

The Spire

The Federated Church Newsletter

United Church of Christ — An Open and Affirming Congregation

federated

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From the Desk of Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton...

Dear Friends,

Last month in this space, I had the pleasure of giving thanks for the work of Melissa Owen, our recently-departed Senior Director of People and Operations (SDPO). This month, I have the joy of celebrating the arrival of our two most recently-engaged staff members.

Into the role of SDPO steps Beth Rutkowski. Beth has, for a year, been on the staff of Federated as our Director of Generosity. Working closely with Melissa, she took on that position with gusto, initiating many contacts in the community and, in a full-time role, broadening the work that Laura Taylor, in a part-time role, had so ably begun. Having served several years earlier as moderator of Federated, and having willingly extended her term by a year during the COVID pandemic, Beth is extremely familiar with the church and its staff and procedures, and is deeply committed to the church's life and mission. She's the ideal person to assume the position of SDPO, and has stepped into it with vigor and creativity. We are extremely blessed to have her in that role.

On June 3, Thea Mozingo will take over the role of Director of Generosity. A longtime member of the church, Thea has been involved for many years. This is, in fact, not Thea's first role on the church staff. A number of years ago, she served in an interim capacity in our children's ministry department. She has an instinctive understanding of the role of giving in the church, and will contribute wonderfully to deepening our sense of the importance of generosity. I couldn't be happier than to have Thea as our new Director of Generosity.

Both Beth and Thea understand what it's like to work for non-profits, having worked in that world for many years. And they are both animated by a deep and abiding faith honed by a lifetime of engagement with the church.

During this time of transition for the church, and as I prepare to retire, Federated is deeply blessed to have people of such rich ability and faithfulness step into these crucial positions. Please greet them when you see them and let them know how grateful we are for their service to God and Federated.





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May 8, 2024

Dear Members and Friends of Federated Church,

I write to let you know that, after much reflection and prayer, I have decided to retire from Federated Church and from full-time pastoral ministry. My last Sunday in the pulpit will be October 27, 2024, and my retirement will be effective November 1, 2024.

After more than 37 years in the ministry, I am ready to assume a different pace to life. Mary and I look forward to doing some traveling and to having the chance to visit with family and friends. I anticipate opportunities to contribute to, and to enjoy, life in new, and as yet unimagined, ways. It's a time, for me, of open-ended promise.

At the same time, though, retirement will be, for me, an event of notable loss and of palpable grief. When I began my ministry here in November of 2004, I could hardly have imagined the graces that awaited me. I have experienced unsurpassed joy in the ministry. The opportunity to partner with you in the gospel has been extraordinarily rewarding. You and I have shared major life events, including illnesses and divorces and deaths and births and baptisms and weddings. We have together opened ourselves to God's presence, guidance, and peace. We have sought to discern direction for the church, for ourselves, for each other, and for the world. We have wrestled together with manifold challenges. We have shared times of both desolation and elation. It has been the joy and privilege of a lifetime for me to have served as your pastor for these last 20 years, and for us to have served God together. "Thank you" hardly seems adequate for that incredibly rich grace.

After my retirement, Mary and I plan to continue to live in our current home in South Russell. And while that means I may see you around town, it is also important for me to remind us all that, effective with my retirement, and in accordance with the practices of retiring United Church of Christ pastors, I will no longer be performing the public functions of ministry at Federated and with church members. I will absent myself from the church. And I will no longer be performing baptisms, weddings, and memorial services for church members. And while that separation may strike some as harsh, it is the larger church's way of assuring that you establish a bond with the new pastor who will follow.

Federated Church is a remarkable place. You will now move to a new chapter in your common life, and I am convinced that it will be a chapter that is full of grace. My prayer is that you will lean into that and look excitedly toward the future that is to come.

I will miss you more than I can say. And at the same time, I trust that God will go with us all into the new vistas that await us. May God hold us all close in this tender transitional time.

