

THE FEDERATED FORECAST

The Federated Church of Sycamore
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An Open & Affirming Congregation of the UCC & UUA
Welcoming Any. Loving All.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe. – Ephesians 1:15-19

This summer, while interviewing to be your pastor, I did a little extra research. “Who is this church *really*?” I wanted to know. “What is their history, where and who do they come from?” What I discovered was both expected and a surprise. I expected to find a church that, throughout the generations, has faithfully cared for one another. As your settled pastor, it has been a blessing to witness this at work and to find myself imagining the generations before who have likewise invested their time, gifts, hearts, and money into building this odd and wondrous transgenerational community we call “the church.”

The surprising part was learning your unique history as advocates of abolitionism & involvement in the Underground Railroad. It affirmed for me that the saints of this church—past and present—have cared not only for those who gather inside its walls, but for those on whom the doors of dignity & have been closed.

Each week, I find myself giving thanks for all the saints of Federated, past and present, who have shared in grieving, celebrating, and transforming our world together. There is a famous line from the *Talmud*—an ancient collection of sacred Jewish teachings—that says: “Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to finish the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.” This quote has become to me a comforting summary of our invitation in life as individuals and as the church. No technology or generation will solve the world’s problems, but that must not keep us from living faithfully until our parting breath. Then we entrust it to a new generation, as those before did with us.

In this season of Stewardship, we are reminded of the gifts with which we have been entrusted by those who have gone before us, and with gratitude we recommit to caring for them so that we may also entrust them to a new generation. On Sunday, November 3rd, we will have a special service remembering the saints who have gone before, and on November 17th we will gather to share a feast and give thanks—for what has been, what is, and what shall be. Thanks be to God!

Together on the journey,
Pastor Eric

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF MISSION AND SOCIETY

Crop Team Raises \$4,199 to Fight World Hunger

Kudos to the Federated Church Sondra King Memorial Hunger Walk team of Karen Hamingson, Jean Evans, Jerry Lane, and Paula von Ende. The team came in second in DeKalb County with donations of \$4,199. Karen Hamingson raised the second-highest individual amount. Thank you to everyone who donated to this cause.

Great Turnout for Fall Thrift Sale Yields Results

The Fall Thrift Sale raised over \$1,500! Thank you to everyone who helped with donations, sorting, pricing, and clean-up. We had two beautiful days for the sale, and the customers kept pouring in. The profits will help fund our Back Pack Mission next year.

Board Chair Paula von Ende would like to extend a special thank you to Phil Wagener for helping wherever it was needed during the sale. Phil and Paula have shared the responsibilities of the Fall and Spring sales for the past several years, with Paula taking the lead on the Fall event and Phil on the Spring one. She would also like to thank Linda Babcock and Pam Kitterman for cleverly pricing our items to increase the profit. We could not have had the children's clothing and toy section without the donations of The Federated Preschool parents. The Mission Board will be making a donation to their Scholarship Fund in appreciation.

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November Love Offering to Benefit Hope Haven

The November Love Offering will benefit Hope Haven homeless shelter. The mission of Hope Haven is to provide shelter, meals, and life skills programs for individuals & families experiencing homelessness while also preparing them for re-housing.

The Federated Church has supported those experiencing homelessness in DeKalb County since the early 1980s. Our former pastor Dale Beaman was the board chair of PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter), which worked to provide shelter in area churches. With PADS, a different church opened its doors to those experiencing homelessness each night, and members of that church made meals for their new guests.

In 1988, the shelter moved to the vacant parsonage of the DeKalb United Methodist Church, where shelter could be provided continuously during the weekdays. Two years later, the shelter moved again to 316 N. 6th St., DeKalb, so housing could be offered seven nights a week. In 1991, the shelter was renamed Hope Haven, and in 2000, a new permanent facility was built at 1145 Rushmore Drive, DeKalb. Four years later, the Dresser Court Apartments opened next door to provide permanent housing and services to those who both have disabilities and are experiencing chronic homelessness.

The goals of Hope Haven are to:

- Transition the homeless from the shelter to permanent housing
- Reduce the number of days in a homeless shelter
- Reduce the recidivism of homelessness
- Increase income and employment
- Help provide access to mainstream resources.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF MEMBERSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

Thanksgiving Feast, Sunday, Nov. 17th

Join us after worship for a Thanksgiving feast to celebrate the dedication of our pledges and give thanks for this beloved community of which we are a part. We are excited to welcome Joel Mauer from the Sycamore Food Pantry to share with us about the Food Pantry's important ministry in our community. *The Board will provide turkey, gravy and drinks while the congregation (you!) provide the rest of the meal.* We can't wait for the good conversations & good food. Please use the sign-up sheet in Dutton Hall to RSVP.

Please remember to bring food items for Food Pantry, especially during the holiday season.

