

# The Spire

The Federated Church Newsletter

United Church of Christ  An Open and Affirming Congregation

July 16-23, 2024

## Colorado Kids 2024

Nine kids and three adults depart for a faith journey in the mountains of Colorado to experience the wonder of God's creation!

Support the  
Faith Journey!

<https://fedchurch.org/giving/>



federated   
*support*

federated   
*grow*

 federated  
*live your faith*

# From the Desk of Rev. Betsy Wooster...

Dear Friends,

Happy mid-summer to you! I love summer at Federated, a time when we can slow down a little, gather for summer events like our all-church picnic, and enjoy a variety of preachers who share their gifts with us. Especially for me, it is choosing summer worship themes that brings me a lot of Joy. In July, I, along with several other gifted preachers, will offer sermons on variations of a particular theme.

In July, we'll explore and preach variations on the theme **"What Our Church is Called to be."** This is an invitation to explore the various ways in which the church is called to minister to the world. Each week, we will propose a different image: a fortress, a lifeboat, a training ground, and a hospital. Each of these metaphors reveals important things about our church's mission, and each of them is also incomplete on its own. I hope that this sermon series will be both affirming of our community and also provocative as we imagine our future. We look forward to sharing these sermons with you, starting on July 7th and concluding on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

I would love to hear from you if you think of other metaphors that the church might be called to be! Who knows? Maybe by the end of summer we'll have gathered a myriad of ways that the church is called to be in the world. We can share our ideas with one another and perhaps together discover new church practices that are related to these themes. The possibilities for sharing our faith and the transformative love of God are endless. We live in a time marked by much division, a division that affects our country, workplaces, schools, neighbors, and even friends and family. These divisions cannot have the last word in our lives. Considering ways in which the church is called to be in the world, and then living them out together, may, even if slowly, help lessen the divisions of our time and increase the actions of God's love and healing in the world around us.

May God hold you and keep you,

Betsy





## Rev. Betsy's Spiritual Formation Corner

### Our Summer FED TALKS Ministry at Federated!

Summer Fed Talks will take place on August 5<sup>th</sup> at our  
All-Church Picnic!

Hear church members share faith stories with us!

Picnic held at Frohring Meadows from 6:00-8:00 PM

For more details on the picnic, contact members of the Congregational Care Commission.

### What /S FED TALKS, you might ask?

**Essentially, Fed Talks is story hour for all ages. FED TALKS** is an 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 August 5<sup>th</sup> All Church Picnic 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. See you there!

Please contact Rev. Betsy Wooster at [bwooster@fedchurch.org](mailto:bwooster@fedchurch.org) with questions.





## Women's Ministries

**Circle Members**, there will be no Circle meeting in July.

**Helping Hands** helping hands will be meeting on July 22 at 1 o'clock in the lower level meeting room. We will be continuing to stuff cancer pillows and working on our new project, the tote bags for the kids to use in church for Kristen Lefeber.

**Sit & Stitch** will continue to meet every Thursday at 10 o'clock in room 340. There will be no meeting on Thursday, July 4. We will be making prayer shawls, baptismal blankets and prayer squares. Hope you can join us.

For more information contact Lynne Kessell,  
[lynnekessell@gmail.com](mailto:lynnekessell@gmail.com).



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## 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!

**July 7– last names beginning with S or T**

**July 14– last names beginning with U, V, W, X, Y, and Z**

**July 21– last names beginning with A or B**

**July 28– last names beginning with C or D**



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## 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](#).



# Mission & Service

## St. Paul's Trailer

**Sunday, July 7, 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.

Contact Marty Culbertson if you have any questions. [Mculbert@fedchurch.org](mailto:Mculbert@fedchurch.org)

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**A Special Offering of the United Church of Christ  
Will be received on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>  
CHRISTMAS IN JULY**

For decades, **The Christmas Fund** — formerly known as “Veterans of the Cross” — has helped provide supplemental monies for pension and health insurance premiums to low-income retirees. The offering provides gift checks to hundreds of annuitants, but it also provides emergency assistance to clergy and lay employees and their families throughout the year.

