



# THE MESSENGER

The Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 6

June 2023

## A Message from Pastor Joe

If you ever want to make God laugh, I say tell him your plans. I say that because many years ago (32) I told Amy, my wife, that if you want the kids to go to church you will be the one bringing them. Well, here I am being appointed to a new church in Sugar Grove, as their pastor. This journey I have been on started right here at Sycamore UMC when Amy and I moved to the area 30 years ago and she wanted to find a church. You, the church, welcomed us to your home and our life was changed forever. Amy taught at ABC Preschool, she served as your children's director for many years and I slowly started to reconnect on my journey with God. I was accepted by many of you and before I knew it, we were at the church raising our 3 kids all the way through high school and college. I have been on committees, the head of trustees, taught Sunday school and led youth group for years. It was once I experienced going on a mission trip with the youth under Nancy Crandall that my life changed forever. I fell in love with God, and I caught on fire, I couldn't get enough. I have been able to be part of a program that has worked with thousands of kids over the years, along with hundreds of adults who were willing to be disciples of Christ and go out and serve in so many areas and different ways. I cannot thank you enough for the leadership of SUMC - from pastors to the best staff ever - helping me on this amazing journey right along with you, the congregation. Many of you have been an integral part of helping me use the gifts I have been given and I can't thank you enough. But, now the call has come for us to move on and share His word with others in a new community. We ask for prayers for your new pastor coming in and also prayers for Amy and I, along with our family, as we navigate this new transition. Thank you for being the incredible church you are and continue to bring others to Christ! You never know how you are changing the lives of others.

God Bless,

Pastor Joe and Amy Munro



to a FAREWELL CELEBRATION for

Pastor Joe & Amy

**Sunday, June 18th**

at the 9:15am service



Continental Breakfast will be served after the service.

## **Staff**

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Securely give online at  
[www.sycamoreumc.org/giving](http://www.sycamoreumc.org/giving) or  
by texting "giving" to 815-895-  
9113. Checks may be  
mailed to the church  
at: 160 Johnson Ave.,  
Sycamore, IL 60178.



Sycamore United  
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc

## **June 2023 Worship Schedule**



Saturdays at 5:00pm;

Sundays at 9:15am

[www.facebook.com/SUMCIllinois/](https://www.facebook.com/SUMCIllinois/) or [www.youtube.com/results?  
searchquery=sycamore+umc](https://www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=sycamore+umc)

### **LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE**

#### **June 3/4 – Trinity Sunday**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Matthew 28:16-20

#### **June 10/11 – Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 12:1-9

Romans 4:13-25

#### **June 17/18 – Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Pastor Joe and Amy Farewell Celebration

Matthew 9:35-10:8

#### **June 24/25 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

Pastor Harlene Harden preaching

Voices of Youth Ensemble Ministry of Music Guest Group on  
Sunday w/ Brunch Potluck following the service.

Genesis 21:8-21

Matthew 10:24-39



## **June 25th**

at the 9:15am service

Pastor Harlene Harden will be preaching  
Brunch potluck following the service.

Bring your favorite dish to share  
Table service and drinks will be provided.



### Those for whom we pray:

Eric Gabriel	Cris Woodin	Lillian Mikan
Diana Grace	Don Clayberg	Dorris Gangwer
Nancy	Sherry Probasco	Mike Keller
Jim	Ray Larson	Mary
Linda	Bernard and	Yvone Johnson
Howard and	Vonnie Fuller	Tammy Hemmelgarn
Sue Keller	Lois Cullison	Milz/Weimer Family
Tom Snell & Family	Pat	The Moyer Family
Betty Lou Finn	Nancy Miller	Heidi Ridnour
Brooke Copeland	Kirk Reed	David Dykema
Mike Milyanovich	Sue	Mike Holmes
Sam Rucker and	Pat Theyse & family	

