

The Spire

The Federated Church Newsletter

United Church of Christ  An Open and Affirming Congregation



**"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he
is a new creature: old things are
passed away; behold, all things
are become new."**

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

From the Desk of Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton...

Dear Friends,

As we move into March, we move further into the season of Lent. As we travel this Lenten journey, we wend our way into the heart of Christian faith. The story of both the Hebrew Bible and the Christian New Testament is of a piece. In the Hebrew scriptures, the heart of the story is that an Israelite people who have been enslaved in Egypt are led by God to a promised land they could never have imagined or created on their own. And then, centuries later, after the people have been carried off into exile in Babylon, they somehow, against all odds and after many years, are led back to their land. In both the Exodus and the Exile, God has offered a present and a future where none seemed possible.

The New Testament story of Jesus' death and resurrection extends this awesome sense of God's saving presence even further. Now, the power of the Roman Empire is shown to be penultimate. Now, the confining energy of smaller-minded, destructive religious contemporaries is broken down. Now, even death is revealed for the impostor it is. As an Easter hymn puts it, "'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison, and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen" ("Come, Ye Faithful. Raise the Strain," v. 2).

Indeed, the hymns we sing at Easter express the magnificence of the day beautifully: "Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!" "I know that my Redeemer lives." "Thine is the glory." "The strife is o'er, the battle done." "He lives." "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus." "Crown him with many crowns." This is our exultant experience of God's decisive resurrecting act.

So while we can never talk with scientific precision about what exactly happens on that first Easter day, we can nonetheless talk with utter confidence about the magnificence of the God who made that day, as well as all the succeeding resurrecting days, possible. And that's because our experience is that no death is too final, no grave too confining, no failure too total, no ending too complete that God can't bring a way out of no way.

May we journey together through this Lenten season and join together when Easter arrives to celebrate the richness and wonder of the God who is our all-in-all.

Yours in Christ,



Federated News & Info

Lent and Easter: Turning Again to God.

March 3

"The Money Changers in the Temple"

John 2:13-22

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

March 10

Children and Youth Sunday

"enJOYing" God

March 17

"We Wish to See Jesus"

John 12:20-33

Rev. Betsy Wooster preaches

March 24

Palm/Passion Sunday

Mark 15:1-39

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

March 28

Maunday Thursday Service

7:30 PM Pre-service music; 8:00 pm Service

March 31

Easter Sunday

"Raised to a New Life"

John 20:1-18

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

Worship Every Sunday 10:00 AM

In-Person at Federated Church

or Online on our YouTube Channel:

[TheFederatedChurch](#)

April 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.

Douglas Garland– February 23

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)

Annual Meeting Wrap Up

Thank you all! Members and friends, you made 2023 another year of spiritual deepening and growth. We are extremely grateful for the wonderful work of Adam Graves and our 2023 Lay Leadership. Your time, effort and care is so very much appreciated. We are poised for a truly excellent 2024!



Membership and Nominating Committee

Save the Date: Upcoming Inquirers Class

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

You'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 considering making this spiritual decision and commitment.

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

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Holy Week at Federated



**Maundy
*Thursday***
at Federated Church
featuring "Illuminare"
by Elaine Hagenberg

Thursday, March 28, 2024; 8 pm
(7:30 pm pre-service music)
76 Bell Street | Chagrin Falls | OH | 44022
fedchurch.org/events



**Join us for Easter Sunday
at Federated Church**

Easter Sunday, March 31
10:00 am -Easter Worship
76 Bell Street
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022



Join us in-person or Streaming Live at YouTube.com/TheFederatedChurch

www.fedchurch.org/easter | 440.247.6490

Women's Ministries

The Federated Women's Ministries has a jam packed month of March! Please join us for any of our following events for the month:

Monday, March 18th, at 1:00, the Women's Fellowship Circle will be meeting in Fellowship Hall to make Easter baskets for St. Paul's & Chagrin Falls park. We will be collecting wrapped candy, small toys, plastic eggs to fill & grass. Items can be left behind the angel desk!

