

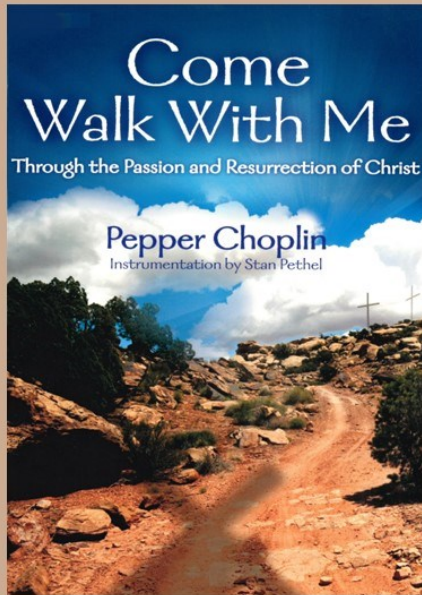


THE MESSENGER

The Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 4

April 2024



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



SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE IS COMING SOON!

The Worship, Discipleship, and Young People's and Family Ministries teams are excited to announce SUMC's new Sunday night worship service, Breakthrough, launching April 14th! The service will go from 4:30-6:00 PM on Sundays and will include a modern worship style, as well as opportunities for small group discussion (including groups for children and youth) or personal reflection. Childcare is provided for our littlest kiddos and youth group will follow from 6-7 with dinner and fellowship. This change from Saturday night worship to Sunday night as part of a "Sunday night experience" was a recommendation from the Visioning Team that was approved by the Church Council last fall.



GENERAL CONFERENCE IS IN APRIL

April 6 and 7 after worship, Pastor Luis will lead a brief town hall about the legislation regarding clergy pensions before General Conference. These meetings follow the recommendations of the Visioning Team, which were adopted by the Church Council in November.

Discipleship Ministries invites you to prayer services during General Conference. Services will be livestreamed, with the exception of 4/24 PRIDE vigil to maintain privacy of individuals of the community and in an effort to *do no harm*. *Let's come together as a community of faith to pray at this pivotal time for SUMC and the entire United Methodist Church.*

- April 23rd: Congregational Prayer Service 7pm in the Sanctuary
- April 24th: PRIDE Prayer Vigil 7pm by the firepit (weather permitting)
- 4/24-5/3: Weekday Prayer Service 12:15-12:45pm in the Chapel daily

SUMC Staff

Rev. Luis Felipe Reyes-Rosario
LEAD PASTOR
LFReyes@sycamoreumc.org

Pastor Hannah Phillips Mollenkamp
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
pastorhannah@sycamoreumc.org

Debbie Elleson
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
debbie@sycamoreumc.org

Craig Fritz
ORGANIST
craigfritz@sycamoreumc.org

Peter Hansen
MUSIC DIRECTOR
peter@sycamoreumc.org

Jim McCue
BUSINESS DIRECTOR
jim@sycamoreumc.org

Becca Rome
DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP & SPIRITUAL FORMATION
becca@sycamoreumc.org

Lisa Szydlowski
ABC PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
abcpreschool@sycamoreumc.org



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

April 2024 Worship Schedule



Saturdays at 5:00 pm thru April 13th then Sundays
at 4:30 pm (see front page for more details)

Sundays at 9:30 am

Children's Sunday School at 9:30 am

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

April 6/7 - 2nd Sunday of Easter
Service of Holy Communion
Acts 4: 32-35 & John 20: 19-31

April 14 - 3rd Sunday of Easter
Acts 3: 12-19 & Luke 24: 36b-48

April 21 - 4th Sunday of Easter
Acts 8: 26-40 & John 15: 1-8

April 28 - 5th Sunday of Easter
Acts 10: 44-48 & John 15: 9-17




Baked Goods are needed for refreshments following the Spring Cantata next weekend. Please bring your donation on Friday, April 5th before 2 pm. If you can't make it on Friday you can bring them on Sunday morning the 7th to be used Sunday night.

Food Pantry Needs

Food Pantry needs include: canned meals (beefaroni, spaghetti's, canned fruit, canned beans, pasta, jelly, paper products, shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste.



