

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 15, 2026, 10:00 am

*All music can be found at the back of the bulletin. Please join in reading those parts printed in **bold**.*

Prelude

“Trusting Jesus”

Ira D Sankey/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 “All Are Welcome” (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

“Creative Joy”*

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 “All Belong Here” (p.4)

Scripture

[Matthew 17:1-8; Galatians 3:26-28](#)

Sermon

“Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time”

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 *Prayer of St. Francis (p. 5)*

Benediction

Postlude “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus” George J. Webb/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: Phil Wagener | **Ushers:** Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, & Allison Stahl
Ushers for Sunday, Feb. 22: Paula von Ende and Bev & Skip Schramer
All music is used with permission: CCLI Copyright: #3234671; CCLI Streaming: #22467093
** The Visual Meditation this morning produced by The Work of the People, and is used with permission.*

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.*

“All Are Welcome” by Marty Haugen & Mark Miller



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly live, a
2. Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and true, where
3. Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and stone to
4. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi- sions heard and



place where saints and chil - dren tell low_ hearts learn_ to for - give.
all God's chil - dren dare_ to seek . o dream God's_ reign a - new.
heal and strength - en, serve_ and_ teach, : and_ live the_ Word they've known.
loved and trea - sured, taught and_ claimed as_ words with - in the Word.



Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness and as sym bol of God's grace;
Here the out cast and the strang - er bear the im age of God's face;
Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,



— All are wel - come, wel-come in_ this place, all in - vit - ed to



come and know_ God's grace, all are wel - come, the love of Christ to feel, _____ 'cause



all of us_ are wel- come. here.,

all are wel-come in this place.

"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)

Prayer of St. Francis *music by Ben Charity*

Verse 1:

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

Verse 2:

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

Chorus:

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

Verse 3:

It's in the loving we find love
It's in the giving we receive
It's in the dying we are found

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Ash Wednesday Service | *February 18, 5:30 PM*

First Sunday in Lent: Soup Sunday | *February 22, following worship*

Worship, followed by a light lunch of homemade soups, made by our own in-house chefs!

Ladies' Night Out | *Tues., Feb. 24, 6 PM, Yen Ching, 810 W Lincoln Hwy*

Feminist Theology Group | *Sat., Feb. 28, 10:30 AM, Youth Room*

Restudying and retelling the traditional Christian stories from the perspective of women. Meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month. First gathering is Feb. 28. Those who wish to may join others for lunch somewhere afterwards. See Ann Finseth for more info.

Celebrating & Saying Goodbye to Ms. Janis | *Sunday, March 1*

Join us to give thanks, bless, and say "goodbye" to Ms. Janis, whose presence helped us begin and establish ministry with and for our children.

UUA Warming Center | Sundays, March 1 & 8, 5 PM to 9 PM

Federated Church has volunteered to serve dinner at the Warming Center at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of DeKalb. Four to five volunteers are needed at the warming center from 5-9PM on each date. Additional service opportunities include preparing elements of the meal (salad/fruit, main entree, dessert) and transporting food to the warming center (between 4:30-5:45 PM). We need enough food to feed 20 people (please indicate number of servings you're providing on sign-up sheet). Sign-up in Dutton Hall. See Ann Finseth for more info.

We Need YOU to help us create Extravagant Welcome

Every Sunday requires numerous volunteers to create a warm space of hospitality where both long-time Federated folks and newcomers alike find extravagant welcome & belonging.

We are using our Time-Talent pledge forms from Stewardship season last fall to begin on-boarding, orienting, and coordinating us going forward. Whether you filled this out or not, please join us where interested to learn what serving in each ministry entails.

- March 1: *Liturgist/Worship Leadership 101*—interested in helping lead worship? This gathering will orient you and answer your related questions! For both current liturgists and those interested in serving.
- March 8: *Hosting Fellowship Hour 101*—interested in providing snacks, hosting, or helping clean up Fellowship Hour? Want to contribute but don't know where to start? Overwhelmed by the idea of doing it yourself? This gathering will orient you, answer your questions, and help you know where to find things!
- March 15: *Usher Training*, with a focus on preparation & response in case of ICE encounter on church premises. All current and interested ushers, please join us.

Weekly eNews



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

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 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:
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