

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 | October 12, 2025, 10:00 am

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

Prelude “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” Tomlin, Giglio/arr. Larson

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 “All Are Welcome” vv.1-3 (p. 3)

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

Alternative words from the New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace & freedom sustain our hope & come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.

Stewardship Centering Moment

Testimonial

Linda Matuszewski

Questions for Personal Reflection

- ◆ How has being a part of Federated helped you to “wade into the waters” of life and move through difficult circumstances with hope?
- ◆ What will you commit in terms of time, passion, or/and finances to help grow this community of hope, faith, justice, and love so we can deepen our impact?

Sung Response “All Are Welcome” vv. 4 (p. 3)

Visual Prayer of Illumination “*Blessed with Discomfort*”*

Scripture [Exodus 20; Galatians 5:1, 13-15](#)

Sermon

“What Is Our Freedom For?”

Sung Response “God of Love, We’ve Known Division” vv. 1-2, 4 (p.4)

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 “Sing a New World into Being” (insert)

Benediction

Postlude

“Soon and Very Soon”

Crouch/arr. Wolaver

(When We All Get to Heaven)

Thank you for joining us for worship 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 | **Childcare Support:** Janis Schnurr-Trebe

Liturgist: | **Ushers:** Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

Ushers for Sunday, Oct. 19: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

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

* Visual Meditation is produced by The Work of the People, theworkofthepeople.com

**The Exodus scripture story used this morning comes from *The Just Love Story Bible*, and is written by Rev. Dr. Shannon Daley-Harris

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Church Leadership for August 2025 – August 2026:

Moderator: Gip Seaver | **Assoc. Moderator:** Bill O’Hagan | **Past Moderator:** Chris

Borresen. | *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.

"All Are Welcome" by Marty Haugen & Mark Miller



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly live, a
2. Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and true, where
3. Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and stone to
4. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions heard and



place where saints and chil - dren tell how hearts learn to for - give.
 all God's chil - dren dare to seek so dream God's reign a - new.
 heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
 loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as words with - in the Word.



Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
 Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness and as sym bol of God's grace;
 Here the out cast and the strang - er bear the im age of God's face;
 Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,



— All are wel - come, wel-come in this place, all in - vit - ed to



come and know God's grace, all are wel - come, the love of Christ to feel, 'cause



all of us are wel- come here, all are wel-come in this place.

"God of Love, We've Known Division" by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette



1. God of love, we've known di - vi - sion and we've seen its aw-ful cost.
2. Turn us, Lord, from what di - vides us— fear that drives us far a - part,
3. May we all, in con-ver - sa - tion, speak the truth and lis-ten well.
4. You have chal-lenged us to good-ness; you have shown a kind-er way.



We have strug-gled as a na - tion, and there's much that we have lost.
greed that leads to great in - jus - tice, ra - cist ways that break your heart.
May we hear, a - cross this na - tion, sto - ries oth - ers have to tell.
It's your love that now in - spires us as we seek a bet - ter day.



We have been a house di - vi - ded— and, di - vi - ded, we can't stand.
May we seek what brings to - ge - ther— hearts that bear each oth - er's pain,
May we learn from oth - er cul - tures and be blessed by their world - view;
May we end our harsh di - vi - sion; may we stop the hate and fear.



May our na - tion be u - ni - ted; give us peace through-out this land.
care and mer - cy toward our neigh-bors, love that wel - comes stran-gers in.
May we serve with one a - noth - er— lov - ing oth - ers, lov - ing you.
Make us one, Lord, as a na - tion; may we be u - ni - ted here.

"Sing a New World into Being" by Mary Louise Bringle



1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry

Find a tune for si - lent yearn - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;

dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.
where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.
where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.

Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Federated Church 101 | TODAY, after worship (note date change)

Are you looking to get more connected? Are you looking to learn more about who we are and how to be more involved? Do you have questions you'd like answered? Then we invite you to "Federated 101"—a chance to gather around a table for a conversation with Pastor Eric and others as you get to know those in the same boat. *Participation in a Federated 101 is needed to become a member. Don't miss out, these conversations only happen a couple times a year.*

Church Office Closed | Monday, October 13

The office will be closed Monday, October 13, in observation of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

All Church Conversations | Oct. 19 & Nov. 2, following worship

October 19: We invite you to learn about the work of the **"Worship Vitality Task Force,"** which our Church Council formally commissioned at the end of 2024 (just before becoming the Leadership Board). The charge of this team is: *"To ensure the worship service on Sunday mornings is meeting the spiritual needs of the congregation (the whole body of Christ).*

November 2: We invite you to engage in another round of conversation about our congregation's engagement in "immigration justice." The Leadership Board is working to approve a covenant to guide us as a congregation, as well as a process that helps clarify the ways that we can more intentionally live into this covenant. You will be invited to co-create this ministry through active engagement: by sharing your feedback, expressing your own passions/concerns, and by committing to participate in this covenant.

No Worship Pumpkin Fest Sunday | Sunday, October 26

Worship will NOT be held on Sunday, October 26, due to the Sycamore Pumpkin Festival 10K Race and Parade held that day. Watch for an update on a possible alternative gathering or opportunity that weekend!

Fall Church Summit | Oct. 30 – Nov. 1, First Congregational UCC of DeKalb

Many of you joined us last fall at Federated Church for the Fall Summit gathering of the "Thriving Pastors in Revitalizing Congregations" initiative. This Fall, join Pastor Eric and others at First Congregational UCC in DeKalb for another round of inspiring worship and meaningful workshops. This is also a great chance to get to know others in the "wider church" and experience the diversity of our denomination. *Cost is \$50 to attend. If you're interested in participating, let Pastor Eric know; if needed, the church can help offset the cost!*

Ladies' Night Out | Tues., Oct. 28, 6PM, Florentino's Charhouse

Ladies' Night Out for this month is at Florentino's Charhouse (where Keg & Kernel used to be) 106 E. Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, on Tuesday, October 28, at 6:00 PM. Sign-up in Dutton Hall.

Save the Dates | Sun., Nov. 9 & Sun., Nov. 23 | watch for more details

Nov. 9: We will welcome new members during worship and have a Thanksgiving Potluck following worship.

Nov. 23: We will decorate the church for Advent following worship.

Weekly eNews



Scan the code at the left
to see the most recent
eNews & to subscribe.

Church Calendar



Scan the code at the right
to see the church's
Master Calendar of events.

SOCIAL CHANGE MAP



Copyright Deepa Iyer
SM, © 2017 Deepa Iyer
All rights reserved. All prior licenses revoked.

Weavers: We see the through-lines of connectivity between people, places, organizations, ideas, and movements.

Experimenters: We innovate, pioneer, and invent. We take risks and course-correct as needed.

Frontline Responders: We address community crises by marshaling and organizing resources, networks, and messages.

Visionaries: We imagine and generate our boldest possibilities, hopes and dreams, and remind us of our direction.

Builders: We develop, organize, and implement ideas, practices, people, and resources in service of a collective vision.

Caregivers: We nurture and nourish the people around me by creating and sustaining a community of care, joy, and connection.

Healers: We recognize and tend to the generational and current traumas caused by oppressive systems, institutions, policies, and practices.

Disrupters: We take uncomfortable and risky actions to shake up the status quo, to raise awareness, and to build power.

Storytellers: We craft and share our community stories, cultures, experiences, histories, and possibilities through art, music, media, and movement.

Guides: We teach, counsel, and advise, using my gifts of well-earned discernment and wisdom.

STEP 5: ROLES

Map your individual role(s). What are your innate gifts, skills and strengths? How do they show up in the roles? Focus on 2-3 main roles that you often play and write them below, and also note down any aspirational roles you'd like to play.

How can you play these roles in such a way that they align with your core values, advance the issues you care about, and are connected to a broader ecosystem?

STEP 6: NEXT STEPS

Based on these reflections, what are 1 to 3 action steps that you can take over the coming weeks that are aligned with your values, embody your roles, and support your ecosystem.

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