

*1 Corinthians**13:4-7*

*Love is patient; love is kind;
love is not envious or boastful or arrogant
or rude. It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful; it does
not rejoice in wrongdoing, but
rejoices in the truth. It bears
all things, believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all
things.*

From the Desk of Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton...

Dear Friends,

Federated has been in the midst of a rather intense engagement with the question of how best and most responsibly and most faithfully to proceed with regard to our properties. At our best, we focus on issues rather than personalities. At our best, we presume that everyone involved in such discussions and decisions, even those with opinions and perspectives very different from our own, has the love of Federated as a top priority. At our best, we listen for how God might be leading us.

At a time of heightened feelings, my prayer is that we will honor the Holy One with our love of each other. Without that love, we are simply a collection of lone rangers or competing factions. With that love, we are an embodiment of the beloved community. We are always free, of course, to disagree passionately with each other. At the same time, though, we are beckoned, in each moment, to see each other as siblings in Christ. Without that sacred gaze attuned to each other, we devolve into a kind of communal and spiritual anarchy. With that sacred gaze, we together shine a light—God's light—that cannot be extinguished. May we approach our life together as a kind of joyful blessing.

Yours in Christ,



Federated News & Info

Worship Themes for February 2024 Focus on Epiphany: Baptized to Follow, to Believe, to Be Taught, to Be Healed, to Be Transfigured by Love.

Feb. 4

"Healed"

Mark 1:29-39

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

Feb. 11

The Transfiguration of Jesus

"Transfigured by Love"

John 1:43-51

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

Feb. 18

First Sunday of Lent

"Tested in the Wilderness"

Mark 1:9-15

Rev. Betsy Wooster preaches

Feb. 25

Annual Meeting

"Setting Our Minds on the Things of God"

Mark 8:31-38

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

Worship Every Sunday 10:00 AM
In-Person at Federated Church
or Online on our YouTube Channel:
[TheFederatedChurch](#)

PASTORAL OFFICE HOURS

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



Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton
Senior Pastor

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2PM-5PM

P: 440.247.6490 x100

E: hamthrock@fedchurch.org



Rev. Betsy Wooster

Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Office Hours: Mondays 1 PM-4 PM

P: 440.247.6490 x101

E: bwooster@fedchurch.org

'Extravagant E - Welcome'

Please like, share, and subscribe to our



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



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

March Spire Deadline

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

Please email your information to
communications@fedchurch.org

by **Friday, March 22nd**

Include "**Spire**" in the subject line.

In Memoriam

Recognition of those who have
passed recently.

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

LEADERSHIP

Recap: Elected Lay Leaders Meeting Sunday, 1/28

As was shared in the January Spire, Church Council, guided by Federated's purpose, has strategically examined the Church's infrastructure needs and recommends to the congregation the sale of the Family Life Center (FLC) property, offering the Community Life Collaborative (CLC) the right of first offer to purchase the FLC property at 90% of fair market value. However, if the CLC is not the purchaser, the new owner will abide by the conditions in the current CLC management agreement through its expiry date (of March 31, 2025).

The objective of the meeting, attended by 41 of the 54 elected lay leaders, was for the Church Council to share more about this strategic recommendation, and most importantly, to listen to their thoughtful questions and comments. Dawn Herdman, Membership and Nominating Committee and Evaluation Team member, opened with prayer at 11:20am.

Greeting

Adam Graves, Moderator of Church Council, thanked those in attendance and shared the guidelines that each person is welcome to speak for 2 minutes, and may not speak again until everyone else has had an opportunity to speak.

Adam shared that Church Council views the CLC and FLC as two separate matters and strongly commends and affirms the work the CLC is doing as an organization and strategic partner, but as the owner of the FLC property, Federated Church is responsible for its preservation. Four dimensions were considered by the Church Council when making this critical decision: Strategic, Financial, Operational and Cultural.

STRATEGIC DIMENSION

Is owning and maintaining the FLC property strategic to Federated Church's vision of its future?

