



THE MESSENGER

The Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter

Volume 23, Issue 7

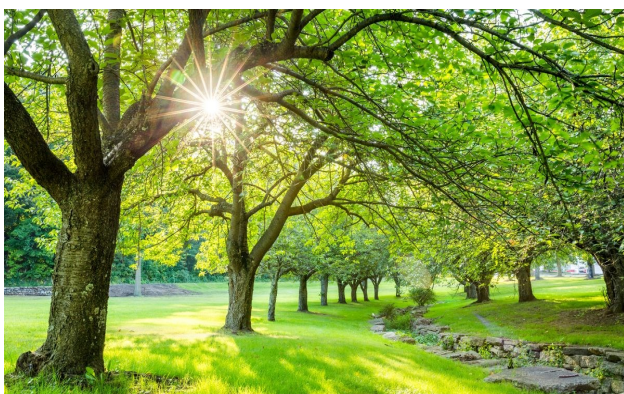
July 2022

Friends,

I hope and pray all is well.

As we continue enjoying the days of summer, I hope and pray you are finding time for some personal reflections. I totally understand, summer is short, and we want to do as many things as possible. Amid the rush, we forget that our personal/ spiritual life does not pause, vice versa it gives us a unique framework to rediscover ourselves in relation with God the Creator as we embrace mother nature in summertime. Green – invite us to grow in our personal relationship with God. How is God working in our life? What is the Spirit nudging us to be or do? What is Christ's invitation for us now in this time, in this season? On my video and my previous note for last month, I mentioned three words that will be our framework for a while...

Re-discovering; Re-connecting and Re-imagining.



You may be wondering if I will be using these words individually, and yes, I can do that, but I see the three are interconnected. While on vacation I have used some of my morning meditations in front of the ocean (*at the beach*) and one of the mornings watching the waves coming to the shore to re-discover my love for the ocean. It was a great reminder to see water as a symbol of new beginning,

“Jesus’s baptism” our own baptisms, the beginning of our journey of faith. What will happen if we as a congregation re-discover our call to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? What a great gift we have in our hands right now... together discovering what it means to be the church today.

Friends there is no time to wait. I am ready for the adventure. I hope you will join me. See you all on the second weekend of July (9 & 10)

Blessings & Peace,
Pastor Luis

815/895-9113 ext 109

LFReyes@sycamoreumc.org



Staff

Rev. Luis Reyes

LEAD PASTOR

LFReyes@sycamoreumc.org

Pastor Joe Munro

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

joemunro@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 Szydlowski

ABC PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

abcpreschool@sycamoreumc.org

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.

July 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/ or
www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=sycamore+umc
or www.sycamoreumc.org/live

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

July 2 - Saturday Celebration

July 3 - 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker: Jim McCue

Scripture: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Message: "Will You Go Through the Door?"

July 9 - Saturday Celebration

July 10 - 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Luis Reyes

Holy Communion at all services.

(note change this month to the second weekend)

July 16 - Saturday Celebration

July 17 - 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Luis Reyes

July 23 - Saturday Celebration

July 24 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Luis Reyes

July 30 - Saturday Celebration

July 31 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Luis Reyes

LITURGISTS NEEDED FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS

If you would be willing to be a liturgist during the summer
months please sign-up on the clip board on the Welcome
Desk or call the church office.

with God

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE... MATTHEW 19:26



Those for whom we pray:

Eric Gabriel
 George
 Melissa
 Dan Butler
 Diana Grace
 Sarah Orkowski
 Carly Elder
 Charles Brewer
 Emily McLean

Stephanie Landis
 John "Bud" Sackis
 Ray Larson
 Carol Berndt
 Calvin Foulk
 Donny
 Maggie Buie
 Riley Dunham
 Jenny Ridnour

The Service Personnel and Their Families

Cpt. Mark Browning,
 *SGT Ben Bushno
 SGT Shaune Clark
 SGT Matthew Einhorn
 PFC Timothy Einhorn
 PO1 Frank Incapreo
 SSG Christopher Isabel
 *Lt. Col. Garrett Slack
 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

A FAREWELL NOTE FROM PASTOR DAN

Dear Members and Friends of SUMC,

Thank you for all of your support during my ministry here at SUMC. Also, thank you for hosting my retirement program last Sunday morning. Also thank you for the notes, texts, Facebook, gifts and remembrances. I have loved my time at Sycamore

I will be entering the retired relationship on July 1. By the rules of the Annual Conference, my relationship with SUMC will be curtailed. I will not be available for pastoral acts or other duties unless specifically requested by Pastor Luis. Even then, my personal inclination will be to stay well out of the way.

