



THE MESSENGER

Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter

Volume 23, Issue 5

May 2022

WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR

“April Showers Bring May Flowers.” Ok. Then what does April winter bring. Snow the day after Easter. Below freezing in the middle of April. Fortunately, we have had better weather since. We may even have a day or two of Spring before Summer starts.

Because early Methodist preachers spent so much time outdoors, travelling from preaching place to preaching place, they thought a lot about the weather. Most accounts that I have read have fairly keen observations about what is going on. A veritable nineteenth century Weather Channel.

In the upper Midwest, the winter of 1832 was especially harsh. Two preachers were travelling to their next appointment. They came to a river that was blocked by ice. They lodged with the local ferryman waiting for a change. When it didn't get better, they convinced the ferryman to row them across, with the two preachers on the bow breaking the ice with long poles. One preacher fell in “about a rod or two from the other shore.” The other preacher pulled him out and they finished the crossing.

The soaking wet preacher got on his horse and rode several miles to the next cabin. He was frozen to his horse and unable to speak. The family pried him off and thawed him out. Next morning, he went on his way.

He had several more years of ministry, though he never really recovered. His death was attributed in part to his encounter with the weather.

I have had the occasional hairy escapade with Midwest winters in my time, like the -20 graveside on a windswept hill (everyone but me and the funeral director stayed in their cars) and at least one procession in whiteout. But never anything like what the young preacher experienced.

After all of these years of ministry, I still marvel at what these earlier generations went through. On the other hand, I am grateful for the way that God brings us through the trials and tribulations that happen in our lives, whether weather-related or not. The one thing that I have found in all of these years is the one thing that Wesley testified to on his death bed. “Best of all, God is with us.”

“Best of all, God is with us.”

Peace,

Pastor Dan

GRAB YOUR HATS AND COATS - HEADGEAR AND UNIFORMS OF THE ARMY

Join us for a United Methodist Men's program by Pastor Dan on his collection of headgear and uniforms of the Army (with some help with Jerry Armstrong for contemporary examples).



SATURDAY, MAY 21
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AT 8:30 A.M.
PROGRAM AT 9:00 A.M.
ALL ARE INVITED!



Staff

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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.

May 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.

April 30 - Saturday Celebration

May 1 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Pastor Dan Swinson

Scripture: John 21:1-19

Message: "Full Circle"

Holy Communion at all services.

May 7 - Saturday Celebration

May 8 - 4th Sunday of Easter

Pastor Dan Swinson

Scripture: Revelation 7:9-17

Message: "Only a Mother Could Love—And God"

May 14 - Saturday Celebration

Pastor Joe Munro

May 15 - 5th Sunday of Easter

Confirmation Sunday at 10:00

(the 10:00 service will be outside weather permitting)

Pastor Dan Swinson

Scripture: Acts 11:1-18

Message: "Thank God for Acts"

May 21 - Saturday Celebration

May 22 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Sunday School Teacher & Acolyte Recognition

Pastor Dan Swinson

Scripture: Acts 15:9-15

Message: "The Road to Somewhere"

May 28 - Saturday Celebration

May 29 - 7th Sunday of Easter

Pastor Dan Swinson

Scripture: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Message: "Going and Coming"



We extend our sympathies to the families of:
 Anastasie and Violette
 Barb Sechrest (Karen Whaley's sister-in-law)
 Judie Cochrane
 Bev Skelly

Those for whom we pray:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Eric Gabriel | Phyllis Bowman |
| George | Sarah Orkowski |
| Melissa | Holly Rudolph |
| Steve Aue | Carly Elder |
| Dan Butler | Ann Elder |
| Diana Grace | Charles Brewer |
| Tammy Judkins | Emily McLean |
| Corey Coots | Henry Oeser |
| Carlyin Jeschke | Dick & Pat Graham |
| Easton Archer Oliver | Stephanie Landis |
| Barbara Braley | John "Bud" Sackis |
| Steve Carrier | Howard Keller |
| Dawn Sisler | Sheri Webb |
| Andrew Larson | Ray Larson |
| Mitch | Phil Callighan |
| Kirk Reed | Carol Berndt |
| Norma Clarner | Calvin Foulk |
| Christine Wilkinson | Jim Gilbert |

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 |
| ME2 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> |



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.

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

THE EASTER SEASON CONTINUES

(Adapted from content produced by United Methodist Communications)



For Christians, Easter is not just one day, it is the 50-day season of Eastertide derived from the 50 days between Passover and Pentecost Judaism. In the early church, it was a time when persons who wished to become Christians were learning how to live the way of Jesus. Today, this extended season is a time to rejoice and experience what we mean when we say Christ is risen and that we, as the church, are the body of the Risen Lord. It is a season for focusing on the core doctrines of Christianity and preparing to support the ministries the Holy Spirit has empowered us to undertake in Jesus' name.

