

**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 15, 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

“God Is Here”

Leigh/Taylor/arr. L. Larson

## 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

“O for a World” (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.*

Core Values & Covenant Actions of The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA):

Interdependence | Justice | Equity  
Generosity | Pluralism | Transformation

*For a full description of these values, see the back of the insert in your bulletins*

## Meditation Reflection

- ◆ What do you notice about the UUA’s Core Values and the covenant / action statements that follow them? 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

“O God in Whom All Life Begins” vv.1 & 3 (p. 4)

## Scripture

[Amos 5:21-24; James 1:27, 2:14-17](#)

## Sermon

“The Headlights, Not Taillights, of Justice”

## Musical Meditation

**Our Shared Life & Offering  
Offering Opportunities**

**Offertory** "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

*L. Spohr*

**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** "Send Down the Fire" vv.1, 3, 4 (p. 3)

**Benediction**

**Postlude** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" *Beethoven/arr. Larson*  
*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:** Pam & Nate Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

*Ushers for September 22: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer*  
*All music this morning is used with permission: CCLI License #3234671*

# "O for a World" *Miriam Therese Winter*



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,  
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.  
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.



# "O God in Whom All Life Begins" *Carl P. Daw, Jr.*

1 O God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit,  
2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts  
3 Through tears and laugh - ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;

be - stow your bless - ing on our lives; here let your love find root.  
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im - parts.  
so bind us in com - mu - ni - ty that we may risk and dare.

Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa - tience, joy, and peace;  
So let our var - ied gifts com - bine to glo - ri - fy your Name  
Be with us when we gath - er here to wor - ship, sing, and pray,

de - liv - er us from numb - ing fear, and grant our faith in - crease.  
that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro - claim.  
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

# "Send Down the Fire" Marty Haugen

*Refrain*



Send down the fire of your jus - tice,



send down the rains of your love; come, send down the



Spir - it, breathe life in your peo - ple, and we shall be



peo - ple of God.



- 1 Call us to be your com - pas - sion,
- 2 Call us to learn of your mer - cy,
- 3 Call us to an - swer op - pres - sion,
- 4 Call us to wit - ness your king - dom,



teach us the song of your love; give us  
teach us the way of your peace; give us  
teach us the fire of your truth; give us  
give us the pres - ence of Christ; may your



hearts that feel, give us hands that heal, make us  
hearts that sing, give us deeds that ring, make us  
righ - teous souls, till your jus - tice rolls, make us  
ho - ly light keep us shin - ing bright, ev - er



walk in the way of your love.  
ring with the song of your peace.  
burn with the fire of your truth.  
shine with the pres - ence of Christ.

*to refrain*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Join us next Sunday, 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!**

## **Evaluating Pastor-Congregation Ministry Partnership | 9/29, after worship**

This is an invitation to participate in a series of small group discussions on 9/29 following worship. We want to take this time to provide a forum for our members to share with each other their sense of how we are doing as a church.

Since Pastor Eric has been here (almost exactly 5 years to the date!), we have been through his integration into our church, been through a pandemic, and seen a change in the nature of our congregation.

We hope that this series of discussions will be useful in discerning our next steps for all of us to move forward as a church. We also want to use this format as the basis for Pastor Eric’s evaluation. The discussions will be led by members of the Deacons. More information coming this week!

The Board of Deacons

*Pam Kitterman, Paula von Ende, Linda Mason, Dave Juday, Nancy Renfer*

## **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. Please leave your donations in the cart in Dutton Hall and they will be delivered to the pantry when they are open.

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

## **Recycle/Reuse Bulletin Covers**

We reuse the cardstock bulletin covers. Please place them in the basket at the back of the sanctuary on your way out. You may keep the insides. Thanks!

## **Weekly eNews**

Click this QR code 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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