

**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 | June 29, 2025**

*All music can be found at the back of the bulletin.  
Please join in reading those parts printed in **bold**.*

**Prelude** “Before the Throne of God Above” Vikki Cook / arr. M.K.

### **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

One: Holy One, come—join us today, make us  
aware of just how close you are,  
so we feel you accompanying us  
All throughout the day—

**Many: as we sit and read,  
or go for a walk, or begin to speak, or clean,  
or cook, or sew—as we go along with  
the ebb and flow of everyday life.**

One: Speak to us, God, when we are tense,  
when we’re unsure, when we’re upset.

**Many: Lead us, we pray, to tender and unexpected places.**

**All: Dear God, you speak to us about abundant,  
everlasting life. Open our ears, our hearts,  
and hands to all you promise through Jesus Christ.**

### **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** “Shadow and Substance” (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** “Be Now My Vision” (p.4)

**Scripture** [1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14](#)

**Sermon** “A Word to the Wise”

**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** “Amazing Grace” (p.5)

**Benediction**

**Postlude** “Awesome God” *Rich Mullins/arr. B.W.*  
*Thank you for worshiping with us today!*

† † †

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

While Pastor Eric is on vacation, 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:** Phil Wagener | **Ushers:** Alice Whitney and Bev & Skip Schramer  
*Ushers for Sunday, July 6: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer*  
All music is used with permission: *CCLI Copyright License #3234671;*  
*CCLI Streaming License #22467093*

## "Shadow and Substance" *by Dan Damon*

1 Shad - ow and sub - stance, won - der and mys - ter - y,  
2 We are your im - age, formed in com - mu - ni - ty;  
3 Nam - ing the name - less Spir - it of u - ni - ty,

spell-bind-ing spin-ner of at - oms and earth; Soul of the cos-mos,  
sis - ters and broth-ers of Ad - am and Eve. You gave us col - or,  
scan-ning the heav-ens for signs of your care; God of the a - ges,

per - son and en - er - gy, source of our be - ing: we sing of your worth.  
cus - tom and his - to - ry; teach us to hon - or what oth - ers re - ceive.  
give us hu - mil - i - ty; guide us to mys - ti - cal un - ion in prayer.

Unison

# "Be Now My Vision" by Mary E. Byrne



1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;  
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;  
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,  
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—  
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;  
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

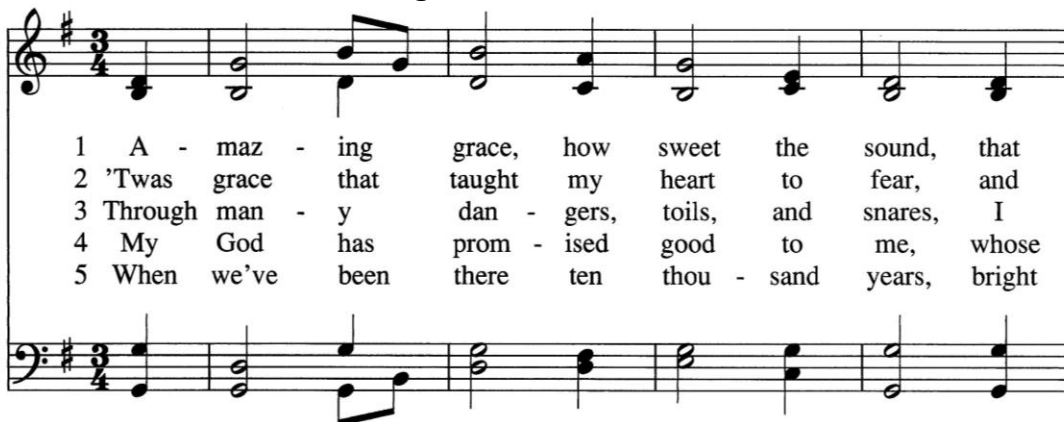


You my best thought, by day or by night,  
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,  
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

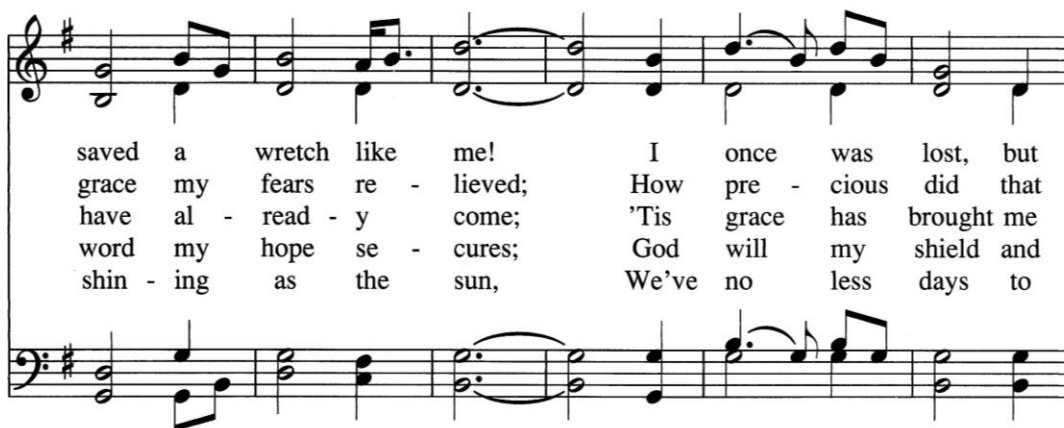


wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.  
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.  
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

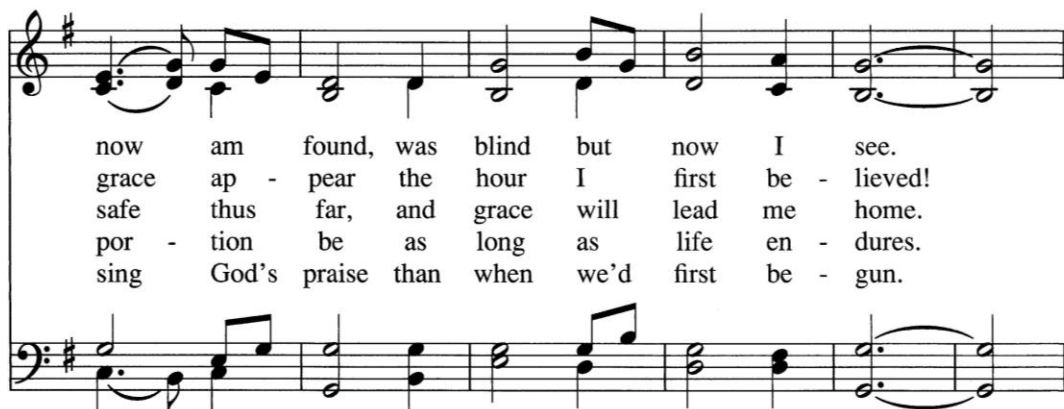
# Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound *by John Newton*



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

# 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).

## **Addressing Issues Affecting Migrants**

At an earlier post-service discussion about immigration, several individuals expressed a desire to explore "Know Your Rights" training. During these trainings participants receive information that can help to understand and protect one's rights in situations like interactions with ICE and other law enforcement, protests, etc.

The Leadership Board is looking to identify individuals who would like to participate. Training typically lasts an hour. Please let the church office or Gip Seaver know if you are interested.

## **June Love Offering | Strengthen the Church**

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering in June reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

Donations in any amount are welcome and can be placed in the "offering" plate, mailed to the church office, or given online at <https://bit.ly/GiveFCS>—select the fund: Love Offering.



## 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 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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