Guys' Night Out

Join the guys for fellowship and fun on Monday, November 18th at 6 PM at Pizza Villa in DeKalb.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Advent Sunday, Sunday, Dec. 8th

Advent is the season before Christmas during which Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas, a time to slow down and swing into Christmas with joy. On Advent Sunday at Federated, we gather for worship, share a meal together in Dutton Hall, and enjoy fellowship and laughs over intergenerational holiday crafts. We're excited to offer activities designed to teach a skill, deck the halls inside or out, and/or make something scrumptious. Everyone is welcome! We'll be serving Federated's famous BBQ, chips, and brownies. *A signup sheet will be in Dutton Hall later in November for anyone wishing to help bring food.* Let's all join and enjoy this Advent season together!



"This recommendation comes as a recommendation of the personnel committee, the finance committee, and the board of deacons. The church staff has approved it unanimously. We also feel it is the will of God. Is there any discussion?"

OUR SHARED LIFE

AS IN ONE BODY WE HAVE MANY MEMBERS, SO WE, WHO ARE MANY, ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST.

*The church is not a building but a community committed to sharing its gifts of time, energy, and talents.
Below are those sharing their gifts to support and strengthen us as we gather this month.*

Worship

Nov. 3 - Stewardship: The Way – All Saints Day & World Communion Sunday

Liturgist: Bill Griesenhauer

Flowers*: TBD

Fellowship Hosts**: TBD

Nov. 10 - Stewardship: The Way

Liturgist: TBD

Flowers*: TBD

Fellowship Hosts**: TBD

Nov. 17 – Pledge Dedication & Thanksgiving Sunday

Liturgist: TBD

Flowers*: TBD

Fellowship Hosts**: TBD

Nov. 24 - Reign of Christ Sunday

Liturgist: TBD

Flowers*: TBD

Fellowship Hosts**: TBD

* Flowers: We invite you to celebrate and commemorate your loved ones on days of personal importance to you by providing altar flowers for morning worship. Flowers cost \$25.00 and envelopes are provided for your convenience. Feel free to take the flowers home with you after the service. (Sign-up sheets are in Dutton Hall.)

** Fellowship Hosts: November's Fellowship Hour following Sunday worship will be hosted by members of the Board of Membership and Fellowship.





Birthdays

November 2, 2019	Monica Todd Carin Faust
November 3, 2019	Lori Schairer
November 4, 2019	Dave Hamilton Karen Hamingson Easton Lancaster
November 5, 2019	Sharon Lyon Carrie Abbott Walk Sam Sauer
November 6, 2019	Linda Babcock Ben Todd
November 8, 2019	Derek McFarland
November 9, 2019	John Gehlhaus Dirk Happ
November 10, 2019	Ava Baird
November 11, 2019	Dan Hamingson
November 14, 2019	Donald Gould Darla Kroeger Rev. Eric Ogi
November 16, 2019	Jim Whitney
November 17, 2019	Bob Olle David Beasley Allen Sportun Adrienne Schairer
November 18, 2019	Sherry Jones David Swedberg
November 19, 2019	John Kirkemo
November 20, 2019	Jean Evans
November 22, 2019	Brenda Perkins Parker Covert
November 23, 2019	Delia Remala
November 25, 2019	Kerry Hammond
November 27, 2019	Sue McCue



Anniversaries

November 5, 2019	Dave & Suzanne Juday (31 years)
November 21, 2019	Bill & Brenda Perkins (10 years)
November 28, 2019	John McBride & Sarah Marsh (32 years)
November 30, 2019	Bill & Joanne Baird (18 years)



Prayer Requests

Prayers for Healing from Illness/Injury

Liz Finney • Judy Hoke-Jackson • Marilyn Hoover's daughter • Roger Jacobson • Pam Kitterman's brother, Larry • Margot Mattin • Paula von Ende's brother, Gordon Lindberg • Peggy Safford's mother, Virginia • Servicemen/women & Veterans • Victims of the St. Alban's Green and DeKalb Apartment fires • Phil Wagener's great-nephew, Warren Wagener

Prayers for Peace at Time of Passing

Rachel and family, niece of Bev Whildin • Family of Judy Hoke-Jackson's great niece • Family of Phyllis Moore, Malorie Nelson's mother

If you have a prayer request, please contact the church office by phone or email.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE
from former Interim Minister Kent Ulery's wife, Meg Ulery

Dear Friends,

I know that this weekend is the Pumpkin Festival so my thoughts are with you all as you celebrate. I certainly have many reminders of Sycamore with all of the fall/pumpkin gifts given to us at the celebration party in September. You were so generous, beyond anything we could imagine. It was so fun discovering what was in the baskets that Kent brought home. The butter pecan custard really helped me recover from the awful cold I had! I was so very disappointed that I was not able to be with you but I did not want to pass on my illness to any of you.

I have decorated our home with all of the fall items and baskets and enjoyed placing the garden things around. In fact everything has found a special place and I think fondly of you whenever I look at them. I could tell how very carefully each gift was selected and how uniquely they represented you and some of the conversations we had together. Everything was absolutely wonderful! It was a privilege to serve you at the Federated Church and was a special joy that this was the final place of our ministry together. We have ended our active time of serving the church on a really high note and we thank you!