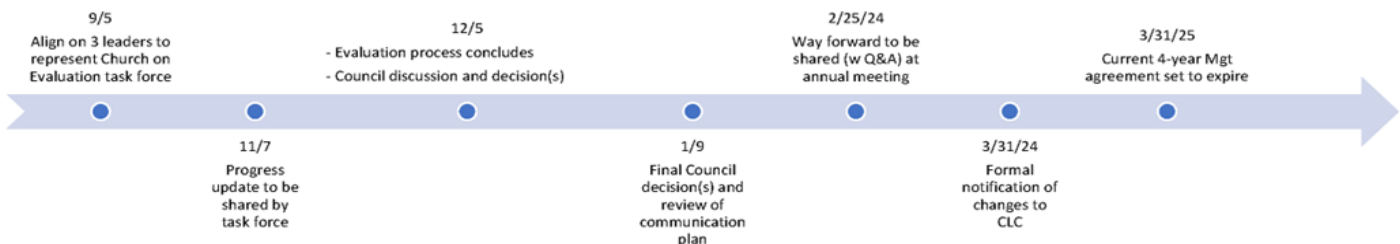
Adam addressed the questions and comments related to "Why Now?" and "Can the process be paused?" by reviewing the *Principles and Milestones* given to the CLC in August:

Principles and milestones: Fall CLC / FLC Evaluation

Principles:

- The purpose of the Evaluation Process is to provide the Church and CLC a mutual checkpoint of the collaboration
- Council Members must stay true to our shared Covenant
- Transparency and clarity along the journey

Milestones:



Action for September 5th Council meeting: Come prepared to decide on pre-submitted nominees for 3-person Evaluation joint Church + CLC task force.

- In October, an Evaluation Team of three individuals from Federated Church and three individuals from CLC determined the partnership between the organizations is functioning as intended and all agreed not to exercise the (early) “Exit Option.” This means the Management Agreement will remain intact through the 3/31/2025.
- The Management Agreement stipulates formal notice must be provided to the CLC regarding an extension of the Agreement or creation of a new Agreement (if the Exit Option is not exercised). 3/31/2024 is when formal notification of changes will be provided to the CLC.
- A figure of ~\$4.3 million was provided as the total property value of the Family Life Center property and it was noted that, similar to owning a car that has depreciated over time, the FLC’s value has depreciated to ~\$2.3 million. The current responsibility of the congregation of the Federated Church is to make the best possible decision with the information available.
- The proceeds from the sale of the FLC would be used to
 - Design and construct a Memorial Garden at 76 Bell as envisioned by a thoughtful task force of individuals dedicated to preservation of those memorialized
 - Increase Deferred Major Maintenance Designated Fund
 - Support Federated’s missions by fully investing in our Visionary Action Plan (VAP)
- Many attempts over the past couple of decades have failed to achieve what was initially envisioned for FLC property.

FINANCIAL DIMENSION

Is money invested in the maintenance of the FLC property the best use of Federated Church funds?

Brady Hively, Chair of the Finance & Properties Committee, addressed the anticipated 1-4 year major maintenance items. In the following chart, “Estimates in 2023” column were provided by professionals who suggested an average of 6% increase per year, as reflected in the “2024” column.

Bainbridge Property Family Life Center	Estimates in 2023	2024
HVAC	\$273,080	\$342,465
Paving	\$187,000	\$196,350
Roof/Siding	\$165,707	\$182,277
Misc.	\$35,995	\$35,995
Total	\$661,782	\$759,111

- In order of priority the FLC property’s major maintenance items are: HVAC, Roof and Parking Lot.
- In the past those interested in purchasing the property were not interested in building and therefore anticipated repairs were not a factor “discounting” the selling price.
- \$165,000 is in designated funds for the maintenance of the FLC property.
- CLC pays the day-to-day expenses and major maintenance items are to be paid by Federated Church.
- There was a \$1 fee paid to the Federated Church for each of the first two years of use, year three is \$20K and year four is \$30K; these fees go into Federated’s Operating Budget. The Management Agreement ends March 31, 2025.
- The overall financial position of Federated Church has not substantially changed and details to follow in the 2023 Annual Financial Report.
- Exploration in the past of selling 102 Bell proved to be prohibitive as 102 Bell and 76 Bell share the driveway and electricity.

