



THE **MESSENGER**

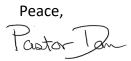
The Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter

Volume 23, Issue 2

March 2022

WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR

March 2 is Ash Wednesday. This will begin the last Lenten Season that I will be leading as your pastor. It will also be the last Lenten season in my ministry as a full time United Methodist clergy. My first U.M. Ash Wednesday was in River Forest as assistant minister in 1974. I remember how strange it was to me, as a Baptist, to receive ashes. Now, 48 years later, Ash Wednesday seems not so much strange, as wondrous. It is a reminder of how often God not only let's us start over, but encourages us to start over. Each time we bump our heads against the realities of life or our own short comings, God graciously calls us to get back on our feet, dust ourselves off (or in this case, put on some ashes), remind ourselves that we are human, and start over. Take advantage of this Grace. Get back on the wagon if you have fallen off; make the change if you're stuck in a rut; say you're sorry, even if it's overdue; forgive others as you would have them forgive you—even if they don't. As the musical group *Sweet Honey in the Rock* says in the intro to one of their songs, "Make a difference." May this be a transformative Ash Wednesday and Lenten Season for you.



United Methodist Men presents Defending America's Coasts

presented by Pastor Dan

A slide show describing the Seacoast defenses of the United States from colonial times to the 1950's

Saturday, March 19th Breakfast - 8:30 AM Program - 9:00 AM



This is the first of three programs for guys. Bring your fathers, sons, brothers, nephews, and friends. Any kind of guy is welcome.

<u>Staff</u>

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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.

March 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/videos

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

March 2 - Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30pm Scripture: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Message: "Inner Lent" Pastor Dan Swinson

March 5 - Saturday Celebration March 6 - 1st Sunday in Lent Rev. Harlene Harden Scripture: Luke 4:1-13 Message: "Facing Temptation" Holy Communion at all services.

March 12 - Saturday Celebration March 13 - 2nd Sunday in Lent Pastor Dan Swinson Scripture: Philippians 3:17-4:1 Message: "The Example of Standing Firm"

March 19 - Saturday Celebration March 20 - 3rd Sunday in Lent Pastor Joe Munro

March 26 - Saturday Celebration March 27 - 4th Sunday in Lent Pastor Dan Swinson

Scriptures: Joshua 9:5-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Message: "The Ups and Downs of Change"

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE. . . MATTHEW 19:26



Those for whom we pray:

| | • • |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Eric Gabriel | Kirk Reed |
| George | Norma Clarner |
| Melissa | Marylynn |
| Steve Aue | Christine Wilkinson |
| Dan Butler | Phyllis Bowman |
| Diana Grace | Sarah Orkowski |
| Karen & Albert Blaser | Holly Rudolph |
| Tammy Judkins | Carly Elder |
| Corey Coots | Ann Elder |
| Carlyin Jeschke | Steven and Family |
| Easton Archer Oliver | The Langsdorf Family |
| Barbara Braley | Charles Brewer |
| Steve Carrier | Emily McLean |
| Dawn Sisler | Henry Oeser |
| Andrew Larson | Dick & Pat Graham |
| Mitch | Stephanie Landis |
| | |

We extend our sympathies to the families of:

Jeanie Murr Loretta Hipple Jan Stewart (Pastor Glen's wife)

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 *indicates deployed personnel

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 member call on your behalf.

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION - THE LENTEN JOURNEY

The 40 days of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, as we recognize the sacrifices of Jesus in the desert prior to his public ministry. Traditionally, this leads us to "give something up" from the many resources God supplies us on our journey to be disciples of Jesus Christ. In his Lenten Devotional Guide, Pastor Russell McDowell suggests this helps reinforce our confidence that:

- The love of God is renewing
- The power of God is astonishing
- The grace of God is amazing
- The purpose of God is moving
- The hope of God overcomes all obstacles.

The journey may be strenuous, but it helps us give up self-centeredness and fill our hearts with gratitude. God invites you to acknowledge your gratitude by being a good steward including giving generously to the work of the church. 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.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS THIS MONTH

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

Present needs are: Canned pasta, canned fruit, canned soup (i.e. Progresso) 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.





MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Vacation Bible School will be July 11-15th. From 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. daily Is YOU! Children P-K thru 4th grades.

UMW SPRING POTLUCK

Does a "Spring Fling" sound like fun? It's the United Methodist Women's Potluck Luncheon at 12 noon on April 7. We will gather in our Concourse to share a dish to pass and listen to a guest speaker. Bring your own table service that you can wash at home (we seek to be a "green" unit). Beverages, meat and dessert will be provided. We're looking forward to seeing your smiling faces as we enjoy good food, laughter and fellowship. Invite your neighbor to join you for a fun afternoon!



