



# THE MESSENGER

The Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter

Volume 23, Issue 6

June 2022

## HAPPY Retirement

### Pastor Dan's Retirement Celebration

Join us on **Sunday, June 26th** for Pastor Dan's last Sunday at SUMC. Following the service at 10:00 a.m. there will be a coffee/cake reception and then a brief service to celebrate his ministry.

- 8:30 and 10 AM Worship
- 11 AM Coffee and Cake Reception
- 11:30- 12:15ish Celebration Service in the sanctuary



#### SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUMC UNITED  
METHODIST MEN  
DRIVE-THRU



## BBQ CHICKEN DINNER Fundraiser

WEDNESDAY  
JUNE  
15

4:30 - 7:00 PM

\$13

Buy Tickets By 6/8



#### SYCAMORE COUNTRY STORE & CATERING

##### Each meal includes:

- BBQ Chicken
- Steakhouse Potato Salad
- Country Baked Beans
- Applesauce & Roll

#### 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 Methodist Men



### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS THIS MONTH

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

**Present needs are:** canned fruit, jars of pasta sauce, canned pasta like spaghetti 'os, 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.

### GRADUATES!

You are invited to join us for a special service to honor your graduation. If you are wanting to be recognized on Graduation **Sunday, June 5 at the 10:00 service**, please email the church office at [office@sycamoreumc.org](mailto:office@sycamoreumc.org) with: Your name, school graduated from, school planning to attend and your major by Wednesday, June 1 so that your post graduation plans can be included in the church bulletin. Memorial Scholarships will also be given out that day.



## **Staff**

Rev. Dr. Dan Swinson

SENIOR PASTOR

[pastordan@sycamoreumc.org](mailto:pastordan@sycamoreumc.org)

Pastor Joe Munro

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

[joemunro@sycamoreumc.org](mailto:joemunro@sycamoreumc.org)

Debbie Elleson

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

[debbie@sycamoreumc.org](mailto:debbie@sycamoreumc.org)

Craig Fritz

ORGANIST

[craigfritz@sycamoreumc.org](mailto:craigfritz@sycamoreumc.org)

Peter Hansen

MUSIC DIRECTOR

[peter@sycamoreumc.org](mailto:peter@sycamoreumc.org)

Jim McCue

BUSINESS DIRECTOR

[jim@sycamoreumc.org](mailto:jim@sycamoreumc.org)

Becca Rome

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION DIRECTOR

[becca@sycamoreumc.org](mailto:becca@sycamoreumc.org)

Lisa Szydowski

ABC PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

[abcpreschool@sycamoreumc.org](mailto:abcpreschool@sycamoreumc.org)

## **Our SUMC Mission**

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



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.

## **June 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)

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

**June 4 - Saturday Celebration**

**June 5 - Pentecost Sunday**

**Graduation Sunday**

Pastor Dan Swinson

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Message: "So Call Already"

Holy Communion at all services.

**June 11 - Saturday Celebration**

**June 12 - 1st Sunday after Pentecost**

Pastor Dan Swinson

Scripture: Romans 5:1-5

Message: "Inevitable Fruit"

**June 18 - Saturday Celebration**

**June 19 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost**

Pastor Dan Swinson

Scripture: Galatians 3:23-29

Message: "The Including Parent"

**June 25 - Saturday Celebration**

**June 26 - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

Pastor Dan Swinson

Scripture: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Message: "Free to What"

*with God*

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE... MATTHEW 19:26



**Those for whom we pray:**

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Eric Gabriel         | Holly Rudolph     |
| George               | Carly Elder       |
| Melissa              | Ann Elder         |
| Steve Aue            | Charles Brewer    |
| Dan Butler           | Emily McLean      |
| Diana Grace          | Dick & Pat Graham |
| Tammy Judkins        | Stephanie Landis  |
| Corey Coots          | John "Bud" Sackis |
| Carlyin Jeschke      | Howard Keller     |
| Easton Archer Oliver | Ray Larson        |
| Barbara Braley       | Carol Berndt      |
| Steve Carrier        | Calvin Foulk      |
| Andrew Larson        | Donny             |
| Mitch                | Austin Kosunik    |
| Norma Clarner        | Dick McLaughlin   |
| Christine Wilkinson  | Brent Anderson    |
| Phyllis Bowman       | Maggie Buie       |
| Sarah Orkowski       | Riley Dunham      |

**Congratulations to:**

John and Amy Collins on the birth of their son Issac Karter born on May 9th.

