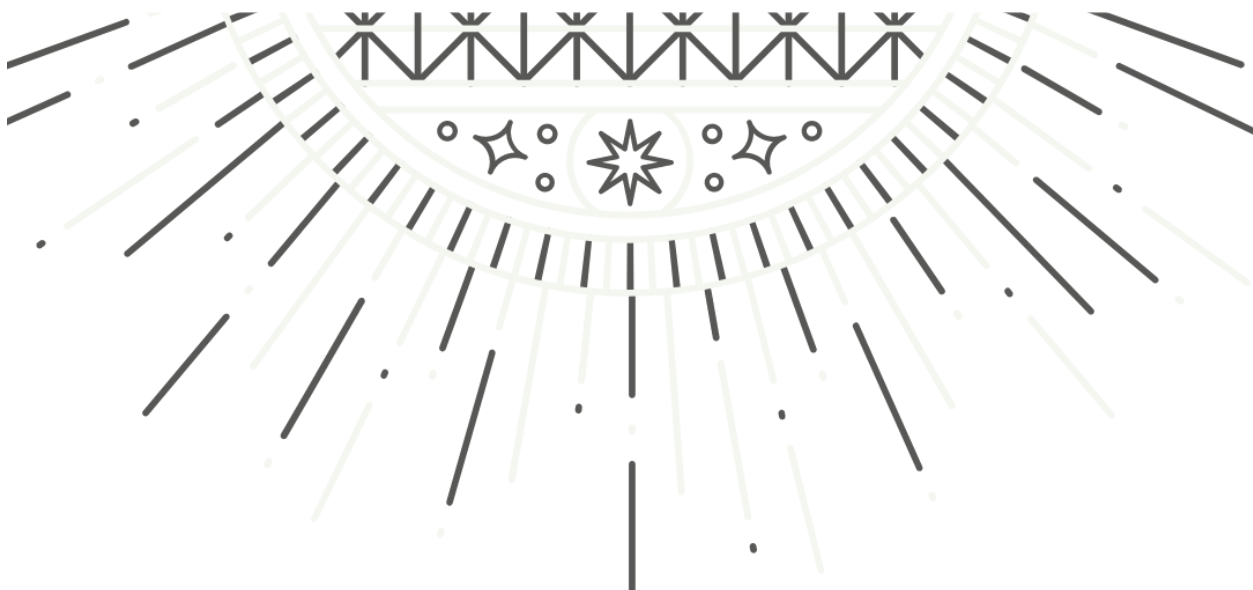


The Federated Church

United Church of Christ + Unitarian Universalist Association



EPIPHANY

**A SEASON OF
ILLUMINATION & TRANSFIGURATION**

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 LGBTQIA+ people to be, to belong, to lead, to question, and to grow in faith.

Order of Worship | February 12, 2023

All music can be found at the back of the bulletin.

We invite you to say “Hi” in the comments and like the video to let us know you’re here.

*Please join in reading those parts printed in **bold***

Prelude

Welcome & *Passing the Peace

Gathering Hymn “O For a World” (p. 5)

Centering Moment

Sharing Prayers of Joy & for Healing

Silent Prayer & Reflection

“Do not ask yourself what the world needs.

*Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and then go do it,
because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”*

— Howard Thurman

What makes you come alive?

How can you make more space in your life for that?

*How would giving yourself to “what makes you come alive”
change how you help or relate to others?*

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.**

Sung Response “Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us” vv. 1 & 2 (p. 5)

Scripture [Deuteronomy 29:10-13, 30:11-20](#)

Sermon “The First Tattoo I Get Will Be...”

Musical Meditation “Guide My Feet, Lord”

Our Shared Life & Offering

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.

