





Federated
HOLIDAY SEASON

Advent By Candlelight - December 2
6:30 PM- 8:00 PM

Christmas Carolling - December 8
Noon- 2PM

Children's Musical & Bethlehem Market
December 15
10 AM- 1 PM

Service of Hope & Healing- December 18
5 PM- 6 PM

Wondrous Wednesday
Carols & Cookies- December 18
6 PM- 8 PM

The King's Brass: Christmas Celebration
December 22
4 PM- 6 PM

Christmas Eve Services
12:30 PM- Community Service
4 PM- Family Service
6:30 PM Traditional Service

In the Interim...

*The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.
I will advise you and watch over you. – Psalm 32:8*

Dear Friends,

In just a few weeks of serving as the interim minister at Federated, I already feel so at home and so much a part of this warm community! Thank you for your kindness, for your grace as I stumble to recall names, and for your support as I offer my theological point of view during tumultuous times. In the days ahead, as we begin a new liturgical year with Advent, we will also begin a worship series that invites us to anticipate the coming of Emmanuel. The dramatic expectation of this season reminds me of an experience with one of my friends.

Rod has a pair of very well-trained dogs with whom he loves to perform. One of the best examples of their training is demonstrated at dinner time. My friend will call the dogs to eat and they sit at attention in front of him as he pours their food. They wait expectantly, watching his every move. Then, as the anticipation builds, Rod places a dog treat on each of their front paws. He waits, just a second or two, as the moment reaches a crescendo. You can almost feel the tingling expectation coursing through the animals before, on my friend's command, the dogs are finally able to snap up the treat and begin their meal.

This heightened sense of anticipation is mirrored in the season of Advent: we know what is coming and we can hardly contain ourselves. Yet it is the expectation, the preparation for the coming of the Christ child, which makes the season so special. In a world of instant gratification, the tingle of expectation is a feeling to be treasured.

Over the next several weeks, as we prepare for and await the arrival of the messiah, I invite you to reflect on the meaning of this big event. What does the birth of Jesus mean for you? As the Advent candles are lit each week, consider their meaning in your life. For what are you hoping? Where do you find peace? What brings you joy? What is it that you love, and how do you receive the love of others?

Waiting is nearly a lost art in our society today. As we begin the season of expectation this year, soak up the moment. Enjoy the tingle of expectation. Reflect on its meaning in your life. And then, when Christmas comes, you will be ready to snap up the treat of Jesus' love and begin to feast on the meal of living in the realm of God that Jesus brings near.

I look forward to waiting, preparing and tingling with you this Advent season!

Shalom,

Vicki



Contacting Pastor Vicki

Because Vicki's contract is only for $\frac{3}{4}$ time and because her responsibilities for aiding us through our transition are a bit different than those for a settled pastor, she will not be reliably in the office. However, she wants to be available to members of the congregation whenever the need to chat with the pastor arises.

The best way to schedule a meeting with Vicki is to text, call or email. Please reach out with any needs at 216.849.1942 or vmcgaw@fedchurch.org. Vicki's commitment is to return all calls as promptly as possible.

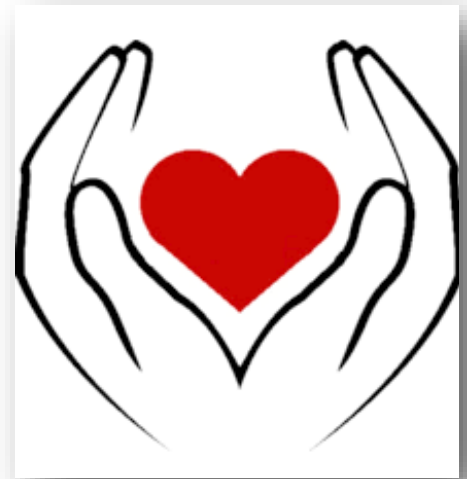
Women's Ministries

Circle will be meeting on December 16th for our Christmas party at 1 o'clock in the downstairs meeting room... please bring a sweet or savory snack. We will have a story or two read by Harriet Rodgers.

Sit & Stitch continues to meet every Thursday from 10 am to 12 pm in Room 340.

Helping Hands will not be meeting on December 23rd. Everyone enjoy your holiday!

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!

December 1– last names beginning with E, F, or G

December 8– last names beginning with H, I, J, or K

December 15– last names beginning with L or M

December 22– last names beginning with N, O, P, Q, or R

December 29– last names beginning with S or T



Federated Nametags

Federated Family, we are starting phase one of our nametag project. Over the next several weeks, we will have a table with name tags in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sundays. Check the table for more details!



