

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 25, 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 “Sing a New World into Being” (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.

“Then the righteous and just will say, ‘Lord, when did we see you a stranger and invite you in...?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these siblings of mine, you did for me.’ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed... for I was a stranger, and you did not invite me in, ... you did not look after me.’ ... ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

~ Jesus, Matthew 25

Meditation Questions

1. Have you ever felt like a “stranger” or an outsider in a community? What specific words or actions made you feel “Other” or like you didn’t belong?
2. Who is the “stranger” you have a hard time welcoming and caring / advocating for?
3. How can you build on your experience of “unbelonging” to help us as a church live more fully into our proclamation that “all are welcome here”? What concrete things may need to be done/change for us to do so?

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: God loves me as I am | **Exhale**: God loves me too much to leave me here

Inhale: God loves everyone as they are | **Exhale**: I will keep growing in God’s love
(repeat)

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 "New Patterns of Loving" (p.4)

Scripture [Exodus 3:1-10; Acts 10-11](#) (excerpts)

Sermon "Beyond 'All Are Welcome': Re-Learning God to Re-Create the World"

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 "Will You Come and Follow Me?" (p.5)

Benediction

Postlude

Thank you for joining us for worship today!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning are:

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Music Director:** Gary Mattin

Liturgist: Phil Wagener | **Ushers:** Paula von Ende and Bev & Skip Schramer

Ushers for Sunday, July 2: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen and Skip Schramer

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

“Sing a New World into Being”

Mary Louise Bringle



1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry



Find a tune for si - lent year - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;



dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.
where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.
where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.



Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

“New Patterns of Loving”

Barbara Hamm

1. New pat - terns of lov - ing make room for new ways,
2. Our an - ces - try marks us with vis - i - ble signs;
3. God bless all the mo - thers and fa - thers to - day;

cre - at - ing new fam - ilies to care for and raise.
we bear in our bod - ies ge - net - ic de - signs.
help us to raise chil - dren to walk in God's way,

All those who have loved us and helped us to grow
But love, be - yond lim - its of gen - der or race,
to care for each oth - er as chil - dren of God,

are fam - ilies of choice by the car - ing they show.
can fash - ion new fam - ilies and new ways em - brace.
whose love is in - clu - sive, far - reach - ing, and broad.

“Will You Come and Follow Me?”

John Bell & the Iona Community



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
3. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
- 4 God, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, ___ will you let my name be known, _
Will you risk the hos - tile stare ___ should your life at - tract or scare? _
Will you use the faith you've found ___ to re - shape the world a - round, _
In your com - pa - ny I'll go ___ where your love and foot - steps show. _



___ will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
___ Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
___ through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
___ Thus I'll move and live and grow in you, and you in me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

While Pastor is on Parental Leave

For eight weeks following the birth of their child, Pastor Eric will be on parental leave. Here are three important notes about this:

- We are blessed to have the worship leadership of Rev. Joe Gastiger for the duration of these eight weeks.
- Rev. Alan McNamara, the Interim Pastor at First Congregational UCC in DeKalb, will be "on-call" for any pastoral emergencies. *This includes any hospital visits, end of life situations, or in case of a funeral.* You can reach him directly at (952) 594-9706.
- [Karen Hamingson](mailto:khamingson@gmail.com) (815-970-2334; khamingson@gmail.com) and [Pam Kitterman](mailto:hospicesis@comcast.net) (815-761-9475; hospicesis@comcast.net), will be our congregational "point of contact" on behalf of our Caring Ministry Team in such situations—should something happen and you are unsure of who to contact or what to do (or if you want the congregation to know), please reach out to one of them and they will help move things forward, contacting Rev. McNamara or the appropriate church leaders from there.

