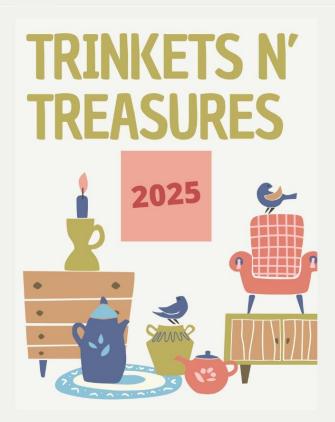


# The Spire

The Federated Church Newsletter

United Church of Christ — An Open and Affirming Congregation — A Creation Justice Church

# **Thank You Federated!**



## TNT 2025 is in the Books!

A huge shout out to everyone who participated in TNT! With your help, we raised over \$22,000 for youth missions.





## In the Interim...

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. – Acts 2:1–2 NRSVUE

#### Dear Friends,

I love the transitions and the rhythm of the liturgical year, but perhaps my favorite transition of all happens on Pentecost! Although many people think of Easter as just a day, in reality, Easter is a season . . . the 50 days that begin on Easter Sunday with the resurrection and end on Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Just as Jesus had promised, the Holy Spirit arrived to guide the disciples in continuing Jesus' work. But as we recall each year at our Pentecost service, it arrives in a burst of chaotic energy. Flames lick above people's heads, a fierce wind blows and people speak – and understand – in multiple languages. I love the image of inclusion in the midst of such havoc!

While the Holy Spirit is by far the most ethereal manifestation of the Divine, Pentecost offers an opportunity to better understand its nature. Chaotic. Active. Forceful. But perhaps most compelling, the Spirit's arrival results in more than 3000 people joining the church. That says to me that, as the church, we are called to be people willing to respond to this powerful disordering force.

That Pentecost happens on the cusp of the summer is also notable. While many people view the summer as a time to step away from regular attendance and participation at church, the arrival of the Holy Spirit, with all its chaotic power, compels our presence. It reminds us that great changes can be wrought and amazing things are possible if we attune ourselves to the Spirit.

Don't miss out on the intriguing places the Spirit may lead us this summer! Trust in the power of Spirit to inspire, compel and lead us into places that offer growth and transformation! Come and see! Don't miss out!

Shalom,





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### Women's Ministries

Be on the lookout for the next Circle meeting. Thank you for your patience.

**Sit & Stitch** continues to meet every Thursday at 10 o'clock in room 340. We welcome any knitters or crocheters to help us make prayer shawls or prayer squares. We have plenty of yarn and knitting needles. We can even help you learn how to knit!

Helping Hands is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 23rd at 1PM in Room G30.

Loaves & Fishes usually takes place on the last Sunday of the month.

If you would like to join any of these activities, all are welcome... just drop in! For more information contact Lynne Kessell, <a href="mailto:lynnekessell@qmail.com">lynnekessell@qmail.com</a>.



## **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 8– last names beginning with H, I, J, and K
June 15– last names beginning with L and M
June 22– last names beginning with N, O, P, Q, and R
June 29– last names beginning with S and T



## Thank You to Our 2025 TNT Volunteers!

We had over 90 volunteers who helped with everything from set up, to organizing, cashiering, bringing food and so much more. It is a big lift and we did it! We also want to thank everyone who donated and who shopped. We could not have done it without all of you.

As the TNT Committee looks to next year, they are exploring whether the sale should be held annually or every other year. This is a big, fun event AND it takes many hands. We need YOU!

The TNT Committee needs more volunteers to keep this sale going. We need more department co-chairs, daily volunteers and help with planning and set up. If you are interested and available in the month of April 2026, please contact Thea at <a href="mailto:tmozingo@fedchurch.org">tmozingo@fedchurch.org</a>.

Heidi Asplin Debbie Baker Lu Bannerman Cindy Barclay **Bob Bathgate** Mimi Bathqate Tricia Baumgartner Eric Baumgartner Jenny Baumgartner Chris Bednar Bill Biggar Jane Biggar Barry Biggin Wendi Biggin Jan Blank Norma Bobbitt Trent Bobbitt Mary Ann Boysen Rose Brown Peter Brown Jeff Brown

Ann Chaney

Marty Crowder Albert Crowder Nelson Fenner Nancy Fenner Leah Fletcher Bill Franz Trina Gigax Emilie Gottsegen Nancy Haag Mari Hageman Dave Hageman Leah Hassett Allison Hawkes Karen Hunter Sandy Issacson Dan Issacson Bernadette Jekutis Sue Jerome Lee Johns Karen Johns Cammie Kappele Jane Kenneweg-Welch

