

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 25, 2024, 10:00 am

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

Prelude “You Are My Hiding Place” M. Ledner/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 “For the Beauty of the Earth” vv. 1-4 (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 scripture below, and then: ponder the Meditation Question(s); offer a silent prayer; or simply let the music wash over you.

“The shadow is that part of the self... that we’re always afraid of and don’t want others to see. Our tendency is to hide or deny it, even and most especially from ourselves.... The shadow self is not of itself evil; it just allows you to do evil without calling it evil. That is why Jesus criticizes hypocrisy more than anything else (eleven times in Matthew’s Gospel)... Jesus is never upset with sinners; he’s only upset with people who think they are not sinners!” ~ Father Richard Rohr

“An honest confession is good for the soul but bad for the [ego]” ~ Thomas Dewar

Meditation Reflection

- ◆ Is there a part of you that you’re afraid or ashamed of; that you try to hide? How might not facing that part of you make you more judgmental of others? How might acknowledging (“confessing”) it bring healing? Is there someone you trust enough to hold that confession without judgment?

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 “Spirit, I Have Heard You Calling” vv. 1 & 3 (p. 4)

Scripture [Matthew 6:1-2, 7:1-5](#)

Sermon “Looking at Trump and Seeing Ourselves”

Musical Meditation

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory

“Reflection”

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 “Walls Mark Our Bound’ries” (p. 5)

Benediction

Postlude “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” *P. Scholtes/arr. M. Hayes*

Thank you for joining us for worship!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

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:** Pam Kitterman

Ushers: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer

Ushers for September 1: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer

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

"For the Beauty of the Earth" F. Pierpoint / M. T. Winter



1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,



For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain




God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

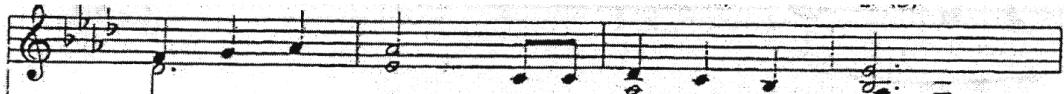
"Spirit, I Have Heard You Calling" *Thew Eliot*

1. Spir - it I have heard you call - ing, like a mem - 'ry long grown dim, cry - ing
2. Now I see you all a - round me, now I hear you call my name. Now I
3. Since you moved u - pon my wa - ters, since you spoke and set me free, I have
from cre - a - tion's mo - ment, seek - ing voice from deep with - in. I have
speak the words you give me, now I feed cre - a - tion's flame. You are
yearned for this com - mu - nion, for your fire in - side of me! Now your
heard you in my long - ing, I have heard you in my pain. Now I
speak - ing through my long - ing, You are speak - ing through my pain. Now I
love de - fines my long - ing, now your love shines through my pain. Now we
feel you mov - ing in me, feel you burn - ing like a flame.
feel you mov - ing in me, and I'll nev - er be the same.
dance in end - less un - ion, sing - ing out cre - a - tion's name.


Walls Mark Our Bound'ries *Ruth Duck*



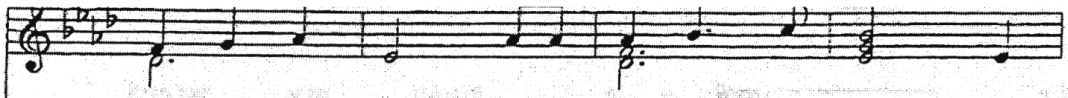
1 Walls mark our bound'-ries and keep us a - part;
 2 Walls make us sure who is in and who's out;
 3 Once we were strang-ers, di - vi - ded, a - lone.



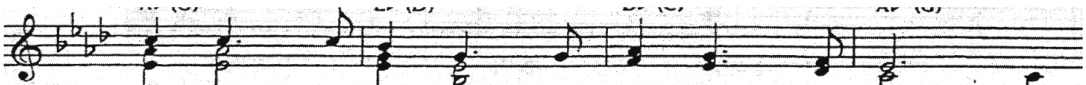
walls keep the world from our eyes and our heart.
 walls keep us safe from all ques - tion and doubt.
 Hate and dis - trust built a wall stone by stone.




Ta - bles are round, mak - ing room for one more,
 but at a ta - ble in o - pen ex - change
 Now at a ta - ble the bread that we share



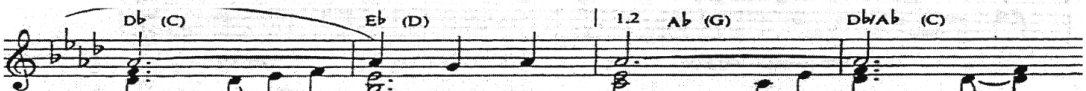
wel - com - ing friends we had not known be - fore. So
 new ties are formed as our lives re - ar - range. So
 joins us to Christ in a cir - cle of care. So



build us a ta - ble and tear down the wall!



Christ is our host. There is room



for us all!



all!

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>.

Fall Fest (formerly Rally Day) | Sunday, September 22, 10 AM

Mark your calendars and get ready to join us on Sun., Sept. 22, for a veritable "festival of love;" a celebration of our growing community and the vision of justice & joy that unites us in our collective work together. We'll begin with worship at 10 am in the sanctuary featuring Harambee, our in-house African drumming ensemble, followed by a free lunch + potluck, plus activities for all ages. To ensure we have enough food & to share what side dish you'll bring, please sign up in Dutton Hall or at the link in the eNews.

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!

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

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