

**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** | February 9, 2025

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

**Prelude**                    “Open Our Eyes/Be Thou My Vision”        *R. Cull/arr. M. Hayes*

### **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

One:        We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

**Many: We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

One:        We trust in God.

**Many: We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God’s presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

One:        In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.

**Many: We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.**

### **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 Hymn**        “Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit” (p. 3)

## **Prayers of the People**

### **Sharing Prayers of Joy & for Healing**

#### **Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art 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.**

**Hymn** "Through All the World a Hungry Christ" (p. 4)

**Scripture** [Luke 6:17-26](#)

**Sermon** "In Other Words: Luke's Troubling Beatitudes"

## **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** "There Are Some Things I May Not Know" (p. 5)

## **\*Benediction**

### **Postlude**

"Lord, Be Glorified" *Bob Kilpatrick/arr. Hayes*  
*Thank you for joining us for worship today!*

*† † †*

# WORSHIP NOTES

While Pastor Eric is enjoying some well-deserved time off, we give thanks to Rev. Joe Gastiger for leading us in worship!

In addition, those serving us this morning are:

**Pastor:** Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Director of Music:** Gary Mattin

**Children's Coordinator:** Janis Schnurr-Trebe | **Liturgist:** Phil Wagener

**Ushers:** Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

*Ushers for Sunday, February 16: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl*

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## “Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit” *Rusty Edwards*



1 Blessed are the poor in spir-it: heav-en will some-day be theirs.

2 Blessed all who thirst or hun-ger: righ-teous-ly they will be fed.

3 Each seek-ing peace and jus-tice shall be known as God's own heir.



Blessed are the mourn-ing chil-dren: com-fort comes from One who cares.

Those who re-pond with mer-cy will see mer-cy up a-head.

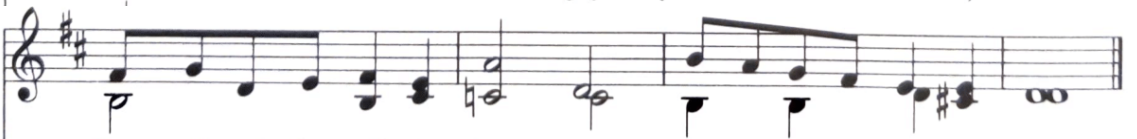
Blessed, too, are those ill-treat-ed for what's good and right and fair.



Blessed the meek and pa-tient, hav-ing cour-age to hang on.

Blessed the clean in spir-it— beau-ti-ful, the pure in heart;

Blessed the New Cre-a-tion, joy be-yond what we con-ceive;



Soon all earth they will in-her-it; times of tri-als will be gone.

One day they will see their Mak-er, nev-er-more to live a-part.

Blessed all those who trust the prom-ise: with-out see-ing, they be-lieve!

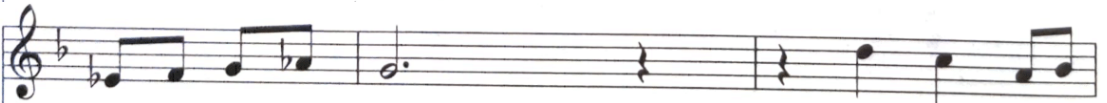
**“Through All the World a Hungry Christ”** Shirley Erena Murray



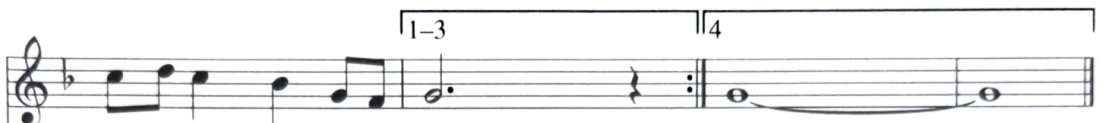
1 Through all the world, a hun-gry Christ must  
 2 Be - yond the church, a lep - er Christ takes  
 3 In tor - ture cell, a pris - oner Christ for  
 4 We do not know you, beg - gar Christ, we



scav - enge far for dai - ly bread, Must beg the  
 each un - touch - a - ble by hand, Gives hope to  
 jus - tice and for truth must cry To free the  
 do not rec - og - nize your sores, We do not



rich for crumb and crust— we are the  
 those who have no trust, whose stig - ma  
 in - no - cent op - pressed while we at  
 see, for we are blind: for - give us,



rich, the dai - ly fed.  
 is our so - cial brand.  
 lib - er - ty pass by.  
 touch us, make us yours.

