

**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 | March 02, 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.*

### **Prelude**

"Lamb of God"

Twila Paris/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**

"All Are Welcome" vv. 1, 3-4 (p. 5)

### **Prayers of the People**

### **Welcoming New Members**

*Aimee Barrows; Ryan Washabaugh; Rachel Happ; Bill O'Hagan*

*Do you promise to continue in your pilgrimage of faith, growing as a disciple of Jesus so that you may: resist oppression and evil; embody God's love; challenge injustice; pursue mercy; and bear witness to the way of Jesus the Christ as best you are able?*

***New Members: We promise, with the help of God.***

*And, when you stray from this path—as we all inevitably do—do you promise to rest in God's all-encompassing grace and forgiveness, return to the way of Jesus, and begin again?*

***New Members: We promise, with the help of God.***

*Do you promise to journey with this congregation in faithfulness and love, participating in the life of this church by worshiping God with us, and by offering your time, talents, and treasures for the building up of the ministries of this church, the larger Church, and the world God so loves?*

***New Members: We promise, with the help of God.***

*Do you, the people of Federated Church, promise to embody the generous love and extravagant welcome of Jesus to Aimee, Ryan, Pippa, Beckett, Rachel, and Bill, continuing in your own pilgrimage of faith and journeying alongside them in theirs?*

***Congregation: We promise, with the help of God.***

*Do you promise to embrace the ways their presence & perspectives, identities & gifts will inspire, challenge, and re-shape us as we discern the future God is calling us to?*

***Congregation: We promise, with the help of God.***

### **Blessing our Changing Community**

## **Sung Response** “New Patterns of Loving” vv. 1 & 3 (p. 3)

### **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**

*Restored in Joy, United in Love*

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

*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** “All Are Welcome” *refrain* (p. 5)

**Scripture** [Matthew 6:9-13; Matthew 17:1-8](#)

**Sermon** “Trials, Evil, and Glory”

### **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** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" *Beethoven/arr. H. Helvey*  
**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** "Transfigure Me" (p. 4)

**Benediction**

**Postlude** "I Will Call Upon the Lord" *Michael O'Shields/arr. M. Hayes*  
*Thank you for joining us for worship today!*

† † †

**"New Patterns of Loving"** *Barbara Hamm*

1. New pat - terns of lov - ing make room for new ways,  
2. Our an - ces - try marks us with vis - i - ble signs;  
3. God bless all the Fam - 'lies and friends here to - day;

cre - at - ing new fam - ilies to care for and raise.  
we bear in our bod - ies ge - net - ic de - signs.  
help us to raise chil - dren to walk in God's way,

All those who have loved us and helped us to grow  
But love, be - yond lim - its of gen - der or race,  
to care for each oth - er as chil - dren of God,

are fam - ilies of choice by the car - ing they show.  
can fash - ion new fam - ilies and new ways em - brace.  
whose love is in - clu - sive, far - reach - ing, and broad.

# “Transfigure Me” Christopher Grundy

Trans-fig-ure me so that I might be more like Je-  
sus, more like Je - sus; trans-fig-ure me so that I might be  
more like\_ Je - sus, Je - sus my\_ light.  
Je - sus my\_ light... Je - sus my\_  
light... Je - sus my\_ light...

*For Dee Dressler and the transgender community. Brave journey.*

## 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:** Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer

*Ushers for March 9: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer*

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

*\*The Visual Meditation this morning, "Restored in Joy, United in Love," comes from The Work of the People | [theworkofthepeople.com](http://theworkofthepeople.com)*

## “All Are Welcome” *Marty Haugen & Mark Miller*



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly\_\_ live, a\_\_
2. Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and\_ true, where
3. Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and\_ stone to\_\_
4. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions heard and\_\_



place where saints and chil - dren tell how hearts learn\_ to for - give.  
 all God's chil - dren dare\_ to\_\_ seek . o\_\_ dream God's\_ reign a - new.  
 heal and strength - en, serve\_ and\_ teach, ; and\_ live the\_\_ Word they've known.  
 loved and trea - sured, taught and\_ claimed as\_\_ words with - in the Word.



Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
 Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness and as sym bol of God's grace:  
 Here the out cast and the strang - er bear the im age of God's face;  
 Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,



— All are wel - come, wel - come in\_ this place, all in - vit - ed\_\_ to



come and know\_ God's grace, all are wel - come, the love of Christ to feel,\_\_\_\_\_ 'cause



all of us\_\_ are wel - come. here,\_\_\_ all are wel - come in this place.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Ash Wednesday Service** | *This Wednesday, March 5, 5:30 PM*

Join us this Wednesday, March 5, for a special Ash Wednesday service with the giving of ashes and blessing our messy, broken, beautiful lives as we begin our Lenten journeys together. There will be no childcare, though there will be children's bulletins and activity boxes available.

*Note: there will be no soup supper beforehand this year. Instead, we hope to offer a "soup lunch" after worship during Lent. Watch for more info soon!*

## **Intro to the Bible** | *Tuesday, March 4, 6-7:30 PM, Settle Room*

Prepare for our final class by reading chapter 6, researching a topic, and reflecting on the question prompts.

## **Men's Night Out** | *Wed., Mar. 12, 6PM, Pizza Villa, DeKalb*

After being "snowed-out/in" last month, let's try this again! We hope you can join as we re-ignite our Men's Night Out! All men are welcome to join us on Wednesday, March 12, at Pizza Villa (824 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb) at 6:00 PM. Bring a friend! Let us know you can join us by signing up in Dutton Hall or through the link in the eNews.

## **Ladies' Night Out** | *Tues., Mar. 25, 6PM, The Flame, DeKalb*

We hope you can join us for our March Ladies' Night Out as we enjoy some Greek cuisine. *Opa!* We will gather at The Flame (209 E. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb) at 6:00 PM. All ladies are welcome. Bring a friend! Let us know you can join us by signing up in Dutton Hall or through the link in the eNews.

## **Congregational Cards**

Cards are placed out to celebrate special birthdays and anniversaries or to let friends know we are thinking of them or to offer condolences. Be sure to check the counter in Dutton Hall for congregational cards to add your signature.

## **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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