



THE MESSENGER

The Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 7

July 2023



PRAY FOR OUR VBS

"Dear God, thank you for going before us as we prepare for VBS. Help us meet any need of supplies, decorations, and volunteers we may have. Provide the opportunity for families far and wide to attend VBS. Thank you for the opportunity to pour into the lives of these kids in deep and meaningful ways. We pray that above all else you are glorified in our VBS."

Deadline for registration is Monday, July 3rd. Register your child age 4-entering 5th grade child by texting "VBS2023" to 815-895-9113 (you will receive and text back with a link to register).

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 or simply go online to:
 - 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.

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SATURDAY WORSHIP LEADER



Securely give online at
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

July 2023 Worship Schedule



Saturdays at 5:00pm;
Sundays at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/SUMCIllinois/ or
www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=sycamore+umc

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JULY

July 1/2 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22: 1-14
Matthew 10:40-42

July 8/9 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30:

July 15/16 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

VBS Celebration on Sunday

July 22/23 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52:

Liturgists Needed! If you would be
interested in being a liturgist or
reader during worship on Sundays
please contact the church office



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

with God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE... MATTHEW 19:26



Those for whom we pray:

Eric Gabriel	Milz/Weimer Family
Nancy	The Moyer Family
Howard and	David Dykema
Sue Keller	Mike Holmes
Sam Rucker and	Kay Schrader
Cris Woodin	Christine Poppens
Don Clayberg	The Gale Family
Pat	Doris Sloniker
Nancy Miller	Ruby Jensen
Kirk Reed	Amanda Bertolozzi
Sue	Elba I. Rosario
Pat Theyse & family	(Pastor Luis' mother)
Lillian Mikan	Leila Cruz
Doris Gangwer	(Norma Nieves' mother)
Mary	Jessica Hagendorn
Tammy Hemmelgarn	

Please pray for the Youth LIFE Missions group when they are in Florida at "Give Kids the World" from July 22-30.



We extend our sympathies to the family of:

Lydia Johnson (Bea Skelton's sister)
Dick Graham
Sharron Bitner
Virginia McMillion

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 Sutit Jackson
*LT Matthew Herbaugh	PV2 Liam Keller
PVT Trevor Bassett	E-5 PO Hayden Royer
PO3 Samuel V. Bell	E-3 Amanda Royer
CPT Ed Richter	<i>*indicates deployed personnel</i>

Please keep your pastors & your church family informed!

As policies surrounding confidentiality and patient's rights continue to be adjusted, hospitals and nursing homes no longer contact church offices to notify them that church members have been admitted. To insure that you desire and receive pastoral care, please call the church office, or have a friend/family member call on your behalf.

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

I GIVE TO MAKE MINISTRY AND MISSION HAPPEN

The week of July 10 our church campus will be filled with youngsters taking part in Vacation Bible School. The space theme "STELLAR - Shine Jesus' Light" sounds exciting and futuristic. As a church family, we are supporting these youngsters in their life journey. In the days after his Resurrection, Jesus said to Peter, "Feed my lambs" (John 21:15, NRSV). Our stewardship is about fulfilling Jesus' command. We want to make good things happen because Jesus told us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We should want at least as much good for our neighbors as we want for ourselves.

In this time and place, little happens without money. Certainly, we can and should give of ourselves in nonfinancial ways. Face-to-face, person-to-person ministry is where substantial transformation of giver and recipient occurs. But much more needs to happen that requires money.

When we give money through our church, not only does it pay salaries and bills, it is doing good beyond today. Our offering is making Vacation Bible School possible and that means we are helping develop the next generation Christian leaders for our church, our community, and the world.

Vacation Bible School is just one of many ways that your giving makes ministry and mission happen at Sycamore United Methodist Church. Securely give online at 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. Thank you for your generosity and thanks be to God.

(Article theme adapted from United Methodist publication "Why We Give.")



SUMMER SUNDAY PROGRAMMING

Summer is upon us. Vacations, fun, family, And YES - Summer Sundays and worship. We've tried a few new things in June and have gained some very useful information.

As we assume you are aware, our Sunday Worship Service is at 9:15am.

