

The Spire

The Federated Church Newsletter

United Church of Christ — An Open and Affirming Congregation









From the Desk of the Generosity Director...

Dear Church Family,

What an honor it is to be asked to write to you this month. With just about two months under my belt in this my new role here at Federated, I have had the opportunity to connect with many of you. I look forward to the chance to talk and work with you all in the coming months. My door and inbox are always open.

A brief history for those of you who don't know me-I am a pastor's kid (PK) and I grew up at First English Lutheran Church in Cleveland Heights. I was married there and both of my children were baptized by my Dad. Unlike me, they did not cry the entire time. After we moved to Bainbridge in the 2000's, a dear neighbor, Polly Manke did that amazingly wonderful thing – she invited us to Federated. Everyone was so warm and welcoming; I knew we had found a church home. This wonderful congregation helped us raise our son and daughter who have now grown and flown. In 2007, I worked as an Interim Director of Children's Ministries. I loved my time on staff at Federated so much, I came back!

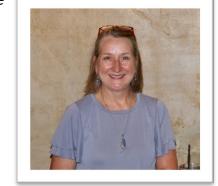
This church is an amazing place to experience God's love in many ways, but especially the generosity of this congregation and staff. My family and I have been blessed to be on the receiving end of notes, phone calls, angel flowers, hugs, prayer and so much more for more than 20 years.

Generosity can mean so many things in the church and out in the community. I cannot tell you how many people say to me, "Director of Generosity, what a great title!" It is and I wear it proudly. But like Julie the Cruise Director on the Love Boat – I'm just here to direct. YOU are the generous ones! It is YOUR generosity that keeps this church running – lights on, doors open, livestream working, so that we and so many more can experience God's Holy presence. You and your generous spirit make pillows for people in Hospice, sing amazing music on Sunday morning, build a playhouse for two sweet little girls, take our Colorado Kids to the mountains and return them safely, put out cookies for Sunday Fellowship Hour and your gentle hands guide families through difficult Memorial Services. All of you do this and so much more every single day. My role is to make sure you have ways to put your gifts to use and live your truest servant selves. I thank you all for entrusting me with this important task.

As a wee one, I would put my quarters into an offering envelope and delight as it made a loud clunk

in the offering plate. Maybe I should have known then that this would be my path. I thank you for your warm welcome back and look forward to our work, God's work, together.

~Thea Mozingo



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Federated News & Info

Worship Themes for August 2024:

"Growing in Faith"

August 4

Scripture: John 6:24-35 Betsy Wooster preaching

August 11

What Your Pastor Wishes You Knew

Scripture: Psalm 84

Judy Bagley-Bonner preaching

August 18

The Power of Centering Prayer

Scripture: John 15:4-5

Judy Bagley-Bonner preaching

August 25

Scripture: John 6:24-35

Hamilton Throckmorton preaching

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

TheFederatedChurch

September Spire Deadline

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

Please email your information to communications@fedchurch.org

by Friday, August 23rd

In Memoriam

Recognition of those who have passed recently.

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

Dale Slavin– July 21, 2024

Marylin Pierson-July 31, 2024

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: On Sabbatical

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

Women's Ministries

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

Helping Hands helping hands will be meeting on August 26 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. 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.



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!

August 4– last names beginning with E, F, or G

August 11– last names beginning with H, I, J, or K

August 18– last names beginning with L or M

August 25– last names beginning with N, O, P, Q, and R



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.



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Rev. Betsy's Spiritual Formation Corner

SUMMER FED TALKS at ALL CHURCH PICNIC!

Join us at the August 5th All Church Picnic for dinner and a Fed Talk Faith Story, a meaningful way to learn more about each other and give thanks to God for the life of faith that we share.

Picnic Location: Frohring Meadow, 6:00-8:00 PM

*Dinner at 6:00, Story at 7:00.

Hear church members Lauren and Jeff Miller share a faith story with us!

We will be serving hot dogs, burgers, veggie burgers, lemonade, and water provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Plates, utensils, and cups also provided. To RSVP visit <u>fedchurch.org/events</u>.

What IS FED TALKS, you might ask?

Fed Talks is a story hour for all ages.

FED TALKS is an intergenerational ministry where one or two people, church members 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!

Contact Rev. Betsy Wooster at bwooster@fedchurch.org with questions.





REV. HAMILTON IS



WE'RE CREATING A "MEMORY BOOK" FOR REV. HAMILTON!

Get ready to celebrate Rev. Hamilton's amazing nearly 20-year ministry and bid him a fond farewell into retirement! Brooke Strong is on a mission to gather up all those unforgettable moments for a memory book. From inspiring sermons to soulful support and heartwarming chats, share your stories and snapshots by emailing bstrong@fedchurch.org. Handwritten notes are also welcome! Let's fill this book with love and laughter to create a touching tribute.

