


THE
Federated Church
OF SYCAMORE



**Wandering
Heart**

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 | April 14, 2024, 10:00 am

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!

Prelude

“Going Home”

A. Dvorak/arr. M. Kim

Welcome & Passing the Peace

Gathering Song “You, O Christ, Are Resurrection” (p. 3)

Prayers of the People

Centering Moment

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

We invite you to take a slow, deep breath, read the quotes below, and then: ponder the Meditation Question; move through the Breath Prayer; or sit silently as the music plays.

“The first human became a living being, but the last human [Christ] became a Spirit that gives life.” ~1 Corinthians 15:45

“I’ve been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives through me.

The life I live in the flesh, I now live by the faith of the son of God...” ~ Galatians 2:19-20

Saying “I believe in the resurrection” is essentially “Christianese” for “I desire to be a vessel of the same life-giving Spirit of Love that empowered and raised up Christ.” It is to say: “I want to die to a spirit of selfish desire; I don’t want to be led by ego, shame, or fear—things that diminish life. I want to be led by the Spirit of Love that overcomes Death and brings New Life. And I believe it is possible—if I choose to open myself to it.”

Meditation Questions

- ◆ Have you ever thought of “believing in the resurrection” in this way? How does it change the meaning for you? Do you “believe in the resurrection”?
- ◆ What is one concrete way that choosing to open yourself to this truth could change how you live?

Breath Prayer

“Breath Prayer” is an ancient Eastern Christian form of prayer done by choosing one or two lines to meditate on, and inhaling/exhaling 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: I am worthy of Love and Life. | **Exhale**: I will choose a life led by Love.

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.

Choir Anthem

“Oh, Kind Jesus”

Latvian Folk Song, arr. Rob Hunter

Scripture

[Galatians 2:1, 9-16, 19-20; 3:27-29; Luke 17:21](#)

Sermon

“We Are the Resurrected Body of Christ”

Sung Response

“Christ Has No Body Now But Yours” (p. 3)

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory

“I Give with Love”

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

“Community of Christ” (p. 4)

Benediction

Postlude

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus” *George Webb/arr. M. Kim*
Thank you for worshiping with us this morning!

† † †

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:** Pam Kitterman
Ushers: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

Ushers for April 21: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

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“You, O Christ, Are Resurrection”

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

You, O Christ, are resurrection, in a world that's filled with pain.

You reach out when we are hurting, and you lift us up again.

**Battered women, hungry children, lonely people, those in need
Find in you a hope that's living as they're welcomed, loved, and freed.**

**You, O Christ, are resurrection when we're caught in death and shame,
When we grieve the road we're traveling, when we grieve the choices made.**

**You give healing and forgiveness in the place of sin and strife.
Christ, we're drawn to what you give us — Resurrection and New Life.**

**You, O Christ, are resurrection when an illness takes its toll,
For the promise that you give is that one day we'll be made whole.**

So we need not fear the future when the way seems hard to bear;

You will gently guide and lead us to the place that you prepare.

“Christ Has No Body Now but Ours”

David Ogden



Christ has no bo-dy now but ours.

No hands, no feet on earth but ours.



Ours are the eyes with which He sees.

Ours are the feet with which He



walks. Ours are the hands with which He bles-ses all the world.

Ours are the hands.

“Community of Christ”

Shirley Erena Murray



1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church's door
3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
4 When men-ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,



live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:
and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.
cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world 'round:
the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;



The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,
Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,
Dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,
Our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,



whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.
take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.
turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.
our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Post-service w/ Governance Revitalization/Restructuring Task Force

Today, Dutton Hall, after worship

Join the Governance Revitalization/Restructuring Task Force today following worship for a presentation and conversation, including the latest updates about the process, changes being considered to our organizational structure, and a chance to ask questions and offer feedback. This presentation will build on previous ones and offer new information as well.

Exploring a Community Partnership: Youth Outlook

Sundays, April 21 and May 5, Dutton Hall, following worship

Youth Outlook Executive Director, Nancy Mullen, will be joining us after worship on Sunday, April 21, to share more information about Youth Outlook and the life-saving, life-giving work that they do with LGBTQ+ youth and families. They will then return on Sunday, May 5 to lead us in an “all-church” presentation/conversation around how we as a church can more intentionally create an environment and community that fully welcomes LGBTQ+ individuals and families, along with how we can partner with them in their work here in Sycamore.

