

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 | November 02, 2025, 10:00 am

Today we will be taking communion. We invite you to participate how ever you're best able. Feel free to use whatever you have for the "bread and cup"—whether it's bread & grape juice or a cookie & coffee.

*God takes our ordinary offerings, whatever they are, and blesses them as we share them together!
All music can be found at the back of the bulletin. Please join in reading those parts printed in **bold**.*

Prelude

"Morning Has Broken"

Michael Joncas

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

"For All the Saints" vv. 1-2, 4-5 (p. 3)

Prayers of the People & 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.

Remembering the Saints

*"To acknowledge our ancestors means we are aware that we did not make ourselves,
that the line stretches all the way back, perhaps to God... We remember them because
it is an easy thing to forget: we are not the first to suffer, rebel, fight, love, and die. The grace
with which we embrace life, in spite of the pain, the sorrow, is always
the measure of what has gone before." ~ Alice Walker*

Building an Altar of Love

We invite you to come forward to place your picture on the altar and/or light a candle

Sung Response

"We are Not Our Own" (p. 4)

Stewardship Moment

Testimonial

Ryan Washabaugh

Questions for Personal Reflection

- ♦ How has being part of Federated helped you wade through life's chaotic waters with hope toward new life?
- ♦ What will you commit in time, passion, or finances to help grow this community of courageous faith, defiant hope, and fierce love so we can deepen our impact?

Visual Meditation

*"Migratory God"**

Scripture

[Exodus 33-40 & Deuteronomy 34](#) (select verses)

Sermon

"Generation to Generation: Stewarding the Exodus Way"

Sung Response

"Here Within this Congregation" v. 1 (p. 5)

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

Holy Communion

We practice an "open table"—everyone is welcome to receive God's gifts. There is no age you must be or dogma you must believe. God meets us where we are—amidst our questions, fears and failures—and offers us nourishment and a blessing on life's journey.

Invitation & Words of Institution

Sharing Bread & Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sending Son

"Draw the Circle Wide" (p. 6)

Benediction

Postlude

"Almighty"

Wayne Watson/arr. B. Wolaver & 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: Sheldon Turner | **Ushers:** Pam Wagener and Chris Borresen

Ushers for Sunday, November 9: Gip Seaver and Ruth Olle

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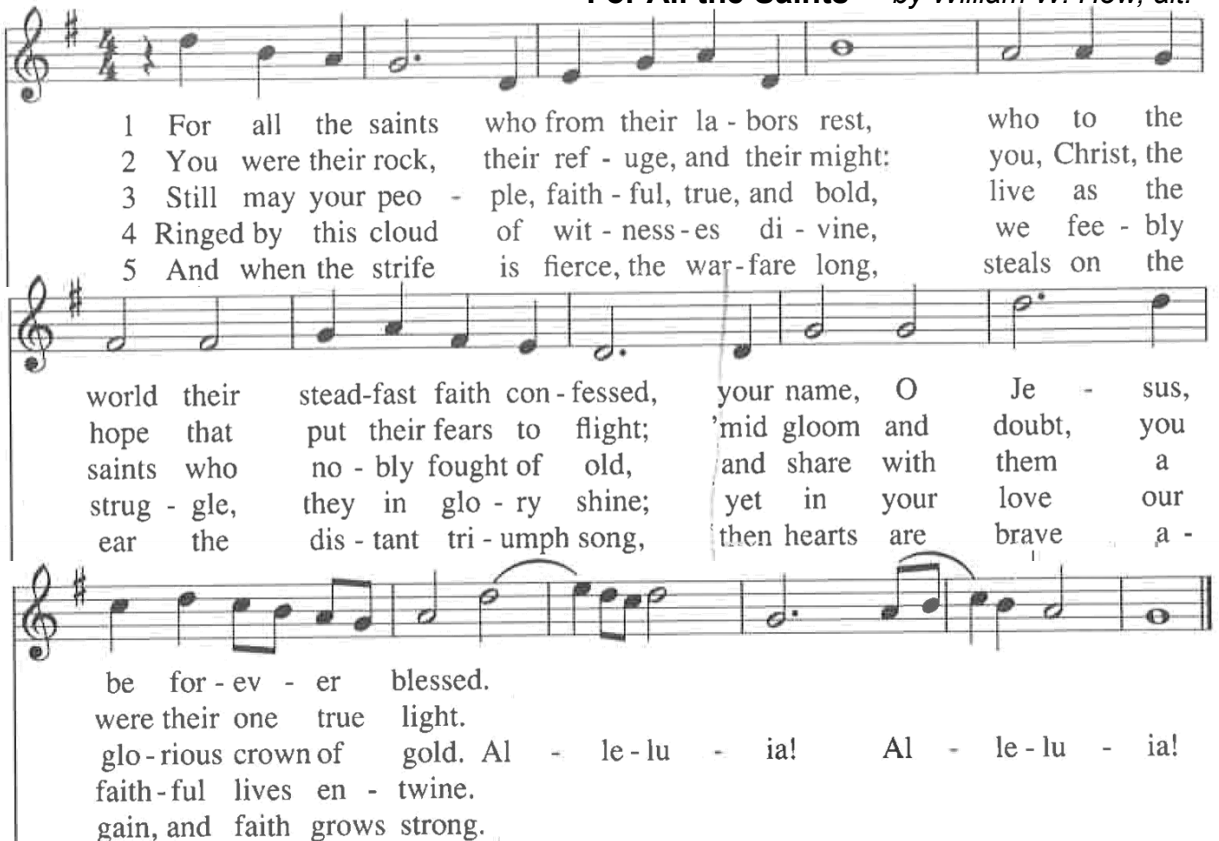
***The scripture story retelling used this morning comes from *The Just Love Story Bible*, and is written by Rev. Dr. Shannon Daley-Harris and Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis*

