



THE MESSENGER

The Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 8

August 2023

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BLESSING of the backpacks

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 13
at 9:15am**



Students, educators, and education support staff are invited to attend this service, where special prayers will be said for you as you go back to school.

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS



In honor of back to school, we are doing a school supply/backpack drive for the Sycamore Food Pantry. Please put your items in the tub in the Concourse.

The next Drive-thru Dinner (hosted by the United Women in Faith) is August 16th. Get your tickets today! See page 6 for more details.



**American
Red Cross**

BLOOD DRIVE AT SUMC
Saturday, August 19th
from 8:00-1:00 in the gym

For an appointment
Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit
RedCrossBlood.org

See page 6 for more details

Sycamore United Methodist Church

160 Johnson Avenue (north of the High School) on Rte. 64 east of Peace Rd.

THRIFT SALE

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

**August
25**

9:00am - 5:00pm
Friday only: \$10.00 Bag Sale
& Bake Sale from
9:00am until SOLD OUT

**August
26**

9:00am - 12 Noon
Saturday only: \$5.00 Bag Sale

Featuring:

Clothing, shoes, books,
toys, home décor, sporting
goods, holiday, collectibles,
accessories, puzzles,
housewares, linens
& miscellaneous.



ALL PROCEEDS GO TO MISSIONS IN AND BEYOND OUR COMMUNITY



Handbell Workshop
Thursday, August 24
from 7:00-8:30pm

Ever wonder what it's like
to play handbells?

If you read music and want
to see why playing handbells is a unique team
experience, sign-up for the handbell work-
shop and give it a try. We'll meet in the Music
Room from 7:00-8:30pm. Please sign-up at
the resource center or call the office to regis-
ter.

**Mark your calendars for music programs
starting in September:**

Chancel Choir begins Sept. 6 at 7:00pm

Handbell Choir begins Sept. 7 at 7:00pm

Kids Choir(s) begin Sept. 13 at 5:30pm

Staff

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SATURDAY WORSHIP LEADER

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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.



@sycamoreumc



Sycamore United
Methodist Church

August 2023 Worship Schedule



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

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

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR AUGUST

August 5/6 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

August 12/13 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18

Matthew 14:22-23

August 19/20 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

LIFE Missions Services

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 26/27 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Matthew 16:13-20

Fall Worship Schedule

We will be returning to two Sunday Services, beginning on Sunday September 10. The time of services will remain the same as before, 8:30 and 10:00 a.m., with an educational/spiritual formation time between services. We will also continue our Saturday night Re: Worship service at 5:00 p.m.

The 8:30 a.m. service will be a "traditional" style church service, with two hymns, a reading, confession, and communion each week.

At 9:15-9:50 We will offer youth, young adult, and adult ed./spiritual formation time. Childcare will be provided during this time.

The 10:00 a.m. service will be a blended/multigenerational style of worship, as we have been experiencing this Summer. In addition to variety of music styles, we will also experience short liturgical drama/dramatic readings, and liturgical dance. Sunday School would meet during this time



Those for whom we pray:

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

We extend our sympathies to the family of:

Ruby Jensen
Sally Lindgren
Ramona Lanier
(Karen Grados' mother and Alex
and Royce Grados' grandma)

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>



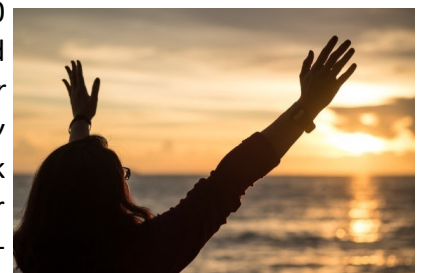
Please keep your pastors & your church family informed!

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

Let your light shine!

As you read this newsletter, our church will be celebrating the return of 70 youth and 30 adults from their Florida mission trip. What better way to remind ourselves of stewardship in action? The Bible says, *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven"* (Matthew 5:16). The question we have to ask of ourselves is, "How clearly and how brightly are we reflecting Christ in our lives?" There are lots of things that diminish our reflections. Willful disobedience to God's will, grudges and anger, grief, and guilt diminish and tarnish our reflections. God designed us to be a reflection of him. What is happening in our lives, in our hearts, in our minds, and in our actions affects the brightness of that reflection.