They say money doesn't make you happy. But we know that having enough to live is essential. Our **Christmas in July** offering will be received on **July 28, 2024**. you can make checks out to Federated Church and mark the memo line “Christmas Fund”, use the envelopes in the pews or give online at [Fedchurch.org/giving](https://Fedchurch.org/giving).

Thank you for your prayerful consideration to The Christmas Fund,

The Mission and Service Commission

## Youth & Family



### SUMMER PLAYHOUSE PROJECT

A playhouse is one of the first opportunities a child has to imagine what having a home of their own means to them. The playhouse will be built here at Federated and will be customized specifically to a qualified family in the community. Toward the end of the building day, the family will arrive to take home their playhouse!

A few Federated families will be building one of these awesome playhouses here in the parking lot on **July 31<sup>st</sup> from 1-6pm**. Habitat will provide the materials, the know-how and the tools & Federated will provide the painting plan, the people power and the heart for mission.

Habitat requests a donation of \$2,500 to help defray the cost of the playhouse and support the construction of big houses right here in Cuyahoga County. If you are interested in supporting this meaningful project, you can do so through Realm or any other regular giving option with HABITAT PLAYHOUSE in the memo line or on your envelope.

Thank you!

federated   
*support*

federated   
*act*

**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 early May on Confirmation Sunday (all dates will be given to parents and students). Classes will be led by Rev. Betsy Wooster and Zach LeFeber.
- Class will meet on Sunday mornings from 9:45-11:15AM.
- Confirmation class includes having our students sometimes take part in worship services as greeters, ushers, readers, and musicians.
- Confirmation students are encouraged to attend Sunday worship on the Sundays we do not have class.

**September 8 Open House & Orientation Meeting**  
for parents and students after the Rally Day worship service.

Questions? contact Betsy Wooster at [bwooster@fedchurch.org](mailto:bwooster@fedchurch.org)



# Fun At Federated



# Primetime Fun!

## 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**



## Primetime: Nautica Lunch Cruise Friday, August 30 at 10:30AM-3:30PM



Join us for a Nautica cruise and lunch through Cleveland on Lake Erie on the brand new Lady Caroline boat. While cruising, we should see the Air Show practice flights. Please note, there are stairs on the boat..

Meet in the Family Life Center Parking Lot at 10.30 AM, board the bus and we will 'ferry' off to the boat launch. Cost: \$60.

### Save The Date:

~September 8th: Rally Day

~September 16, 2024 (time TBD):

Who? You, all of your friends & anyone interested in learning more about Primetime What? Food, fun, fellowship and some planning for the upcoming program year. Stay tuned for more information!



**RSVP via [REALM](#) or to Thea: [tmozingo@fedchurch.org](mailto:tmozingo@fedchurch.org) / 440.247.6490**



# 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

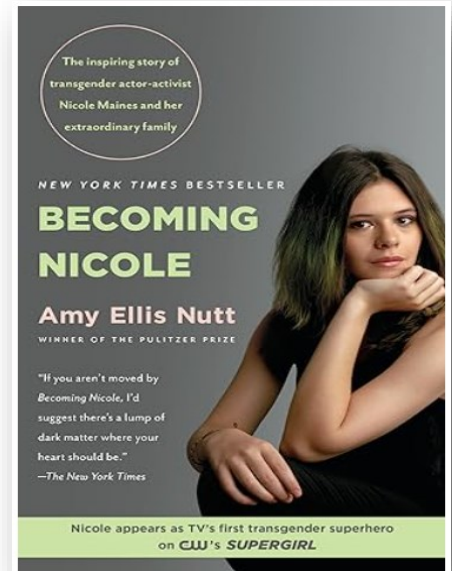
The mission of the Social Justice Advocacy Ministry is to be a voice and witness to God's love for all people and creation and to advocate for justice for those who are marginalized, discriminated against and denied their inherent rights as children of God and citizens of our nation and world.



**Next SJAM Meeting: August 18, 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>**

## JULY Events:

Join us for a **Book discussion on July 18th from 6:30 - 8 pm at the Franz Home** (8463 Summit Dr, Chagrin Falls, OH, 44023). 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 a shelf in our church library!