OPERATIONAL DIMENSION

Is the FLC property essential to the Federated Church's physical infrastructure?

- The overall financial position of Federated Church has not substantially changed and details to follow in the 2023 Annual Financial Report.
- Exploration in the past of selling 102 Bell proved to be prohibitive as 102 Bell and 76 Bell share the driveway and electricity.
- Church Council and several others shared the perspective that many, if not all, of the CLC's activities could be managed from or held at the 76 Bell location or elsewhere.
- Many Church Councils, including as recent as 2019, have addressed the question if Federated can financially afford its physical space. Using the appreciative inquiry approach and extensive research, past and current Church Councils have arrived at same conclusion: that Federated Church cannot be financially sustainable if funds are used to maintain the FLC property.
- In 2019 the concept of forming a partnership with the CLC was presented and overwhelmingly approved by the Congregation at its meeting in 2020, and Church Council hopes the CLC will continue its impactful work by operating out of 76 Bell Street, so that Federated Church can continue to energetically support the continued implementation of the Visionary Action Plan (VAP) by expanding its programs, ministries and missions.
- The CLC has not had an opportunity to investigate the possibility of purchasing the FLC property, but is aware that the property is zoned for residential use, and that the CLC is able to operate under the conditional use provision awarded to the Federated Church.

CULTURAL DIMENSION

Is the FLC property seen as essential to the cultural fabric of the Federated Church?

- A board member of CLC shared the FLC property provided 500 touchpoints to the community and in the future the CLC envisions solar array and electric charging stations, and questions if this community building could take place at a "steeped" building.
- While respecting and deeply appreciating the strong emotional and impassionate connection to the FLC Memorial Gardens, it is enjoyed by relatively few people and on an intermittent basis.
- Memorial stones at 76 Bell would provide an opportunity to reflect upon these 'saints' every time friends and members of Federated Church come to worship.
- The Real Estate Task force (2019) investigated the possibility of retaining just the Memorial Gardens and given its location in the center of the property determined that a special access easement to the gardens was impractical.
- A land study of the FLC grounds was forwarded to some members of the CLC and Church Council showing that drainage at the FLC was not adequate to support in-ground gardens, and that building raised beds could be cost prohibitive.

In Conclusion

The decision to sell the FLC property is one that will be made by the members of the Federated Church and each member has an equal vote. The question of Absentee and/or Proxy Voting will be determined at the February Church Council meeting.

Adam thanked everyone for attending and encouraged attendance at the in-person member only Listening Session after worship in the Sanctuary Sunday, February 11 and the Zoom member only Listening Session on Tuesday, February 13 at 6pm: [Click here to join the February 13 Listening Session](#).

BE SURE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 AT 11:20AM IN THE SANCTUARY OR JOIN VIA [ZOOM](#).

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 25th, 11:20 AM (After Worship)

Join us in the Church Sanctuary or via Zoom: [Annual Meeting Zoom Link](#)

The 2023 Federated Church Annual Meeting will be held Sunday February 25, 2024 at 11:20 AM in the Sanctuary. In addition to our Constitutional requirements for the election of Officers and Lay Leadership, we will present the Annual Financial Report, approve the Annual Budget and receive a report on the Federated Legacy Fund. Members will also be asked to approve:

- Changes to the Constitution
- Changes to the Federated Legacy Fund Bylaws
- Church Council's recommendation to the congregation for the sale of the Family Life Center property; offering the Community Life Collaborative (CLC) the right of first offer to purchase the Family Life Center property at 90% of fair market value. However, if the CLC is not the purchaser, the new owner will abide by the conditions in the current CLC Management Agreement through its expiry date (of March 31, 2025).

Members are strongly encourage to remain engaged and prioritize attending our upcoming member-only listening sessions: In-person following worship on Sunday, February 11th and virtually on Tuesday, February 13th at 6pm: [Listening Session Zoom Link](#) .