After worship from 10:45-11:30 there are opportunities for all ages to grow in their faith.

Children meet for Sunday School. Youth, Young Adult, and Adults can meet for Worship Discussion and Prayer or a Feature Discussion.

We pray that you will bring the whole family and stick around. Here's the schedule through July & August:

July 2, 2023 - 4th of July weekend - no programming other than worship.

July 16, 2023 - 10:45am – Vacation Bible School Walk Through – No other programming

July 23, 2023 - 10:45am – PRIDE Discussion – Lead by Pastor Preston Fields from Salem Lutheran Church.

July 30, 2023 - 10:45am – SUMC CORE Values Discussion – Lead by Peggy Carey and other members of the Visioning Committee.

August 6, 2023 - 10:45am – Meditation and Breathing as a Spiritual Practice

August 13, 2023 - 10:45am – PRIDE Discussion – Lead by members of the SUMC Pride Committee

August 19/20, 2023 – LIFE Missions Sunday

August 27, 2023 - 10:45am – Continued SUMC CORE Values Discussion – Lead by Peggy Carey and other members of the Visioning Committee.



MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, July 21, 2023 at 6:30pm

Join us to watch "A Man Called Otto."

Although this movie deals with suicide, Tom Hanks brings all his acting talent to this story about Love your Neighbor and Faith in each other. Sponsored by the PRIDE Committee.



Summer Choir will be on Sunday, July 2nd 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!

JULY 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR



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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The deadline for the August issue of The Messenger is July 20th						1 9:00 AM Titans Baseball 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
2 8:15 AM Summer Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM Sunday Worship Service	3 Church offices closed 12:00 PM Food Pantry	4 Church offices closed Have a safe 4th of July!	5 3:30 PM Christian Kids 5:00 PM SYCOS Softball	6 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Titans Baseball	7	8 9:00 AM Titans Baseball 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
9 9:15 AM Sunday Worship Service 12:00 PM VBS Training & Set-up	10 9-12 Vacation Bible School 12:00 PM Food Pantry 5:00 PM VBS Training 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 7:00 PM Church Council	11 9-12 Vacation Bible School 12:00 PM Mary Circle 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Titans Baseball	12 9-12 Vacation Bible School 5:00 PM SYCOS Softball	13 9-12 Vacation Bible School 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 5:30 PM Visioning Team	14 9-12 Vacation Bible School	15 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Titans Baseball 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
16 VBS SUNDAY 9:15 AM Sunday Worship Service 10:15 AM VBS Showcase	17 9:00 AM Magic Mondays 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Food Pantry	18 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 6:30 PM Discipleship Committee 7:00 PM Grace Circle	19 Church Directory Pictures 0:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 3:30 PM Christian Kids 4:30-6:30 PM Drive-thru BBQ Pork Chop and Chicken Dinner from 5 B's Catering hosted by the Sycamore Kiwanis 5:00 PM SYCOS Softball	20 Church Directory Pictures 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Titans Baseball	21 Church Directory Pictures 5:30 PM PRIDE Comm. Movie Night "A Man Called Otto"	22 LIFE Missions Youth Trip 9:00 AM Titans Baseball Church Directory Pictures 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
23 LIFE Missions Youth Trip 9:15 AM Sunday Worship Service 10:30 AM "Next Steps" Summer Programming	24 LIFE Missions Youth Trip 9:00 AM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:45 PM PRIDE Comm.	25 LIFE Missions Youth Trip 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 5:00 PM Titans Baseball	26 LIFE Missions Youth Trip 5:30 PM SYCOS Softball	27 LIFE Missions Youth Trip 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 6:00 PM Genealogy Grp.	28 LIFE Missions Youth Trip	29 LIFE Missions Youth Trip 9:00 AM Titans Baseball 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
30 LIFE Missions Youth Trip 9:15 AM Sunday Worship Service 10:30 AM "Next Steps" Summer Programming	31 9:00 AM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry	August 1 12:00 PM Staff Meeting	2 3:30 PM Christian Kids	3 4:00 PM TOPS PICNIC 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 5:30 PM Visioning Team 6:00 PM Genealogy Grp.	4	5 BSA Roundup 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service



The UWF Annual Thrift and Bake Sale is Coming!

