

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 13, 2024, 10:00 am
All music can be found at the back of the bulletin.

Prelude "The Solid Rock/"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"
Bradbury/Kirkpatrick/arr. H. Helvey

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 "Womb of Life, and Source of Being" (p. 2)

Prayers of the People

Stewardship Testimonial
Nia Norris

Questions for Personal Reflection

- ◆ How has being a part of Federated nurtured "a future with hope" in your life?
- ◆ What will you commit in terms of time, passion/energy, or/and finances to grow and deepen our capacity to offer a future with hope to others—including those who have not yet come through our doors?

Musical Meditation

Scripture [Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14](#)

Sermon "To Hope When the World Is Ending"

Special Music "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen"
Performed by James McConkie

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory

“Softly and Tenderly”

W. Thompson/arr. M. Looney

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

“My Life Flows on in Endless Praise” (p. 3)

Benediction

Postlude

“Awesome God”

Rich Mullins/arr. B. Wolaver

Thank you for joining us for worship today!

† † †

“Womb of Life and Source of Being” Ruth Duck

sung to tune of Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Verse 1

*Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart
In your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start
We, your children gather ‘round you, at the table you prepare
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care*

Verse 2

*Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend
When our memory fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend
Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world yet to be
Free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity*

Verse 3

*Mother, Brother, Holy Partner, Father, Spirit, Only Son:
We would praise your name forever, one in three, and three in one
We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new
Ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you*

"My Life Flows on in Endless Song" Robert Lowry/Doris Plenn



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -



ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since



hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes



and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All



finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing - ing?
Love com - mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?
friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing - ing?
things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing - ing?

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:**

Ushers: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

Ushers for October 20: Pam & Nate Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship 2024: "A Future with Hope" | October 6 – November 10

Our guiding theme this year 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. Key Stewardship dates to remember:

- October 13: All-Church conversation after worship on being a community of Hope
- November 10: Pledge Dedication Sunday; Post-service Mission Partner Presentation

All-Church Conversation: "A Future with Hope" Today, after worship

Join us to talk together about what it means to be a Community of Hope!

Governance Revitalization Task Force Update, October 20, after worship

The Governance Revitalization Task Force will present an update focusing on the organization of the "Ministry" side of our proposed model. The presentation will include examples from what we are currently doing (and even have done in the past) as we try to better understand how we will organize our ministries moving forward.

Please bring your questions and feedback to help shape the process for "what to do with an idea" for ministry and how to put our faith into action moving forward.

The Task Force: Gip Seaver, Sharon McKee, Jerry Lane, Nancy Renfer, and Pastor Eric.

Understanding & Responding to Christian Nationalism, location: Federated Church; in partnership with First Cong. UCC, DeKalb & Mayfield Congregational UCC

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

Last Sunday we raised several hundred dollars to purchase items for cleaning buckets for those devastated by hurricanes in North Carolina and Florida, but our goal is \$1,000 (estimated cost to provide of 1 “cleaning bucket”: \$75)

Can you help us get there today?

Please indicate “Hurricane Relief” on your check or envelope.
Select “Hurricane Relief” fund online at the QR code here.



Volunteer to Help Complete Cleaning Buckets

If we meet our goal your help is needed to complete the cleaning buckets. We are looking for volunteers of every age to help. Sign up in Dutton Hall or use the QR code on the left to sign up online.

No Worship Pumpkinfest Sunday, *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.

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.



Recycle/Reuse Bulletin Covers

We will 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!

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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