

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 17, 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

“We Are an Offering”

D. Liles/arr. M. Hayes

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 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You” vv. 1-3 (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

*“The Spirit of Truth” **

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 “You Are Here in Our Midst” 3x (p.3)

Scripture [John 14:1-8, 10, 12, 15-19; Acts 1:4-14](#)

Sermon “What Do We Do Now?”

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.***

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore You” by Henry van Dyke



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, God of love;
 2. All Thy works with joy sur - round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
 3. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, Join - ing all in heav - en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; Drive the gloom of doubt a - way; Giv -
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flower - y mead - ow, flash - ing sea, Chant
 Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife, Joy -



- er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
 - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life.

You Are Here in Our Midst” by Don Moen



You are here _____ in our midst. _____ How we've wait -



- ed for mo - ments like this. _____ Have your way _____ in this place. _____ Ho - ly Spi -



- rit come do _____ as you wish. _____ We are changed _____ as you move in our midst. _____

"We Are Your People" by Brian Wren

Unison

1 We are your peo - ple: Spir - it of grace,
 2 Joined in com - mu - ni - ty, trea - sured and fed,
 3 Rich in di - ver - si - ty, help us to live
 4 Glad of tra - di - tion, help us to see

you dare to make us Christ to our neigh - bors
 may we dis - cov - er gifts in each oth - er,
 clos - er than neigh-bors, o - pen to strang - ers,
 in all life's chang-ing, where Christ is lead - ing,

of ev - ery cul - ture and place. lead and be led.
 will - ing to clash and for - give.
 a - ble to ef - ferts should be.
 where our best

1 & 6 *Last time, end* || 2-5

5 Give, as we ven-ture
 jus-tice and care
 (peace-ful, in-sist-ing,
 risk-ing, re-sist-ing),
 wis-dom to know when and where.

6 Spir-it, u-nite us,
 make us, by grace,
 will-ing and read-y,
 Christ's liv-ing bod-y,
 lov-ing the whole hu-man race.

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!

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Happy Baby Days! | *Sundays, May 17 & May 24, after worship*

We are excited to welcome two wonderful babies in the next few weeks! Join us **today** to celebrate Shrestha, Pastor Eric, and Eliyas as they prepare to welcome baby #2. And again, next Sunday, to celebrate Nikki and Keith Meyers as they welcome Baby Girl Meyers in June.

Solar Informational Session | *Wednesday, May 20, 7-8PM*

We invite you to join us at the 2nd of two virtual info sessions—this Wednesday, May 20, 7-8pm—to discuss our findings and progress on the possibility of going solar. **** A third, in-person meeting, led by the Leadership Board will take place after worship on Sunday, June 7, to share additional info, including funding, and to answer related questions.**

Pam LaDue Memorial Service | *Sat., May 23, 10AM, 1st UMC, DeKalb*

A memorial service for Pam LaDue, mother of Nicole, will take place Saturday, May 23, at 10 AM at First United Methodist Church of DeKalb on Annie Glidden Rd. Pam's upbringing was centered around music, especially church music, and one of the ways she is being honored is to have lots of choral music and an organist playing her favorite pieces (hence the location, as Federated doesn't have a working organ). ****The family would be so grateful if anyone interested in lending their voices to this celebration could attend. Here are some of the classic Hymns we'll be singing: "The Strife is O'er," "In the Garden," "How Great Thou Art," "Holy, Holy, Holy." ****

Children's Church

CC will **not** be held next Sunday, May 24. As always, children are welcome in worship. Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the back. Summer Children's Church dates are the first and third Sundays of the Month: **June: 7 and 21, July: 5 and 12.**

UCC Intergen. Creation Care Camp | *August 3-6, Tower Hill Camp, Sawyer, MI*

Calling parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, caregivers and the children in their lives: join us as we immerse ourselves and play in Creation while learning how to serve as the Land Defenders & Water Protectors God's Creation needs at this time! We will explore Creation Care through the lens of water, especially Lake Michigan & its watershed. But this is summer camp so we will also play & swim at the beach, enjoy bonfires, star-gaze & savor S'mores! *If a kid is interested, but a parent / caregiver is unable to accompany, we can reach out to the camp to see if we can have a chaperone.* Check out the eNews for more information.

Church Office Hour Updates

The church office will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day. Summer office hours of Monday through Thursday, 9AM to noon, will begin on June 1.

Ladies' Night Out | *Tues., May 26, 6PM, Taxco Mexican Restaurant, Sycamore*
Our next Ladies' Night Out is Tuesday, May 26, 6:00 PM at Taxco Mexican Restaurant, 223 W. State St., Sycamore. Come join us for some great Mexican food and good conversation. All are welcome!

Feminist Theology | *Saturday, June 13, 10:30 AM, Youth Room*
Feminist Theology meetings during May are cancelled. We will resume June 13, starting with Rebekah, pages 65-74. All Women are welcome.

Pride Fest & March 2026 | *Sat., June 20, 4-7PM, Van Buer Plaza, DeKalb*
We'll once again have a booth at DeKalb County Pride Fest and March (Sat., June 20). See Bill O'Hagan or Sarah Hetland if interested in helping plan or represent Federated!

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
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