Please reach out to other members and personally invite them to attend these important sessions as well as the Church's Annual Meeting.

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Membership and Nominating Committee

Save the Date: Upcoming Inquirers Class

Are you a visitor or frequent attendee or know someone who is?

Your're Invited!

An Inquirers Class will be offered **Wednesday, April 3rd and Wednesday, April 10th**. This is an opportunity to learn more about Membership at Federated, meet others who are also new, and talk about your own faith journey. New Members will be recognized **Sunday, April 28th** during worship.

The class meets twice and is informal in nature, but it is meaningful for those who are considering making this spiritual decision and commitment.

Contact Brooke Strong to sign up: bstrong@fedchurch.org .

Generosity Corner

Generosity Campaigns

We are grateful to all who have made a commitment to our 2024 Generosity Campaign. Your generosity, through your time, talents, and treasures, is a blessing and allows the many ministries and activities of the church to reach inward serving members and friends, and to reach outward as ambassadors of God's love to the broader world.

If you are unsure if you have completed your pledged donation for 2023, this information can be found on Realm, or you can call or email Beth Rutkowski at 440.247.6490 or brutkowski@fedchurch.org.

Unidentified Donation

We have received a generous check from Fidelity Brokerage Services, however, the donor was not identified.

If you have any information or think this donation may have come from you, please contact Beth Rutkowski at brutkowski@fedchurch.org or 440.247.6490 so we can properly credit this generous gift. Thank You!

2023 Year End Statements

Giving statements for 2023 have been sent out. We send the majority via email to save paper and postage, so be sure to check your email for your statement. If you have any questions or feel there is an error in your statement, please contact Beth Rutkowski at brutkowski@fedchurch.org.



Christmas Eve Offering

Through the generosity of our congregation during the Christmas season, Federated Church made a donation to Humble Design Cleveland of **\$31,049.48** to help them fulfill their mission of assisting individuals and families who have worked their way out of homelessness but are financially limited in adding the necessities to make their new house a home.



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 10, 8-10 AM
Cost: \$10 (hot breakfast included)
Fellowship Hall

Please join us as we "Talk Baseball" with Bob DiBiasio, Senior V.P. of Public Relations for the Cleveland Guardians at our next men's breakfast on Saturday, February 10th.

To attend, sign up after church in Fellowship Hall, at fedchurch.org/events or email Barry Biggin, BarryBBiggin@windstream.net.



Women's Ministries

Women's Fellowship will be meeting on February 13th, in Fellowship Hall at 11:45, for lunch. It is our Baked Potato Luncheon and we will be doing some service projects, including our toiletry kits for the homeless. We will be looking for items to be donated for the toiletry kits. We will also be going out to lunch on February 19th at 12:30...location to be announced. For more information contact Lynne Kessell, lynnekessell@gmail.com.



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!

February 4– last names beginning with N, O, P, Q, or R
February 11– last names beginning with S or T
February 18– last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y, or Z
February 25– last names beginning with A or B



Wear Your Faith



As you **#LiveYourFaith**, you can now **#WearYourFaith**.

Federated merchandise is fun to wear and available!

To view the online store, click [HERE](#).



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 PM
Federated Sanctuary

Join us for our annual Ash Wednesday Service!

Revs. Hamilton Throckmorton and Betsy Wooster lead a service of sacred reflection as we begin the season of Lent.

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Wondrous Wednesday

On February 14th, the Wondrous Wednesday dinner will be held in conjunction with our Ash Wednesday Service.

Dinner at 6pm in Fellowship Hall followed by Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

It is also Valentine's Day, so there will be chocolates for everyone!!!

Signup at fedchurch.org/events. Join us.



Save the Date!

**March 20th Wondrous Wednesday debuts a New Church Ministry:
FED TALKS!**

FED TALKS is about community and hearing personal faith stories.

Come to the March Wondrous Wednesday

Hear church members Zach LeFeber and Harriett Rogers share their stories with us!

*Fed Talks is a new, quarterly ministry offered in various forums at the church!

