

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 | July 5, 2026, 10:00 am

Today we will be taking communion. We invite you to participate how ever you're best able. Feel free to use whatever you have for the "bread and cup"—whether it's bread & grape juice or a cookie & coffee. God takes our ordinary offerings, whatever they are, and blesses them as we share them together!

*All music can be found at the back of the bulletin. Please join in reading those parts printed in **bold**.*

Prelude

"I Love You, Lord"

Laurie Klein/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

"Hope of the World" (p.4)

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.

Poetic Meditation

Psalm 145:8-14

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

God is good to all, and God's compassion is over all God's creation.

*All your works shall give thanks to you,
O God, and all your faithful shall bless you.*

*They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power,
to make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.*

*Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.*

God is faithful in all words, and gracious in all deeds.

God upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

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 "Lead Us from Death to Life" (Refrain only) (p.5)

Scripture

[Matthew 11:16-30](#)

Sermon

“Compassion Is What Compassion Does”

Musical Meditation

Holy Communion

We practice an “open table”—everyone is welcome to receive God’s gifts. There is no age you must be or dogma you must believe. God meets us where we are—amidst our questions, fears and failures—and offers us nourishment & a blessing on life’s journey.

Invitation & Words of Institution

***Sharing Bread & Cup** “Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us” (p.3)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life” (vv 1-4,6) (p.6)

Benediction

Postlude

“Song for the Nations”

Chris Christensen/arr. M. Hayes

Thank you for joining us for worship today!

† † †

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.*

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning:

While Pastor Eric is on Parental Leave, we are grateful to be led in worship this Sunday by 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 in Sycamore. He is also a music performer and recording artist!

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: Phil Wagener | **Ushers:** Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen

Ushers for Sunday, July 12: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle

All music is used with permission: CCLI Copyright: #3234671; CCLI Streaming: #22467093

"Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us" by Daniel Charles Damon



1 Je - sus, you have tru - ly called us. Still, to - day, we hear your
2 Je - sus, save us from poor choic - es. Ha-tred, run - ning like a
3 Je - sus, save us from our weak - ness, from de - ceit and from de -



voice. Lead us on - ward, lead us up - ward, till all peo - ple can re -
thread through the fab - ric of our his - t'ry, mars our faith and leaves us
spair. Move us on to new cre - a - tion in a world that's free and

Refrain

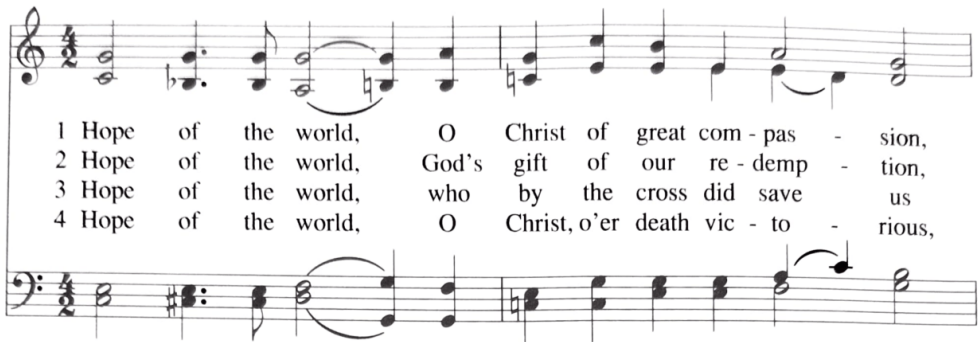


joice.
dead. Meet us in our time of tri - al, fill us with your Spir - it's
fair.

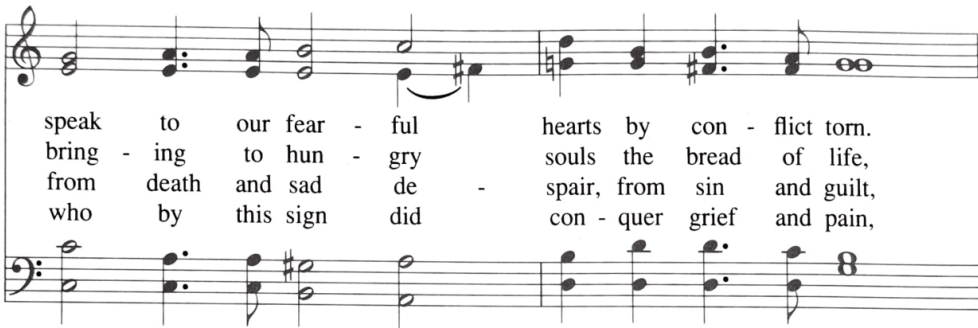


power. As we stand be - fore op - pres - sion, give us cour - age for this hour.