+

Yours in Christ and with immense gratitude,

Hamilton Throckmorton
Senior Pastor, Federated Church



May 8, 2024

Dear Members of Federated Church,

I know the news of Hamilton's retirement is a shock to all of you. Like all retirement announcements, we're incredibly happy that he can spend time with his family and gently lay down the burden of pastor life that he's carried for so long. We're sad for all of us, he's done an amazing job leading Federated for twenty years and we have a hard time imaging the next leader. But as with all challenges that come to us, God is with us through this journey.

First, a thank you to Hamilton. You've been a beacon of light, a compassionate leader, a powerful educator and an inspiration to us all. You've done the good work of the Lord in our lives and left us better for it. As you spend time relaxing, traveling, laughing and walking around the neighborhood, rest easy that you did an amazing job. You're leaving a congregation that is extremely grateful for all you've done for us.

Hamilton's retirement will be effective November 1, 2024. The council is working closely with the UCC denomination team to find an interim pastor for a 12 month term. After November 1, all church inquiries and needs should be directed to the new pastor or the church office.

Finding a new pastor is a serious undertaking. We'll be forming a pastoral transition committee that will work to carefully understand and document the needs of the church and lead up to the beginning of the search process. Jeff Miller, Vice Moderator, will be leading the interview process for the interim pastor and also leading that transition team. The transition team will work through the summer, leading up to a formal search committee that will be elected and approved by the entire church body in the fall.

Hamilton, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your selfless service. Your dedication, wisdom, and love have left an indelible mark on our hearts. As you step into this new chapter of your life, know that you carry our blessings, love and prayers with you.

As we prepare for this transition, let us come together in prayer, celebrating the legacy Hamilton leaves and eagerly anticipating the next chapter for our congregation.

May God's grace continue to guide us as we move forward.

With heartfelt appreciation,

†

Stephen Downey

Moderator, Federated Church

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Federated News & Info

Worship Themes for June 2024:

June 2:

II Corinthians 4:5-12

"For we do not proclaim ourselves, we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as those enslaved to you for Jesus' sake." (4:5) Rev. Betsy Wooster preaches

June 9:

II Corinthians 4:13-5:1

"We look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen" (4:18) Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

June 16:

II Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation" (5:17)

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

June 23:

II Corinthians 6:1-13

"See, now is the day of salvation!" (6:2)

Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton preaches

June 30:

II Corinthians 8:7-15

"The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little." (8:15)

Rev. Betsy Wooster preaches

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

July Spire Deadline

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

Please email your information to communications@fedchurch.org

by **Friday, June 21st**

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.

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



www.instagram.com/ federatedchurch

From the Desk of the Moderator

Staffing Update from the Moderator

With all the moving pieces of our latest staff updates, I thought it important to make sure everyone was aware of the current plans.

First, for the Senior Director of People and Operations, we're happy that Beth Rutkowski accepted the position and is in full stride already. Beth was serving as the Director of Generosity, and it was great to be able to promote her to this important role. Beth is now responsible for the management of the church staff, along with the facility operations, service planning and day-to-day finance. Backfilling Beth's Generosity role, we were able to hire one of our amazing congregation members, Thea Mozingo. Thea has embraced the Director of Generosity position and will be working on outreach and generosity programs.

Since Hamilton's retirement announcement, we've been working through the process of recruiting an interim pastor. That work is being led by Jeff Miller, our Vice Moderator. Hamilton's last day will be October 31st and the interim pastor will start serving on November 1 for a one-year term. In the fall, we'll be forming up the official pastoral search committee and begin the process of understanding the church pastoral requirements.

In the meantime, our church is strong and continues our programs of growth. The Memorial Day weekend service at the Family Life Center was beautiful, with a great LBGTQ+ dance there still to come.

I trust everyone had a wonderful Blossom Festival weekend and is looking forward to a beautiful summer. If you have any questions on any of the latest updates, please reach out.

Steve Downey Moderator



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Women's Ministries

Circle Members, there will be no Circle meeting in June..

