

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 | October 06, 2024, 10:00 am

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 "Morning Has Broken" Gaelic melody/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 "Light Dawns on a Weary World" (p. 3)

Prayers of the People

After PotP, children will gather with Ms. Janis in the back for Children's Church. Parents are invited to go pick up their child(ren) during the Postlude. Parents may also use the nursery outside the back of the sanctuary at any time.

Stewardship Centering Moment

There are two questions we must ask ourselves. The first is "Where am I going?" and the second is "Who will go with me?" If you ever get these questions in the wrong order, you are in trouble." ~ Rev. Howard Thurman

- What are you seeking deep in your soul that brings you here? "Where are you going" in terms of values or hopes? How has the company you've kept in life supported or distracted you in that pursuit?
- What are you discovering about where we are going as a church and the companions here that you're making this journey with?

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 “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant” (p. 4)

Scripture [Genesis 12:1-5; Romans 4:1-3, 13, 16-22](#)

Sermon “Where Are We Going? Who Will Go With Us?”

Musical Meditation “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” *RH Prichard/M Hayes*

Holy Communion

We practice an “open table”—everyone is welcome to receive God’s gifts. There is no dogma you must first believe. God meets us where we are—amidst our questions, fears, and failures—and offers us 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 “Nearer, My God, to Thee”

L. Mason/M. 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 “Go, My Children, With My Blessing” (p. 4)

Benediction

Postlude

“Sunday Joy”

Mark Hayes

Thank you for joining us for worship today!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

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:** Sharon McKee

Ushers: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer

Ushers for October 13: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

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

“Light Dawns on a Weary World” *Mary Louise Bringle/William P. Rowan*



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?" *Richard Gillard*



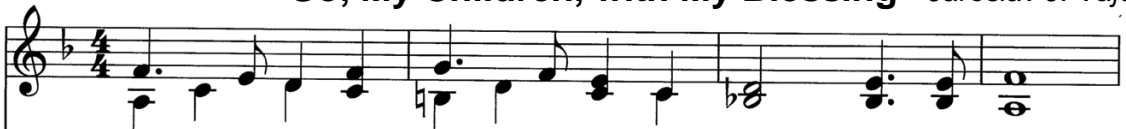
1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.



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.

(repeat stanza 1)

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing" *Jaroslav J. Vajda*



1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone;
2 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own;
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here with ten - der com - fort stilled you;



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship 2024

Today, we kick off our 2024 Stewardship campaign, culminating with “Pledge Dedication Sunday” on November 10th. Our guiding scripture and theme comes from Jeremiah 29:11: “**A Future with Hope.**” Throughout this season, we’ll explore how this theme might shape who we become and what we do in the year ahead. I hope you’ll join us in considering what you can offer in “time, talents, and treasure” to help us grow our ministries so we can make this vision real.

On October 13 and 20th, we will follow worship with “all-church” conversations around our theme. We hope you’ll plan to join us!

Faith & Democracy Under Threat: Understanding & Responding to Christian Nationalism, *location: Federated Church; in partnership with First Congregational UCC of DeKalb & Mayfield Congregational UCC*

10/8, 6:30-8pm: Christian Nationalism & the Threat to American Democracy
Fred Clarkson, Senior Research Analyst at Political Research Associates

10/15, 6:30-8pm: Faith in Action for the Common Good
An evening of facilitated conversations on how we can resist Christian Nationalism and work for the common good.

Hurricane Helene Relief Effort: CWS Cleaning Buckets

This Sunday we are collecting donations to purchase items for cleaning buckets for those devastated by Hurricane Helene.

Estimated cost of 1 cleaning bucket: **\$75**

CWS cost to ship where needed: **\$ 3**



Donations in **ANY** amount are welcome.

15 donors giving \$5 each or 3 donors giving \$25 each means another bucket supplied. A \$3 donation will assist with shipping costs.

Please indicate “Emergency Fund” on your check or envelope.

Select “Emergency Fund Contributions” online at the QR code above.



Volunteer to Help Complete Cleaning Buckets

We need your help to complete the cleaning buckets for the Hurricane Helene relief effort. We are looking for volunteers of every age to help. Sign up in Dutton Hall or use the QR code at the left to sign up online.

Pumpkinfest Sunday Worship Cancelled, *Sunday, October 27*

Worship will not be held on Sunday, October 27, due to the Sycamore Pumpkin Festival 10K race, parade and other activities that day.

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

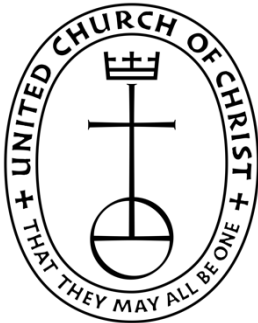
We are an "Open and Affirming" congregation, which is our way of saying that we value diversity. In a time of deep division, we believe it is paramount to gather people from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and identities in order to build authentic relationships and community. We believe that 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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