"Refugee Good Neighbor Team" News

We are off to an amazing start with our two new refugee families from Afghanistan! In our first three weeks of contacts we have partnered with the families to access IL State IDs, get checking accounts, clarify a water bill, apply for LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program), grocery shop (at international grocery stores!), budget, transport to doctor / dentist appointments, and begin to teach about public transportation to name a few activities. We have been blessed with sharing conversations about their lives in Afghanistan and in Aurora and our lives and families. Their hospitality to us is just lovely. We are greeted with hot tea and plates of nuts and raisins. Often they share an Afghan meal with us after our activity with them. Each of our refugee experiences has been unique over the years and we have learned so much.

Your prayers for our families and team are much needed and appreciated.

I am pleased to report that we have had \$1,500 donated to World Relief of the \$2,000 requested. Any additional donations (made to SUMC and notated for World Relief) would be welcome.



Helen Maurer, Coordinator RefugeeGoodNeighborTeam@sycamoreumc.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

SING A NEW SONG



I attended a church today where the founding pastor had come out of retirement to temporarily lead the church until they find a new pastor.

The pastor had recently retired to take care of his wife, who suffers from dementia. Although she is still able to attend church, she sits very quietly in service for the most part, with little expression.

This morning during service we stood to sing a congregational song from the red back hymnal, "The old account was settled long ago".

I heard a beautiful alto voice behind me, singing every single word of every verse, beautifully.

When I turned around to see who it was, to my surprise, I discovered it was the pastor's wife - her face with a brightened look, singing every word and every note with confidence, from memory.

With a mind that fails to remember so many things, still the song lives on!

Let me be clear : I am all for a variety of music in our worship services. I don't think that just because a song is not my "cup of tea", that it's sinful. I am all for introducing new songs in our worship, because God is still anointing song writers, and all classic hymns were at one time new songs as well.

With all that said, I STRONGLY BELIEVE that there needs to be a place in our worship services for the old, traditional hymns. Because of their doctrinal integrity, because of their durability, and because there is a generation of saints who have paved the way, paid the bills and kept the church doors open who love them, who are blessed by them, who WANT TO HEAR THEM.



No, you are not going to run all your young people away just because you sing "How great thou art" or "Love lifted me". (You may discover those young people like some of those "golden oldies" as well!)

In our drive to keep our churches current and relevant in this modern day, let's not sacrifice the sacred hymns of the past on the altar of the "cool, hip, and trendy."

I was reminded in a powerful way this morning - there's still life, power and relevance in those precious old songs.

(the above article was discovered while doing hymn research and used here with permission. While reading it simply spoke volumes to me about how fabulous those great, old hymns truly are! What are some your favorites? Please share with me!)

See you in the Music!!!

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MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES



SCHOLARSHIPS

The Memorial Committee will be offering scholarships to deserving and qualified students planning to attend a 2 or 4-year-college or university next year.

One or more \$500 scholarships will be awarded from the **Church Scholarship Funds**. The number of scholarships vary each year and are determined by the amount of money in the scholarship fund at the time the applications are reviewed in April. Contributions to this fund can be made at any time during the year.

• The \$1,000 Marion B. Marsh Memorial Scholarship will be given to a person entering the freshman year.

- The **Barbara J. Rodgers Memorial Scholarship** of at least \$1,000 will be given to a full-time student who has completed the freshman year and is planning to continue his/her undergraduate, graduate, or post-graduate studies at an accredited college of university, majoring in a religious vocation or education vocation. Priority will be given to a prior recipient of the Barbara J. Rodgers Memorial Scholarship. If no applicant meets the criteria, the scholarship will not be awarded.
- The **Midge Hartsuch Memorial Scholarship** of \$500 will be given to a student who will be attending Kishwaukee Community College in Malta. If no applicant meets the criteria, the scholarship will not be awarded.
- The Karen S. Palm-Hale-Hagen Nursing Memorial United Methodist Endowed Scholarship, based on funds in the account, with the minimum of \$500 will be awarded to one high school senior declaring "Nursing" as their college major or an active college student pursuing a nursing degree each year for their dedication to serving others in the surrounding Sycamore/DeKalb communities. If no applicant meets the criteria, the scholarship will not be awarded. (NOTE: The criteria and application for this scholarship is different from the Sycamore United Methodist Church Scholarship criteria and application.)

Applications and criteria are available in the church office and on line at <u>www.sycamoreumc.org</u>. The application needs to be completed and returned to the church office by March 31, 2022. Be sure to use the 2022 scholarship applications to be considered for a scholarship. The scholarships will be awarded in June. If you have questions, please contact Diane McQueen at 815-899-8878.



