

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 | September 10, 2023, 10:00 am

*Please join in reading those parts printed in **bold**.
All music can be found at the back of the bulletin.*

Prelude “More Precious Than Silver” L. DeShazo / arr. M. Hayes

Welcome

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

Gathering Song “Come O Fount of Every Blessing” (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.*

*“Jesus napped regularly, got frustrated with religious systems,
experienced hunger that turned to anger, occasionally ignored his family’s advice, and
happily ran away when people wanted to control him.
His humanity was part of his godliness. And so is yours.”*

~ The Happy Givers, non-profit

Meditation Questions

Where are you emotionally and spiritually this morning? What is weighing you down? What is lifting you up? Take a moment to check in with yourself and what’s on your heart as we center into a spirit of worship.

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: Jesus’ humanity was part of his godliness I am | **Exhale**: God embraces my humanity

Inhale: I embrace my full humanity | **Exhale**: Even the hard parts

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 “You Are Here in Our Midst” (p.4)

Scripture [Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11:7-8; Philippians 4:1-4](#)

Sermon “Savor Life”

Musical Meditation

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory “Interlude I”

Mark Hayes

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 “For the Beauty of the Earth” (p.4)

Benediction

Postlude “Alleluia with the Majesty and Glory of Your Name” *arr. M. Hayes*
As the 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: Sheldon Turner | **Ushers:** Judy Winter, Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, & Skip Schramer
Ushers for Sunday, Sept. 17: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, & Allison Stahl

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

"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

Robert Robinson



1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
come to trust, at ev-ery turn-ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

"You Are Here in Our Midst"

Don Moen

You are here _____ in our midst. _____ How we've wait -

ed for mo - ments like this. _____ Have your way _____ in this place. _____ Ho-ly Spi -

rit come do _____ as you wish. _____ We are changed _____ as you move in our midst. _____

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

F. Pierpoint / M. T. Winter

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,

For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

Refrain

God of _____ all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rally Day – September 17 – *Lion's Park, 700 W. Taylor St., DeKalb*

We are excited to once again host our “Rally Day” service in the great outdoors! Worship begins, as usual, at 10AM followed by a **free lunch** (hamburgers, brats, hot dogs, and a vegetarian option, along with lemonade and water), and **inter-generational games**. **Childcare** will be provided (there's also a playground!). **Please bring a lawn chair & a dish to pass.** RSVP at this [link](#).

September Love Offering | *Sondra King CROP Hunger Walk*

The September Love Offering will go toward the Sondra King CROP Walk. Our church team, The Federated Striders, has set an ambitious goal of \$3,000! The Walk will be Sun., Sept. 24, at the Sycamore Forest Preserve on East Route 64 at 2PM. *Donations in any amount are welcome. For checks, please note “CROP Walk.” Cash donations should be put in a Love Offering envelope labeled CROP Walk with the donor's name. Donations may 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.*

Gauging Interest in a Church Book Club

We're hoping to get a book club together to discuss books related to faith, theology, and how to be a reflection of God's love in our community. The first book we will explore is Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians by Austen Hartke. Discussion dates TBD. Let us know if you're interested by signing up [here](#).

Portillo's Fundraiser to Benefit CROP Walk – September 11

Portillo's will donate 20% of the sales to our CROP Walk! Purchases made at the Sycamore Rd. Portillo's on Mon., Sept. 11, from 5-8PM, whether dine-in, carry-out, or drive-thru, will qualify. Tell the order taker you are participating in the DeKalb CROP Hunger Walk fundraiser or use code PORTILLOS29 if ordering online or in the app.

Ladies' Night Out – Omi Sushi - September 26

Ladies' Night Out will be at Omi Sushi, 3206 Sycamore Rd., DeKalb, at 6PM, on Tues., Sept. 26. Let us know you can join us by signing up at this [link](#).

Fall Clean-up - October 21

The Board of Trustees is seeking volunteers to help with Fall Clean-up on Sat., Oct. 21, beginning at 9:00 AM. Help will be needed with painting, organizing areas within the church, outdoor clean-up of leaves, etc. Sign-up to help [here](#).

Online Giving

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*



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