

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 30, 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 “Thy Word” Amy Grant, Michael Smith/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 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” vv. 1, 3, 4 (p.3)

Blessing of the Backpacks

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 poem. Notice the images or phrases that stay with you. Remain present & curious to the feelings that arise in you.

“Caminante, son tus huellas / El camino y nada mas;

Caminante, no hay camino / Se hace camino al andar”

Traveler, your footprints are the road, and nothing more;

Traveler, there is no road; we make the road by walking

~ excerpt from “Traveler, There Is No Road,” a poem by Antonio Machado

Silent Prayer & 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 “Love Is Not Always Comfortable” (p.4)

Scripture [Jeremiah 20:1-3, 7-9; Acts 4:1-21](#)

Sermon “Picking Up Where Jesus Left Off”

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 “Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us” (p.5)

***Benediction**

Postlude

“We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise” *Kirk Dearman/arr. M. 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:** Catherine Amber Beery | **Ushers:** Bev & Skip Schramer

Ushers for Sunday, September 6: Pam Wagener and Chris Borresen

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

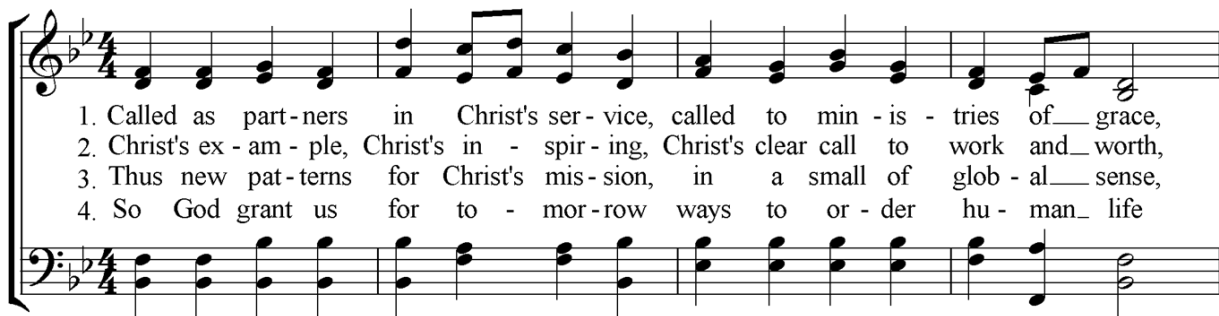
** The Visual Meditation is produced by The Work of the People; used with permission.*

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

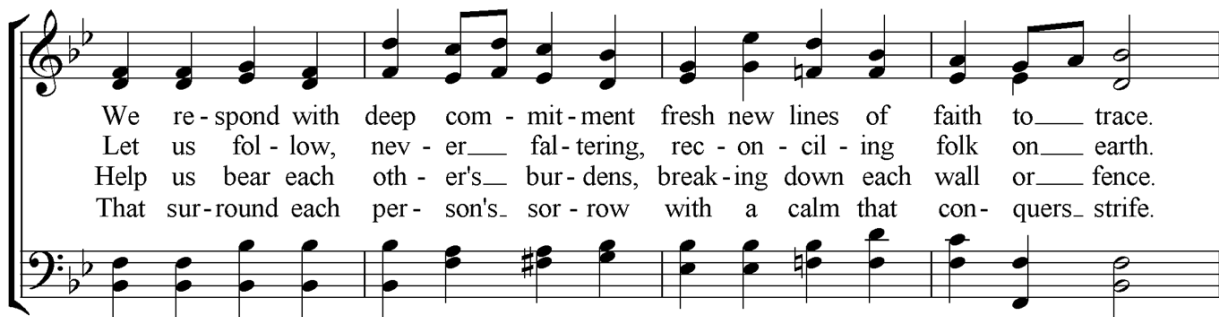
Church Leadership for August 2026 – August 2027:

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.*

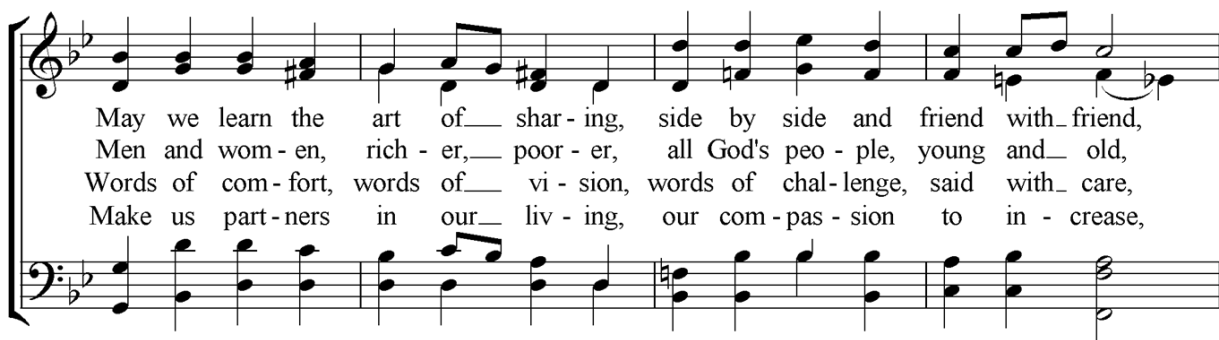
"Called as Partners in Christ's Service" by June Parker Huber



