

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 | April 27, 2025, 10:00 am

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

Prelude "There Is a Higher Throne" Keith & Kristin Getty/arr. L. Larson

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** "Come O Fount of Every Blessing" (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 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

*A Resurrection Light**

Silent Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Parent who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kin(g)dom come, your 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sung Response "You, O Christ, Are Resurrection" v. 1 (p. 3)

Scripture [Luke 24:13-24, 28-35; Acts 2:43-47](#)

Sermon "A Resurrected and Resurrecting Body"

Sung Response "You, O Christ, Are Resurrection" v. 2 (p. 3)

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here ¹ w.

Praise God for all that Love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgy of Sabbatical Blessing & Sending

All: Holy One, we bring before you our brother in Christ, our Pastor and our teacher, Eric Ogi. We send him on sabbatical with our earnest prayers, asking your blessing upon him, and upon this congregation that he serves.

Leader: May this sabbatical be for Eric a time of rest and renewal, adventure and discovery. May he experience your presence anew, O God, as you guide him each step of his journey.

All: In this sacred time apart, we release Eric from his duties of pastoral care and leadership, so that he may tend to his own spirit, rediscover the joy of the gospel and this calling, and be refreshed in mind, body, and spirit.

Leader: Grant him, Gracious God, times of reading and play, times of quiet contemplation and rich conversation. Enable him to gaze in wonder at the beauty of your creation.

All: Renewing God, in Eric's absence, we promise to continue the life-giving ministries of the church, remembering that you have called each of us to use our time and gifts to minister to others.

Pastor Eric: Thank you, deeply, for your prayers and blessings as we each separately enter this sabbatical journey. With deep love, I also release you during this time from turning to me and depending on my ministry and care. With deep gratitude, I bless you, our Moderator Team, and our Leadership Board as you continue the life-giving ministries of this church in my absence.

May God return us to each other after this time of sabbatical with our spirits renewed, much joy in our hearts, and an excited eagerness to continue our growing ministries together.

***Sending Hymn** "Here Within this Congregation" vv. 1, 2, 4 (p. 5)

***Benediction**

Postlude

"Turning Over Tables"
Thank you for joining us for worship today

Arndt/Gungor

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Also 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: Karen Hamingson | **Ushers:** Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer
Ushers for Sunday, May 4: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer

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

**The Visual Meditation this morning, "A Resurrection Light," is written produced by The Work of the People | theworkofthepeople.com*

Special thanks to Terri Crain Goodman and John Jaworowski for sharing their vocal gifts with us in offering our Postlude.

"You, O Christ, Are Resurrection" *by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*

You, O Christ, are resurrection, in a world that's filled with pain.

You reach out when we are hurting, and you lift us up again.

Battered women, hungry children, lonely people, those in need

Find in you a hope that's living as they're welcomed, loved, and freed.

You, O Christ, are resurrection when we're caught in death and shame,

When we grieve the road we're traveling, when we grieve the choices made.

You give healing and forgiveness in the place of sin and strife.

Christ, we're drawn to what you give us — Resurrection and New Life.

"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" *by Robert Robinson*



1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

"Here Within This Congregation" by *Jacque B. Jones*



1. Here with - in this con - gre - ga - tion
 2. Some may dance while oth - ers gar - den,
 3. John and An - drew, James and Mar - y,
 4. Ho - ly Spir - it, help us treas - ure



God's a - bun - dance may be found:
 some may draw while oth - ers teach.
 trou - bled wom - an, fish - er - men,
 tal - ents that sur - round us here;



we are blessed with gifts that dif - fer, skills and
 Some may cook or of - fer com - fort, some may
 Si - mon, Je - sus named him Pe - ter, for he
 tal - ents known and tal - ents hid - den make us



tal - ents all a - round. We are mem - bers
 write and some may preach. Some a - gree while
 saw the rock with - in: Je - sus knew their
 more than we ap - pear. Hum - bly, God, we



of one bod - y, piec - es vi - tal
 oth - ers ques - tion, some are si - lent,
 gifts and tal - ents when he bid them
 sing thanks - giv - ing, hon - or - ing the



to the whole: ev - 'ry per - son is im - por - tant,
 oth - ers sing. May we nev - er un - der - val - ue
 "fol - low me," flawed yet gift - ed, men and wom - en,
 gifts you give. Help us al - ways use them wise - ly,



each one has a cru - cial role.
 gifts that fel - low mem - bers bring.
 stew - ards of his min - is - try.
 faith - ful - ly, each day we live.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Eric on sabbatical | May 1-July 31

Pastor Eric is away on sabbatical May 1 through July 31. If you're new or visiting during this time, *welcome!* Worship will be a little different than usual during this time. If you have any questions about our community, our ushers handing out bulletins in the back are great folks to reach out to—they'd love to talk with you!

During Pastor Eric's sabbatical, if there is a specific prayer request or concern, please reach out to one of the leaders of our **Caring Ministry**: Suzanne Juday, Karen Hamingson, Linda Babcock, Pam Kitterman, and Malorie Nelson. They will do their best to connect people to a support person and make sure every care need gets met.

In case of **Pastoral Emergency**, including any funeral arrangements, please reach out to Rev. John Dorhauer, Pastor at First Congregational UCC in DeKalb (602-402-6171; 1stdekalbpastor@gmail.com). You can also reach out to the Caring Ministry, who will then follow up with Pastor John. *Should a memorial service be needed and you would prefer to have me do it, I will of course do so when I return from my leave.*

For other questions, please reach out to either Darlene in the church office or Chris Borresen, our 2025 Church Moderator (cborresen@gmail.com).

Post-Service Gathering | Sunday, May 4, following worship

Join the Federated Moderator Team and members of the Leadership Board after church on Sunday, May 4, to discuss how we can use Pastor Eric's sabbatical time to continue to strengthen our church. Bring your questions or suggestions to discuss with the group over coffee. This is a wonderful opportunity to continue building momentum over the summer!

Thrift and Plant Sales | Fri., May 16, 9 AM – 5 PM, Sat., May 17, 9 AM – 1 PM

There are plenty of ways to help with the Thrift and Plant Sales. Donate items & plants. Arrange & Price items during set-up. Cashier during the sales. Organize & Pack left-over items for transport or disposal. Drive unsold items to local thrift stores. Use the sheets in Dutton Hall (or the link in the eNews) to help at the Thrift and Plant Sales.

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.



Church Calendar: Coming up at Federated!

Did you know there is a Master Calendar of church/building related activities? Scan this QR code to see what's going on!

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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@FederatedChurchSycamore

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