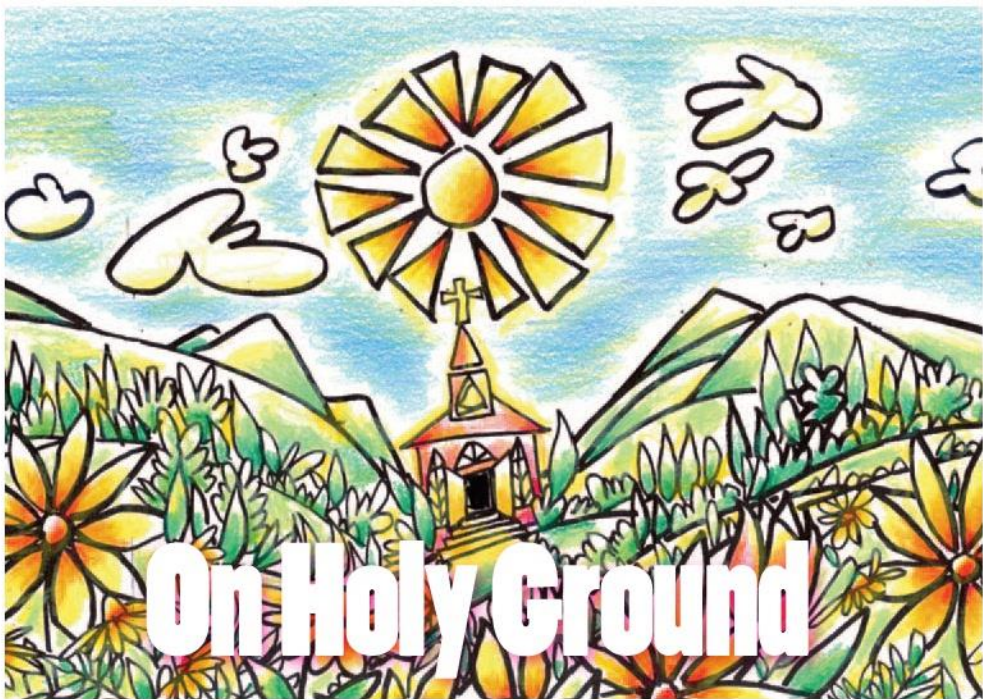
June's Love Offering | Strengthen the Church.

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.

Hymn Sing in Worship | July 2, 10AM

We are excited to do a hymn/worship song sing for our first Sunday in July, and we're taking suggestions! Let Darlene in the church office (office@fedsycamore.org; 815-895-2706) know by Monday, June 26, if you have a favorite hymn or worship song, whether it is one we haven't done in a long time or one you can't sing enough.

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 our online platform (<https://onrealm.org/federatedchurch/give/now>)! *Contact the church office with questions.*



The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the commitment of all settings of 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 as we work to become a multi-cultural/multi-racial, accessible to all Christian movement.

From Holy Ground - A Prayer to Strengthen the Church

By Rev. Dave Long-Higgins, Conference Minister, Heartland Conference

Loving God,
Ground us anew
In Your deep desire
For a fullness of flourishing
Yearning to rise throughout
Your whole creation.

Plant us deep
In the soil of Your love

Bursting open seeds
Often long-forgotten
Except by You
Bearing a strength
For blessing and healing
In a world of hurt.

Form Your self-giving
In our deepest selves

Giving grace and space
For Your strength of soul
To rise anew in acts
Of joy-filled giving
Bearing unexpected hope
In a world weary with worry.

Grow us in Your Holy Ground
Supplying every needed nutrient
Of body, mind, and soul
In just the right amount
At just the right time
Giving rise to a beauty
And delight not of our making
Yet requiring our consent.

By this, O Love,
Strengthen the covenant

Of Your Christ-formed community
Gifting a renewed energy
To bear Your deep desire
Into a world that hungers
For resurrection risings.

Now, strengthen Your church
With Your self-giving Spirit
That we may strengthen others
For Your holy work of unfolding
Abundant, blessed, beloved, joy!

Yes, O Love, raise us up
From your Holy Ground
For nothing less than this
And let it be more than enough.

Amen.

**Through the Strengthen the Church Offering,
we help support the work of conferences and the
national setting as we become a multi-racial/
multi-cultural church.**



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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