We have taken two road trips this fall, one to Springfield (Lincoln stuff) and one to Mason City, Iowa. Both included Frank Lloyd Wright homes and we even stayed in a Wright designed hotel in Mason City (the last one that remains). We also did some touring along the Mississippi River. We are still getting used to this retirement thing. Some days we never leave the house. Kent has read several books and is considering writing a novel. I have read 14 books by an author I discovered on the Alaska cruise. These books are full of history and mystery and just my cup of tea.

Kent has started playing the piano again. Now that he has finished the "boat in a bottle" Lego set with our grandson, his work table is cleared so he can get back to his wooden model boat building. I sit nearby designing my natural stone necklaces. That's the best part of retirement so far – being together. I even had Kent working with me in the garden this fall!

Peace & joy to you all.

Love,
Meg



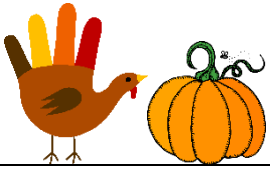
CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Staff

Pastor	Rev. Eric J. Ogi RevEricFederated@gmail.com 815-797-2250
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Dale Beaman
Administrative Assistant	Liz Finney thefederatedchurch@frontier.com
Director of Music	Gary Mattin Mattincurtain50@aol.com
Keyboardist	Yule Dain Yoon
Handbell Director	Marilyn Montzka
Custodian	David Whitney
Preschool Director	Jan Scheffers Federatedchurchpreschool@gmail.com 815-764-9473

Lay Leadership

Moderator	Jerry Lane fedmod48@yahoo.com 815-762-8339
Clerk	Suzanne Juday – 815-895-2082
Treasurer	Karen Hamingson – 815-895-4631
Assistant Treasurers	Dave Wood – 815-756-1680 Linda Babcock – 815-758-0763
Council Members at-large	Pam Kitterman – 815-899-7032 Dave Wood – 815-756-1680
Board of Deacons	Linda Babcock – 815-758-0763 Judy Winter – 815-761-9515
Board of Membership & Fellowship	Pam Wagener – 815-895-9852 Alice Whitney – 815-895-5023
Board of Mission & Society	Paula von Ende – 815-758-7375
Board of Religious Education	Malorie Nelson – 815-784-6060 Ruth Olle – 815-757-1794
Board of Trustees	Skip Schramer – 815-751-4817 Dave Finney – 815-739-1734



november 2019

god, when i wake each morning, may i give thanks. may i thank you for the gift of life, filled with beauty in the brokenness. for the breath in my lungs. for the love & sustenance that fills each day.

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
					1 8:30am: Preschool 12:30pm: Preschool Pastor Eric's Day Off	2 Pastor Eric's Day Off
3 10am: All Saints' Day Worship 11:15am: Fellowship 11:30am: Religious Education 6pm: Troop #16 8pm: AA	4 8:30am: Preschool 12:30pm: Preschool 7pm: Prayer Shawls	5 8:30am: Preschool	6 8:30am: Preschool 9:30am: Sewing Bee 12:30pm: Preschool 7:30pm: Choir	7 8:30am: Preschool 6:30pm: Church Council 8pm: AA	8 8:30am: Preschool 12:30pm: Preschool Pastor Eric's Day Off	9 Pastor Eric's Day Off
10 8:45am: Membership & Fellowship 10am: Worship 11:15am: Fellowship 11:30am: Mission & Society (Youth Room) 11:30am: Board of Deacons 6pm: Troop #16 8pm: AA	11 8:30am: Preschool 12:30pm: Preschool	12 8:30am: Preschool	13 8:30am: Preschool 9:30am: Sewing Bee 12:30pm: Preschool 6:30pm: Handbells 7:30pm: Choir	14 8:30am: Preschool 8pm: AA	15 8:30am: Preschool 12:30pm: Preschool Pastor Eric's Day Off	16 Pastor Eric's Day Off
17 9:00am: Handbell Rehearsal 10am: Worship with Handbells 11:15am: Thanksgiving Feast 6pm: Troop #16 8pm: AA	18 8:30am: Preschool 12:30pm: Preschool 6:00pm: Guys' Night Out (Pizza Villa in DeKalb) 7pm: Prayer Shawls	19 8:30am: Preschool	20 8:30am: Preschool 9:30am: Sewing Bee 12:30pm: Preschool 6:30pm: Handbells 7:30pm: Choir	21 8:30am: Preschool 5:30pm: Board of Trustees	22 8:30am: Preschool 12:30pm: Preschool Pastor Eric's Day Off	23 Pastor Eric's Day Off
24 10am: Worship 11:15am: Fellowship 6pm: Troop #16 8pm: AA	25 No Preschool	26 No Preschool	27 9:30am: Sewing Bee 7:30pm: Choir	28 Thanksgiving Day	29 No Preschool Pastor Eric's Day Off	30 Pastor Eric's Day Off