

# The Federated Church

*United Church of Christ † Unitarian Universalist Association*



Finding God in  
'Ordinary Time'

**A SUMMER SERMON SERIES**

# ***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, what we do, or how to get involved? Would you like to meet with Pastor Eric or get connected to others? Above the Facebook video there is a link to a "Connection Card" (i.e. a Google Form). Fill it out 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.

# OUR FEDERATED VALUES

## **We believe in God**

At the center of our faith is the surprising, unsettling, and deeply personal God found in the Bible, most profoundly revealed in the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus. At Federated, our primary interest is not merely talking *about* God, but in *encountering* the Mysterious Force at the heart of the universe. This is a God who comforts us where we need to be comforted and challenges us where we've become complacent. This is a God who will not be confined to dogmatic teachings, nor even to the Bible. We believe that we are invited to encounter this God everywhere: in nature, science, one another, and in other religious traditions as well.

## **Each person is on a unique spiritual journey**

We value faith as a journey rather than a destination. We recognize that each person is at a different place on their journey, so we focus on “testimonies” of faith rather than “tests” of faith; stories of how we are being transformed, rather than dogmas we must affirm. Here, you are welcome to belong, question, explore, and lead whether you grew up in church and loved it, or you've had a painful relationship with Christianity; you are welcome whether you feel your faith is unshakeable or you're not sure if you believe in God at all. You are welcome to join a community of people “on the way”: encouraging and caring for one another, learning and growing together, and serving alongside each other as we build, in some small way, the world we believe God dreams of.

## **Building authentic community across our differences**

We are an “Open and Affirming” congregation, which is our way of saying that we value diversity. In a time of deep division, we believe it is paramount to gather people from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and identities in order to build authentic relationships and community. We believe that the simple but courageous work of showing up and being together in this way is one necessary element in healing our nation and world's deep divisions.

## **We believe in peace through justice**

In this congregation, conversations regarding racism, sexism, poverty, war, immigration, homophobia, hunger, abuse, and a host of other issues are commonplace, both from the pulpit and around the table. We know that the Realm of God is not being experienced on earth so long as people are being hurt. With Martin Luther King Jr., we believe that we are all “caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny,” and that “none of us can be free until all are free.” Which means that, as a community, we have a God-given responsibility and mission to work for justice and healing in our neighborhood and beyond. Jesus says: “I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). This work is defined not merely by what we are against, but the vision we are for—flourishing for *all!*

## Prelude

## Welcome & Passing the Peace

*We invite you to join us by liking and commenting on our livestream!*

## Gathering Hymn “Morning Has Broken” (p.6)

## Centering Moment

*“People think the sabbath is antiquated; I think it will save us from ourselves...*

*Rest is not the reward of our liberation, nor something we lay hold of once we are free.*

*It is the path that delivers us there...” ~ Cole Arthur Riley, This Here Flesh*

## Silent Prayer & Reflection

*What “rituals” do you do every day? How much time do you give to rituals that center you or reorient you toward love & connection, toward flourishing?*

*(“Rituals” might include: setting aside undistracted time for intimacy with God and others you love; (silent) prayer or meditation; walks where you pay “exquisite” attention to the world around you; a nap; a picnic; tea or coffee with a friend; love-making; letting the difficult conversations happen another day; having no to-do list for Sunday, ...)*

## Breath Prayer

*Inhale: “Be still, my soul.” | Exhale: “In this quiet, I am renewed.”*

*Inhale: “There is wisdom in this pause.” | “I am free to rest.”*

## 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 “Spirit of the Living God” (p.7)

## Scripture

[Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 13:10-17](#)

## Sermon

“Sabbath Habits—Rituals for New Life”

## **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** “Womb of Life and Source of Being” (p.6)

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

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## **WORSHIP NOTES**

*Serving us this morning are:*

**Pastor:** Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Director of Music:** Gary Mattin | **Liturgist:** Sharon McKee

**Ministers:** All of us! | **Ushers:** Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason

*Ushering next Sunday, August 28: Skip & Bev Schramer, Paula von Ende*

All hymns this morning come from *The New Century Hymnal* unless noted otherwise, and are used with permission: CCLI License #3234671

The list of “rituals” in the Centering Moment is adapted from *The Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us* by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun. The Breath Prayer comes from Cole Arthur Riley, via @BlackLiturgies. For more, follow @Black Liturgies on Instagram or @ColeArthurRiley on Facebook.