Dennis Kieta Kathy Kieta Maren Koepf Dana Korosi Jennie Krutilla Mary Kudasick Jan Mast Caroline McClennan Joyce McFarland Sandra Meyer **Emily Moore** Mike Moore Tami Munson Darlene Nichols Gylene Pelton Wendy Pierce Ryan Pierce Jeff Pierce Ward Pierson Gabrielle Quintin Michael Quintin

Dan Kershner

Kathy Rayer Judy Riemenschneider Joyce Ritchie Harriett Rogers Carole Rounds Jim Scheuremann Todd Smith Lynne Solomon Cher Stone Susan Sulcs Sue Sullivan Laura Taylor Diane Tuuri Nora Wagner Flaine Witmer Al Woehrle Rebecca Woehrle Bill Wright Joy Wyatt Barb Youshak Linda Zelazny

Bill Zelazny



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## Special Offering of the UCC June 8, 2025

Your support of the Strengthen the Church offering equips leaders, funds new churches, and fosters innovation. The offering is a celebration of who we are as church together, as money is shared between the National ministries of the United Church of Christ as well as with Conference settings.

This puts into practice the idea that God's call can be great and wide.

You might not think of a technical database as a conduit for Spirit-filled discernment, but the United Church of Christ's MESA team (Ministerial Excellent, Support, and Authorization) can tell you otherwise.

The MESA team manages and updates the United Church of Christ's Ministry Opportunities database system. With over four hundred open positions listed at any given time, each of these opportunities represent a unique location for ministry in the United Church of Christ.

MESA's work isn't to force connections but equip congregations to practice discernment.

Strengthen the Church funds help equip MESA to innovate and refine a tool like Ministry Opportunities. Positions listed on Ministry Opportunities include not only pastoral positions of all varieties but also non-pastoral church positions, wider church openings, non-pastoral ministries such as chaplaincies, and non-UCC settings that are widening their search.

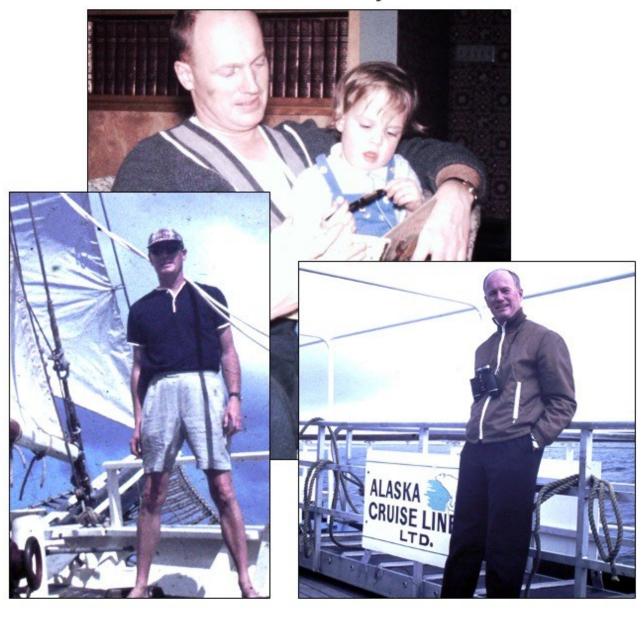
Learn more about the offering at www.ucc.org/stc



## 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 10<sup>th</sup> for the
2025 Father's Day GIM



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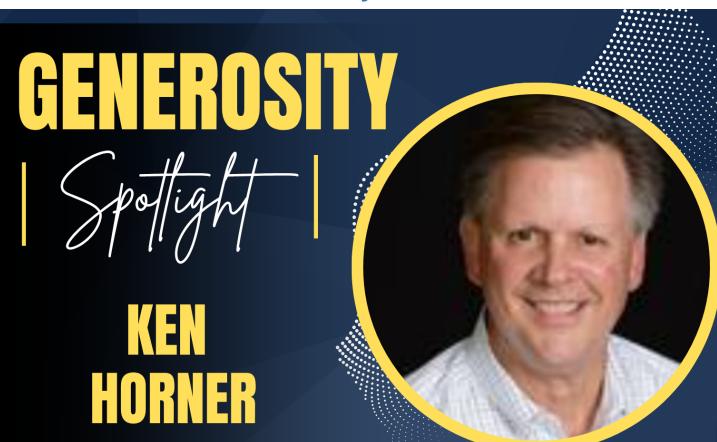
## Women's Friday Morning Bible Study

Are you interested in the Bible? Would you like to find out what it might say about:

- -today's troubles and/or stress?
- -giving you courage for the road ahead?
- -providing comfort for your loss or grief?
- -examples of personal strength?
- -love and forgiveness?



