

**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 | September 1, 2024**

*Today we will be taking communion. We invite you to participate however you're best able. Feel free to use whatever you have for the "bread and cup"—whether it's bread & grape juice or a cookie & coffee. God takes our ordinary offerings, whatever they are, and blesses them as we share them together! All music can be found at the back of the bulletin.*

**Prelude**                      "The Majesty of Glory at Your Name"                      arr. M. Hayes

### **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

One:      Holy One, come—join us today, make us  
             aware of just how close you are,

Many:    **so we can sense you throughout the day  
             accompanying us—as we sit and read,  
             or go for a walk, or begin to speak, or clean,  
             or cook, or weed—as we go along with  
             the ebb and flow of everyday life.**

One:      Speak to us, when we are tense,  
             when we're unsure, when we're upset.

Many:    **Lead us, we pray, to tender and unexpected places.**

All:      **Dear God, you speak to us about abundant,  
             everlasting life. Open our ears, our hearts,  
             and hands to all that you promise  
             through prophets and peacemakers.**

### **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 Hymn**                      "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" (p. 3)

### **Centering Moment**

### **Prayers of the People**

**Sharing Prayers of Joy & for Healing**

**Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art 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.**

## Scripture

[Mark 7:24-37](#)

## Sermon

“Crumbs from the Table”

## Sharing Holy Communion

*We practice an “open table”—everyone is welcome to partake. There is no dogma you must first believe. God meets us where we are—amidst our questions, doubts, fears, and failures—and offers us bread and cup: nourishment and a blessing on life’s journey.*

### Invitation & Words of Institution

#### Sharing Bread & Cup

*Feel free to use whatever you have for the “bread and cup.”*

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

## Our Shared Life & Offering

### Offering Opportunities

#### Offertory

“Grateful”

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

“In Christ There Is No East or West” (p. 4)

## Benediction

## Postlude

“How Majestic Is Your Name” M. W. Smith/arr. M. Hayes

*Thank you for joining us for worship!*

† † †

## WORSHIP NOTES

While Pastor Eric is away on vacation, we give thanks to Rev. Joe Gastiger for leading us in worship!

In addition, those serving us this morning are:

**Pastor:** Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Director of Music:** Gary Mattin

**Children’s Coordinator:** Janis Schnurr-Trebe | **Liturgist:** Sharon McKee

**Ushers:** Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer

*Ushers for Sunday, September 8: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer*

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# "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" James K. Manley

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the  
wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,  
Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less-ness, stir me from  
plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the  
2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the  
3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a  
4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

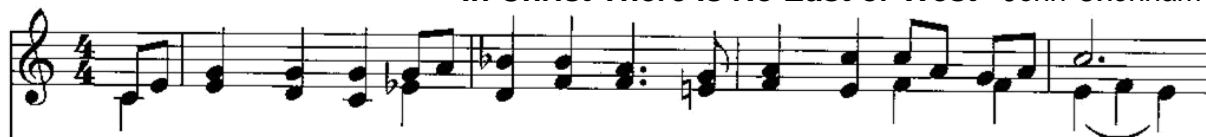
deep, then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the  
sand, and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a  
hill, then you whis - pered in si - lence when the  
schemes, from the bond - age of sor - row the

val - leys of sleep; And o - ver the e - ons you  
law and a land; When they were con-found - ed by their  
whole world was still; And down in the cit - y you  
cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom-en see vi - sions, our

called to each thing, "A - wake from your slum -  
i - dols and lies, then you spoke through your proph -  
called once a - gain, when you blew through your peo -  
men clear their eyes. With bold new de - ci -

bers and rise on your wings."  
ets to o - pen their eyes.  
ple on the rush of the wind.  
sions your peo-ple a - rise.

**"In Christ There Is No East or West" John Oxenham**



- 1 In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery-where their high com - mu - nion find;
- 3 In Christ is nei - ther Jew nor Greek, and nei - ther slave nor free;
- 4 In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;



But one com - mu - ni - ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
God's ser - vice is the gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.  
For men and wom - en live in God, and all are kin to me.  
One joy - ous, true com - mu - ni - ty through - out the whole wide earth.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Support the Spartan Food Pantry

**Let's kick off the new school year by making a food or non-food donation to the Spartan Food Pantry.** The Spartan Food Pantry supports the families of the Sycamore Community School District #427. The Pantry is open every other Wednesday from 4:30- 6:00 pm at 520 N. Maple Street, Sycamore. In September the pantry is open September 11 & 25.

### Non-food items include:

Paper products  
Feminine hygiene products  
Disposable diapers

### Food Items

Applesauce  
Canned Beans  
Canned Chicken  
Canned (Tuna and Salmon)  
Canned Meat (SPAM and Ham)  
Canned Vegetables  
Cooking Oils

### Crackers

Dried Herbs and Spices  
Fruit (Canned or Dried)  
Granola Bars  
Dried Mashed Potatoes  
Meals in a Box  
Nuts  
Pasta  
Peanut Butter  
Rice  
Shelf-stable and Powdered Milk  
Soup, Stew and Chili  
Whole Grain Cereal

*Interested in volunteering? Sign-up to volunteer at [www.spartanfoodpantry.org](http://www.spartanfoodpantry.org).*

## 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.

## 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.

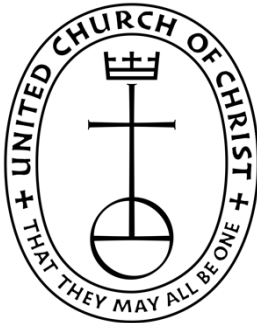
## **We believe in peace through justice**

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:  
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