

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 26, 2025, 10:00 am
All music can be found at the back of the bulletin.

Prelude

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** "God of Many Faces" (p. 4)

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—the Prayer of the Nations

Silent Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father / Mother / Loving Guide in the heavens/skies,
May your name be revered as holy.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done—on earth as in the heavens.
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 "Ground and Source of All that Is" vv. 1-3, 5 (p.2)

Scripture [Exodus 3:7-10; Matthew 6:9](#)

Sermon "May Your Name be Revered as Holy"

Musical Meditation

Our Shared Life & Offering
Offering Opportunities
Offertory

***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** "God of Love, We've Known Division" (p.3)

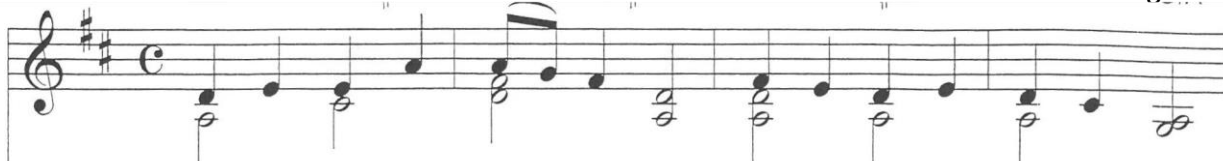
***Benediction**

Postlude

Thank you for joining us for worship today!

† † †

"Ground and Source of All That Is" *Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan*



Ground and source of all that is, one that an-chors all our roots,
Lov-er of ten thou-sand names, ho-ly pres-ence all have known,
Nat-ure by whose laws we live, au-thor of our d-n-a,
En-er-gy of heav'n-ly spheres, spark with-in the in-sect mind,
Call to kind-ness, call to serve, free-dom for our chos-en course,



Be-ing of all ways and forms, deep-est home and fi-nal truth.
Beau-ty ev-er wel-com-ing, my-ster-y to stir the soul.
All-com-pel-ling call to life, draw-ing one and all the same.
Un-seen pulse to charge our plans, bring-ing or-der and sur-prise.
Guide and friend for all who dream, nour-ish-ed by our ground and source.



We live and move in you.

We live and move in you.

“God of Love, We’ve Known Division” *Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*



1. God of love, we've known di - vi - sion and we've seen its aw-ful cost.
2. Turn us, Lord, from what di - vides us— fear that drives us far a - part,
3. May we all, in con-ver - sa - tion, speak the truth and lis-ten well.
4. You have chal-lenged us to good-ness; you have shown a kind-er way.



We have strug-gled as a na - tion, and there's much that we have lost.
greed that leads to great in - jus - tice, ra - cist ways that break your heart.
May we hear, a - cross this na - tion, sto - ries oth - ers have to tell.
It's your love that now in - spires us as we seek a bet - ter day.



We have been a house di - vi - ded— and, di - vi - ded, we can't stand.
May we seek what brings to - ge - ther— hearts that bear each oth - er's pain,
May we learn from oth - er cul - tures and be blessed by their world - view;
May we end our harsh di - vi - sion; may we stop the hate and fear.



May our na - tion be u - ni - ted; give us peace through - out this land.
care and mer - cy toward our neigh - bors, love that wel - comes stran - gers in.
May we serve with one a - noth - er— lov - ing oth - ers, lov - ing you.
Make us one, Lord, as a na - tion; may we be u - ni - ted here.

“God of Many Faces” Amy Cerniglia



God of man - y fa - ces, we of - fer our praise,
God of man - y gen - ders, our world re - flects you,
God of man - y names, we in - vite you to show
God of man - y bod - ies, a - bide with in ours,

sing - ing your glo - ry through all of our days.
sun - rise and sun - set u - ni - ting our hues,
us the new names that re - flect our true souls.
shift - ing more each day through time and through scars.

Hear ev - er grow - ing voi - ces, once fra - gile, now strong,
wo - ven in - to a ci - ty with jewels of all shades,
Breathe with your ho - ly spir - it to give us the Word
Come sanc - ti - fy our bod - ies, all fash - ioned by you,

car - ry - ing mel - o - dies in ex - pan - sive new songs.
hou - ses of ru - by and walls rowed with jade.
that will in - dwell dry bones, grant - ing new life once heard.
ho - li - er ev - ery - day, still be - com - ing more true.

† † †

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: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer

*Ushers for February 2: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer
All music this morning is used with permission: CCLI License #3234671*

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 are located as you enter the sanctuary. 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.

Annual Congregational Meeting | *Today, 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 Dutton Hall!

Names for God

Last Sunday, Pastor Eric invited you to submit your most cherished names for God. Use this QR code to share yours. Pastor Eric will share them on a future Sunday as part of this series.



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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