

THE
Federated Church
OF SYCAMORE



Stewardship 2023

***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 | November 05, 2023

All Saints' Remembrance | Pledge Dedication Sunday

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

Today we will be taking communion. We invite you to participate however you're best able. Feel free to use whatever you have for the "bread and cup"—whether that's bread and grape juice or a cookie and coffee. God takes our ordinary offerings, whatever they are, and blesses them as we share them together!

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

Prelude

"Jesus Loves Me"

Wm. Bradbury

"Praise Him, Praise Him All Ye Little Children"

arr. Gail Smith

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 "We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky" (p.4)

Centering Moment: Remembering the Saints

"To acknowledge our ancestors means we are aware that we did not make ourselves, that the line stretches all the way back, perhaps to God... We remember them because it is an easy thing to forget: that we are not the first to suffer, rebel, fight, love, and die. The grace with which we embrace life, in spite of the pain, the sorrow, is always the measure of what has gone before." ~

Alice Walker

Building an Altar of Love

Candle-lighting Vigil

Margaret "Peg" Vitkus
9/15/1942 – 2/5/2023

Georgiann Baird
12/2/1944 – 4/27/2018

Melissa Tanner
9/6/1970 – 3/07/2020

Ann Tanner
3/05/1922 – 1/17/2000

Wally Tanner
10/14/1917 – 2/05/1998

John O'Connor
5/28/1962 – 10/17/2023

Margaret Johnson
– 9/5/2023

Allison McDowell
7/23/1981 – 4/27/2023

John M. McKee
8/23/1918 – 5/22/1997

Eleanor W. McKee
3/8/1928 – 2/8/2022

Ernest W. Jones
8/2/1937 – 11/23/2012

James H. Parnell
6/4/1925 – 11/4/2012

Mark Matuszewski
– 11/28/2019

Frank Moore
9/30/1925 – 1/10/2015

Phyllis Moore
10/11/1924 – 7/30/2019

John B. McCue
5/31/1950 – 12/17/2021

Elizabeth Woodham
1926 – 2004

Edward Woodham
1926 – 2013

Lorena McGowan
1913 – 2010

Donna Jean Winston
1957 – 2022

Margaret Baack
1951 – 2023

Marie Miller
1/1929 – 3/1994

Arnold Miller
1/1923 – 12/2008

Joel Koemptgen
8/11/1943 – 3/3/2023

Special Music

"Recollection of Joy"

*Donna Butler***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 For All the Saints vv. 1 & 2 (p.5)**Scripture**[Ephesians 3:14-21; John 14:1-7, 12-21](#)**Sermon**

"What Is It We're Stewards Of?"

Musical Meditation**Holy Communion**

Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing Bread & Cup and Bringing Forward Our Pledges**Communion Anthem** "We Are Not Our Own"*Brian Wren***Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication**

Ever-Creating God, we give thanks that you are always drawing forth goodness out of chaos, healing out of heartbreak, and justice out of injustice—always, you are drawing life out of death. Blessing God, we give thanks for Jesus, who shows us the Way of Love that leads to true Life. And we give thanks for the invitation to join you in blessing the world. With these pledges, we express our belief that another world is possible, and our commitment to work with you to make it a reality. Strengthen and lead us by your Spirit. Amen.

Our Shared Life**Offering Opportunities****Sending Hymn**

"For All the Saints" vv. 3-5 (p.5)

Benediction**Postlude**

"Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child"

*arr. Teresa Wilhelmi**Thank you for joining us for worship today!*

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning are:

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Director of Music:** Gary Mattin | **Liturgist:** Sharon McKee

Ministers: All of us! | **Ushers:** Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, & Skip Seaver

Ushering next Sunday, Nov. 12: Gip Seaver, Judy Winter, Ruth Olle, & Skip Seaver

All hymns are used with permission: CCLI License #3234671

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November Love Offering: Hope Haven “Night by Night” Campaign

The November Love Offering will benefit Hope Haven’s Night by Night campaign, sponsoring nights of shelter for homeless men, women and children living in our community. A donation of \$25 provides 3 meals, a warm bed for the night and services for 1 person experiencing homelessness. Federated’s goal is to raise \$1,000 to be able to provide one night’s shelter for 40 individuals. Please use the Love Offering envelope at the back of the sanctuary. Please indicate “Hope Haven” on your check. Online donations may be made by scanning the QR code below and selecting "Love Offering" giving fund.

Large Print Word Search/Crossword Puzzle Books

DeKalb County TRIAD is putting together “care packages” for seniors in the community. Federated has been asked to help collect large print word search and crossword puzzle books to be included in the “care packages.” Puzzle books may be placed in the basket in Dutton Hall through mid-November. *Perhaps you might consider these gifts part of your holiday shopping!* More information can be found in the weekly eNews.

Looking to Get Involved?

A variety of sign-up sheets are located on the back wall of Dutton Hall—from helping lead worship, to service opportunities, to book groups and Bible studies, to social gatherings; be sure to check them out and get connected!


Online Giving

Whether it's a recurring pledge, a one-time donation, or a contribution to a specific fund (e.g. the LOVE Offering, Pastoral Emergency fund, etc.), you can now make them simply and securely through our online platform. Scan the QR code with your phone camera to get started or see the weekly Enews for a web-browser link! *Contact the church office with questions.*



“We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”

Ruth Duck




1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers
2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for
3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -




grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -
morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and
a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's



in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -
war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -
good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons



ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that
ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that
from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that



all may have a - bun - dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.
all may have a - bun - dant life in one - ness with their neigh - bor.
all may have a - bun - dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

“For All the Saints”

William W. How, alt.



