

THE MESSENGER

The Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter

Volume 23, Issue 4 April 2022

WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR

This month we approach the holiest time of the Christian year. We begin with the triumph and tragedy of Palm/Passion Sunday. We journey through the highs and incredible lows of Holy Week. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday. We end with a stripped sanctuary and a somber mood. Then, Easter Sunday, and the incredible joy of the Resurrection of Jesus.

The ups and downs of that week remind me of the ups and downs that we all experience in life. Some are minor setbacks, like the grocery store not having our favorite pastry. Some are small joys, like that delicious cup of coffee.

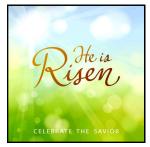
Others are earth-shattering. When the Ukrainian cellist chose Bach to pay in front of devastated buildings, he said it was because he heard echoes of the powerful suffering of Good Friday. But God triumphs in the end. That same cellist went on to speak of the hope of the resurrection (and in this hope, let us all pray for peace).

From my very earliest recollections growing up outside of Washington, D.C., this holy time of Easter has always been special to me. Now, over a half century further on, it is my privilege to celebrate my last official Easter as a fulltime Elder in ministry with you here at Sycamore. I look forward to it.

I hope you will join me during the concluding services of Lent and Holy Week. It's quite a ride.

Peace,





Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 8 & 9
Saturday at 5:00 p.m.
8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Spring Choral Celebration

Come, Touch the Robe (see page 5 for more details)

Maundy Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m.

A symbolic Seder Meal will be served at 6:15 by the confirmation class of 2022. Learn about the origins of the Passover feast and the significance of bite or sip we will share. We will learn about this sacred practice and its connection to the next meal we will share at God's table. A service of Holy Communion will begin at 7pm.

Good Friday, April 15 7:00 p.m. Worship Service

Holy Saturday, April 16 5:00 p.m. Worship Service w/Holy Communion

Easter Sunday, April 17

8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Worship Services w/Holy Communion



Easter Eggstravaganza!

Following the 10:00 Easter worship, families are invited to go on a scavenger hunt for eggs to share the story of Christ's journey to the cross. Fun and games will ensue and of course there will be plenty of CANDY!!!!

Staff

Rev. Dr. Dan Swinson
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Our SUMC Mission

"We will reach out to make disciples of Jesus Christ."



Securely give online at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving

or Text

Sycamore to 844-950-3370 to

give by text messaging. It's an easy way for anyone to give immediate donations. Message & data rates may apply. Frequency may vary.

Checks may be mailed to the church at: 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178.

April 2022 Worship Schedule



ALL SERVICES WILL BE IN-PERSON AND LIVE-STREAM SERVICES ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE ONLY Saturdays at 5:00pm;

Saturdays at 5:00pm; Sundays at 8:30 & 10:00am

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

Once the video is posted you may watch the service at any time that is convenient for you.

April 2 - Saturday Celebration April 3 - 5th Sunday in Lent

Pastor Dan Swinson

Scripture: Philippians 3:4b-14

Message: "The Upside Down Secret to Success"

Holy Communion at all services.

April 9 - Saturday Celebration
April 10 - Palm Sunday
Spring Choral Celebration at all services
(see page 5 for more details)

April 14 at 7:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Service w/ Holy Communion

April 15 at 7:00 p.m. - Good Friday Service

April 16 - Holy Saturday Celebration

April 17 - Easter Sunday

Pastor Dan Swinson Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

Message: "Looking in the Right Place"

April 23 - Saturday Celebration April 24 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Pastor Glen Stewart Scriptures: Luke 4:16-24

Message: "He Closed the Book"





Those for whom we pray:

Eric Gabriel George Melissa Steve Aue Dan Butler Diana Grace Tammy Judkins **Corey Coots** Carlyin Jeschke Easton Archer Oliver Barbara Bralev **Steve Carrier** Dawn Sisler Andrew Larson Mitch Kirk Reed Norma Clarner

Christine Wilkinson Phyllis Bowman Sarah Orkowski Holly Rudolph Carly Elder Ann Elder Steven and Family The Langsdorf Family **Charles Brewer Emily McLean** Henry Oeser Dick & Pat Graham Stephanie Landis John"Bud" Sackis **Howard Keller** Sheri Webb Ray Larson