Monday, March 25th, at 1:00, Helping Hands will be meeting in the Lower Level Meeting Room to make fidget pads for memory care patients & filling cancer pillows.

We are looking for volunteers to make cookies for Loaves & Fishes at St. Paul's, just once a month. If you are interested, please contact Lynne Kessell.



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!

March 3– last names beginning with A or B

March 10– last names beginning with C or D

March 17– last names beginning with E, F, or G

March 24– last names beginning with H, I, J, or K

March 31– last names beginning with L or M



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](#).



Easter Lilies on Sale



This year our Spiritual Formation Commission is **raising funds for the April RePlay for Kids event through the sale of Easter lilies**. As in years past, these holiday flowers will decorate our Chancel during Easter Sunday. The lilies may be purchased in your name, or In Honor Of, or In Memory Of a loved one or friend. The cost is \$16 per plant. A listing of those named will appear in our Easter Sunday bulletin and the May Spire newsletter.

The mission of **RePlay for Kids** is to increase the availability of toys and assistive devices for children with disabilities. The nonprofit pursues this mission by repairing existing devices, adapting mainstream toys, designing new devices, and educating families and clinicians.

Come join us (ages 12 & up, minors with parent) for a hands-on service opportunity on Saturday, April 20th from 10am-12pm, in Fellowship Hall to “play” with toys, adapting them for kiddos with disabilities. You can contact Kristin at klefeber@fedchurch.org for more information about the event.

After the Easter Sunday worship service, you may take a lily if you purchased one. All others will be donated to local retirement communities and assisted living facilities.

Fill out this form (please print) and mail it to the church to arrive **by Tuesday April 4th**. If writing a check, note “Easter Lily” in the memo line. This form is also available at fedchurch.org/giving. If giving online, you can add your loved one’s name in the memo line. Thank you!

Paid By: _____

Contact Email/Phone: _____

No. of Plants: _____ Amount: \$ _____ ☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Pay Online

Dedication Name(s): ☐ In Memory Of: ☐ In Honor Of:

RePlay *for Kids*
because every child needs to play



SAVE THE DATE!

TRINKETS 'N TREASURES

2024



DROP OFF DATES:

May 3-7

SALE DATES:

May 8-11

Family Life Center
16349 Chillicothe Road
Chagrin Falls, Ohio, 44023

More info to come soon!



Generosity Corner



Dear Federated Church,

We cannot thank you enough. Your amazing generosity will help transform lives for some of Cleveland's most vulnerable children, families and veterans.

We look forward to partnering with you throughout the year. If you are interested in volunteering, we have opportunities available in the warehouse and on decos (when we go into client's homes to transform them). These are listed on our website and can be accessed by clicking on the VOLUNTEER button.

We accept donations of new and gently used furniture and household items at our warehouse in Solon. Our drop off hours are from 9:00-3:30 Monday-Friday, by appointment. We will pick up furniture in the community by simply scheduling through our website, www.humbledesign.org/give-furniture. There is a fee for pick ups and it helps cover the cost of our movers and the gas.

As a special thank you to Federated members, we will be offering free furniture pick up on March 25th. We will still ask you to go through the normal process for scheduling pick ups on our website. This way we can confirm that we are able to use the furniture for our clients. In the description section - please indicate that you are a member of Federated Church.

Our website is www.humbledesign.org. The warehouse phone number is 440-318-1039. Follow us on Facebook (humbledesigncleveland) and Instagram @humbledesigncleveland

Best,
Debbie Eastburn and Thea Mozingo



Rev. Betsy's Spiritual Formation Corner

A New Church Ministry: FED TALKS!

**Our first Fed Talks is on March 20th after Wondrous Wednesday Dinner:
Dinner at 6:00, Stories at 7:00.**

Hear church members Zach LeFeber and Harriett Rogers share faith stories with us.

Sign up for dinner in advance at fedchurch.org/events

You are welcome to only attend story time and do not need to sign up to attend story hour.