Helping Hands will meet on June 24th at 1 o'clock in the room on the lower level will continue to stuff cancer pillows and work on some fidgets mats

Sit & Stitch will continue to meet every Thursday at 10 o'clock in room 340 to make prayer shawls and prayer squares.

For more information contact Lynne Kessell, lynnekessell@gmail.com.

I want to add a thank you note to everyone that has been so supportive after my little mishap.... sending food and prayers and love my way. I really appreciate my Federated family and friends.

~Lynne

Fellowship Treats

Federated members take turns bringing treats for Fellowship Hour each Sunday, as scheduled by the Congregational Care Commission. Of course, anyone is welcome to bring treats at any time!

Please bring ready-to-serve treats in disposable containers. Healthy food choices are especially welcome. *Please no nuts*. Thank you for helping to make our Fellowship time delicious and enjoyable!

June 2– last names beginning with H, I, J, and K

June 9– last names beginning with L or M

June 16– last names beginning with N, O, P, Q, and R

June 23– last names beginning with S or T

June 30– last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y, and Z



Wear Your Faith



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

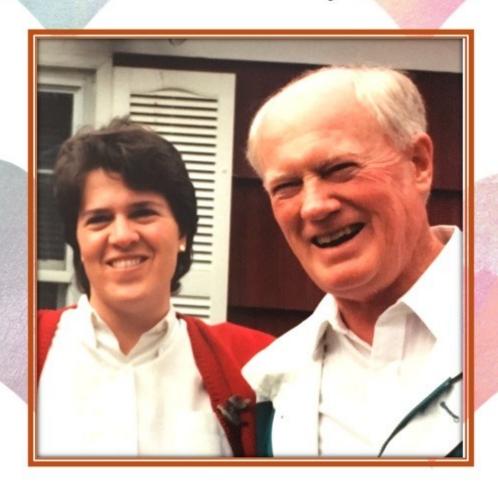
Federated merchandise is fun to wear and available!

To view the online store, click HERE.



Time to share the love for fathers and the men that were like fathers to us!

Send a Picture of your Dad or your favorite father figure
To: Marty at Pics@fedchurch.org
Mark the email Father's Day and please give names!
Send by June 11th for the 2024 Father's Day GIM



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S.P.I.F.Y. NEWS

SERVICE PROJECTS INITIATED FROM FEDERATED YOUTH APRIL AND MAY 2023

APRIL 294

We went to St Paul's to prepare and serve the Loaves and Fishes meal for the St. Paul's Congregation.

A MAY 54

The kids helped organize and sort donations for Trinkets and Treasures! This is a favorite service project every year!

→ MAY 11 **→**

We celebrated a great year of service with a few games of Whirlyball and Laser tag!







We are so proud of the work the SPIFFY Kids shared with our community this year! Next year SPIFFY will reconvene to serve our community and beyond!

Have a great summer!

Many Blessings! Emily and Bill

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



- -Participated in Reverse Trick or Treating at Hamlet.
- -Sorted and boxed/bagged non-perishables after
- Church's In-gathering.
 -Loaves and Fishes at St. Paul's Community Church Twice
- -Help at the FLC with unloading deliveries for Trinkets and Treasures.
- -Whirlyball and lunch at The Winking Lizard
- -Raked leaves at some neighborhood houses
- -December bake sale and Target shopping trip with SPIFFY to purchase toys for St. Paul's Church.
- -South Russell Trash Pickup

We look forward to starting back up this fall on Sundays at 4:30pm! Watch out this summer for announcements!



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Youth & Family

Confirmation Class for the 2024-25 program year begins in September. We can't wait!



Confirmation Class at Federated is held every other year for 9th and 10th graders. Students in higher grades who have missed Confirmation in the past are also highly encouraged to join!

