

**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 12, 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**

“On the Wind of Spirit”

Mark 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** #28 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

### **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**

“Dessert Flowers”

~Rev. Michael Carlson

*I thought I was the silent stone just baking in the sun,  
Storing heat to radiate all night when day was done.  
All the bugs and lizard friends would crawl to me at night,  
And nuzzle close for comfort as they wait for morning light*

*I thought I was the sandy soil thirsting for the rain,  
Sponging up each raindrop and rejoicing when it came.  
But down below I've come to know while praying here this hour  
That I'm the seed that sun and rain will grow into a flow'r.*

*In the rocks and sandy wash where death is all around  
The creator shakes their brush, spots of color dot the ground  
And the valley starts to rise to receive the Spirit's power  
When seeds that slept through time sprout to rise as desert flowers*

*Sometimes it seems forever as we wait for nourishment,  
But God's word feeds our hungry hearts with love's encouragement.  
And patience fills the cup we drink, gives bread on which we feed;  
We are the desert flowers even when we're just the seed.*

## **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** #528 "You Are the Seed"

**Scripture** [Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23](#)

**Sermon** "The Sower, The Soil, The Seed"

## **Music Quiz**

## **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** #401 "O God in Whom All Life Begins"

## **Benediction**

**Postlude** "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" *Peter Scholtes*

*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:** Ryan Washabaugh | **Ushers:** Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle

*Ushers for Sunday, July 19: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl*  
*All music is used with permission: CCLI Copyright: #3234671; CCLI Streaming: #22467093*

## PASTOR ERIC'S PARENTAL LEAVE

*Through Sunday, July 19*

Important information while Pastor Eric is away on parental leave.

### Congregational Care

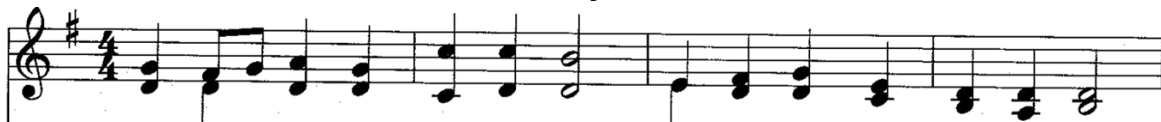
During Pastor Eric's Parental Leave, if there is a specific prayer request or concern, please reach out to one of the leaders of our Caring Ministry: Suzanne Juday (Suzanne.Juday@idealindustries.com), Karen Hamingson (khamingson@gmail.com), Linda Babcock (lindambabcock@gmail.com), Pam Kitterman (hospicesis@comcast.net), 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!

**"For the Beauty of the Earth"** by F. Pierpoint / M. T. Winter



1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,  
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,



For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

*Refrain*



God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

# "You Are the Seed" by Cesáreo Gabaráin

Unison D A7 Bm D

1 You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a  
 You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the

G G6 A7 D A

star that will shine through the day; You are the yeast and a  
 wheat that will bear gold - en grain; You are a sting and a

Bm G D G6 A7 D

small grain of salt, a bea - con to glow in the night.  
 soft, gen - tle touch, my wit - ness - es wher - e'er you go.

*Estribillo (Refrain)* G A7

A D

Go, my friends, go to the world, pro - claim - ing love to  
 Be, my friends, a loy - al wit - ness, from the dead I a -

D Em7 A7 Bm

all, mes - sen - gers of my for - giv - ing peace,  
 rose; "Lo, I'll be with you for - ev - er,

1 G6 A7 2 G6 A7 D

e - ter - nal love. till the end of the world."

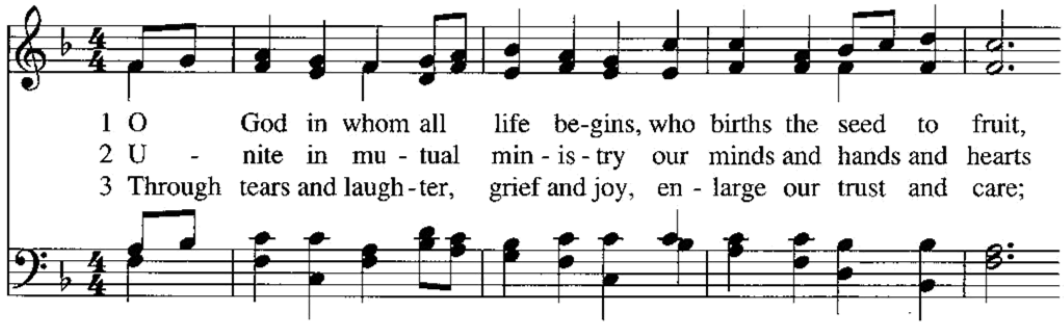
2 You are the flame that will bright-en  
 the way,  
 send-ing spar-kles of hope, faith,  
 and love;  
 you are the shep-herds  
 to lead the whole world  
 through val-leys and pas-tures of peace.  
 You are the friends that I chose for my-self,  
 the word that I want to pro-claim.  
 You are the cit-y that's built on a rock  
 where jus-tice and truth al-ways reign.

