

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 16, 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 “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” *arr. M. Hayes*

Welcome

Call to Worship

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 Hymn #575 “O for a World” (p.3)

Prayers of the People

Sharing Prayers of Joy & for Healing

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

**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 #521 “In Solitude” (p.3)

Scripture [Luke 14:7-14](#)

Sermon “A Place at the Table”

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 “For Everyone Born” vv. 1, 3, 5 (p.4)

Benediction

Postlude

“Soon and Very Soon” *Andraé Crouch/arr. M. Kim*
Thank you for joining us for worship today!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

While Pastor Eric is away, we are so grateful to have the Alex Wilson leading us in worship! In addition, those 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: Sharon McKee | **Ushers:** Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason & Allison Stahl
Ushers for Sunday, Nov. 23: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer
All music is used with permission: CCLI Copyright: #3234671; CCLI Streaming: #22467093

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Church Leadership for August 2025 – August 2026:

Moderator: Gip Seaver

Associate 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.

"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.

"In Solitude" by *Ruth Duck*



1 In sol - i - tude, in sol - i - tude, I come to God in prayer.
2 When - e'er the world is troub - ling me, and stress is all a - round,
3 In sea - sons of per - plex - i - ty, in times of deep de - spair,
4 And when my heart is bur - dened down with cares for those I love,
5 With psalms and hymns and songs of praise be - fore my God I'll come,

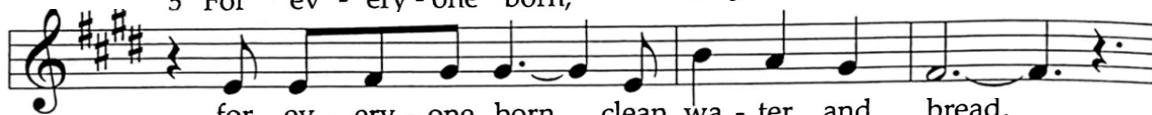


In si - lence and sim - plic - i - ty, my spir - it blos - soms there.
I seek the pres - ence of my God, and heal - ing light is found.
I light a can - dle in the night and turn to God in prayer,
too deep for words, with groans and sighs, de - scends the ho - ly dove.
till death it - self is past and gone, and I ar - rive at home.

"For Everyone Born" Shirley Erena Murray and Brian Mann



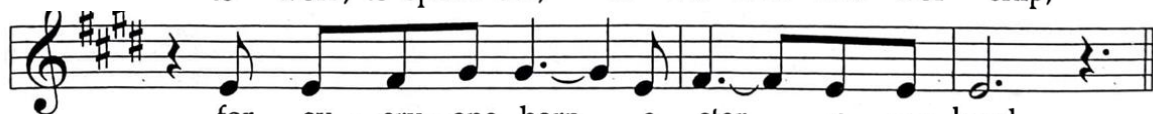
1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver-head,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,



and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus-tice and joy!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship Pledge Drive

While we dedicated our pledges last Sunday in worship, you are still able to turn in a pledge to help us sustain our growing ministries in 2026. If you intend to make a pledge commitment of [time/talents](#) and/or [financially](#), we ask that you complete the online forms by Monday, December 8. This will help us plan our budget and ministries for 2026! If you prefer, paper forms are available at the church and can be mailed or placed in the offering plate.

Transgender Day of Remembrance | Today 7pm, 1st Lutheran Church

Join us as we honor the lives of transgender and gender non-conforming people we have lost in the last year to violence and transphobia. Organized by Religious Leaders in DeKalb County and Faith Now, the service will be at First Lutheran Church, 324 N. 3rd St., DeKalb, today, at 7 PM.

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!

Adent Lanterns

Do you have a lantern you are willing to lend to the church for the season of Lent to use for our altarscapes? Our Advent theme is captured in the phrase, “What do you fear?” with a sub-theme of “insisting on hope” in these difficult times. Part of our thematic imagery is lanterns—lighting the way for us through the darkness as we face into our fears. Lanterns may be dropped off at the church. You can take them home at the end of the season.

Adent Spiritual Formation Opportunities

During Advent, we are planning two opportunities for intergenerational craft-making—luminaries and candlesticks—that can be used to deepen one’s own spiritual formation or can be used as a family through the season. In this time of deepening darkness, both activities will create a contemplative space to reflect on, create, and encounter “the light that is coming into this world,” that lights the way as we face our fears and cling to hope. Final date/time is being determined, so watch for more info next week!

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*



Follow us on



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