

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? 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 these times of deep division, vitriolic rhetoric, and violence against people over issues of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, immigration status, disability, and mental health, Federated Church has formally adopted two covenants guiding our life together:

We 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.

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.

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 | April 19, 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 “He’s Always Been Faithful” Sara Graves/arr. L. 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 “Sing a New World into Being” (p.3)

Prayers of the People

Centering Moment

This is your time to center more deeply into the presence of God/Love. Take a slow, deep breath. Open your heart and mind to receive this meditation. Notice the images or phrases that stay with you. Remain present & curious to the feelings that arise in you.

Visual Meditation

*“Beginning at Jerusalem”**

Silent 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 “Broken Body of Christ” (p.4)

Scripture [Luke 24:13-35; Acts 2:14a, 36-41](#)

Sermon “Pooping in the Pulpit”

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 “We Are Part of Christ’s Own Body” *(see insert)*

Benediction

Postlude

“Ev’rybody, Sing It Out” *Contalo/arr. M. Sedio*
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 | **Children’s Ministry Support:** Khat Hetland
Liturgist: Sharon McKee | **Ushers:** Pam & Nate Kitterman, Linda Mason, & Allison Stahl

Ushers for Sunday, April 26: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer

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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.*

"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!

"Broken Body of Christ" by Lenora Rand/Gary Rand



1. We are the wand - 'ring _____ we are the seek - ing _____ We are the ones _____
2. We are the thir - sty _____ look - ing for mer - cy _____ We have _____ all _____



_____ left out to dry _____ We are the bleed - ing _____ Our hearts are weep - ing _____
_____ been kicked a - side _____ We are the stum - bling _____ Our hands are fumb - ling _____

Chorus



_____ We are the bro - ken _____ bod - y of Christ _____ And when we eat, _____



_____ we are fed _____ the love that God has giv - en _____ And when we drink _____



we take it in _____ this love, _____ this earth - ly hea - ven. _____

“We Are Part of Christ’s Own Body” by David D. Bjorlin



1. We are part of Christ's own bod - y
2. But when dif - f'rence is ex - clud - ed—
3. We are part of Christ's own bod - y,



work - ing toward a sin - gle goal, each of us es -
age, a - bil - i - ty, or race— our mo - sa - ics
each u - nique in gift and call, yet a - like in



sen - tial mem - bers in the beaut - y of the whole.
turn to mir - rors that re - flect a sin - gle face.
com - mon mis - sion for the flour - ish - ing of all.



As we need each var - ied fea - ture for the bod - y
So we wid - en deep di - vi - sions we were called to
Give us faith, O God of wel - come, not to fear what



to sur - vive so the church must cher - ish
bridge and heal, and we miss the truth and
you em - brace, but to cel - e - brate each



dif - f'rence for our work to grow and thrive.
wis - dom on - ly dif - f'rence can re - veal.
dif - f'rence as an im - age of your grace.

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Visioning/Listening Session | *Today, following worship, Youth Rm*

Join us after worship TODAY in the Youth Room for a conversation about our "congregational connections" as a Federated community: Why do you choose to be part of this community? What meaningful connections and opportunities exist? What aspects of community are missing or do we need more of?

Feminist Theology Group | *Sat., April. 25, 10:30 AM, Youth Room*

Restudying and retelling the traditional Christian stories from the perspective of women. Meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month. No session will be held on May 9, due to the Thrift & Plant Sales.

Federated 101 | *Sunday, April 26, following worship, Settle Room*

Trying to find ways to connect, serve, or further explore your faith? Join Pastor Eric and others newer to Federated to learn more about who we are, what we believe, and what it means to be a member of Federated. We'll welcome new members in worship on May 3.

Ladies' Night Out | *Tues., Apr. 28, 6 PM, Pachamama Peruvian*

Join our next gathering at Pachamama Peruvian Restaurant, 265 W. Peace Rd., Sycamore. Let us know you can join us by signing up in Dutton Hall.

Birthday/Celebration Cake Kits & Bunco | *Sun., May 3, after worship*

Help us with cake kits for area food pantries.

How to help:

- Provide cake kit items
- Monetary donation for a cake kit (\$12)
- Assemble cake kits
- Deliver cake kits to area food pantries

Afterwards, we'll play Bunco! Sign-up in Dutton Hall.

Thrift & Plant Sales | **Fri. & Sat., May 8 & 9**

Now's the time to start setting aside items for our Thrift & Plant Sales!

Volunteers are needed for Set-up on Thursday, May 7, and during the sale.

Sign-up in Dutton Hall.

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 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, immigration, transphobia, poverty, 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.” These conversations connect us to each other and build trust as we commit to accompanying each other—and our neighbors in the wider community—across our differences, and together work toward building a just and loving world 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

Children’s Ministry Support Staff: Khat Hetland

Federated Church Preschool, Director: Bobbi Clough

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

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