Thrift Sale and Bake Sale Friday August 25 9 AM to 5 PM

Thrift Sale Saturday August 26 9 AM to 12 PM

Donation Drop off will be 8/21-8/23 ONLY.

Watch the bulletin and newsletter for more details.

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 July

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.**



Drive-thru BBQ Chicken Dinner

from 5 B's Catering

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

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

Tickets: \$16.00

Purchase tickets online by texting "Drive-thru", or scan the QR Code.

Tickets are also available in the church office

Meal includes: BBQ Pork Chop and Chicken, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Applesauce & Roll



184th Northern Illinois Annual Conference

**Tuesday, June 6 -
Thursday, June 8, 2023**

**Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center
1551 N. Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg Ill.**

2023 NIC Lay
Members to Annual
Conference Reports

I believe the annual conference to be a very eye-opening experience into the deeper depths and workings of the church. The first session I attended at the Annual Conference was the laity session. This was a great introduction to the communications needed throughout the Annual Conference. The next very impactful session was when we voted to allow churches to disaffiliate from the church. Listening to the extensive process required for the churches to go through just to be removed from the United Methodist Church was interesting. Knowing that even through that process, they still decided to go along with the disaffiliation because their belief of not wanting to be a part of the connected system was heartbreaking. Next was the legislative session, I found this interesting because one of the documents (650.01) we discussed in my section did not pass. This discussion led to the legislation being the main talking point on the third day, so I felt more prepared to make my votes throughout the session. The overall annual conference was a great experience to see all that genuinely goes on to ensure the success of all our churches and all the inner working components and committees needed to make us one united church.

Submitted by Avery Gerdes

I was part of Plenary Group 4 that voted on: All three passed: (voting counts are from my session notes)

700.07: Encouraging Leadership with Integrity	700.07 was 69 for; 3 against
700.08: Support of a Parole Pathway for Illinois	700.08 was 71 for; 1 against
700.09: In Support of the Pretrial Fairness Act	700.09 was 72 for; 2 against

On 700.08, I was astonished to learn there is no longer any parole in Illinois. How did this come to be???? My great hope is that the UMC will pursue this matter diligently, and I would like to know if I can write to any local representatives to support this effort.

Likewise, with 700.09, I was quite surprised to learn of the blatant disrespect in the issue of pretrial fairness. Wealthy people can afford to bail out; poor people often cannot. To say the least, this can be devastating. I hope the UMC also pushes hard for the correction of this issue.

Note on 700.08 and 700.09: A pastor was there who was very familiar with these issues (I am sorry I did not record his name) and he confirmed the veracity of the issues. He also stated that a judge always has the discretionary power to override pretrial releasing for defendants charged with violent crimes.

An unfortunate ending for 700.07:

Someone collected 25 signatures that caused 700.07 to be subdued unless passed in a vote with the entire NIC body. The legislation was not presented for a vote by the full body. At the very end of the NIC, at about 3:45 PM (the room had to be cleared by 5:00 PM), a vote was held to determine if 700.07 would be presented to the NIC body. Many participants voted yes, many voted no. There was no count stated, other than “the no votes have it.” It is my opinion that this was extremely unfair. There was plenty of time remaining to conduct a vote, and one person – who may have had a nefarious agenda? – successfully blocked the legislation. Thereby negating the hard work performed by the individuals who wrote and submitted this document. The NIC was well-organized and well-run, overall. This one issue, with 700.07, is the only thing I felt was mishandled.

Document 700.11, Supporting the Removal of Discriminatory Policies, was also passed in the plenary group. A petition was submitted for 700.11 to go to a vote with the entire NIC body and – I am extremely happy to report – this legislation DID get presented and passed with a solid majority vote.

My issue with 700.07 is that if it could be successfully blocked, 700.11 could very well have suffered the same fate. What if 700.11 had not been presented to the entire NIC body? Document 700.11 is so important that the NIC would have been a failure without a vote, regardless of how the vote turned out. Document 700.07 equally deserved to be heard, even if 700.07 has a lower impact than 700.11

On another note, at the very end of the conference, someone talked at a microphone and verbally attacked the bishop. Evidently, the two had some sort of a disagreement. The bishop handled this very well. He preserved order and did not let that person cause a disruption. The person who spoke up? My feeling is that he presented his remarks in a very immature and negative fashion.