Christmas Caroling Brings the Joy of the Season

One of Pastor Vicki's favorite Advent traditions is to go caroling to people in the congregation who are lonely during this holy season. There is nothing more moving than watching the smile through tears of someone when a group of enthusiastic carolers arrive at the door! People who barely speak anymore join in singing the familiar carols as they are transported to another time.

Thanks to the support of the Congregational Care Commission and Peggie Shinagawa, we will gather after worship on Sunday, December 8 for a hearty soup lunch before heading out to carol. We should return to church between 2 and 2:30 where hot chocolate and cookies will await us.

Please join us for this intergenerational outing as we spread holiday cheer to homebound members of Federated by signing up [HERE](#).



Let us bring the Joy of Christmas
to kids on the Near Westside of Cleveland

through the

St. Paul's Community Church
Christmas Store

Bring New Toys and other gifts
for kids of all ages

Place all NEW and *unwrapped* items
under the tree in the Church Lobby

Now until December 8th

Contact Marty (Mculbert@fedchurch.org) with questions



S.P.I.F.F.Y. & GROUP

YOUTH HOLIDAY

Bake Sale

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
10-11:30 AM

Proceeds from the Youth Bake Sale support kids in need at St. Paul's Christmas Community Store.

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Advent Worship Change for Families

During the Advent season, we will invite the children forward for special time with the pastor. After the message, the children will be dismissed to Sunday school as usual (except for December 15 when they will remain in worship for children's choir Christmas musical!). During this time of transition, we will try some new things and seek your feedback. Please be sure to let Pastor Vicki know what your family thinks about this addition to the worship service.

Let's Be Close to Home this Advent!

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts, particularly in this time of transition when many are filled with a sense of sadness and grief.

During the Advent season, we will engage *Close to Home*, a worship series that enables us to reflect on the "already but not yet" tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God's promised day – our everlasting home – is not fully realized. Throughout these weeks of waiting and anticipation, we will focus on what it means to be Close to Home as we name our deep longing for God to come near to us.

Throughout the season, we will feature images of home, especially home during the holidays, but we need your help! Please send images, reflections and pictures of what being close to home means to you during Advent and Christmas. **We would love to see pictures of your family gathered around the Christmas tree or enjoying other beloved holiday traditions, see a recipe for your favorite Christmas cookie, or hear what your favorite carol is and why.**

We will gather these images into a moving video that will run along with the announcements each Sunday before worship, so please be sure to arrive a few minutes early to enjoy these times of reflection. One week will feature children, so those faded pictures of you and your siblings visiting Santa or waiting for your present under the tree, and pictures of children or grandchildren will be especially welcome. **As you gather with family on Thanksgiving, how about pulling out some pictures, old and new, and reflecting on family at Christmas . . . then sending a few to pics@fedchurch.org as soon as possible and no later than December 10?** Your contributions and willingness to share some of your reflections of home will help to make our Advent season richer; thank you in advance!

Service of Hope and Healing

Struggling with loss, depression or some other sadness this holiday season?

You are cordially invited to a

Service of Hope and Healing
Federated Church Chapel

Please join us for this brief but poignant service
that will offer an opportunity to lift
our pain to God as we gather as a community
of support, healing and love.

After the service, please plan to stay for
Wondrous Wednesday Dinner and an evening of Christmas Music



Wondrous Wednesday

Joyful Music for Dec. 18th's Wondrous Wednesday Event!

Come join us for Christmas music and yummy holiday foods on the 18th! Marcia Snively and our women's choir will provide fun musical arrangements. Then YOU join in to sing your favorite Holidays songs! The reward is a yummy Holiday dinner that includes glazed baked ham and tasty meatballs, mulled cider, vegetable medley, lots of Christmas cookies! Dinner is at 6 pm and music at 7pm in Fellowship Hall.

Sign up for the dinner at fedchurch.org/events or at the Angel Desk. *Don't miss the fun!*



Christmas Eve Offering Recipient

For more than 60 years Federated Church has looked to support an organization that impacts the lives of people in profound ways. Many worthy nominations were received for the 2024 Christmas Eve Offering and there was a great deal of prayerful discernment.

The Mission and Services Commission is pleased to announce the selection for the 2024 Christmas Eve Offering: RE:Source Cleveland.

Fourteen years ago Refugee Response was founded to serve the newcomer populations of Greater Cleveland. In 2023 the name was changed to Re:Source Cleveland. The core mission stayed the same, but since its inception 14 years ago the nature of immigration to the US and our region has changed. The scope of the work has grown, and the reach of Re:Source Cleveland has expanded.

Historically, the United States has welcomed refugees into the country recognizing their justifiable fear of persecution in their own country. Refugees legally enter the U.S. seeking freedom, peace and an opportunity for themselves and their families. After resettlement, they start their new lives with limited resources knowing that they must transition from their past and the lives they once knew.