God wants us to be his light, so others will be drawn not to us, but to Jesus, the *"light of the world"* (John 8:12). We busy ourselves with a lot of activities. We are going to be investing our time, energy, and money in many things. So how much are we investing in the lives of others?

We are empowered by God to witness effectively, passionately, clearly, and with perseverance so that others may be led to respond to Christ's gift of salvation through our example. Please be a bright reflection of God's presence here on earth through your regular contributions to the mission and ministries of our church. You may 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 Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178.

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

Stepping up our Discipleship:

8/6 - Core Values

8/13 - PRIDE plays

"We're Not Really
Strangers"

8/20 - LIFE Missions

8/27 - Breathing as a
Spiritual Practice

Sundays
10:30-11:30am

NEXT
STEPS

The Discipleship Team invites us to live out our core values by creating a theme for all ministries of the church. Ministry themes help to create opportunities for intentional discipleship within each ministry area and the life of the church. A 3-year plan has been created to help us deeply reflect one or two of the core values and put them into practice. The new theme will start annually in September. That being said we are thrilled to announce our 2023-2024 Ministry Theme:

The Open Table--

Core Value: Integrity

Focus: Self-Awareness

Making ourselves ready for the table focusing on
creating healthy bodies, healthy minds, & healthy spirits

Core Value: Community

Focus: Creating a Bigger Table

Learning to create a safe space through communication,
communion & commitment. Understanding our seat at
the table, creating space for all, & inviting others to the table.



This will then lead into 2 subsequent programming themes for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026



We begin September 10, 2023, with our inaugural event, **THE TASTE OF SYCAMORE UMC!** Modeled after the biggest food festival in Chicago, we will visit booths of the different ministries, classes, and groups in the church. Each booth will have food and fun activities for all ages to enjoy! Mark your calendars and be sure to bring an appetite for delicious food and meaningful connection with our siblings in Christ.

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 August

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.**



NEW CHURCH COOKBOOK NEEDS YOUR RECIPES!

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 has been extended to August 31st. There is a box in the Concourse where you can deposit them or you can submit them online at <https://forms.gle/4Cay78DDALBA3vq39>

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

ABC PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS



ABC is hiring a Preschool Music Teacher. The hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30-12:00 and the candidate must be Preschool Teacher qualified. If this is something that you would be interested in hearing more about or know someone who may be interested, please contact Lisa in the Preschool Office at 779-222-4029.

I'd like to welcome our ABC Preschool families as we begin our 2023/2024 school year. Parent Night will be held on Monday, August 28, beginning at 6:00 PM. We are looking forward to seeing everyone and meeting our new family members as we begin our new school year.

Phase in begins on Tuesday, September 5. Children will attend a shortened day on their first day of school. Then a full schedule after that. The ABC Team is so excited to see all the tiny faces and the joyful noise of children laughing filling the classes and hallways here at SUMC.

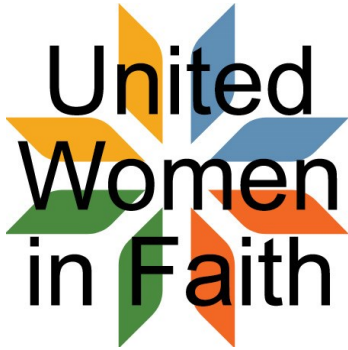


We will begin setting up our monthly mission projects after our first PTO meeting. I can't wait to share some of the new ideas and of course, our old favorites as we reach out in our community to help others.

We are looking forward to another safe and successful school year here at ABC Preschool.

Blessings,
The ABC Preschool Staff

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS



Drive-Thru Pulled Pork Sandwich Dinner

from Tom and Jerry's in Sycamore

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

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

Sycamore United Methodist Church
160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL

\$15
per ticket

Meal includes:

Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans, and Coleslaw

TICKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE CONCOURSE ON SUNDAY AND THE CHURCH OFFICE.

