

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 26, 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 “More Precious than Silver” Lynn DeShazo/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 “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing” (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 Body is Like Mary”**

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 Meditation “Come and Find the Quiet Center” (p.5)

Scripture [Psalm 13, 100, 8](#)

Sermon “Help! Thanks! Wow!”

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 “We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky” (p.4)

Benediction

Postlude

“Praise the Name of Jesus”

arr. Mark Hayes

Thank you for joining us for worship today!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning:

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: Donna O’Hagan | **Ushers:** Pam Wagener, and Chris Borresen

Ushers for Sunday, August 2: Ruth Olle and Gip Seaver

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** The Visual Meditation is produced by The Work of the People; used with permission.*

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.*

"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" *by Robert Robinson*



1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky" by Ruth Duck

1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers
 2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for
 3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -

grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -
 morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and
 a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's

in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -
 war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -
 good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons

ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that
 ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that
 from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that

all may have a - bun - dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.
 all may have a - bun - dant life in one - ness with their neigh - bor.
 all may have a - bun - dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

"Come and Find the Quiet Center" by Shirley Erena Murray



1. Come and find the qui - et cen - ter in the crowd - ed life we lead, find the
2. Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it
3. In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's pain, let our
room for hope to en - ter, find the frame where we are freed: Clear the
is who speaks and names us, knows our be - ing, touch-es grace, mak-ing
loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e - brate the space we gain: There's a
cha - os and the clut - ter, clear our eyes that we can see all the
space with - in our think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the sun, rais - ing
place for deep - est dream - ing, there's a time for heart to care, in the
things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.
cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun.
Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing, there is al - ways room to spare.

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Annual Summer Congregational Meeting | *Today, after worship*

The Annual Summer Congregation meeting will be held in the sanctuary today, 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!

Ask Me Anything! | *Submit questions by noon on Jul. 30*

Back by popular demand is our "Ask Me Anything" sermon series. The title says it all: Have a question about theology? About church—what we're about and what lies ahead? About living through times like these? About love or justice or suffering or anger or purpose or, or, or...??? Ask away! This is a fun way to explore more organic, honest, and unvarnished responses to your questions. Submit questions online using the QR Code.



Ladies' Night Out | *Tues., Jul. 28, 6PM, Copper Barrel, 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!

Meals During Recovery | *Tues., Jul. 28 & Aug. 4, and Thurs., Aug. 6*

Church member, Bill Griesenaurer, had hip replacement surgery Monday and is home recovering. He's using a walker and will receive his physical therapy as an outpatient. You go Bill! Anyone available to deliver a meal to Bill & Tomi on a Tuesday or Thursday please text or call Malorie Nelson for details. 815-978-6826. Meals are needed: *Tuesday, July 28; Tuesday, August 4; and Thursday, August 6.*

Backpack Sunday | *Sun., Aug. 2, following worship*

We will be gathering to set out items for this year's backpacks at on **Sat., Aug. 1, at 6PM**. All hands welcome; there will be tasks for a range of ages and abilities. Filling of the backpacks will take place on **Sun., Aug. 2, following worship**. Please join us on Saturday, Sunday or both days to help with this vital ministry to DeKalb County students.

Feminist Theology | *Sat., Aug. 8, 10:30 AM, Youth Room*

This group explores the often overlooked and undervalued stories of women in the Bible and in our tradition. Meeting the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month, they will next meet on Saturday, August 8th, from 10:30-to noon. Please use door #3 South to enter at the Youth room. This is a group for women, inclusive of those who are trans or nonbinary.

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

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*



Follow us on
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@FederatedChurchSycamore



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