I say this because I will be living in the area. Some of you will say, can't we be friends. I have learned over the decades that the line between being a pastor and being a friend is paper thin, and can be easily crossed. So if I seem distant, or absent, or excuse myself from settings where the conversation might turn to the Church, or leave conversations at awkward moments, there is a good and tried reason.

June, Dorcas, Patrick, Edward, and Ginny will remain members and participants in consultation with Pastor Luis. I will be travelling to other churches, engagements, or using the proliferation of virtual services to take my own spiritual quest on a different journey. If I do not often see you, or simply refuse to engage in conversations about the Church or individual pastoral concerns, please know that there is an important reason.

Like I said, if things are going so well a couple of years from now that people say, "Dan who?" it will be fine with me. I know you won't forget me. And I won't forget you. But the future direction of the ministry is in Pastor Luis' and your capable hands.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

SCAN HERETO
 PURCHASE YOUR
 DINNER TICKET



SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

KIWANIS CLUB OF SYCAMORE DRIVE-THRU




Kiwanis Sycamore

PULLED PORK BBQ SANDWICH DINNER

Fundraiser

Catered by
SLOW SMOKE BBQ

Each meal includes:
 1/4 lb. Pulled Pork Sandwich
 Bud's Sweet BBQ Sauce
 Cowboy Beans - Coleslaw
 Applesauce

WEDNESDAY JULY 20

4:30 - 7:00 PM

\$15

Buy Tickets By 7/13

Purchase Tickets:

- Online
- Sycamore Kiwanis members
- SUMC Church Office
- Call 815.895.9113
- Facebook page @SUMCIllinois

Sycamore United Methodist Church

160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore
 Enter at south parking lot
 Follow signs around back of church
www.sycamoreumc.org

Hosted by & proceeds benefit the Kiwanis Club of Sycamore

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS THIS MONTH

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

Present needs are: corned beef hash, refried beans, canned mandarin oranges, canned pasta, and paper towels. Monetary donations are always welcome.

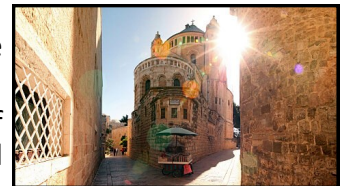
Let's remember that there are those who don't know where their next supper will come from.

HOLY LAND TOUR 2023

January 17 - January 26, 2023

Cost: \$3546.00/person. Please contact the church office if you would like more information.

This is a 10-Day journey where you will visit all the major sites, such as the Sea of Galilee, Mt. of Beatitudes, Jordan River, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem and more.



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith are alive and well! We're taking part in mission this summer and invite you to join us in this event. It takes place August 19-20 with the opportunity to meet in person or in a zoom format. We would carpool to Christ UMC in Rockford. Let's find that spark again as we study "Who Can We Be Together?" based on Luke 13. This theme will help us learn ways to build communities like

Jesus created. The registration deadline is August 17 and it can be done online or with the form you'll find on the bulletin board in the concourse. Tell our local president, Lorrie Wildenradt that you want to carpool and she will make sure you're included.

Our newest circle is called Leading Ladies. One of the special things they do is a service project for Safe Passage. It's a purse ministry where gently used purses are cleaned and filled with personal care items. Come to the church on July 19 at 7:00 and have fun with us as we participate in this meaningful mission.

LIFE MISSIONS 2022

The summer is here, and our LIFE Missions team has completed two different missions. We started off with a group serving in Costa Rica. We had 15 adults join us in one of our best trips ever serving with Iglesia Biblica Uncion Con Gloria, in Grecia Costa Rica. Pastor Osacar and his team from the church. While there our team painted the church, did tile work, poured concrete pads, assembled concrete tables and benches, and a team leading VBS. You would think that was enough, but we also had an electrician with us who was called the angel sent to the church. Deno was able to do many things around the church that have been being put off for years because they didn't have anyone. Our team was also taking time for their spiritual journey as every morning they did their devotions and then in the evening our team would gather to deeper into conversation around the Word. After all that hard work they also took time for some fun on our adventure day (DENO DAY WE CALLED IT) as we went to an area where they saw many dinosaurs (even moving ones with sound) walked to a waterfall and also took time to swim in some water areas where the river was coming from the volcano area which caused it to be neon blue.

