

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 | April 5, 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 "Come, People of the Risen King" *Getty, Townsend, Darwall*

Gathering at Jesus' Tomb

Welcome

Easter Vigil [John 20:1-3, 11a](#)

Introit "Morning Breaks, the World Awakens" verse 1 (p.3)

Easter Proclamation [John 20:11b-13 & Mark 16:6-7](#)

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! (3x)

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 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" vv. 1, 2, 4 (p.4)

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.

Choir Anthem "Hallelujah Chorus" *Handel / Ward*

Scripture [Matthew 28:1-10](#)

Sermon "The Good News is... Alive in the World!"

Sung Response "Morning Breaks, the World Awakens" vv. 2-3 (p.3)

Holy Communion

Invitation & Words of Institution

Sharing Bread & Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Preparing to Live God's Love

Our Shared Life

Sending Song “Lead Us From Death to Life” vv. 1 & 3 (p.5)

Benediction

Postlude

“The Power of Your Love”
Thank you for joining us for worship today!

George Bullock

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

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:** Khat Hetland

Liturgist: Sheldon Turner | **Ushers:** Pam Wagener and Chris Borresen

Ushers for Sunday, April 12: 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.*

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

...to the following people for sponsoring the Easter flowers
adorning the altar today:

Ann Finseth

Suzanne & Dave Juday

Linda Matuszewski

Deb & Jim Paulin

Karen & Dan Hamingson

Pam Jackson & Gip Seaver

Sharon & Glenn Hollister

Pam & Phil Wagener

Paula von Ende

Malorie Nelson

Each plant is labeled with a sponsor’s name.
You may pick up your flower(s) after worship.

“Morning Breaks, the World Awakens” by Hanna C. Brown



1. Morn - ing breaks, the world a - wak - ens,
2. In a gar - den, met with won - ders,
3. You bear wounds yet com - fort oth - ers,



ach - ing hearts must face the day, brav - ing now a
ten - der hearts seek what is true. Emp - ty, long - ing,
shar - ing peace and breath and bread, car - ing for the



world that's shak - en, dar - ing still to breathe, to
gripped with hun - ger, we reach for a touch from
ones who suf - fer, call - ing us to give and



stay. Who are we with - out your pres - ence?
you. What is this strange rev - e - la - tion,
mend. How can we be - come your bod - y



Who will move our stone a - way?
plant - ing seeds of hope a - new? Here a - mong us
here on earth as you as - cend?



green - ing pow - er, here a - bove us dawn - ing skies;



here a - round us grow - ing prom - ise, here with - in us love will



rise.

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" by Charles Wesley



1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!



Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!



Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

“Lead Us from Death to Life” by Satish Kumar / Marty Haugen

Refrain C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

spair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

to Stanzas

Dm7 G Em7 Am

1 Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your
 2 So man - y lone-ly hearts, so man - y bro-ken lives, long-ing for
 3 Let jus-tice ev - er roll, let mer-cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus-tice roll, let
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C to Refrain

mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Feminist Theology | Saturday, April 11, 10:30 AM

This group explores the often overlooked and undervalued stories of women in the Bible and tradition. Meets the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month, 10:30-to noon. Please use door #3 to enter at the Youth room.

Visioning/Listening Sessions | April 12 & 19, following worship

The April 12 session will focus on Worship. The April 19 session will focus on Congregational Connections.

Federated 101 | Sunday, April 26, following worship

Trying to find ways to connect, serve, or further explore your faith? Join Pastor Eric and others newer to Federated to learn more about who we are, what we believe, and what it means to be a member of Federated. We'll welcome new members in worship on May 3.

Ladies' Night Out | Tues., April 28, 6 PM

Join our next gathering at Pachamama Peruvian Restaurant, 265 W. Peace Rd., Sycamore. Let us know you can join us by signing up in Dutton Hall.

Birthday/Celebration Cake Kits & Bunco | Sun., May 3, after worship

Help us with cake kits for area food pantries.

How to help:

- Provide cake kit items
- Monetary donation for a cake kit
- Assemble cake kits
- Deliver cake kits to area food pantries

Afterwards, we'll play Bunco! Sign-up in Dutton Hall.

Thrift & Plant Sales | Fri. & Sat., May 8 & 9

Now's the time to start setting aside items for our Thrift & Plant Sales! Volunteers are needed for Set-up on Thursday, May 7, and during the sale. Sign-up 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





Grounding ourselves in the good news this lent

Good News in the Wilderness

“Starting with a Wedding”

Inspired by the Gospel of John's celebratory beginning.

When it comes time to write my obituary for the local paper, please do not start with my résumé. Do not start with my career or my worldly accomplishments (however small they may be). Do not take up space writing about my alma mater or outlining the entire family tree (we know who we are). Instead, spend your precious little word count on how beautiful it all was. Write about the dinner parties and the fireside chats. Write about the evenings we spent on the front stoop counting fireflies. Write about summers in the mountains and the garden that we grew. Write about the seasons we cried out to God, and the prayers that God answered. Write about the nights we danced, and the days we laughed. When it comes time to tell the story of my life, please take a lesson from the Gospel of John, and start with a wedding. Start with a miracle. Start with the fact that all of it held joy.

by Rev. Sarah Speed



Moments I've enjoyed the goodness of God:

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*



Follow us on

Facebook & Instagram:

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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 Ministries: Bill O’Hagan

Federated Church Preschool, Director Bobbi Clough

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

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