What do you remember about the celebration of Lent in years past? If you have lived as long as I have, you may have a collection of dim memories of Lenten celebrations from years gone by: I remember cardboard coin folders with a slot to add a nickel or dime each day. We punched in our coins, put our name on the front, and proudly marched them up and laid them on the alter sometime during Holy Week. I remember Lenten family devotion books that were supposed to be

read around the dinner table; they never seemed to work well with our family. As a pastor, I remember countless Lenten studies, using the latest recommended books from Cokesbury. I remember churches in a community getting together in a rotating basis for a lunch and short worship service each Wednesday noon during Lent. I'm sure I remember the food more than the inspiration of those services. I remember "giving up something for Lent". I usually tried to choose something easy like spinach, but a couple of years I said I was giving up sarcasm...an act of devotion that usually only lasted the first couple of days of the required 40. I remember 24 hour prayer vigils that asked people to sign up for an hour long slot to make sure someone was in the church praying for a 24 hour period. I usually took 2 or 3 o'clock at night. I suppose if I thought about it, there would be other things I could add. Maybe you recall some of these things and can even add others. If so, I would like to hear from you.

This year the Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2^{nd} . At this point, I am doing a Bible study in Rochelle on the stories Jesus told. Other than that, I have no solid plans, other than forgetting about giving up sarcasm! I suppose that by the time March 2^{nd} gets here, other things will fall into place.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hi there Everyone!

March is here and Lent is upon us. The children of our congregation continue to be fed through programs both virtual and in person. Our masking policy has adapted to respect all comfort levels and we encourage you to do what you feel is best for your family. All are welcome in this space and in this place.

- Sunday School meets virtually and in person weekly.

 Sundays at 9:00-9:30am, Virutal 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 March 28th 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!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Families in Faith committee meets Sunday March 6th. Grab some soup at Souper Sunday and stay for the meeting from 11:30-12:30pm. Childcare will be provided during the meeting.
- March 13th is Jammie and Movie Sunday! We may lose and hour, but you will gain sometime by staying in your PJ's. Kids and kids at heart are welcome to stay and enjoy the movie "Encanto" following service. Snacks will be provided.

Every Lent I release myself from the practice of deprivation and I focus on the addition of a spiritual practice to prepare my heart and soul for the remembrance of the sacrifice of Christ. This year, I ask you and your families to consider the same. Add a daily family prayer time at a meal or bedtime. Perhaps it's the commitment to read scripture daily. Or maybe it's just a designated time to sit and discuss matters of faith and really listen to where each member of your family is. Either way, may this time of Lent fulfill you family and prepare the way within your hearts for Christ's journey to the cross for us all.

Peace and Blessings, Becca Rome

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 Beach Party will be taking place on Wednesday and Thursday, March 16 & 17. Spring Break will begin on March 18, and we will be back in classes on Monday, March 28. We pray for good health and safe travels for all who are traveling this time of year and peace and love and the joy of family during this vacation time.

We are looking forward to April when we celebrate Easter! This is one of our favorite times of year here at ABC. More information will be coming soon.

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

March 2022 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the April issue of The Messenger is March 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 5:45 PM Pack 141 Den 3 | 2 12:00 PM AARP Tax Preparation by appt. 3:45 PM Christian Kids 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 6:30 PM Confirmation Classes of '22 & '23 7:00 PM Adult Choir | 3 7:45 AM B.A.D. (Breakfast and Devotion) for High School Students 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 | 4 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal | 5 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service |
| In-person Sunday School 11:00 AM LIFE Missions Souper Sunday | 7 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 | 8 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 | 9 12:00 PM AARP Tax Preparation by appt. 3:45 PM Christian Kids 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 7:00 PM Adult Choir | 10 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 6:30 PM Young Adults Dinner & Bible Study 7:00 PM Adult Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Potowattomi Round Table | 11 6:00 PM Pack 141 Game Night 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal | 12 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service |
| 10:00 AM Children's | 14 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 | 15 5:45 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM Leading Ladies | 16 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 12:00 PM AARP Tax Preparation by appt. 3:45 PM Christian Kids 4:30-7:00 PM Drive-thru Dinner for Habitat for Humanity 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee 6:30 PM Confirmation Classes of '22 & '23 7:00 PM Adult Choir | 17 7:45 AM B.A.D. (Breakfast and Devotion) for High School Students 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 7:00 PM Trustees | 18 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal | 19 8:30 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Program: Defending America's Coasts presented by Pastor Dan 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service |
| 20 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 | 6:00 PM Bible Study - | 22 1:00 PM UMW Missions Team 5:45 PM Pack 141 Den 4 7:30 PM Bedtime Story with Miss Becca | 23 12:00 PM AARP Tax Preparation by appt. 3:45 PM Christian Kids 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 7:00 PM Adult Choir | 24 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 6:30 PM Young Adults Dinner & Bible Study 7:00 PM Adult Handbell Choir | 25 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal | 26 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service |
| 9:00 AM Children's Virtual Sunday School 10:00 AM Children's | 28 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Bible Study - Book of 1 Corinthians 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 7:00 PM Reconciliation Group | 29 9:30 AM Craft Group | 30 12:00 PM AARP Tax Preparation (by appt) 3:45 PM Christian Kids 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 7:00 PM Adult Choir | 31 7:45 AM B.A.D. (Breakfast and Devotion) for High School Students 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 | April 1 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal | April 2 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service |