Jessica (daughter of Joe and Shelly Gibson) and Jason Betke on the birth of their son, Cameron Jesse Betke, who was born on April 19th.



**We extend our sympathies to the families of:**

- Jim Gilbert (Stephanie Barnes' brother)  
Robert Newby (Candy Buie's father)

**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          | <i>*indicates deployed personnel</i> |



Dear Pastor Dan and Friends at SUMC,  
I want to extend a heartfelt thankyou for the prayers, the cards, the Pastoral visits while I was hospitalized, and the general feeling that folks were caring, over these last several months that I have experienced. I am feeling better, but still have a way to go to regain full health. I felt supported and cared for, and I thank you, one and all.

*Gil Larimer*

**A NOTE FROM PASTOR LUIS**

Dear friends,

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord!

Change, transition, new pastor, retirement are few of the "words" we probably have heard many times in the last few weeks or even in the last few months and maybe has increase our anxiety. It has cause that effect in me as well. Now, we live a very anxious world; news, social media, etc. may play a part on that, but also the unknown. We may have many questions about the incoming pastor, how his leadership style will be, what about his preaching, or how will we relate to him. All of these are more than valid questions. You can image that I may have similar questions too. So, this what I have learned. I cannot worry about things that are out of my hands. It does increase my anxiety; however, there are things I can do. Be my very best self. Be aware of the change, aware of the transition, aware of a possible new leadership style and embrace it, as we embrace a new day. Together we will be writing a new chapter in our journey of faith. I'm turning the page in my ministry after 11 years and I'm saying my goodbyes, but I'm looking forward to meeting you all and together continue "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the world".

Please know I'm beyond grateful to Pastor Dan, for his kindness, gracious hospitality and for me allow to start early in this transition. Meeting with the staff has been a great joy and a blessing. Now, it is time to meet you all. Soon that will be happening. I'm looking forward to that time very much.

Now, until we meet, may God keep you and bless you and guide you in your journey of faith.

Blessing & peace,

Luis Felipe Reyes,  
Lead Pastor



# MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES

## **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 putting the finishing touches on mission u 2022. "Who Can We Be Together? Building Lives of Hope and Joy" will be held on August 19-20 in a hybrid event across the Northern IL Conference. It is based on Luke 13 and presents the possibility of tending to the needs of our communities in small yet radical ways, as Jesus did in Luke 13. Further details will be found on the website: (<https://umwnic.org/>).

### **"REFUGEE GOOD NEIGHBOR TEAM" NEWS**

Our team is in the process of giving our two families each a one time monetary gift of \$500 from money donated. One family has chosen to use this gift to help pay for a root canal. The other family is using their gift to pay for World Relief attorney fees to help them get their green cards. It is wonderful that we have such a generous church to give these gifts and wonderful that the families have made wise decisions for the use of their gifts.

We continue to have adventures grocery shopping, going to the laundromat, transporting to doctor appointments, playing with the children, and hearing their stories. We are witnessing their English language improving which helps our relationships.

World Relief is hosting a "Summer Club" for refugee children July 18 - 22 at the Advent Christian Church at 905 N. Edgelawn Dr. In Aurora which is 35 minutes from here. The time is 10:00 - 2:00. Marlina, our World Relief Volunteer Coordinator is wondering if some from our church would be willing to be leaders for the children. With 6 - 7 volunteers, Marlina would come to SUMC for a mini orientation and there would be an expedited screening for volunteers. Let me know if you might be interested in WR Summer Club the week after our own wonderful VBS.

We thank you for your generosity and prayers.

Helen Maurer, Coordinator  
[RefugeeGoodNeighborTeam@sycamoreumc.org](mailto:RefugeeGoodNeighborTeam@sycamoreumc.org)

### **ABC PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS**

It is hard to believe that our school year is over. On May 26<sup>th</sup>, 48 children took part in our ABC Preschool graduation program. We thank all the families for sharing their children with us here at ABC Preschool. Please allow us to thank all families at Sycamore United Methodist Church for your support and kindness during this past school year. It is wonderful to be an outreach and ministry of such a caring church.



