

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 | September 07, 2025, 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. Please join in reading those parts printed in **bold**.*

Prelude "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" F.C. Atkinson/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 "For Everyone Born" vv. 1-4 (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 images or phrases that stay with you. Remain present & curious to the feelings they bring up in you.

Visual Meditation

Restored in Joy, United in Love

Silent Prayer & The Prayer Jesus Taught Us

Alternative words from the New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace & freedom sustain our hope & come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.

Sung Response "For Everyone Born" v. 5 (p. 4)

Scripture [Micah 6:6-8; Romans 12:1-2, 9-21; John 17:22-23](#)

Sermon

“Sacred Resistance: Overcoming Evil with Good”

Musical Meditation

Holy Communion

We practice an “open table”—everyone is welcome to receive God’s gifts. There is no age you must be or dogma you must believe. God meets us where we are—amidst our questions, fears and failures—and offers us nourishment & a blessing on life’s journey.

Invitation & Words of Institution

Sharing Bread & Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 Song “Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly” (p. 6)

Benediction

Postlude

“Bawa”

Sowah Mensah

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 Director: Bill O'Hagan | **Childcare Support:** Janis Schnurr-Trebe
Liturgist: Gip Seaver | **Ushers:** Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer
Ushers for Sunday, September 4: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

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SPECIAL THANKS

We are excited to welcome musical guest **Harambee Percussion Ensemble** back to worship this morning. Harambee will play the Postlude.

Harambee [ha-RAHM-bay/] was founded by Dr. Sherry Jones in the early 2000s in DeKalb, IL as an after-school enrichment program for grades 3-4-5. Co-directed by Sharon McKee, it soon expanded to include its middle school alumni, who became the group's first student leaders. Harambee moved to its current location at The Federated Church of Sycamore in 2015. It is currently a community group: all are welcome to come learn the music and about the cultures that have produced it!

Six current members have studied—and continue to study—with Sowah Mensah, who is an ethnomusicologist, composer and “Master Drummer” from Ghana, West Africa. Sowah has taught music in both Ghana and Nigeria and is currently a music professor at both Macalester College and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN where he also directs each school's African Music Ensemble.

In 2018, Sowah visited Federated to lead a weekend workshop with Harambee and our church choir. That Sunday, he led them in several gospel pieces during worship.

About the pieces: *Bawa* is performed on the pentatonic (five-note scale) African xylophones, using the notes “do-re-me-sol-la.” It's composed by our teacher, Sowah Mensah (see above). Our drum-along piece after the service is

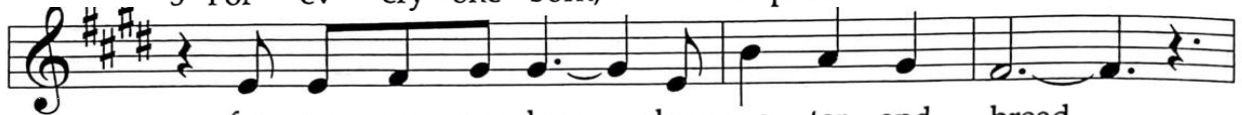
B⇒B⇒B⇒ (pronounced boh-BOH-boh).

- **Bawa** begins with a looping bass line and introduces the three melodies one at a time. Some players will remain on each part while the rest move on to the next one; those entrances are signaled by a short melody played by the leader. The final melody is introduced, then played in a round – similar to *Row, Row, Row Your Boat* – before a short bass melody and a final signal brings the group to a dramatic stop.
- **B⇒B⇒B⇒** (boh-BOH-boh): Come play with us during the inter-generational time after the service! We'll have instruments on hand and will teach an accessible rhythm; the congregation (and a couple of Harambee leaders) will then hold that rhythm while the rest of the ensemble members add other parts. The result is a joyous, engaging piece of authentic Ghanaian music! ALL are welcome and encouraged to participate, no musical experience necessary!

"For Everyone Born" by Shirley Erena Murray and Brian Mann



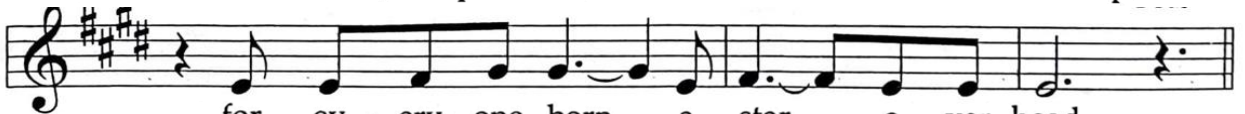
- 1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
to li - sten and mourn, be changed and for - give,
to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
for young and for old, the right to be - long,
for just and un - just, a new way to live,
for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

Refrain on next page

Refrain



and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus-tice and joy!

“Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly” by Pat Barrett

Pno.

1. It

5 all comes down to this, what You re - quire of me. Love my

9 neigh-bor as my - self, and You a - bove all things. Act

refrain

13 just-ly, love mer-cy, walk humb-ly with You, God. In

17 all things, in all ways, walk humb-ly with You, God. 2. It

Last time to bridge

21 all comes down to this, to be Your hands and feet. Good

25 news to all the world, oh the truth will set us free. Act

bridge

29 You, God. It's beau-ty for ash-es, it's mourn-ing to danc-ing. It's

32 clos-er and clos-er, the King-dom of heav-en. Beau-ty for ash-es, it's

35 mourn-ing to danc-ing. It's clos-er and clos-er, the King-dom of heav-en.

(Continued next page)

38 (W.L.)

42 3. Years from now we'll see, the fruit our hands have sown.

46 Faith just like a seed, the on - ly way it grows.

54 Act just - ly, love mer - cy, walk humb - ly with You, God. In

all things, in all ways, walk humb - ly with You, God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Fest | Schedule

10 – 11:10am: Worship

11:10 – 12pm:

- ◆ Drum-along with Harambee (*back of sanctuary*)
- ◆ Face-painting (*Parking Lot outside Dutton Hall/Preschool*)
- ◆ Various Games / activities (*Parking Lot outside Dutton Hall/Preschool*)
parental supervision required for elementary aged and under
 - Playground
 - Giant Jenga, Giant Connect Four, toddler activities

Noon: Lunch (Dutton Hall)

12:30pm – 2pm:

- ◆ Bounce house (*driveway outside the sanctuary*)
- ◆ Face-painting (*lawn outside sanctuary*)
- ◆ Adult Board Games (*Library*)
- ◆ Various Children & Adult Games (*Lawn Outside the Sanctuary*)

1:30pm – 2pm: Tai Chi (*front of Sanctuary*)

Meal Train

As was shared in worship last Sunday and in Pastor Eric's email (find link to email in the Weekly eNews), Twangie Smith passed away on Saturday, August 30. We will continue the Meal Train (<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/03gwwv>) and provide meals for the next few weeks to help the family through this difficult time as they transition into a new reality without Twangie. Please consider signing up for a date to deliver a meal or a gift card to a restaurant, especially if you haven't already done so. If you are unable to navigate the Meal Train and want to contribute a meal, please let Karen Hamingson know.

Ladies' Night Out | Tuesday, September 23, 6PM, Nami Ramen, DeKalb

Our next Ladies' Night Out will be at Nami Ramen, an authentic Japanese Restaurant at 913 S. Annie Glidden Rd., DeKalb. Nami is a Ramen & Asian Fusion restaurant featuring Ramen, Stir-Fri Ramen, Donburi bowls, Tempura, and more. We will meet there on Tuesday, September 23, at 6:00 pm. Please sign up on the sheet in Dutton Hall or through the link in the weekly eNews.

Working for Hope | Sat., Sept. 13, 10AM, 1st Congregational UCC, DeKalb

Working for Hope invites you to meet with folks from area UCC churches who share our values. The gathering will take place at First Congregational United Church of Christ (615 N. First St, DeKalb) on Saturday, September 13, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. This is not a lecture, but an active, immersive time of conversation and strengthening ourselves to face and challenge the world around us and to plan a way forward. Flyers with more information are at the back of the sanctuary.

Please RSVP to the First Congregational UCC church office (815-758-0691) or Rev. Judy Harris (815-970-1875). You can leave a voicemail at either number. A light lunch will follow the event. We look forward to working with you to find a positive way to help ourselves and others in these trying times.

Online Giving

Whether it's a recurring pledge, a one-time donation, or a contribution to a specific fund (e.g. the LOVE Offering, Pastoral Emergency fund, etc.), you can now make them simply and securely through our online platform. Scan the QR code with your phone camera to get started or see the weekly Enews for a web-browser link! *Contact the church office with questions.*



Weekly eNews



Scan the code at the left to see the most recent eNews & announcements.

Church Calendar



Scan the code at the right to see the church's Master Calendar of events.

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*



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Childcare Support: Janis Schnurr-Trebe

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