

THE  
**Federated Church**  
OF SYCAMORE



## Responding to God's Invitation: Prayer Stations

*Lent was originally a season for new followers of Jesus to study the heart of Christian faith, the “good news of great joy for all people.” These stations are multisensory and experiential ways for us to do that—to deepen our encounter with and reflections on: radical welcome, surprising joy, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, and nonviolence in the face of injustice—to help us go live this good news.*

*During this time (~10 min), we invite you to freely visit prayer stations placed throughout the front, back, middle, and sides of the sanctuary, and even by staying in your pew.*

*Take your time. Consider this a mini “pilgrimage of the soul.” This works best if you don’t try to visit every station each week; linger where your heart feels called and receive the good news you need for today as you journey through the fullness of life.*

*Virtual prayer stations indicated in **blue** can be found at [this link](#). Join us in worship to experience the additional prayer stations.*

**Prayer Candles:** *Light a candle and offer a prayer for a person / place*

**Table of Offering:** *Place your donation to support our growing ministries or our special Mission Offering on the table. Place donations for our local pantries in the “blessing box”*

**What Good News Have You Found Here?:** *Write a word or phrase or moment that captures why you are here, or is a glimpse of the “good news” you’ve experienced here*

**Sharing the Good News:** *Each week, bring headlines, clippings, and cutouts of good news you’ve spotted and add them to our growing collage*

**Good News in the Wilderness:** *Some seasons of life feel like wilderness wandering. Yet even here, God is present. We, too, are invited to be present. In your pew, meditate on the poem inserted in the bulletin. Notice what arises within you*

**Divine Seeing:** *Pause to look more deeply at the artwork inspired by today’s scripture*

**Tree of Life:** *Write on a leaf how you’ll live out the good news this week*

**Spiritual Practices for Embodying Good News:** *Take these resources home. Rather than an “extra” thing to do, consider how you can *integrate* a “good news practice” into your daily/weekly rhythm—e.g. as part of a waking, commute, dinner, or bedtime routine. Do them by yourself, with a friend, or as a family*

**Building Bridges of Good News:** *Use playdough to build an island and a popsicle stick to build bridges between these “communities.” On the popsicle stick write one way you will build a bridge between people or communities to help strengthen our bonds*

**Waters of Joy & Release:** *Take a stone; drop it in the water and release what’s burdening you. Pick a flower; float it in the water as a reminder of what brings you joy*

## Order of Worship | March 01, 2026

*Today we will be taking communion. We invite you to participate how ever you're best able. Feel free to use whatever you have for the "bread and cup"—whether it's bread & grape juice or a cookie & coffee. God takes our ordinary offerings, whatever they are, and blesses them as we share them together!*

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

**Prelude** "Think About His Love" Walt Harrah/arr. M. Hayes

### **Gathering For Worship**

**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** "Come As You Are" (p.3)

### **Centering Our Hearts**

**Prayers of the People**

**Silent Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father/Mother/Creator 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.

**Song of Illumination** "Are You Lost?" vv. 1-3 (p.4)

**Scripture** Luke 7:36-50; Matthew 25:35-40

**Sermon** "Good News is... Fierce Extravagant Superfluous Subversive Love"

**Sung Response** #539 "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant" vv.1-4 (p.5)

**Prayer Stations** (see inside bulletin cover for brief descriptions)

### **Our Shared Life**

**Blessing & Sending Ms. Janis**

### **Holy Communion**

**Invitation & Words of Institution**

**Sharing Bread & Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

## **Preparing to Live God's Love**

**Sending Song** "Draw the Circle Wide" (p.5)

**Benediction**

## **Postlude**

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"  
*Thank you for joining us for worship today!*

*arr. M. Hayes*

† † †

## **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:** Sheldon Turner | **Ushers:** Pam Wagener and Chris Borresen

*Ushers for Sunday, March 8: Ruth Olle and Gip Seaver*

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

## **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.*

† † †

“Come As You Are” by Lenora Rand & The Many



1. Come, you who've been wound-ed, all you who've lost hope.



Come, you who are long-ing for what you do not know. 2. Come, you hun-gry for jus-tice.



ach-ing for heav-en on earth. Come, you who've been tossed a-side, don't re-



mem-ber what you're worth. *refrain* Come as you are. Come you wear-y, come and



lay your bur-dens down. Come as you are. Bring your hopes, bring your



doubts and your scars. Come as you are.