# “There Are Some Things I May Not Know” (“Yes, God Is Real”) *Kenneth Morris*

*Unison*

1 There are some things I may not know, there are some  
 2 Some folks may doubt, some folks may scorn, all can de -  
 3 I can - not tell just how you felt when Je - sus

plac - es I can't go, But I am sure of this one  
 sert and leave me a - lone, But as for me I'll take God's  
 took your sins a - way, But since that day, yes, since that

thing, that God is real for I can feel God deep with - in.  
 part, for God is real and I can feel God in my heart.  
 hour. God has been real for I can feel God's ho - ly power.

*Refrain*

Yes, God is real, real in my soul; yes, God is real for God has  
 washed and made me whole; God's love for me is like pure  
 gold, yes, God is real for I can feel God in my soul.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **February Love Offering** | *Veterans of the Cross (2024\*)*

The Veterans of the Cross Fund is an annual United Church of Christ offering that expresses our thanks to retired and active UCC pastors and lay church workers and their families facing financial need, providing direct assistance to supplement pensions, help with the cost of medical insurance, and funds to meet emergency needs (\*Our 2024 donation to The Christmas Fund/Veterans of the Cross was postponed due to our Hurricane Relief collection in late 2024.) Now you have an opportunity to donate to the Veterans of the Cross, UCC wider mission in February. All donations are welcome. Please indicate Veterans of the Cross on your check or envelope. *Love offering envelopes are available on the table as you enter the church.*

## **Church Library Open House** | *TODAY, after worship*

Bored from being stuck inside? Going stir crazy? Need to increase your “Hygge”? Joins us today for the Library Open House “Got Cabin Fever? READ!” Your church library has books for you!

## **Intro to the Bible** | *Tuesday, February 11, 6-7:30 PM, Settle Room*

Prepare for class on February 11 by reading chapter 3 and reflecting on the question prompts.

## **Men’s Night Out** | *Wednesday, February 12, 6PM, Pizza Villa, DeKalb*

We hope you can join us on Wednesday, February 12, as we re-ignite our Men's Night Out! All men are welcome to join us at Pizza Villa in DeKalb at 6:00 PM. Contact Skip (815-751-4817) for more details. Let us know you can attend by signing up Dutton Hall.

## **Ladies’ Night Out** | *Tues., 2/25, 6PM, Crooked Horns Bar & Grill, Sycamore*

We hope you can join us on Tuesday, February 25, at 6:00 PM, for our first Ladies’ Night Out of 2025! We will meet at Crooked Horns Bar & Grill, 1470 S. Peace Rd., Sycamore. Sign up in Dutton Hall or through the link in the eNews.

## **All-Church Chili Potluck & Board Games** | *Saturday, March 1, 4:30-8:30 PM*

We hope you can join us on Saturday, March 1, for a Chili Potluck and Board Games. We ask those who can to bring a dish to share (chili, chili toppings (shredded cheese, diced onions, sour cream, oyster crackers, etc.), cut-up vegetables, or dessert). If you have a favorite board game, bring that along, too! Sign-up in Dutton Hall!



## **Names for God**

During a recent 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**

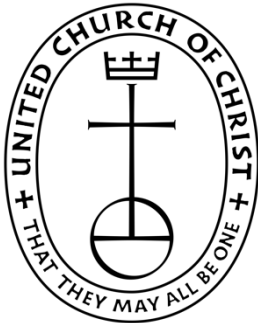
We are an "Open and Affirming" congregation, which is our way of saying that we value diversity. In a time of deep division, we believe it is paramount to gather people from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and identities in order to build authentic relationships and community. We believe that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