

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 | August 10, 2025, 10:00 am

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

*Please join in reading those parts printed in **bold**.*

Prelude

“The Gift of Love”

Hal Hopson/arr. M. Kim

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 #563 “We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”

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 thoughts, feelings, and sensations that arise in you during this time. Without judgment, simply let them go, and try to stay present to the moment.

“People think the sabbath is antiquated; I think it will save us from ourselves... Rest is not the reward of our liberation, nor something we lay hold of once we are free. It is the path that delivers us there... Lie down with me in the pasture, where life is alive and growing with the unapologetic slowness of a blade of grass. What will become of us?”

~ Cole Arthur Riley, This Here Flesh

Visual Meditation

“Sabbath” *

Breath Prayer

Inhale: “Be still, my soul.” | **Exhale:** “In this quiet, I am renewed.”

Inhale: “There is wisdom in this pause.” | **Exhale:** “I am free to rest.”

Silent Prayer & Reflection

Φ What happens when you go without regular rhythms of resting in God/Love?

Φ What does a regular rhythm of rest make possible that isn’t otherwise?

The Prayer Jesus Taught Us

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 “Come and Find the Quiet Center” (p. 3)

Scripture

[Haggai 1:1-7; Romans 7:15-21](#)

Sermon

“Staying Human in a Dehumanizing World”

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

“Take Time to Be Human” (p. 4)

Benediction

Postlude

“Soon and Very Soon”

Andrae Crouch/arr. M. Kim

Thank you for joining us for worship today!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

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: Gip Seaver | **Ushers:** Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer
Ushers for Sunday, August 17: Pam & Nate Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl
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** The Visual Meditation this morning is written and produced by The Work of the People, and is used with permission | theworkofthepeople.org*

"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.

"Come and Find the Quiet Center" by Shirley Erena Murray

1. Come and find the qui - et cen - ter in the crowd - ed life we lead, find the
2. Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it
3. In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's pain, let our

room for hope to en - ter, find the frame where we are freed: Clear the
is who speaks and names us, knows our be - ing, touch - es grace, mak - ing
loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e - brate the space we gain: There's a

cha - os and the clut - ter, clear our eyes that we can see all the
space with - in our think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the sun, rais - ing
place for deep - est dream - ing, there's a time for heart to care, in the

things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.
cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun.
Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing, there is al - ways room to spare.

"Take Time to Be Human" by Chris Shelton



1. Take time to be hu - man; come, all who are
2. Take time to be hu - man; take time to take
3. Take time to be hu - man— what more could we
4. Take time to be hu - man; Christ comes as our



stressed. Seek joys that are sim - ple: play,
care. Our bod - ies are tem - ples; God's
be? Take time to re - mem - ber, God
guide, shows strength by his weak - ness, shuns



won - der, and rest. Let go of false meas - ures;
im - age we bear. Heart, mind, skin, and sin - ew,
has set us free: free from Phar - aoh's la - bors,
priv - 'lege and pride. Up - lift - ing the low - ly—



serve God and not wealth; find life's tru - est
each wound and each scar— God's light shines with -
free from chains that bind, free to love our
God's love on dis - play— Christ, hu - man and



treas - ures: peace, whole - ness, and health.
in you, loved just as you are.
neigh - bors; free: heart, soul, and mind.
ho - ly, still shows us the way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meal Train

The church has set up a meal train for Twangie Smith's family. Twangie is in a hospital an hour from home. We've created this Meal Train (<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/03gwwv>) to help take care of her family's most basic needs during this time of uncertainty and strain. Use the link found in the eNews to view available dates. If you are unable to navigate the Meal Train and want to contribute to a meal, please let Karen Hamingson know.

No Children's Church | *today*

Children's Church will not be held TODAY or next Sunday. Children's bulletins and activity boxes are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Pancake Sunday | *Today, after worship*

We are preparing/serving pancakes during Post-Service Fellowship today. Please stay and enjoy some delicious pancakes!

Common Table | *Fri., August 15, 6 PM, The Greenhouse, 265 W Peace Rd, Sycamore*

A year-long county-wide initiative that Federated helped launch seeks to bring together diverse cross-sections of our wider community together (over a FREE, catered meal) and share stories about our lives, struggles, and resilience in order to deepen our connections and partnerships. Registration (<https://www.commontabledekalb.com/calendar>) is required to attend.

Fall Fest Planning | *Sunday, August 17, after worship*

In preparation for Fall Fest (Sunday, September 7), a planning meeting will be held following worship on August 17. We are hoping for another inter-generational celebration, but we need your help to make this work. Sign-up in Dutton Hall. Questions? See Sharon Hollister or Pam Jackson.

Recycle/Reuse Bulletin Covers

We will recycle and reuse these bulletin covers. Please place them in the basket at the back of the sanctuary on your way out. Thanks!

Weekly eNews



Scan the code at the left to see the most recent eNews & announcements.

Church Calendar

Scan the code at the right to see the church's Master Calendar of events.



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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