

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 | September 14, 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

“Lamb of God”

Twila Paris/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

“We’ll Build a World” vv. 1 & 2 (p. 3)

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 images or phrases that stay with you. Remain present & curious to the feelings they bring up in you.

Visual Meditation

“Let Us Love”

Silent Prayer & The Prayer Jesus Taught Us

Alternative words from the New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,**

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace & freedom sustain our hope & come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.

Sung Response

“All Belong Here” (p. 4)

Scripture [Exodus 1:8-20; Matthew 9:35-38; Romans 8:18, 22-25](#)

Sermon

“Midwifing Life in a World of Death”

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 Song “Lead Us from Death to Life” vv. 1 & 3 (p. 5)

Benediction

Postlude “How Majestic Is Your Name” *M. W. Smith/arr. M. 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:** Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer
Ushers for Sunday, Sept. 21: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl
*All music is used with permission: CCLI Copyright License #3234671; CCLI Streaming License #22467093; * The Visual Meditation this morning, “Let Us Love,” is written by Elsa Anders Cook, produced by The Work of the People | theworkofthepeople.com*

"We'll Build a World" by David Lohman

1. We are diff' - rent, you and I, yet to -
 2. As we la - bor toward that day, don't let
 3. In this var - ied u - ni - verse all ex -

geth - er, fates en - twine. Now we gath - er in this
 diff' - rence fall a - way. Your u - ni - que - ness I will
 ist - ence so di - verse. Filled with won - der, life so

space, joined in spir - it, filled with grace; bring your
 see, and the same thing, see in me. Thus we're
 queer, steeped in mys - t'ry, oft un - clear. Yet to -

full - ness, I'll bring mine, and to - geth - er we will
 val - ued, known and named, hon - ored, cher - ished, loved and
 geth - er, hand in hand, we'll cre - ate that Prom - ised

REFRAIN

shine. To - geth - er, we'll build a world where there's
 claimed. Land.

room for all to be; a world where we'll live our lives lib - er -
 at - ed, strong, and free! This glo - ri - ous fu - ture

build it now with me.

"All Belong Here" by Lenora Rand & The Many

Verse 1

When you're not sure who you real-ly are, When all you feel is the
shape of your scars, And you have more wounds than you can count, O-pen your
eyes, look all a-round, You aren't a - lone, this is your home._

Chorus

Come and re-mem-ber who you are here. Do this to_ re-mem-ber who I
am. Come and re-mem - ber you be - long here. All be-
long here.

Verse 2

When you don't know how to for-give,_ When locked doors seem like the
on-ly way to live, And you've got more ques-tions than you can count, O-pen your
eyes, look all a-round, You aren't a - lone, this is your home._ (to chorus)

“Lead Us from Death to Life” by Satish Kumar / Marty Haugen

Refrain C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

spair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

to Stanzas

Dm7 G Em7 Am

1 Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your
 2 So man - y lone-ly hearts, so man - y bro-ken lives, long-ing for
 3 Let jus-tice ev - er roll, let mer-cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus-tice roll, let
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C *to Refrain*

mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meal Train

As was shared in worship recently and in Pastor Eric's email (find link to email in the Weekly eNews), Twangie Smith passed away on Saturday, August 30. We will continue the Meal Train (<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/03gwwv>) and provide meals for the next few weeks to help the family through this difficult time as they transition into a new reality without Twangie. Please consider signing up for a date to deliver a meal or a gift card to a restaurant, especially if you haven't already done so. If you are unable to navigate the Meal Train and want to contribute a meal, please let Karen Hamingson know.

No Children's Church | Next Sunday, September 21

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

Intro to the Old Testament Study | Mid-September through October

Join us for a six-week class introducing you to the Old Testament. This is the second installment of our "Intro to the Bible" series, having done an intro to the Bible class last winter. You do not have to have participated in the first class to participate in this one. Sign-up in Dutton Hall or at the link in the eNews. Email Pastor Eric with any questions.

Federated Church 101 | Sunday, October 19, after worship

Are looking to get more connected? Are you looking to learn more about who we are and how to be more involved? Do you have questions you'd like answered? If this sounds like you, then we invite you to "Federated 101"—a chance to gather around a table for a conversation with Pastor Eric as you get to know others in the same boat.

Participation in a Federated 101 is needed in order to become a member. Don't miss out, these conversations only happen a couple times a year. Sign-up in Dutton Hall. Reach out to Pastor Eric with any questions.

Ladies' Night Out | Tues., Sept. 23, 6 PM, Nami Ramen, DeKalb

Our next Ladies' Night Out will be at Nami Ramen, an authentic Japanese Restaurant in DeKalb. Nami is a Ramen & Asian Fusion restaurant featuring Ramen, Stir-Fri Ramen, Donburi bowls, Tempura, and more. Please sign up on the sheet in Dutton Hall or at the link in the eNews.

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*



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