

**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? 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 these times of deep division, vitriolic rhetoric, and violence against people over issues of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, immigration status, disability, and mental health, Federated Church has formally adopted two covenants guiding our life together:

***We 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.

***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.

**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 | June 14, 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**

“Jesus Paid It All”

*John T. Grape/arr. H. Helvey*

### **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**

“New Patterns of Loving” (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 that arise in you.*

#### **Poetic Meditation**

*“The Hands That Lift, Not Press”*

*~Anonymous*

*Your voice was never a hammer, never the cold clang of command.*

*It was the low hum of a kettle, warming the kitchen before dawn, the steady rustle of newspaper as you read beside me, letting silence be a kind of teaching.*

*You did not build walls around me— you planted gardens, explored forests, and showed me how roots patiently find their way through mountain granite.*

*When storms came, you stood not as a tower to block the wind, but as a branching tree, bending, to let the gentle sunlight and rain sparkle through the branches.*

*Your rules were not chains, but lanterns along a winding path, their light enough to walk by, never blinding, never burning.*

*And when I stumbled, you knelt beside me, hands open to lift, as if to say: the world is wide, and you are free to grow.*

### **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.**

### **Sung Response**

“Send Us Your Spirit” (p.4)

**Scripture** [Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7](#)

**Sermon** “Don’t Worry, Keep Hoping”

**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** “Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us” (p.5)

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

“Joy in My Soul”

Mark Hayes

*We invite you to remain seated as the postlude plays.*

*Afterward, please join us in Dutton Hall for coffee and fellowship!*

† † †

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

*Serving us this morning:*

While Pastor Eric is on Parental Leave, we are grateful to be led in worship this Sunday by Rev. Michael Carlson (he/him), who has served as both a local church pastor and as a Music Director. He most recently served as the Director of Music and Creative Arts at Salem Lutheran Church in Sycamore. He is also a music performer and recording artist!

**Pastor:** Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Music Director:** Gary Mattin  
**Children’s Church Director:** Bill O’Hagan | **Children’s Ministry Support:** Khat Hetland  
**Liturgist:** Sheldon Turner | **Ushers:** Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle

*Ushers for Sunday, June 21: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl*

*All music is used with permission: CCLI Copyright: #3234671; CCLI Streaming: #22467093*

# 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.*

## “New Patterns of Loving” by Barbara Hamm

1. New pat - terns of lov - ing make room for new ways,  
2. Our an - ces - try marks us with vis - i - ble signs;  
3. God bless all the Fam - 'lies and friends here to - day;

cre - at - ing new fam - ilies to care for and raise.  
we bear in our bod - ies ge - net - ic de - signs.  
help us to raise chil - dren to walk in God's way,

All those who have loved us and helped us to grow  
But love, be - yond lim - its of gen - der or race,  
to care for each oth - er as chil - dren of God,

are fam - ilies of choice by the car - ing they show.  
can fash - ion new fam - ilies and new ways em - brace.  
whose love is in - clu - sive, far - reach - ing, and broad.

“Send Us Your Spirit” by David Haas



6  
Come, Lord Je - sus, send us your Spir - it, re - new the  
11  
face of the earth. Come, Lord Je - sus,  
20  
send us your Spir - it, re - new the face of the earth.  
24  
1 Come to us, Spir - it of God; breathe in us  
2 Fill us with the fire of your love; burn in us  
3 Send us the wings of new birth; fill all the  
28  
now, we sing to - geth - er.  
now; bring us to - geth - er.  
earth with the love you have taught us. Let  
33  
Spir - it of hope and of light, fill our lives;  
Come to us, dwell in us, change our lives, O Lord;  
all cre - a - tion now be shaken with love;  
come to us, Spir - it of God.

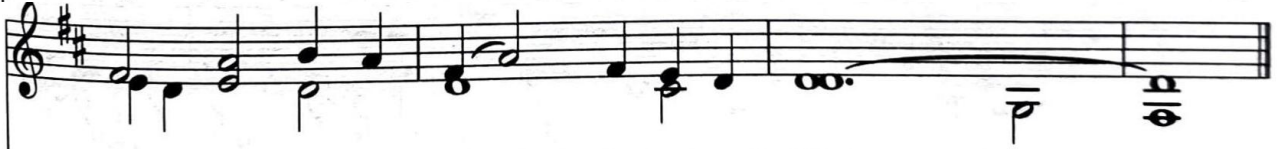
“Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us” by Daniel Bechtel



1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us  
2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our  
3 Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our  
4 When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our



close in her de - light, Fed us free - ly from her  
hand and been our guide, Lift - ed us and healed our  
trust in power and might, Left be - hind our broth - ers,  
neigh - bor's hand in love, Tread the path of peace and



bod - y, God has called us in - to life.  
sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.  
sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.  
jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.

# PASTOR ERIC'S PARENTAL LEAVE

*Through Sunday, July 19*

Important information while Pastor Eric is away on parental leave.

## Congregational Care

During Pastor Eric's Parental Leave, if there is a specific prayer request or concern, please reach out to one of the leaders of our Caring Ministry: Suzanne Juday (Suzanne.Juday@idealindustries.com), Karen Hamingson (khamingson@gmail.com), Linda Babcock (lindambabcock@gmail.com), Pam Kitterman (hospicesis@comcast.net), Deb Paulin (DJPaulin826@gmail.com), and Malorie Nelson (malnel606@hotmail.com). They will do their best to connect people to a support person and make sure every care need gets met.

In case of Pastoral Emergency, once you reach out to a member of the Caring Ministry, they will be in touch with Pastor Eric directly. If Pastor Eric is unable to meet emergency needs during his leave, Pastor John Dorhauer of First Congregational UCC in DeKalb will be available. Pastor John also provided emergency spiritual care coverage for Pastor Eric last summer during his sabbatical.

## Church Leadership

Our Moderator Team: Gip Seaver, Moderator, (gipseaver@gmail.com); Chris Borresen, Past Moderator, (cboressen@gmail.com); and Bill O'Hagan, Assoc. Moderator, (misterohagan@gmail.com), along with the Leadership Board will continue providing leadership during Pastor Eric's leave. Please reach out to one of them if you have any questions or concerns related to the ministries and happenings of the church. If they are unable to answer your question, they will point you in the right direction!

## CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

### Children's Church

Children's Church will not be held today. As always, children are welcome in worship. Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the back. Summer Children's Church dates are the first and third Sundays of the Month: **June: 21; July: 5 and 12.**

**Pride Fest & March 2026** | Sat., June 20, 4-7PM, Van Buer Plaza, DeKalb

We'll once again have a booth at DeKalb County Pride Fest and March (Sat., June 20). See Bill O'Hagan or Sarah Hetland if interested in helping plan or represent Federated!

### 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 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, immigration, transphobia, poverty, 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.” These conversations connect us to each other and build trust as we commit to accompanying each other—and our neighbors in the wider community—across our differences, and together work toward building a just and loving world 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  
Facebook & Instagram:  
@FederatedChurchSycamore



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**Director of Children’s Church:** Bill O’Hagan

**Children’s Ministry Support Staff:** Khat Hetland

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