

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 | July 13, 2025

All music can be found at the back of the bulletin. Please join in reading those parts printed in **bold**.

Prelude

"Here I Am Lord"

D. Schutte / arr. L. Larson

Welcome

Call to Worship

(The United Church of Christ Statement of Mission)

One: As people of the United Church of Christ,
affirming our Statement of Faith,
we seek within the Church Universal to participate in God's mission
and to follow the way of the crucified and risen Christ.

Many: Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called and commit ourselves:

One: To praise God, confess our sin,
and joyfully accept God's forgiveness;

Many: To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our suffering world;

One: To embody God's Love for all people;

Many: To hear and give voice to creation's cry for justice and peace;

One: To name and confront the powers of evil within and among us;

**Many: To repent our silence and complicity
with the forces of chaos and death;**

One: To preach and teach with the power of the living Word;

**Many: To join oppressed and troubled people
in the struggle for liberation;**

One: To work for justice, healing, and wholeness of life;

Many: To embrace the unity of Christ's church;

All: To discern and celebrate the present and coming reign of God.

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

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (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 "This Is My Song" (p.4)

Scripture [2 Kings 5:1-14](#)

Sermon "The Lessons of Naaman"

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 Hymn** "God Be with You" (p.5)

***Benediction**

Postlude "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" Ken Medema / arr. L. Larson

We invite you to remain seated as the postlude plays; however,

Parents may leave during the postlude to gather their kids from Children's Church.

Please join us in Dutton Hall afterward for coffee and fellowship!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

While Pastor Eric is on vacation, we are so grateful to have the Rev. Joe Gastiger
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:** Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

Ushers for Sunday, July 20: Pam & Nate Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

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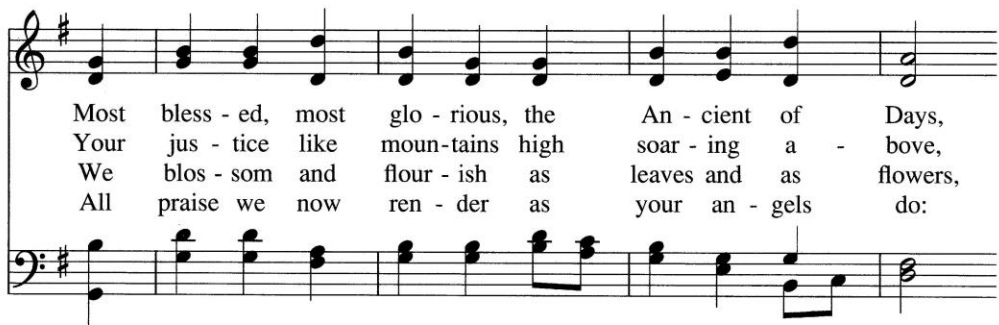
“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” by *Walter C. Smith*



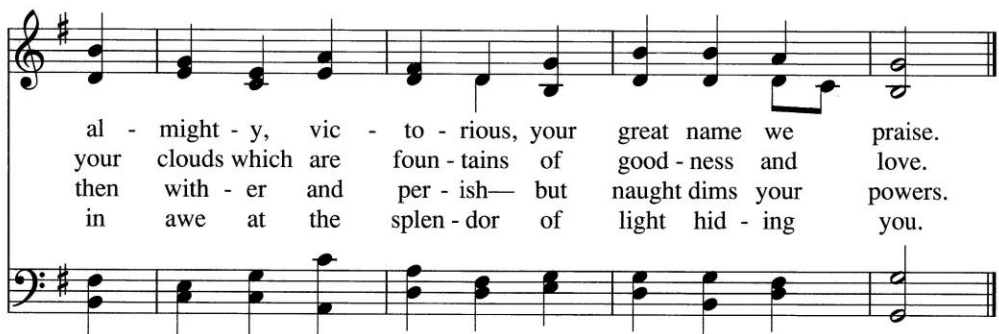
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

“This Is My Song” *by Lloyd Stone*

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of
2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun-light

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are written below the staff, with two verses of text.

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. It includes a measure rest of 8 measures in the treble staff. The lyrics continue with two lines of text.

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

The third system of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics continue with two lines of text.

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

The fourth system of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics continue with two lines of text.

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

The fifth and final system of the musical score concludes the piece. The lyrics continue with two lines of text, ending with a double bar line.

"God Be with You" by Jeremiah E. Rankin



- 1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; By good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Wings of shel-ter safe - ly hide you,
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; When life's per - ils thick con-found you,
4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Keep love's ban-ner float - ing o'er you,



With a shep-herd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
Dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
Put un - fail - ing arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
Smite death's threat-ening wave be - fore you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.



Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet a - gain, till we meet,



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
till we meet, till we meet a - gain,



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Eric on sabbatical | May 1-July 31

Pastor Eric is away on sabbatical May 1 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).

July Love Offering | School Supplies

The July Love Offering will be used to purchase backpacks and school supplies for low-income students throughout DeKalb County for next school year. Since providing these backpacks and supplies is important to helping these children start the year with the right tools, the goal for the April Love Offering is \$1,000. Working directly with area social service agencies, we typically supply between 100-200 backpacks. In early August, we will join together after worship to fill the backpacks, bless them, and send them off!

Donations of any amount are welcome. For checks, please note in the memo "School supplies." Donations should be put in a Love Offering envelope located by the bulletins, mailed to the church, or they can be made online at <https://bit.ly/GiveFCS>.

Addressing Issues Affecting Migrants

At an earlier post-service discussion about immigration, several individuals expressed a desire to explore "Know Your Rights" training. During these trainings participants receive information that can help to understand and protect one's rights in situations like interactions with ICE and other law enforcement, protests, etc.

The Leadership Board is looking to identify individuals who would like to participate. Training typically lasts an hour. Please let the church office or Gip Seaver know if you are interested.

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.





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, Rev. Joe Gastiger

We are blessed to have Rev. Joe Gastiger leading us in worship most Sunday's during Pastor Eric's sabbatical.

Pastor Joe served as the Pastor of First Congregational UCC in DeKalb from August 2001 until his retirement in October 2020.

Having grown up in New York, he attended S.U.N.Y Stony Brook and the University of Iowa before completing graduate work at Colorado State University. He came to DeKalb in 1980 to teach English at Northern Illinois University, where he later earned his doctorate.

Ministry was a second-career path for Joe. He first joined First Congregational UCC as a member in July of 1994, noting that he was led to this church by his son, Michael, whose own innocent and profound spiritual questions—which came up while he was playing with toys, or while he and Jean would read to him at night—had reawakened deeply felt concerns in himself. He turned to ministry as a quest for a greater challenge in life and a growing interest to learn more about Christianity and the Bible.

Pastor Joe has served the wider community in numerous ways and at a variety of levels over the years, doing what he can to make DeKalb County a place of greater love, justice, and belonging for all, especially the vulnerable and marginalized.

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



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