3. Come, you who've been cast out, all you who've been shamed. Come, you who are look-ing for that



my-st'ry you can't name. 4. Come, you cry-ing for mer-cy, hop-ing for peace on earth.



Come you car-ry-ing ques-tions, all you who've been so hurt. *to refrain*

“Are You Lost?” *Hannah C. Brown/Gregg DeMey*



1. Are you lost a - mong earth's peo - ples, wan - d'ring  
2. Are you bruised by hurt and hard - ship, strained by  
3. Are you hop - ing for a fu - ture that is



cold and all a - lone? Do you won - der  
wrongs or racked by need? Do you tire of  
bet - ter than our past? Are you yearn - ing



if you're cher - ished? Do you won - der if you're  
end - less wait - ing for the world to free and  
for com - mun - ion where the first are wel - comed



known? Love will bind us as a fi - ber,  
feed? Love will join us as a bod - y  
last? Love de - lights in all our diff - 'rence,



washed and card - ed, spun and wound, knit to -  
with the strength and means to mend; ev - 'ry  
teach - ing jus - tice and re - spect, call - ing



geth - er as a blan - ket, warmed and  
mem - ber bears a treas - ure on which  
souls and skills and pow - ers to re -



wel - comed, sought and found.  
all of us de - pend.  
pair and re - con - nect.



# CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

## **Celebrating & Saying Goodbye to Ms. Janis | Today**

Join us to give thanks, bless, & say goodbye to Ms. Janis, who's offered childcare support.

## **Extravagant Welcome: Leadership Trainings | Sundays, Mar. 1, 8, & 15**

- Today—Worship Leadership: for those serving as liturgist or interested in learning more
- Mar. 8—Hosting Fellowship 101: snacks, hosting, clean-up, finding things in the kitchen
- Mar. 15—Usher Training: focusing on procedures to follow in case of ICE presence

## **Pastor Eric Out of Office | Through March 7**

Pastor Eric will be away mid-afternoon, today, through Saturday, March 7, for a "train the trainer" in Selma, Alabama on Kingian Nonviolence. He will share more when he returns!

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

Federated Church has volunteered to serve dinner at the Warming Center at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of DeKalb. Four to five volunteers are needed at the warming center from 5-9PM on each date. Additional service opportunities include preparing elements of the meal (salad/fruit, main entree, dessert) and transporting food to the warming center (between 4:30-5:45 PM). We need enough food to feed 20 people (please indicate number of servings you're providing on sign-up sheet). [Sign-up in Dutton Hall](#). See *Ann Finseth* for more info.

## **Ladies' Night Out | Tues., Mar. 24, 6 PM, Tom & Jerry's, 265 W Peace Rd., Syc.**

All women are invited to join us at Tom & Jerry's Restaurant, at their new temporary location (the former Eggsclusive). Sign up in Dutton Hall on in this week's eNews.

## **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 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 that 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 *Federated Church* 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

Facebook & Instagram:

@FederatedChurchSycamore



**[www.fedsycamore.org](http://www.fedsycamore.org)**

**Church Office Phone:** (815) 895-2706 || **Email:** [Office@fedsycamore.org](mailto:Office@fedsycamore.org)

**Pastor Eric Cell:** (815) 797-2250 || **Email:** [RevEric@fedsycamore.org](mailto:RevEric@fedsycamore.org)

**Director of Children’s Ministries:** Bill O’Hagan

**Federated Church Preschool, Director Bobbi Clough**

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

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