On Friday mornings, from 10-11:30am, a group of women gather in the Lounge to discuss these issues and more. We are self-led and choose books, videos and the lectionary to further our understanding of what the Bible can teach us. We share from our backgrounds knowing we're in a safe, non-critical and non-judgmental environment. We're curious. We want to explore and try to understand what meaning the Bible can bring to our lives in today's world. Please join us for a cup of coffee, conversation and study. Friends are waiting for you!



In my humble opinion, one of the stickiest wickets in a faith journey is the delicate marriage of faith and resources. I confess I wrestle with this constantly. Should we give our resources to God in order to unlock greater treasures God has in store for US in this world? Or should we give our resources in faith that God's hand will direct their investment in ways that will enrich others....ways that we may never see? Are they even our resources to start with? It's a fair assumption that nearly everyone works hard for what comes to their hands. I don't think God asks us to deny our pride in our good work. Rather, I think God humbly asks us to fully and faithfully live into what it means to be a part of a community.

I believe a community is a family. A community depends on one another. A community recognizes that it has regularly growing responsibilities outside its walls and within. A community fails if it is top heavy or non-participative, letting a few participants bear an outsized role. A community succeeds by recognizing that all need to be in the game.

I believe a faith community adds even more potential to that which a non-faith community holds by understanding that a greater Hand is at work in the investment of resources, even when the "return" on that investment may not be discernible. For me, that understanding propels me to be generous in any way I can and to step out, sometimes uncomfortably, in faith with resources, effort, time, commitment and determination. I cannot think of a better way to uphold the example of Jesus in our Federated community. Singing...serving...worshiping...giving...welcoming...being present...being an ambassador...all these connections give my heart joy at Federated. I hope the portfolio of connections that you have created and continue to expand here at Federated bring equal joy to you and compel your heart to greater Generosity each day. It is surely my privilege to be part of your family.

Thank you Ken for all you do!

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# PRIMETIME NEWSLETTER





JUNE 2025

We would love to have you join us for one or all of the upcoming Primetime Events! You do not need to be a member of the church to join us. Church members can sign up on REALM. Feel free to sign up by contacting Thea Mozingo at tmozingo@fedchurch.org or by calling 440-247-6490

## **Upcoming Events**

June 11<sup>th</sup> 11:30-4:00 Guardians Game
SOLD OUT-Join us for the Guardians versus the Cincinnati Reds
We will meet at the Family Life Center at 11:30 to take the bus downtown. We will be in section 138. For those with mobility issues, the park has confirmed that we can be dropped off at the closest gate and have staff there help with wheelchairs to get folks to their seats.

Tickets are \$35 per person

The bus is covered - so save your cash for peanuts, hot dogs and a cool drink!

June 17<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30 Widows Dinner Out

Join Primetimers and friends as they enjoy dinner out at Sapphire Creek Winery. Smashburgers are \$10. Full menu available as well. Please RSVP on REALM or by contacting Thea so we can make a reservation for the correct number. Feel free to invite friends.

July 10<sup>th</sup> Noon-2:00pm Primetime Picnic Food, FUN and Bingo at Frohring Meadows We will provide the burgers, hot dogs and cupcakes! Please bring a side to share-sweet or savory. Cost is \$10 per person and can be paid there.

Please sign up on REALM or contact Thea Mozingo at tmozingo@fechurch.org to RSVP so we have accurate counts for food.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

August 28<sup>th</sup> 10:30–3:30 Primetime Cruise on the Lady Caroline \$56 per person-details on REALM.

Federated Church 76 Bell St Chagrin Falls OH 440-247-6490 www.fedchurch.org

federated grow

## 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.

We strive to become well informed, provide opportunities to educate ourselves, balanced with opportunities to take action. Live Our Faith!

To learn more, please contact <a href="mailto:siamfedchurch@gmail.com">siamfedchurch@gmail.com</a>

Next SJAM Meeting: Sunday, June 22nd at 11:30 at Bell Street in Lower Level Meeting Room Or join by Zoom using this link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?</a>
<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595558354?">pwd=U1VxZU5SZ0NjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVIWdz09</a>



#### **SJAM Movie Postponed:**

While making a decision to cancel or postpone programming is always an unfortunate choice that we avoid taking, the SJAM leadership team has decided to postpone its plan to show the compelling film, "When Olive Trees Weep."