- Class begins in mid-September and ends in late April on Confirmation Sunday (all dates will be sent to parents and students). The Class is led by Rev. Betsy Wooster, Gary Dole, and Zach LeFeber.
- Class will meet every other week on Sunday mornings, from 9:45-11:15AM.
- Confirmation class includes having our students sometimes take part in worship services as greeters & ushers, readers, musicians, and perhaps even preaching from time to time... whatever their interests incline them to do!
- Confirmation students are encouraged to attend Sunday worship on the Sundays we do not have class.

*PARENTS: Be on the lookout for an email this Summer with all the details you'll need to know about the Confirmation year ahead!

Questions? contact Betsy Wooster at bwooster@fedchurch.org

Walkie Talkies

A New Group: WALKIE TALKIES

The Congregational Care Commission is starting a new walking group on Thursday, June 6. It will meet at the church for fun and exercise every Thursday at 9:00 am. We will stay on the sidewalks through the village and all abilities are welcome! For more information, contact Jane Biggar at icbiggar4@gmail.com.









federated

live your faith





Sunday School on Break

Elementary and middle Sunday school is on summer break! We look forward to welcoming students back on Rally Day, **Sunday, September 8th**. Childcare will be available throughout the summer.



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"In Other Worlds"

Saturday, June 22 at 7:30 pm Federated Church, Chagrin Falls

MAURICE RAVEL – Violin Sonata No. 2
ANTONIO VIVALDI (arr. Ridenour) – "Sento in Seno" & "Agitata da due venti"
JOHN LENNON & PAUL McCARTNEY (arr. Ridenour) – "Eleanor Rigby" & "Blackbird"
SAMUEL BARBER – Hermit Songs
CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS – Septet

Notes on the concert:



ChamberFest Cleveland is pleased to present its first performance in the beautiful Federated Church in Chagrin Falls. The excellent acoustics and welcoming atmosphere will make this a musical evening to remember.

Among the impressive roster of visiting artists, soprano **Susanna Phillips** makes her ChamberFest debut in 2024. This acclaimed artist has appeared in leading roles at The Metropolitan Opera, as well as frequent performances as a soloist with numerous orchestras across the country. Her talents will be on display in the evocative *Hermit Songs* by Samuel Barber, with texts based on a collection of anonymous poems written

by Irish monks and scholars from the 8th to 13th centuries.

Also featured in this concert is trumpeter **Brandon Ridenour**, an artist known for both his talent as a performer and as an arranger. Both skills take the stage with his

intimate arrangements of Vivaldi arias and Beatles songs for trumpet and string quartet, charming audiences with the heart-felt sentiment and delicate treatment of these popular melodies.



Works by beloved French composers Maurice Ravel and Camille Saint-Saëns round out this eclectic program. This year marks the ChamberFest debut of violinist **Tai Murray**, who will be featured in Ravel's exquisite sonata. Drawing inspiration from American Jazz and Blues, Ravel reflects musical styles that captivated French audiences in the 1920s. Saint-Saëns's exciting Septet provides a strong ending to this program, with the unusual instrumentation of trumpet, string quintet, and piano.

Since 2012, ChamberFest Cleveland has presented acclaimed national and international chamber music specialists in concerts at an eclectic array of venues in the Greater Cleveland area. This summer, Season 12: SACRED + PROFANE (June 12 - 29, 2024) continues the tradition with twelve concerts of inquisitive introspection and joyous celebration.

For more information:

chamberfestcleveland.com | (216) 471-8887 | info@chamberfestcleveland.com

'23-'24 Performing Arts Series Season Recap from the desk of Joshua Konow

The 2023-2024 Performing Arts Series season is now complete. This was our most ambitious season yet, encompassing seven concerts. Since our 2018 sanctuary renovation, Federated has become a sought-after venue for the performing arts. The series is a true passion project of mine and I'm thrilled to see it grow more each year. There is much to be excited about as we move forward, but let's take a moment to reflect on this past season.

