

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 08, 2024, 10:00 am

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

Please join in reading those parts printed in **bold**.

Prelude

“I Exalt Thee”

Sanchez/arr. 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

“We Are Your People” 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 quotes below, and then: ponder the Meditation Reflection; offer a silent prayer; or simply let the music wash over you.

The United Church of Christ (UCC):

Purpose Statement: To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.

Vision Statement: United in Christ’s love, a just world for all.

Mission statement: United in Spirit and inspired by God’s grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.

Meditation Reflection

- ◆ What do you notice about the UCC’s Purpose, Vision, and Mission statements? What is named? What is not named? What does that say about what we most value as a denomination, and how our churches seek to shape us as people of faith?

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

“We Are Your People” vv. 5-6 (p. 3)

Scripture

[Philippians 2:1-5; John 17:20-21](#)

Sermon

“What Kind of Unity Do We Seek?”

Anthem

“Song of Thanks”

Russell Nagy

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory

“O Jesus, Thou Art Standing”

Knecht/Husband

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

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey” (p.4)

Benediction

Postlude

“How Majestic Is Your Name”

M. W. Smith/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:** Sheldon Turner

Ushers: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

Ushers for September 15: Pam & Nate Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

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

"We Are Your People" *Brian Wren*

Unison

1 We are your peo - ple: Spir - it of grace,
 2 Joined in com - mu - ni - ty, trea - sured and fed,
 3 Rich in di - ver - si - ty, help us to live
 4 Glad of tra - di - tion, help us to see

you dare to make us Christ to our neigh - bors
 may we dis - cov - er gifts in each oth - er,
 clos - er than neigh-bors, o - pen to strang - ers,
 in all life's chang-ing, where Christ is lead - ing,

of ev - ery cul - ture and place. lead and be led.
 will - ing to clash and for - give.
 a - ble to ef - ferts should be.
 where our best

1 & 6 *Last time, end* || 2-5

5 Give, as we ven-ture
 jus-tice and care
 (peace-ful, in-sist-ing,
 risk-ing, re-sist-ing),
 wis-dom to know when and where.

6 Spir-it, u-nite us,
 make us, by grace,
 will-ing and read-y,
 Christ's liv-ing bod-y,
 lov-ing the whole hu-man race.

"Bless Now, O God, the Journey" *Sylvia G. Dunstan*



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 love, justice, and joy that unites us in our collective work together. We’ll begin with worship at 10am 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. We encourage you to use this as an opportunity to invite that family or friend you think could use a spiritual community like ours!

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.

Building Federated Church’s DeKalb CROP Walk Team | Sun., Oct. 13, 2PM

The 2024 DeKalb CROP Hunger Walk will step-off on Sunday, October 13, at 2PM at the Sycamore Forest Preserve. Contact Paula von Ende, The Federated Striders Team Captain, to join our team on the trail!

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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