fedcurch.org](mailto:mowen@fedcurch.org)  
or call 440.247.6490 x110 or text 805.636.4256

## Save the Date(s):

- ✓ February 13, 2PM Federated Forum
- ✓ February 23 Lunch Out at Sleepy Rooster
- ✓ February 17 Night Out: Dinner at Balaton followed by *The Play That Goes Wrong*

RSVP via Realm or to Melissa:  
[mowen@fedchurch.org](mailto:mowen@fedchurch.org)  
call 440.247.6490 x110  
text 805.636.4256



# Youth & Family

*"You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives..."*  
(Matthew 5:13-16 The Message, Eugene Peterson)

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## Federated Youth in the Midst of Action and Service

Take a look at our youth in action! A group of Middle and High School youth gave their time to help with the all-church Christmas Bake Sale, and then used the proceeds to stretch those dollars at Target as they chose gifts for St. Paul's Church's annual Christmas Toy Shop. Our youth were very discerning about how to stretch every dollar to buy as much as they could with the \$1200 proceeds from the bake sale! Way to go, Federated Youth and Federated Church!



Watch For More High School Youth Activities Coming in 2023!



# 2022-23 Confirmation Class

Your Fearless Confirmation leaders are brainstorming additional Youth Activities for the year ahead.  
**WE ARE PUTTING THE KIDS ON THE PLANNING TEAM!**

While our amazing youth have been engaged in Confirmation Class and a variety of all church service projects, we have also begun brainstorming and planning for high school youth activities beyond the Sunday Confirmation class and devotional time. Keep a look out in the February Spire and other emails for the activities being planned for 2023!



Who is missing in this photo as we ponder youth events to come? All the youth who are brainstorming along with us!

So far, the kids have thought of these activities: bowling, hiking, skiing, ice skating, a trip to the Zoo at night and more! The goal is to have a well-rounded experience in the life their church: devotional and learning time, service projects, and last but never least, a whole lot of fun together!

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## Communion Classes



### 5<sup>th</sup> Graders and Above: SAVE THE DATE – Communion Classes

Communion classes will be held on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 7pm at Federated.

Communicants will be recognized at the 10 am service Sunday, March 5, 2023.

These classes are offered to 5<sup>th</sup> graders and above who have yet completed them. More information will be available in the February SPIRE and via email.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin LeFeber at (440) 247-6490 x130 or [klefeber@fedchurch.org](mailto:klefeber@fedchurch.org)

# 2022-2023 Performing Arts Series

## Alla Boara featuring Amanda Powell

### Performing Arts Series Celebration

**Saturday, February 25th—details to come!**

Join us for a lively Italian-themed evening—be entertained by the very talented Alla Boara: drummer and composer Anthony Taddeo, vocalist Amanda Powell, guitarist Dan Bruce, trumpeter Tommy Lehman, bassist Ian Kinnaman, accordionist and keyboardist Clay Colley.

Listen, dance and enjoy!



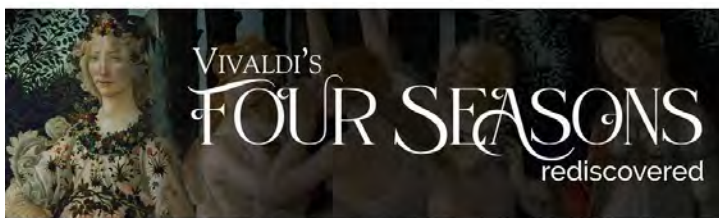
Apollo's Fire: Buy your tickets NOW: [fedchurch.org/PAS](https://fedchurch.org/PAS)

## Vivaldi's Four Seasons rediscovered

**Saturday, April 8th, 7:30pm**

Tickets: Gold Level: \$67 ; A-Level: \$51 ;

B-Level: \$38 ; C-Level \$25



Apollo's Fire will whisk us away with Vivaldi's virtuosic "Four Seasons" for their **ONE NIGHT ONLY European Tour Send-Off Concert**. Jeannette Sorrell and Francisco Fullana become musical storytellers, celebrating along with 18th-century Italian peasants, whose joys and sorrows Vivaldi so vividly described. Dueling cellists evoke Vivaldi's "rock 'n roll" personality in the stormy *Concerto for Two Cellos*. The party ends in exuberant madness when the group whips up Vivaldi's *La Folia* ("Madness").

## Antonio Pompa-Baldi and Emanuela Friscioni, pianists

**Saturday, April 29th, 7pm**

**Tickets:** Premium: \$45 ; Gold: \$38 ; Blue Level: \$30 ; Student \$15

World renowned pianists Antonio Pompa-Baldi and Emanuela Friscioni will perform a two-piano program featuring works by Piana, Chabrier, Borodin, Poulenc, and Rachmaninoff.

Mr. Pompa-Baldi rose to stardom after winning the 1999 Cleveland International Piano Competition and the Silver Medal at the 2001 Van Cliburn Competition. He and his wife, Emanuela, have long served on the faculty at CIM and tour globally in solo, concerto, chamber music, and two-piano programs.



