

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 | September 06, 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 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" Wm. Bradbury/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 "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" (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.

Visual Meditation

*"Equality"**

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 "When at This Table" vv. 1-3, 5 (p.4)

Scripture [Acts 4:23-24a, 31-37, 5:12-16; 1 John 3:16-18](#)

Sermon "Beyond Capitalism: Life in God's Economy"

Musical Meditation

Holy Communion "Let Us Break Bread Together" *Spiritual/arr. M. Kim*

Invitation & Sung Response

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: Pray Ground & Offering**

***Sending Song** “We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky” (p.5)

***Benediction**

Postlude “Stand Up for Jesus” *George Webb/arr. M. Kim*
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:** Phil Wagener | **Ushers:** Pam Wagener and Chris Borresen

Ushers for Sunday, September 13: 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.*

"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" *by Robert Robinson*



1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

"When at this Table" by Shirley Erena Murray



1 When at this ta - ble I re - ceive a bless - ing,
2 If at this ta - ble I have need of heal - ing,
3 If at this ta - ble I for - get the hun - gry,
4 If at this ta - ble I make ded - i - ca - tion
5 What faith I have, I bring to join this ta - ble,



the bro - ken bread, the wine of life for me,
un - bid - den grief, re - la - tion - ship gone wrong,
the dis - pos - sessed and war - fare's spread - ing stain,
to give my life in serv - ing what is good,
what hope I hold, in Christ is taught and true;



then let me share the peace with you, my neigh - bor,
then let me know the hands of God en - fold - ing,
then let this bread be - come the bread of judg - ment,
then let my cen - ter be where God in - vites me,
with broth - ers, sis - ters, I will share the bless - ing,



and let the Spir - it set our spir - its free.
and let la - ment be - come be - liev - ing song.
this wine the sharp a - ware - ness of that pain.
and show the words of Je - sus un - der - stood.
the feast where God is mak - ing all things new.

"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky" by Ruth Duck

1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers

2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for

3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -

grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -

morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and

a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's

in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -

war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -

good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons

ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that

ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that

from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that

all may have a - bun - dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.

all may have a - bun - dant life in one - ness with their neigh - bor.

all may have a - bun - dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

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-1:30pm

Bring a friend or invite a family 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!

Defending Voting Rights | Wed., Sept. 16, 7pm, DC Legislative Building 200 N. Main St., Sycamore

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. Use the QR code to let us know you will be there.



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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