

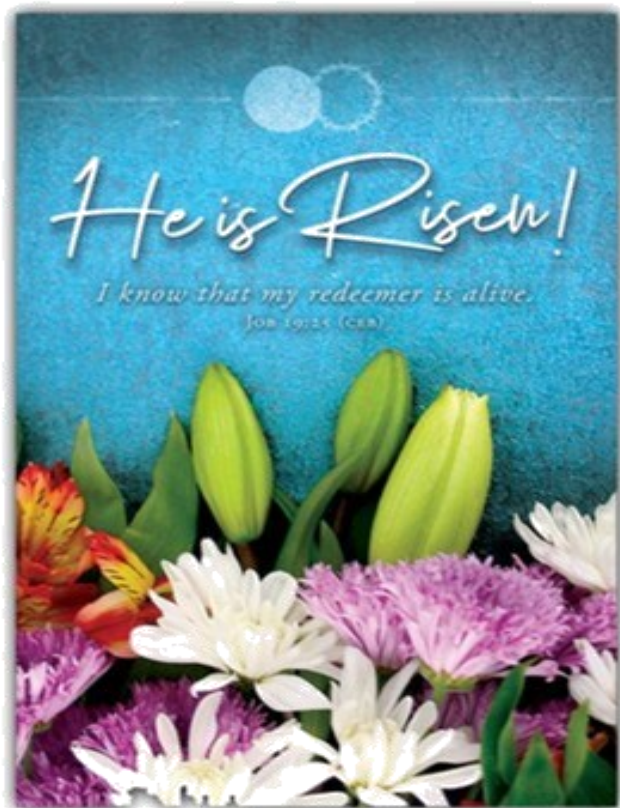


THE MESSENGER

The Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 3

March 2024



Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 23/24

Saturday at 5:00pm

9:30am Worship Service

Maundy/Holy Thursday, March 28

7:00pm - Service w/ Holy Communion

Good Friday, March 29

3:00pm - Ecumenical Worship Service

7:00pm - Worship Service led by the youth

Easter Vigil, March 30 at 5:00pm
w/Holy Communion

Easter Sunday, March 31

7:30am - Sunrise Worship Service w/ Communion

8:30-9:15am - Hot Continental Breakfast
in the Concourse

9:30am - Worship Service w/Holy Communion

9:30am - Children's Sunday School

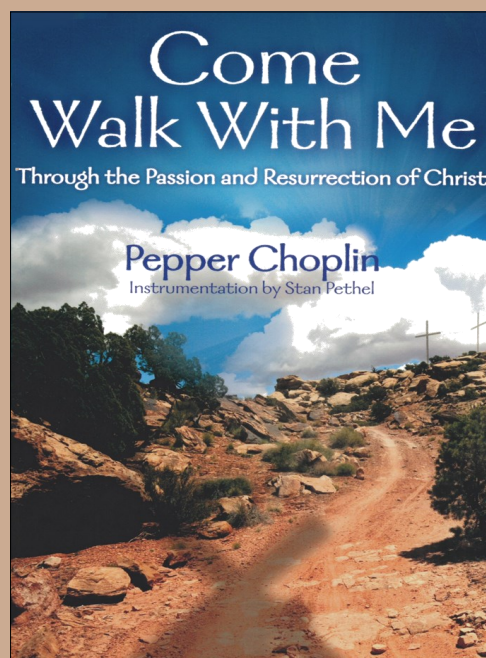
11:00am - The AMAZING (G)RACE for Families
see pg. 5 for more details

SPRING CANTATA

Saturday & Sunday
April 6 & 7 at 5:00 pm

Presented by the Chancel Choir of
SYCAMORE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

COST: Free will offering



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Sycamore United
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc

Lectionary Readings for March 2024

Saturdays at 5:00pm; Sundays at 9:30am

Children's Sunday School at 9:30am

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

March 2/3 - Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22

March 9/10 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21

March 16/17 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 OR Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33

March 23/24 - Palm/Passion Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Mark 11:1-11
Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16:
Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

March 28 - Holy Maundy Thursday at 7:00pm

Exodus 12: 1-4, 11-14 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26
John 13: 1-17, 31- 35

March 29 - Good Friday at 7:00pm

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12 Psalm 22:
Hebrews 10:16-25: John 18:1 – 19:42

March 30 - Easter Vigil/Holy Saturday

Job 14: 1-14 Psalm 31: 1-4,15-16
1 Peter 4: 1-8 John 19: 38-42

March 31 - Easter Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Acts 10:34-43 Mark 16:1-8

REPAIR THE HARM FUND

Sycamore United Methodist Men recently committed a lead pledge of \$1,050 for local support of the United Methodist Church "Repair the Harm" fund. United Methodist churches nationwide are asked to voluntarily contribute to the fund which is part of the Boy Scout child abuse settlement. Additional local dollars are coming from United Methodist Men as individuals and those in our church with special connections to scouting. Overall, more than \$3,000 was contributed or pledged.

