

THE MESSENGER

The Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 12

December 2023

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON at SUMC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

10:00am Advent Family Worship

Come to a special service geared towards families so God's children of all ages can worship together. We will hear Mary's story, sing, move and converse about how the joy of Advent prepares us for the Light of the World to come on Christmas!

11:00am Bethlehem Bazaar in the gym

Stay after worship to walk through a marketplace at the time of Jesus' birth where families will build, bake, and create at various stations. Families will also hear the Christmas story and experience a living manger scene.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 - Family Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt at 6:00pm (*see page 6 for info*)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

5:00pm Christmas Cantata - "Joy"

See page 7 for more details

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:00pm The Longest Night/Blue Christmas: A Service of Loss, Healing & Hope at Federated Church, 612 W. State Street., Sycamore

Participants include the congregations of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Sycamore United Methodist Church, Salem Lutheran Church, First Lutheran Church of DeKalb, Bethlehem Lutheran, and Federated Church of Sycamore

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:30pm Family Service with Candlelight and Communion
Nursery will be provided.

7:00pm Candlelight Service of Lessons, Carols and Communion
Nursery will be provided.

11:00pm Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion



MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY,

12:00-2:00pm Christmas Day Dinner with all the fixings!

Text CHRISTMASDINNER to register to come and eat. If you are interested in helping to prepare, serve and/or clean-up please contact the church office.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 AND 31, NEW YEAR'S EVE

5:00pm Worship Service on Saturday

9:30am Worship Service on Sunday

Please note that the church offices will be closed December 25-January 2. If you are in need of assistance please feel free to call the church number and someone will assist you.

Staff

Rev. Luis Felipe Reyes-Rosario

LEAD PASTOR

LFReyes@sycamoreumc.org

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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.



Sycamore United
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc



December 2023

Saturdays at 5:00pm; Sundays at 8:30 & 10:00am
Children's Sunday School at 10:00am

NOTE: Beginning December 24th we will have only
1 service on Sundays at 9:30am with Sunday
School also at 9:30am (see page 4 for more details)

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

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER

December 2/3 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

December 9/10—2nd Sunday of Advent

Family Advent Service on Sunday at 10:00am

Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

December 16/17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Christmas Cantata at 5:00pm

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 23/24 - 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:47-55

Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

December 24 - Christmas Eve

Services at 4:30, 7:00 and 11:00pm

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

December 30/31 - 1st Sunday in Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Those for whom we pray:

Nancy	Helen Meadowcraft
Sam Rucker and	Cynthia Kosusnik
Cris Woodin	Charlee
Milz/Weimer Family	Jeanne Johnson
David Dykema	Jericca Newby
Ron Skelton	Liz Denius
Doris Sloniker	Mike Milyanovich
Jessica Hagendorn	

We extend our sympathies to the family of:

Joe Villa

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	



Thank you to everyone who donated to the LIFE Missions appeal the past few months. The \$20,000 deficit has been reduced to just over \$10,000. One thing I didn't mention in my original letter is that LIFE Missions has donated back to assist the SUMC budget from their fundraising over \$45,000 since 2014. This program has been an integral part of this congregation, and your help is very much appreciated.

Craig Fritz - for the LIFE Missions board



Advent Candle Lighting Families

December 2/3

5:00pm - Gerry & Nikki Olson
8:30am - The Burski Family
10:00am - The Lo Family

December 9/10

5:00pm - Bill & Jaci Kousoulas
8:30am - Adam & Brittany Holliday
10:00am - The Stover Family

December 16/17

5:00pm - Cory & Marvin Blanco
8:30am - The Durand Family
10:00am - The Gale Family

December 23/24

5:00pm - The Rommel Family
9:30am - The Valentin Family

December 24—Christmas Eve Services

4:30pm - TBA
7:00pm - The Miller Family
11:00pm - Alex & Logan Wilson

THANK YOU to the many volunteers who helped make this year's Pumpkin Fest Craft Show a success! We were able to contribute \$7,788. towards the church budget.

A special thank you to John and Lolly Kroos for their many years of "running the show". Thank you for all of your hard work and leaving some big shoes to step into.