Federated 101, Sunday April 21, 11:20-12:20pm, Settle Room

New(ish) to Federated? Trying to find ways to get involved, serve, or further explore your faith? Looking to meet other new(ish) folks? Or maybe you're wondering how one becomes a member—or what the point of membership is?

If this sounds like you, then we invite you to “Federated 101”—a chance to gather around a table for a conversation with Pastor Eric and others in the same boat to meet each other, learn more about who we are, and to finally ask that question you’ve had.

These conversations only happen a couple times a year. Participation in a Federated 101 is needed to become a member. Childcare provided. Sign-up in Dutton Hall or in the eNews.

April Love Offering | School Supplies

The April Love Offering will be used to purchase backpacks and school supplies for low-income students in the community for the 2024-2025 school year. Since providing these backpacks and supplies is important to helping area low-income children start the year with the right tools, the goal for the April Love Offering is \$1,000.

Donations of any amount are welcome. For checks, please note in the memo “School supplies.” Donations should be put in a Love Offering envelope located by the bulletins, mailed to the church, or they can be made online at <https://bit.ly/GiveFCS>.

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.



LENT-EASTER FEEDBACK

Federated folks come from many different religious and spiritual backgrounds. What's meaningful in worship for one may not be for another. Help us learn what made worship meaningful for you in this Lenten-Easter season--or what felt missing. Your feedback will help inform worship planning in future seasons as we seek to create dynamic worship experiences that inspire, challenge, change, and move us with the Love of God.

1. Is there anything you'd like to share about what our Lent-Easter theme meant to you: "Wandering Hearts: Figuring Out Faith with Peter"?

2. What was the most meaningful part of worship? (e.g. Music? Prayer Stations? Sermon? Coffee Hour? Interactions? Was there a particular song, prayer station, message or interaction that was most meaningful?)

3. This season, we once again had prayer stations in worship. Which prayer station(s) were the most meaningful to you? (check all that apply)
 - Prayer candles
 - "Seeing Peter, Seeing Ourselves:" writing on chalkboard to describe Peter
 - Figuring Out Faith with Peter (the symbols, reflections, and questions inspired by Peter's wandering journey on the side wall)
 - Take-home prompts
 - Devotional book
 - Devotional Cards
 - Resources on forgiveness
 - Names: Identity & Destiny—reflecting on Jesus nicknaming Simon "Peter," and our own names
 - Baptismal Font—blessing ourselves and others with love
 - "Divine Seeing"—pondering artwork inspired by each Sunday's scripture
 - Poetry Meditation inspired by each Sunday's scripture
 - Table of Offering—donations to Spartan Food Pantry

4. How did the prayer stations help you encounter scripture, spirituality, or God/the Sacred in a meaningful way? If you engaged with a child, were they – or were particular ones – meaningful or accessible to them? Is there anything you'd like to share about what these prayer stations – or a particular one – meant to you?

5. What was spiritually meaningful about our Maundy Thursday dinner/service?

6. What was spiritually meaningful about our Easter service?

7. If you participated: What was meaningful about the Lenten Faith Formation group focused on Prayer (using the book, Black Liturgies)?

8. Is there anything else you'd like to share about your Lenten-Easter experience? Was there something that felt missing? Something we might consider doing differently in the future.

Name (optional): _____

If you prefer, scan or click QR code to complete feedback online.



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

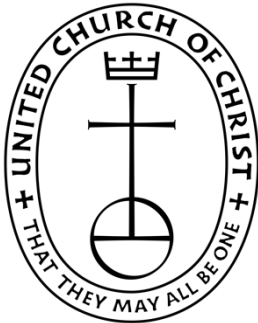
We are an “Open and Affirming” congregation, which is our way of saying that we value diversity. In a time of deep division, we believe it is paramount to gather people from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and identities in order to build authentic relationships and community. We believe that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



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www.fedsycamore.org

Church Office Phone: (815) 895-2706 || **Email:** Office@fedsycamore.org

Pastor Eric Cell: (815) 797-2250 || **Email:** RevEric@fedsycamore.org

Children's Church Coordinator: Janis Schnurr-Trebe

Federated Church Preschool, Director Bobbi Clough

Phone: (815) 764-9473 || **Email:** Preschool@fedsycamore.org

Address: 612 W. State Street, Sycamore, IL 60178