

THE MESSENGER

The Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 11

November 2023



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION - PURPOSEFUL GIVING

Do you give with a purpose? Do you believe in a loving and giving God? The natural response of love is to give. Love is never close-lipped or tight-fisted. Love never asks, "how little must I give," but instead asks "how much can I give?" When we are filled with the love of God, we give generously to praise, serve, and witness as a disciple of Jesus Christ. In 2 Peter 1:3 we read, "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence."

On the second weekend of November, we will launch our pledge drive for the year 2024. Your Finance and Stewardship Committee created a budget document to share with you which puts a narrative to the missions and ministry of Sycamore United Methodist Church and an estimate of their cost. We come to you with a plan by lay members and staff who want to join with you in serving God. We are asking you to make a pledge so we know financially what we can do. Please prayerfully consider how you can use the gifts of time, talent, and treasures entrusted to you by God to be a purposeful witness for Jesus Christ.

As we close our financial calendar year, we continue to need your extra help to meet a budget shortfall. We calculated that if each supporter gave an additional \$150 for each of the last three months of the year, our deficit would be met. Although numbers were still being counted at the time this newsletter went to press, we know we are making headway. Remember, there will be those unable to make any extra gift, so giving more than the \$150 a month will help make up the difference.

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.



DINNER & DISCIPLESHIP

L.I.F.T. Dinner is November 1st
from 6-6:45pm in the Commons.

The United Methodist Men will be preparing the meal.
Join us as learn to Live in Faith Together. We will pray and play
together ! To RSVP text LIFTDINNER to the church phone number.

ALL SAINTS DAY—NOVEMBER 4 AND 5

Please join us for on November 4 and 5 as we celebrate All Saint's Day, at all services of worship. We pay tribute to those members and friends of the congregation who have passed in the past year.



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Sycamore United
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc

November 2023 Worship Schedule



Saturdays at 5:00pm;

Sundays at 8:30 and 10:00am

Children's Sunday School at 10:00am

www.facebook.com/SUMCIllinois/ or

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

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

November 4/5 - All Saints Sunday

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Revelation 7:9-17

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

November 11/12 - Stewardship Weekend

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 25:1-13

November 18/19 - Thanksgiving Weekend

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalms 123

25:14-30

November 25/26 - Stewardship Pledge Sunday

Reign of Christ/Christ the King Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46



YOUR ATTENDANCE MATTERS...

Please sign-in on the attendance pad in the pew or by texting "checkin" to the church phone number at 815-895-9113. If

you're watching online you can sign-in by texting or by making a comment on Facebook when you're watching.

LITURGISTS NEEDED!

If you would be interested in being a liturgist or reader during the 10:00am worship service on Sundays please contact the church office.



Those for whom we pray:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Nancy | Amanda Bertolozzi |
| Sam Rucker and | Elba I. Rosario |
| Cris Woodin | (Pastor Luis' mother) |
| Don Clayberg | Lillian Welch |
| Pat | Diane Mathey |
| Sue | Ron Skelton |
| Pat Theyse & family | Kathy Griswold |
| Lillian Mikan | Doris Sloniker |
| Doris Gangwer | Jessica Hagendorn |
| Mary | Helen Meadowcraft |
| Tammy Hemmelgarn | Cynthia Kosusnik |
| Milz/Weimer Family | Brenda Mendez |
| David Dykema | Charlee |
| Christine Poppens | |

We extend our sympathies to the family of:

Shirley DeSort (Darla DeSort's mother)
 Richard Yearton (Bea Skelton's brother)
 Donald E. Lampkins (Jessica Gale's grandfather)

The Service Personnel and Their Families

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cpt. Mark Browning, | E4SPC Alexis Jones |
| *SGT Ben Bushno | E3PFC Max Keller |
| SGT Shaune Clark | A1C Brock Larson |
| SGT Matthew Einhorn | *Maj Steve Haack |
| PFC Timothy Einhorn | SPC Caden Grimaldi |
| PO1 Frank Incapreo | PV2 Rachel McMillion |
| SSG Christopher Isabel | *CPL Joshua Caraballo |
| Lt. Col. Garrett Slack | SPC Sutit Jackson |
| SFC Matthew "Scott" Stewart | 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> |
| SGT Brock Grimaldi | |

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.