We extend our sympathies to the families of:

Albert "Buddy" Blaser Genevieve Lindstrom

The Service Personnel and Their Families

Cpt. Mark Browning,
 *SGT Ben Bushno
 SGT Shaune Clark
SGT Matthew Einhorn
PFC Timothy Einhorn
ME2 Frank Incapreo
SSG Christopher Isabel
*Lt. Col. Garrett Slack
 SSG Neil Smith
SFC Matthew "Scott" Stewart
 MMN1 Frank Huftalin
LT Matthew Herbaugh
 CPT Elliot Callighan
PVT Trevor Bassett

PO3 Samuel V. Bell
CPT Ed Richter
SGT Brock Grimaldi
E4PVT Alexis Jones
E3PFC Max Keller
A1C Brock Larson
*SPC Nadia McCormick
*SPC Haley McCormick
*Maj Steve Haack
*PV2 Caden Grimaldi
PV2 Rachel McMillion
*CPL Joshua Caraballo
*indicates deployed personnel



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

EASTER MEANS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND UNCONDITIONAL GIVING

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16 NRSV)

This month we celebrate the Easter story and God's unconditional love for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. In a United Methodist Disciple Series entitled "Letters for all Seasons" published many years ago, Herb Mather wrote about accepting this gift we did not merit. He notes that the works of Jesus on earth were not



God's payment to us for what we did, but rather God's way of lovingly teaching us how to give unconditionally to others. Mather talks about "responding" to God's love. He suggests that is what we do every time we perform an act of kindness in the community in the name of Christ. Think - over 90 families in Sycamore helped through our church-sponsored food pantry. Think - about 35 seniors and shut-ins supported by contacts through the church caring ministry network. Think - Christian education opportunities for young people and a quality, safe pre-school. Think - inspiring young adults through the Life Missions program.

Giving unconditionally is putting the Easter story into action. Give thanks for the gift God has given us in Jesus. You may securely give online at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving, text **Sycamore** to **844-950-3370** (message and data rates may apply), or mail a check to the church at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178.

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES



GOOD FRIDAY FUN DAY FOR YOUTH

Children and Middle School youth are invited to join us for a day of fellowship from 10am-2pm. We will watch the movie "A Wrinkle in Time" and make Christian connections to this classic work of children's literature. Have lunch at Culvers and return to church for lessons about the importance of Good Friday.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS THIS MONTH

Our Food Pantry is continuing to serve its clients each Monday.

Present needs are: canned fruit, chili beans, boxes of scalloped potatoes, cereal, and paper towels. Monetary donations are always welcome.

Let's remember that there are those who don't know where their next supper will come from.



"United Women in Faith" is a fresh new name for United Methodist Women. A change in name and logo is just that. We are still a group of faithful women who meet in small groups called "circles" and combine several times a year for a unit meeting. Our purpose continues to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of

the church. Many of you are aware of the reorganization of the Northern IL Conference and now we are part of a new geographical area called the South Prairie District. We intend to remain a strong inclusive group in our church who support women and children in our community and beyond.

More information is available on the new website uwfaith.org where you can read the current edition of "Response" magazine. This is also where you can discover the latest on Assembly 2022: TURN IT UP! It's not too late to attend in Orlando, FL on May 20-22. Our district is offering a scholarship and a virtual option is available. Contact Janet Stocking trainsandtoys555@comcast.net for details.

Add to your calendar: "Spring Fling and Noon Potluck" on Thursday, April 7. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Meat, beverages and dessert will be provided. Our speaker will be Pastor Dan Swinson. We're looking forward to seeing your real faces since there will be no virtual option for a luncheon! There will be good food, fellowship and laughter so invite a friend for a fun afternoon.



More dates! Sat, April 30 is our Day of Spiritual Renewal at United Church of Sandwich. Details will be in our church bulletins as they become available. Sat. May 28 will be our Trunk Shop and Bake Sale. A plant sale will be at Sally Scott's 205 Thomas Dr. Without a doubt both events are a hit!

