

Federated Church

OF SYCAMORE



**A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ &
Unitarian Universalist Association**

***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? Fill out our brief online [Connection Form here](#), 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 | June 11, 2023, 10:00 am

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 Song “All Are Welcome” (p.3)

Sharing Prayers of Joy & For Healing

Centering Moment

This is your time to center more deeply into the presence of God.

We invite you to slowly read the quote below, and then: ponder the Meditation questions; move through the Breath Prayer; or simply sit in silence.

“‘Circling around’ is all we can do. Our speaking of God is a search for similes, analogies, and metaphors. All theological language is an approximation, offered tentatively in holy awe. We can say, “It’s like ...,” but we can never say, “It is...” because we are in the realm of transcendence. And we must—absolutely must—maintain a fundamental humility before the Great Mystery. If we do not, religion always worships itself and its formulations and never God.”

~ Richard Rohr

Meditation Questions

The Spirit is ever calling us to embrace a more expansive understanding of God

1. What image or metaphor for God is getting in the way of opening yourself to the Divine? Can you allow yourself to let it go?
2. What new image or metaphor—from nature, from community, or from an aspect of your life—is speaking to you about the Divine? How does it illuminate the Divine to you?

Breath Prayer

“Breath Prayer” is an ancient Christian form of prayer done by choosing one or two lines to meditate on, and to inhale / exhale through them. This helps us unite our prayers with our full being. Take a moment to breathe through these lines as your centering prayer.

Inhale: It’s OK to outgrow an idea | **Exhale:** God is bigger than my boxes

Inhale: God is as near as my breath | **Exhale:** I open myself to transcendence

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 "Ground and Source of All that Is" (p.4)

Scripture [Genesis 1:1-2:4a](#)

Sermon "Let There Be Marshes: Meeting God Again for the First Time"

Musical Meditation

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 "This is Our God" (p.5)

Benediction

Postlude

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

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning are:

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Music Director:** Gary Mattin
Liturgist: Sharon McKee | **Ushers:** Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, & Skip Schramer
Ushers for Sunday, June 11: Judy Winter, Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

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

“All Are Welcome”



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly__ live, a__
2. Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and_ true, where
3. Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and_ stone to__
4. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi- sions heard and_



place where saints and chil - dren_ tell how_ hearts learn_ to for - give.
all God's chil - dren dare_ to__ seek . .o__ dream God's_ reign a - new.
heal and strength . - en, serve_ and__ teach, ; and_ live the__ Word they've known.
loved and trea - sured, taught and_ claimed as__ words with - in the Word.



Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness and as sym bol of God's grace;
Here the out cast and the strang - er bear the im age of God's face;
Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,



— All are wel - come, wel - come in__ this place, all in - vit - ed__ to



come and know_ God's grace, all are wel - come, the love of Christ to feel, _____ 'cause



all of us_ are wel - come. here,_____ all are wel - come in this place.

“Ground and Source of All That Is”

Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan

Ground and source of all that is, one that an - chors all our roots,
Lov - er of ten thou - sand names, ho - ly pres - ence all have known,
Nat - ure by whose laws we live, au - thor of our d - n - a,
En - er - gy of heav'n - ly spheres, spark with - in the in - sect mind,
Call to kind - ness, call to serve, free - dom for our chos - en course,

Bm7 A/C# D D/F# G Em7 F#m7 G E/G# Asus4 A D

Be - ing of all ways and forms, deep - est home and fi - nal truth.
Beau - ty ev - er wel - com - ing, my - ster - y to stir the soul.
All - com - pel - ling call to life, draw - ing one and all the same.
Un - seen pulse to charge our plans, bring - ing or - der and sur - prise.
Guide and friend for all who dream, nour - ished by our ground and source.

D D/F# G(add9) D D/F# G(add9)

We live and move in you. We live and move in you.

“This Is Our God”

Tomlin/Reeves

***A refuge for the poor, a shelter from the storm: this is our God
And He will wipe away your tears, and return your wasted years:
This is our God, this is our God***

***A mother to the orphan, a healer to the broken: this is our God
She brings peace to our madness, and comfort in our sadness:
This is our God, this is our God***

***A fountain for the thirsty, a lover for the lonely: this is our God
They bring glory to the humble, and crowns for the faithful:
This is our God, this is our God***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June’s Love Offering | *Strengthen the Church.*

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering in June reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. Donations in any amount are welcome and can be placed in the “offering” plate, mailed to the church office, or given online at <https://onrealm.org/federatedchurch/give/now> —select the fund: Love Offering. Be sure to write “Strengthen the Church” in the memo section of checks.

DeKalb County Pride March | *June 22, 4:30pm, Van Buer Plaza in Downtown DeKalb*
Pastor Eric is organizing a group to participate in the DeKalb County Pride March. What a powerful witness it would be to have an intergenerational group of folks there together! Sign up in Dutton Hall if you are interested in joining us!

Ladies’ Night Out | *June 27, 6PM, Bea’s Wok ‘N Roll*

Ladies' Night Out will be held June 27, at 6:00 PM at Bea's Wok 'N Roll, 1402 Sycamore Rd., DeKalb. Some ladies will be going to the concert at the Dee Palmer Band Shell in Hopkins Park after dinner, all are welcome to attend. The concert begins at 7:30 PM.

Online Giving is now live! Whether it's your weekly, monthly, or quarterly pledge, a one-time or recurring donation, or a contribution to a specific fund (e.g.: monthly LOVE Offering, Pastors Emergency fund, etc.), you can now do that simply and securely through our online platform (<https://onrealm.org/federatedchurch/give/now>)! *Contact the church office with questions.*

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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