

The Federated Church

United Church of Christ + Unitarian Universalist Association



A SUMMER SERMON SERIES

What the Faith?!

Get in on the Conversations!

Have you wanted to read the Bible more, but had no idea where to start? Do you have questions about the Bible that you've always wanted to ask but never felt like you could, like: what do we do with the parts of the Bible that seem to condone violence, or sexism, or xenophobia, or the infamous "clobber" passages used against people who are lesbian, gay, or bisexual?

Federated is a community where your doubts and questions are welcomed as *faithful* expressions of our human and Christian search for meaning and purpose—*not as a lack of faith!*

If that's what you're looking for, this small-group series is a perfect way to connect in an informal setting. In fact, Pastor Eric is curious: *What questions do you have? What topics or themes have you struggled to understand or would like to explore?* Now is your chance to ask! Email them to Pastor Eric at any point during this series (but, the sooner the better!) and Pastor Eric will try to incorporate them into the series.

Each midweek gathering will be in person and outdoors from 6:30-7:45pm. We will finalize the day/location at our first gathering on Thursday, June 30th. Together, we will reflect on the scripture, themes, and questions raised by the previous week's sermon. Missed a Sunday? No problem! You can watch each sermon on our website: <https://fedsycamore.org/sermons/>.

Feel free to invite a friend. No need to have a connection to Federated to participate!

Order of Worship | July 31, 2022 | 10:00am

All music is from the **Black New Century Hymnal** in your pew back, unless noted otherwise

* indicates those places where you are invited to rise in body or spirit

Prelude

Welcome & *Passing the Peace

We invite you to like the video and share a sign of welcome and God's peace by commenting on the video.

***Gathering Hymn** #459 "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" (p. 7)

Centering Moment

"All of us are looking with unveiled faces at the glory of the Lord as if we were looking in a mirror. We are being transformed into that same image from one degree of glory to the next degree of glory." ~ 2 Corinthians 3:18 (CEB)

"Each tree is known by its own fruit" ~ Luke 6:44

What fruit is your faith producing? Does it challenge or help you explore your biases and prejudices, or is it used to justify them? Does it create resolve to overcome proclivities toward greed, blame, fear, or self-preservation, or is faith only about finding comfort?

How is your faith shaping the kind of human you are becoming? Where are you stuck?

How might faith give you the courage and tools to become the kind of human God desires you to be—transformed from one degree of glory to another?

Silent Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Sung Response #401 "O God in Whom All Life Begins" vv. 1 & 3 (p. 8)

Scripture [Mark 12:28-34; Matthew 22:34-40; Luke 10:25-37; Galatians 2:19-20](#)

Sermon

"Why Christian?"

Musical Meditation

Our Shared Life Offering Opportunities

Offertory

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that Love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

Prayers of the People & Prayer of Dedication

***Sending Hymn** #451 “Be Now My Vision” (p. 9)

Benediction

Postlude

While the postlude plays, we invite you to join us in Dutton Hall for Coffee Hour.

Masks are optional in Dutton Hall.

+ + +

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning are:

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Director of Music:** Gary Mattin | **Liturgist:** Phil Wagener

Ministers: All of us! | **Ushers:** Tony & Alice Whitney, Skip & Beverly Schramer

Ushering next Sunday, August 3: Dave Wood, Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, Bev Whilden

All hymns this morning come from *The New Century Hymnal* unless noted otherwise,
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

August Sermon Series:

This Sunday, we will conclude our "What the Faith?!" sermon series (with our last small group meeting next Wednesday, August 3).

But now I want to know: what are your questions about faith? What hang-ups do you have about the Bible, about Christianity, about being part of a church? What would you like me/us to explore? NOTHING is off-limits--and NO, you don't need to ask a "spiritual question" like "what in the world is the Trinity?" It could be about reconciling faith with science; faith and politics; Christianity and other religions; a Bible passage you've just never understood or have a hard time with...Or...???

Your questions / interests will form the basis of our sermon series for August, so [click here](#) to submit yours.

I look forward to exploring more of what's on your minds and hearts as we seek to make Federated a place where spirituality is real and relevant to our everyday lives.

Join our Rally Day Planning Team!

Fall is fast approaching... in case you needed us to remind you! ;) It's an exciting time for Federated Church, especially as we approach "Rally Day."

For those unfamiliar with this tradition, Rally Day is a day of worship, food, fellowship, and fun that marks the kick-off of a new program year as we return from our various summer adventures.

This year's Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 11 and, like last year, it will take place in glorious outdoors of church members Dave & Suzanne Juday's back yard.

