

The Federated Church

United Church of Christ + Unitarian Universalist Association



Advent 2022

***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? In the book rack on the back of the pew toward the center aisle, you will find a green or red "pew pad" with a yellow bookmark-sized "Connection Card" inside. Fill it out and place it in the offering plate as they are passed around during the "Offertory," 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.

Order of Worship | November 27, 2022

*All music is from the **Black New Century Hymnal** in your pew back, unless noted otherwise.
We invite you to say “Hi” in the comments and like the video to let us know you’re here.*

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candles

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of HOPE

Gathering Hymn “Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness” vv. 1-3, 5 (p. 3)

Centering Moment

Sharing Prayers of Joy & for Healing

Silent Advent Reflection

*I asked God—what about my fingernail-biting habit,
Or the way I leave all the cabinets open in the kitchen?
What about the way I can be dramatic, drumming up a fight,
Only to hand our apologies like souvenirs?
What about the way I second-guess myself,
Let shame drive, or stay quiet when I have something to say?
What about the doubt, or the fact that I’m terrible at prayer
And cannot help but yawn during church?
What about, what about, what about?
I’m afraid my baggage might be too big for the van.
But then, God called me by my first name, which always means business, and said:
Who told you that you were too much? Sugar, there is so much room for you here.
So that’s when I grabbed a seat and we hit the road,
And I knew right then that the rumors were true:
There is room, there is room, there is room.*

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art 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.

Song of Preparation “Make a Way” vss. 1 & 3 (p. 4)

Scripture [Isaiah 2:1-5](#); [Matthew 1:1-17](#)

Sermon “The Stories that Make Us”

Musical Meditation

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory Anthem “O Come, Lord Jesus, Come” *Williams/Angerman*

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.

Prayer of Dedication

Sending Hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vv. 1-2, 6-7 (p. 5)

Benediction *Go in the Hope of Emmanu-el: God-With-Us*

Postlude

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning are:

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Director of Music:** Gary Mattin | **Liturgist:** Pam Kitterman

Ministers: All of us! | **Ushers:** *Paula von Ende, Skip & Beverly Schramer*

Ushering next Sunday, December 4: Dave Wood, Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Bev Whilden

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Centering Poem Prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

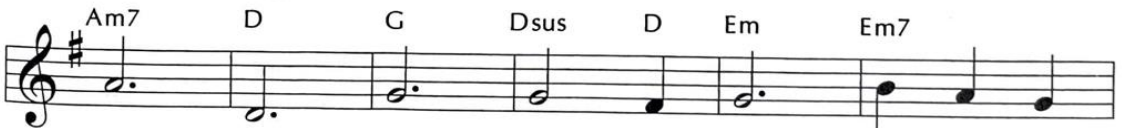


your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

“Make a Way”



1. Come, Son of God, and make us new; Light of the world, our hearts re-new.
 2. Come, pro-mised since our E-den's end; child of the wo-man, come de-fend.
 3. Come, Son of Man, to show the way. O, through the tears, may we see the day.



Hope in our in-ner dark-ness lies: oh, heal-ing sun of jus-tice rise! _____
 Long have we felt the ser-pent's sting: come, strike his head, and mer-cy bring! _____
 So long did we in dark-ness dwell. Come down to break the chains of hell! _____

O make a way!

CHORUS



o-pen wide the gates. O make a way! _____ through the sor row and the pain. _____ O make a way!



— though the road is dark and wind-ing. O come, come! _____

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and
 3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who
 4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your
 5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
 or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of
 came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a
 own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your
 o - pen wide your heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to

ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.
 sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

- 6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
 our spir-its by your ad-vent here;
 Love stir with-in the womb of night,
 and death's own shad-ows put to flight.
(Refrain)
- 7 O come, De-sire of Na-tions, bind
 all peo-ples in one heart and mind;
 Make en-vy, strife, and quar-rels cease;
 fill the whole world with heav-en's peace.
(Refrain)

Advent Opportunities

Advent Bible Study, *Mondays, 11/28-12/19, 5:30-6:30pm, Settle Room (by offices)*

Christmas: it's a story many of us have heard every year... and yet, behind the Christmas carols and nostalgia lies a story whose details most of us have missed.

