

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 23, 2025, 10:00 am

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

Prelude “We Declare Your Majesty” *Malcom du Plessis/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 “Send Down the Fire” vv. 2-4 (p.3)

Prayers of the People

After PotP, children will gather with Ms. Janis in the back for Children’s Church.

Parents are invited to go pick up their child(ren) during the Postlude.

Parents may also use the nursery outside the back of the sanctuary at any time.

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

*Returning to the Hands that Formed Us**

Silent Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

**Our: Father / Mother / Sister / Brother / Lover / Ground of All Being /
Amazing One / Protector / Caretaker / Maker of the Way /
One Who Holds the Universe Together / Bhagvan / HaShem**

In the skies,

Your name be honored!

Your kingdom come!

Your will be done—as in heaven, make it so on earth!

Give us the bread that we need for today.

Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive those indebted to us.

Do not lead us into a time of testing, but deliver us from the evil one.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sung Response “Come as You Are” (p. 4)

Scripture [Matthew 6:9-12; Matthew 18:21-35](#)

Sermon “Forgive Us Our Debts—As We Forgive Our Debtors”

Sung Response “Love Your Neighbor and Forgive” (p. 5)

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 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” (p. 6)

Benediction

Postlude “You Are Crowned with Many Crowns” *John Sellers/arr. M. Hayes*
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:** Gip Seaver

Ushers: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer

Ushers for March 2: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer

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

**The Visual Meditation this morning, “Returning to the Hands that Formed Us,” comes from The Work of the People | theworkofthepeople.com*

"Send Down the Fire" Marty Haugen

Refrain



Send down the fire of your jus - tice,



send down the rains of your love; come, send down the



Spir - it, breathe life in your peo - ple, and we shall be



peo - ple of God.



- 1 Call us to be your com - pas - sion,
- 2 Call us to learn of your mer - cy,
- 3 Call us to an - swer op - pres - sion,
- 4 Call us to wit - ness your king - dom,



teach us the song of your love; give us
teach us the way of your peace; give us
teach us the fire of your truth; give us
give us the pres - ence of Christ; may your



hearts that feel, give us hands that heal, make us
hearts that sing, give us deeds that ring, make us
righ - teous souls, till your jus - tice rolls, make us
ho - ly light keep us shin - ing bright, ev - er



walk in the way of your love.
ring with the song of your peace.
burn with the fire of your truth.
shine with the pres - ence of Christ.

to refrain

“Come as You Are” Gary Rand / Lenora Rand



1. Come, you who've been wound-ed, all you who've lost hope.



Come, you who are long-ing for what you do not know. 2. Come, you hun-gry for jus-tice.



ach-ing for heav-en on earth. Come, you who've been tossed a-side, don't re-



mem-ber what you're worth. Come as you are. Come you wear-y, come and



lay your bur-dens down. Come as you are. Bring your hopes, bring your



doubts and your scars. Come as you are.



3. Come, you who've been cast out, all you who've been shamed. Come, you who are look-ing for that



my-st'ry you can't name. 4. Come, you cry-ing for mer-cy, hop-ing for peace on earth.



Come you car-ry-ing ques-tions, all you who've been so hurt.

“Love Your Neighbor and Forgive” *Anna Strickland*



"Love your neigh - bor and for - give" Words so sim - ple yet so hard
Sounds of bombs and bul - lets ring War is all we've ev - er known
Love is ris - ky, peace is faint And for - give - ness feels na - ive



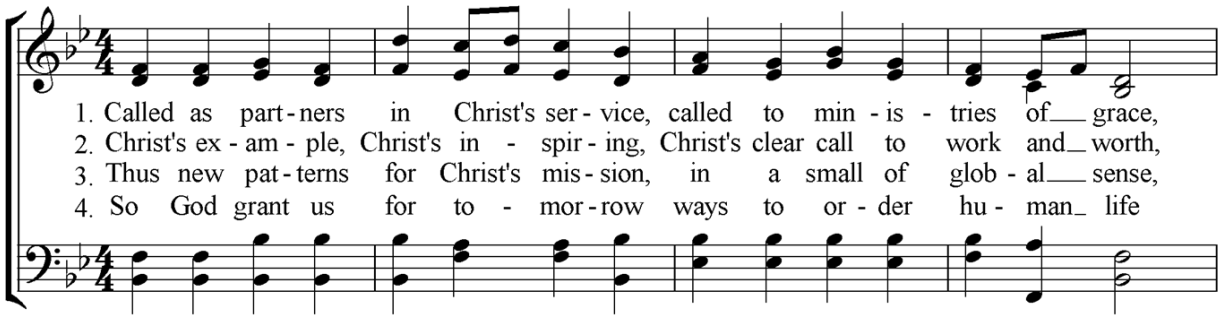
We have wounds be - cause we've lived Cal - lus - es en - fold our hearts
Pa - ci - fists are framed as weak We re - ly on might a - lone
All are sin - ners, all are saints And we all God's grace re - ceive



Je - sus rea - ches out to touch Wounds and hearts that hold too much
Je - sus paves the paths of peace E - ven as the threats in - crease
So we fol - low mer - cy's way Soft - en - ing our hearts to grace

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“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” *June Parker Huber*



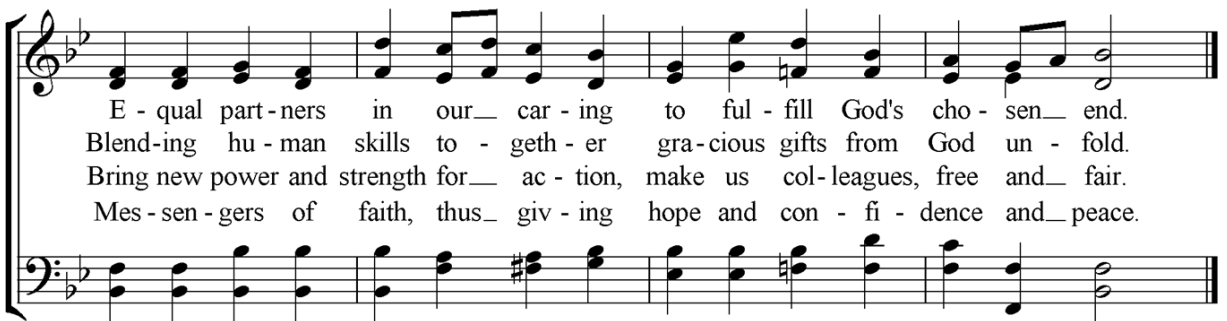
1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of__ grace,
2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and__ worth,
3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small of glob-al__ sense,
4. So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man__ life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to__ trace.
Let us fol-low, nev-er__ fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on__ earth.
Help us bear each oth-er's__ bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or__ fence.
That sur-round each per-son's. sor-row with a calm that con-quests. strife.



May we learn the art of__ shar-ing, side by side and friend with__ friend,
Men and wom-en, rich-er,__ poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and__ old,
Words of com-fort, words of__ vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with__ care,
Make us part-ners in our__ liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-qual part-ners in our__ car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen__ end.
Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
Bring new power and strength for__ ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and__ fair.
Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus__ giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and__ peace.

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.*

Intro to the Bible | *Tuesday, February 25, 6-7:30 PM, Settle Room*

Prepare for class on by reading chapter 5 and reflecting on the question prompts.

Ladies' Night Out | *Tues., Feb. 25, 6PM, Crooked Horn 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 Horn 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!

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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