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Youth & Family

COMMUNION CLASS. 2025. Traditionally, Federated offers communion classes to fifth graders and middle schoolers every February. Due to scheduling and other needs, our leaders have decided to not offer a class in 2024 and return with the offering in 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin LeFeber at (440) 247-6490 x130 / klefeber@fedchurch.org

S.P.I.F.F.Y. NEWS

SERVICE PROJECTS INITIATED FROM FEDERATED YOUTH
JANUARY 2023



JANUARY 21

We had lots of fun writing punny valentines for the Geauga Libraries Book Mobile to pass out to area seniors.

JANUARY 28

We spent some time at Hamlet to play some board games with the residents

UPCOMING EVENTS

Questions or service ideas/requests?
Please contact
emoore@fedchurch.org or
bwright@fedchurch.org



- ★ **February 4**
 - 4:30-6:00pm @ CLC
 - Clean out bird boxes, gym time
 - Dress for the weather
- ★ **February 11 and 18**
 - No Meeting - Enjoy the Super Bowl and long weekend
- ★ **February 25**
 - 4:30-6:00 pm @ the Church
 - Rescue Village Projects
- ★ **March 3**
 - 4:30-6:00 pm @ the Church
 - Rescue Village Projects
- ★ **March 10**
 - Youth Sunday/Bake Sale
 - 4:30-6:00 pm @ the Church
 - Rescue Village Projects
- ★ **Saturday, March 16**
 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm @ Rescue Village
 - Drop off Rescue Village Projects
 - Tour Rescue Village
- ★ **March 24 and 31**
 - No Meeting
 - Enjoy Spring Break and Easter!

FEDERATED CHURCH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Sundays at 11:30 - 1:00

Meeting in Room 340

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING!

February:

- 4:** Work Session at the Church! Helping out with various tasks to keep up our church looking beautiful!
- 11:** No Meeting, (Super Bowl Sunday)
- 18:** No Meeting (Presidents Day Weekend)
- 25:** Annual Federated Church Meeting after service. Come stay informed on everything going on at Church!

QUESTIONS? EMAIL GARY OR PAUL

gdd.fedchurch@gmail.com

paulcantlay99mail.com



Join Federated Performing Arts Series in Celebrating...

BLACK HISTORY Month

Featuring **SONYA HEADLAM,
SOPRANO**



Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, | 7 PM
76 Bell Street | Chagrin Falls, OH | 44022

Tickets Available at:
fedchurch.org/PAS



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SAVE THE DATES: Performing Arts Series '23-'24 Season

Full concert details and are available at fedchurch.org/PAS



Saturday, March 2, 2024, 7pm
Cleveland Celtic Ensemble

Thursday, April 25, 2024, 7:30pm
Apollo's Fire: "Bach's *Easter Oratorio*"