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES



United Women in Faith will celebrate "Christmas Around the World" with a potluck luncheon on Thursday, December 7 at 12:00 in the Commons. Please bring a dish to share that is a family holiday favorite from your heritage. Examples...lasagna if your heritage is Italian; enchiladas if Hispanic; plum pudding if English (just kidding) or anything that your family enjoys during the holidays. Entertainment will be provided by Wes Carr, a talented musician who participated in the Hymn Sing on October 15. As always please bring your own table service. Hope you will be able to join us for a fun event.

HOPE HAVEN MEAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR NOVEMBER—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.**



OUR FOOD PANTRY IS CONTINUING TO SERVE ITS CLIENTS EACH MONDAY

Present needs are: canned soup, canned fruit. Canned meals (i.e. ravioli or spaghetti's) Monetary donations are always welcome. Let's remember that there are those who don't know where their next supper will come from.



DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

- Discipleship's Table Talk - 9:15-9:55am
- LIFT Dinner on November 1st at 6:00pm
- Advent Book Study

LIFT Dinner - November 1st - The UMM will be cooking. We will play and give thanks as we enter the month of November with gratitude for God and one another.

Advent Book Study: Advent is the perfect time to reflect as we prepare to celebrate the divine coming to earth in the form of a human child. This season we invite you to join Pastor Luis as we look at the book *Heaven and Earth* by UMC Bishop, Rev. Will Willimon. You can choose Wednesday in person from 11-noon in the activity room or Thursdays virtually, from the comfort of your home from 7-8pm. Register for this study using this link: <https://churchteams.com/m/Register.asp?a=dXJuRzRTVUVpN289> or by texting the church phone number ADVENT 2023.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- Sunday School Teachers and Nursery Helpers needed for the new year.
- Advent Family Service and Bethlehem Bazaar is December 10th

CHRISTMAS IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!! Mark your calendars now for December 10th. Kids will stay in worship this week to experience some of the hymns and traditions of Advent in an intergenerational worship. There will also be a kids pick-up choir during the service where they will learn a song to lead us in our closing hymn.

Following worship, families can enter the Bethlehem Bazaar in the commons from 11am-12pm. All are invited to come and walk amongst the hustle and bustle of Bethlehem. We will have hands-on activities to experience what would have been during the time that Jesus was born. You can help make this day even better by purchasing one or more of the items in our [Amazon wish list](#) and have it delivered to the church to save you the trip!!

WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS

- Children's Choirs meets Wednesday's 5:30-6:00 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Meets Wednesday's 7-8:30 pm
- Handbell Choir Meets Thursday's 7-8:15 pm

Chancel Choir: Meets Wednesday Nights 7-8:30 in the music room. (ages High school to Super Senior!) Now is the time to join, as we will be learning our Christmas Cantata, "Joy" which will be presented December 17, 2023 at 5 p.m.

Children's Choirs: We have TWO this year. Kids choir (ages pre-k to 3rd grade) and Jr. Choir (ages 4th-8th grade) The choirs sing once a month and meet in the music room on Wednesday's from 5:30 – 6 pm.

Handbell Choir: Meets Thursdays in the music room at 7-8 pm They ring at the 10 o'clock service on the second Sunday of the month.

Tech Team: We are always looking to add more tech's to our Team. Audio (sound) or Video is your thing, contact Peter Hansen Director of Music.

Instrumentalists, pianists, singers always needed.
Contact Peter Hansen, Director of Music

Coming December 17th at 5:00pm

JOY!

A Gospel
Christmas Celebration

ABC PRESCHOOL

- Our Mission Project for November will be our Thanksgiving Baskets! ABC Staff, families and Sycamore United Methodist Church families will join to put together 10 Thanksgiving meals for local families in need. There will be sign up sheets available in the hallway.
- Harvest Parties will be held the week of November 13-17
- No School the week of November 20-24
- ABC Preschool is collecting stickers. All kinds of stickers



YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

- Youth Group for Middle and High School youth meets each Sunday at 6:00pm
- Young Adult Bible Study meets each Tuesday at 6:30pm
- Movie Night - "Coco" on Friday, November 3rd at 5:30pm

Youth and Young Adults: November is a crazy month! We'll resume on Sunday, November 5th at our usual time (6-7:30). Sunday, November 12th we will be participating in the Sycamore Mobile Pack event with Feed My Starving Children from 3-5 (registration was due 10/20; if you are registered, you will receive more details closer to the event). There is no additional youth group meeting on November 12th. There is no youth group on 11/19 due to Thanksgiving break; we'll be back on 11/26 for the first Sunday of Advent.

