

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 20, 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

“We Are Travelers on a Journey”

Mark 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 “Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly” (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

“Migratory God”*

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 > Fear” (p.5)

Scripture [Leviticus 19:1-2, 33-34; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Acts 7:55-60](#)

Sermon

“Resident Migrants”

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: Pray Ground & Offering

Sending Song “Will You Come and Follow Me?” (p.4)

Benediction

Postlude

“Rejoice the Lord Is King” *John Darwall/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:** Kristin Bailey | **Ushers:** Pam & Nate Kitterman and Allison Stahl
Ushers for Sunday, September 27: Paula von Ende and Skip & Bev Schramer
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.*

"Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly" by Pat Barrett

Pno.

1. It

5 all comes down to this, what You re - quire of me. Love my

9 neigh-bor as my - self, and You a - bove all things. Act

refrain

13 just-ly, love mer-cy, walk humb-ly with You, God. In

17 all things, in all ways, walk humb-ly with You, God. *Last time to bridge* 2. It

21 all comes down to this, to be Your hands and feet. Good

25 news to all the world, oh the truth will set us free. Act *to refrain*

29 You, God. *bridge* It's beau-ty for ash-es, it's mourn-ing to danc-ing. It's

32 clos-er and clos-er, the King-dom of heav-en. Beau-ty for ash-es, it's

35 mourn-ing to danc-ing. It's clos-er and clos-er, the King-dom of heav-en.

38 (W.L.)

42 3. Years from now we'll see, the fruit our hands have sown.

46 Faith just like a seed, the on - ly way it grows.

54 Act just - ly, love mer - cy, walk humb - ly with You, God. In

58 all things, in all ways, walk humb - ly with You, God.

“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.

“Love > Fear” by Hanna Rand, Lenora Rand

7 **E Verse 1** B C#m

When I can't take the first step; When all I'm

12 A E B C#m A

hold-ing is my breath. I pray that you are there.

17 **E Verse 2** B C#m A E

When I can't seem to for-get; When I can't see the morn-ing light yet. I pray

22 **B Verse 2** C#m A E B C#m

that you are there. I pray love is greater than fear.

28 **A Chorus** E C#m A B

Love is great-er than, great - er than, great - er than fear. Love is

33 E C#m A B E

great-er than, great - er than, great - er than fear. Love is great-er than, great-

38 C#m A B **E Verse 3** B

- er than, great - er than fear. When I can't find a-noth-er way;

43 C#m A E B C#m A

When I don't have the words to say. I pray that you are there.

49 E B C#m A **Chorus** E C#m

I pray love is great-er than fear. Love is great-er than, great - er than, great-

55 A B E C#m A

- er than fear. Love is great-er than, great - er than, great - er than fear.

60 B E C#m A

Love is great - er than, great - er than, great - er than fear.

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Rides to the Polls



Federated Church is partnering with the League of Women Voters to help get people to the polls ahead of November's election. Use the QR code at the left to sign up if you are willing to offer ride(s). The LWV will then coordinate the rides.

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.

Feminist Theology | *Sat., Sept. 26, 10:30am-12pm, Youth Room*

Join us as we continue with the book: The Red Tent, by Anita Diamant.

Pancake Sunday | *Sun., Oct. 4, after worship*

We will be preparing/serving pancakes during Fellowship Hour after worship on Sunday, October 4. **Needs for Pancake Sunday:** Electric griddles, Pancake Chefs, and Clean-up/Re-set Crew. Please let Nancy Renfer know if you can help!

Visioning Conversations | *Sundays, October 4, 11, and 18, after worship*

Join us as we continue with Round II of the visioning conversations we began in the Spring around three areas of our life together: *Ministry with Children & Families; Worship; and Congregational Connections* (our community life). Each week will focus on a different conversation, led by the Leadership Board. These conversations will shape not only the future direction of the congregation, but specific actions we will begin implementing as a result. Put these dates in your calendar and participate as much as possible!

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



www.fedsycamore.org

Church Office Phone: (815) 895-2706 || **Email:** Office@fedsycamore.org

Pastor Eric Cell: (815) 797-2250 || **Email:** RevEric@fedsycamore.org

Director of Children’s Church: Bill O’Hagan

Children’s Ministry Support Staff: Khat Hetland

Federated Church Preschool, Director: Bobbi Clough

Phone: (815) 764-9473 || **Email:** Preschool@fedsycamore.org

Address: 612 W. State Street, Sycamore, IL 60178