"REFUGEE GOOD NEIGHBOR TEAM" NEWS

Our team is grieving the deaths of Violette and Anastasie. They were in a fatal car accident in Batavia on their way to work on March 21. Violette and Anastasie were sisters in their 50s. Violette was mother to daughter, Divine, who is married and had her first child on March 12 and to son, Fiston. Both Divine and Fiston are in their 20s. Our team visited them weekly June - November of 2019 after they arrived from a Rwandan refugee camp where the sisters had lived for 23 years and the children for their entire lives. Some team members will be attending the funeral on April 1 at St. Rita Catholic Church in Aurora. If you feel so inspired, you may help the adult children with a contribution made out to SUMC marked "funeral expenses".

Our weekly visits to our two families from Afghanistan continue to be very rewarding. Besides continuing with practical help, we have enjoyed a birthday party for one of the daughters who turned 3! Examples of additional practical help include getting a donated used TV set up, getting debit cards from their bank activated, transportation to the DMV to get a driving permit. As trust grows, we all get better acquainted.

We need your prayers for Divine, her husband, and Fiston. . . and for the team as we also grieve . . . and for our Afghan families. Thank you!

Helen Maurer, Coordinator RefugeeGoodNeighborTeam@sycamoreumc.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

CHOIR CANTATA APRIL 9 & 10, 2022 AT ALL SERVICES



The Sr. Choir invites you to their Lenten Service and Cantata. They will lead services and music on Saturday April 9 at 5:00 pm and on April 10, 2022 at the 8:30 and 10:00 am worship services. The presentation will be accompanied by a 16-piece chamber orchestra and will feature several soloists from the choir. We hope you will be able to attend and experience Christ's healing power.

Come Touch the Robe

(Encounters with the Healer, the Servant, the Lord of Easter)

By Pepper Choplin

Unique in concept, soaring in spirit, and with music, text, and narration by Pepper Choplin, Come Touch the Robe allows us to encounter the Christ of healing, glory, authority, humility, and victory. This work uses the simple garment that Jesus wore as a thematic device to recount the interaction of those who were with Him during His last days on Earth. To a suffering woman, His robe conveyed divine healing. On the mountaintop, the robe shone and filled the disciples' eyes with His glory and authority. When Jesus laid His garment aside in the upper room, it displayed His humility as a servant. At the tomb, the grave clothes He left behind help us experience His resurrection and the victory over death. It is through these personal, touching moments that our hearts are fully prepared to meet Jesus in an intimate way, allowing us to experience the healing, the glory, and the power of Christ, and rejoice in the stirring celebration of the resurrection of the Lamb of God.

SING A NEW SONG

The Music program continues to keep moving and playing here at SUMC! As I draft this article for the newsletter, the choir is putting the finishing touches on its Lenten Cantata. Instrumentalists are busy practicing and getting their "chops" into shape preparing to add fanfare and triumphant sounds to our services Holy Week!

Our Bell choir is full of "Ringers," ringing with fervor and delight, preparing for Palm Sunday and Easter Services!

Singers are "resonating" with excitement to sing a new song unto the Lord. And our children's choir and respective directors are co back and combining to add to a Palm Sunday celebration you will not want to miss!

The tech team is "gearing" up to assist our musicians in helping them sound and look even better. Our live stream will also reach those shut in, out of town or who are able to worship from afar!

New beginnings are happening with our church and church music! Praise God!

Please remember, we can always use your gifts and talents to serve the Lord. Are you skilled with computer savvy, or play guitar, sing, or like to do dabble in recording or electronics? We are always in need of people to help with our tech team, sound, video, slides! And we can always use guitarists, pianists, drummers, and singers to continue to revive our praise teams! I would even love to hear a banjo or a harmonica too! If you love it, sing it, or play it, talk to me!!!

Remember, as we "Spring" forward into April and Easter season that All this preparation is for His Glory and All HE Gave and DID for us on that Cross!

Let us continue this work that is within us and Sing a New Song unto the Lord!

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES



WHAT NOW? Now that the days of watching Jan slip away are over. Now that my time is not centered around making sure I spend time with her. Now that my financial decisions did not always include "Will I have enough money to provide quality care for as long as she need it?". Now that there is this empty hole in my life knowing she is really gone. Indeed, NOW WHAT?

In one sense the answers are simple. Do something with her clothes. Deliver

Death Certificates to the places that require them. Work with our board of pension and Social Security and the banks to make sure that their stuff is all in line. Write THANK YOU notes.