SAVE THESE DATES!

OCTOBER 12TH - MUSICAL CELEBRATION CONCERT

OCTOBER 26TH- ALL CHURCH CELEBRATION AT THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

OCTOBER 27TH- HAMILTON'S LAST SUNDAY

Stay tuned to church website and publications for more details...

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Interested In Livestream? We Need You!

If you want to join our Livestream Ministry, come to our meeting on Wednesday, August 7th at 6 PM in the sanctuary. For more information or to express interest, please contact Brooke at bstrong@fedchurch.org.

Angel Desk Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in learning more about becoming an Angel Desk volunteer or Angel Desk substitute volunteer? Please contact Thea Mozingo at tmozingo@fedchurch.org to learn more.



Scam Emails ad Texts

Recently, there have been another round of scam emails and text messages from someone claiming to be Rev. Hamilton or another church member. Unfortunately, this type of fraud is common, and many area churches have been targeted.

If you receive an email or text asking you to purchase a gift card, provide credit card information, wire money, or anything that feels suspicious, please contact the church to verify its legitimacy at 440.247.6490 or fedchurch@fedchurch.org. You can also simply delete it.

Please know that we take all precautions to protect your information and do not provide your personal information to anyone, including other church members. Stay vigilant and safe!



Women's Retreat



Woman of all ages are invited to come and bring a friend to learn new spiritual practices to help hear God in through the noise of our current world.

Please sign up at fedchurch.org/events.

Membership & Nominating Commission

Upcoming Inquirers Class

Are you a visitor or frequent attendee or know someone who is? We invite you to become more connected with your Federated Family. Membership is a deeper connection, offers leadership and committee opportunities, and gives voting rights at the annual meeting. But, more importantly, membership is a spiritual decision – a decision to commit to the church, the congregation, and the Missions of the Church. Inquirer's classes for those interested in joining will be held in the fall. Contact the church office to sign up. Watch the Spire and bulletin for further details.



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Mission & Service

St. Paul's Trailer Sunday, August 4th, 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

Christmas Eve Offering

An Invitation for Congregational Input!

The Mission and Service Commission is inviting members of the congregation to nominate potential recipients for our 2024 Christmas Eve offering.

If you know of a worthy organization that would benefit from our offering, we invite you to submit the organization's name, including contact information for you and the potential recipient to The Mission and Service Commission. Submissions can be done via Email to Marty at Mculbert@fedchurch.org or given directly to Mission and Service at the Mission Fair on Sunday, September 22, 2024.

We want our donations to make a considerable impact on the recipients programming needs. So, we are especially hoping to help organizations that do not have existing large endowments or other large sources of financial support. The Mission and Service Commission will research these organizations and will then select and invite a spokesperson from a short list of the suggested organizations to present a short summary of their programs, goals, and needs at a Missions meeting (Date to be announced). The chosen recipient will be announced in the December Spire. federated support

Thank you, we look forward to your participation.

Primetime Fun!

Primetime Kick Off Event

Monday, September 16th 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM Fellowship Hall

Join us in Fellowship Hall to kick off the 2024-2025 Primetime program year. Lunch



will be provided. Bring your calendar and great ideas to help plan this year's activities. Feel free to bring a friend or two. We look forward to seeing you! To register visit <u>fedchurch.org/events</u> or call the church office at 440.247.6490.

























Save The Date:

~September 8th: Rally Day

~September 16th: Primetime Kick Off



RSVP via REALM or to Thea: tmozingo@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: 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

Voting Rights Events:

Please be sure to join The Voting Rights Sub-Committee of Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) at our upcoming voting rights events. Your vote matters and all are welcome!

The Voting Rights Sub-Committee of Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) sponsors...

Fair Elections, Fair Districts, and Food at JCU

Thursday, September 19th At John Carroll University

5:00 pm Food Trucks, 6:00 Program Richard Margolius and Bob Chalfant*

Students are invited.

For Information: Chase Tuller, ctuller27@jcu.edu
*See Wondrous Wednesday article for bios

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 Voting Rights Sub-Committee of Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) sponsors Wondrous Wednesday

FAIR ELECTIONS, FAIR DISTRICTS, & FOOD

Wednesday, September 18th in Fellowship Hall Dinner 6:00 pm, Program 7:00 pm Bring family and friends! All are welcome. Register at <u>fedchurch.org/events</u>

Richard Margolius will be educating guests about the "Citizens Not Politicians" anti- gerrymandering, fair districts initiative that will be on the November 5th ballot in Ohio. Bob Chalfant will educate guests about "The Steps that Ensure Election Security" that are taken in Ohio to keep our election free and fair.