### The Service Personnel and Their Families

Cpt. Mark Browning,	SGT Brock Grimaldi
*SGT Ben Bushno	E4SPC Alexis Jones
SGT Shaune Clark	E3PFC Max Keller
SGT Matthew Einhorn	A1C Brock Larson
PFC Timothy Einhorn	*Maj Steve Haack
PO1 Frank Incapreo	SPC Caden Grimaldi
SSG Christopher Isabel	PV2 Rachel McMillion
Lt. Col. Garrett Slack	*CPL Joshua Caraballo
SFC Matthew "Scott" Stewart	SPC Sutip Jackson
MMN1 Frank Huftalin	PV2 Liam Keller
*LT Matthew Herbaugh	E-5 PO Hayden Royer
PVT Trevor Bassett	E-3 Amanda Royer
PO3 Samuel V. Bell	<i>*indicates deployed personnel</i>
CPT Ed Richter	

Please pray for the Adult LIFE Missions group when they are in Belize from June 10-16.

## STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

### AMBITIOUS DISCIPLESHIP AWAITS YOU, ARE YOU READY TO BE ENGAGED?

Ephesians 2:10 says *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* This is our reminder that we are managers of all of God's creation. As owner, God has called us to be responsible as we fulfill the role for which we have been created, to do his will as long as we remain on earth.

Our financial reporting for the first third of the year shows we are falling short in funding our mission statement which is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Through April, revenues are at \$214,586.33 while expenses total \$288,940.07. **We have a budget deficit of \$74,353.74.** The primary reason for this shortfall is due to less dollars being donated than originally estimated when our budget was prepared at the end of last year.

We may feel inadequate and unprepared both physically and financially for the tasks God places before us, but our strength is in the Lord. When taking our membership vows, we pledge to support our church with our time, talents, and treasures. This is why we:

- Take part in Bible Studies, Sunday School, and the ABC pre-school.
- Travel on youth and adult mission trips to help people we've never met.
- Visit seniors, shut-ins, and the sick.
- Help to feed the hungry through the food pantry.
- Provide support for recently arrived refugee families from other lands.
- Participate in worship with music, voice, and our presence.

These works are sustained by your gifts. Thank you for what you have already contributed. But please prayerfully consider your financial support for the Missions and Ministry of our church and what more you can do. Be fully engaged in ambitious discipleship at Sycamore United Methodist Church. If you cannot be at worship in person, checks may be mailed to the church office at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL., 60178; you may give on-line at [www.sycmaoreumc.org/giving](http://www.sycmaoreumc.org/giving); or text "giving" to 815-895-9113 to access the on-line giving portal

*"May the God of peace . . . equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:20, 21).*



## Food Pantry Needs

Food Pantry needs for this week include canned soup, canned beans and canned fruit. Also we welcome canned tuna, canned chicken, mac & cheese, cake mixes and any other non-perishable grocery items.



Recent retirements have reduced our volunteer staff numbers.

We would also like to extend an open invitation to any interested SUMC members to volunteer to serve on Monday mornings or afternoons. (weekly or monthly Full Shifts or Partial Shifts a possibility)

This is a great opportunity for SUMC members to be the "hands and feet of Jesus" serving the less fortunate of our community.

Those interested can contact the office to get more information from Co-Directors Joel Maurer & Gerry Olson.

## Hope Haven Meal Assistance Needed for June

Prepare or buy just one course or the entire meal to feed 50 people! Deliver your contribution to Hope Haven in DeKalb or drop it off at the church by 3:30 on Monday. **Please call the church (815-895-9113) to let us know which delivery option you will be using. Sign-up at the Resource Center in the Concourse or by calling the church office at 815-895-9113.**



**P**PROMOTING  
**R**ECONCILIATION,  
**I**NCLUSION,  
**D**IVERSITY, and  
**E**QUALITY

During June, the PRIDE Committee of SUMC is celebrating LGBTQ+ PRIDE Month. We will be hosting personal testimonies, special speakers, and Coffee Hour (with cookies!).

Our intent is to promote open and mutual discussions on faith and being a disciple of Christ. We seek to bridge any perceived division in the Body of Christ by welcoming questions as the beginning and sustainer of relationships, as we pray for a more welcoming church for all diverse populations.