Join us every Monday in Advent (**beginning next Monday**) for an inspiring, challenging, and illuminating series that will transform the way you hear the good news of Christmas!

Advent Art Workshop & Potluck, *Sunday, December 4th, after worship*

Join us for a potluck and Advent crafts after worship on Dec. 4.

Meat (ham and chicken) and beverages (lemonade, coffee, and water) will be provided as well as table service and silverware.

Please RSVP in Dutton Hall or the weekly Enews and indicate what dish you would like to bring to share, if you're able. To allow for a variety of dishes, please limit the number of each dish to 10. We look forward to seeing you there!

Questions? Contact Sharon Hollister (815-756-9962) or Pam Jackson (815-758-1162)

Federated Church 101, *Today, following worship*

So... you've started worshipping with us, receiving the newsletter, and maybe even had coffee with Pastor Eric. But we're guessing you still have questions. Or maybe you're trying to find ways to connect, serve, or further explore your faith.

If this sounds like you, then we invite you to "Federated 101"—a chance to gather around a table for a conversation with Pastor Eric and others in the same boat to learn a bit more about who we are, to finally ask that question you've had, and to connect with others. *Don't miss out, these conversations only happen a couple times a year!*

Membership Informational Gathering, *Sun. 12/11, following worship*

This gathering is for those who've been getting connected and want to take the next step in making Federated "their church," who are ready to shift from "receiving" what we do to also taking an active role in shaping who we are becoming and what's next for us!

We realize that different churches approach "membership" differently. For us, it's also very different than membership in other social clubs & organizations. This gathering is a space for you to learn more about how decisions are made at Federated, what leadership looks like (and how these are similar to / different from other churches), as well as a chance to ask your honest questions—like: Why does membership even matter?

Cookie Plates

The Board of Deacons will once again offer cookie plates to our members and friends of The Federated Church this holiday season. We will be assembling and delivering the cookie plates on December 18. We have a list of those who are unable to get out to attend church regularly or those that are unable to do other “outside of the home” activities. The Board would also like to have the cookie plates be filled with either baked or store-bought cookies at this time. We know many of you have cookie talents beyond what many of us could do. Now’s your chance to shine! We’ll also be needing delivery people to help take these gorgeous plates to those on our list. If you have any questions or perhaps someone you know that might like a cookie plate, please call the church office (815-895-2706).

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Saturday, December 24th, 7pm

Save the date and join us for our candlelight Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24th at 7pm.

No Worship Christmas Morning

This year, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. The Deacons have determined that there will be no worship service on Sunday morning, December 25th. Christmas Eve will be livestreamed via Facebook and available to watch Christmas Day if interested.

November Love Offering to Benefit Hope Haven, the area homeless shelter located in DeKalb. When asked, Lesly Wicks, Director of Hope Haven, replied that Hope Haven could really use, a picnic table. So that’s **our goal: to raise \$500 to purchase a picnic table** for the Hope Haven outdoor play area. *Envelopes are available at the back of the sanctuary.* Donations of any amount are welcome!

Ladies’ Night Out: Christmas Potluck and White Elephant Exchange

Tuesday, December 6, 2022 @ 6pm in Dutton Hall

All women in the church and friends are invited to the Christmas Potluck and Infamous White Elephant Gift Exchange! Please bring a dish to pass (appetizer, main dish, relish tray, and desserts are all welcome). Dishes, napkins, and glasses will be provided.

Wear your Christmas attire/sweaters! Remember to bring your White Elephant Gift Exchange gift to share with your friends. There have been many memorable “treasures” shared from the garage, the basement or thrift store over the years.

Mark your calendar now and sign up in Dutton Hall or online.

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*!

“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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www.fedsycamore.org

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