Hanging of the Ornaments

The season of Advent is a highlight of any congregation's life. It is a time of joy, color, light, and anticipation. And it is a time of worship. This is a season that calls us to fall to our knees in worship of the awesome God. Advent is the season where we remember that God chose to put on flesh and dwell among us. God reached down from incomprehensible heights to touch the life we live. And God chose to be born in the humblest of ways, in a manger, in a barn, or a cave, or on the side of the road. The Creator God Almighty crying in the prickly hay, fodder for animals. There is no proper response, other than worship.

So, we need your help, on the **First Sunday of Advent, December 2/3**, after the worship services you are invited to bring an ornament from your household and place it on the Christmas Tree located right in the concourse outside the Worship Center. In doing this we will setting/preparing for Christmas. From your house to the House of Worship.



VISIONING TEAM FINAL REPORT

Recommendations adopted at the Church Council on Nov. 13, 23

The Visioning committee met for about 14 months. The team was made up of a cross section of the congregation –representing different ages, economic situations, genders, and lengths of time being an SUMC member)

Here is what we did:

- Conducted multiple church surveys.
- Meetings every other week for 1 ½ hours
- Two half day retreats
- History of the church and the work of the last vision team
- Homework
- Discussions
- Word - smithing
- We always made sure we came to a Team consensus.
- And a bonus for us, we made new friends.



Discovering God's
Future for Your Church

We began with a SWOT Analysis

Strengths / Weakness/ Opportunities/Threats which helped us see where are we now, where do we want to be, and how do we close the gap.

Early in the process we recommended the content of our revised mission and identified core values. These were adopted by the church council. You have seen signage about these and have heard that committees are working to structure activities within these values.

At the last half day workshop, we took all the information that we had gathered from:

- ⇒ Survey Answers
- ⇒ Individual conversations
- ⇒ Budget and financial cost reports
- ⇒ Personnel cost and time commitment considerations for both staff and volunteers

And developed our final recommendations.

These recommendations were all approved at the last church Council meeting.

We heard what you were saying to us about financial issues, and we have tasked the finance committee with creating a balanced budget within the next 3 years. It may be accomplished even sooner but will take some time since it will require coordination between all the committees to attain this. Finance will also provide quarterly reports to the congregation.

The other major recommendations are related to worship time.

We will move the Saturday evening service to Sunday evening as the anchor for a 'Sunday Night Experience'. This time will include youth groups and children's programming. We hope to use this as a platform to encourage small groups, adult programming, and provide worship opportunities to those families who are unable to attend Sunday mornings due to children's sports and other competing activities. This new schedule will start sometime next year.

We determined that the best use of resources would be that we come together for only one service on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM. This new schedule will start on the Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve in the morning.

Additionally, we recommended that two new committees be formed, one helping with communications/congregational engagement and the other to look for creative ways to increase the income of our church.

~continued on next page~

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION COME BEARING GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Christian tradition of gift giving at Christmas is tied to the narrative of the Three Wise Men who gave gifts to the infant Jesus. At the core of this story is that the giver is bringing something of value to reverently honor and support the living example of God's spirit in action. The Wise Men came with generosity in their hearts because they wanted to be part of making a difference in the world. They gave willingly and cheerfully, and we are instructed in 2 Corinthians 9:7 to do the same, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."



Your gifts to Sycamore United Methodist Church support missions and ministries that seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. You create pathways for people to grow in Christian love and faith from birth through childhood. You fund meaningful worship services offering spiritual lessons through the spoken word, music, and the arts. You reach out to shut-ins, the sick, and the elderly through a network of congregational caregivers. You make sure physical space or other support is given to meet the needs of preschoolers, a food pantry, the homeless, refugees, and those facing domestic violence.

We come to the close of the year with contributions falling short of our budget needs. As you pray and prioritize your Christmas gift giving, please consider how best you can serve the lives of those around you. May your gratitude to God for all he has given you effortlessly come through your heart and flow into your gifts of time, talents, and treasures to your church. In addition to an in-church offertory, contributions may be made securely on line at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving or text "giving" to the church phone number – (815) 895-9113.

