

**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** | November 03, 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** "Breath of Heaven" C. Eaton/A. Grant/arr. M. Kim

**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 Not Our Own" (p. 3)

**Prayers of the People**

**Centering Moment: Remembering the Saints**

*"To acknowledge our ancestors means we are aware that we did not make ourselves, that the line stretches all the way back, perhaps to God... We remember them because it is an easy thing to forget: that we are not the first to suffer, rebel, fight, love, and die.*

*The grace with which we embrace life, in spite of the pain, the sorrow, is always the measure of what has gone before." ~ Alice Walker*

**Building an Altar of Love & Candle-lighting Vigil**

*We invite you to come forward to place your picture on the altar and light a candle*

**Sung Response** "Amazing Grace" (p. 4)

**Stewardship Testimonial**

*Linh Nguyen*

**Questions for Personal Reflection**

- ◆ How has being a part of Federated nurtured hope in your life?
- ◆ What can you commit in time, passion, and money so we can offer "a future with hope" in 2025—including to those still seeking a spiritual home?

**Scripture**                    [1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 3:14-21](#)

**Sermon**                        “A Community of Hope—for Who?”

**Musical Meditation**

**Holy Communion**

**Invitation & Words of Institution**

**Sharing Bread & Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Our Shared Life & Offering**

**Offering Opportunities**

**Offertory**

“Interlude VIII”

*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**

“We’ll Build a World” (p.5)

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

“All Hail, King Jesus with Majesty”    *Dave Moody/arr. M. 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

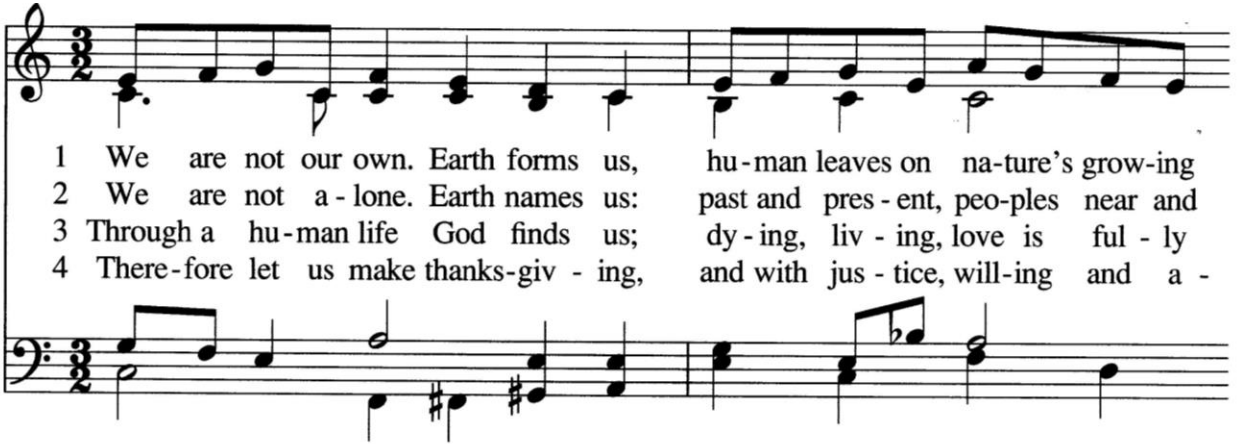
**Children’s Church Coordinator:** Janis Schnurr-Trebe | **Liturgist:** Sharon McKee

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

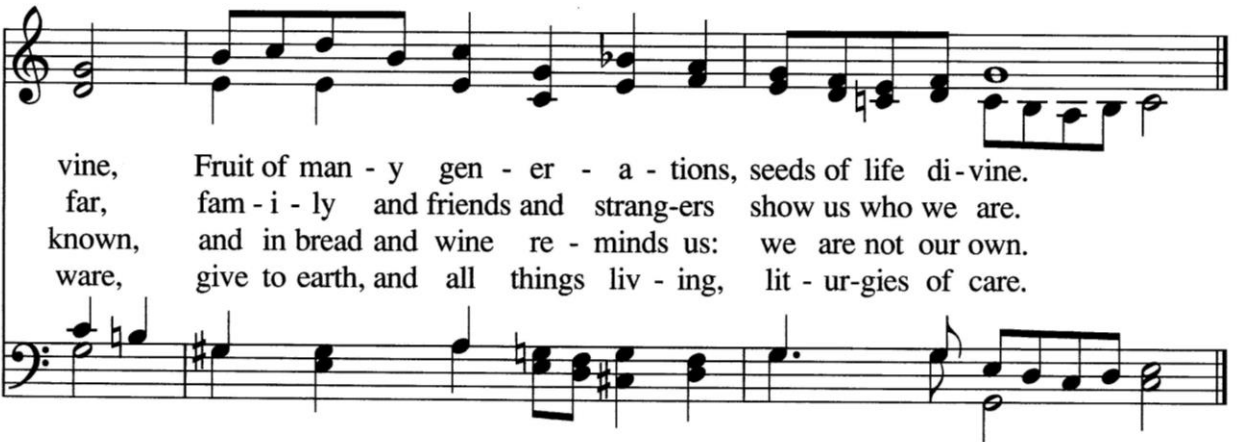
*Ushers for November 10: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer*

