



# THE MESSENGER

The Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter

Volume 23, Issue 8

August 2022

Greetings!

At the last United Methodist Men’s meeting (July) I heard the phrase “Million-dollar rain” it was explained as the rain need for the nourishment of the corn and if I correctly understand nourishment of all that is planted. As you can see, we learn something new every day.



I remember many years ago, my now Son in law Jason was working on his eagle project – a community garden. There was corn, tomatoes, green peppers and other. They have alternate in who is water them. As I look first the work they did, making sure the ground was fine and then the planting and now is the watering them. Yes, there was the harvest... and the clients from the community food pantry were the first of received the blessings of fresh produce.

Now, imagine if we applied what the farmers do to prepare the land to our faith journey. Imagine planting seeds of love, compassion, care and why not companionship. Even more - seeds of hope and possibilities. Like the seed planted in our hearts and how God has nurtured and continue nurturing every day.



As we are coming close to the end of another summer, as our students and teachers return for another amazing school year, as we continue pressing on, have you stop and reflect on that seed planted on you inviting you to re- discoverer, re- connect and re- imagine God’s possibilities for us as a faith community?

We continue experiencing “million-dollar rain” as we practice our daily spiritual disciplines, (prayers, meditations, worship – to mention few) we are doing our part in our discipleship journey. But we are not done. The work of transforming the world is an intense one and do not take a break, that’s why our participation is critical.

Hope you will join me as continue building God’s kin-dom!

Blessings & peace,

Pastor Luis Felipe

## AUGUST HOLY COMMUNION

In August we will be offering pre-packaged individual communion elements (both gluten free and non-gluten free). You will be able to pick these up outside the Sanctuary on your way into service. Communion will also be served by intinction for those who are comfortable coming forward.



## **Staff**

Rev. Luis Reyes

LEAD PASTOR

LFReyes@sycamoreumc.org

Pastor Joe Munro

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

joemunro@sycamoreumc.org

Pastor MaryLou Eubanks

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

mleubanks@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

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION DIRECTOR

becca@sycamoreumc.org

Lisa Szydowski

ABC PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

abcpreschool@sycamoreumc.org



Securely give online at

[www.sycamoreumc.org/giving](http://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.

## **August 2022 Worship Schedule**



**ALL SERVICES WILL BE IN-PERSON AND LIVE-STREAM  
SERVICES ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE ONLY**

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

[www.facebook.com/SUMCIllinois/](http://www.facebook.com/SUMCIllinois/) or  
[www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=sycamore+umc](http://www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=sycamore+umc)  
or [www.sycamoreumc.org/live](http://www.sycamoreumc.org/live).

**August 6 - Saturday Celebration**

**August 7 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost**

Pastor Luis F. Reyes

Scripture: Luke 12:32-40

Holy Communion will be served at all services.

**August 13 - Saturday Celebration**

**August 14 - 10th Sunday after Pentecost**

Pastor Luis F. Reyes

Scriptures: Hebrews 11:29-12:2:  
and Luke 12:49-56:

**August 20 - Saturday Celebration**

**August 21 - 11th Sunday after Pentecost**

LIFE MISSIONS SERVICES

**August 27 - Saturday Celebration**

**August 28 - 12th Sunday after Pentecost**

Pastor Luis F. Reyes

Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Gospel Lesson: Luke 14: 1, 7-14



**Please keep your pastors and 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



**Those for whom we pray:**

Eric Gabriel	Carol Berndt
Dan Butler	Calvin Foulk
Diana Grace	Donny
Carly Elder	Maggie Buie
Emily McLean	Riley Dunham
Stephanie Landis	Nate Lee
John "Bud" Sackis	Hayley Foord
Ray Larson	Diane Markwell

We extend our sympathies to the family of Patricia Graham who passed away on July 18th

**The Service Personnel and Their Families**

Cpt. Mark Browning,	PO3 Samuel V. Bell
*SGT Ben Bushno	CPT Ed Richter
SGT Shaune Clark	SGT Brock Grimaldi
SGT Matthew Einhorn	E4PVT Alexis Jones
PFC Timothy Einhorn	E3PFC Max Keller
PO1 Frank Incapreo	A1C Brock Larson
SSG Christopher Isabel	*SPC Nadia McCormick
*Lt. Col. Garrett Slack	*SPC Haley McCormick
SFC Matthew "Scott" Stewart	*Maj Steve Haack
MMN1 Frank Huftalin	*PV2 Caden Grimaldi
LT Matthew Herbaugh	PV2 Rachel McMillion
CPT Elliot Callighan	*CPL Joshua Caraballo
PVT Trevor Bassett	