Although this film and the topic of the conflict in Gaza are important, the complex nature of the situation in Israel/Palestine is one that we have determined needs to be addressed with greater study and context. We are grateful to a member who raised concerns about the showing of this film in the absence of a larger conversation about the nature of the layered conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians that was cruelly and violently exacerbated by the actions of Hamas on October 7, 2023.

With apologies for any inconvenience, the film will not be shown on June 16. Instead, watch for educational opportunities to engage this topic in the months ahead.

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## Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM)

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CLEAN WATER IS ESSENTIAL TO BOTH HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN LIFE, AND THE HEALTH OF THE ECOSYSTEMS ON WHICH OUR LIVES DEPEND. So, WE NEED TO KEEP OUR STORM SEWERS FREE OF TOXIC WASTE THAT WILL END UP IN OUR STREAMS, RIVERS AND LAKES.

#### Reduce runoff:

- redirect downspouts away from foundation and downhill to lawns and gardens
- install rain barrels to catch water and use later
- plant trees
- install rain gardens and meadows



#### Reduce pollutants:

- don't litter; bag trash in cans to keep it from flying away; cover soil with mulch
- use organic fertilizer and/or fertilize carefully
- o clean up pet waste and dispose of properly
- o use winter salt sparingly or opt for non-salt alternative
- dispose of medicines at local police dept. or other drop off site, never in toilet or unsecured in trash
- use commercial car wash, so soapy water goes into sanitary drain and not into storm sewer drain

(Learn more at: https://extension.psu.edu/stormwater-basics)



## 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

Join us for PRIDE in the CLE On Saturday, June 7 Downtown Cleveland

We are one of the sponsors for Pride in the CLE this year. Come join us to support our LGBTQ+ brothers, siblings and sisters by participating in PRIDE in the CLE on Saturday, June 7th! The day kicks off at 11:00 AM with both our March stepping off from Public Square and the start of our Festival on Malls B & C, which runs until 6:00 PM. Come to the Federated Church parking lot at 9:45 to car pool there, or meet us downtown around 10:30.



Once downtown, if you are looking for us, text Susi at 440.533.5860 so we can all participate together. Email <u>sjamfedchurch@gmail.com</u> with any questions. Hope to see you there!

Join us at SOGI Family Pride Saturday, June 29 from 1-6 At the Family Life Center

We are one of the sponsors for SOGI Family Pride. Please help staff our table if you are able to help. Or just come and support our LGBTQ+ brothers, siblings and sisters.

If you can help by taking even a 1 hour shift, please email: sjamfedchurch@gmail.com



AMIS (Americans Making Immigrants Safe) Fundraiser Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30-9 pm At: The Brownhoist Bldg. 4403 St. Clair Ave. Cleveland, OH 44103



Experience a night of cultural exchange through food, music, and community. Savor culinary traditions from diverse regions at global food stations. Enjoy music and food showcasing the rich cultures of AMIS families. And most importantly, connect with one another in a spirit of community and fellowship.

We are sponsors for this event, so a few free tickets are available. If you are interested in going, please email <u>sjamfedchurch@gmail.com</u> and we can let you know if the free tickets are still available. Also, we can arrange a carpool from Federated Church.

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## Youth & Family

#### Welcome to the Team!

Please join us in welcoming **Jannine Mason** as she returns to Federated staff as our **Summer Children's Activities Coordinator**! A seasoned educator with 27 years of teaching experience, Jannine brings a wealth of expertise to this new role for summer 2025. She currently serves as a special education teacher and literacy specialist in the Aurora City School District. Jannine is passionate about fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for children and families, and dedicated to delivering joyful and meaningful learning experiences. When her family moved from England to Chagrin over 20 years ago, they found their new church home, and so much more, in Federated. Jannine is looking forward to a wonderful summer of faith-filled family fun at the Fed!



























#### Second Sunday Summer Sunday School

#### June 8, July 13, August 10 at 10 AM

Grades K–5 meet during worship for fun and learning.

Childcare available every Sunday for babies–preschoolers.

#### **Save the Date!**

#### July 18: Lake County Captains Game Gametime | 7 PM

Join us in the Pavilion for a picnic, baseball, fireworks—and the Federated Choir singing the National Anthem! Get tickets at: fedchurch.org/events. Tickets are \$15 and include dinner (kids under 2 free). Register TODAY at fedchurch.org/events



# Summer Fun at the FED!



## Summer Playgroups

#### Wednesdays | 9:30 - 11:00 am All Summer Long

#### Birth - Preschool

Playtime and "special event" days like:

- Bubble & Chalk Bash
- Animal Encounters
- Storytime with a Grandma
- Water Day & more!

#### Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Hands-on activities each week like:

- Scavenger Hunts
- DIY Art Station
- Creation Exploration
- Fun in the Kitchen

**No Registration Required!** 

Visit: fedchurch.org/summeratthefed/



JUNE 23 - 27
9 AM - 12 PM
AGES 3 - 11
Family Life Center



Celebrate God's creation this summer with ReNew VBS. ReNew is a 5-day curriculum that empowers kids in grades PreK-Grade 5 to grow in faith, have fun, and change the world. Each day, kids will explore Jesus' Parable of the Sower with three age-appropriate activities that help kids learn how to care for God's creation. Allow your kids to experience the change they can make today!

## FREE OF CHARGE! Register Now! Visit fedchurch.org/VBS

Interested in volunteering? Opportunities are available for high schoolers and adults. Please contact Jannine Mason, jmason@fedchurch.org

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## **Music At Federated**

## "Join Us for Three Outstanding June Concerts!"

## **Cleveland Repertory Orchestra**

"Rising from Ashes:

A Celebration of Artistic and Cultural Journeys"

Saturday, June 7th, 7:00; FREE

Program: Malek Jandali: Phoenix in Exile;

Carlos Simon:

This Land; Ruth Gipps: Horn Concerto featuring Van Parker, horn; Antonín

Dvořák: Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"



#### **Encore Chamber Music Institute**

"Ghosts, Spirits, and Dance"

featuring violinist Jinjoo Choo

Sunday, June 8th, 3:00 pm;

Tickets can be purchased here.

Program: Ravel: Sonata for Violin and Cello,

M.73; Wieniawski: Fantasia on Themes from 'Faust',

Op.20; Brahms: String Sextet No. 2 in G Major, Op.36



#### **ChamberFest Cleveland**

"Starry Night"

Saturday, June 21st, 7:30 pm;

Tickets can be purchased <u>here</u>.

(Use code FEDERATED for \$10 off each ticket.)

Program: Errollyn Wallen: Dervish for Cello and Piano;

Ludwig van Beethoven: Piano Trio No. 1 in D major, "Ghost";

Arnold Schoenberg: Verklärte Nacht

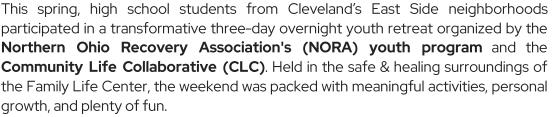


## **Community Partners**



## Connecting to Self, to Others, to Nature... to the Future







The retreat's central focus was to help students envision their lives after high school while developing a sense of responsibility for the environment. A major highlight of the weekend was the workshop "LaunchPad: Designing Your Life After High School" led by Joe Worthy, an internationally recognized youth advocate and global leader in purpose-based development. Through interactive sessions and deep dialogue, students explored their interests, values, and potential career paths. The retreat also promoted wellness and mindfulness with exposure to yoga, recycling practices, and healthy foods, offering students tools for self-care and stress management.



Here is some of what the students shared about the experience:



"My favorite moment was the shark tank...It taught us to think on our feet."
"It helped me really dig deep down and figure out what I want to do after I
graduate high school."

"I feel like [Joe] helped me know that I can reach out to other organizations."
"Coming here really helped me. I feel like I came out of my comfort zone."
"When you come here and you speak to big important people, you feel more comfortable and you can speak out about how you really feel."



CLC's Executive Director, **Destinee Burse** encapsulated the retreat this way: "This retreat was about planting seeds. We're not just preparing young people for graduation, we're helping them imagine their **power** to shape the world around them. **And that begins with connection—to themselves, to others, and to the Earth.**"

\*\*The CLC is partnering with NEO organizations and youth practitioners to offer a space specifically designed to support youth leaders. We are establishing a Youth Climate Ambassadors satellite site tied to certification and equipping leaders in partnership with the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes (the hub in Northeast Ohio).

Come to the 4th Annual CLC Garden Gala: Cultivating a Better Tomorrow **June 14, 2025. Deadline for Gala tickets is June 6**. You can buy tickets here. Can't join us? Check out these luxury experiences to bid on through the online silent auction, closing 9pm June 14.

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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

Vol. 111 No. 42 June 2025 Address Service Requested

# OUL STATE IS HERE TO HELP YOU

#### **CLERGY**

Vicki McGaw, Interim Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner, Minister of Pastoral Support

#### 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

- \* **Jannine Mason** , Summer Children's Activities Coordinator
- \* denotes part-time staff

