

THE
Federated Church
OF SYCAMORE



Tell me
something
good

Grounding ourselves in
the good news this Lent

Responding to God's Invitation: Prayer Stations

Lent was originally a season for new followers of Jesus to study the heart of Christian faith, the "good news of great joy for all people." These stations are multisensory and experiential ways for us to do that—to deepen our encounter with and reflections on: radical welcome, surprising joy, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, and nonviolence in the face of injustice—to help us go live this good news.

During this time (~10 min), we invite you to freely visit prayer stations placed throughout the front, back, middle, and sides of the sanctuary, and even by staying in your pew.

Take your time. Consider this a mini "pilgrimage of the soul." This works best if you don't try to visit every station each week; linger where your heart feels called and receive the good news you need for today as you journey through the fullness of life.

*Virtual prayer stations indicated in **blue** can be found at [this link](#). Join us in worship to experience the additional prayer stations.*

Prayer Candles: *Light a candle and offer a prayer for a person / place*

Table of Offering: *Place your donation to support our growing ministries or our special Mission Offering on the table. Place donations for our local pantries in the "blessing box"*

What Good News Have You Found Here?: *Write a word or phrase or moment that captures why you are here, or is a glimpse of the "good news" you've experienced here*

Sharing the Good News: *Each week, bring headlines, clippings, and cutouts of good news you've spotted and add them to our growing collage*

Good News in the Wilderness: *Some seasons of life feel like wilderness wandering. Yet even here, God is present. We, too, are invited to be present. In your pew, meditate on the poem inserted in the bulletin. Notice what arises within you*

Divine Seeing: *Pause to look more deeply at the artwork inspired by today's scripture*

Tree of Life: *Write on a leaf how you'll live out the good news this week*

Spiritual Practices for Embodying Good News: *Take these resources home. Rather than an "extra" thing to do, consider how you can integrate a "good news practice" into your daily/weekly rhythm—e.g. as part of a waking, commute, dinner, or bedtime routine. Do them by yourself, with a friend, or as a family*

Building Bridges of Good News: *Use playdough to build an island and a popsicle stick to build bridges between these "communities." On the popsicle stick write one way you will build a bridge between people or communities to help strengthen our bonds*

Waters of Joy & Release: *Take a stone; drop it in the water and release what's burdening you. Pick a flower; float it in the water as a reminder of what brings you joy*

Order of Worship | March 22, 2026

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

Prelude “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” Sebastian Temple/arr. L. Larson

Gathering For Worship

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 “Righteous Mercy” (p.3)

Centering Our Hearts

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Creator 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.

Song of Preparation “What Does the Lord Require of You?” (p.5)

Scripture [John 8:2-11; Matthew 23:23](#)

Sermon “The Good News is... Rooted in Restorative Justice”

Sung Response “What Does the Lord Require of You?” (p.5)

Prayer Stations (virtual stations can be found at [this link](#))

Our Shared Life

Preparing to Live God’s Love

Sending Song “Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly” (p.4)

Benediction

Postlude “In Christ There Is No East or West” A.R. Reinagle/arr. M. Hayes
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 | **Liturgist:** Pam Kitterman

Ushers: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer

Ushers for Sunday, March 29: Alice Whitney, and Bev & Skip Schramer

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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.*

† † †

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Post-Service Listening Session | *Sun. Mar. 22, after worship*

Visioning for our ministry with families w/young children. All welcome to participate!

Ladies' Night Out | *Tues., Mar. 24, 6 PM, Tom & Jerry's, 265 W Peace Rd., Syc.*

All women are invited. Sign up in Dutton Hall on in this week's eNews.

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

Meeting the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month, 10:30-to noon, Feminist Theology next meets on Saturday, March 28. Please use door #3S to enter at the Youth room.

Meals on Wheels | *Throughout April*

Sign up in Dutton Hall to deliver Meals on Wheels for the Sycamore East & West Routes during April. Questions? See Sharon Hollister.

Maundy Thursday Meal & Worship | *Thurs. Apr. 2, 5:30 PM*

Tenebrae service preceded by a light Middle Eastern meal. Help us with our meal planning by letting us know you can attend on the sign-up sheet in Dutton Hall.