## Barry Stees Retirement Tribute

Barry Stees, our beloved, esteemed and very hard working member of Federated Church's SJAM (Social Justice Advocacy Ministry) Leadership Team will be retiring and moving with his family to California. We are sad for ourselves, but happy for them. We want to celebrate all Barry has done, and send him and his family off with our blessings and best wishes!

**To that end, you are invited to:  
A Send-off Tribute event:  
Sunday, July 14th from 2pm-4pm  
At The Family Life Center  
16349 Chillicothe Rd.  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023**



Come enjoy Music by Randy Fusco, Tributes by friends, and Fellowship. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. We hope you can make it!

Also, if you'd like to make a contribution to our SJAM fund in honor of Barry, you can do so here: <https://onrealm.org/fedchurch/-/form/give/now> - **Be sure to choose the SJAM Fund**  
Thank you so much! Click [HERE](#) to RSVP or email [sjamfedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:sjamfedchurch@gmail.com) by July 5th.

# 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

## Creation Care and Justice Tip of the Month – July

Did you know you can now recycle Styrofoam?

## Where to Recycle:

Foam can be recycled at either of these TWO Collection Facilities!

Collect yours and drop it off as often as you can.

**GOTTA GO GREEN**  
Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District

**NOW ACCEPTING:**  
**FOAM**  
At our TWO Collection Facilities **ONLY!**

**BRING FOAM TO ONE OF  
OUR TWO COLLECTION FACILITIES:**  
**5138 Enterprise Dr. in Warren**  
**12685 Merritt Rd. in Chardon**

**ACCEPTED FOAM:**



Packing Peanuts NOT Accepted



[www.gottagogreen.org](http://www.gottagogreen.org)  
800-707-2673





# Community Partners



A huge **THANK YOU** goes out to all who made the 3rd annual Garden Gala fundraiser a success! We greatly appreciate the generosity of our 9 sponsors, 250 guests, 65 volunteers, 35 bakers, countless game participants and more! The funds raised will go a long way to advancing transformation through collaboration and resourcing positive change!

## This summer at the FLC:

**Garden Refresh & Refreshment Days** – Help refresh the Memorial Gardens in preparation for a Garden Tour. Free grilled lunch. Bring garden tools and gloves. Come when you can!

**Sunday, June 30, 12-4:00** RSVP [marenkoepf@gmail.com](mailto:marenkoepf@gmail.com)

**Saturday, July 27, 9-1:00.** RSVP [marenkoepf@gmail.com](mailto:marenkoepf@gmail.com)

**July 28 Northern Ohio Pollinator Society Garden Tour** – Our Memorial Gardens have been included in this summer's Summer Sunday tour schedule of NOPS to highlight our meditative spaces and spotlight phases of transforming to native plants, reclaiming biodiversity for a healthier world.

**August 13, 6:00 FLC The Soil Will Save Us** – National author [Kristin Ohlson](#) speaks. Mark your calendars; spread the word. Details in the August Spire. *"I'm convinced that if we can learn to respect, not ravage, the rest of nature, we'll also become more generous and nurturing with each other," she writes.*

**June-August Cleveland YMCA Camp** – 36 campers and their counselors enjoy the great outdoors of the Family Life Center. We are creating a learning community garden from what was a sandbox!

**All year** – The Community Life Collaborative recently received grant funds from the EPA to educate and advocate more around recycling practices around the campus.

*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](mailto: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.*

A photograph of a woman and a young girl in a room with white tiled walls. The woman, on the left, is wearing a light blue shirt and has a yellow fabric draped over her head. The girl, on the right, is wearing a blue t-shirt with a colorful graphic and is holding the yellow fabric up with her right hand. In the background, there is a large, colorful abstract painting on the wall.

Enroll  
in a class  
today

# Family Music Classes in Chagrin Falls

**Tuesdays @ 10:00-10:45am**  
**July 2-August 6**

**Music Together**  
Sing and Swing

[www.singandswing.org](http://www.singandswing.org)

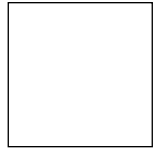




# federated



76 Bell Street  
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 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](https://www.instagram.com/federatedchurch)

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## OUR STAFF

### IS HERE 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 Mazingo**, *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

