

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 | July 21, 2024, 10:00 am

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

Prelude “Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down” *Dave Doherty/arr. M. Hayes*

Welcome & Passing the Peace

We invite you to like the video and/or say “Hi!” in the comments to let us know you’re here!

Gathering Song “Come and Find the Quiet Center” (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 poem below, and then: ponder the Meditation Question(s); offer a silent prayer; or simply let the music wash over you.

“Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart; try to love the questions themselves... Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps some day you will then gradually, without noticing it, find yourself living into the answer.” ~ Rainer Maria Rilke

Meditation Question

- ♦ What questions—heavy, daunting, confusing, enlivening—are you carrying? What are you seeking clarity on? – Deep down, what is it your heart seeks?
- ♦ With whom can you gather with no agenda but to share, reflect, and wonder together about such questions? Reach out to them and set up a time.

Silent Prayer & 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 “As the Moon” (p. 2)

Scripture [Mark 1:14-15; Romans 12:1-2](#)

Sermon “Brief(er) On the Spot Responses to Your Questions”

Musical Meditation

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory “Interlude V”

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 “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” (p. 4)

Benediction

Postlude

“Glorify Thy Name”

Donna Adkins/arr. M. Hayes

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:**

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

Ushers for July 28: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer

All music this morning is used with permission: CCLI License #3234671

“As the Moon”

Christopher Grundy

As the moon pulls the o - cean so my
tide rocks the beach - es lift - ing
sand shapes the shore-line sculpt-ing

soul is drawn to you. Pull me clo - ser as you
sand as it rolls through, lift us up in - to your
all the lands a - new, we will shape the world you're

cir - cle; I will fall and rise with you and rise with you
danc-ing. We will rise and dance with you and dance with you
dreaming, danc-ing with the ris - ing moon the ris - ing moon

"Come and Find the Quiet Center"

Shirley Erena Murray



1. Come and find the qui - et cen - ter in the crowd - ed life we
2. Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the
3. In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's



lead, find the room for hope to en - ter, find the
pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our
pain, let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e -



frame where we are freed: clear the cha - os and the
be - ing, touch - es base, mak - ing space with - in our
brate the space we gain: there's a place for deep - est



clut - ter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the
think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the sun, rais - ing
dream - ing, there's a time for heart to care, in the

"They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love"

Peter Scholtes



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am)

B^bm

(Em)

Fm



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am)

B^bm

(Em)

Fm



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain

(C)

D^b

(Em)

Fm



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

(Am)

B^bm

(Em)

Fm

(Am)

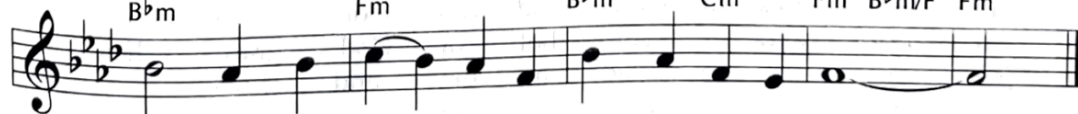
B^bm

(Bm)

Cm

(Em) (Am/E) (Em)

Fm B^bm/F Fm



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Back Pack Sunday | August 4, following worship

We are filling backpacks for area children on August 4, following worship. All ages are welcome, and everything is provided; bring ready hands, rolled-up sleeves, and an eagerness to help!

Conversations Around Values, Vision, and Vitality | July 24, Rollo UCC

What is the United Church of Christ, and what makes it distinct among the many different denominations out there? Join us for a midweek series throughout July to hear different perspectives from local UCC pastors. Afterward, those gathered—folks from several local UCC congregations—will break into small groups for further conversation as we consider how we can boldly live out our progressive Christian faith in our wider community.

The next gathering will take place on July 24 at Rollo Congregational UCC (2471 Weddel St, Earlville) and will be led by Rev. David Fraccaro. We will rotate locations and leaders each week. *We invite you to attend as you're able!*

July Love Offering | Federated Preschool

As of this past school year, The Federated Preschool is now a half-day preschool *and* a full-time year-round daycare center. This has required many changes. Bids are being sought for our next big project, playground maintenance: adding better drainage (so it's not a pond when it rains!) and replacing the rubber mulch. Love Offering donations along with community grants will make this project possible (it'll cost at least several thousand dollars)!

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 "Federated Preschool" on the memo line), or given 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.



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!

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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