*Refrain*

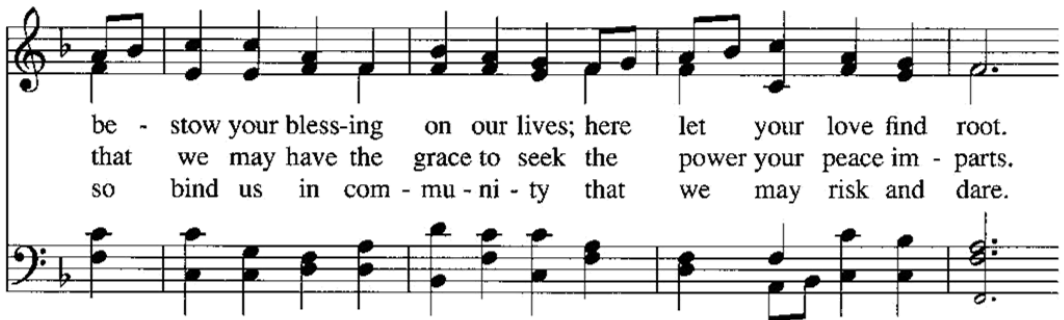
3 You are the life that will nur-ture the plant;  
 you're the waves in a tur-bu-lent sea;  
 yes-ter-day's yeast is be-gin-ning to rise,  
 a new loaf of bread it will yield.  
 There is no place for a cit-y to hide,  
 nor a moun-tain can cov-er its might;  
 may your good deeds  
 show a world in de-spair  
 a path that will lead all to God.

*Refrain*

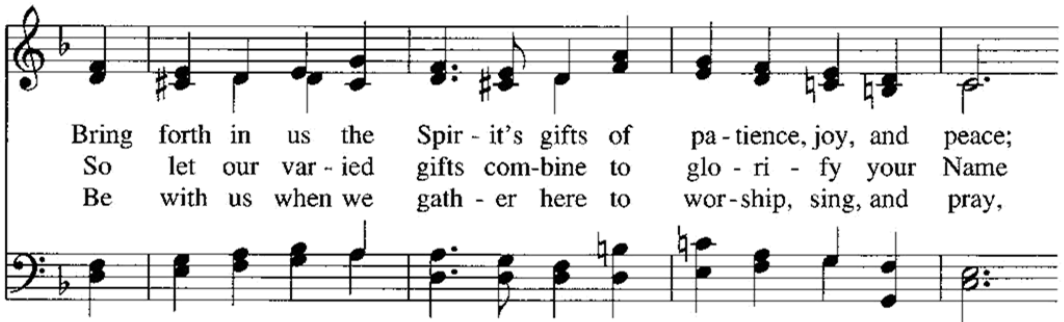
**"O God in Whom All Life Begins" by Carl P. Daw, Jr.**



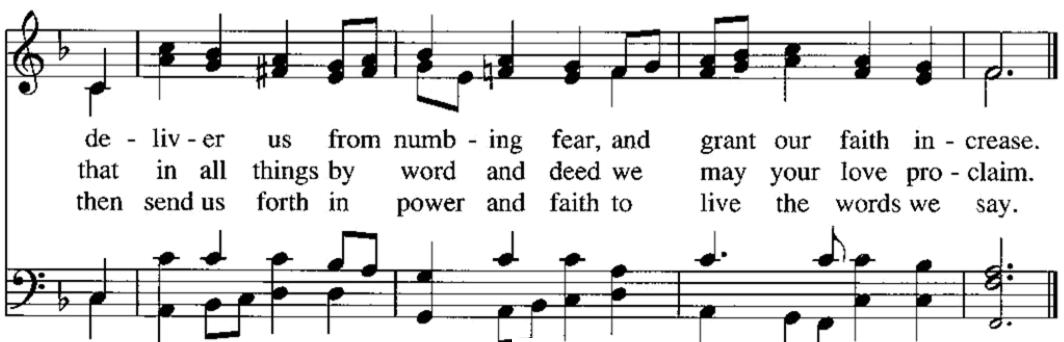
1 O God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit,  
2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts  
3 Through tears and laugh - ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;



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

## 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 CC: **July 19**.

## Feminist Theology | Sat., July 25, 10:30 AM, Youth Room

This group explores the often overlooked and undervalued stories of women in the Bible and tradition. Meeting the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month, they will next meet on Saturday, June 25, from 10:30-to noon. Please use door #3 South to enter at the Youth room. All are welcome.

## Summer Stop at Mayfield Church | July 25, 10AM-3PM, 28405 Church Rd.

Take a moment to enjoy Mayfield's beautiful country church, butterfly waystation, and music by the Bluebelles, featuring beloved songs from the 30s through the 60s. Purchase native plants from Country Road Greenhouses, treat yourself to and ice cream sundae, make or purchase a craft. Email [info@mayfieldchurchucc.org](mailto:info@mayfieldchurchucc.org) for more info.

## Annual Summer Congregational Meeting | Sun., July 26, after worship

The Annual Summer Congregation meeting will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, July 26, following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to present, discuss, and elect officers and Leadership Board members for the 2026-27 year, the minutes of the January 2026 Annual meeting, and to receive an update on the 2026 Budget. Please plan to join us!

## 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.

## Mid-Year Calendaring | Sun., Aug. 9, following worship

All are welcome to join the Leadership Board in planning the events for the remainder of 2026 and look forward to planning for the centennial celebration of The Federated Church in 2027.

## 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*



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Facebook & Instagram:  
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**Pastor Eric Cell:** (815) 797-2250 || **Email:** [RevEric@fedsycamore.org](mailto: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](mailto:Preschool@fedsycamore.org)

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