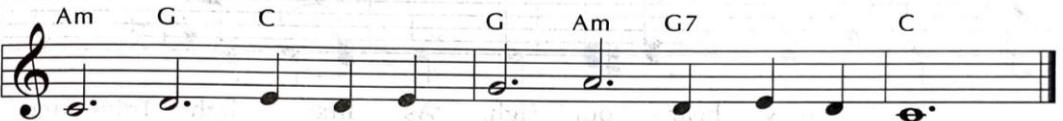
## “Morning Has Broken”



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the  
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet  
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

## “Womb of Life and Source of Being”

*Sung to tune of “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”*

### Verse 1

***Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart  
 In your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start  
 We, your children gather 'round you, at the table you prepare  
 Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care***

### Verse 2

***Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend  
 When our memory fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend  
 Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world yet to be  
 Free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity***

### Verse 3

***Mother, Brother, Holy Partner, Father, Spirit, Only Son:  
 We would praise your name forever, one in three, and three in one  
 We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new  
 Ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you***

## “Spirit of the Living God”

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

### KOREAN

살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서  
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서  
 빛으시고 채우소서  
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서

### SPANISH

*Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.  
 Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.  
 Tómame, cámbiame, lléname, úsame.  
 Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.*

Both the words and the music of this prayer-song were written by a Presbyterian minister from Tarboro, North Carolina. The words were initially inspired by Jeremiah 18:1-6; a friend helped him set them to music during an evangelistic meeting in Orlando, Florida, where the song was first sung.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We will recycle & reuse** these shell covers over the coming weeks. Please place them in the basket at the bottom of the stairs on your way out. Thanks!

## **Volunteer Opportunity: Meals on Wheels**

Federated Church partners with the Voluntary Action Center every April and September to provide meal delivery drivers for those who are elderly, disabled, or homebound as part of their “Meals of Wheels” program. Sign-up on the calendars in Dutton Hall — Please be sure to include your name and phone number. Contact Sharon Hollister with any questions at (815) 761-7759 or *shollister@niu.edu*. See below for more info on VAC.

## **RSVP for Rally Day Lunch**—*please sign-up by September 7<sup>th</sup>!*

For those unfamiliar with the “Rally Day” 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 (11208 N. Grove Rd. in Sycamore). Please plan to BYO lawn chair for worship. We will have a few extras in case you don't have one.

*Worship will be followed by a "pay what you can" catered boxed lunch, fellowship, and lawn games.*

**Please RSVP by September 7<sup>th</sup>** on the sign-up sheet in Dutton Hall or via Weekly Enews if you plan to have lunch (*this is just to help us know how much food to order*).

**August Love Offering** will benefit VAC (Voluntary Action Center), a long-time Federated partner. VAC provides many important nutritional services to seniors and others in our community, including:

- Meals on Wheels, which provides hot nutritional meals at home to the elderly, disabled, and homebound.
- Lunches for community daycare providers.
- MedVAC, which provides rides to DeKalb County medical appointments, hospitals, and testing services.
- The Senior Lunch Program in DeKalb, Taylor St. Plaza and Fox Valley Older Adults in Sandwich, which provides nutritious lunches and an opportunity to visit with other seniors.
- Premier Meals Catering, which offers catering services for any event. Let them cater your next event and in return, you'll be helping provide nutritious meals to the homebound. 100% of all profits from Premier Meals Catering support Meals on Wheels, providing nutritious meals to the homebound in our community for over 20 years.

# ***“Welcoming Any, Loving All”***

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



Follow us on  
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@FederatedChurchSycamore



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