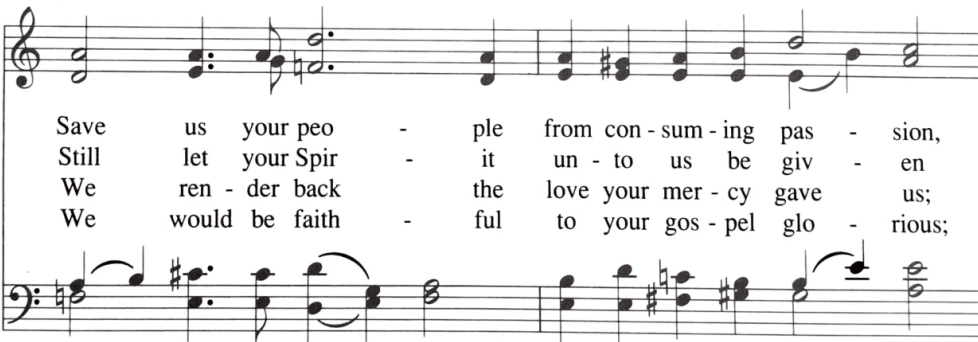
"Hope of the World" by Georgia Harkness



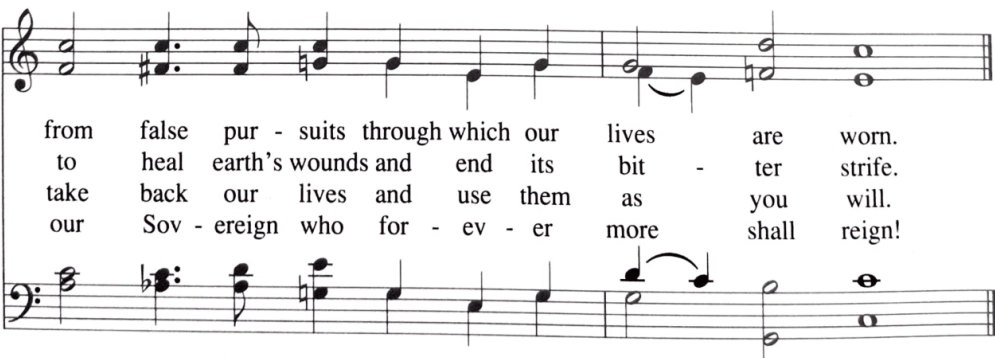
1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great com - pas - sion,
2 Hope of the world, God's gift of our re - demp - tion,
3 Hope of the world, who by the cross did save us
4 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious,



Speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict torn.
Bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life,
From death and sad de - spair, from sin and guilt,
Who by this sign did con - quer grief and pain,



Save us your peo - ple from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
Still let your Spir - it un - to us be giv - en
We ren - der back the love your mer - cy gave us;
We would be faith - ful to your gos - pel glo - rious;



from false pur - suits through which our lives are worn.
to heal earth's wounds and end its bit - ter strife.
take back our lives and use them as you will.
our Sov - ereign who for - ev - er more shall reign!

“Lead Us from Death to Life” by Satish Kumar / Marty Haugen

Refrain C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

spair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life” by Frank Mason North

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - o - w - ed
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
 4 The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the

cries of clan and race, A - bove the noise of self - ish
 thresh - olds framed with fears, From paths where hide the lures of
 griefs and bur - dened toil, From fam - ished souls, from sor - rows'
 fresh - ness of your grace; Yet long these mul - ti - tudes to

strife, O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.
 greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 stress, we know your heart does not re - coil.
 view the deep com - pas - sion of your face.

5 O Sav - ior, from
 the moun - tain - side,
 Make haste to heal
 these hearts of pain;
 A - mong these rest - less
 thro - ugs a - bide,
 O tread the cit - y's streets a - gain:

6 Till all shall learn
 com - pas - sion's might,
 And fol - low where
 your feet have trod,
 Till glo - rious from
 your realm of light,
 Shall come the cit - y of our God.

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

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.



Ladies' Night Out | *Tues., July 28, 6PM, Copper Barrel, Hampshire*

Our next Ladies' Night Out is Tuesday, July 28, 6:00 PM at Copper Barrel, 172 S. State St., Hampshire. Those who wish to carpool should meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 PM. Make your plans now to join your friends from Federated Church! All 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



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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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