*\*indicates deployed personnel*

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUMC UNITED  
WOMEN IN FAITH  
DRIVE-THRU



CURBSIDE





CHICKEN STRIP  
DINNER  
Fundraiser

WEDNESDAY  
AUGUST  
17  
4:30 - 7:00 PM

\$15

Buy Tickets By 8/10

Purchase tickets:

- Online (QR code or link)
- SUMC Church Office
- Call 815.895.9113
- Any United Women in Faith member
- Facebook page @SUMCIllinois



THE DIRTY BIRD

*Each meal includes:*

4 Piece Chicken Strips  
French Fries  
Roll and Sauce

Sycamore United Methodist Church

160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore  
Enter at south parking lot  
Follow signs around back of church  
[www.sycamoreumc.org](http://www.sycamoreumc.org)

*Hosted by & proceeds benefit the United Women in Faith*

**STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION**

**A FAITHFUL STEWARD TESTIMONIAL**

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)*



Your Stewardship Committee met in July and talked about using testimonials as a way to promote generous giving of one's time, talents, and treasures to help and support others through the ministries of Sycamore United Methodist Church. What if you were approached to give a testimonial about your life as God's steward? If you were asked to share how you manage and care for God's property, what would you say? Have you considered what a faithful steward is expected to be and to do? God-pleasing stewards acknowledge that God is the creator and source of all things, and that, as the creator of all, he owns everything. God's property is on loan to us. As stewards, we are to manage what he has entrusted to us responsibly and for God's purposes. As God's stewards, we are not to be passive managers but active and involved. We are caretakers and managers of God's gifts, so we are accountable for what we do with his gifts of time, talents, and treasures. As faithful stewards, we can glorify and honor God with lives of service and faithful use of our gifts.

It is clear that a church in this post-Covid environment is going to be different than what existed prior to the pandemic. Our challenge is to live lives saying "thank you" to God for his love and mercy by finding ways to meet the spiritual and physical needs of those around us. Stewardship is faith in action.

To give thanks for the gifts God gives us, you may securely give online at [www.sycamoreumc.org/giving](http://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, Illinois 60178. Thank you for your generosity.



# MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES



## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS THIS MONTH

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

**Present needs are:** canned pasta meals like ravioli or spaghetti o's, stewed tomatoes, boxed pasta, canned fruit 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.

## HOPE HAVEN MEAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED for August 8, 15 & 22.

Prepare or buy just 1 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 if you are interested.



United  
Women  
in Faith

**United Women in Faith** have an opportunity to join with others and participate in mission u 2022 on August 19-20. The theme is "Who Can We Be Together? Building Communities of Hope and Joy". You may attend in person (\$90 includes three meals) or on Zoom (\$35). Register by noon on August 17 at <http://mission-u-summer-2022-august-19-20.cheddarup.com>. More information is available on the UWF bulletin board or on their website.

It's our turn to host a drive-thru dinner! Wednesday, August 17 can be a no cooking at home night! A four piece chicken dinner with delicious sides will cost \$15 and tickets are available from UWF/UMW members, the church office, online, or Facebook page@SUMCIllinois. Proceeds will benefit our local organization. You can help us by buying tickets or enjoying the fellowship of assembling the dinners. Be sure to get your tickets by August 10!

**The Fall Thrift and Bake Sale will be Friday, September 30-Saturday October 1.** Since we've pared it down to once a year it is guaranteed to be overflowing with bargains! Write it on your calendar, start a box of items to donate, and consider what you might create for the bake sale. It's a not to be missed event!

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS & BACK-TO-SCHOOL BREAKFAST: AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>!

