

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 | May 11, 2025

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

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Holy One, we give thanks for the mother whose heartbeat summoned us into this world of nonbeing.

Many: We give thanks for the mother who first held and named us, washed us and wrapped us in soft clothes.

One: We give thanks for the mother who first gave us sight, smell, and touch; laughter and language; trust and confidence, and peace of mind.

Many: We praise you for the love and care we received from women we couldn't live without.

One: Thank you for every mother who knows you.

Many: Nourish the mothers of this world now at a time when many go without food, shelter, and hope.

One: Help us respond. Teach us compassion, generosity, and integrity.

Many: Help new mothers become the kind of Many they long for their own children to be.

One: Give us, also, a more loving understanding of all who choose not to or couldn't keep a child, who in ambivalence, heartbreak, and prayer have done the best they were able to do.

Many: Bless, now, the teachers and counselors who comfort our children and others.

All: And for mothers who've gone on to another life in your paradise without end, may we remember them with gratitude and praise.

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 Hymn "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry" (p.3)

Prayers of the People

Sharing Prayers of Joy & for Healing

Pastoral 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 "Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us" vv 1, 3 & 4 (p.4)

Scripture

[Mark 7:24-37](#)

Sermon

"Crumbs from the Table"

Musical Meditation

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

"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky" (p.5)

Benediction

Postlude

"Praise Him! Praise Him!"

C.G. Allen/arr. M. Hayes

Thank you for joining us for worship today!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

While Pastor Eric is on sabbatical, we are so grateful to have the Rev. Joe Gastiger leading us in worship! In addition, those serving us this morning are:

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Director of Music:** Gary Mattin

Children's Church Director: Bill O'Hagan | **Childcare Support:** Janis Schnurr-Trebe

Liturgist: Chris Borresen | **Ushers:** Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle and Skip Schramer

Ushers for Sunday, May 18: Pam & Nate Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

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"I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" by John Ylvisaker

Unison

Musical staff with notes and chords: D7, G, D, G, D, G, D

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too
 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

Musical staff with notes and chords: G, D, G, D7, G, D

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

Musical staff with notes and chords: G, D, G, C, D7, G

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.

St. 4, end

Musical staff with notes and chords: G/B, C, G

I was there when you were but a child, with a
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

Musical staff with notes and chords: Am, D, G, G/B, C

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

Musical staff with notes and chords: G, A7, D

wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

to beginning

“Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us” by Daniel Bechtel



1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us
2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our
3 Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our
4 When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our



close in her de - light, Fed us free - ly from her
hand and been our guide, Lift - ed us and healed our
trust in power and might, Left be - hind our broth - ers,
neigh - bor's hand in love, Tread the path of peace and



bod - y, God has called us in - to life.
sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.
sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.
jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.

“We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky” by Ruth Duck



1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers
2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for
3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -



grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -
morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and
a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's



in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -
war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -
good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons



ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that
ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that
from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that



all may have a - bun - dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.
all may have a - bun - dant life in one - ness with their neigh - bor.
all may have a - bun - dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Eric on sabbatical | *May 1-July 31*

Pastor Eric is away on sabbatical 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).

May Love Offering | *Federated Preschool*

Federated Preschool is raising money to update their playground with new drainage, so it no longer floods every time it rains. Any amount can help with the playground improvements. Write Federated Preschool on your check.

Pride Planning Team | *TODAY after worship*

We're forming a team to imagine and plan some (intergenerational) ways we can live into this commitment as a church--including, *but not limited to*, our participation in DeKalb County's Pride Fest on Saturday, June 21. Have some ideas? Have none, but are interested and ready to help? Join Bill O. and Ryan W. after worship to learn more!

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 this week Mon. – Thurs. between 7 am & 5 pm.** 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 to sign up to help at the Thrift & Plant Sales.

Children's Church

Children's Church will not be held on Sundays, May 18, May 25, June 1, June 22. Children's bulletins and activity boxes will be available.

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.



No Worship at Federated – Off-site Worship | Sunday, June 1

We're taking this opportunity while Pastor Eric is on sabbatical to experience worship off-site at another location. You are free to attend a church of your choosing or join one of our church leaders at:

- 1st Congregational UCC DeKalb, 10 AM, with Chris B.
- New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 10:45 AM, with Bill O. & Ryan W.
- The Rock Christian Church, 10 AM, with Gip S.

Sign-up in Dutton Hall or online through the link in the eNews.

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.*



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 Guest Worship Leader, Rev. Joe Gastiger

We are blessed to have Rev. Joe Gastiger leading us in worship most Sunday's during Pastor Eric's sabbatical.

Pastor Joe served as the Pastor of First Congregational UCC in DeKalb from August 2001 until his retirement in October 2020.

Having grown up in New York, he attended S.U.N.Y Stony Brook and the University of Iowa before completing graduate work at Colorado State University. He came to DeKalb in 1980 to teach English at Northern Illinois University, where he later earned his doctorate.

Ministry was a second-career path for Joe. He first joined First Congregational UCC as a member in July of 1994, noting that he was led to this church by his son, Michael, whose own innocent and profound spiritual questions—which came up while he was playing with toys, or while he and Jean would read to him at night—had reawakened deeply felt concerns in himself. He turned to ministry as a quest for a greater challenge in life and a growing interest to learn more about Christianity and the Bible.

Pastor Joe has served the wider community in numerous ways and at a variety of levels over the years, doing what he can to make DeKalb County a place of greater love, justice, and belonging for all, especially the vulnerable and marginalized.

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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