

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 | January 19, 2025, 10:00 am

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

Prelude "Thou Art Worthy" *Pauline Mills/arr. M. 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** "Be Now My Vision" (p. 3)

Prayers of the People

Centering Moment

This is your time to center more deeply into the presence of God/Love. Take a slow, deep breath. Open your heart and mind to receive this meditation. Notice the feelings and sensations it brings up in you. Don't judge or even try to understand them. Just try to stay present to the moment and let yourself experience them.

Visual Meditation

The Lord's Prayer as Jesus prayed it

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 "This Is My Father's World" (p.4)

Scripture [Isaiah 58:6-9; Romans 8:14-17; Matthew 6:7-13](#)

Sermon "Our Father in the heavens"

Musical Meditation

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory "Immortal, Invisible" *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** “Womb of Life, and Source of Being” (p.2)

***Benediction**

Postlude

“Glorify Thy Name” Donna Adkins/arr. M. Looney
Thank you for joining us for worship today!

† † †

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:**

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

Ushers for January 26: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer

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

† † †

“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***

"Be Now My Vision" *Mary E. Byrne*

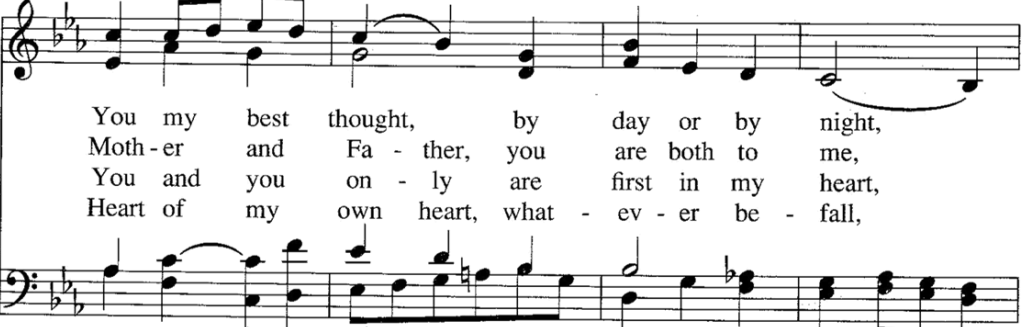
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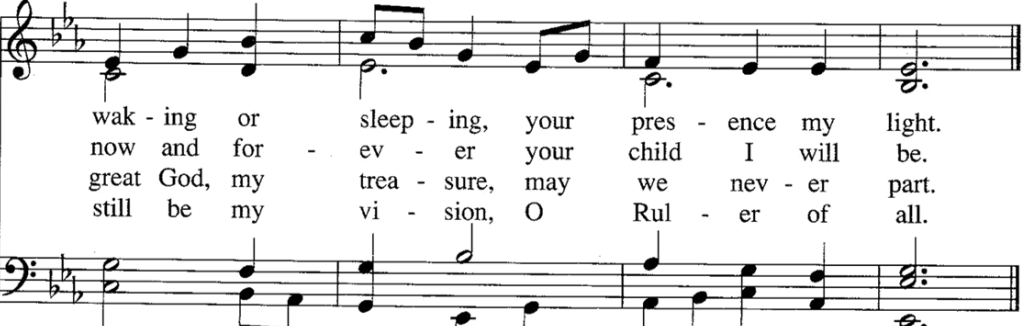
1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!



You my best thought, by day or by night,
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

"This Is My Father's World" *Maltbie D Babcock*



1. This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-tening ears, all
2. This is my Mo-ther's world; the birds their car - ols raise, the
3. Our God has made this world; oh, let us ne'er for - get that



na - ture sings and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the flow - ers bright, de - clare their Mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
Our God has made this world and shines in all that's fair; in
God trusts us with this world, to keep it clean and fair. All



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; God's hands the won - ders wrought.
rust - ling grass I hear God pass, who speaks to me ev - ery - where.
earth and trees, the skies and seas, God's crea - tures ev - ery - where.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January Love Offering, Pastoral Community Emergency Fund

The Love Offering for January will benefit the "Pastoral Community Emergency Fund." Through monies donated to this church fund, Pastor Eric is able to help members of our wider community (not just church members) seeking emergency assistance with bills like: rent, utilities, and medical, as well as purchase gas, groceries, and more. This Love Offering comprises what we have to give to our neighbors over the whole year. Love Offering envelopes will be at the "Table of Offering" prayer station. Any amount is welcome and will help us reach our goal! Be sure to write Pastor's Emergency Fund on the memo line of checks and on envelopes for cash donations. Select "Emergency Fund Contributions" when giving online.

Martin Luther King Jr Celebration | Mon. 1/20, 6PM, New Hope Church, DeKalb

Join us for this special ecumenical gathering! Pastor Eric will join colleagues from churches throughout the county to present excerpts of various speeches and sermons from Dr. King with special music from members of New Hope. The night will end with a "call to action" as we consider Dr. King's enduring message.

Annual Congregational Meeting | Sun. 1/26, after worship

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the membership of the Federated Church of Sycamore is scheduled for Sunday, January 26, after the worship service. It will be conducted in person, in the sanctuary.

The purpose of the meeting is to present, discuss, and approve the Federated Church's budget for 2025, the slate of officers/Boards for 2025, and the proposed changes to the church constitution. Printed copies of documents including the annual report are available in the Settle Room and in Dutton Hall!

Recycle/Reuse Bulletin Covers

We recycle and reuse the bulletin covers. Please place them in the basket at the back of the sanctuary on your way out. You are welcome to keep the worship order with music & announcements. 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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