Back to School is right around the corner! Not the words everyone wants to hear, but let's make the best of it and bless those starting a new school year. August 14<sup>th</sup>, kids, teachers, school workers, and more are invited to come to worship. We are collecting donations of backpacks



(limited number needed) and school supplies for the Sycamore Food Pantry. Bring your donations to the office or leave in the concourse on a Sunday. After the 10:00 service, stay for a Back-to-School Breakfast Fundraiser hosted by the Families in Faith Committee. There will be no charge, but a free will offering will allow this committee to develop programming and events focused on family faith formation.



## THE SUMC RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE HAS A NEW NAME, PRIDE!

PRIDE aims to create an inclusive and welcoming faith community for those looking for an affirming congregation. PRIDE welcomes people of all ages, abilities, races, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations and gender identities to worship and fully participate at SUMC. We hope you will join us in building our relationships within our church, community and the LGBTQ+ siblings as we are called to be the "hands and feet of Christ".



PRIDE welcomes all God's children into a congregation that gracefully engages in positive conversation and affirming experiences. We welcome questions and conversation, and you are encouraged to find us on Sunday mornings...look for the rainbow pins we wear! There are many plans in the works, so stay tuned to the weekly announcements and a future webpage for PRIDE!

# SING A NEW SONG - MUSIC MINISTRIES

I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful summer weather! Here is what's happening with our musical area of the church.

## Summer Choir

We have one more Sunday for Summer Choir! Sunday, August 14! All voices are welcome to join in the fun! We will be singing and leading worship on that day at the 8:30 and 10 o'clock worship services. Rehearsal will be on August 10 at 7 p.m. in the Music Room. If you've wanted to sing with choir but haven't had the time or been able to make the weekly commitment, here's your opportunity to sing! I'm sincerely hoping that you will enjoy and love it so much, that you will join us (or come back to the fold if you've been a former member) in the fall. The Music will be, fun, upbeat, and inspirational! Contact Pete Hansen, Music Director for more information!

## Music Groups Update!

Children's Choirs will be back this fall! We will again be offering our children's choirs. The starting date will be Wednesday, September 14 from 6:15-6:45 p.m. Each Children's Choirs sings one Sunday per month at 8:30 and 10 o'clock worship services. Each choir has a designated Sunday they sing. Please contact Peter Hansen, church office, or, one of the directors for additional information.

## Children's Choirs and Directors are:

- Cherubs Choir, ages 3-Pre-K sings first Sunday of the month Kitty Hagedorn Director Helen Mauer, pianist
- Kids Choir, ages K-3, Phyllis Horst and Cris Woodin Directors
- Jr. Choir, ages 4-8 Peggy Carey Director and Joel Maurer, pianist



## Handbell Choir: Mary Thomas, Director

Meets Thursdays from 7-8:30 in the music room beginning date this coming season is Thursday, September 8. Contact Mary for more additional information.

**Adult Choir:** Peter Hansen, Director, Craig Fritz accompanist. Meets Wednesdays from 7-8:30 in the Music Room. Start date for this coming season is September 7. Ages 14 -???

## Youth Ensemble: high school/college ages.

I am planning to add the youth ensemble back into the music program. Contact Peter if you are interested in singing. Start date to be determined.

## Choir Picnic

There will be a choir season kick off picnic at the Miller's Farm in rural Sycamore on Wednesday August 31 at 6:30 p.m. All choir members, choir members, past and present, as well as prospective members and their guests are invited! For more details contact Peter Hansen, Nancy Miller and Sandra Huftalin.

## Other ways to Serve:

### Tech Team

We really, really, really need techies! Slides/video and sound help needed! Unsure if you're qualified or not? Not to worry, we'll show and teach you all that is necessary to be successful at it!

### Praise Team

Do you play guitar, bass, drums, sing? Do you enjoy the contemporary style of worship and music? See me and how we can get you involved!

### Ministry of Music

There is still a date or two available if you play an instrument, sing, etc. for special music during offertory/music ministry spot in the Sunday Morning Worship services.

### Saturday and Sunday Worship Leaders

Not sure you want to be a soloist, but love to sing and love to sing/play with others? Worship leaders are needed to lead hymns at services. This requires helping lead songs and worship on Saturday's and/or assisting with leading hymns and worship at Saturday and Sunday worship services.

Thank you to the many who have helped lead summer worship services. Song and hymn leaders, accompanists, organists, soloists, ensemble players and singers.