Hope Haven Meal Assistance Needed for April

 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 Welcome Center in the Concourse or by calling the church office at 815-895-9113.**



Those for whom we pray:

Nancy	Jane Summers
David Dykema	Collin
Doris Sloniker	Tessa, Stefan & family
Helen Meadowcraft	Baby Henry
Cynthia Kosusnik	Beverly Duff
Mike Milyanovich	Jon Bean
Dick McLaughlin	Elise Bernhardson
Ray Larson	Gene Miller
Diana Grace	Neil Weir
Jericca Newby	Bob Weir
Pat	Dave Walker
Jeff Murphy	Jewel Wheeler
Tammy Hemmelgam	Carol Thornton
Hugh Bisco	Jeanetta Boughton

We extend our sympathies to the families of:

Kathi Ferguson (Bill Ferguson's sister)
 Collin Schelkopf
 (Deb & Mike Schelkopf's son and Berni's grandson)

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.

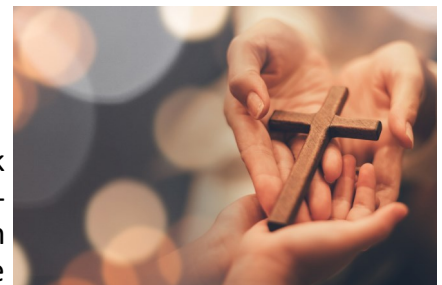
thank you

To My Church Family
 Thank you for your thoughts and prayers during my sister Kathi's battle with pancreatic cancer. They were truly felt and appreciated. Kathi died peacefully on March 7th.

Bill Ferguson

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION
Keep Living the Easter Experience

On Easter Sunday we joined with Christians around the world to thank God for sending Jesus who preached, died, and rose to fulfill the scriptures of God's presence in flesh among us. We celebrated Easter with joy and enthusiasm. Now it is up to us to pray and listen for how the Lord is calling us to joyfully and enthusiastically use the lessons of Easter in his honor year-round. Acts 4:32 reminds us, "The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own." Your family, your friends, your talents, and your abilities are all gifts from God. We are merely "stewards" of these gifts God gave us.



We have many opportunities to use our gifts to "be the face of Jesus to others." It may be through our presence to help someone overcome anxiety, it may be a random act of kindness that offers help without a special ask, or it may be the gift of food and shelter desperately needed by someone due to circumstances beyond their control. Let us remember with gratitude the powerful experience of Jesus Christ giving the ultimate gift through crucifixion on the cross as we transform lives as his disciples. You may securely give on line at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving or by texting "giving" to 8158959113. May you continue to live a life of joy and renewal through the risen Lord.

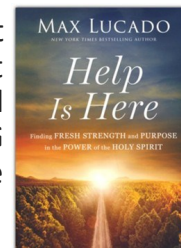
DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

- LIFT Dinner on April 3rd at 6:00pm
- Video Bible Study "Help is Here"



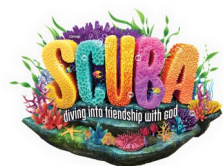
LIFT Dinner is on April 3rd from 6-6:45pm in The Commons. God's children of all ages are welcome to Live in Faith Together as we eat, pray, and play together around a Bible-based theme. The United Women in Faith will be hosting our dinner. RSVP by texting LIFTDINNER to the church phone number.

Join us for a 5-week Video Bible Study from Max Lucado. Challenges come with life, but they need not define it! "HELP IS HERE" is a video study that digs into who this Holy Spirit is and how it can help in your life. Sessions meet Wednesdays 11-12 in person and Thursday Evenings 7-8pm virtually beginning April 17 and 18. Register by texting SPRING to the church phone number to register. Study Guides are available in the Resource Center.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

- VBS is July 8-12.



SAVE THE DATE!! VBS is July 8-12 from 9-noon daily. Register by Scanning the QR Code or text VBS 2024 to the church phone number. Youth and Adult volunteers are needed, so contact Becca Rome if you are interested in helping our children dive into friendship with God.



YOUNG PEOPLES' AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

- Donations for the Youth Room

Pastor Hannah is hosting office hours at the Starbucks by Meijer on Mondays when the church office is open (check the calendar!) from 3:30-5:30 PM. Drop by to chat about whatever's on your heart, have a beverage, or just to say hi!

