

**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 18, 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**      "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant" vv. 1-4 (p. 2)

## **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 scripture 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**      "Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us" vv. 1-2 (p.3)

**Scripture**      [Jeremiah 6 \(excerpts\), Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48](#)

**Sermon**      "What it Means—and Doesn't—to Love Your Enemies"

**Sung Response**      "Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us" v. 3 (p.3)

**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**     “Called as Partner’s in Christ’s Service” vv. 1-3 (p. 4)

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

*Ushers for August 25: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer*

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

**“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.



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.

“Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us” Daniel Charles Damon



1 Je - sus, you have tru - ly called us. Still, to - day, we hear your  
2 Je - sus, save us from poor choic - es. Ha-tred, run - ning like a  
3 Je - sus, save us from our weak - ness, from de - ceit and from de -



voice. Lead us on - ward, lead us up - ward, till all peo - ple can re -  
thread through the fab - ric of our his - t'ry, mars our faith and leaves us  
spair. Move us on to new cre - a - tion in a world that's free and

*Refrain*



joice.  
dead. Meet us in our time of tri - al, fill us with your Spir - it's  
fair.



power. As we stand be - fore op - pres - sion, give us cour - age for this hour.

**“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”** *June Parker Huber*

1. Called as part - ners in Christ's ser - vice, called to min - is - tries of\_\_ grace,  
2. Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir - ing, Christ's clear call to work and\_\_ worth,  
3. Thus new pat - terns for Christ's mis - sion, in a small of glob - al\_\_ sense,  
4. So God grant us for to - mor - row ways to or - der hu - man\_\_ life

We re - spond with deep com - mit - ment fresh new lines of faith to\_\_ trace.  
Let us fol - low, nev - er\_\_ fal - tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on\_\_ earth.  
Help us bear each oth - er's\_\_ bur - dens, break - ing down each wall or\_\_ fence.  
That sur - round each per - son's. sor - row with a calm that con - quers\_\_ strife.

May we learn the art of\_\_ shar - ing, side by side and friend with\_\_ friend,  
Men and wom - en, rich - er,\_\_ poor - er, all God's peo - ple, young and\_\_ old,  
Words of com - fort, words of\_\_ vi - sion, words of chal - lenge, said with\_\_ care,  
Make us part - ners in our\_\_ liv - ing, our com - pas - sion to in - crease,

E - qual part - ners in our\_\_ car - ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen\_\_ end.  
Blend - ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.  
Bring new power and strength for\_\_ ac - tion, make us col - leagues, free and\_\_ fair.  
Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus\_\_ giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and\_\_ peace.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **August Love Offering | Meals on Wheels**

The Love Offering for August will help support Meals on Wheels, one of the Voluntary Action Center's Nutrition Programs that provides hot nutritious meals at home to the elderly, disabled, and the home bound. Federated Church is a long-time supporter of Meals on Wheels. Our 2023 Love Offering donation to them 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

Every April and September we partner with the Voluntary Action Center to provide drivers who deliver meals as part of their Meals on Wheels program. Each driver takes one route for a particular day at lunchtime. *Sign-up on in Dutton Hall. Please be sure to include your name and phone number. See Sharon Hollister with any questions!*

## **Congregational Cards**

Cards are placed in Dutton Hall to celebrate special birthdays and anniversaries, or to let friends know we're thinking of them, or to offer condolences. Add your name and/or a note!

## **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.



# 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.

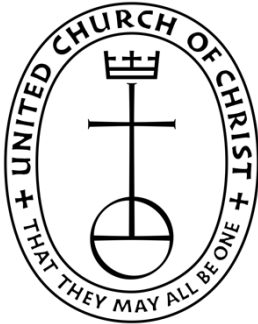
## **We believe in peace through justice**

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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