

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 | November 09, 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

“Prelude”

J. S. Bach

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 “Light Dawns on a Weary World” (p. 4)

Prayers of the People

Visual Meditation

“The Mystery of New Beginnings”*

Silent Prayer & 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.

Sung Response “Gathered Here” (p. 5)

Scripture [Matthew 4:23-5:16; Acts 2:40-47; Hebrews 11:29-12:2](#)

Sermon

“The Church Called Out in Every Age”

Musical Meditation

Our Shared Life & Offering
Offering Opportunities
Dedicating Our Pledges

Online financial pledges may be made [here](#). Complete the online time and talent form [here](#).

Prayer of Dedication

Ever-Creating God, we give thanks that you are always drawing goodness out of chaos, healing out of heartbreak, and justice out of injustice. We give thanks that in every generation, you show us the Way through the wilderness that leads to true Life. And we give thanks for the invitation to join you in building beloved community and blessing the world. With these pledges, we express our belief that another world is possible, and our commitment to work with you to make it so. Strengthen, sustain, and lead us, we pray. Amen.

Sending Song “Will You Come and Follow Me?” (p. 3)

Benediction

Postlude “Shine, Jesus, Shine” *Graham Kendrick/arr. M. Hayes*
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: Pam Kitterman | **Ushers:** Gip Seaver and Ruth Olle

Ushers for Sunday, Nov. 16: 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

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.*

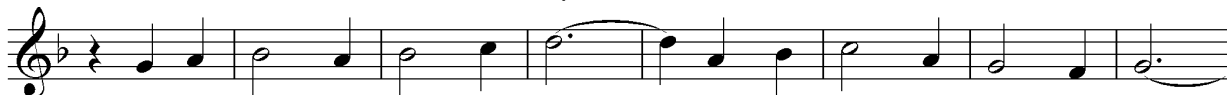
“Will You Come and Follow Me?” by John Bell & the Iona Community



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.

“Light Dawns on a Weary World” by Mary Louise Bringle/William P. Rowan



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

"Gathered Here" by Philip A. Porter



Gath - ered here in the mys-tery of the hour.
Gath-ered here in one strong bod-y. Gath-ered here in the
strug- gle and the power. Spir - it, draw near.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving Potluck | Today

After worship, help us celebrate with a Thanksgiving Potluck. Join us in Dutton Hall!

Transgender Day of Remembrance | Nov. 16, 7pm, 1st Lutheran Church

Join us as we honor the lives of transgender and gender non-conforming people we have lost in the last year to violence and transphobia. Organized by Religious Leaders in DeKalb County and Faith Now, the service will be at First Lutheran Church, 324 N. 3rd St., DeKalb, on Sunday, November 16, at 7 PM.

Know Your Rights Training | Wednesday, November 12

Another opportunity for "Know Your Rights" training for anyone who missed the first training is Wednesday, November 12, 2-3PM, in a private home between the church and Genoa. See Ann Finseth for more information.

Decorate the Church | Sunday, November 23

All ages are invited to join us after worship today to decorate the church for the Advent season, which begins next Sunday. Many hands make light work!

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.



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

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Childcare Support: Janis Schnurr-Trebe

Federated Church Preschool, Director Bobbi Clough

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