Young Adults - exciting news! We are launching a new spiritual community for young-ish adults (in addition to our current weekly Bible study on Tuesdays from 6:30-8) in collaboration with Westminster Presbyterian and Salem Lutheran Church. Our first event will be a Friendsgiving from 6-8 on Thursday, November 30th at Westminster in DeKalb. We'll provide the necessities; bring a side to share if you'd like. Stay tuned for more info on this emerging community and mark your calendar to eat, fellowship, and dream with us.



Family Ministries: In honor of All Saints Sunday (11/5), Family Ministries is hosting a movie night featuring the Disney film *Coco* on Friday, November 3rd at 5:30 PM in the gym. The movie is centered around the Mexican celebration of Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, which has roots in both indigenous and Catholic traditions. We will have snacks and activities inspired by the holiday and invite you to bring the favorite dish of a loved one who has died to share. Join us for a time of family-oriented learning, laughter, and remembrance with this special film.

We will be providing Advent resources for families this year. The resource from Illustrated Ministries is entitled "Now in Flesh Appearing" and includes family devotions, coloring and activity pages, and an Advent calendar. From the website: "The Advent story is about God taking on a physical body like ours. AS you wait with anticipation and prepare for baby Jesus to be born this Advent season, we invite you to discover the awesomeness of incarnation and what it means for God to move, act, and live with us. This Advent resource invites your family to explore how we can claim: Body, have HOPE! Brain, practice PEACE! Self, feel JOY! Heart, feel LOVE! Everyone, CELEBRATE!" We are excited to share this experience with you.



**American
Red Cross**


BLOOD DRIVE AT SUMC

**Saturday, November 18th
from 8:00-1:00 in the gym**

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

NOVEMBER 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the November issue of The Messenger is October 20th

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | 1 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:50 AM Adult Bible Study "The Brave Church" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 6:00 PM L.I.F.T. Dinner 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Confirmation Class of 2024 | 2 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Visioning Team 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study "The Brave Church" 7:00 PM Handbell Choir | 3 5:30 PM Movie Night "Coco" | 4 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Visioning Team Retreat 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service |
| 5 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 8:30 and 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 9:15 AM Discipleship Table Talk 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group | 6 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study "The Book of Joshua" 7:00 PM Trustees | 7 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study | 8 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM The Great Commission Team 10:50 AM Adult Bible Study "The Brave Church" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Confirmation Class of 2024 | 9 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Dens 5 & 6 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study "The Brave Church" 7:00 PM Handbell Choir | 10 6:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Pack 141 Meeting | 11 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service |
| 12 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 8:30 and 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 9:15 AM Discipleship Table Talk 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School 2:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 2304 3:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group | 13 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 5:30 PM Finance and Stewardship Committee 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study "The Book of Joshua" 7:00 PM Church Council | 14 9:30 AM Mary Circle 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Grace Circle | 15 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 10:50 AM Adult Bible Study "The Brave Church" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Confirmation Class of 2024 | 16 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Visioning Team 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:30 PM Girl Scout Leader Meeting 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study "The Brave Church" 7:00 PM Handbell Choir | 17 1:00 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting | 18 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 8:00-1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service |
| 19 8:30 and 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 9:15 AM Discipleship Table Talk 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School | 20 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study "The Book of Joshua" 6:00 PM Nominations Committee | 21 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3 | 22 Church offices closed | 23 Have a Safe And Blessed Thanksgiving!  | 24 Church offices closed | 25 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service |
| 26 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE SUNDAY 8:30 and 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 9:15 AM Discipleship Table Talk 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group | 27 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study "The Book of Joshua" 6:00 PM Congregational Care 6:45 PM PRIDE Comm. | 28 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM UWF Mission Team 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study | 29 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:50 AM Adult Book Study "Heaven and Earth" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Confirmation Class of 2024 | 30 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Girl Scout Parent Night 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM Adult Virtual Book Study "Heaven and Earth" 7:00 PM Handbell Choir | December 1 6:00 PM Girl Scout Overnight | 2 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service 7:00 PM Jazz in Progress Concert |

3 SIMPLE RULES

1. Do no harm 2. Do good 3. Stay in love with God.