I am extremely glad that I was able to attend as a delegate, I am both flattered and honored to have been given this responsibility, and I hope I get to go again in 2024.

Submitted by Bob Brown

Wow! Going to annual conference is such a wonderful experience. We were in a room with 800 other Methodists and, when we sang “We Shall Overcome” it was an awesome feeling.

My session voted on 3 churches that already requested to disaffiliate. There was a little discussion, but it was already cut and dried.

I enjoyed the celebration of ministry with the new ministers who were ordained, the Korean peace reflection and prayer service, and the conference lifting up the ministers and their spouses in the memorial service.

I take my responsibilities of being a delegate very seriously, and I am proud to serve.

Submitted by Becky Brown

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I went to the Annual conference this year with a clearer understanding of what to expect because I was able to attend in person last year as well. The first session I was able to attend was the Laity Session. I sat next to a woman from Chicago and paired up with her to discuss the break out questions about how to keep a conversation going when we don't agree with one another. It was wonderful talking with Irma and hearing her perspective on things especially with everything going on in the Methodist Church right now. We agreed that listening to one another and hearing different perspectives is the best way to make decisions for the church.

Going to the Opening and Plenary 1 where we voted on the disaffiliation of churches, I was sad to see so many leaving because of differing views. Seeing the process and cost to disaffiliate was incredible, and in the end, it just made me sad to see so many want to leave the conference. As the morning progressed, I found myself in my designated Legislative Section, discussing two different documents. One of the pieces of legislation was about a resolution in response to the overturning of Roe vs. Wade. There was some interesting discussion both for and against, but in the end the legislation passed. The second piece of legislation was about identifying and opposing Apartheid in the Holy Land. A woman who was one of the authors spoke in detail about the document. The group discussed ideas for and against and ultimately voted to pass the legislation. It was an intriguing experience, and it made me appreciate all the work that goes into preparing the legislation for the conference.

Listening to the Bishop's appeal, attending the Korean Peace Reflections service, and watching the Celebration of Ministry, were all highlights of the conference. On the last day, as things got heated about Pastor's salaries, I was overwhelmed with the passion of many attending the conference and felt the decision shouldn't be taken lightly. I came away from Annual Conference with many positive takeaways and appreciated the opportunity to represent SUMC

Submitted by Heidi Gerdes

Attending the "Connected in Christ – Come to the Table" Northern Illinois Conference was an enlightening experience. I was able to learn how the greater United Methodist Church works as a whole, partake in exciting worship services with 800+ people, create connections, and ultimately – leave with a greater understanding of what my role at SUMC should be.

The theme of the conference centered around inclusion and hospitality, with the most impactful sermon being delivered by Dr. Rolf Nolesco. Rolf shared his experiences from living and working abroad, and spoke of the interconnectedness of the United Methodist Church. His message centered around acceptance of all God's people from a queer viewpoint, which offered attendees a new perspective on how to embrace and support ALL God's people. His words were spoken with compassion, sincerity, and energy that was contagious – never have I heard or seen so many Methodists responding out loud with emphatic "Amen!" After discovering that he is a published author, I ordered one of his books immediately upon returning home.

The voting plenaries of the conference were spread over two days, allowing time for conscientious thought and reflection. While I am not passionate about politics at any level - one of the legislative pieces I voted on transcended politics, and was focused on equality and inclusion. To me, these two practices are at the core of Christian values. I voted to remove discriminatory language from the Book of Discipline – language that directly targeted the LGBTQ+ community in a harmful way. By enacting legislation to remove this language, it shows that the United Methodist Church is progressing towards a more loving, accepting, and inclusive existence within the world.

The fundamental teachings of Wesley: "Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God." – were abundantly present at the conference. I pray that this message continues to resonate within our hearts, and is carried out into the world by all of us. Being disciples of Christ implies that we must fervently believe and enact the ideal, that **everyone** is deserving of God's love.

Submitted by Tim Keller