On the other hand, the answers are much more complicated and not at all simple. They revolve around my state of mind and future. What will life be like without her? What will I do now with my time, that I could not do while I longed to be close to her? Where is God leading me in this new chapter of my life. I know the counsel I have received, and even have shared with others: "Don't make any major decisions for a while." I will try to head it. I will also take comfort from the closing verse of Psalms 27, a Psalm that was read at Jan's funeral service: "Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage, yea, wait for the Lord". So, yes, I am waiting, doing what needs to be done, but waiting for my soul to be restored and God to start turning the pages of a new chapter in my life.

While this is my personal reflections, I understand it is also the personal experience of many of you. You have faced the hard question: WHAT NOW? Some of you have only recently started on that journey and ae still searching for answers. Others have journeyed far enough into the future to a place where you have found peace, new direction, and comfort. Wherever you are know, that God is with you (and me!) and with prayers and mutual support, we will continue under God's care.

ABC Preschool Ministry News

The spring weather brings so many changes to the world around us. With the new growth taking place all around us in our world it reminds me of how blessed we are here to witness daily the growth, both physically and emotionally in all the children here. I thank all the families for sharing their children with us here at ABC Preschool.



The annual Easter Eggstravaganza will be taking place the week of April 11-April 14. We will be coloring eggs, hunting for Easter Eggs, and teaching the children about the real reason behind the Easter season in a gentle and kind way.

Spring Sing has been scheduled for April 28. We will be having this outside this year so that all children and families will be safe.

We thank Sycamore United Methodist Church for all your support of ABC Preschool. We look forward to working together on many projects during the year.

Blessings, The ABC Preschool Staff

Have you moved? Gotten rid of your landline phone?

Have you had any change in your personal information such as phone number, address, email address, marital status or name change? Have you had an addition to your family? Please call the church office at 815-895-9113 or email us at office@sycamoreumc.org so that we can update our records.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Easter is upon us and we are ready to celebrate the Risen Lord! Hope blooms as we share the love of Christ with the littlest lambs of our flock. Here are the opportunities for our children this month:

- Sunday School meets virtually and in person weekly.
 - ♦ Sundays at 9:00-9:30am, Virtual Sunday School enjoys games, crafts, & fun through scripture learning. Use this link weekly to join us:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82334288965?pwd=MmJ4UXhIL3grc29TVjR0dG1hdmxpQT09 Meeting ID: 823 3428 8965 Password: 031815

- ♦ Sundays at 10:00 service In person Sunday School continues to meet in age specific groups.
- **Bedtime Story with Miss Becca** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month via Zoom from 7:30-7:45pm. Kids will hear a story & explore faith-based connections to sacred or secular children's books. Use this link to join us:



https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84531496652?pwd=STF1WVRIbTNaS0RuT282dXlEbkZ4QT09 Meeting ID: 845 3149 6652 Passcode: 155965

- Christian Kids meets Wednesdays from 3:45-5:15pm. School children gather with snacks, scripture, heaps of fun. Transportation from North Grove & North School provided.
- Magic Mondays meets on April 4th from noon to 1:15pm. Pre-K kids are invited to celebrate the love of Christ in our lives through stories, crafts and of course, scripture!

We are looking ahead to Summer and pray you will consider joining us for one or more of these programs. Be watching future posts and emails for registration links.

- **Praise Band Camp** returns June 23 &24 6:30-7:30pm! Children and youth with 1 or more years or instruction on an instrument or voice are welcome to make a joyful noise to the Lord. We will prepare contemporary praise songs to present in worship at SUMC & GUMC on 6/25 and 6/26.
- Junior Life Missions is a chance for youth grades 6-8 (entering or exiting) to serve to our community
 and join in Christian Fellowship! We will start with a lock-in on 6/26, serve on 6/27 and head out for
 a day of fun on 6/28.
- VBS this year is "Treasured: you are precious to God". Kids with 1 year of PK through 5th are welcome to discover God's brilliant love through games, song, and most importantly fun!! Mark your calendars for July 11 -15 from 9am-12pm daily. We will be looking for youth leaders and adult helpers. Please contact Becca if interested.
- Magic Mondays will continue from PK children ages 4—6. Children under the age of 4 are welcome with an adult to lend a hand. We will meet the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 10am-11:30am from June 6th through August 15th. We will hear a story making a Christian connection, games, and activities based around scripture.
- Christian Kids will meet on *Wednesdays from 3:00-4:30pm* beginning June 8th. We will find ways to be of service to our church and our community while broadening our understanding of scripture.

