

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 | February 01, 2026, 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

"Taste and See"

James Moore/arr. M. Kim

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 "Come As You Are" (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 brought up in you.

Visual Meditation

*"The Merton Prayer"**

Silent 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 "With Us" (p.4)

Scripture [2 Corinthians 1:8-9 & 13:5; John 3:1-12, 15-16](#)

Sermon "Where the Real Spiritual Journey Begins"

Musical Meditation

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 & a blessing on life's journey.

Invitation & Words of Institution

Sharing Bread & Cup

“To Be Loved this Way”

Bryan Sirchio

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 *“Prayer of St. Francis” (see insert)*

Benediction

Postlude

“Soon and Very Soon”

Andrae Crouch/arr. M. Kim

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: Chris Borresen | **Ushers:** Pam Wagener and Chris Borresen

Ushers for Sunday, Feb. 8: Gip Seaver and Ruth Olle

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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.*

"Come As You Are" by Lenora Rand & The Many

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, *to refrain* all you who've been so hurt.

"With Us" by Emma Ceurvels & Bryan Sirchio

1. Some - times I just
2. Some - times we all

lose my - self. Fear and doubt take hold.
lose our - selves when our fears take hold.

Times when I feel ov - er - whelmed by all that
May we learn this prayer so well it's here when

is un - known. Spir - it come and calm me
need - ed most. Spir - it come and calm us

down. Help my heart find Home. Still my
down Help our hearts find Home. Still our

mind, my fear, my doubt Help me to tr - u - ly
minds, our fears, our doubts Help us to tr - u - ly

know... You are with me, with me,
know... You are with us, with us

Though my eyes may not see How you're hold - ing,
Though our eyes may not see How you're hold - ing,

1. *decresc.*
my life Lov - ing me per - fect - ly.
our lives Lov - ing us per - fect - ly.

2.
Lov - ing us per - fect - ly...

lov - ing us pe - r - fect - ly.

Prayer of St. Francis *music by Ben Charity*

Verse 1:

C Am⁷ Fmaj⁷ C
 Make me an instrument of peace
 Am⁷ Fmaj⁷ C
 Where there is hate let me sow love
 Am⁷ Fmaj⁷ C Am⁷ Fmaj⁷
 Where there is hurt let me bring Your healing

Verse 2:

C Am⁷ Fmaj⁷ C
Make me an instrument of peace
Am⁷ Fmaj⁷ C
Where there is fear let faith arise
Am⁷ Fmaj⁷ C Am⁷ Fmaj⁷
Where there is dark let me be Your light

Chorus:

C Fmaj⁷ Am⁷ Fmaj⁷
 Make of me, Your hands and feet
 C Fmaj⁷
 I want to be, to the people around me
 Am⁷ Fmaj⁷
 You want to be, to the people around me

Verse 3:

\overline{C} A_m^7 F_{maj}^7 C
 It's in the loving we find love
 A_m^7 F_{maj}^7 C
 It's in the giving we receive
 A_m^7 F_{maj}^7 C A_m^7 F_{maj}^7
 It's in the dying we are found

AT A GLANCE: COMING UP AT FEDERATED

Annual Calendar Session | *Today, after worship*

All are welcome to join the Leadership Board in planning the events for 2026. This is an informal gathering to pick dates for important events.

Ash Wednesday Service | *Wed., Feb. 18, 5:30 PM*

Join us for a special Ash Wednesday service with the giving of ashes and blessing our messy, broken, beautiful lives as we begin our Lenten journeys together. There will be no childcare, but there will be children's bulletins and activity boxes available.

Feminist Theology Group | *Feb. 28, 10:30 AM to Noon, in the youth room*

Restudying and retelling the traditional Christian stories from a woman's perspective. The group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month. More details in this week's eNews.

Online Giving

Recurring, one-time, and designated contributions can be made simply and securely through our online platform. Scan the QR code to get started.



Weekly eNews

Church Calendar



Scan the code at the left
to see the most recent
eNews & join our email list.

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 encountering the Mysterious Force at the heart of the universe. This is a God who 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.

We believe 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.

We believe in 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 across lines of difference—race, class, culture, citizenship status, gender, sexuality, age, and ability—not merely to tolerate each other, but to build authentic relationships and true belonging. We believe the simple but courageous work of showing up in this way is one necessary element in healing our nation and world's deep divisions.

We believe in working for peace through solidarity & justice

At Federated, conversations about racism, sexism, transphobia, poverty, immigration, hunger, and a host of other issues are commonplace—from the pulpit and around the table. With Dr. King, we believe 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.” In this spirit, *in 2025 our Leadership Board initiated a series of conversations with the congregation, and together we discerned a mission priority for the church to act for “immigrant justice,” adopting this covenant to guide us: “As a community of faith, we commit to protecting our migrant neighbors through acts of sanctuary, solidarity, and justice. We will not stand by in the face of unjust enforcement. We will act, love, and speak as our faith commands—with courage and compassion.”*

“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
Facebook & Instagram:
@FederatedChurchSycamore



www.fedsycamore.org

Church Office Phone: (815) 895-2706 || **Email:** Office@fedsycamore.org

Pastor Eric Cell: (815) 797-2250 || **Email** RevEric@fedsycamore.org

Director of Children’s Church: Bill O’Hagan

Childcare Support: Janis Schnurr-Trebe

Federated Church Preschool, Director Bobbi Clough

Phone: (815) 764-9473 || **Email:** Preschool@fedsycamore.org

Address: 612 W. State Street, Sycamore, IL 60178