

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 31, 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 "How Can I Keep from Singing" *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 "We Are Your People" (p.3)

Prayers of the People

Sharing Prayers of Joy & for Healing

Pastoral 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 "O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face" (p.4)

Scripture [2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20](#)

Sermon "Sweet Goodbyes and Blessed Community"

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

“Community of Christ” (p.5)

Benediction

Postlude

“Praise Him, Praise Him”

M. Hayes

Thank you for joining us for worship today!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning:

While Pastor Eric is away on Parental Leave, we are grateful to be led in worship this morning by Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn (she/they). 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. Next Sunday, we are excited to welcome Rev. Michael Carlson.

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: Pam Kitterman | **Ushers:** Alice Whitney and Bev & Skip Schramer
Ushers for Sunday, June 7: Pam Wagener and Chris Borresen
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.*

"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.

O God We Bear the Imprint of Your Face *by Shirley Erena Murray*
(Sung to the tune: "Be Still, My Soul")

Verse 1

O God, we bear the imprint of your face:
the colors of our skin are your design,
and what we have of beauty in our race
as man or woman, you alone define,
who stretched a living fabric on our frame
and gave to each a language and a name.

Verse 2

Where we are torn and pulled apart by hate
because our race, our skin is not the same,
while we are judged unequal by the state
and victims made because we own our name,
humanity reduced to little worth,
dishonored is your living face on earth.

Verse 3

O God, we share the image of the One
whose flesh and blood are ours, whatever skin;
in Christ's humanity we find our own,
and in your family our proper kin:
Jesus our brother we still crucify;
love is the language we must learn, or die

"Community of Christ" by Shirley Erena Murray



1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church's door
3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
4 When men-ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,



live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:
and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.
cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world 'round:
the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;



The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,
Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,
Dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,
Our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,



whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.
take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.
turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.
our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

PASTOR ERIC'S PARENTAL LEAVE

Through Sunday, July 19

Important information while Pastor Eric is away on parental leave.

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

Church Office Hour Updates

Summer office hours (Monday through Thursday, 9AM to noon) will begin on June 1.

Solar Informational Post-Service Conversation | Sun., 6/7, after worship

Please join the Leadership Board on Sunday, June 7, for a post-service presentation and conversation around the financial approach to the solar project. *Please watch the video in the eNews from our first series of solar info sessions ahead of the meeting.*

Children's Church

Children's Church **will be** held today. Summer Children's Church dates are the first and third Sundays of the Month: **June: 7 and 21, July: 5 and 12.**

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!

Ladies' Night Out | *Tues., June 23, 6PM, Fatty's Pub & Grille, DeKalb*

Our next Ladies' Night Out is Tuesday, June 23, 6:00 PM at Fatty's Pub & Grille, 1312 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb. If it is not too hot, we will eat outside. Make your plans now to join your friends from Federated Church! All are welcome! 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





**Strengthen
the Church**

SENT FORTH IN
LOVE

Supporting next generation leaders

Through the Church Assessment, Support, and Advancement (CASA) Program, new and renewing ministries receive grant funding to establish and strengthen transformative faith communities within the United Church of Christ.

One of these grant recipients is the Service Learning Community Fellowship Program at Kailua Christian Church. Their mission to cultivate a loving, Christ-centered community is reflected in their investment in young adults discerning pastoral and social service vocations. By partnering with The Institute for Human Services and offering hands-on, community-centered learning, housing support, and spiritual formation, KCC is developing the next generation of compassionate, justice-oriented Christian leaders.

A participant of the program shared, “This experience has prepared me to pursue ministry with greater intentionality, creativity, and resilience, equipping me to serve diverse communities with both grace and practical leadership.”



Your gifts to Strengthen the Church help support ministries like the Service Learning Community Fellowship Program all across the United States. Thank you for your generosity!

The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our Conference and National Ministries as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided between your Conference and the National Ministries.

Learn more at www.ucc.org/stc



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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