As always, I will see YOU in the Music!!!

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Pete Hansen, located at the bottom right of the page.

## ***What in the World is a Pastor of Congregational Care?***

Hi! Pastor MaryLou here! Yes, I'm back, temporarily, to handle pastoral care concerns. The hope is that Pastor Luis can settle in without as many interruptions if I handle hospital and home visits temporarily.

I thought had penned my last missive for The Messenger in May 2021. God had other plans! In that May 2021 issue, I lifted up a few **senior-friendly services** that SUMC was blessed to offer, such as:

- the **Parking Ministry Cards** that persons needing a little extra time getting themselves or someone in their party into the sanctuary can wave to get help from the ushers;
- the **Rides to Church program** for people who don't drive.
- the **Caring Ministry volunteers** who make sure people not able to leave their home space share a personal moment of prayer and connection with someone from the congregation.



There are many other forms of **OUTREACH** this congregation brings in Christ's name:

- the **Prayer Patrons Wall** whereby people of all ages pray for individuals on the Life Missions team;
- the **Christian Kids** who play games with residents of community living facilities like Barb City Manor;
- the **meals** for a few days or several weeks following a hospitalization or illness;
- the **funeral lunches** where family and friends can share stories and remembrances
- the **purses** filled with **travel sized toiletries** for the women at **Safe Passage**;
- **congregants who deliver Meals on Wheels** in the name of SUMC, helping us be good neighbors alongside Voluntary Action Center
- **cooking and attending meals at NIU's Network of Nations** for foreign students
- the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** whose members pray as they knit and crochet items like shawls, hats, gloves, etc., that are distributed as needs arise

Each of the above is a form of Congregational Care. Each of these outreach programs involves individuals and teams of lay persons--*not pastors, not staff*--using their God-given talents to be God's hands and feet within our congregation and in the wider DeKalb-Sycamore community. They are forms of **OUTREACH** to neighbors, known and unknown. Sometimes they spring up from a grassroots desire to bring God's love to a particular segment of society, like the **Refugee Committee**. Sometimes they start with Children's Education or Life Missions, or UFW or UMM. Sometimes they come from a church committee. **All are rooted in the call to love our neighbor.**

Such efforts are different from the administrative committees like Trustees or Stewardship or Staff-Parish. Those are vitally needed to keep the church operating. Those committees are what permit our congregation to provide the space, resources, funding, and PEOPLE for outreach in Christ's name. They help connect us to the wider Church and the world.

The newly created Minister of Congregational Care will be the lynch pin connecting needs and programs, regardless of age bracket. The Minister of Congregational Care will be the primary point person for initial pastoral contact from SUMC to anyone calling in with a prayer request. That will include hospital and home visits, welcoming newcomers, and, when longer-term needs are identified, connecting the individual or family with CONGREGATIONAL CARE OUTREACH MINISTRIES such as those above that can help tangibly and with prayer.

Know anyone with a love for God and neighbor and top-notch oversight and organizational skills? Let me know ASAP. I've told Pastor Luis I have 3 months to devote to helping get this off the ground and July is already gone!

P.S. No seminary degree required; strong faith and knowledge of the Word, essential!

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

God provides and so does SUMC!! **Treasured VBS** was a huge success thanks to our volunteers and your donations. I'm so grateful for your support and prayers. We had over 85 children and nearly 60 volunteers sharing the God's priceless love with one another. When things took an unexpected turn, such as the weather, Covid, or volunteer fatigue, God was faithful. All in all, I couldn't feel more blessed to be a part of this beautiful community of faith.



Summer is wrapping up and so are our summer programs. Here's what to expect for the month of August:

- **Families in Faith Committee meets on August 7<sup>th</sup> after the 10:00 service.** There will be childcare during the meeting.
- **Magic Mondays meets 10-11:30am for children PK-2<sup>nd</sup> on August 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Book Club meets on Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30pm** in the kitchen.
- **Movie Night is on Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the gym.** We invite all families to join us for the 1971 movie adaptation of summer book, Charlie, and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl.
- **Blessing of the Backpacks and Back-to-School Breakfast is Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.** Children, teachers, and school workers are invited to attend this service, where special prayers will be said for you as you return to school. Please see information listed elsewhere in the newsletter.
- **Christian Kids will meet on August 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm.**



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR RALLY DAY, September 11<sup>th</sup>!** We will have an all-church picnic and fun activities to kick off the start of a new program year.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED!** If you or anyone you know is interested in sharing the love of Christ with the children of this church, please contact Becca!

