

**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 | June 28, 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** "Majesty & Glory of Your Name" arr. Mark Hayes

### Welcome

**Call to Worship** *inspired by Psalm 13*

**One:** We gather as a people to worship the Holy One who considers our cries and responds to our conditions.

**Many:** **We gather even when wearied by the world because we trust in God's steadfast love.**

**One:** Our souls may ask, "How long, Holy One?" Yet our hearts rejoice in your saving acts.

**Many:** **We gather even when shaken and sorrowful because we hope in God's steadfast love.**

**One:** We gather to sing to the Holy One who has been generous with us.

**Many:** **Our worship and our work testifies to the goodness of the God who prevails. Let us worship the God of Life!**

### 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** "Help Us Accept Each Other" (p.4)

### 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** "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" (p.5)

**Scripture** [Genesis 22:1-14](#)

## **Sermon**

“When Faithful People Fail”

## **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** “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” (p.6)

## **Benediction**

**Postlude** “How Majestic Is Your Name” *Michael W. Smith/arr. M. Hayes*  
*Thank you for joining us for worship today!*

† † †

# **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.*

# 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:** Chris Borresen | **Ushers:** Paula von Ende and Bev & Skip Schramer

*Ushers for Sunday, July 5: Pam Wagener and Chris Borresen*

*Call to Worship: from "It Shall Be Provided: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Year A" was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.*

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## 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

## Children's Church

Children's Church will not be held today. 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. Next dates: **July, 5 and 12.**

## Meal Train for Meyers Family | *through July 11*

Join us in welcoming Nikki & Keith Meyers' new daughter, Rosalie! A Meal Train has been set up for the new parents. Scan QR code at the right for more details and to sign up.



## Church Office Holiday Closure | *Thursday, July 2*

The Church Office will be closed Thursday, July 2, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Summer office hours (Mon. – Thurs., 9AM to noon) will resume on July 6.

## Feminist Theology | *Saturday, July 11, 10:30 AM, Youth Room*

Restudying and retelling the traditional Christian stories from the perspective of women. Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays each month. All Women are welcome.

## 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



## “Help Us Accept Each Other” *by Fred Kaan*

- 1 Help us ac-cept each oth-er  
as Christ ac-cept-ed us;  
teach us as sis-ter, broth-er,  
each per-son to em-brace.  
Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us,  
and bring us to be-lieve  
we are our-selves ac-cept-ed  
and meant to love and live.
- 2 Teach us, O God, your les-sons,  
as in our dai-ly life  
we strug-gle to be hu-man  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for peo-ple,  
for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them,  
or as they may be-come.
- 3 Let your ac-cep-tance change us,  
so that we may be moved  
in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions  
to do the truth in love;  
To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance,  
un-til we know by heart  
the ta-ble of for-give-ness  
and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.
- 4 God, for to-day's en-coun-ters  
with all who are in need,  
who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance,  
for righ-teous-ness and bread,  
Bring us new eyes for see-ing,  
new hands for hold-ing on;  
re-new us with your Spir-it;  
God! Free us, make us one!

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand” by Thomas A. Dorsey; alt.

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,  
3 When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
when my life is al - most gone,  
and the day is past and gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:  
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:  
At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

*Refrain*

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

**“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”** by Fred Kaan

C F G Dm G C G

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:  
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,  
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,

C F G Dm7 C G C

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

*Refrain (first time p, second time f)*

C C7 F Dm G C F C

Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

# 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



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