## Drive-thru BBQ Chicken Dinner

*from Country Store & Catering*

**Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

**Pick-up time: 4:30-6:30 p.m.**

**Tickets: \$15.00**

**Purchase tickets online by texting "Drive-thru" to 815-895-9113 or in the Concourse on Sundays**

**Meal includes: BBQ Chicken, Country Baked Beans, Steakhouse Potato Salad, Applesauce & Roll**

## It's time for a NEW Church Directory!

### PHOTO DATES:

**July 19, 20, 21 2:00-8:30pm**

**July 22 10:30am-5:00pm**

*Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.*

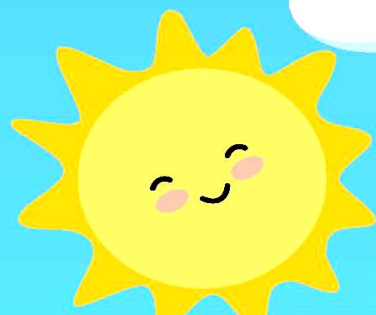
- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at church in June (on the 11th, 18th and 25th) or simply go online to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com) then go to "Photography Appointment Scheduling Login" tab. Use Church Code: il294 Password: photos
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Set your appointment with Universal Church Directories today!





Summer Choir will be on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 9:15 service. Anyone who is interested in singing is invited to a rehearsal before the service that day at 8:15am to learn the 2 songs that we will sing that morning (centering song and word in music anthem). ALL ARE WELCOME!



# SYCAMORE UMC SUMMER PROGRAMS

## Magic Mondays

- Age 4- Grade 2
- 9-10:30am
- Weekly 6/12-8/14
  - (off 7/3 & 7/10)
- Register weekly
- Stories, Scripture, Yoga, Crafts & FUN!!
- Suggested Donation of \$5 per session

## Summer Christian Kids

- Entering 1st-MS
- 3:30-5:30pm
- 1st & 3rd Wednesday
- Register weekly
- Service, Scripture, Snacks & FUN!!
- Suggested Donation of \$5 per session

## Vacation Bible School

- Age 4-Entering 5th
- Daily 7/10-7/14
- 9am-noon
- Space Themed!
- Music, Missions, Scripture, Snacks, & More!!
- Suggested Donation of \$25 for the week

## Contact Us

Church: 815-895-9113  
Ms. Becca: 779-224-4026  
becca@sycamoreumc.org



SCAN ME



## VISIONING TEAM UPDATE



### Discovering God's Future for Your Church

The SUMC Visioning Team continues to meet every first and third Thursday of the month to develop the new SUMC Mission Statement and Core Values. Recently, team members presented the proposed Mission Statement and Core Values to the Church Council, which were unanimously approved by the council members.

Using primarily the information gained from the congregational survey that was completed last fall, the new Mission Statement combines the prior Vision and Mission statements. The first portion now matches the General United Methodist Church's mission by adding "for the transformation of the world," and retains the Gather-Grow-Serve attributes – with a few wording tweaks – that we have had in use since the time when the last Mission Statement was implemented.

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

- We GATHER together to worship God.
- We GROW in faith and love of Jesus Christ.
- We SERVE the church, community, and world, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

To support the Mission Statement, five new Core Values have also been created:

- Community: Strengthening relationships within our congregation and developing relationships with our neighbors.
- Discipleship: Growing in faith intentionally through worship, giving, study, and acts of service.
- Faith: Developing and affirming a personal belief in God and allowing one's life to be transformed.
- Integrity: Adhering to honesty and transparency, even when it's difficult.
- Love: Loving God and sharing God's love through acceptance, inclusion, empathy, and forgiveness.

Now, the Visioning Team is working on the "marketing" of the Mission Statement and the Core Values. The team has been divided into 6 sub-teams, with each sub-team developing various ways to present the respective topics to the congregation. The potential methods we are evaluating to use for presenting to the congregation include videos, posters, bookmarks, pew cards, shirts, etc. Look for the presence of these various communications media in the weeks and months ahead.

Speaking of the church survey: Recently, the Visioning Team was reminded that while we have been scrubbing the results of the survey and using them in our development of the Mission Statement and Core Values, we realized that we have not yet shared the results of the survey with the congregation; this omission is not intentional, and we apologize for not recognizing this gap before now.

