

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 | August 02, 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 "You Are My Hiding Place" Michael Ledner/arr. M. Hayes

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 "For the Beauty of the Earth" (p.3)

Prayers of the People

Centering Moment

This is your time to center more deeply into the presence of God/Love.

We invite you to sit with the quotes below, and then: move through the Breath Prayer; ponder the Silent Reflection Questions; or simply sit silently as the music plays.

"If the concept of God has any validity or any use, it can only be to make us larger, freer, and more loving. If God cannot do this, it is time we got rid of Him." ~ James Baldwin

Breath Prayer

***Inhale:** "My practice is love." | **Exhale:** "My path is justice."*

***Inhale:** "In the face of another." | **Exhale:** "I meet the face of God."*

Silent Prayer & Reflection

How has "growing up" in your faith required you to let go of ideas of God, Jesus, or Christianity that were getting in the way of your growth or capacity to love your neighbor? Did you feel like you could let go, or did you feel like you had to then leave Christianity altogether? Is there something you're feeling called to let go of now?

The Prayer Jesus Taught Us

**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 Meditation "Ground and Source of All that Is" vv. 1, 2, 5 (p.4)

Scripture [John 16:12-14, 21:25; Ephesians 3:18-19](#)

Sermon

“Ask Me Anything: Round 1”

Meditative Solo

“Down to the River to Pray”

Nia Norris, soloist

Holy Communion

Invitation & Words of Institution

Sharing Bread & Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 “We Limit Not the Truth of God” (p.5)

Benediction

Postlude “The Battle Belongs to the Lord” *Jamie Owens-Collins/arr. Mark Hayes*
Thank you for worshiping with us 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 | **Children’s Ministry Support:** Khat Hetland
Liturgist: Jen Bastian | **Ushers:** Pam Wagener, and Chris Borresen

Ushers for Sunday, August 9: Ruth Olle and Gip Seaver

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CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Church Leadership for August 2026 – August 2027:

Moderator: Bill O'Hagan | **Assoc. Moderator:** Jane Whitaker | **Past Moderator:** Gip Seaver | *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.*

"For the Beauty of the Earth" by F. Pierpoint / M. T. Winter



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,



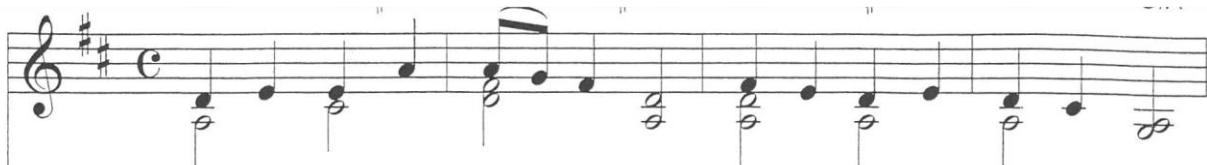
For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

Refrain



God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

"Ground and Source of All That Is" by Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan



Ground and source of all that is, one that an - chors all our roots,
Lov - er of ten thou - sand names, ho - ly pres - ence all have known,
Nat - ure by whose laws we live, au - thor of our d - n - a,
En - er - gy of heav'n - ly spheres, spark with - in the in - sect mind,
Call to kind - ness, call to serve, free - dom for our chos - en course,



Be - ing of all ways and forms, deep - est home and fi - nal truth.
Beau - ty ev - er wel - com - ing, my - ster - y to stir the soul.
All - com - pel - ling call to life, draw - ing one and all the same.
Un - seen pulse to charge our plans, bring - ing or - der and sur - prise.
Guide and friend for all who dream, nour - ished by our ground and source.



We live and move in you.

We live and move in you.

"We Limit Not the Truth of God" by George Rawson



1 We lim - it not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,
2 Who dares to bind to one's own sense the or - a - cles of heaven,
3 E - ter - nal God, In - car - nate Word, Spir - it of flame and dove:

to no - tions of our day and place, crude, par - tial, and con - fined;
for all the na - tions, tongues, and climes and all the a - ges given?
en - large, ex - pand all liv - ing souls to com - pre - hend your love;

No, let a new and bet - ter hope with - in our hearts be stirred:
That u - ni - verse, how much un known! that o - cean un - ex - plored!
And help us all to seek your will with wis - er powers con - ferred:

O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Ask Me Anything! | Submit questions by noon on Jul. 30

Back by popular demand is our "Ask Me Anything" sermon series. The title says it all: Have a question about faith, God, or Church? Or about Federated Church in particular? Submit your question online using the QR code here by August 5 to have it included next Sunday.



Backpack Sunday | Sun., Aug. 2, following worship

Stick around after worship (all ages) and help us fill backpacks that will go to DeKalb County students through partnerships with DCFS, Safe Passage, and Hope Haven.

Feminist Theology | Sat., Aug. 8, 10:30 AM, Youth Room

Exploring the often overlooked and undervalued stories of women in the Bible the group meets the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month. Please enter at door #3 from the parking lot.

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

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.

Centennial Planning

Your unique ideas, stories and insights are welcome as we begin planning our church's centennial celebration. The hope is to plan not just a single event, but to find ways to celebrate, look back, and look forward throughout 2027. See Pam Jackson or Sharon Hollister for more information and watch for an initial meeting.

Fall Fest Planning | Sun., Aug. 16, following worship

Join us in planning another intergenerational Fall Fest, scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 13, with food, activities, games, music, etc. Any and all ideas are welcome!

Office Hours Change | Beginning Mon. Aug. 17

The church office will return to its non-summer office hours of Mon. & Fri. 9AM – Noon and Tue., Wed., Thur. 9AM – 3PM beginning Monday, August 17.

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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