

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 | August 09, 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 “Change My Heart, Oh God” *Eddie Espinosa/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 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You” (p.3)

Prayers of the People

Centering Moment

This is your time to center more deeply into the presence of God/Love.

We invite you to sit with the quotes below, and then: move through the Breath Prayer; ponder the Silent Reflection Questions; or simply sit silently as the music plays.

“If the concept of God has any validity or any use, it can only be to make us larger, freer, and more loving. If God cannot do this, it is time we got rid of Him.” ~ James Baldwin

Breath Prayer

***Inhale:** “My practice is love.” | **Exhale:** “My path is justice.”*

***Inhale:** “In the face of another.” | **Exhale:** “I meet the face of God.”*

Silent Prayer & Reflection

How has “growing up” in your faith required you to let go of ideas of God, Jesus, or Christianity that were getting in the way of your growth or capacity to love your neighbor? Did you feel like you could let go, or did you feel like you had to then leave Christianity altogether? Is there something you’re feeling called to let go of or grow into now?

The Prayer Jesus Taught Us

**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 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” (p.3)

Scripture [John 16:12-14, 21:25; Ephesians 3:18-19](#)

Sermon “Ask Me Anything: Round 2”

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 “O For a World” (p.4)

***Benediction**

Postlude

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Graham Kendrick/arr. Mark Hayes

Thank you for worshiping with us 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: Sheldon Turner | **Ushers:** Ruth Olle and Gip Seaver

Ushers for Sunday, August 16: Pam & Nate Kitterman, and Allison Stahl

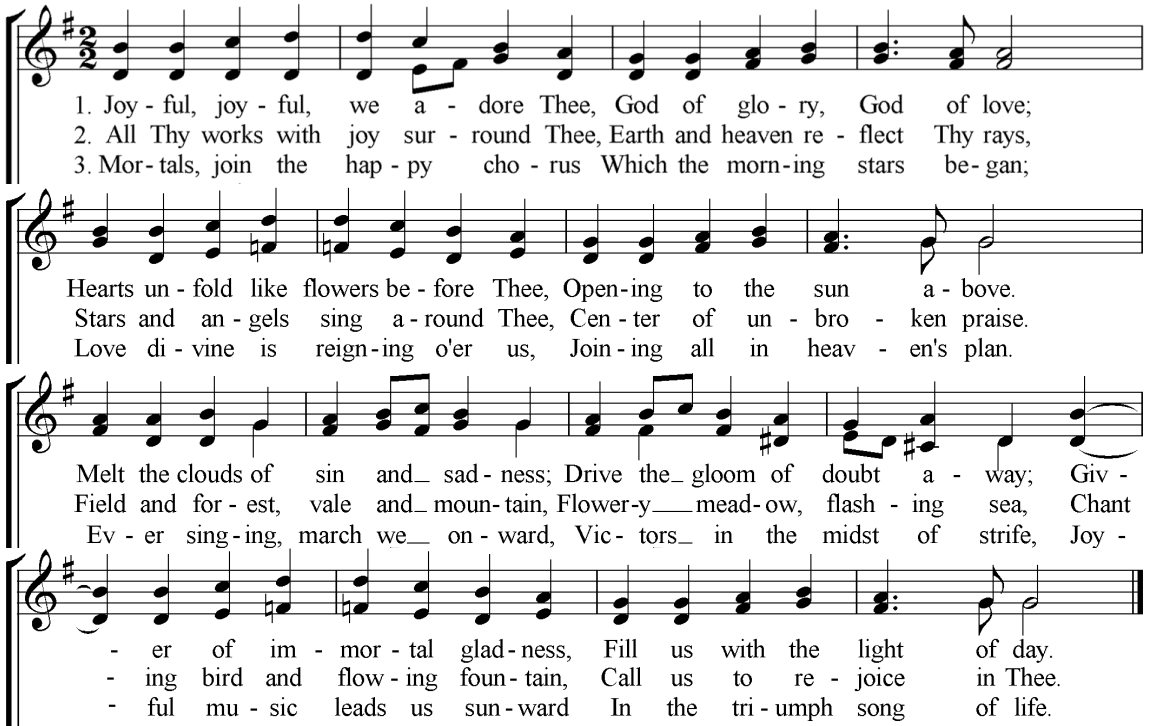
All music is used with permission: CCLI Copyright: #3234671; CCLI Streaming: #22467093

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Church Leadership for August 2026 – August 2027:

Moderator: Bill O’Hagan | **Assoc. Moderator:** Jane Whitaker | **Past Moderator:** Gip Seaver | *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.*

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore You” *by Henry van Dyke*



