

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 | February 08, 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 “Create in Me a Clean Heart” *arr. Mark Hayes*

Welcome

Call to Worship

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 “O for a World” (pg. 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 “In Solitude” (pg. 3)

Scripture [Matthew 5:13-20](#)

Sermon “Stay Salty, and Light”

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 Song “Creator God, Creating Still” (pg. 4)

Benediction

Postlude “The Battle Belongs to the Lord” *J. Owens-Collins/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: Sharon McKee | **Ushers:** Gip Seaver and Ruth Olle

Ushers for Sunday, February 15: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl
All music is used with permission: CCLI Copyright: #3234671; CCLI Streaming: #22467093

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Church Leadership for August 2025 – August 2026:

Moderator: Gip Seaver

Associate 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.

“O for a World” by *Miriam Therese Winter*



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

“In Solitude” by *Ruth Duck*



1 In sol - i - tude, in sol - i - tude, I come to God in prayer.
2 When - e'er the world is troub - ling me, and stress is all a - round,
3 In sea - sons of per - plex - i - ty, in times of deep de - spair,
4 And when my heart is bur - dened down with cares for those I love,
5 With psalms and hymns and songs of praise be - fore my God I'll come,



In si - lence and sim - plic - i - ty, my spir - it blos - soms there.
I seek the pres - ence of my God, and heal - ing light is found.
I light a can - dle in the night and turn to God in prayer,
too deep for words, with groans and sighs, de - scends the ho - ly dove.
till death it - self is past and gone, and I ar - rive at home.

“Creator God, Creating Still” by Jane Parker Huber



1 Cre - a - tor God, cre - at - ing still, by will and word and deed,
2 Re - deem-er God, re - deem-ing still, with o - ver-flow-ing grace,
3 Sus - tain - er God, sus - tain - ing still, with strength for ev - ery day,
4 Great Tri - une God, for this new day we need your pres-ence still.



Cre - ate a new hu - man - i - ty to meet the pres-ent need.
Pour out your love on us, through us, make this a ho - ly place.
Em - power us now to do your will. Cor - rect us when we stray.
Cre - ate, re - deem, sus - tain us now to do your work and will.

COMING UP: AT A GLANCE

Ash Wednesday Service | *February 18, 5:30 PM*

We hope you'll make room in your schedules to join us at 5:30 pm on February 18 as we make space to hold the fullness of our humanity, this brutiful (brutal + beautiful) world, and the fragility of all things. What is the “good news” in this, and how might it change the way we live? Join us for the journey!

First Sunday in Lent | *February 22*

This year our theme is “Tell Me Something Good: Grounding ourselves in the Good News.” The Worship Vitality Team is busy once again preparing a meaningful season of worship, including “Prayer Stations.” We also have several small groups forming (e.g. Feminist Theology Group, Men’s Group; High School Youth Group); we encourage you to consider a “Lenten practice” of making room in your schedule to regularly join one of these. Belonging in authentic community is foundational for experiencing “good news”!

Soup Sunday | *February 22, following worship*

We will NOT have our usual post-service fellowship time after church services on February 22. Instead we will have a light lunch of homemade soups with bread and crackers served after church. This gives us a chance to sit and chat while enjoying some delicious food made by our own in-house chefs. This annual event is something we all look forward to no matter the weather outside. Hope to see you there.

Ladies' Night Out | Tuesday, February 24, 6 PM

Our February Ladies' Night Out will be at Yen Ching Restaurant 810 W. Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, on Tuesday, February 24, at 6:00 PM. Come and enjoy one of your last times at this restaurant before Marilyn and family retire! We hope you will join us for good food, and good conversation. Sign up in Dutton Hall or at the link in the eNews.

Feminist Theology | Saturday, February 28, 10:30 AM

Feminist Theology is restudying and retelling the traditional Christian stories from a women's perspective. Meeting the second and fourth Saturdays each month, we will begin on Saturday, February 28, from 10:30 AM to noon, in the youth room (enter through the youth room door at the south parking lot). Those who wish to, may join others for lunch somewhere, following the study. See Ann Finseth for more info.

UUA Warming Center | Sundays, March 1 & 8, 5 PM to 9 PM

The Federated Church will be volunteering and serving dinner at the Warming Center at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of DeKalb in March. Four to five volunteers are needed at the warming center from 5-9PM. Additional service opportunities include preparing elements of the meal (salad/fruit, main entree, dessert) and transporting the meal from Federated to the warming center (4:30-5:45 PM). Need enough food to feed 20 people (please indicate number of servings being provided on sign-up sheet). Sign up in Dutton Hall. See Ann Finseth for more info.

We Need YOU to help us create Extravagant Welcome

Every Sunday, we gather to center our hearts, return to ourselves, to each other, and to God. Every Sunday requires numerous volunteers to create a warm space of hospitality where both long-time Federated folks and newcomers alike can find extravagant welcome and belonging.

We are using our Time-Talent pledge forms from Stewardship season last fall to begin "on-boarding, orienting, and coordinating us going forward. Please join us where interested to learn what serving in each ministry entails.

- **March 1: *Worship Leadership 101***—interested in helping lead worship? This gathering will orient you and answer your related questions!
- **March 8: *Hosting Fellowship Hour 101***—interested in providing snacks, hosting, or helping clean up Fellowship Hour? Want to contribute but don't know where to start? Overwhelmed by the idea of doing it yourself? This gathering will orient you, answer your questions, and help you know where to find things!
- **March 15: *Usher Training***, with a focus on preparation & response in case of ICE encounter.

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 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, transphobia, poverty, immigration, hunger, 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.” In this spirit, *in 2025 our Leadership Board initiated a series of conversations with the congregation, and together we discerned a mission priority for the church to act for “immigrant justice,” adopting this covenant to guide us: “As a community of faith, 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.”*

“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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