

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 16, 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 “Open Our Eyes/Be Thou My Vision” *Irish Melody/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 “Womb of Life and Source of Being” vv. 1-3 (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 “Come and Find the Quiet Center” (p.3)

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

Sermon “Ask Me Anything: Round 3”

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 “You Are Salt for the Earth, O People” vv. 1, 3, 4 (p.4)

Benediction

Postlude

“Holy Ground”

Geron Davis/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:** Sharon McKee | **Ushers:** Pam & Nate Kitterman, and Allison Stahl
Ushers for Sunday, August 23: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer
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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.*

"Womb of Life and Source of Being" Ruth Duck
sung to tune of Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Verse 1

**Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart
In your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start
We, your children gather 'round you, at the table you prepare
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care**

Verse 2

**Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend
When our memory fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend
Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world yet to be
Free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity**

Verse 3

**Mother, Brother, Holy Partner, Father, Spirit, Only Son:
We would praise your name forever, one in three, and three in one
We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new
Ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you**

"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.

"You Are Salt for the Earth, O People" by Marty Haugen



1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!



Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
 Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
 Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!



Refrain



Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;



Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!



CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Youth Outlook Conversations | *Aug. 16 & 23 after worship; Aug. 25 6pm*

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: M & F 9-12; T-W-Th 9-3*

Fall Fest Planning | *Tues., Aug. 18, Time to be determined*

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!

FREE Community Kids Clothing Swap | *Sat., Aug. 22, 9 AM – 12 PM*

We are excited to partner with our Preschool and a community group of moms to put on a FREE children's clothing swap. See Sharon Hollister for more information.

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

Exploring the often overlooked and undervalued stories of women in the Bible the group meets the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month. **Location change:** Please use door #5 from the small parking lot off of State Street, near the Settle Room.

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.

Blessing of the Backpacks, Part II | *Sun., Aug. 30*

Join us in worship to bless all those beginning a new school year (students, parents, teachers, custodians, etc.).

Post Service Conversation—Pray Grounds | *Sun., Aug. 30, after worship*

Pastor Eric leads this conversation as we continue exploring how to deepen our hospitality and expand our welcome.

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.

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

Now Serving: Just Coffee??

The coffee that we currently drink on Sundays is primarily purchased/donated by a couple individuals (usually from Costco). Coffee supply chains are well-known to be rife with human rights abuses. Where and how we source it matters. As we look for more ways to align aspects of our life together at Federated with our values, we would like to transition to sourcing our coffee in ways that reflect our commitments to economic justice and human dignity.

Through partnerships with churches, we could source our coffee at Federated from the two companies below at a discounted bulk rate. If we were to purchase their coffee at the discounted rate and then "re-sell" it to you (at the market rate you'd pay at the store), we could make it possible for us all to support these missions and, in doing so, create an "income stream" that would sustain the purchasing of our Sunday coffee. Your cost to purchase a 1 lb. bag would likely be ~\$15.

The two companies are:

- **Equal Exchange:** Their mission is *to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound, to foster mutually beneficial relationships between farmers and consumers and to demonstrate, through our success, the contribution of worker co-operatives and Fair Trade to a more equitable, democratic and sustainable world.*
- **Café Justo (Just Coffee):** A grower-owned Coffee Cooperative based in southern Chiapas, Mexico, formed to address the poverty and migration from Mexico to the U.S.A.

Please help us determine whether this could be feasible by filling out this brief [survey](#).

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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