Once I returned home at 3am on Saturday I quickly changed gears and our LIFE Missions Junior team started their mission time. Becca and I were blessed to have 25 youth join us for a few days, and boy were they busy. Becca took a team out to do yard work at one of our members house while I stayed at the church with the older youth in the group to paint the lower half of the gym. The youth were amazing and they also did morning devotions and we also took time to have an evening gathering so they could see what it is to be part of the LIFE Missions team in the near future. We also had time for them to have a fun day where we took them to the water Park in Yorkville as well.

Thanks to the many people that helped organize the trip and make it happen, many of them are part of the staff and adults that stepped up. Now I'm turning my focus to the LIFE Missions high school trip that will be traveling to South Dakota at the end of the month. I ask that you take time for prayers for these youth and the adult leaders that will be joining us as we will continue the summer being "His" hands and feet as we go out and serve and share the good news.

God Bless,
Pastor Joe

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES

"REFUGEE GOOD NEIGHBOR TEAM" NEWS

We want to thank Helen Maurer for all her hard work as our team leader, she will be stepping back from those duties, so she can devote time to the most important role of being a grandma for the first time. Our team will miss her dedication and organizational skills that have kept our mission to help our refugee families on track. Leader duties are being split up amongst our team.

Our work continues with our 2 families from Afghanistan. We are currently helping one family with the process of becoming lawful permanent residents of the U.S., aka Green Card. World Relief offers legal services for this process and a \$500 donation from SUMC has helped pay the small fee for this. The other family used their \$500 SUMC donation to help pay for dental work. Both families continue to need our assistance with rides to appointments and shopping.

Happy news, one of our families, Masoud and his wife Qalima, are expecting a baby in December, several trips for OB appointments have been made. The baby girl will be joining her 4 year old and 3 year old sisters, much fun is expected in their household!

Both families currently have some personal challenges that we ask for your prayers, adjusting to a new way of life is difficult and we thank our church members for their continued support and prayers.

Susan Mossholder and Vance Moore, team members
RefugeeGoodNeighborTeam@sycamoreumc.org

SING A NEW SONG

Happy Summer and July!

Hope you are enjoying the extra warm weather, outdoor activities, travels and all the fun that summer brings! Music and worship here has certainly been exciting and fun so far too!

Here's few things we're doing and inviting all to do with the music program this summer! Mark your calendars, we'd love to make music and fellowship with you!

Summer Choir

This year we will be having a summer choir one Sunday per month in July and August. We will have 1 rehearsal the week before the scheduled Sunday date to sing at both services for that Sunday. For those of you who have wanted to sing with choir but haven't had the time or able to make the weekly commitment now have a chance to try it out! Who knows, you may just love it and join us in the fall. Music will be simple, fun, upbeat, and inspirational!

Sunday Sing Dates: July 10 and August 14 at 8:30 and 10 o'clock services

Rehearsal Dates: Wednesday July 6 and Wednesday August 10 at 7 pm in the music room.

Sunday morning warmup at 8 am on the Sundays we sing! Please see me for more information!

Tech Team

We really need you! We are always looking for tech team helpers! 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! Please see me for more information!

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 Spots

There are a still a few dates available if you play an instrument, sing, etc. for special music during offertory/music ministry spot in the Sunday Morning Worship services. Please see me for more information!

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 on Sunday. If you play piano or stringed instruments, that's a plus too! Please contact me for more information!

Hope to see or hear from many of you soon! Meantime, I'll be seeing you.....in the Music!!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION and STEWARDSHIP

Blessings to you all as we saunter into mid-summer. Our programs are off to a great start, but there is always room for more people to participate.

- Magic Mondays meets 10-11:30 am for children, age 3-7 in the sanctuary. Parents of 3-4 year old children are asked to stay. These are a fun and spirited story-time with a spiritual connection. We also play games, do crafts, or move our bodies to fit with our theme. *We will meet July 5th (Tuesday) and July 18th.* Go to this link to register: <https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=9f828a0c-27ac-4df0-be99-dad7abefb36b&envId=p-EnpCOn6a4EGn4NxAc0h-pQ>
- Summer Book Club begins Tuesday, July 5th from 5:30-6:30pm and will continue weekly until August 2nd. We are reading "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". This year we will be seeing a live production of the Spartan Theater Camp performing Willy Wonka on July 30th @ 2pm. Go to this link to register: <https://forms.gle/SzMWtvxC6pdiSYjC8>
- Christian Kids is a service-based group for kids in grades K-4 (MS are invited to be helpers). We enjoy time of fellowship and service to our church and community at large. Plus, there are fun games and activities based on a scripture for the day. We meet every other Wednesday from 3-5pm. We will meet 7/6 & 7/20 this month. Go to this link to register: <https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=867abc0b-6a2c-43b6-9fbb-2be0ad96b783&envId=p-EnpCOn6a4EGn4NxAc0h-pQ>



