

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 31, 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

“This Is My Song”

Jean Sibelius/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

“O for a World” (p. 3)

Prayers of the People

Centering Moment

This is your time to center more deeply into the presence of God/Love.

We invite you to sit with the quote below, and then ponder the Silent Reflection

Questions or simply sit silently as the music plays. You might even consider taking this insert home and discussing them with a trusted partner.

“Jesus came to show us how to be human much more than how to be spiritual... We need to look at Jesus until we can look out at the world with his kind of eyes.” ~ Richard Rohr

Silent Prayer & Reflection

- ◆ Instead of seeing spirituality as a way of “moving beyond” the difficult parts of being human (e.g. anger, grief, conflict, shame, hatred)—as if we could be human and not experience these things—can you imagine your spiritual journey moving you toward and through these? What is needed for you to do that?
- ◆ How does “looking at/to” Jesus help you more fully embrace your own humanity? How does doing this shape how you choose to live?

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 As You Are” (p. 4)

Scripture

[John 16:12-14; Ephesians 3:18-19](#)

Sermon

“Ask Me Anything: II”

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

“Womb of Life and Source of Being” (p. 3)

Benediction

Postlude

“Let All Things Now Living”

Mark Hayes

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: Sheldon Turner | **Ushers:** Alice Whitney and Bev & Skip Schramer
Ushers for Sunday, September 7: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer
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"O for a World" by Miriam Therese Winter



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

"Womb of Life and Source of Being" by Ruth Duck
sung to tune of Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Verse 1

***Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart
In your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start
We, your children gather 'round you, at the table you prepare
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care***

Verse 2

***Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend
When our memory fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend
Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world yet to be
Free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity***

Verse 3

***Mother, Brother, Holy Partner, Father, Spirit, Only Son:
We would praise your name forever, one in three, and three in one
We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new
Ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you***

"Come As You Are" by Gary Rand / Lenora Rand

1. Come, you who've been wound-ed, all you who've lost hope.

5 Come, you who are long-ing for what you do not know. 2. Come, you hun-gry for jus-tice.

8 ach-ing for heav-en on earth. Come, you who've been tossed a-side, don't re-

10 mem-ber what you're worth. *refrain* Come as you are. Come you wear-y, come and

12 lay your bur-dens down. Come as you are. Bring your hopes, bring your

14 doubts and your scars. Come as you are.

17 3. Come, you who've been cast out, all you who've been shamed. Come, you who are look-ing for that

20 my-st'ry you can't name. 4. Come, you cry-ing for mer-cy, hop-ing for peace on earth.

23 Come you car-ry-ing ques-tions, all you who've been so hurt. *to refrain*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Fest | Sunday, September 7

We hope you'll mark your calendars and plan to join us for a day of inspiring worship, delicious food, fun-filled activities for all ages! RSVP using the QR Code.



Meal Train

A Meal Train for the family of Twangie Smith, who is in a hospital an hour from home, has been created (<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/03gwwv>) to help take care of her family's most basic needs during this time of uncertainty and strain. If you are unable to navigate the Meal Train and want to contribute to a meal, please let Karen Hamingson know.

Office Closed for the Labor Day Holiday

The church office will be closed TOMORROW in observance of Labor Day. On Tuesday, September 2, the office will return to the non-summer hours of:
Monday and Friday from 9AM to Noon
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9AM to 3PM

Meals on Wheels

Federated Church partners with the Voluntary Action Center every April and September to provide drivers who deliver meals to those who are elderly, disabled, or home bound as part of their Meals on Wheels program. Each driver takes one route for a particular day at lunchtime. Sign up sheets are available in Dutton Hall.

Working for Hope | Sat., Sept. 13, 10am-12pm

Working for Hope invites you meet with them at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 615 N. First St, DeKalb on Saturday, September 13, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. This is not a lecture, but an active, immersive time of strengthening ourselves to face and challenge the world around us and to plan a way forward.

Please RSVP to First Congregational UCC church office (815-758-0691). A light lunch will follow the event.

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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www.fedsycamore.org

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