YOUTH

Spring has sprung! If you're doing some spring cleaning, the youth room could really use your (gently used) furniture. We're looking for couches and comfy chairs in neutral colors, large bean bags, bookshelves, freestanding cabinets or lockers, coffee and/or side tables, high top/bar tables and chairs, and rugs. Age-appropriate games are also great. Please contact Pastor Hannah if you have any of these items you would like to donate. We can only accept items in good condition and that make sense for our space - thank you for understanding.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND OUTREACH

- Caring Ministry Network is looking for volunteers
- Hospitality Team needs greeters

The Caring Ministry Network is in need of more volunteers to reach out to our members who are homebound, living in nursing homes, or just might need a little extra gesture of care. The time commitment is a couple of hours a month, with optional monthly meetings. If you're someone who likes to share the love of God with others, we want you on the team! Please contact Pastor Hannah if you are interested.

The Hospitality Team is looking for greeters to welcome folks to worship on Sunday mornings. This volunteer opportunity is low-commitment but makes a big difference! This is one simple way to participate in the life of the church by answering Jesus' call to welcome others as He welcomes us. Contact Pastor Hannah, Debbie Elleson, or Beth Rommel if you are interested.

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



Spring Sing will take place on Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 PM. Our theme this year is Beach Days. We will hold the sing in the Sanctuary and fellowship in the Concourse.

Our annual Beach Party will take place on April 11 & 12 this year. It's a great time of year with beachy activities and turning the gym into a beach scene.

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.

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 @t 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 PRIDE committee would like to thank all those who participated in our temperature check survey on the proposed SUMC welcome statement, which reads: "Sycamore United Methodist Church believes people of all abilities, ages, ethnic backgrounds, gender identities and expressions, races, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic statuses should feel welcome to worship and be able to fully participate in the activities of the church as they are." We take every response seriously and want to share the results with you. In total, we received 103 responses: 87 "yes" (84.5%), 1 "leaning in favor" (1%), 6 "undecided," (5.7%), 1 "leaning against" (1%), and 8

"no." We are encouraged by this strong (84.5%) result, and will be using this information to guide our next steps as SUMC's PRIDE Committee. We invite everyone, especially those with comments or concerns, to voice your thoughts and feedback to the committee - either through our question box in the concourse or by asking us in person.

PRIDE will be hosting a prayer vigil for General Conference on Wednesday, April 24th at 7 PM by the fire pit (weather permitting). This is a time for us to come together to pray for our denomination and its leaders, as well as simply being in the presence of God, community, and nature at a time which we know will be stressful for many. All are welcome to come and participate.

APRIL 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 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 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 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 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 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM SPRING CANTATA 6:00 PM Town Hall re General Conference
7 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM Town Hall re General Conference 5:00 PM SPRING CANTATA 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	8 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 5:15 PM Girl Scout Troop 5070 5:30 PM Finance and Stewardship Comm. 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM Discipleship Committee	9 9:00 AM NIC Order of Elders 9:30 AM Mary Circle 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:00 PM Staff Pastor Parish Committee	10 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study "Help Is Here" 12-4:00 PM AARP Tax Preparation 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	11 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Dens 5 & 6 6:30 PM ABC Preschool Spring Sing 7:00 PM Virtual Book Study "Help Is Here" 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	12 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	13 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
14 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 2:00 PM GS Troop 2304 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	15 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 11:00 AM ABC Preschool 3's Sing 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM Girl Scout Recruitment Event 6:30 PM Worship Committee	16 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM ABC Preschool 3's Sing 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM Grace Circle	17 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 11:00 AM Adult Book Study "Help Is Here" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	18 3:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Peoples Family Ministries Comm. 6:30 PM Girl Scout Leader Meeting 7:00 PM Virtual Book Study "Help Is Here" 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	19 7:00 PM Pack 141 Pack Meeting	20 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 10:00 AM Confirmation Field Trip
21 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	22 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 5:15 PM GS Troop 5070 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM Congregational Care	23 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 7:00 PM Congregation Prayers Service	24 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study "Help Is Here" 12:15 PM Weekday Prayer Service 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM PRIDE Prayer Vigil	25 12:15 PM Weekday Prayer Service 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Dens 5 & 6 7:00 PM Virtual Book Study "Help Is Here" 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	26 12:15 PM Weekday Prayer Service	27 9:00 PM LIFE Missions Pizza Making
28 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 2:00 PM GS Troop 2304 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	29 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:15 PM Weekday Prayer Service 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Trustees	30 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 12:15 PM Weekday Prayer Service	May 1 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study "Help Is Here" 12:15 PM Weekday Prayer Service 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	2 12:15 PM Weekday Prayer Service 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Virtual Book Study "Help Is Here" 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	3 12:15 PM Weekday Prayer Service	4 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Memorial Committee