As you may know, 225 congregants completed the survey, and over three dozen pages of results and comments have been documented from the survey. On the positive side, the 3 areas which received the overall highest satisfaction results (ratings of Good or Outstanding) were: Worship (88%); Music (84%); and Youth/LIFE Missions (76%). Conversely, the 3 areas identified with the most opportunities for improvement (ratings of Poor or Adequate) were: Finances (26%); Adult Education (21%); and Outreach Ministries (20%). As we continue to complete the final tasks involved in our team's mission, we will also look to develop a concise summary of all of the results of the survey that the congregation can read without having to "mine through" all the separate pages of data.

If you have any questions or inputs for the Visioning Team, don't hesitate to get in touch with one of the Team members.

The Visioning Team

# CHURCH COOKBOOK

Do you have a favorite recipe?

Do you have one that a family member passed on to you that you use often?

The Kitchen Committee is going to be putting together recipes for a church cookbook. The deadline for turning in your recipes is Friday, June 30th. There is a box in the Concourse where you can deposit them. Please see the insert in the bulletin for more information.

Once compiled, the cookbooks will be for sale. Monies raised will be used for future projects for the



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



If your recipe is special to you, we will include a note in the cookbook – i.e., my mom's special cookies!

Category \_\_\_\_\_

Appetizers, soups, salads, vegetables, main dish, breads/rolls, pastries, desserts, cakes, cookies, candy, beverages


Please write legibly or attach a copy of your recipe! If you prefer, you can e-mail your recipe to: [Sm0930@comcast.net](mailto:Sm0930@comcast.net)

All recipes need to be submitted by **JUNE 30,2023**

# JUNE 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the July issue of The Messenger is June 20th

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 5:30 PM Visioning Team 7:00 PM UWF Unit Mtg.	2	3 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Titans Baseball 5:00 PM <b>Saturday Worship Service</b> 6:00 PM Campfire Party
4 GRADUATION SUNDAY 9:15 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 10:30 AM "Next Steps" Summer Programming	5 NIC Annual Conference 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Staff Pastor Parish Relations Comm.	6 NIC Annual Conference 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Titans Baseball	7 NIC Annual Conference 3:30 PM Christian Kids 5:00 PM SYCOS Softball	8 NIC Annual Conference 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Titans Baseball	9	10 LIFE Missions Adult Trip 9:00 AM Titans Baseball 5:00 PM <b>Saturday Worship Service</b>
11 LIFE Missions Adult Trip 9:15 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 10:30 AM "Next Steps" Summer Programming	12 LIFE Missions Adult Trip 9:00 AM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 5:00 PM VBS Training 7:00 PM Discipleship Committee	13 LIFE Missions Adult Trip 9:30 AM Mary Circle 5:00 PM Titans Baseball	14 LIFE Missions Adult Trip 5:00 PM SYCOS Softball	15 LIFE Missions Adult Trip 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 5:30 PM Visioning Team	16 LIFE Missions Adult Trip	17 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Titans Baseball 5:00 PM <b>Saturday Worship Service</b>
18 9:15 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 10:30 AM "Next Steps" Summer Programming	19 9:00 AM Magic Mondays 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Worship Committee	20 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 7:00 PM Grace Circle	21 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 3:30 PM Christian Kids 4:30-6:30 PM Drive-thru Chicken Dinner from Country Store hosted by the United Methodist Men 5:00 PM SYCOS Softball	22 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Titans Baseball	23	24 :00 AM Titans Baseball 5:00 PM <b>Saturday Worship Service</b>
25 9:15 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 10:30 AM "Next Steps" Summer Programming	26 9:00 AM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:0 PM Congregational Care Group	27 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 5:00 PM Titans Baseball	28 5:30 PM SYCOS Softball	29 4:30 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 6:00 PM Genealogy Grp.	30	July 1 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Titans Baseball 5:00 PM <b>Saturday Worship Service</b>



Monday thru Thursday: 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM  
Friday: 8:30 AM to 12:00 AM

Please wear your nametags when you are in the building.  
If you need a name tag please contact the church office.