Mr. Margolius is the co-lead in Cuyahoga County for Fair Districts Ohio. Richard is retired from a forty-year career in real estate management.

Mr. Chalfant is a Voting Location Manager for the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, a member of Village Council in Bentleyville, and a member of the Board of Directors of Chagrin River Watershed Partners.



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Friday August 16 6-9pm













Family Life Center

16349 Chillicothe Rd. Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

Friday night fun! Join us for games, drinks and snacks. **Bring your own** game or play one of ours. Walk-ins welcome.

RSVP to Thea:

tmozingo@fedchurch.org









FREE SPIRITUAL DIRECTION WITH KRISTIN LEFEBER BEGINNING FALL 2024

Dear Church Family,

As some of you know, I am studying to earn a Master's in Spiritual Direction from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. I am about to start my third year there which begins my practicum and contextual education.

This fall, I am looking to engage in free one-on-one or small/family group Spiritual Direction sessions. These meetings can occur once, or repeatedly depending on desire. I am interested in gaining experience with people of every age and stage, but also youth, children and families. It is only appropriate for me to meet with people I do not know well, so referrals are also appreciated.

To help you understand Spiritual Direction and a little bit more about me, I have developed a simple website:

www.dwellingspace.org

Please fill out the contact form on this site to express interest in a session with me or to ask questions. I am happy to meet in-person or virtually. Feel free to share this site with your friends and family and help spread the word that I am available to meet with anyone who is interested.

Thank you for your support in my work. I feel strongly about Spiritual Direction and the importance of people keeping their spirits healthy along with their bodies and minds.

With love, Ms. Kristin



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Youth & Family



FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS Sunday, August 18th, 2024 9:30 am Federated Church Parking Lot

Join us for a very brief prayer of blessing and thanksgiving before heading into church or town. All are welcome!

Questions? klefeber@fedchurch.org







GROUP STARTS ON SEPTEMBER 22! WE WILL MEET AT THE CHURCH FROM 4:30-6:00!

We have lots of ideas for service projects and fun activities and look forward to hearing your awesome ideas too! Make plans to join Paul, Schuyler and Gary on September 22 to get this party started!

Federated middle school youth group

of Projects of Initiated to Annual Potenapas to July Annual Potenapas t

4:30-6 PM STARTS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

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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!

- Registration is now available on Realm.
- 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 8th Open House & Orientation Meeting for parents and students after the Rally Day worship service.

Questions? contact Betsy Wooster at bwooster@fedchurch.org

Our Music Program Welcomes You!

The '24-'25 program year is almost upon us! Federated has long been known for its various music ministries and we invite YOU to be a part of them! We are blessed with incredible facilities and instruments to glorify God through sound as a community.

The **Federated Choir** has an exciting year upcoming! We are about to begin preparing for a special send-off concert for Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton! Because that concert is on October 12th, we will resume rehearsals on Thursday, August 8th from 7 – 9 pm. The choir rehearses every Thursday and sings at 2–3 services per month, Christmas Eve, and Maundy Thursday. We joyfully connect our music to the weekly sermons and prepare far in advance for special services involving orchestra, like Maundy Thursday. The group is dynamic and enjoys rising to challenges involving a wide range of repertoire. Any experience is welcome to join!

The **Federated Bell Choir** will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, August 28th from 7 – 8:30 pm. Last season, we welcomed a couple new ringers, but we would love to grow even further! Growing the group would unlock our ability to play more diverse and exciting music! The ringers are very welcoming and enjoy bringing anyone up to speed on how to ring. The Bell Choir is a uniquely connected group that emphasizes community, trust, and listening to our neighbor. They rehearse weekly and play at a service every 6–9 weeks.

The **RISE to Shine Band** is a high energy, fun, contemporary group that typically plays the final Sunday service of each month. They rehearse on Monday evenings twice a month from 7 – 9 pm. Vocalists are especially welcome, but all talents are celebrated! The group has almost too much fun rehearsing and would love to see you as part of the team.

To learn about our ensembles, or any of our various music programs, please contact Joshua Konow at <u>jkonow@fedchurch.org</u> or 440.247.6490 x 120.

Children's Choir



Come one, come all to Federated Children's Choir this fall!

I am inviting all children who will enter grades 1-8 this fall to our first Children's Choir rehearsal on **Monday**, **August 26th at 4 pm** in the large choir room (on the parking lot entrance level). We will rehearse each Monday this fall from 4-4:45 pm except for Labor Day (9/2) and Oct. 14 (CF Schools fall break) as we prepare to sing in September, October, and present our Christmas Musical on Dec. 15th!

We have a broad base of very talented children for this choir. NO experience is needed! We will use fun props and instruments as well as our singing voices. Families do not need to be members of Federated to participate. I look forward to another exciting year as we grow and praise God together through music!