We are thrilled to have become a preferred venue for Apollo's Fire. This season featured three co-present concerts with them: "Splendour in London", "Wassail" and "Bach's Easter Oratorio." These programs universally sell out, but a reminder that any Apollo's Fire concert at Federated Church comes with 100 tickets made available for us to sell! These are often some of the best remaining seats closer to the concert date. "Wassail", for example, sold out a *month* before the concert! We added 40 extra seats for a thrilling Christmas-themed evening.

A special highlight this season was celebrating Marcia Snavely's 30 years as Organist at Federated Church! We were joined by the Federated Choir, soloists, and the Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra conducted by Steve Eva and me. It was a very joyous evening where Marcia got to play a bucket-list piece: the Finale from Saint-Saens "Organ Symphony". The choir also rollicked some spiritual arrangements by John Rutter. We are all incredibly grateful for Marcia's talents and grace as an organist!

Spring was a busy time for our series. I was completely honored to perform alongside soprano Sonya Headlam highlighting works by black composers. She has an incomparable stage presence and ability to tell a story through her sound. It was an unforgettable experience! Shortly afterwards, we did a total 180 for the Cleveland Celtic Ensemble and Irish-themed dinner. I'm so grateful to the many volunteers that helped cook, clean, and usher for all our events! I enjoyed dressed up in Irish-regale and the evening was very festive!

We concluded our season with the Factory Seconds Brass trio: all members of the Cleveland Orchestra! Their sound is at an unbelievably prominent level of mastery. Totally unprompted, trombonist Rick Stout said during the program to the audience, "Federated has become our preferred place to record because of the wonderful acoustics, and the people are so nice!". We are blessed as a church to have such a phenomenal facility!

Next season is already in the planning stage, and I implore you to attend any of our concerts! We also have an expanding number of rental concerts to experience as well! In the meantime, please consider a gift to the series to ensure its bright future. Together, we can ensure continued high-level concerts and a wonderful connection to our community.







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Fun At Federated















Primetime Fun!

Primetime Lunch Out: Welshfield Inn Thursday, June 21 at Noon



Welshfield Inn 14001 Main Market Road, Burton, Ohio, 44021



The Welshfield Inn is located in the heart of Amish country, amid 19 acres of lush farmland in Burton. Fresh, local and seasonal foods grace the menu and the friendly, attentive staff embody the spirit of this historic establishment that has been celebrated for well over a century. Please RSVP. Need a ride? Contact Brooke—carpooling is available!

Primetime Annual Picnic

Thursday, July 25 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM Frohring Meadows, Katydid Shelter 16780 Savage Road Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023

Lunch Menu will include hot dogs, burgers, veggie burgers, beans and potato salad! Bingo after lunch! Everyone wins a prize!

Cost: \$10 (fine to pay at the picnic)

Carpooling available, contact the Office. **RSVP by July 22, 2023**



Save These Dates:

- ✓ Friday June 21, Noon: Lunch Out at Welshfield Inn
- √ Thursday, July 25, 11.30 AM: Annual Picnic and Frohring Meadows!

RSVP via REALM or to Brooke: bstrong@fedchurch.org / 440.247.6490

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Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM)

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

Social and Environmental Justice (SJAM) News

The mission of the Social Justice Advocacy Ministry is to be a voice and witness to God's love for all people and creation and to advocate for justice for those who are marginalized, discriminated



against and denied their inherent rights as children of God and citizens of our nation and world.

Next SJAM Meeting: June 16, 2024 at 11:30 at Bell Street in the Lower Level Meeting Room Or join by Zoom using this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?
pwd=U1VxZU5SZ0NjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVlWdz09

JUNE Events: Affirming our LGBTQ Brothers, Siblings and Sisters

Cleveland Pride: Saturday, June 1

10AM in Public Square with the march stepping off at 11AM.