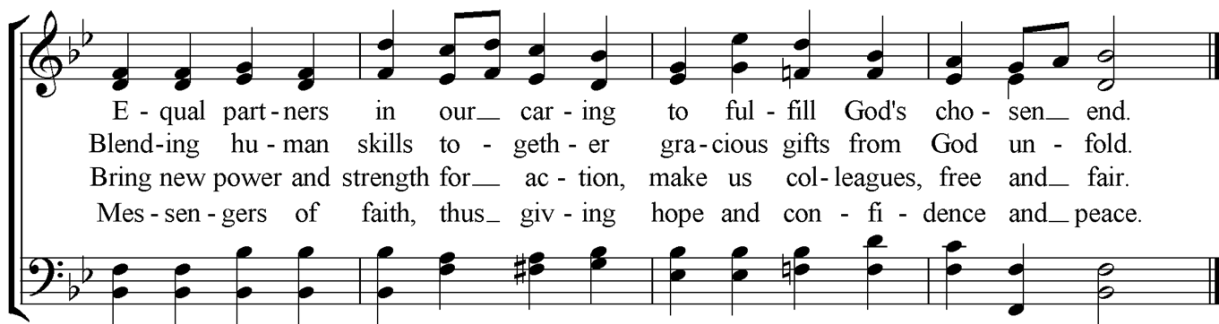
1. Called as part - ners in Christ's ser - vice, called to min - is - tries of__ grace,
 2. Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir - ing, Christ's clear call to work and__ worth,
 3. Thus new pat - terns for Christ's mis - sion, in a small of glob - al__ sense,
 4. So God grant us for to - mor - row ways to or - der hu - man__ life



We re - spond with deep com - mit - ment fresh new lines of faith to__ trace.
 Let us fol - low, nev - er__ fal - tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on__ earth.
 Help us bear each oth - er's__ bur - dens, break - ing down each wall or__ fence.
 That sur - round each per - son's__ sor - row with a calm that con - quers__ strife.



May we learn the art of__ shar - ing, side by side and friend with__ friend,
 Men and wom - en, rich - er,__ poor - er, all God's peo - ple, young and__ old,
 Words of com - fort, words of__ vi - sion, words of chal - lenge, said with__ care,
 Make us part - ners in our__ liv - ing, our com - pas - sion to in - crease,



E - qual part - ners in our__ car - ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen__ end.
 Blend - ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
 Bring new power and strength for__ ac - tion, make us col - leagues, free and__ fair.
 Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus__ giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and__ peace.

“Love Is Not Always Comfortable” by Christian McIlvor

Love is not al-ways com-forta-ble and truth is-n't al-ways so clear._ So,
push us, pull us, shape and trans-form us,_ o - pen our hearts to you.
Love is not al-ways com-forta-ble and truth is-n't al-ways so clear._ So,
push us, pull us, shape and trans-form us,_ o - pen our minds to you.
Love is not al-ways com-forta-ble and truth is-n't al-ways so clear._ So,
push us, pull us, shape and trans-form us,_ o - pen our lives to you.

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Post Service Conversation—Pray Grounds | *Today, after worship*

Pastor Eric leads this conversation exploring how to deepen our hospitality & welcome.

Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday | *Mon., Sept. 7*

Youth Outlook Conversations | *Tues., Sept. 8, 6pm*

Join us and bring a friend for our final gathering of this series around YO's work with LGBTQ+ youth, as well as ways we can work for LGBTQ+ advocacy and belonging!

Feminist Theology | *Sat., Sept. 12, 10:30am-12pm, Youth Room*

Join us as we begin a new book: The Red Tent, by Anita Diamant.

Fall Fest Block Party | *Sun., Sept. 13, 10am-1pm*

Bring a friend for a joy-filled day of worship, food, and play. Sign up to bring a side dish to share. There will be free burgers, brats, and hot dogs, as well as a Food truck, Ice Cream truck, bounce house, lawn games, face painting, and more!

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Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us” by Daniel Charles Damon

1 Je - sus, you have tru - ly called us. Still, to - day, we hear your
2 Je - sus, save us from poor choic - es. Ha-tred, run - ning like a
3 Je - sus, save us from our weak - ness, from de - ceit and from de -

voice. Lead us on - ward, lead us up - ward, till all peo - ple can re -
thread through the fab - ric of our his - t'ry, mars our faith and leaves us
spair. Move us on to new cre - a - tion in a world that's free and
Refrain

joice. Meet us in our time of tri - al, fill us with your Spir - it's
dead. fair.
fair.

power. As we stand be - fore op - pres - sion, give us cour - age for this hour.

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Defending Voting Rights | Wed., Sept. 16, 7pm, DC Legislative Building

Pastor Eric is organizing churches to defend democracy and voting rights this Fall. Join us at this action to let County Clerk Tasha Sims know we will support her and hold her accountable in upholding her duties as the overseer of our local election.

Ladies' Night Out | Tues., Sept. 22, 6pm, Mangiamos on Main, Genoa

Join with other women of the church for all your favorite Italian dishes and conversation at Mangiamos on Main, at 133 W. Main Street in Genoa. RSVP 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

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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