~Visioning Report continued from previous page~

The upcoming General Conference of the UMC will be taking place in Charlotte, North Carolina from April 23 to May 3, 2024 and it will be addressing significant matters that will impact all congregations, it was recommended and adopted that our congregation be educated in at least the four major ones – Regionalization, Global Social Principals, New Pension Plan, & LGBTQIA+ matters.

We recommend that SUMC begin to work on defining its position on LGBTQ+ matters by:

Having the Pride Committee develop a reading list and putting out a question box.

Conducting a 'straw poll' just prior to General Conference to get a feel for our congregation's

Feelings on becoming a Reconciling Congregation. **THIS WILL NOT BE A FORMAL VOTE – BUT A SIMPLE POLL TO GET THE 'TEMPERATURE' OF THE CONGREGATION.**

These recommendations were not created lightly or rapidly. We did our best to consider all the options that would help us to fulfill our mission To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

You are welcome to contact members of the Visioning Committee if you have questions and or members of the church council or talk to one of the pastors if you would like to volunteer for any of the new opportunities that will be developing.

Let us continue to Gather, to Grow, to Serve together.

In Christ's Service,

On behalf of the Visioning Team

Cheryl Callighan

Visioning Team (Original Team)

Donny Faulhaber & Peggy Carey – Co Facilitators; Pastor Luis F. Reyes, Craig Fritz, Pastor Joe Munro - Staff

Ray Colwell & Cheryl Callighan – Recorders

Bob Armstrong, Jerry Armstrong, Rob Stover, Jessica Gale, Zack Buie,

Vance Moore, Carol Larson, Avery Gerdes

DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

- LIFT Dinner on December 6th at 6:00pm
- Advent Theme "Now in Flesh Appearing"
- Advent Book Study "Heaven and Earth"

LIFT Dinner - December 6th - Congregation Care and Outreach will be cooking comfort food. We will pray and play together ! To RSVP text LIFTDINNER to the church phone number.

Advent is almost here, and our ministry areas are coordinating around the 2023 Advent theme: Now In Flesh Appearing. The Advent story is about God taking on a physical body like ours, the divine in flesh. Adult and Family Resources are available in the Resource Center to help us be intentional and focus on our faith this season.

This year's Adult Advent study, led by Pastor Luis, starts Wednesday, November 29th! We will use the book *Heaven and Earth* by UMC Bishop, Rev. Will Willimon to help us watch and prepare because God is on the way! We meet during Advent on Wednesdays in person from 11-noon in the activity room or Thursdays virtually, from the comfort of your home from 7-8pm. We hope you will join us as we examine how heaven came to earth so many years ago to transform us all. Copies are available in the Resource Center or on Amazon. Go to this link to register: <https://churchteams.com/m/Register.asp?a=dXJuRzRTVUVpN289>

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

- Youth Group for Middle and High School youth meets each Sunday at 6:00pm
- Family Advent Service and Bethlehem Bazaar on December 10th
- Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt - Saturday, December 16th at 6:00pm

YOUNG ADULTS

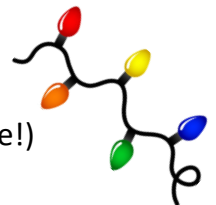
The Young Adult Bible Study on Tuesday nights is taking a pause due to low attendance. We will re-evaluate in the new year. In the meantime, talk to Pastor Hannah with your ideas and watch for updates on Faith Now, our new young adult ministry collaboration with Westminster Presbyterian and First Lutheran DeKalb!

FAMILIES

Advent resources for families on our 2023 Advent theme, "Now In Flesh Appearing" from Illustrated Ministry, are available in the resource center. These include family-friendly devotionals and activities as well as a fun daily advent calendar, plus plenty of coloring pages!

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: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/J7ZX9I86GBME> and have it delivered to the church to save you the trip!!

Join us at 6 PM on Saturday, December 16th right after evening worship for a **family Christmas light scavenger hunt!** Meet at the church and we'll give you a list of decorations to spot in town and send you out to search with your family (or team - all ages are welcome!) before circling back to the church for hot chocolate and a little devotional time.



We have three afternoon/evening services on Christmas Eve. Our family-oriented service is at 4:30 PM, giving you plenty of time to have your dinner and get the kids in bed before Santa arrives. We'd love to see you there!