To carpool downtown, please email sjamfedchurch@gmail.com

Saturday, June 22nd: Burton Century Village on Saturday, June

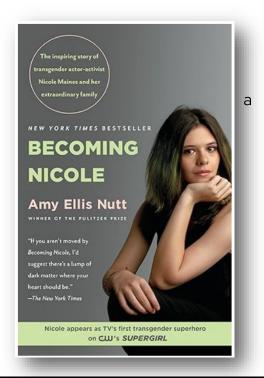
22, 2024, 2-8 pm. Sponsored by SOGI support network. We will have a table there, so if you can come for a few hours, please let us know so we have someone there the whole time.

Immigration:

AMIS Fundraiser: June 15 at 6 PM at BurkleHagen Studios: East 36th and Payne. As a sponsor, we get 4 tickets. If you are interested in using one of these tickets, please email <u>sjamfedchurch@gmail.com</u> so we can let AMIS know who will use these.

Join us for a **Book discussion on July 18th from 6:30 - 8 at Bell Street.** Before coming, read the book: *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family* by Amy Ellis Nutt. Kathy Franz will lead the discussion. Also, bring a banned book as we are trying to fill shelf in our church library!





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



Saturday June 29, 6-10pm



From beanies to ballgowns, we want all youth to feel their most comfortable at this sensory friendly, nontraditional prom!

LGBTQIA+ High Schoolers can enjoy:

quiet room for gamessilent discofood

Tickets can be purchased here or at the door: \$10

Scholarships available. Email for details.





Event Location

The Family Life Center 16349 Chillicothe Rd. Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

For questions email:

brutkowski@fedchurch.org info@geaugasogi.org









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Community Partners

















(Food Strong's Community Gardens in East Cleveland, models mobilizing for food security, school field trip to be in nature)

Relationships are key. Widely acclaimed public interest lawyer, Bryan Stevenson, emphasizes the **Power of Proximity**. He asserts that when we deliberately engage, invest, and situate ourselves beside people who are ignored, excluded, or marginalized we create a healthier environment where no one feels invisible or disfavored.

In May, volunteers of all ages worked together in the East Cleveland community gardens to prepare soil and plant vegetables. There, **neighborhood food ambassadors** help increase food security at home. Later, a collaboration of leaders from Food Strong (Cleveland) and The Big Love Network (Akron) described two distinct models and processes for mobilizing resources to make a difference. And collaborations continue to expand!

Meanwhile, the Family Life Center offered wide open spaces for kids to be immersed in nature. Swinging vines, nature crafts, and scavenger hunts ignited **new experiences in the great outdoors!**

As thought leaders, the Community Life Collaborative's **Our Nature Series** continues programs around "Healing the Planet, Healing Communities, Healing Ourselves". Sponsored by the Heartland Environmental Care & Justice Network and Living Water Association, and Bainbridge Community UCC we inspire, equip, and engage in communities at work protecting the earth and its people for generations to come.

The CLC looks forward to seeing many of you at the **Garden Gala June 8**, or you can donate to CLC's annual fundraiser at https://givebutter.com/c/eq9cRJ to keep initiatives like these in motion!

The CLC manages community uses and day-to-day operational costs of the Family Life Center (FLC) for the Federated Church. To schedule church programs at the FLC, connect with a church staff representative and contact CLC Executive Director, Destinee Burse at ed@communitylifecollaborative.org for details. The CLC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit collaborating with Federated Church to foster transformation through collaboration for a just and sustainable world. We are proud to be strategic partners with the Federated Church to advance community engagement. To get involved or engage in initiatives, subscribe to CLC email blasts, follow us on social media, or reach out anytime! 440-708-1961



Contact Us!

www.fedchurch.org fedchurch@fedchurch.org

Phone: 440.247.6490 Fax: 440.247.2516

Facebook: facebook.com/ thefederatedchurch

Instagram: @federatedchurch

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ÛÛÛ}Stêrê to help you

CLERGY

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

Administration Staff

Beth Rutkowski, Senior Director of People and Operations Brooke Strong, Congregational Life Administrator Thea Mozingo, 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 Snavely, 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