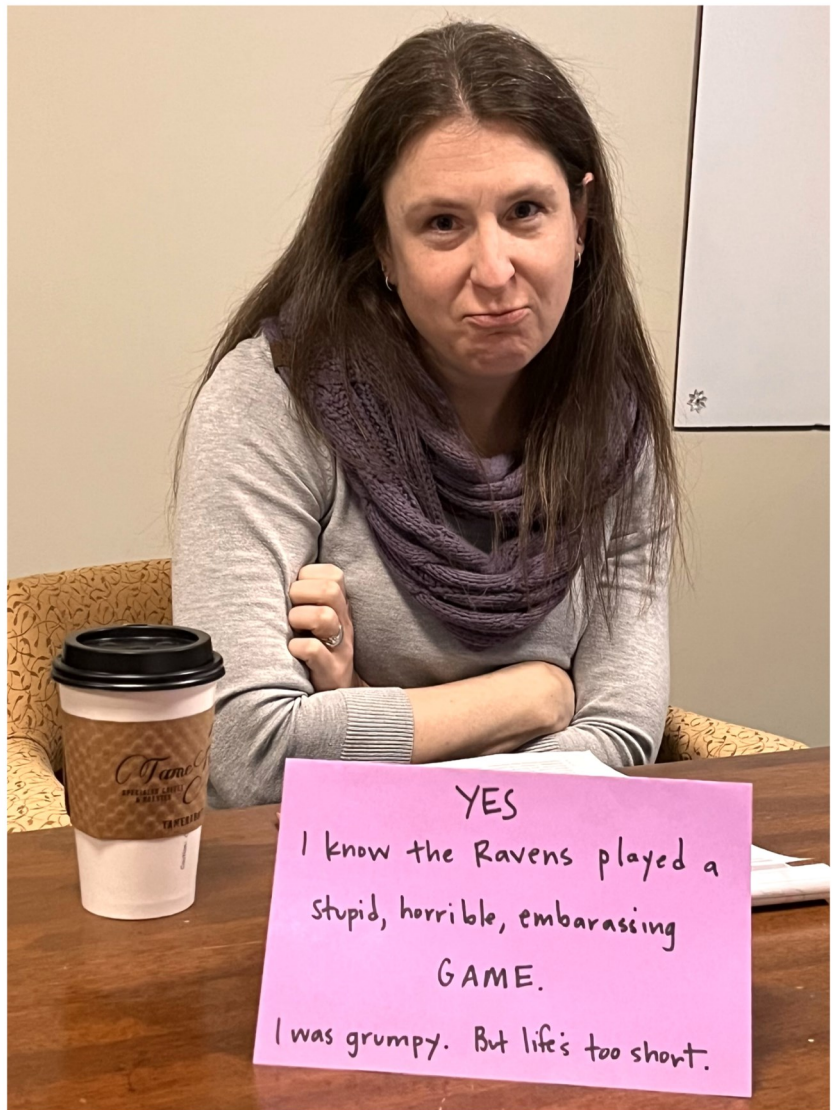


Friday, May 17, 2024, 7pm
Factory Seconds Brass in Concert

Fun At Federated



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Primetime Fun!

Primetime Lunch Out: Guido's in Chesterland Friday, February 16 at Noon

Join us at Guido's: 12809 Chillicothe Road Chesterland, Ohio 44026
At Guido's you are family. There is love in every delicious bit and cheer.
Join us at this iconic spot for lunch and laughter!

[RSVP](#)—Need a ride? Contact Melissa—carpooling is available!

Despite the cold, much warmth was shared!



Save the Dates:

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- ✓ [February 16, Noon: Lunch Out at Guido's in Chesterland](#)
- ✓ [February 24, 7PM: Sonya Headlam, Soprano Celebrating Black History Month](#)
- ✓ [March 15, 5PM: Dinner, 100 Years *Rhapsody in Blue*, Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, Pops](#)
- ✓ [March 22, Noon: Lunch Out at Cooper's Hawk](#)

RSVP via [REALM](#) or to Melissa: mowen@fedchurch.org / 805.636.4256

Federated's Mission

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Federated Church shall be to worship God; to preach and hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, to joyfully embody the living Spirit of God; to embrace all people; to transform lives; and to empower everyone to love and serve the world through Jesus Christ.

How we live into our purpose statement matters. As members of this church community, whether you are only attending worship or involved in lay ministry, you are called by faith and your commitment to God, to love and serve the world.

This service to the world looks different to all. Your faith is just that, your faith. At Federated Church there are many ways to build on the corner stones of your faith. Be a part of Bible and book studies, sharing from your abundance by giving funds and donating goods to mission collections, working for a just world for all and for the natural world by participating in SJAM (Social Justice Advocacy Ministry) or sharing your God given talents. Talents in music, note writing, flower arranging, visits to the confined and so much more.

Everyone has gifts to offer, what are your gifts? How do you live into God's purpose for you and Federated Church. How do you use your gifts to embody the living spirit of God? The smallest gesture can transform a life. Reach out, embrace the differences of others to build a better understanding, get involved.

Remember this as you move through your life in faith...

God accepts me just as I am and loves me too much to leave me that way. Federated accepts all people as they are and supports them in the spiritual journey. With Christ we offer hope and healing to change our world. This is the Mission Statement of Federated Church.