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

**"We Are Not Our Own"** *Brian Wren*



1 We are not our own. Earth forms us, hu-man leaves on na-ture's grow-ing  
2 We are not a-lone. Earth names us: past and pres-ent, peo-ples near and  
3 Through a hu-man life God finds us; dy-ing, liv-ing, love is ful-ly  
4 There-fore let us make thanks-giv-ing, and with jus-tice, will-ing and a-



vine, Fruit of man-y gen-er-a-tions, seeds of life di-vine.  
far, fam-i-ly and friends and strang-ers show us who we are.  
known, and in bread and wine re-minds us: we are not our own.  
ware, give to earth, and all things liv-ing, lit-ur-gies of care.

5 And if love's en-coun-ters lead us  
on a way un-cer-tain and un-known,  
All the saints with prayer sur-round us:  
we are not a-lone.

6 Let us be a house of wel-come,  
liv-ing stone up-hold-ing liv-ing stone,  
Glad-ly show-ing all our neigh-bors  
we are not our own!

# "Amazing Grace" *John Newton*

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

# "We'll Build a World" *David Lohman*

1

1. We are diff - rent, you and I, yet to -  
 2. As we la - bor toward that day, don't let  
 3. In this var - ied u - ni - verse all ex -

4

geth - er, fates en - twine. Now we gath - er in this  
 diff - rence fall a - way. Your u - nique - ness I will  
 ist - ence so di - verse. Filled with won - der, life so

7

space, joined in spir - it, filled with grace; bring your  
 see, and the same thing, see in me. Thus we're  
 queer, steeped in mys - t'ry, oft un - clear. Yet to -

10

full - ness, I'll bring mine, and to - geth - er we will  
 val - ued, known and named, hon - ored, cher - ished, loved and  
 geth - er, hand in hand, we'll cre - ate that Prom - ised

13

shine. \_\_\_\_\_  
 claimed. \_\_\_\_\_ To - geth - er, we'll build a world where there's  
 Land

16

room for all to be; a world where we'll live our lives lib - er -

19

at - ed, strong, and free! This glo - ri - ous fu - ture \_\_\_\_\_

22

\_\_\_\_\_ build it now with me. \_\_\_\_\_

# 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.**” As we explore how this theme might shape us in the year ahead, we hope you’ll join 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:*

- *Nov. 3:* **All-Church Conversation** after worship on being a community of Hope
- *Nov. 10:* **Pledge Dedication Sunday**; Mission partner presentation: Fed. Preschool

## **Election Day Prayer Stations** | *November 5, 9AM-5PM, Salem Lutheran Church*

Election Day brings a myriad of emotions. On Tuesday, November 5, Federated is partnering with Salem Lutheran and Sycamore United Methodist Churches to provide a sacred space to ground you on this momentous day. Just inside the front doors of Salem Lutheran Church, enter the sanctuary for a self-guided series of prayer stations to center yourself and pray for your neighbors, our country, and our world.

## **Feed My Starving Children** | *November 16, 6-8PM, Suter Company in Sycamore*

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian non-profit organization committed to feeding God’s starving children hungry in body & spirit. Federated Church is getting a group together to help FMSC. More information and a signup sheet is in Dutton Hall. This is a great family/intergenerational service opportunity!

## **November Love Offering** | *Neighbors In Need*

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering taken by churches throughout the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the US. This year’s theme is “Mental Health Justice for All!” focusing on Mental Health Justice. 1/3 of the funds raised support Native American ministries/communities and 2/3 support justice ministries in local churches, included church grants for justice-related initiatives. *Love offering envelopes are available on the table as you enter the church.*

## **Weekly eNews**

Scan or click 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:

@FederatedChurchSycamore



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