Re:Source Cleveland empowers resettled families to grow roots, supporting them in becoming engaged, self-sufficient and contributing members of their new communities.

Through respect and collaboration, high quality individualized education and personal support, Re;Source Cleveland promotes a better quality of life for the entire community.

To learn more about their programs: Youth Mentoring, Teen Response, Post Secondary Bridges, Corner65, Ohio City Farm, Adult Tutoring, Newcomer Navigators and Community Advisory Board, Visit the website RESOURCECLEVELAND.ORG. There will be an opportunity for up to 35 people to take a field trip on December 18th to visit Re:Source Cleveland, details and sign up information will be on the events page of the Federated Church website.

With Christ's Love,
The Mission and Services Commission



Federated Church Exceeds Expectations For NEOCH Donation Drive

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Federated Church family, this year's Winter Donation Drive was a resounding success! We are thrilled to announce that we surpassed last year's totals in every single category, doubling our overall contributions.

Here's a comparison of the items donated:

- **Gloves/Socks:** 102 ■ 210
- **Sweaters/Fleece:** 43 ■ 89
- **Hats/Scarves:** 74 ■ 168
- **Winter Boots:** 8 ■ 34
- **Children's Coats:** 17 ■ 36
- **Adult Coats:** 69 ■ 73
- **Annual Total:** 313 ■ 610

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These generous donations were given to the **Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH)** to support their vital work in serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

This incredible achievement was made possible through the dedication and compassion of our congregation. Special thanks go to Pattie Lyden and Cathy Watterson, who spearheaded this effort with extraordinary care and commitment. Cathy, in particular, has dedicated many years to serving people who are unhoused, and her efforts continue to inspire us all.

To everyone who donated and helped organize this year's drive, thank you for making a tangible difference in the lives of so many. Together, we embody the true spirit of giving and community.

Primetime Fun!

We would love to see YOU at a Primetime event! Primetime is for church members and non-members alike—bring your friends. Even if you have never been and just want to learn more, we would love to have you join us. Contact Thea at tmozingo@fedchurch with any questions.

FROST at the Botanical Garden

Thursday, December 12th

11 AM - 4 PM

Cleveland Botanical Garden



Frost is an Ice-Capped Garden Experience presented by KeyBank! Northeast Ohio's favorite immersive holiday experience returns to the Cleveland Botanical Garden. Winter botanical displays, holiday lights and immersive, themed rooms will transport you to an enchanting world.

Tickets are pre-purchase and will be \$16.50 for our group of more than 10. These are timed tickets and we will be purchasing tickets for the 12:00pm slot.

We will meet at the FLC at 11:00pm. Lunch will be at their cafe onsite. We will return to the FLC around 4:00pm.

Please sign up on REALM or by contacting Thea at tmozingo@fedchurch.org.

Lunch Out at Two Cafe

Thursday, January 9th

Noon

Two Cafe



Let's join together for a fun lunch out at a great new place that is doing amazing work in our community!

We will meet at Two Cafe at Noon. Please RSVP so we can get the correct number for a reservation.

Save The Date: Save the date for some Primetime Fun! Watch the website and publications for updates!



RSVP via [REALM](#) or to Thea: 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: December 15, 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=U1VxZU5SZONjcEVkbEcxeXpsbVIWdz09>

Creation Care December Tips of the Month

NEED A GIFT IDEA THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE?

Consider making a donation,
gift your loved ones "Creation Care" !

Here are some environmental protection non-profits
that are doing good works for the Earth:



- Greenpeace
- Interfaith Power and Light
- Sierra Club
- World Wildlife Fund
- Earth Justice
- Environmental Defense Fund
- The Nature Conservancy



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LET'S KEEP THOSE BURNED-OUT LIGHT STRANDS AND EXTENSION CORDS OUT OF THE LANDFILL.

PLEASE RECYCLE THEM AND HELP THE LION AND CHEETAH CONSERVATION PROGRAM AT THE CLEVELAND METRO PARKS ZOO

BRING YOUR OLD LIGHTS AND EXTENSION CORDS TO THE CHURCH LOBBY (OFF THE PARKING LOT) ANYTIME AFTER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY THROUGH JANUARY 26TH



Recycle your Live Christmas Tree



Christmas is not the time to let your "recycling" guard down. There are several ideas for recycling that fresh Christmas tree:

Consider using it for firewood.
(Best for use outside due to the heavy sap content)

Make mulch or compost.
Wood chips or needles are a great way to keep your yard healthy.