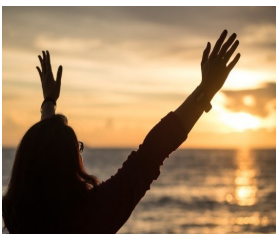
VBS IS ALMOST HERE!!! Our "Treasured" hunt is about to begin. We have spots still available for K-4/5! The expedition departs July 11-15th from 9am-12pm daily. If you want to register your child, there are still some spots available. Go to this link to register now: <https://forms.gle/58pxU6H4q8MMt1tCA>
Registration closes July 5th!!!

We have a VBS wrap pool-party and BBQ @ the Genoa Pool on Saturday, July 16th from 6-8pm. Kids will lead the first part of worship on Sunday, July 17th at 10:00.

The summer sun won't stop our fun! Be sure to come join in and invite a friend! The love of God is meant to be shared! Peace to you all!

Blessings,
Becca Rome

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION - YOU ARE THE GIFT



Talk about church Stewardship traditionally centers around giving of one's time, talents, and treasures to further God's work here on earth. A recent daily devotional from a United Methodist Men's on-line app personalized this message by noting that you are the real gift God sends. Psalm 119:90 says, "Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures." What does God expect of you? God only asks us to authentically love him to the fullest and that we show our love to all He has created.

Your chance to demonstrate your love can take many forms at Sycamore United Methodist Church. Consider being part of church ministries like:

Sycamore Food Pantry
United Women in Faith
Life Missions
Church Choir

Caring Ministries
United Methodist Men
Refugee Good Neighbor Team
ABC Pre-School


Boy Scouts
Adult Ministries
Reconciliation Group
Children's Ministries

Contact the church office to learn more about volunteer opportunities. You may also help fund these ministries by securely giving online at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving, texting **Sycamore** to **844-950-3370** (message and data rates may apply), or mailing a check to the church at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178. Now, it is up to you to respond to God right where you are with all the resources you have been given.

July 2022 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the August issue of The Messenger is July 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	2 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
3 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School	4 	5 9:30 AM Craft Group 10:00 AM Magic Mondays 12:30 PM Food Pantry 5:30 PM Kids Summer Book Club	6 3:00 PM Christian Kids 7:00 PM Summer Choir	7 4:30 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Potowattomi Round Table	8 5:30 PM VBS Leader Training 6:00 PM United Women in Faith	9 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
10 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 11:00 AM Families in Faith 11:00 AM VBS All Volunteer Mtg Decorating	11 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 7:00 PM Church Council	12 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 9:30 AM Mary Circle at Culver's 6:30 PM Staff Parish Committee 5:30 PM Kids Summer Book Club	13 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 9:30 AM Esther Circle	14 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Potowattomi Round Table	15 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School	16 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
17 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School	18 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Worship Comm.	19 9:30 AM Craft Group 7:00 PM Leading Ladies 5:30 PM Kids Summer Book Club	20 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 3:00 PM Christian Kids 4:30-7:00 PM Drive-thru Dinner for Sycamore Kiwanis 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee	21 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS Mtg. and Picnic 7:00 PM Trustees	22	23 LIFE Missions Youth Trip 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
24 LIFE Missions Youth Trip 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School	25 LIFE Missions Youth Trip 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:45 PM Reconciliation Group	26 LIFE Missions Youth Trip 1:00 PM UMW Missions Team 5:30 PM Kids Summer Book Club	27 LIFE Missions Youth Trip	28 LIFE Missions Youth Trip 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 6:30 PM Genealogy Interest Group	29 LIFE Missions Youth Trip	30 LIFE Missions Youth Trip 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
31 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School	August 1 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 7:00 PM Church Council	August 2 9:30 AM Craft Group 5:30 PM Kids Summer Book Club	August 3 3:00 PM Christian Kids	August 4 4:30 PM TOPS	August 5	August 6 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service

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.