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.*

"For All the Saints" by William W. How, alt.



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who to the
2 You were their rock, their refuge, and their might: you, Christ, the
3 Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold, live as the
4 Ringed by this cloud of witness, divine, we feebly
5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the
world their steadfast faith confessed, your name, O Jesus,
hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you
saints who nobly fought of old, and share with them a
struggle, they in glory shine; yet in your love our
earthly distant triumph song, then hearts are brave a -
be forever blessed.
were their one true light.
glorious crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
faithful lives entwined.
gain, and faith grows strong.

"We Are Not Our Own" by Brian Wren

1 We are not our own. Earth forms us, hu-man leaves on na-ture's grow-ing
2 We are not a-lone. Earth names us: past and pres-ent, peo-ples near and
3 Through a hu-man life God finds us; dy-ing, liv-ing, love is ful-ly
4 There-fore let us make thanks-giv-ing, and with jus-tice, will-ing and a-

vine, Fruit of man-y gen-er-a-tions, seeds of life di-vine.
far, fam-i-ly and friends and strang-ers show us who we are.
known, and in bread and wine re-minds us: we are not our own.
ware, give to earth, and all things liv-ing, lit-ur-gies of care.

5 And if love's en-coun-ters lead us
on a way un-cer-tain and un-known,
All the saints with prayer sur-round us:
we are not a-lone.

6 Let us be a house of wel-come,
liv-ing stone up-hold-ing liv-ing stone,
Glad-ly show-ing all our neigh-bors
we are not our own!

"Here Within This Congregation" *by Jacque B. Jones*

1. Here with - in this con - gre - ga - tion
God's a - bun - dance may be found:
we are blessed with gifts that dif - fer, skills and
tal - ents all a - round. We are mem - bers
of one bod - y, piec - es vi - tal
to the whole: ev - 'ry per - son is im - por - tant,
each one has a cru - cial role.

"Draw the Circle Wide" by Gordon Light

Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the

This system contains the first two measures of the song. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the staff.

4 G/D G A D G A
cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. No one stands a-lone, we'll stand side by

This system contains measures 3 and 4. Chord symbols G/D, G, A, D, G, and A are written above the treble staff. The lyrics continue below the staff.

7 Bm E Em A 1 D
side. Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the

This system contains measures 5 and 6. Chord symbols Bm, E, Em, A, and D are written above the treble staff. A first ending bracket labeled '1' is placed over the final measure. The lyrics continue below the staff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Church Conversation | *TODAY, following worship*

We invite you to another round of conversation about our congregation's engagement in "immigration justice." The Leadership Board is working to approve a covenant to guide us as a congregation, as well as a process that helps clarify the ways that we can more intentionally live into this covenant. You will be invited to co-create this ministry through active engagement: by sharing your feedback, expressing your own passions/concerns, and by committing to participate in this covenant.

Common Table DeKalb | *Friday, November 7, 6 PM, Waterman*

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. The evening is co-hosted with Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation at Waterman Community Center, 160 W. Lincoln Hwy., Waterman. Registration (<https://www.commontabledekalb.com/calendar>) is required to attend.

New members -- Pledge Dedication -- Potluck | *Sunday, November 9*

New Members: We will welcome new members during worship and celebrate with cake afterwards.

Pledge Dedication Sunday: Also during worship, we will receive financial and time & talent pledges. Additional financial pledge cards, time & talent pledge forms, and stewardship packets are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Thanksgiving Potluck: Get ready for a super fun Thanksgiving potluck! We're serving up some delicious chicken, but we need YOU to bring the magic! Whip up your favorite side dish or dessert to share. Let us know you can join us. Sign-up in Dutton Hall.

Feed My Starving Children | *Sun., Nov. 16, 3-5PM, Suter Company*

Federated Church is getting a group together to help with FMSC. Sign-up in Dutton Hall. For more information see Sue McCue or Linda Babcock.

Decorate the Church | *Sunday, November 23*

All ages are invited to join us after worship today to decorate the church for the Advent season, which begins next Sunday. Many hands make light work!

Weekly eNews



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

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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