The Boy Scouts filed for bankruptcy relief in 2020, overwhelmed by lawsuits that grew to involve more than 84,000 allegations of child sexual abuse dating as far back as the 1960's. The United Methodist Church is not named in these lawsuits, but because of our denomination's strong ties to the Boy Scouts, it committed \$30 million to the Survivor Trust Fund. Our church conference is asked to give \$754,348 towards this total. All money from the United Methodist Church goes directly to survivor claims. About 1,300 claims were settled for \$3,500 each. There are 82,199 claims still under review with payouts to be made through a pre-approved trust fund plan that totals \$2.4 billion.



Congratulations to Pastor Luis and Norma on the birth of their grandson, Joel Manuel to their daughter Liz and her husband Gustavo. Joel was born Wednesday, February 14th, weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz. and 20 1/2 inches long.



Those for whom we pray:

Nancy	Tammy Hemmelgam
David Dykema	Hugh Bisco
Doris Sloniker	Jane Summers
Helen Meadowcraft	Collin
Cynthia Kosusnik	Dave Walker
Mike Milyanovich	Tessa, Stefan & family
Dick McLaughlin	Baby Henry
Ray Larson	Beverly Duff
Diana Grace	Ezra Nobile
Jericca Newby	Kathi Ferguson
Pat	Jon Bean
Jeff Murphy	Elise Bernhardson

We extend our sympathies to the families of:

Joan Fenstermaker
Lois Jaeger (Carol Hegberg's sister)
Marge Rasmussen

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	



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.

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

What to Give Up for Lent

(Adapted from an article by Rev. Magrey R. deVega,
Hyde Park United Methodist Church, Tampa, Florida)



The Rev. Magrey R. deVega cites a recent on-line non-scientific survey by "Christianity Today" indicating the most popular things people give up for Lent. The top three were social networking, chocolate, and "Twitter." Rev. deVega said he personally is giving up the use of electronic devices at the dinner table, much to the delight of his two daughters. His daughter Madelyn is giving up playing games on her smartphone and his daughter Grace is giving up afternoon snacks. They were told giving up homework was not an appropriate Lenten discipline to remember the 40 days of fasting and prayer in the desert by Jesus.

Surprisingly, Rev. deVega suggests for spiritual maturity and personal development there may be a habit of Stewardship you might wish to give up, He labels it "comparing yourself to others." Borrowing from a well-known saying, deVega says "forget about keeping up with the Joneses." He says use of your time, talents, and treasures should not be for envious admiration but for the joy you receive by sharing. To quote 2 Corinthians 9:7 - "Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

As the spirit moves you to generosity through joy, please prayerfully consider your contributions to Sycamore United Methodist Church. You may securely give on-line at www.sycamoreumc.org, text "giving" to 815-895-9113, or mail a check to the church office at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178.

DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

- LIFT Dinner on March 6th at 6:00pm
- Town Hall meeting re General Conference March 23 & 24 following services
- Young Women's Retreat on March 23rd from 9am to 1pm



Our Lenten theme is "Again & Again: A Lenten Refrain". This Lent we are reminded again and again we are offered a way forward through Christ that breaks through our suffering and brokenness. Daily Devotions for individuals and families are available in the resource center. We also invite you to add your prayers to the prayer wall in the concourse. Praying with and for each other is an act of community, exercising our trust that God will meet us, again and again, along the way.

LIFT Dinner on March 6th at 6:00pm in the Commons for God's children of all ages. The Good Neighbor/Refugee Team will host a campfire inspired meal as we look at how Jesus wandered through his own journey in the wilderness for 40 days. Let's eat, pray, and play together as a community of faith.



March 23rd & 24th after worship, Pastor Luis will lead a town hall meeting about the proposed changes to The Book of Discipline language surrounding the LGBTQ+ community. These meetings follow the recommendations of the Visioning Team, which were adopted by the Church Council in November, to help us understand the legislation before General Conference in April.