Place in your yard for a bird and wildlife shelter

Place in your pond to act as a fish reserve

Use cut boughs on garden beds to insulate plants from winter freezes



Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM)

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

SJAM

Social Justice Advocacy Ministry

*Presents a series
on*

Reparations

Part 1 of 2

Monday Jan. 13 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Local Efforts toward Repair and Restoration

Family Life Center ([16349 Chillicothe Rd., Chagrin Falls](#))

Featuring a panel discussion:

Quentin Smith on Forest Hill Presbyterian's Taks Force on
Racial Repair and Restoration

Ann Watson, founder of "Bridging the Gap", which raises
money to support youth in Chagrin Falls Park.

Moderated by Bill Shaul

Youth & Family

Ms. Kristin's



Birth - 8th grade

December 2024

Sunday School Schedule Changes and Updates:



December 1st - There will be Elem. Sunday School: Christingle Craft

December 8th - Middle School Bake Sale and Shopping for St. Paul's

Elem. Christmas Card Writing and Flower Delivery for Shut-Ins

December 15th - Christmas Musical and Bethlehem Market

December 22nd - There will be Middle and Elem. Sunday School

December 24th at 4pm - Family Christmas Eve Service

Kiddo artists and readers requested! Sign up now!

Please send any questions to Ms. Kristin: klefeber@fedchurch.org



CHRISTMAS MUSICAL & BETHLEHEM MARKET

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
10 AM- 1 PM

FEDERATED CHURCH
76 BELL STREET | CHAGRIN FALLS

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES!

A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE!

ALL ARE WELCOME!



[FEDCHURCH.ORG/EVENTS](https://www.fedchurch.org/events)

The Federated Church Performing Arts Series Presents...

THE KING'S BRASS

Christmas Celebration



TICKETS: \$30-50; STUDENT TICKETS ONLY \$10!



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND, 4 PM
76 BELL STREET
CHAGRIN FALLS, OH 44022



The world-renowned King's Brass presents many of your favorite Christmas classics with a contemporary flair! Tim Zimmerman leads the 9 member King's Brass in their return to Northeast Ohio. Heralded as "truly, an unforgettable experience," this fun for the whole family concert will surely delight! Reception to follow!

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT FEDCHURCH.ORG/PAS OR BY CALLING 440.247.6490 X 120

Federated Church

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

'24-'25 Season



Saturday, September 14, 2024, 7 PM, FREE

Brian Wilson Plays Beethoven and Chopin

Brian Wilson, pianist and technician



Saturday, October 12, 2024, 7 PM, FREE

**In Tribute to Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton:
The Arts and Faith**

*Featuring the Federated Choir, chamber orchestra,
Federated musicians, and special guests!*



Sunday, December 22, 2024, 4 PM

**The King's Brass:
Christmas Celebration**

Tickets: \$30-\$50. Student tickets: \$10



Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 7 PM

**Voices from the Other Side:
evocative chamber works for cello octet with soprano**
*CD Release concert in collaboration with the Cleveland
Cello Society and composer Margi Griebing-Haigh*
Tickets: \$25-\$45. Student tickets: \$10



Saturday, April 12, 2025, 7:30 PM

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

Tickets: \$20-\$40. Student tickets: \$10



Saturday, May 17, 2025, 6 PM
Family Life Center

Sammy Deleon y su Orquesta
(Latin Jazz with a Latin-inspired dinner!)

Tickets: \$20. Kids 12 and under: \$5

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Tickets can be found at fedchurch.org/pas
Federated Church | 76 Bell Street | Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

Generosity Corner

Are you ALL In?

The 2025 Generosity Campaign is well underway. Thank you to everyone who has submitted their pledge card or completed their pledge online!

As of today, we have received a response from 31% of member households in the congregation.

How do you get your pledge to us? You can submit your pledge on Realm <https://fedchurch.org/giving/> or by completing a pledge card (in the Sanctuary or Narthex). These can be placed in the offering plates, the main office mailboxes (Thea's mailbox) or by mailing it to the church.

We are in the process of creating the 2025 budget now. We can ONLY budget based on pledged gifts—so it is very important that we know about your intentions now.

If you have any questions about pledging – maybe it is new to you or maybe you have concerns about what it means – please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

We are so grateful for all of your support!

Thea Mozingo

tmozingo@fedchurch.org

440-247-6490 x115



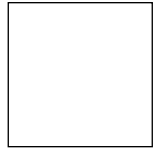
Generosity Corner



On Gratitude Sunday, we encouraged everyone to list on a card what they feel thankful for that day and every day. What a wonderful collection of cards we received with thanks for the people, things and places that make us feel happiness and joy and the God who holds us close in mercy and love.



76 Bell Street
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022



Contact Us!

www.fedchurch.org
fedchurch@fedchurch.org

Phone: 440.247.6490
Fax: 440.247.2516

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

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO HELP YOU

CLERGY

Vicki McGaw, *Interim 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*

* denotes part-time staff


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**Hope to see you
this Sunday!**

10:00 AM
In person and Online