

THE
Federated Church
OF SYCAMORE



Figuring out faith
with Peter

LENT 2024

***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 | March 10, 2024

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

*We invite you to like the video and/or say "Hi!" in the comments to let us know you're here!
We also encourage you to create a "sacred space" wherever you are this morning as you worship with us: perhaps light a candle or incense, sit in/near the sun streaming through a window, or a favorite plant. Whatever helps ground you.*

Prelude "Before the Throne of God" Vicki Cook/arr. M. Kim

Gathering For Worship

Welcome

Passing the Peace

Gathering Song #459 "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

Centering Our Hearts

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer & 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.

Choir Anthem "Jesus Came to Earth" Lee Roesti

Scripture [Isaiah 45:1-5; Matthew 16:21-23; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22](#)

Sermon "Fixed Upon It: What if Jesus Isn't Who You Think He Is?"

Sung Response "Love Is Not Always Comfortable" (p.2)

Responding to God's Invitation: Prayer Stations (see insert)

Preparing to Live God's Love

Our Shared Life

Sending Song "Hymn for a New Church" (p.3)

Benediction

Postlude "Jesus Loves Me" Wm. Bradbury/arr. M. Kim
Thank you for worshiping with us this morning!

"Love Is Not Always Comfortable"

Christian McIvor



Love is not al-ways com-forta-ble and truth is-n't al-ways so clear._ So,



push us, pull us, shape and trans-form us,_ o - pen our hearts to you.



Love is not al-ways com-forta-ble and truth is-n't al-ways so clear.___ So,



push us, pull us, shape and trans-form us,_ o - pen our minds to you.



Love is not al-ways com-forta-ble and truth is-n't al-ways so clear.___ So,



push us, pull us, shape and trans-form us,_ o - pen our lives to you.

"Hymn for a New Church"

Slats Toole



1. Can we still be your peo - ple, Lord, in ___ spite of all ___ we've been?
2. The i - dols we have built still claim our heart, our mind, our soul.
3. Our pois - oned roots can nev - er bear the fruit that you would give.



Do you still claim us as your own, al - though we're steeped in sin?
We dare not trust your guid - ing hand, we ___ cling to our ___ con - trol.
Up - root the ev - ils we hold dear, that we might grow ___ and live.



Our ___ feet stray from the path you've laid while our lips still praise your name;
We ___ craft our like - ness - es of you to ___ mir - ror our own face,
You've nev - er giv - en up on us, in ___ spite of ___ all we've been;



do you still reach out your hand to us, or ___ turn a - way in shame?
for - get - ting that your i - mage lives in ___ ev - ery land and race.
help ___ us to not give up on you, let ___ your new church be - gin!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning are:

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

Children's Church Coordinator: Janis Schnurr-Trebe | **Liturgist:**

Ushers: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

Ushers for Sunday, March 17: Pam & Nate Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

All hymns this morning are used with permission: CCLI License #3234671

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer Opportunity

**** Last Call **** We have a small group of folks who have expressed interest in preparing and serving dinner for our (~8-10) houseless neighbors utilizing the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of DeKalb's overnight winter shelter. **If you would like to join, please reach out to Pastor Eric by this morning.** The group will coordinate on Monday and plan to serve sometime in the coming week.

Lenten Spiritual Formation Small Group | *Sundays, Feb 18-Mar 17, 4:45-6pm*
Reading for this Sunday: "Joy" (pp.163-170); "Love" (pp.171-180); "Lent IV:" (pp. 253-254). *See this week's news for a few tips/suggestions for readings.*

Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service | *Thursday, Mar 28, 5:30-7pm*

Join us for a special Maundy Thursday service commemorating the Last Supper and the story of Jesus' final 24 hours. We will begin with a free/"pay as your able" Mediterranean dinner from Jamrah. **Please RSVP so we have an estimate as to how much food to get.** Dinner will be followed by a foot washing ceremony (for those who choose to participate in it) and a service of Tenebrae in the sanctuary. Children are invited to the dinner and Children's Church will be available during the portion after the meal.

Easter Flower Orders

Easter flowers can be ordered today following worship in Dutton Hall or reserve your plant [here](#). Selections include daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips. Cost is \$14 per plant. The flowers purchased will be used to decorate the altar on Easter and can be taken home after the Easter service.

Lenten Love Offering | *Spartan Food Pantry & One Great Hour of Sharing*

During Lent, our Love Offering includes two invitations:

- 1) To increase food and personal hygiene donations to the Spartan Food Pantry, which has specifically requested ***shampoo & conditioner***. **Bring donations to worship; during the Prayer Stations, bring them forward to the "Table of Offering" at the front.**
- 2) Monetary donations to support the UCC's "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering, which pools our donations with churches around the country to support disaster relief, refugee resettlement, and development initiatives around the world. See flyer on the Table of Offering for an impact example. For donations: place in an envelope in the "Offering Plate;" mail to church; or give online (link in eNews). Note "OGHS" on checks.

Weekly Enews

Scan or click this QR code with your phone camera to see the most recent eNews with all these announcements and more! Subscribe tab is at the top.





Healing and Reconciliation

A Dialogue with Bereaved
Palestinian and Israeli Family Members

March 21, 2024
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Altgeld Hall, Auditorium

Join us as we host the **American Friends of the Parents Circle — Families Forum**
to learn from bereaved Palestinian and Israeli members, as they share their
stories of loss and their unique choice of reconciliation.

Participate in a discussion on why relationship building, mutual understanding
and a reconciliation framework for sustainable peace agreement brought
these families together.



To request disability-related accommodations,
please contact the Disability Resource Center at 753-1303
as early as possible. Advance notice is appreciated.



Scan for more information.
go.niu.edu/ParentsCircle



Northern Illinois
University

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.

We believe 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.

We believe in building authentic community across our differences

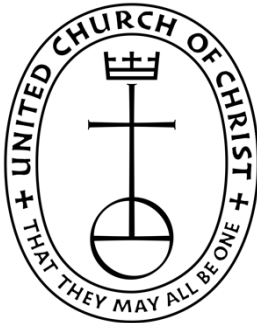
We are an “Open and Affirming” congregation, which is our way of saying that we value diversity. In a time of deep division, we believe it is paramount to gather people from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and identities in order to build authentic relationships and community. We believe that 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 working for 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:
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