Young Women in their 2nd, 3rd or 4th decade are invited to join an all day retreat to "THE PERCH" in Aurora on March 23rd from 9am to 1pm. Clinician Amy Jackson will guide us as we sit with who we are, identify the divine within us, and develop practices to nurture our relationship with God and ourselves. We will extend self-care in four sessions: Spiritual Workshop, Therapeutic Art, Prayer Stations, and Guided Meditation. Light snacks will be served throughout and after we will walk to Craft Urban. Capacity is 20 and an offering of \$30 will reserve your spot. Carpooling can be arranged. Use this link <https://churchteams.com/m/Register.asp?a=ZVIRdThSb2xOQ289> to register or text WOMEN2024 to the church phone number. See Becca Rome with questions. We look forward to hosting Amy at SUMC this summer for women of all ages.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

- PJ & Movie Sunday is March 10th
- Easter Candy is needed
- VBS is July 8-12.



PJ & Movie Sunday is March 10th! We "spring ahead" that day, but you can gain some of the time back by coming to church in PJs! All are welcome to join us for worship at 9:30 and stay for a movie. We will be showing **"Inside Out"** starting at 10:45 am in the Sanctuary! Bring your blankets, plushies, or pillows to snuggle in & watch a great flick! There will be snacks, crafts & Christian conversation as well, plus nursery will be available for our littles!

Easter Candy is needed to make Easter a little sweeter for our kiddos. Please drop pre-packaged, nut-free candy in the bin by the Resource Center.



SAVE THE DATE!! VBS is July 8-12 from 9-noon daily. Youth and Adult volunteers are needed, so contact Becca Rome if you are interested in helping our children dive into friendship with God.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

- Registration for the LIFE Missions High School Trip
- THE AMAZING (G)RACE for families of all ages



YOUTH

It's not too late to register for the LIFE Missions high school trip to Detroit! Grab an info packet by the youth bulletin board in the concourse and turn in your registration form to Pastor Hannah or in the office ASAP, or scan this QR code to register online.



FAMILIES OF ALL AGES

Families of all ages, shapes, and sizes are invited to join us at 11:00 AM on Easter Sunday for a grace-filled Amazing Race! Family teams will race against the clock to solve fun challenges together as they follow Jesus' path from Palm Sunday to the cross to the empty tomb

ABC PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS

Spring is here!

Spring Pictures will be taken on March 7 & 8

The annual Easter Eggstravaganza will be taking place the week of March 18

Our annual Beach Party week begins the week of April 8 with our Spring Sing Thursday, April 11 at 6:30

Three-year-old Spring Sing will be on April 15 & 16

The Mission Project this month is our annual Adopt-a-Pet in support of T.A.I.L.S.

The ABC Preschool Staff



WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS

- Spring Cantata is April 6 & 7 at 5:00 pm
- 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!) Our Spring Cantata, "Come Walk With Me" which will be presented April 6-7, 2024 @ 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. If Audio (sound) or Video is your passion, please contact Peter Hansen Director of Music.

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



The Worship, Music and Arts Committee is looking for Communion Stewards. Volunteers will be responsible for helping set up communion on the weekends that communion is served. Responsibilities will include setting up communion on the altar, filling cups, and clean-up after service. We will train you! Our hope is to get a group of people to volunteer so we can rotate months. If you're interested please contact Debbie at the church office.



United Women in Faith Unit Meeting is March 7th at 12 noon. It will be themed “Read to Feed Your Soul”. We will have a speaker from the DeKalb County Community Gardens, talking about their Grow Mobile distributions. The event will also include a book swap. Bring a WRAPPED book that you are willing to give up from your stash at home. You will get to swap for another wrapped book. If you don’t have a book to trade, we will have some extras on hand so you can join in the fun. Our food theme will be a brunch. Circle leaders will talk to you about what foods to bring. If you are not in a circle, just bring something that goes well with an egg casserole. As always, bring your own table service. All are welcome!



AARP Tax Preparation will be each Wednesday and will go through April 12th, **by appointment only**. To make an appointment please call Sue at 815-501-5696.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Memorial Committee will be offering scholarships to deserving and qualified students planning to attend a 2 or 4-year-college or university next year.