*For full details and tickets for upcoming events go to: [fedchurch.org/PAS](https://fedchurch.org/PAS)  
or contact Joshua Konow [jkonow@fedchurch.org](mailto:jkonow@fedchurch.org) or 440.247.6490 x120.*

# January Family Fellowship



## Family Dinner and Games Night!

**Saturday, January 21st 6-8:00PM**

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for dinner and games. Treat your family to some take out (or pack dinner) and eat it with friends.

Bring your favorite board games and card games to share.



*If you have any questions, please email Kristin LeFeber, [klefeber@fedchurch.org](mailto:klefeber@fedchurch.org)*

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## Membership Committee

### Are you interested in becoming a member at Federated Church?

Confirm your commitment to the church! Become a voting member at the annual meeting! Participate more fully in the many ministry opportunities!

Sign up for the next Inquirer's classes which will be held January 25 and February 1 with those who choose joining on February 12th.

### Already a member? We need you!

Become a New Member Partner to extend a warm welcome to someone in the next class joining the church. You would be paired with a new member or family to welcome them to church when you see them. Inquire where they sit, introduce them to your pew mates, answer questions they may have - or direct them to someone who can provide answers, and encourage participation. Be you - the welcoming church that you are!

Contact Rose Brown ([rosebrowncf@gmail.com](mailto:rosebrowncf@gmail.com)) to participate or ask questions.

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# A Note from Operations...

## A Note from Operations...

Perfect timing for an update on our remaining staff members!

Marcia Snively, Organist Most every morning, Marcia can be found in the Sanctuary practicing, be it on the organ or the piano, she is there honing her craft. She also does much behind the scenes: every week she selects the Prelude and Postlude for our Sunday Worship—her choices reflect the worship themes and if you pay close attention, you often find her wit and humor in those selections. Marcia also coordinates much of music for Memorials, working with families to ensure their loved one is properly honored through music – she does this with grace, love and often wit (most recently, Ralph Spreser – *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*). Marcia works with Joshua and Pat to bring in the wonderful guest musicians that grace our chancel throughout the year. Then there are her performances – spirited and filled with that unique Marcia-flair whether it be her own or what she brings out in those performing with her. Always top notch. Thank you, Marcia!

Pat Haynish, Children's Choir Director – Pat does so much for Federated, not only does she Direct the Children's Choir, she also scouts and recruits new members, gently drawing them out with her super special supportive Pat Haynish way. Pat instills confidence and a sense of accomplishment in her students, developing their strengths and redirecting what others might consider 'challenges'. We see her accomplishments in the many students she touches.. Pat also creates, produces, directs costumes and creates scenery for the wonderful musicals performed by our children , most recently: [\*Bells of Glocken\*](#) for the December 11, 2022 Worship. In addition to her work with her students (at Federated and in the community), Pat is a valuable member of our staff, contributing her talent, wisdom and care to make what we all do that much better. Thank you, Pat!

Then there is Larry Trace, Federated Staff Emeritus – LT, what would we do without you? Thank you , Larry, for so many things. Larry most recently came to our rescue during the Christmas season when a pipe burst in the pre-school.. What a mess and we run on boiler heat so keeping the water off was not an option. After several calls to plumbers (all busy because pipes were bursting all over town), I called Larry to see if he knew of anyone who might be able to help. He called was on the case and an angel of a plumber appeared, ensuring the boilers would continue to run, he then completed the repair before the week was through—truly a miracle as others in our predicament were not so fortunate. We still have a long way to go—I will report more once we know the full extent of the damage. For now, Pre-School is meeting in the second floor classrooms—please send love, prayers and support to Shawn Bottcher, the Executive Director of Village Pre-School. Shawn handled the situation with grace and determination and the kids are back to school without delay. In case you do not know her, Shawn is a long-time Federated Church member and one of our Sunday School teachers; she helps us with other events and does so with positivity, love and grace.

Thank you all—your support is deeply appreciated!

With Gratitude,



Melissa Owen, Senior Director of People and Operations



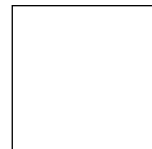
# Fun At Federated



  
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76 Bell St.  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022



## Contact Us!

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

Phone: 440.247.6490  
Fax: 440.247.2516

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

Instagram: @federatedchurch

VOL. 81 No. 13 DEC.. 2022  
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## OUR STAFF IS HERE TO HELP YOU

### CLERGY

Hamilton Throckmorton, *Senior Pastor*  
Betsy Wooster, *Pastor of Transformational Ministries*

### Administration and Staff

Melissa Owen, *Senior Director of People and Operations*  
Brooke Strong, *Congregational Life Administrator*  
\* Janis Stefanchik, *Bookkeeper*  
\* Laura Taylor, *Fund Development Associate*  
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

\* Marty Culbertson, *Director of Youth Faith Formation*  
\* Kristin LeFeber, *Director of Children's Faith Formation*  
\* Alex Bell, Lianna Davis, Tanya Goff, Shawn Bottcher,  
Bottcher, *Sunday School Teachers*

Emma

\* denotes part-time staff