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

“Righteous Mercy” *by Anna Strickland*



Since our child - hood you have taught us what is wrong and what is right
Though there's wide - ness in your mer - cy, let us not a - buse that grace
Far too of - ten we hold on - to an - ger dressed as righ - teous-ness



Nur - tur - ing our sense of jus - tice, fuel - ing us to work and fight
Called in - to this Chris - tian jour - ney, let our lives re - flect our faith
We for - get we serve a God who calls - us to re - la - tion - ship



Keep that fire for jus - tice burn - ing in the sha - dow of our fear
When we fal - ter and fall short of our com - mit - ment to your will
So when those who caused us harm re - pent and choose a bet - ter way



E - ven there your Spi - rit's stir - ring, light - ing us a path that's clear
Hold us, wrap - ping us in your love as we work toward whole - ness still
Spi - rit move our venge - ful hearts _____ to choose love in - stead of wrath

“Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly” by Pat Barrett

Pno. 1. It

5 all comes down to this, what You re - quire of me. Love my

9 neigh - bor as my - self, and You a - bove all things. Act

refrain 13 just - ly, love mer - cy, walk humb - ly with You, God. In

17 all things, in all ways, walk humb - ly with You, God. 2. It

21 all comes down to this, to be Your hands and feet. Good

25 news to all the world, oh the truth will set us free. Act *to refrain*

29 You, God. *bridge* It's beau - ty for ash - es, it's mourn - ing to danc - ing. It's

32 clos - er and clos - er, the King - dom of heav - en. Beau - ty for ash - es, it's

35 mourn - ing to danc - ing. It's clos - er and clos - er, the King - dom of heav - en.

38 (W.L.)

42 3. Years from now we'll see, the fruit our hands have sown.

46 Faith just like a seed, the on - ly way it grows.

54 just - ly, love mer - cy, walk humb - ly with You, God. In

58 all things, in all ways, walk humb - ly with You, God. Act

“What Does the Lord Require of You?” by Jim Strathdee

*1.
What does the Lord re - quire of you?

2.
Jus - tice, kind - ness,

3.
To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness

Repeat as desired

What does the Lord re - quire of you?

walk hum - bly with your God.

and walk hum - bly with your God.

Mission Offering

How the Tapepuka Nutrition Garden Is Transforming Lives in Zaka

For over fifty years, Christian Care, the service arm of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, has been a steadfast partner to communities in need, preserving life and human dignity through sustainable development and humanitarian response, empowering marginalized communities to overcome poverty, hunger, and vulnerability.

One of the most transformative examples of Christian Care's work can be found in the Tapepuka Nutrition Garden in Zaka District. Once a barren stretch of land, it has been revitalized into a flourishing garden that not only produces fresh vegetables but also offers income, skills development, and hope for the local community.

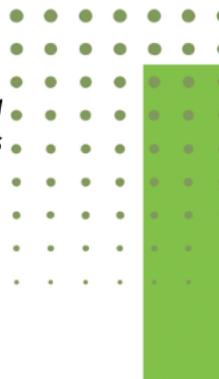
This transformation has been made possible through the generous annual support of the **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**, a mission offering from UCC Churches across the US. The garden now directly benefits 52 households –roughly 260 people–and indirectly provides fresh produce to an estimated 4,500 community members who access the vegetables through local markets.

Beyond addressing immediate food needs, **OGHS** support has helped the community build lasting skills in vegetable production and entrepreneurship. Community members have learned how to plan, plant, and harvest efficiently, and how to sell their produce in local markets, giving them tools to generate income long after the initial project support. The fenced garden itself is a productive asset that will continue to benefit the community for years to come.



To supporters of OGHS, your giving is not just funding projects. It is nourishing families, sending children to school, providing clean water, creating productive assets, & building hope in communities across Zimbabwe and around the world!

Place your offering in the One Great Hour of Sharing envelope located at the Table of Offering Prayer Station or scan the QR code



PALM SUNDAY FAITH ACTION

RECLAIMING CHRISTIANITY IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

**MARCH
29**

On Palm Sunday, join a diverse coalition of Christians across DeKalb County for a Public Palm Procession and Gathering to elevate our faith's call to love God and love our neighbors: healing the sick, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, and being peacemakers.

1:00PM

Palm Procession at the DeKalb Co. Courthouse. Gather at the **Corner of W. State St. and N. Main St.** (across from library)

1:15PM

Worship and Program on the steps of DeKalb Co. Courthouse

This local Action is part of a nation-wide movement bringing thousands of Christians into the streets and public square to reject the authoritarianism, cruelty, and greed of White Christian Nationalism and to boldly stand together to embody our faith's call to do justice and love mercifully; to love our neighbors as ourselves; to wage peace, not violence; to feed the hungry, heal the sick, and welcome the stranger. Join us--and bring your family and friends (even if they're not Christians or active church-goers!). Register now and share the event with others!



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 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 that 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 Federated Church 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*



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