

THE
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 16, 2024, 10:00 am

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

Prelude

“He Is Lord/O Come Let Us Adore Him”

arr. M. Hayes

Welcome & *Passing the Peace

We invite you to welcome one another with a sign of God’s hospitality and peace

Gathering Song “Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us” (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(s); Pray through the Silent Prayer; or simply sit silently as the music plays.

“There you saw how Yahweh your God carried you, as a father carries his child, all the way you went until you reached this place.” ~ Deuteronomy 1:31

“For Fathers who read us stories. Who worked two jobs. Who told us we were beautiful. Who taught us how to stay alive. Who are alone or tired. Who are gone too soon...”

Meditation Question

- ◆ What memory of joy rises in you this Father’s Day? What memory of grief? Be honest with yourself about what this day brings up. Hold this memory for a moment. Turn it over in your mind. What feelings are present? Don’t judge it. Let it be what it is—happy, sad, angry, complicated...—and release it to God.

Silent Prayer

God of tenderness, we thank you for our fathers. Those with us and those gone before us. Those who held us and showed us what it means to belong to one another. In a society that often demands a singular portrait of the masculine, awaken memories and stories of the tenderness of fatherhood, that our narrative would not allow the men in our lives to be reduced. Grant those who have longed for their father more than they have been held by him the space to lament, to grieve in the ways that they need to. Place people in their lives to remind them they are no less worthy of love. Liberate them to name their deepest longings, that they would not be rushed from their grieving. May they be held and loved and known. Amen.

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 "God Loves Us in Mysterious Ways" vv. 1-5 (p. 3)

Scripture [John 11:1-3, 7-8, 17-18, 32-36](#)

Sermon "What Kind of Man? What Kind of Father?"

Sung Response "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant" vv. 1-4 (p.4)

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory "Think About His Love" *Walt Harrah/arr. M 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 "Will You Come and Follow Me" (p.5)

Benediction

Postlude "He Keeps Me Singing" *Luther Bridges/arr. B. Wolaver*
Thank you for joining us for worship!

† † †

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:** Sharon McKee

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

Ushers for June 23: Paula von Ende and Bev & Skip Schramer

The Centering Prayer liturgy was written by Cole Arthur Riley, and comes from Black Liturgies. All music this morning is used with permission: CCLI License #3234671

“Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us”

Daniel Bechtel

1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us
2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our
3 Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our
4 When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our

close in her de - light, Fed us free - ly from her
hand and been our guide, Lift - ed us and healed our
trust in power and might, Left be - hind our broth - ers,
neigh - bor's hand in love, Tread the path of peace and

bod - y, God has called us in - to life.
sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.
sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.
jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.

“God Loves Us in Mysterious Ways”

Edward Moran

1. God loves us in my - ster - ious ways be - yond all sin or shame;
2. More light and truth have yet to break from God's e - ter - nal Word;
3. We take a chance on God, and fall to high - er depths of love;
4. Bind up the wounds of shun and stray for pro - di - gals new found
5. “Come forth!” from deep, con - fin - ing tombs of gen - der, class, and race
6. A place where friends are swell and true and lives and loves in - creased;

rich bles - sings for our wear - y days as love dares speak its name.
sure - heart - ed and with hope we take new leaps of faith un - blurred.
in faith and flesh we heed God's call to o - pen doors a - bove.
and set us on our home - ward way un - bul - lied and un - bound.
en - gen - dered here: wide o - pen rooms that of - fer pride of place.
till all who come are wel - come to the Lamb's own mar - riage feast.

“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”

Richard Gillard



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Living Out Our Welcome

As we continue to ask ourselves how we can more fully live out our welcome to all of God's Beloved Children and build a community of belonging, we invite you to have your church nametag re-printed with your pronouns on them. This invitation is for everyone, but we invite you to opt-in if you so choose.



Scan this QR code to fill out the form within the next week and Darlene will get these nametags printed as soon as possible! You can also reach out to Darlene at any time to ask for a new nametag or to add your pronouns!

Recycle/Reuse Bulletin Covers

We will recycle and reuse the bulletin covers. Please place the cover in the basket at the back of the sanctuary on your way out. You are welcome to keep the insides. Thanks!

Weekly eNews

Scan 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.



“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.

June 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. Local Conferences and the National Setting equally share the gifts given. The funds raised support enhancing a progressive Christian movement through leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

Donations in any amount are welcome and can be placed in the collection plate on Sunday, mailed to the church at The Federated Church, 612 W. State St., Sycamore, IL 60178 (be sure to write “Strengthen the Church” in the memo section of checks), or given online at <https://bit.ly/GiveFCS>.

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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@FederatedChurchSycamore



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