

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? Would you like to meet with Pastor Eric or get connected to others? 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 a time of deep division and vitriolic rhetoric around issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, and where the dignity of people living with disabilities or mental health issues are often ignored, demonized, or turned into a joke, we promise to:

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.

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 | May 25, 2025

All music can be found at the back of the bulletin.

Prelude “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” *M. Hayes*

Welcome

Call to Worship *a poem by Rev. Sarah Speed*

Leader: I am on my way. Wait for me in the garden. I will be there soon.
I'm not the fastest runner...but these legs are moving.

People: I suppose I could blame my weary spirit for the slow speed.
I could blame the grief I've shoved into my pockets
and lain around my neck.
I could blame my own hesitation to hope,
a hesitation that clings like mud.

**Together: But I don't know that Jesus cares about my speed.
So tell God when you see them—I am on my way.
Wait for me in the garden. I will be there soon.**

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 Hymn “I’m So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me” (p.3)

Prayers of the People

Sharing Prayers of Joy & for Healing

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father/Mother/Parent 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 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” (p.4)

Scripture [Leviticus 19:33-34; Matthew 5:1-12](#)

Sermon “Gesundheit”

Musical Meditation “Softly and Tenderly” *M. Hayes*

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory

“We Are Travelers on a Journey”

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 Hymn

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” (p.5)

Benediction

Postlude

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

M. Hayes

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

While Pastor Eric is on sabbatical, we are so grateful to have the Bill Greisenaur leading us in worship! In addition, those serving us this morning are:

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Director of Music:** Gary Mattin
Children’s Church Director: Bill O’Hagan | **Childcare Support:** Janis Schnurr-Trebe
Liturgist: Phil Wagener | **Ushers:** Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer

Ushers for Sunday, June 8: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

All music is used with permission: *CCLI License #3234671*

I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me *African-American spiritual*

1 I'm so glad, Je-sus lift-ed me, I'm so glad,
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je-sus lift-ed me, Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, Je-sus lift-ed me, when I was in trou - ble,

The first system of the musical score consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff features a melody with eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4.

Je - sus lift - ed me, I'm so glad,
Je - sus lift - ed me, Sa - tan had me bound,
Je - sus lift - ed me, when I was in trou - ble,

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. It includes a repeat sign at the beginning of the treble staff. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, showing the continuation of the three-part setting.

Je-sus lift-ed me, sing-ing glo-ry, hal-le - lu - jah, Je-sus lift-ed me.

The third system concludes the piece. The treble staff ends with a double bar line, and the bass staff continues with a final accompaniment line. The lyrics 'sing-ing glo-ry, hal-le - lu - jah' are written under the final notes of the treble staff.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound *by John Newton*



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Lift Every Voice and Sing *by James Weldon Johnson*



1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has



har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your



rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the



roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the
 peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the



faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the
 way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our
 plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the



hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the
 path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the
 wine of the world, for - get you; Shad-owed be -



ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white
 neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our



on till vic - to - ry is won.
 gleam of our bright star is cast.
 God, true to our na - tive land.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Eric on sabbatical | May 1-July 31

Pastor Eric is away on sabbatical through July 31. If you're new or visiting during this time, *welcome!* Worship will be a little different than usual during this time. If you have any questions about our community, our ushers handing out bulletins in the back are great folks to reach out to—they'd love to talk with you!

During Pastor Eric's sabbatical, if there is a specific prayer request or concern, please reach out to one of the leaders of our **Caring Ministry**: Suzanne Juday, Karen Hamingson, Linda Babcock, Pam Kitterman, and Malorie Nelson. They will do their best to connect people to a support person and make sure every care need gets met.

In case of **Pastoral Emergency**, including any funeral arrangements, please reach out to Rev. John Dorhauer, Pastor at First Congregational UCC in DeKalb (602-402-6171; 1stdekalbpastor@gmail.com). You can also reach out to the Caring Ministry, who will then follow up with Pastor John. *Should a memorial service be needed and you would prefer to have me do it, I will of course do so when I return from my leave.*

For other questions, please reach out to either Darlene in the church office or Chris Borresen, our 2025 Church Moderator (cborresen@gmail.com).

