

**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 21, 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** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Wm. Runyan/arr. L. Larson

### **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** "Will You Come and Follow Me?" (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**

*"Psalm 31" \**

#### **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** "This Is Our God" (p. 3)

**Scripture** [Exodus 2:11-15, 3:1-11; Matthew 10:16-18](#)

**Sermon** "No Kinship, No Peace! Know Kinship, Know Peace!"

**Sung Response** "O God, You Give Us Neighbors" vv. 1 & 2 (p. 4)



## **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** “O God You Give Us Neighbors” vv. 3 - 5 (p. 4)

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

“Everlasting God”

*B. Brown & K. Riley/arr. L. Larson*

*Thank you for joining us for worship today!*

† † †

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

*Serving us this morning:*

**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:** | **Ushers:** Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

*Ushers for Sunday, Sept. 28: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer*

*All music is used with permission: CCLI Copyright: #3234671; CCLI Streaming: #22467093*

*\*The Visual Meditation is produced by The Work of the People | theworkofthepeople.com*

## **CONGREGATIONAL NOTES**

*Church Leadership for August 2025 – August 2026:*

**Moderator:** Gip Seaver | **Assoc. Moderator:** Bill O’Hagan | **Past Moderator:** Chris

Borresen. | *Should you have any questions concerning the church, how to get*

*involved, or who to contact about something, please reach out to one of them or Pastor*

*Eric, and they will get you the information you need or connect you to someone who can.*



**“Will You Come and Follow Me?”** by John Bell & the Iona Community



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
3. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
4. God, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown,\_\_\_ will you let my name be known,\_  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare\_\_\_ should your life at - tract or scare?\_  
 Will you use the faith you've found\_\_\_ to re - shape the world a - round,\_  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go\_\_\_ where your love and foot - steps show. \_



\_\_\_ will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?  
 \_\_\_ Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?  
 \_\_\_ through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?  
 \_\_\_ Thus I'll move and live and grow in you, and you in me.

**“This is Our God”** by Chris Tomlin

***A refuge for the poor, a shelter from the storm: this is our God  
 And He will wipe away your tears, and return your wasted years:***

***This is our God, this is our God***

***A mother to the orphan, a healer to the broken: this is our God  
 She brings peace to our madness, and comfort in our sadness:***

***This is our God, this is our God***

***A fountain for the thirsty, a lover for the lonely: this is our God  
 They bring glory to the humble, and crowns for the faithful:***

***This is our God, this is our God***



**"O God, You Give Us Neighbors" by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette**



1. O God, you give us neigh - bors for whom your love a - bounds.
2. O God, you give us neigh - bors in this world that div - ides.
3. O God, you give us neigh - bors and call us all to see
4. O God, you give us neigh - bors; and now, what must we do?
5. God, may we work for jus - tice for those who live in fear;



They've come here seek - ing ref - uge; they work here in our towns.  
We see them at the bor - der; they're strug - gling for their lives.  
our com - mon fears and long - ings, our shared hu - ma - ni - ty.  
This ques - tion asked of Je - sus is one we ask a - new.  
may we show Christ's com - pas - sion, and pray and per - se - vere—



Their child - ren go to school here; they come to church and pray.  
They're hurt - ing by the road - side, and by the riv - er, too.  
You call us all to lis - ten to bur - dens they have known,  
May we not make ex - cu - ses and choose to walk on by  
and by your Ho - ly Spi - rit, in all we do and say,



O Lord, we grieve when neigh - bors are be - ing sent a - way.  
You call us to show mer - cy to neigh - bors loved by you.  
to hear the truth they tell us, to see the love they've shown.  
these neigh - bors flee - ing vio - lence— some sent back now to die.  
may we stand up for neigh - bors now be - ing sent a - way.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Meal Train**

Following Twangie Smith's Celebration of Life last week we will continue the Meal Train (<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/03gwwv>) and provide meals through September 29 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.

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

Study books (\$14) are available in the church office. If you signed up, check your email for a message from Pastor Eric with details about the class.

## **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 at the link in the eNews.

## **Federated Church 101 | *Sunday, October 19, after worship***

Are you 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 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.

## **Fall Church Summit | *Oct. 30 – Nov. 1, First Congregational UCC of DeKalb***

Many of you joined us last fall at Federated Church for the Fall Summit gathering of the "Thriving Pastors in Revitalizing Congregations" initiative. This Fall, join Pastor Eric and others at First Congregational UCC in DeKalb for another round of inspiring worship and meaningful workshops. This is also a great chance to get to know others in the "wider church" and experience the diversity of our denomination. If you're interested in participating, let Pastor Eric know; if needed, the church can also help offset the cost!

## **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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