Submitted by Marty Culbertson, Director of Missions

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Mission & Service

St. Paul's Trailer

Sunday, February 4, 9:30-11:30 AM

The St. Paul's Trailer will be open on the first Sunday of the month from 9:30-11:30 AM to receive your donations. Clean clothing, household items, and small appliances are acceptable. Please, no undergarments or TV's.

We hope this new time will make it more convenient for you to make donations. Come to church early or stay late to drop off treasures you no longer need!

Contact Marty Culbertson if you have any questions. Mculbert@fedchurch.org.

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

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, please contact sjamfedchurch@gmail.com

Next SJAM Meeting: February 18, 2024 at 11:30 at Bell Street in Lounge

Or join by Zoom using this link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?pwd=U1VxZU5SZ0NjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVlWdz09)

[pwd=U1VxZU5SZ0NjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVlWdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?pwd=U1VxZU5SZ0NjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVlWdz09)



Great News from our Creation Care and Justice Corner!

In the fall of 2023, the SJAM sub-committee, Creation Care and Justice, submitted an application to the UCC national office to become a Creation Justice Church. This designation recognizes churches that have a focus in all aspects of their church life on caring for creation and all of God's people, plants, animals and the planet as a whole. In December, we were thrilled to receive word that our application was approved and we are now designated as a Creation Justice Church by the UCC national office. We will make a formal announcement in April where we will unfurl the beautiful banner we received and celebrate this designation. We are excited about all the possibilities ahead of us and look forward to exploring with the congregation how we will continue to live into caring fully for God's Creation and all living beings.

February is Black History Month

To celebrate, make sure to attend Federated's Performing Arts Series Concert on February 24th at 7pm Celebrating Black History Month, Sonya Headlam, Soprano; Joshua Konow, piano

Tickets: fedchurch.org/PAS



Join us at **Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, 3130 Monticello Blvd. in Cleveland Hts. on February 25, 6:30-9:00 pm**

Program: A Time for Joy: Annual of African-American Music

This is a celebration of the majesty of all that is Black music honoring many of the powerful and legendary Black women of song. More information: <https://fhcpresb.org/news/black-history-month-schedule-of-events/>

Email: sjamfedchurch@gmail.com if interested in carpooling.

Coming up in April: Another opportunity to examine our own IMPLICIT BIAS.

Due to the popularity of this subject for their January series, Robin Harbage and Bill Shaul are offering this 4-week program again in April. The January series was over-subscribed to, and a waiting list was created. There are still a few spots open for April. Through short readings, videos and 90-minute discussions on zoom, the group looks at the stereotypes and biases we all have and what we can do about our behaviors. To sign up for this series contact Robin Harbage (robin.harbage@gmail.com) or Bill Shaul (theshauls@msn.com)

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Community Partners

Our Nature 2024 THEME: Healing the Planet, Healing Communities, Healing Ourselves

Since 2022, the CLC's **Our Nature series** challenges us to rethink, restore & rebuild our relationship with nature. Over half of our global population lives in cities, making healthy urban environments an essential component of environmental justice. From March through May, Our Nature 2024 series draws collaborating partners together across urban and suburban landscapes to energize community conversation to action. Meet us at the intersection of trauma and healing, food apartheid and access to healthy living.

Sat. March 16 10am-2pm: Climate Fresk: Using Gamification to Understand Climate Change This workshop teaches participants how everything is connected in the climate crisis. The goal is to empower participants with an understanding and language to be able to speak to issues, and empower them to build a community toward action. Explore climate science, processing climate anxiety, and ways forward in this multi generational interactive experience. **\$25** Registration includes workshop & Lunch Student rate **\$10**. Student scholarships are available at admin@communitylifecollaborative.org [Learn More about Climate Fresk](#)

Sat. March 23, 9am-5pm: Our Nature-Making Our Actions Count: Building Strong Movements for Climate Justice with **Joe Worthy**. Change-makers, assemble! Join a multi generational workshop equipping individuals & groups with leadership skills for nonviolent community organizing. In this day-long training, learners will get an introduction to strategic nonviolent action and how to increase the success of their climate justice advocacy and movement. **\$35** Registration includes workshop & Lunch. Student rate **\$10**. Student scholarships are available at admin@communitylifecollaborative.org
Details at communitylifecollaborative.org/events/

Sat. April 20 Our Nature: Tree of Life Ceremony at Elizabeth Park. Stand beside families in a celebration of life for families that have lost a loved one due to opioid overdose or gun violence on our city streets.