Please bring your children and their friends to the first rehearsal on Monday, August 26th at 4 pm. (CF Intermediate School students are welcome to come at 3:15, following dismissal) If you have any

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Performing Arts Series '24-'25 Season Save the Dates!

We are thrilled to resume the Performing Arts Series this fall!

Full concert details and a season announcement are coming soon, but In the meantime, save these dates for a exciting season!

Brian Wilson, pianist

Saturday, September 14th, 7pm; Free-will offering

In Tribute to Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton: The Arts and Faith
Featuring the Federated Choir, chamber orchestra,
Federated musicians, and special guests!

Saturday, October 12th, 7 pm; Free-will offering





The King's Brass: Christmas Celebration Sunday, December 22nd, 4 pm; Ticketed

Margi Griegling-Haigh, composer: CD Release Concert In collaboration with the Cleveland Cello Society

Tuesday, February 25th, 2025, 7pm; Ticketed





Baldwin Wallace Men's Chorus and University School Glee Club: "Music Within"

Saturday, April 12th, 2025, 7:30 pm; Ticketed (assigned seats)

Sammy Deleon y su Orquestra (Latin Jazz with a Latin-inspired dinner!) Saturday, May 17th, 2025, 6 pm at the Family



Visit www.fedchurch.org/PAS for tickets and more information coming soon!

If you would like to sponsor a concert or become a season sponsor, please contact Thea Mozingo at tmozingo@fedchurch.org or Joshua Konow at jkonow@fedchurch.org

Community Partners



What's Happening at the FLC?



The Community Life Collaborative will host an inspiring evening with acclaimed author Kristin Ohlson on Tuesday August 13, 2024, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the Family Life Center, 16349 Chillicothe Rd, 44023.

This event offers a unique opportunity to hear firsthand about the surprising and beautiful connections that exist in nature. Register for free to let us know how many to expect. https://givebutter.com/kristinohlson.

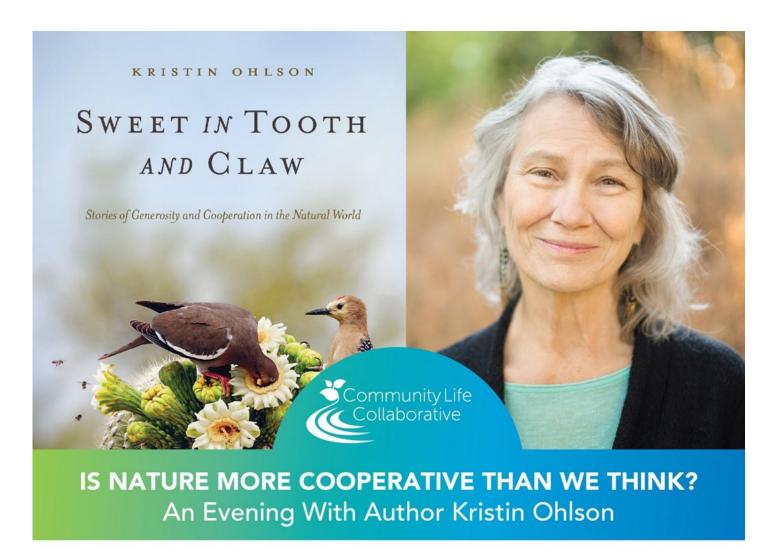
Cleveland's YMCA summer camp built and planted a children's garden, changing the old FLC sandbox into a growing wonderland: beans, tomatoes, basil, and chives Oh My! For urban centered kids to experience the natural wonders of growing food!

What else is going on?

- Weekly soccer camps run through the front yards
- A gospel choir camp of 300 stayed at the FLC for 2 full days
- Northern Ohio Perennial Society summer garden tours spotlighted FLC gardens while avid & master gardeners offered expertise and advice as the CLC "goes native"
- Many hands make light work during our monthly Garden Refresh events, featuring Bill "the Grill" Lentz to feed hungry volunteers in body and spirit
- The CLC Board of Directors is working with reps from Federated defining a mutual relationship while outlining terms for a new Management Agreement. Stay tuned!
- Weekly guests walk the labyrinth and gardens and visit family memorial stones in memory and prayer.



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August 13th • 5:30pm - 7:00pm

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

- Serving Light Refreshments
- Poem Readings

Kristin Ohlson, a Portland-based writer & New York Times bestseller, explores the intersection of nature and science in her latest book, Sweet in Tooth and Claw.

FREE ADMISSION | DONATIONS OF \$25+ ENCOURAGED SIGN UP TODAY: https://givebutter.com/kristinohlson



Fun At Federated















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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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OUDS IN THE 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