We have been blessed to offer so many programs this summer. I know that God will continue to guide this ministry into the new school year. We will be granted the strength and spirit to share the message of Christ in new and exciting ways as we serve the children of this church and our community at large.

Blessings,  
Becca Rome

## ABC PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS

I'd like to welcome our ABC Preschool families as we begin our 2022/2023 school year. Parent Night will be held on Monday, August 29, beginning at 6:00 PM. We are looking forward to seeing everyone and meeting our new family members as we begin our new school year.



Phase in begins on Tuesday, September 6. Children will attend a shortened day on their first day of school. Then a full schedule after that. The ABC Team is so excited to see all the tiny faces and the joyful noise of children laughing filling the classes and hallways here at SUMC.

We will begin setting up our monthly mission projects after our first PTO meeting. I can't wait to share some of the new ideas and of course, our old favorites as we reach out in our community to help others.

We are looking forward to another safe and successful school year here at ABC Preschool.

Blessings,

# AUGUST 2022 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the September issue of The Messenger is August 19th

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

## August Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Staff members that are able will be working from home on Fridays.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 10:00 AM Magic Mondays 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 7:00 PM Church Council	2 5:30 PM Kids Summer Book Club	3 8:30-12:00 Staff Retreat Offsite 3:00 PM Christian Kids	4 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM ABC Preschool Reunion 4:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leader Meeting	5	6 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM <b>Saturday Worship Service</b>
7 8:30 & 10:00 AM <b>Sunday Worship Services</b> 10:00 AM <b>Children's In-person Sunday School</b> 11:00 AM Families in Faith	8 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:30 PM Food Pantry	9 9:30 AM Mary Circle 6:00 PM Troop 18 Fundraiser Prep 6:30 PM Staff Parish Committee	10 9:30 AM Esther Circle 7:00 PM Summer Choir	11 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Potowattomi Cub Scout Round Table	12 6:00 PM Movie Night	13 5:00 PM <b>Saturday Worship Service</b>
14 BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS SUNDAY 8:30 & 10:00 AM <b>Sunday Worship Services</b> 10:00 AM <b>Children's In-person Sunday School</b> 11:00 AM Back-to-School Breakfast Fundraiser	15 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Worship Comm.	16 7:00 PM Leading Ladies	17 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 4:30-7:00 PM Drive-thru Dinner for Sycamore Kiwanis	18 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Trustees	19	20 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 8:00-1:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 5:00 PM LIFE Missions Service
21 LIFE Missions Services 8:30 & 10:00 AM <b>Sunday Worship Services</b> 10:00 AM <b>Children's In-person Sunday School</b>	22 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:45 PM Reconciliation Group	23 1:00 PM UMW Missions Team	24 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee	25 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 6:30 PM Genealogy Interest Group	26	27 5:00 PM <b>Saturday Worship Service</b>
28 8:30 & 10:00 AM <b>Sunday Worship Services</b> 10:00 AM <b>Children's In-person Sunday School</b>	29 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM ABC Preschool Parent Night	30	31 LIFE Missions Youth Trip	September 1 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2	2 LIFE Missions Youth Trip	3 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM <b>Saturday Worship Service</b>

ABC Preschool will be hosting an "ABC Preschool Alumni Reunion!" Past and present, families and staff are all invited to join us on Thursday, August 4, from 4-6 PM in the gym. We will have a cake to celebrate all our past and present families. Please join us to reconnect, catch up, share memories and also we would love each of our former students to paint a rock to add to our Kindness Garden!



## BLOOD DRIVE AT SUMC

**Saturday, August 20th from 8:00-1:00 in the gym**

For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org)

Come give in August and get a \$10e-gift card to your choice of merchants, PLUS, automatically be entered for a chance to win gas for a year, a \$6,000.value! You could one of three lucky winter.

Destination: Donation! Terms apply, see [rcblood.org/fuel](http://rcblood.org/fuel)

