

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 | May 10, 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

“Here I Am, Lord”

Daniel Schutte/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 “Womb of Life, and Source of Being” (p.3)

Prayers of the People

Centering Moment

Poetic Meditation

*“I Have Been a Thousand Different Women”
by Emery Hall*

Make peace with all the women you once were.

Lay flowers at their feet. Offer them incense, and honey, and forgiveness.

Honor them, and give them your silence.

Listen. Bless them. And let them be.

For they are the bones of the temple you sit in now.

For they are the rivers of wisdom leading you toward the sea.

I have been a thousand different women

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.**

Sung Response “Come and Find the Quiet Center” (p.3)

Scripture

[Luke 2:41-52](#)

Sermon

“Honoring all the Women You Have Been”

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 “O God in Whom all Life Begins” (p.4)

Benediction

Postlude

“By Faith”

S. Townsend, K. & K. Getty/arr. L. Larson

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: Ryan Washabaugh | **Ushers:** Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen

Ushers for Sunday, May 10: Skip Schramer, Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle

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.

“Womb of Life and Source of Being” by Ruth Duck
sung to tune of Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Verse 1

**Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart
In your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start
We, your children gather ‘round you, at the table you prepare
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care**

Verse 2

**Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend
When our memory fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend
Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world yet to be
Free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity**

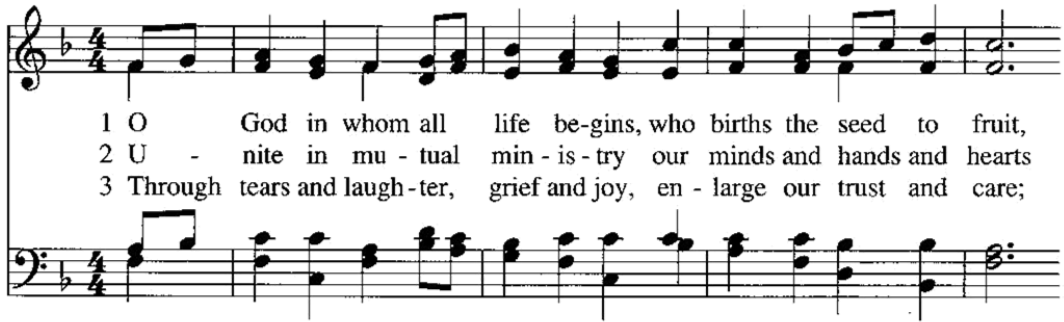
Verse 3

**Mother, Brother, Holy Partner, Father, Spirit, Only Son:
We would praise your name forever, one in three, and three in one
We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new
Ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you**

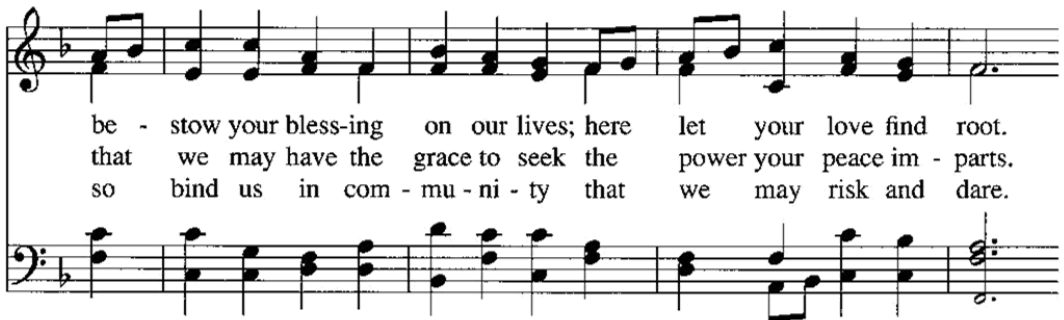
“Come and Find the Quiet Center” by Shirley Erena Murray

1. Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the
2. Si-lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it
3. In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's pain, let our
room for hope to en - ter, find the frame where we are freed: Clear the
is who speaks and names us, knows our be - ing, touch-es grace, mak-ing
loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e - brate the space we gain: There's a
cha - os and the clut - ter, clear our eyes that we can see all the
space with - in our think - ing, lift-ing shades to show the sun, rais-ing
place for deep-est dream - ing, there's a time for heart to care, in the
things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim-ply be.
cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find-ing scope for faith be - gun.
Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing, there is al - ways room to spare.