YOUTH

No Youth Group on December 24th or 31st! We hope to see you at worship services on those days and we'll be back on January 7th.

WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS

- Christmas Cantata - Sunday, December 17th at 5:00pm
- 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


THE MUSIC MINISTRIES OF SYCAMORE UMC

present

JOY!

A Gospel Christmas Celebration

Telling the Christmas story through six dynamic scripture based narrations and choral settings



with special guests
The Chorus of DuPage under
the Direction of Pete Hansen

Sunday, December 17th at 5.00 PM

160 Johnson Avenue
Sycamore, IL 60178

815-895-9113
www.sycamoreumc.org

The Music Ministries of Sycamore United Methodist Church invite you to join us for our Christmas Musical Celebration, JOY! On Sunday, Dec 17, 2023 at 5 p.m.

Telling the Christmas story through six dynamic scripture based narrations and choral settings, Joy! Composer Joel Ramey masterfully provides Christmas carols as you've never heard them sung and presented before, with new and creative rhythms that showcase the gospel style for soloists and choir. The Christmas Story is told in a newer, rhythmical and bold, impactful way, making this ideal for our upcoming Christmas musical program.

The night of Joy! and celebration will also feature soloists, ensembles and special guests, The Chorus of DuPage barbershop chorus, under the direction of our Music Director, Pete Hansen! Those attending will also be sharing their voices singing some favorite Christmas Carols too!!

We are requesting and encouraging all who attend to wear vibrant Christmas colors or to wear their Ugliest Christmas Sweater!!! Let's fill the Sanctuary with Peace, Love, Hope and JOY! And, lots of colorful clothing too!!! You DO NOT want to miss this fabulous evening of song and celebration!

ABC PRESCHOOL

December is here! The magic of the Christmas Season is a joy to see.

There's Gingerbread men running all over the church. Baby Jesus Parties for everyone to enjoy.

Our Monthly Mission Project for December will be to work with:

Central DuPage Hospital Child's Life Toy Donation's

Age Range: Young Child - Teens

Notes: All Must Be New in Package & Non-Edible & Non- Scented

The hospital has an area for children to select a toy or other item to have while



Playdoh

Barbie

Hot wheels

Disney Princess

Uno

Legos

Stuffed Animals

Fidgets

Coloring books

Card games

Board games

Puzzles

DIY kits

they are receiving their various treatments. To be able to provide a child with something to play with or have while receiving their chemotherapy or several other treatments they are going through is truly a blessing. We will have a donation box available to contribute to. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

We wish each and every one of you a blessed Christmas Season and a wonderous New Year as we go into 2024



THE ANNUAL GIVING TREE WILL BE SET UP IN THE CONCOURSE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023. This annual SUMC tradition is one way we give hope to families in need. This year we are supporting 6 families. Each family has provided us with two wants and two needs for each family member. There will also be several Gift Cards as suggested gifts for each family as well. If you are purchasing a gift card, the recommended amount is \$25.

Please pick a paper ornament (or 2 or 3) off the Giving Tree. Each ornament is colored for a specific family and is numbered. Write your contact info and the Gift # on the Ornament Sponsor List that will be on a stand placed by the tree.

Purchase the gift(s), wrap them, and place the gift under the Giving Tree with the paper ornament attached by Dec. 20, 2023. The gifts will be delivered to or picked up by the family on Dec 21 or 22, 2023. Help us brighten a Christmas for these families!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH'S NEXT UNIT MEETING WILL BE ON DECEMBER 7TH AT NOON

We are having Christmas Around the World. It will be a true potluck. Mission Team is not providing any particular entree. So, we want you to bring a dish that comes from someplace in our big wonderful world. It can be a recipe that is a tradition in your family or something new you want to try. Please bring your own table service. We are also celebrating a baby shower for Jesus. We are collecting the following items which will help those in need.



- Diapers and pull ups
- Wipes
- Onesies
- Board or toddler books
- Bibs
- Hooded bath towels
- Pacifiers
- Mittens
- Sleepers/footies
- Baby Toys
- Teething Rings
- Blankets
- Bottles
- Sippy Cups

Please do NOT wrap anything.