- One or more \$500 scholarships will be awarded from the **Church Scholarship Funds**. The number of scholarships vary each year and are determined by the amount of money in the scholarship fund at the time the applications are reviewed in April. Contributions to this fund can be made at any time during the year.
- The \$1,000 **Marion B. Marsh Memorial Scholarship** will be given to a person entering the freshman year.
- The **Barbara J. Rodgers Memorial Scholarship** of with a minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$5,000 will be given to a full-time student who has completed the freshman year and is planning to continue his/her undergraduate, graduate, or post-graduate studies at an accredited college of university, majoring in a religious vocation or education vocation. Priority will be given to a prior recipient of the Barbara J. Rodgers Memorial Scholarship. If no applicant meets the criteria, the scholarship will not be awarded.
- The **Midge Hartsuch Memorial Scholarship** of \$500 will be given to a student who will be attending Kishwaukee Community College in Malta. If no applicant meets the criteria, the scholarship will not be awarded.
- The **Karen S. Palm-Hale-Hagen Nursing Memorial United Methodist Endowed Scholarship**, based on funds in the account, with the minimum of \$500 will be awarded to one high school senior declaring “Nursing” as their college major or an active college student pursuing a nursing degree each year for their dedication to serving others in the surrounding Sycamore/DeKalb communities. If no applicant meets the criteria, the scholarship will not be awarded. **(NOTE: The criteria and application for this scholarship is different from the Sycamore United Methodist Church Scholarship criteria and application.)**
- **United Methodist Men Scholarships** - Two \$500 scholarships will be given:
 - ◊ 1 scholarship to honor and provide financial assistance to one student who will be attending a 2 or 4 year college or university in the following school year.
 - ◊ 1 scholarship to honor and provide financial assistance to one student who will be pursuing further education in a “hands on” trade school program.
 - ◊ For more information, criteria, and an application form (application forms are also available on the church website), contact Tony Sgarlata, 815-762-4861, anthony.sgarlata@yahoo.com

Applications and criteria are available in the church office and online at www.sycamoreumc.org. The application needs to be completed and returned to the church office by March 31, 2024. Be sure to use the 2024 scholarship applications to be considered for a scholarship. The scholarships will be awarded in June. If you have questions, please contact Diane McQueen at 815-899-8878.

March 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the April issue of The Messenger is March 20th

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 1:00 PM Pack 141 Blue and Gold Banquet 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
3 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 2:00 PM GS Troop 2304 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	4 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM Sunday Night Worship Planning 7:00 PM Trustees	5 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Discipleship Committee 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3	6 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Lenten Book Study "Reckless Love" 12:4:00 PM AARP Tax Preparation 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM LIFT Dinner 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	7 12:00 PM UWF Unit Mtg. 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM Virtual Lenten Book Study "Reckless Love" 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	8 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	9 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
10 PJ SUNDAY Confirmation Field Trip 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM PJ Sunday Movie in the gym 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	11 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 5:15 PM GS Troop 5070 5:30 PM Finance and Stewardship Comm. 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Church Council	12 9:30 AM Mary Circle 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4	13 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Lenten Book Study "Reckless Love" 12:4:00 PM AARP Tax Preparation 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:30 PM LIFE Missions Letter Writing 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	14 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Dens 5 & 6 7:00 PM Virtual Lenten Book Study "Reckless Love" 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	15 1:00 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting	16 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
17 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 2:00 PM GS Troop 2304 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	18 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study	19 POLLING PLACE 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM Grace Circle	20 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 11:00 AM Adult Lenten Book Study "Reckless Love" 12:4:00 PM AARP Tax Preparation 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	21 3:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Peoples Family Ministries Comm. 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:30 PM Girl Scout Leader Meeting 7:00 PM Virtual Lenten Book Study "Reckless Love" 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	22	23 9:00 AM Young Women's Retreat 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
24 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	25 No ABC Preschool 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 5:15 PM GS Troop 5070 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:45 PM PRIDE Comm.	26 No ABC Preschool 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4	27 No ABC Preschool 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Lenten Book Study "Reckless Love" 12:4:00 PM AARP Tax Preparation 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	28 No ABC Preschool 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship Service	29 No ABC Preschool 3:00 PM Ecumenical Good Friday Service 7:00 PM Good Friday Service led by Youth	30 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
31 EASTER SUNDAY 7:30 AM Easter Sunrise Service 8:30-9:15 AM Easter Hot Continental Breakfast 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00AM The Amazing (G)RACE for Families	April 1 No ABC Preschool 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Trustees	2 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3	3 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Lenten Book Study "Reckless Love" 12:4:00 PM AARP Tax Preparation 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM LIFT Dinner 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	4 12:00 PM UWF Unit Mtg. 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM Virtual Lenten Book Study "Reckless Love" 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	5 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	6 3:00 PM Pack 141 Pack Meeting 5:00 PM Spring Cantata

Easter Flowers Order Form



As in past years, you are again invited to give Easter flowers in memory or honor of family members or friends to adorn our Sanctuary for Easter worship. We will be ordering spring flowers. The cost will be \$12.00 per pot. Please return your order to the church office by **Monday, March 25.**

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 "Easter Flowers".