What /S FED TALKS, you might ask?

Essentially, Fed Talks is story hour for all ages. FED TALKS is a new, intergenerational ministry at Federated Church where one or two people, chosen in advance, will share a personal faith story with all who are gathered. FED TALKS will continue to happen quarterly and will be offered in various forums at the church throughout the year. All are invited!

Join us at the March 20th Wondrous Wednesday for dinner and stories, a beautiful and meaningful way to learn more about each other and give thanks to God for the life of faith that we share.

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Youth & Family



YOUTH SUNDAY & COLORADO KIDS BAKE SALE

Please join us, **March 10th** for a youth-led worship service featuring the Children's Choir and reflections from two of our high schoolers followed by a youth-led bake sale in Fellowship Hall to benefit this summer's Colorado trip.

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

Service Projects Initiated From Federated Youth



February 4: Cleaning out bluebird houses & clearing paths at the FLC



February 25: Making fleece blankets for the cats at Rescue Village

Upcoming Events

March 3 & March 10

Making dog & cat toys and treats for Rescue Village
4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Meet at the Church

March 16

Making our donation & taking a group tour of the facility
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Meet at Rescue Village

March 24 & March 31

No meeting – Happy Easter & Spring Break

THE PERFORMING ARTS SERIES AND FEDERATED
FAMILY MINISTRIES PRESENT...

The Cleveland Celtic Ensemble and Community Dinner

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024 | 6 PM




76 BELL STREET
CHAGRIN FALLS | OH | 44022

www.fedchurch.org/PAS



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

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

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

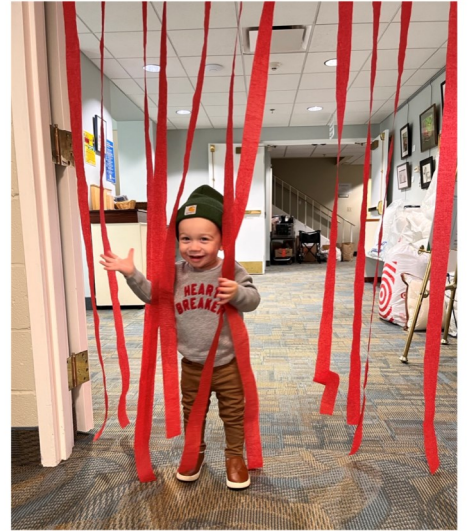
Battle of Fat Tuesday 2024



VS.




federated
live your faith



Primetime Lunch Out: Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant Friday March 22 at Noon

Join us at Cooper's Hawk: 12809 Chillicothe Road Chesterland, Ohio 44026
Cooper's Hawk has created a modern, casual dining experience with warm hospitality. The culinary team has designed a contemporary American menu infused with flavors from around the world. Each dish is made fresh in our scratch kitchen, incorporating peak-of-season ingredients, and listed with a bin number to guide you to your selection's perfect wine match. Join us! [RSVP](#)—Need a ride? Contact Melissa.



Primetime Night Out: Friday, March 15

Transportation Provided! Join us for dinner at Guarino's followed by a spectacular night out: *Rhapsody in Blue* at 100—More Experiments in Modern Music – Cleveland Jazz Orchestra joined by Carl Topilow and members of the Cleveland Pops and a dazzling array of young string players, to celebrate 100 years of "Rhapsody in Blue" and share new compositions inspired by the American Modernists of the 1920's.

Meet at 5PM for dinner or meet at 7.30 PM for the concert at the Maltz Performing Arts Center located at 1855 Ansel Road Cleveland, Ohio 44106

[RSVP](#) ASAP— 20 spots available.

Save the Dates:

- ✓ March 15, 5PM: Dinner, 100 Years *Rhapsody in Blue*, Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, Pops
- ✓ March 22, Noon: Lunch Out at Cooper's Hawk
- ✓ April 18, Noon: Lunch Out at The Square

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

Mission & Service

Mission and Service and SJAM



Please leave bagged sheets and pillowcases
in the Church Lobby



St. Paul's Trailer Sunday, March 3, 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.