We started this year with some uncertainty as how things were going to be in life. We've ended our year with renewed confidence and with a positive experience. Through all the challenges and the unknowns, the staff here all agree that we had a great year! We are once again, looking forward to seeing our returning families and new faces in the fall.

Thank you again, for sharing your tiny luvs with us each day. Congratulations and blessings to those of you moving on to kindergarten. You will be Super Stars! Parent night will be held on Monday, August 29 at 6:00 PM and we will see you then.

Blessings,  
*The ABC Preschool Staff*

# MUSIC MINISTRY

**SING A NEW SONG** It is almost hard to believe that our winter/spring season for our music program has ended, and we are now starting into the Summer Music Season. We need musicians for Summer (and beyond of course!) While several dates may have already been filled, a few dates are open. If you play an instrument, sing, et. al. we can utilize your talents and expertise Please call, text, email or see me if you are interested in getting in on the music!

We are also in need of Worship and Hymn/song leaders for our services as well this summer. This entails leading the congregation and our "live stream" congregants in the hymns and songs for the morning. See me if you are interested in this as well.

An interest sheet will be available on the tables outside the Sanctuary for both as well.

**There are many ways to serve and help in our worship and music program! Here's few!**

## Summer Choir

This year we will be having a summer choir one Sunday per month in June, 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 fun, upbeat, and inspirational!

Sunday Dates to Sing are: June 26, July 10 and August 14.

Dates to rehearse will be Wednesday June 14 , Wednesday July 6 and Wednesday August 10.

And, arrive and warmup at 8 am on the days we sing!

## Tech Team

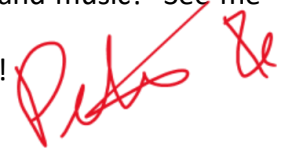
We are always looking for tech team helpers! Slides/video and sound help needed! Not sure

If you're qualified or could do this? Not to worry, we'll show and teach you all that is necessary to be successful!

## 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!

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



## Music Ministry Interest Sheet

***Please fill out name and pertinent information***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return  
this form to  
Pete at the  
church office.

***Please check all that apply***

I am interested in providing special music at Sunday worship services

I am interested in being a worship/song leader at Saturday/Sunday worship Services

Available for 8:30 and 10:00 services for worship/song leader

Available only for 8:30 service for worship/song leader

Available only for 10:00 service for worship/song leader

I am interested in singing with summer choir

I am interested in playing/singing with the Praise Team

I am interested in being involved with Technology Team

Video  Sound  Both Video and Sound

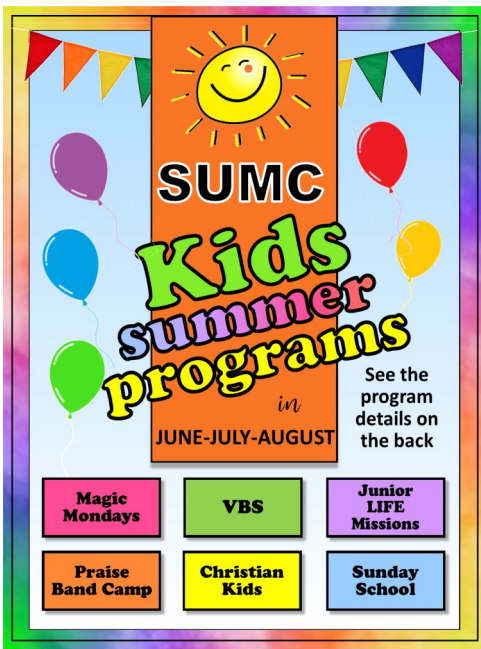
# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

First off, Congratulations to our Confirmation Class of 2022. We had a joyous celebration outdoors on May 15<sup>th</sup> as these young men and women affirmed their baptismal vows before the congregation. We are so blessed to have each and every one of them. Let us continue to pray for their journey of faith as they discover themselves, their talents, and a greater understanding of God's presence in their lives.

Summer is here! This summer we will be offering all sorts of programming to continue fellowship and faith-filled learning for the children of our church and this community. Check below for all the fun that's to be had at SUMC and use the information below to register your child now!

