

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 | July 19, 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

“All Is Well”

Michael Smith/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 “Will You Come and Follow Me” (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.

Meditative Poem

*i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky; and for
everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes (i who have died am alive again
today, and this is the sun’s birthday; this is the birth day of life and of love and wings:
and of the gay great happening illimitably earth) how should tasting touching hearing
seeing breathing any—lifted from the no of all nothing—human merely being doubt
unimaginable You?*

*(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)*

e.e. cummings

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 “God of Many Faces” (p.4)

Scripture [Psalm 86:11-17](#)

Sermon “For Most This Amazing Day”

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

“You Are the Seed” (p.5)

Benediction

Postlude

“Soon and Very Soon”

Andrea Crouch/arr. M. Kim

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:** Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, & Allison Stahl

Ushers for Sunday, July 26: 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.

"Will You Come and Follow Me?" by John Bell & the Iona Community



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
3. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
- 4 God, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, _____ will you let my name be known, _
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare _____ should your life at - tract or scare? _
 Will you use the faith you've found _____ to re - shape the world a - round, _
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go _____ where your love and foot - steps show. _

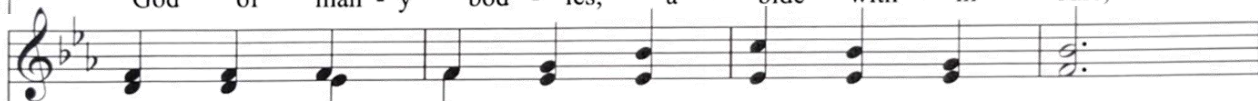


_____ will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
 _____ Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
 _____ through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
 _____ Thus I'll move and live and grow in you, and you in me.

"God of Many Faces" by Amy Cemiglia



God of man - y fa - ces, we of - fer our praise,
 God of man - y gen - ders, our world re - flects you,
 God of man - y names, we in - vite you to show
 God of man - y bod - ies, a - bide with - in ours,



sing - ing your glo - ry through all of our days.
 sun - rise and sun - set u - ni - ting our hues,
 us the new names that re - flect our true souls.
 shift - ing more each day through time and through scars.



Hear ev - er grow - ing voi - ces, once fra - gile, now strong, _____
 wo - ven in - to a ci - ty with jewels of all shades, _____
 Breathe with your ho - ly spir - it to give us the Word _____
 Come sanc - ti - fy our bod - ies, all fash - ioned by you, _____



car - ry - ing mel - o - dies in ex - pan - sive new songs.
 hou - ses of ru - by and _____ walls rowed wth jade.
 that will in - dwell dry bones, grant - ing new life once heard.
 ho - li - er ev - ery - day, still be - com - ing more true.

"You Are the Seed" by Cesáreo Gabaráin

Unison D A7 Bm D

1 You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a
 You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the

G G6 A7 D A

star that will shine through the day; You are the yeast and a
 wheat that will bear gold - en grain; You are a sting and a

Bm G D G6 A7 D

small grain of salt, a bea - con to glow in the night.
 soft, gen - tle touch, my wit - ness - es wher - e'er you go.

Estrillo (Refrain) G A7

A D

Go, my friends, go to the world, pro - claim - ing love to
 Be, my friends, a loy - al wit - ness, from the dead I a -

D Em7 A7 Bm

all, mes - sen - gers of my for - giv - ing peace,
 rose; "Lo, I'll be with you for - ev - er,

1 2 G6 A7 D

e - ter - nal love. till the end of the world."

2 You are the flame that will bright-en
 the way,
 send-ing spar-kles of hope, faith,
 and love;
 you are the shep-herds
 to lead the whole world
 through val-leys and pas-tures of peace.
 You are the friends that I chose for my-self,
 the word that I want to pro-claim.
 You are the cit-y that's built on a rock
 where jus-tice and truth al-ways reign.
Refrain

3 You are the life that will nur-ture the plant;
 you're the waves in a tur-bu-lent sea;
 yes-ter-day's yeast is be-gin-ning to rise,
 a new loaf of bread it will yield.
 There is no place for a cit-y to hide,
 nor a moun-tain can cov-er its might;
 may your good deeds
 show a world in de-spair
 a path that will lead all to God.
Refrain

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Feminist Theology | *Sat., Jul. 25, 10:30 AM, Youth Room*

This group explores the often overlooked and undervalued stories of women in the Bible and tradition. Meeting the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month, they will next meet on Saturday, June 25, from 10:30-to noon. Please use door #3 South to enter at the Youth room. All are welcome.

Annual Summer Congregational Meeting | *Sun., Jul. 26, after worship*

The Annual Summer Congregation meeting will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, July 26, following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to present, discuss, and elect officers and Leadership Board members for the 2026-27 year, the minutes of the January 2026 Annual meeting, and to receive an update on the 2026 Budget. Please plan to join us!

Ladies' Night Out | *Tues., Jul. 28, 6PM, Copper Barrel, Hampshire*

Our next Ladies' Night Out is Tuesday, July 28, 6:00 PM at Copper Barrel, 172 S. State St., Hampshire. Those who wish to carpool should meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 PM. Make your plans now to join your friends from Federated Church! All are welcome.

Meals During Recovery | *Tues., Jul. 28 & Aug. 4, and Thurs., Aug. 6*

Long time member, Bill Griesenauer is scheduled for hip surgery on Monday, July 20. During his recovery at home, we can support Bill and Tomi by delivering a few meals. Casseroles are appreciated. Anyone available to deliver a meal to them on a Tuesday or Thursday please text or call Malorie for details. 815-978-6826. Meals needed for Tuesday, July 28, Tuesday, August 4, and Thursday, August 6.

Mid-Year Calendaring | *Sun., Aug. 9, following worship*

All are welcome to join the Leadership Board in planning the events for the remainder of 2026 and look forward to planning for the centennial celebration of The Federated Church in 2027.

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
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@FederatedChurchSycamore



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