Sat. May 4 9am-12: Our Nature: Getting Our Hands Dirty: Mobilizing Systems for Food Security (Action) As an extension of your Earth Day commitments, work side-by-side with volunteers working at the *First Saturday Volunteer Cleanup* at Coit Road Farmers Market, where change is growing every day. Discover ways neighborhood urban gardens are taking root. Dig in and build relationships that help heal people and the planet. Coit Road Farmers' Market *15000 Woodworth Rd, East Cleveland, OH 44110* [Learn more about FoodStrong.](#)

Sat. May 18 10-11am Our Nature: Mobilizing Systems for Food Security: Local Models of Success. Learn a brief history of systemic policies that created low food access, Sara and Beth will spotlight two thriving vacant-to-vibrant models for mobilizing local food & garden ambassadors for neighborhood resilience in Cleveland and Akron neighborhoods.

For details of all events: communitylifecollaborative.org/events/

Save the Date: Saturday, June 8. CLC 3rd Annual Garden Gala fundraiser: *Dancing On Dewdrops*



The CLC manages operations and covers the costs of the Family Life Center for the Federated Church. To schedule church programs at the FLC, please contact CLC Executive Director, Destinee Burse at ed@communitylifecollaborative.org for details. The CLC is a 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!

Community Partners



You are invited to join our friends from **NOICA (Northern Ohio Intercultural Association)** for fun, educational experiences that provide a wonderful opportunity for cultural exchange. Learn more about the food and customs by participating.

SAVE THE DATE!

IFTAR (Dinner)

March 23 at 7:00 pm

Come enjoy a wonderful dinner here at Federated Church in Fellowship Hall. We welcome back our friends from the Northern Ohio Intercultural Association, who have generously offered to prepare and serve an Iftar.

Iftar is the evening meal taken by Muslims at sundown to break the daily fast during Ramadan. Ramadan is observed worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community.

Last April, NOICA hosted an Iftar at Federated Church. Friendships were forged, a delicious meal was shared and a wonderful evening was enjoyed by all. We are thrilled NOICA will return this Ramadan! Join us!

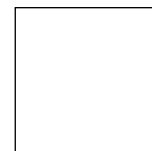
Besides the meal, we will also have an opportunity to learn more about the Muslim faith and traditions. This is a family-friendly event. Children of all ages are welcome! Come, meet new friends. The event is free. Register at fedchurch.org/events by March 17.

Please Note Cancellation: No February 17th Cooking Class





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Contact Us!

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Instagram: @federatedchurch

VOL. 96 No. 28 FEBRUARY, 2024
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO HELP YOU

CLERGY

Hamilton Throckmorton, *Senior Pastor*
Betsy Wooster, *Pastor of Spiritual Formation*

Administration Staff

Melissa Owen, *Senior Director of People and Operations*
Brooke Strong, *Congregational Life Administrator*
Beth Rutkowski, *Director of Generosity*
* **Susi Kawolics**, *Bookkeeper*
* **Marty Culbertson**, *Director of Missions*
Jake Magalski, *Properties, Maintenance & Grounds Lead*

Music Staff

Joshua Konow, *Director of Music Ministries*
* **Marcia Snavelly**, *Organist*
* **Pat Haynish**, *Director of Children's Choir*

Children's Ministries Staff

* **Kristin LeFeber**, *Director of Children's Faith Formation*
* **Alex Bell**, **Lianna Davis**, **Tanya Goff**, *Childcare*
* **Shawn Bottcher**, **Emma Bottcher**, *Sunday School Teachers*

* denotes part-time staff





federated

**Hope to see you
this Sunday!**

10:00 AM
In person and Online