The sun of summer brings warmth and growth to the lands. Summer is bringing warmth and growth to SUMC as well. We are called to love and support very child that through faith. We are charged with the great responsibility of helping them along their journey to understand the greatness of God's love. If you are interested in helping with any of these activities, please reach out to me. If you simply want to donate materials or funds, that would be greatly appreciated as well. Be watching for our supply list via email or in the con-course as you come to worship. Let us share the greatness that is God with the children of our church and community. 1 Peter says: "And most of all be warm in your love for one another". Let the warmth of summer warm your heart in Christian love for all God's people, especially our children.

Peace and Blessings,  
Becca Rome



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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month from 10am-11:30am from June 6<sup>th</sup> through August 15<sup>th</sup>**. We will hear a story making a Christian connection, games, and activities based around scripture. Scan the QR Code to sign-up.



VBS this year is "Treasured: you are precious to God". Kids with 1 year of PK through 5<sup>th</sup> 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. Scan the QR Code to sign-up.

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.**

Praise Band Camp returns June 23 & 24 6:30-7:30pm! Children and youth with 1 or more years of 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.



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. Scan the QR Code to sign-up.

Summer Sunday School on room Sunday School will be available for ages 3 - thru middle school during the 10:00 service each Sunday.

# June 2022 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the July issue of The Messenger is June 19th

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL WORSHIP SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON, LIVE ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE OR POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE.			1	2 4:30 PM TOPS	3	4 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM <b>Saturday Worship Service</b>
5 GRADUATION 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 Families in Faith	6 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 7:00 PM Church Council	7 9:30 AM Craft Group	8 9:30 AM Esther Circle 3:00 PM Christian Kids	9 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Potowattomi Round Table	10	11 5:00 PM <b>Saturday Worship Service</b> 5:00 PM Blessing of the Pets & Ice Cream Social 6:00 PM VBS Station Leader Training
12 8:30 & 10:00 AM <b>Sunday Worship Services</b> 10:00 AM <b>Children's In-person Sunday School</b>	13 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:30 PM Food Pantry	14 9:30 AM Mary Circle 6:30 PM Staff Parish Committee	15 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 4:30-7:00 PM Drive-thru Dinner for United Methodist Men 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee	16 4:30 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Trustees 7:00 PM Three Fires Council Round Table	17	18 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM <b>Saturday Worship Service</b>
19 8:30 & 10:00 AM <b>Sunday Worship Services</b> 10:00 AM <b>Children's In-person Sunday School</b>	20 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Worship Comm.	21 9:30 AM Craft Group 7:00 PM Leading Ladies	22 3:00 PM Christian Kids	23 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Praise Band Camp	24 6:00 PM Praise Band Camp	25 5:00 PM <b>Saturday Worship Service</b>
26 8:30 & 10:00 AM <b>Sunday Worship Services</b> 10:00 AM <b>Children's In-person Sunday School</b> Junior Life Missions	27 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:45 PM Reconciliation Group Junior Life Missions	28 1:00 PM UMW Missions Team Junior Life Missions	29	30 4:30 PM TOPS	July 1	July 2 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM <b>Saturday Worship Service</b>



## STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION Can Our Church Conquer Inflation?

(Adapted from text by Rev. Ken Sloane,  
Director of Stewardship and Generosity, United Methodist Church)

It seems that it has been quite a few years since inflation has been on our minds and on our radar, though we know this is changing right now. If your contribution was able to be level through the past two years of the pandemic, you are doing better than most church experts expected. Praise God and thank you for those efforts – adapting and innovating! However, even in this short time, we know it would take a 13 percent increase in contributions just to match the inflation-adjusted dollars of 2019! That means that a pledge of \$400 a month in 2019 would need to be \$452 a month in 2022.

If we are going to accomplish our mission of making “disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” we need to be aware of the funding realities that are present. If we are content with a goal of “keeping things level from year to year,” we need to understand that our church will really provide less mission and ministry impact. Is that what we want?

The reality is that many people are facing the same inflation challenge as the church. But for some of you, your circumstances are more flexible. As the Apostle Paul wrote: *“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God”* (2 Corinthians 9:11). Can we count on your extra support?

You may securely give monetary gifts 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 office at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178.