May Love Offering | Federated Preschool

Federated Preschool is raising money to update their playground with new drainage, so it no longer floods every time it rains. Any amount can help with the playground improvements. Write Federated Preschool on your check.

Children's Church

Children's Church will not be held on Sundays, **May 25**, June 1, June 22. Children's bulletins and activity boxes will be available.

No Worship at Federated – Off-site Worship | NEXT Sunday, June 1

We're taking this opportunity while Pastor Eric is on sabbatical to experience worship off-site at another location. You are free to attend a church of your choosing or join one of our church leaders at:

- 1st Congregational UCC DeKalb, 10 AM, with Chris B.
- New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 10:45 AM, with Bill O. & Ryan W.

Sign-up in Dutton Hall or online through the link in the eNews.

Federated Book Sale | June 12-15

Book donations are being accepted through May 31 at Blackhawk Movers, 340 South Ave., Sycamore, during their normal business hours. Please no items with mold, water stains, etc. or outdated non-fiction (travel guides, computer manuals, etc).

Additionally, books may be brought to the church on Sat., June 7, between 9 AM & 12 PM. See the eNews for more details about the upcoming sale.

Volunteers needed for set-up, Mon-Wed 6/9-6/11; cashiers for the sale; and tear down after the sale. See sign-up sheets in Dutton Hall for available time slots.

Pride Fest | Saturday, June 21, 1:00-4:00 PM, Van Buer Plaza, DeKalb

We will once again be participating in DeKalb County's Pride Fest. In our booth we will proudly proclaim that we are a church where all God's LGBTQIA+ children are beloved, affirmed, celebrated, and supported.

Pride Fest kicks-off with the Pride March at 1 pm, from the corner of 2nd & Locust Sts . We will create posters on June 15 following worship to carry with us during the Pride March. Sign up in Dutton Hall to let us know if you can join Bill & Ryan at the booth or participate in the Pride March.

Weekly eNews

Scan this QR code with your phone camera to see the most recent eNews with all these announcements and more! Subscribe tab is at the top.



Recycle/Reuse Bulletin Covers

We will recycle and reuse these bulletin covers. Please place them in the basket at the back of the sanctuary on your way out. Thanks!



Church Calendar: Coming up at Federated!

Did you know there is a Master Calendar of church/building related activities? Scan this QR code to see what's going on!

Our Guest Worship Leader, Bill Griesenauer

We are blessed to have Bill Griesenauer leading us in worship today during Pastor Eric's sabbatical.

Bill and wife Tomi live in Sycamore, having moved here in 2007 from Chicago. They have three children, Jimmy (wife Jennifer) of Park Ridge, who have two children: Zachary and Isabella; Greg, who lives with the old folks (and is a treMENDous help); and Jenny (husband Bobby) of Goshen, IN and their children, Shaun and Scarlett.

Bill ought to be retired (used to work in the newspaper biz and in home centers). He still works very part time at Target. Tomi is a retired rehab nurse.

Bill was a licensed lay minister in the Prairie Assn., UCC, and pastored churches in Genoa and Rockford. He occasionally performs pulpit spackle in the area.

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 in *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.

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.

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 from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and identities in order to build authentic relationships and community. We believe that the simple but courageous work of showing up and being together in this way is one necessary element in healing our nation and world's deep divisions.

We believe in peace through justice

In this congregation, conversations regarding racism, sexism, poverty, war, immigration, homophobia, hunger, abuse, and a host of other issues are commonplace, both from the pulpit and around the table. We know that the Realm of God is not being experienced on earth so long as people are being hurt. With Martin Luther King Jr., we believe that 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.” Which means that, as a community, we have a God-given responsibility and mission to work for justice and healing in our neighborhood and beyond. Jesus says: “I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). This work is defined not merely by what we are against, but the vision we are for—flourishing 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

Childcare Support: Janis Schnurr-Trebe

Federated Church Preschool, Director Bobbi Clough

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

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