Our luncheon will include a wonderful musical program, prizes, fellowship, and fun. You won't want to miss this special holiday event. Feel free to bring a friend.

HOPE HAVEN MEAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR DECEMBER



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.



Mark Your Calendars for the annual United Methodist Men's Pancake Supper on Thursday, February 1, 2024. Watch for ticket sales coming soon.

DECEMBER 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>Mark Your Calendars! Our annual Church Conference meeting will be Monday, December 4th at 7:00pm. All are welcome to attend.</p>					<p>1 6:00 PM Girl Scout Mtg.</p>	<p>2 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service 7:00 PM Jazz in Progress Concert</p>
<p>3 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 and 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group</p>	<p>4 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" 6:00 PM Staff Pastor Parish Relations Comm. 7:00 PM Church Conference</p>	<p>5 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3</p>	<p>6 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:50 AM Adult Advent Study "Heaven and Earth" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM LIFT Dinner 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Confirmation Class of 2024</p>	<p>7 12:00 PM United Women in Faith Christmas Unit Mtg. 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM ABC Preschool Christmas Sing 7:00 PM Virtual Advent Study "Heaven and Earth" 7:00 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p>8 6:00 PM Girl Scouts</p>	<p>9 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service</p>
<p>10 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Family Advent Worship 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM Bethlehem Bazaar in the Commons 2:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 2304 3:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group</p>	<p>11 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM ABC Preschool 3's Christmas Sing 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 6:00 PM Discipleship Committee 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study "The Book of Joshua"</p>	<p>12 10:00 AM Mary Circle (offsite) 11:00 AM ABC Preschool 3's Christmas Sing 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4</p>	<p>13 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM The Great Commission Team 10:50 AM Adult Advent 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</p>	<p>14 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:00 PM Pack 141 Dens 5 & 6 7:00 PM Virtual Advent Study "Heaven and Earth" 7:00 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p>15 7:00 PM Pack 141 Pack Meeting</p>	<p>16 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service 6:00 PM Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt</p>
<p>17 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 and 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School 3:30 PM Cantata Rehearsal 5:00 PM Christmas Cantata</p>	<p>18 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 6:30 PM Worship Comm. 7:00 PM Eagle Court of Honor</p>	<p>19 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM Grace Circle</p>	<p>20 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 10:50 AM Adult Advent Study "Heaven and Earth" 11:00 AM ABC Preschool 2's Christmas Sing 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Confirmation Class of 2024</p>	<p>21 11:00 AM ABC Preschool 2's Christmas Sing 3:30 PM TOPS 6:30 PM Girl Scout Leader Meeting 7:00 PM Virtual Advent Study "Heaven and Earth" 7:00 PM Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service at Federated Church 7:00 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 2:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 2304 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service</p>
<p>24 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 11:00 PM (see page 1 for details)</p>	<p>25 Have a safe and Blessed Christmas! Church offices closed ABC Preschool closed</p>	<p>26 Church offices closed ABC Preschool closed 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4</p>	<p>27 Church offices closed ABC Preschool closed 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>28 Church offices closed ABC Preschool closed 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Dens 5 & 6 7:00 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p>29 Church offices closed ABC Preschool closed</p>	<p>30 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service</p>
<p>31 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School</p>	<p>January 1 Happy New Year! Church offices closed ABC Preschool closed</p>	<p>2 Church offices closed ABC Preschool closed 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM Trustees</p>	<p>3 ABC Preschool closed 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM LIFT Dinner 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>4 ABC Preschool closed 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p>5 ABC Preschool closed</p>	<p>6 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Memorial Committee 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service</p>

**The deadline for the January 2024 issue
of The Messenger is December 20th**



Christmas Poinsettias Order Information

It's time to order your Christmas poinsettias.
The poinsettias will adorn our Sanctuary in memory
of family and friends during this Christmas season.
The poinsettias are \$12.00 each for a 2 quart pot.
Please return your order form and money
to the church office by Monday, December 11.

Your
Name _____

In Honor/Memory (please circle one) of:

In Honor/Memory (please circle one) of:

How Many? _____

Please include total amount _____

Make checks payable to
Sycamore United Methodist Church
and indicate for "poinsettias".

