

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 | August 11, 2024, 10:00 am
All music can be found at the back of the bulletin.

Prelude

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 “All Are Welcome” vv. 1-3 (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.

“You have heard it said, ‘You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you, for then you will be acting as children of your Father who is in heaven” ~ Matthew 5:43-44

Meditation Reflection

- ◆ What does Jesus’ radical call to “love your enemies and pray for those who harass you” look and *not* look like? What are the challenges of living it out in the face of polarization and injustice?
- ◆ How is Jesus calling you to deeply love your neighbors, even when you disagree with them on important matters?

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 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” v. 1 (x3) (p. 4)

Scripture [Matthew 5:1-12, 16, 43-47; Philipians 2:1-11](#)

Sermon “The Idolatry of Christian Nationalism”

Musical Meditation

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory

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 “Dream God’s Dream” vv. 1 & 2 (p. 5)

Benediction

Postlude

Thank you for joining us for worship!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Special thank you to Terri Goodman for sharing her musical talents with us this morning.

Also 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:** Sheldon Turner

Ushers: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

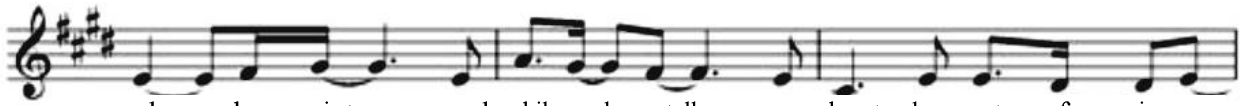
Ushers for August 18: Pam & Nate Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allision Stahl

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All Are Welcome” *Marty Haugen & Mark Miller*



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly — live, a —
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are strong and — true, where
 3. Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and — stone to —
 4. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions heard and —



place where saints and chil - dren tell how hearts learn to for - give.
 all God's chil - dren dare to seek to dream God's reign a - new.
 heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
 loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as words with - in the Word.



Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
 Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace;
 Here the out - cast and the strang - er bear the im - age of God's face;
 Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,



— All are wel - come, wel - come in — this place, all in - vit - ed — to



come and know — God's grace, all are wel - come, the love of Christ to feel, — 'cause



all of us — are wel - come here, — all are wel - come in this place.

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God" *Edwin Hatch*

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire:
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass clef with a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the staff.

That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.
Un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
That ev - ery earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.
But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

The second system continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are printed below the staff.

“Dream God’s Dream” *Bryan Sirchio*

Chorus: Dream God's

Dream! Ho-ly Spir - it help us dream of a world where there is

jus - tice and where ev' - ry one is free to build and grow and love, and to

sim - ply have e - nough the world will change, when we dream God's Dream.

Last time to Coda

Verses: 1.I'm dream-ing of a world, where the
2.I'm dream-ing of the call God is
3.I'm dream-ing of the way that I

col - or of one's skin will mean less than what's with - in the per - son's
of - fer ing to me how to use my en - er - gy and my best
want my life to go. I've got hopes and I've got goals I'd like to

heart. A world where wa - ter's clean and where air is safe to
gifts; to do the work of Christ to say God please use my
meet. I'm reach - ing for the stars, but I won't for - get the

breathe. And ev' - ry chi - ld born has e - nough to eat...
life to spread Your heal - ing love and to live Your Truth...
scars of Christ who died to show that the Dream's for all...

to chorus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August Love Offering | Meals on Wheels

The Love Offering for August will help support Meals on Wheels, a local agency which provides hot nutritious meals at home to the elderly, disabled, and the home bound. Meals on Wheels is one of the Voluntary Action Center's Nutrition Programs. The Federated Church has been a long-time supporter of Meals on Wheels (MOW). Our 2023 Love Offering donation to MOW was \$610.

In addition to Meals on Wheels other VAC Nutrition Programs include:

- Lunches for community daycare providers
- The Senior Lunch Program in DeKalb, Taylor St. Plaza and Fox Valley Older Adults in Sandwich provides nutritious lunches and an opportunity to visit with other seniors.
- Club 55-Family Service Agency, 1915 N. 1st St. (Bethlehem Lutheran Church), DeKalb on Wednesday.
- Club 55-Family Service Agency, Malta on Monday and Friday. Call 815/758-8616 for more information about Club 55.

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 "Meals on Wheels" on the memo line), or given online at <https://bit.ly/GiveFCS>.

Meals on Wheels Delivery | Month of September

Federated Church partners with the Voluntary Action Center (VAC) every April and September to provide drivers who deliver meals to those who are elderly, disabled, or home bound as part of their Meals on Wheels program. Each driver takes one route for a particular day at lunchtime. Sign-up on the calendars in Dutton Hall. Please be sure to include your name and phone number. See Sharon Hollister with any questions!

Congregational Cards

Cards are placed out to celebrate special birthdays and anniversaries or to let friends know we are thinking of them or to offer condolences. Be sure to check the counter in Dutton Hall for congregational cards to add your signature.

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 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.



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

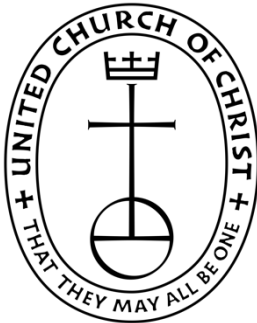
We are an "Open and Affirming" congregation, which is our way of saying that we value diversity. In a time of deep division, we believe it is paramount to gather people from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and identities in order to build authentic relationships and community. We believe that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

Facebook & Instagram:

@FederatedChurchSycamore



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