The UMC is reopening their sleep-away camps this year. If you are interested in your child attending one of these camps, please let Becca know ASAP. More information and registration materials will be shared when they are made available to us. Financial assistance and fundraising is available.

- J.O.Y. Camp continues on Father's Day weekend, June 19 25.
- Woodland is July 24 30th.

I'm filled with such joy as I see all the amazing opportunities for our little ones to grown stronger in their faith and develop a personal relationship with Christ. May that joy be what sustains you through the remaining days of Lent. May the joy that comes from our Risen Christ prevail within your heart today and everyday!

Peace and Blessings, Becca Rome

April 2022 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the May issue of The Messenger is April 19th

ALL WORSHIP SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON, LIVE ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE OR POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 5:30 PM SUMC Game Night 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal	2 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
	4 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 6:00 PM Bible Study - Book of 1 Corinthians 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 6:30 PM Children's Winter Book Study 7:00 PM Church Council	5 9:30 AM Craft Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM Troop 18 Philmont Meeting	6 3:45 PM Christian Kids 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 6:15 PM Kids Choirs 6:30 PM Confirmation Classes of '22 & '23 7:00 PM Adult Choir	7 12:00 PM UMW Unit Mtg. 4:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:30 PM Young Adults Dinner & Bible Study 7:00 PM Adult Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Crew 360	8 6:00 PM Pack 141 Campfire 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal	9 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service 9:00 PM LIFE Missions Pizza Making
10 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 9:30 AM Acolytes 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 2:00 PM Girl Scouts 4:30 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:30 PM Senior High Youth Group	11 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Bible Study - Book of 1 Corinthians 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal	9:30 AM Mary Circle 5:45 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:30 PM Staff Parish Committee 7:30 PM Bedtime Story with Miss Becca	13 9:30 AM Esther Circle 3:45 PM Christian Kids 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 6:15 PM Kids Choirs 7:00 PM Adult Choir	14 7:45 AM B.A.D. (Breakfast and Devotion) for High School Students 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 6:30 PM Young Adults Dinner & Bible Study 7:00 PM Maundy Thurs. Worship Service 7:00 PM Potowattomi Round Table	15 10:00 AM Good Friday Fun Day 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 7:00 PM Good Friday Worship Service	16 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
	18 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 6:30 PM Worship Comm. 7:00 PM PEO	19 9:30 AM Craft Group 5:45 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM Leading Ladies	20 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 3:45 PM Christian Kids 4:30-7:00 PM Drive-thru Dinner for Cub Scouts Pack 141 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee 6:15 PM Kids Choirs 7:00 PM Adult Choir	21 4:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:30 PM Young Adults Dinner & Bible Study 7:00 PM Trustees 7:00 PM Adult Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Crew 360	22 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 7:00 PM Benson Family Singers Concert	23 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
24 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 9:00 AM Children's Virtual Sunday School 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 2:00 PM Girl Scouts 4:30 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:30 PM Senior High Youth Group	25 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 7:00 PM Reconciliation Group	26 9:30 AM Craft Group 1:00 PM UMW Missions Team 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4		28 7:45 AM B.A.D. (Breakfast and Devotion) for High School Students 10:30 AM Dementia Support Meeting 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM ABC Preschool Spring Sing 6:30 PM Young Adults Dinner & Bible Study 7:00 PM Adult Handbell Choir	9:00 AM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting	30 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!







arrangement. Please return

your order to the church

The cost will be \$10.00 per

office by Monday, April 11

Howers Order Form

again invited to give Easte lowers in memory or honor variety of spring flowers As in past years, you are family members or triends to adorn our Sanctuary We will be ordering a for Easter worship.

Name In Honor/Memory (<u>please circle one</u>) of:

In Honor/Memory (<u>please circle one</u>) of:

Hosted by & proceeds benefit Cub Scouts Pack 141

Sycamore United Methodist Church and indicate for "Easter Flowers". Make checks payable to Please include total amount

How Many?