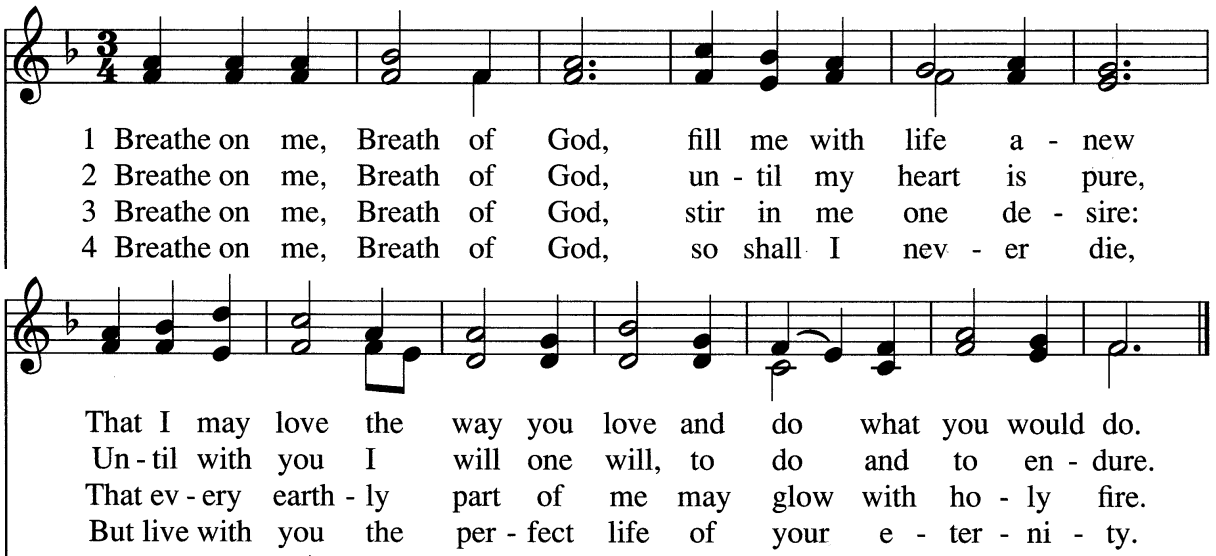
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, God of love;
 2. All Thy works with joy sur - round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
 3. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, Join - ing all in heav - en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; Drive the gloom of doubt a - way; Giv -
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flower - y mead - ow, flash - ing sea, Chant
 Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife, Joy -

- er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
 - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life.

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” *by Edwin Hatch*



1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new
 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire:
 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.
 Un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
 That ev - ery earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.
 But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

"O for a World" by Miriam Therese Winter



1 O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,
Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Ask Me Anything! | *Submit questions by noon on Aug. 13*

Back by popular demand is our "Ask Me Anything" sermon series. The title says it all: Have a question about faith, God, or Church? Or about Federated Church in particular? Submit your question online using the QR code here by August 13 to have it included next Sunday.



Mid-Year Calendaring | *Today, 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.

Youth Outlook Conversations | *Aug. 16 & 23, after worship, & Aug. 25 eve*

A series of conversations led by Nancy Mullen, Exec. Dir. Youth Outlook, around their work with LGBTQ+ youth, as well as exploring ways we can work for LGBTQ+ advocacy and belonging within Federated Church and in the wider world!

Office Hours Change | *Beginning Mon. Aug. 17*

The church office will return to its non-summer office hours of Mon. & Fri. 9AM – Noon and Tue., Wed., Thur. 9AM – 3PM beginning Monday, August 17.

Feminist Theology | Sat., Aug. 22, 10:30 AM, Youth Room

Exploring the often overlooked and undervalued stories of women in the Bible the group meets the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month. Please use door #3 from the parking lot.

No Children's Church | Sun., Aug. 23

Children are welcome to worship in the sanctuary with their families. There will also be no "third Saturday" intergenerational event this month.

Ladies' Night Out | Tues., Aug. 25, 6PM, Provecho HMF, DeKalb

Join us at the new Venezuelan restaurant, Provecho HMF (homemade food), 131 E. Lincoln Hwy. The menu includes authentic Venezuelan food. Sign-up in Dutton Hall

Centennial Planning

Your unique ideas, stories and insights are welcome as we begin planning our church's centennial celebration. The hope is to plan not just a single event, but to find ways to celebrate, look back, and look forward throughout 2027. See Pam Jackson or Sharon Hollister for more information and watch for an initial meeting date/time.

Fall Fest Planning | Date TBD, following worship

Join us in planning another intergenerational Fall Fest, scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 13, with food, activities, games, music, etc. Any and all ideas are welcome!

Meals on Wheels Delivery | Throughout September

Partnering with VAC, Federated Church provides drivers who deliver meals to those who are elderly, disabled, or home bound throughout September. 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

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



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