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who to the
2 You were their rock, their refuge, and their might; you, Christ, the
3 Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold, live as the
4 Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine, we feebly
5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the



world their steadfast faith confessed, your name, O Je - sus,
hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you
saints who nobly fought of old, and share with them a
struggle, they in glory shine; yet in your love our
earth the distant triumph song, then hearts are brave a -



be for - ev - er blessed.
were their one true light.
glorious crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
faithful lives entwined.
gain, and faith grows strong.

Stewardship 2023 Featured Ministry Partner

Federated Preschool

In response to a growing community need, Federated Preschool opened in 1968 under the leadership of church member, Anita Kendall. Now in our 55th school year under just our 3rd Director, Bobbi Clough, Federated Preschool continues to expand its offering of quality and affordable preschool education.

This fall, the Preschool added an extra classroom and began offering full-time, full-year care (in addition to several part-time classrooms). With the support of church leadership, it is exploring options for transitioning part-time classrooms to full-time ones in the coming fall making it more accessible to the increasing number of both working families and lower-income families (the overall number of classrooms, however, won't change).

Importantly—and uniquely—Federated Preschool is, and has always been, a ministry of Federated church; it is not a separate non-profit. Its success is contingent upon our congregation's continued support. It is not, however, an overtly "religious" preschool. We intentionally welcome families of all kinds and from all walks of life, including a variety of religious backgrounds, and none at all. As such, it embodies our congregational values, as reflected in the Preschool's "guiding philosophy":

"In order to grow compassionate, successful, justice-oriented people, we believe it is necessary to create a developmentally appropriate learning environment that embraces and reflects the diversity of our world. Therefore, as educators:

- We *respect* the differences in each child's development and work with them toward personal growth.
- We *create* an environment that recognizes and affirms the worth and dignity of every person.
- We *promote* positive planned and spontaneous learning moments to develop life-skills.
- We *encourage* children to do things interesting to them while we open up the possibility of much more while investigating, learning and playing.
- We *model* healthy and safe peer relationships that include independence, cooperation and positive social manners.
- We *empower* students to think outside of the box as we nurture their confidence, self-esteem, and curiosity.
- We *provide* an environment that develops academic kindergarten readiness."

This philosophy is implemented through a play-based approach focusing on social-emotional development and kindergarten readiness. Interest areas for children include Art, Blocks, Cozy Corner, Dramatic Play, Library, Math, Music and Movement, Nature, Sensory Table, and Science. These early experiences are the foundation for future growth and success for each unique child.

Ways I Pledge to offer my time & talents in the year ahead

Stewardship 2023: Becoming a School of Love

Below you will find a list of ministries—ways that you can pledge your time and talents and offer yourself in service in the year ahead. Please circle any area where you have an interest. Indicating interest is just that; it is not something you're beholden to!

You'll notice that there are no Boards or Committees listed. Inspired by the work of our Governance Revitalization Task Force, we're interested here not in signing you up to attend meetings, but in learning about your interests, passions, and talents so as to better help guide us in the year ahead as we plan and organize our life together.

Bring this "pledge" sheet by itself or along with your financial pledge card to worship on Sunday, Nov. 5th so that we can bless everyone's offerings during worship together!

Someone will be in touch with you about possibilities, to answer your questions, and to discuss training/orientation (if needed) as we move into the new year!

Name: _____

Worship

Music

- Instrument _____ (kind)
- Singing
 - Choir
 - Special Music/Solo (occasional)
- Worship Planning with Pastor (scriptures, themes, prayer stations, etc.)

Liturgy

- Liturgist
- Creative Arts
 - Altar design/decorating
 - Photography / videography
 - Dance
 - Creating Prayer Stations (e.g. Advent & Lent)
 - Other: _____

Communion

- Preparing Communion elements (*bread & juice*)
- Serving Communion during worship

Tech Team

- Run Worship Livestream
- Run Soundboard

Children's Ministries

- Assisting Miss Janis with Children's Church (*during regular worship*)
- Helping Coordinate occasional Intergenerational Craft Activities (*e.g. during Advent*)

Hospitality

- Ushering
- Greeter / welcoming people to worship
- Serving Coffee Hour
- Bringing dish to Potlucks
- Funeral usher/greeter
- Funeral Receptions

Wider Church Ministries

- Faith & Life Book Discussions (*examples: Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians; The Cross and the Lynching Tree*)
- Bible Studies
- Spiritual Practices (*e.g. Prayer, Meditation, etc.*)
- Gardening
- Fundraisers (*e.g. Thrift Sale, Plant Sale, Book Sale*)
- Backpack Ministry
- Caring Ministry
calling & visiting those in need
- Weekly Virtual Prayer Group
- Fall and Spring Church Cleanup
- Preschool Support
- Community/Fellowship Dinners

- Affinity Group
 - Parents
 - Women's
 - Men's
 - Other: _____

Community Service/Volunteering

- Delivering "Meals on Wheels" (*program of Voluntary Action Center delivering meals to those who are homebound*)
- Habitat for Humanity build
- Other: _____

Administration

- Preparing Mailings
- Website
- Accounting / Assisting office with church finances

Anything Else?

How else would you like to offer your time and talents? What would you like more information about? What would you like to see happening that is not? We'd love to hear your ideas!

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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