Prayer of Dedication

Sending Hymn “Lead us From Death to Life” vv. 1 & 2 (p. 6)

Benediction

Postlude

As the postlude plays, please join us in Dutton Hall for coffee and fellowship!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Those serving us this morning are:

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Director of Music:** Gary Mattin
Liturgist: Sheldon Turner | **Ushers:** Roger Jacobson, Judy Winter, Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle
Ushers for Sunday, Feb. 19: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, & Allison Stahl

All hymns are used with permission: CCLI License #3234671

"O for a World"

Miriam Therese Winter



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

"Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us"

Daniel Bechtel



1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us
2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our



close in her de - light, Fed us free - ly from her
hand and been our guide, Lift - ed us and healed our



bod - y, God has called us in - to life.
sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.
...

“Lead Us from Death to Life”

Kumar/Haugen

Refrain C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

spair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

to Stanzas

Dm7 G Em7 Am

1 Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your
 2 So man-y lone-ly hearts, so man-y bro-ken lives, long-ing for
 3 Let jus-tice ev-er roll, let mer-cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus-tice roll, let
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C *to Refrain*

mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendar Day / All-Boards Meeting, *today following Worship*

Please join us after worship as we look at the year ahead and plan out various activities, programs, and opportunities. All current board members AND anyone with an interest in discussing or submitting items for the church calendar (e.g. Book Sale, etc.) are welcome to attend.

Listen to Sermons Online—Video of sermons are posted each week on our website: www.fedsycamore.org/sermons. They're also available via podcast (*scan the QR code!*)



Spotify



Apple

February's Love Offering is for *CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)*.

This donation will help to make it possible for CASA to advocate for children in our community whose parents are in the court system. Learn more about CASA by scanning the QR Code:



Cash or check donations may be placed in the Sunday "offering" plate. Make checks out to Federated Church and write "CASA" in the memo section; for cash donations use an envelope by the bulletins labeled CASA. Checks may also be mailed to The Federated Church, 612 W. State St., Sycamore, IL, 60178.

Lent 2023 Small Groups (*see next page for details*)

We are excited to share the following small group opportunities during the upcoming season of Lent. We like to think of these small group opportunities as mini "schools for life"—spaces where we pause from "doing" and to reflect on the kind of people we really want to *be*, the kind of life we really want to lead; when we start here, we may well realize that in order to get "there" we have to start doing things differently. These groups are meant to help us reflect on these kinds of questions. We hope that you'll consider how you might make room in your schedule to join us!

Have questions? Reach out to Pastor Eric!

Liberating Masculinity

Mondays in March (6, 13, 20, 27); info on time and location coming soon!

Join us for a *four-week* small group as we go beyond the traditional “men’s group” in order to explore ways that the box of “masculinity” has imprisoned and even de-humanized us. As we deconstruct toxic forms of masculinity, we will also reimagine together what it might look like to inhabit a masculinity that is liberating—or, even more, what liberating our humanity so we can live beyond the narrow masculine / feminine binary might look like.

This group welcomes trans men as well as those who are non-binary or gender non-conforming.

Book Discussion

This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories that Make Us by Cole Arthur Riley

Date and Time TBD

Sign up in Weekly Enews or in Dutton Hall so we know how many people are interested

This Lent, the book that will center and guide our spiritual exploration is the stunning New York Times bestselling book, *This Here Flesh*, by Cole Arthur Riley.

This Here Flesh is a captivating spiritual meditation where ‘Black words live in dignity, lament, rage, and hope.’ It explores how spirituality can heal the body, heal the stories we inherit, and give language to the deepest experiences of being human. By attending to the particularity of her Black female body, and the stories of her ancestors, Riley creates a sacred space for the reader to attend to their own body, the stories of their own ancestors, and the liberation that already is and is to come if only we are brave enough to hear its sound.

Purchase your own copy and join us over 4-5 weeks in Lent as we read this book and reflect together on how God is inviting us to grow and be changed as we do.



scan this QR code with your phone camera to see the book on Amazon

“This is the kind of book that makes you different when you’re done.”
– Ashley C. Ford, New York Times bestselling author of *Somebody’s Daughter*.

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

Facebook & Instagram:

@FederatedChurchSycamore



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