But first, we need a team to envision the day: what to include for food and fun, and to plan logistics. **If you would like to be part of this team, please sign up [here](#) or in Dutton Hall.**

July Love Offering: Federated Preschool

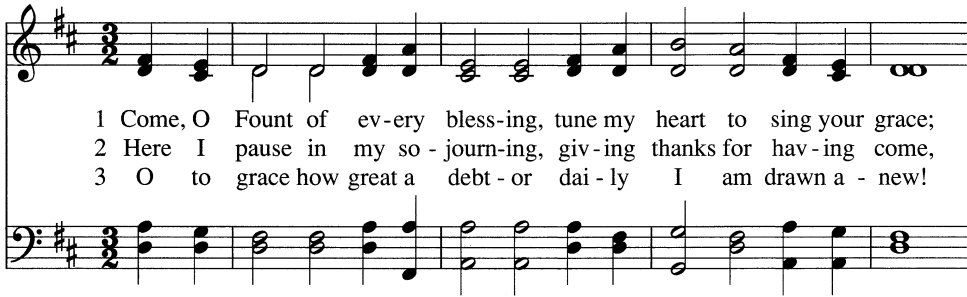
Thank you to all who have participated in the July Love Offering!

The Love Offering for July will go to The Federated Church Preschool. Typically, our congregation donation is used to fund hardship scholarships to assist families with monthly fees or to purchase learning materials and playground equipment. In 2018, our donation was \$535, and it was \$1,124 in 2019. Due to Covid-19, there were no Love Offerings in 2020 and 2021.

A check donation may be mailed to the church office The Federated Church, 612 W. State St., Sycamore 60178 or dropped off to the church office from 10-12 noon during the week.

On Sunday, envelopes for donations are on a bell choir table at the back of the sanctuary and can be placed in the collection plate. Any size donation is welcome. The preschool staff can assure you the donations will be put to good use!

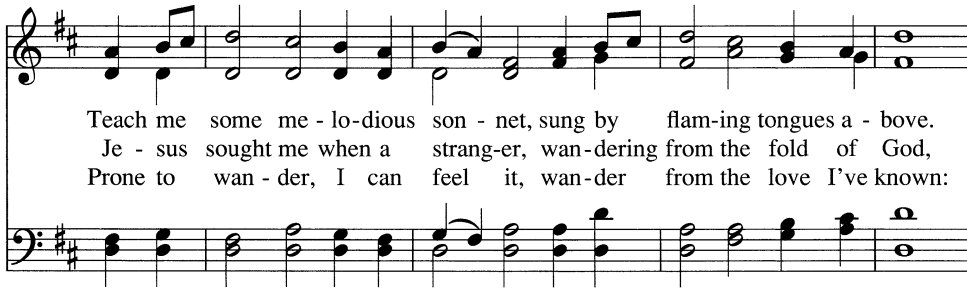
Come, O Fount of Every Blessing



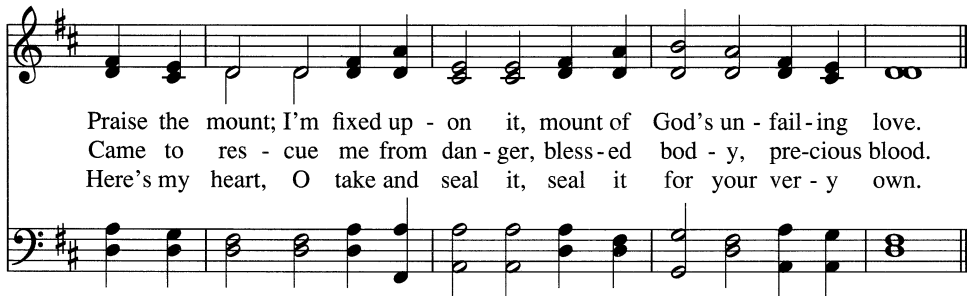
1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

O God in Whom All Life Begin

1 O God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit,
2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts
3 Through tears and laugh - ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;

be - stow your bless-ing on our lives; here let your love find root.
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im - parts.
so bind us in com - mu - ni - ty that we may risk and dare.

Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa - tience, joy, and peace;
So let our var - ied gifts com-bine to glo - ri - fy your Name
Be with us when we gath - er here to wor-ship, sing, and pray,

de - liv - er us from numb - ing fear, and grant our faith in - crease.
that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro - claim.
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

Be Now My Vision

Chorus

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

***YOU* ARE WELCOME HERE!**

A warm WELCOME to those visiting or checking out Federated Church!

We're glad you're here! Are you looking for more information about who we are and what we do? Would you like to meet Pastor Eric or get connected to others? In your pew-back you will find a yellow bookmark-sized "Connection Card." Fill it out and place it in the offering plate, and we will be in touch with you soon!

Federated Church is an Open & Affirming Community. In a time of deep division and vitriolic rhetoric around issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, and where the dignity of people living with disabilities or mental health issues are often ignored, demonized, or turned into a joke, we promise to:

Welcome all people of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith expression, marital status & family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, physical ability, mental or emotional condition, economic and social status, and educational background to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our church family.

The Rainbow Flag: We proudly display a rainbow flag at the front of our sanctuary as a visual declaration of God's extravagant and inclusive love, as well as of our own "promise of welcome" to all people. Our prayer is that all can be their truest selves here. This flag serves as a particular signal that our church is a safe and affirming space for LGBTQ persons to be, to belong, to lead, to question, and to grow in faith.

“Welcoming Any, Loving All”

*The Federated Church is affiliated with two national denominations:
the United Church of Christ & the Unitarian Universalist Association*



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