Community Partners

IFTAR (Dinner)

March 23 at 6:40pm

FREE event but please register at fedchurch.org/events

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.



**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**
federated *act*



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

SJAM MOVIE NIGHT

"Social Justice in Health Care"

presented by Bill Shaul, MD. MPH

Monday, March 18, at 7:00 pm

in Fellowship Hall, Federated Church, 76 Bell St., Chagrin Falls, OH

Dorothy Roberts:

The problem with race-based medicine | TED Talk

Social justice advocate and law scholar Dorothy Roberts has a precise and powerful message: Race-based medicine is bad medicine. Even today, many doctors still use race as a medical shortcut; they make important



decisions about things like pain tolerance based on a patient's skin color instead of medical observation and measurement. In this searing talk, Roberts lays out the lingering traces of race-based medicine -- and invites us to be a part of ending it. "It is more urgent than ever to finally abandon this backward legacy," she says, "and to affirm our common humanity by ending the social inequalities that truly divide us."

Followed by discussion.

Refreshments provided.

For questions email: Kathy Franz - kfranz17114@gmail.com

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



Save the Dates for our **April** Earth Focused Activities

***Common Ground: Cultivating Connections
Between Our Faith, Our Food, and the Climate***

April 17 – Wondrous Wednesday – Dinner and Speaker – Our guest speaker is Darrell Kendall, a local boy turned organic farmer/rancher.

April 20 or 27 – date to be determined – **Join us for a tour of Broken Yoke Ranch** – the ranch/farm that Darrell Kendall's family owns and runs.

- **April 21 – Our annual Earth Day Sunday worship service** – we will celebrate our designation from the national UCC Creation Justice office as a CREATION JUSTICE Church

April 22 – Earth Day - SJAM Movie night – 7:00 pm
As we watch the movie *COMMON GROUND*

Be sure to check out the OUR NATURE series of activities hosted by the Community Life Collaborative (CLC).

Visit: <https://communitylifecollaborative.org/events/>

Community Partners



HEALING THE PLANET
HEALING COMMUNITIES
HEALING OURSELVES



JOIN US FOR CONVERSATIONS AND EVENTS CENTERED AROUND SUSTAINABILITY,
CLIMATE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION AROUND OUR REGION



Climate Fresk: Using Gamification to Understand Climate Change

WITH MEGAN YOUSEF | SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024,
10 AM - 2 PM, FAMILY LIFE CENTER, 16349 CHILLICOTHE RD
CHAGRIN FALLS, OHIO 44023



Making Our Actions Count: Building Strong Movements for Climate Justice

WITH JOE WORTHY | SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024,
9 AM - 5 PM, FAMILY LIFE CENTER, 16349 CHILLICOTHE RD
CHAGRIN FALLS, OHIO 44023



Tree of Life Ceremony

HOSTED BY THE FRIENDS OF ELIZABETH PARK
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024, 1 - 4 PM
40 EAST LODS STREET AKRON, OHIO 44304



WITH SARA CONTINENZA
& BETH VILD



Getting Our Hands Dirty: Mobilizing Local Systems for Food Security

MAY 4, 2024, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, EAST CLEVELAND
GARDENS, COIT ROAD FARMERS' MARKET 15000
WOODWORTH RD, EAST CLEVELAND, OH 44110.

MAY 18, 2024, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM, FAMILY LIFE
CENTER, 16349 CHILLICOTHE RD CHAGRIN FALLS,
OHIO 44023

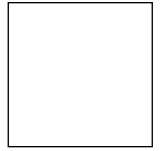
OUR NATURE HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO YOU BY

www.communitylifecollaborative.org/events/





76 Bell Street
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022



Contact Us!

www.fedchurch.org
fedchurch@fedchurch.org

Phone: 440.247.6490
Fax: 440.247.2516

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

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

VOL. 97 NO. 29 MARCH, 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