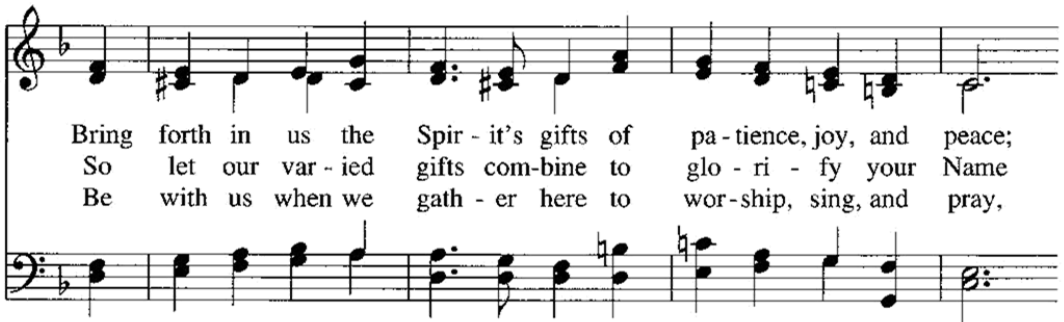
"O God in Whom All Life Begins" by Carl P. Daw, Jr.



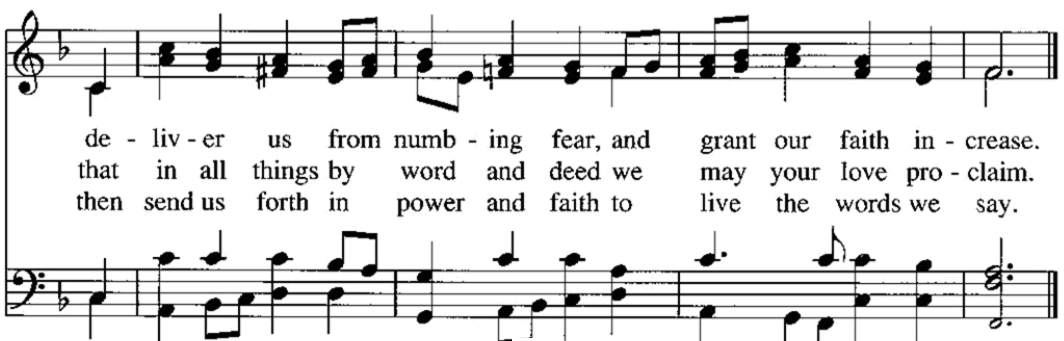
1 O God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit,
2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts
3 Through tears and laugh - ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;



be - stow your bless - ing on our lives; here let your love find root.
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im - parts.
so bind us in com - mu - ni - ty that we may risk and dare.



Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa - tience, joy, and peace;
So let our var - ied gifts com - bine to glo - ri - fy your Name
Be with us when we gath - er here to wor - ship, sing, and pray,



de - liv - er us from numb - ing fear, and grant our faith in - crease.
that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro - claim.
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Pastor Eric's Parental Leave | *Monday, May 18 – Sunday, July 19*

As Pastor Eric and family prepare to welcome baby #2, we want to share a few updates with you, so you can know what to expect.

Worship Leadership

Over the 9 Sundays of Pastor Eric's leave, we are excited to welcome multiple area pastors to lead us in worship.

Our most consistent worship leadership will come from **Rev. Michael Carlson** (he/him), who has served as both a local church Pastor and as a Music Director. He most recently served as the Director of Music and Creative Arts at Salem Lutheran Church here in Sycamore. He is also a music performer and recording artist!

Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn (she/they) will also be preaching on multiple occasions. Rev. Muriel serves as both the Pastor of St. John's UCC in Belvidere and as the Executive Director of the United Way of Boone County.

Congregational Care

During Pastor Eric's Parental Leave, if there is a specific prayer request or concern, please reach out to one of the leaders of our Caring Ministry: Suzanne Juday (Suzanne.Juday@idealindustries.com), Karen Hamingson (khamingson@gmail.com), Linda Babcock (lindambabcock@gmail.com), Pam Kitterman (hospicesis@comcast.net), Deb Paulin (DJPaulin826@gmail.com), and Malorie Nelson (malnel606@hotmail.com). They will do their best to connect people to a support person and make sure every care need gets met.

In case of Pastoral Emergency, once you reach out to a member of the Caring Ministry, they will be in touch with Pastor Eric directly. If Pastor Eric is unable to meet emergency needs during his leave, Pastor John Dorhauer of First Congregational UCC in DeKalb will be available. Pastor John also provided emergency spiritual care coverage for Pastor Eric last summer during his sabbatical.

Church Leadership

Our Moderator Team: Gip Seaver, Moderator, (gipseaver@gmail.com); Chris Borresen, Past Moderator, (cboressen@gmail.com); and Bill O'Hagan, Assoc. Moderator, (misterohagan@gmail.com), along with the Leadership Board will continue providing leadership during Pastor Eric's leave. Please reach out to one of them if you have any questions or concerns related to the ministries and happenings of the church. If they are unable to answer your question, they will point you in the right direction!

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:
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Children’s Ministry Support Staff: Khat Hetland

Federated Church Preschool, Director: Bobbi Clough

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