UWF ANNUAL THRIFT AND BAKE SALE DETAILS

Sale dates: August 25 from 9AM - 5PM

August 26 from 9AM - 12PM

All proceeds and items help local charities and the UWF mission projects.

We need assistance setting up this massive sale. Please check the set-up times and drop in to help for an hour or two. Both men and women are welcome.

Donations are needed of gently used items. Please sort and pack similar items into boxes and bags. Housewares in one, clothing in another, books in another, shoes in another, etc.

We **CANNOT** accept furniture, office electronics, lamps, TVs, Christmas trees, full sets of dinnerware, nor other large or heavy items.

Please respect other church activities and our church staff. No early donations.

New this year, evening work time and drop-off hours on Wednesday.

Set-up AND donation drop-off hours

Monday 8/21 from 9AM to 3 PM

Tuesday 8/22 from 9 AM to 3 PM

Wednesday 8/23 from 9 AM to noon and 4 PM– 7PM

Set-up only

Thursday 8/24 from 9 AM to 3 PM



IT'S A PINK POTLUCK!



The next United Women in Faith Unit Meeting will be a Pink Potluck on **September 7th at 6:00 PM** in the Commons. This event will focus on breast cancer awareness. Dr. F. Saghir will be our guest speaker. Please wear something pink. Meat and desserts will be provided. Please bring a side dish to pass and your own table service. ***All women are encouraged to attend. No need to be a UWF member.***



AUGUST 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 September issue of The Messenger is August 20th						
		1 12:00 PM Staff Meeting	2 3:30 PM Christian Kids	3 1:00 PM UWF Mission Team 4:00 PM TOPS Picnic 5:30 PM Visioning Team	4	5 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 8:00 AM Boy Scout Roundup 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
6 9:15 AM Sunday Worship Service 10:45 PM "Next Steps" Programming 4:00 PM NIC Delegation Meeting	7 9:00 AM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Staff Parish Relations Comm.	8 6:30 PM Staff Retreat	9	10 4:00 PM TOPS	11 5:30 PM Girl Scout Glamour Nigh	12 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
13 BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS 9:15 AM Sunday Worship Service 10:45 PM "Next Steps" Programming	14 9:00 AM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Discipleship Committee	15 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Grace Circle	16 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 3:30 PM Christian Kids 4:30-6:30 PM Drive-thru Pulled Pork Sandwich Dinner from Tom & Jerry's hosted by the United Women in Faith	17 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Visioning Team	18	19 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 8-1:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 5:00 PM LIFE Mission Service
20 LIFE MISSIONS SERVICE 9:15 AM Sunday Worship Service 10:45 PM "Next Steps" Programming	21 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Worship Comm.	22 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team	23	24 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 6:00 PM Genealogy Grp 7:00 PM Handbell Workshop.	25 9:00-5:00 UWF Thrift Sale	26 9:00-12:00 UWF Thrift Sale 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
27 9:15 AM Sunday Worship Service	28 9:00 AM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Congregational Care 7:00 PM Trustees	29 12:00 PM Staff Meeting	30	31 4:00 PM TOPS	Sept. 1	Sept. 2 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service

SAVE THE DATE! The 2023 DeKalb (Sondra King Memorial) CROP Walk will step-off on **Sunday, September 24 at 2 pm. at the Sycamore Forest Preserve** on Route 64 (East State Street). This new route is fully accessible so anyone with mobility issues (or families with strollers) will be able to easily participate. **We hope that you, your church or organization will have a team.**

CROP walks have been held in DeKalb County on an annual basis for over 50 years to raise funds to fight hunger both worldwide and in our local community. As always, 25% of the funds raised will go to local agencies or food pantries.

To register a team or for individual registration go to: crophungerwalk.org/dekalbil

Email: sondrakingcropdekalb@gmail.com for more information.