Ephesians 2:10 reminds us, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." During this Easter season, welcome your opportunities to support the work of Sycamore United Methodist with your time, talent, and treasures. You may securely give monetary gifts 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 office at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178.

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS THIS MONTH

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

Present needs are: saltine crackers, jars of pasta sauce, 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.



Meals on Wheels

Would you be interested in delivering meals during the month of **MAY**? Help is needed on:

- Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays on Sycamore West
- Wednesdays on Sycamore Central.

It only takes about an hour or so of your time beginning about 10:45 a.m. Call Debbie at the church office to sign-up today!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

United Women in Faith Trunk Shop and Bake Sale coming soon!

United Women in Faith is hosting a **Trunk Shop** on **Saturday, May 28**, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and seller spaces are available. Sellers can sell their gently-used items from the trunk of their car and the adjoining parking space for \$20.00. Makers of hand-crafted items are also welcome to participate. The event will be held in the north parking lot and interested sellers must pre-register by May 23. Contact the church office for registration information.

In conjunction with the Trunk Shop, UWF will be holding a **Bake Sale** at the front entrance of the building. Donations of baked goods and snack items can be dropped off Friday afternoon, May 27, or 7:30-8:00 a.m. Saturday. If dropping off on Friday, please clearly mark your items for the Bake Sale.

Also on May 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., a **Plant Sale** will be held at 205 Thomas Drive, Sycamore. Proceeds from the Trunk Shop, Bake Sale, and Plant Sale will be used for missions within and beyond our community. UWF thanks you in advance for your participation as a seller or shopper.

"REFUGEE GOOD NEIGHBOR TEAM" NEWS

The team members who had partnered with Violette and Anastasie attended their funeral, burial, and reception. We were moved by the outpouring of support from the Congo community in Aurora and World Relief. We estimate 200+ friends supported the family at this funeral event! Team member Katie Lo was inspired to paint a beautiful picture of the sisters which the Lo family delivered to Fiston, Divine, and Divine's family. SUMC members and friends generously donated to Go Fund Me and the church to help with the funeral expenses. The family is very appreciative of your generosity.

We continue to have good experiences with our two families from Afghanistan. They show us You Tube videos of Afghanistan which is interesting for us to learn of their homeland. We hear stories of their concern for family back home and their treatment by the Taliban and lack of job opportunities. Team member Alex Grados has taken the lead on helping 29 year old Sohrab get enrolled for ESL classes at Waubensee with plans for classwork and a degree once his English is proficient. (Big congratulations to Alex who will soon be graduating from SHS; reaching an educational goal of his own!). Our team is learning about Ramadan, the holy month of fasting, prayer, reflection for the Muslim community. At the end of Ramadan on May 2nd they will celebrate Eid (the festival of breaking the fast) with gift giving, special prayers, and sharing a meal with friends and those in need.

We thank you for your continued prayers!

Helen Maurer, Coordinator
RefugeeGoodNeighborTeam@sycamoreumc.org

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES

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 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.



**American
Red Cross**

**BLOOD DRIVE AT SUMC
Saturday, May 21st
from 8:00-1:00 in the gym**

For an appointment
Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit
RedCrossBlood.org

May's Drive-thru Dinner

Pork Chop Dinner hosted by the Sycamore Lions

May 18 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$14.00/ticket

Menu: Pork Chop, Baked Beans,
Applesauce, Snickerdoodle Salad and Roll

Tickets are available at the church office

MUSIC MINISTRY SING A NEW SONG



While preparing to write this month's newsletter music notes, an Introit based on Philippians 4:4 began resonating in my musical mind!

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Our music department has much to rejoice for and be glad! A successful Choir Cantata, complete with narration, amazing video, slide and sound design, outstanding singers, chamber orchestra, and many additional guests

who came forward for the Hallelujah Chorus Finale! And, of course, the many who attended to hear, see and celebrate the story of the Passion of Christ.

Easter saw the return of our Children's Choirs, Easter Brass and flutes, and our wonderful Handbell Choir! What a Glorious and Joyful Sound!

I would like to thank the choir, our guest singers and instrumentalists and the many who made this presentation so memorable. To be able to present the cantata and Easter Sunday as an "in person and live" event made it even the more special! Praise the Lord!!

A big thank you to our Easter Brass Ensemble: Trumpeter: Bob DiVita, Becca Rome, and Tom Slater; Trombonists: Greg Locascio and Paul Watson; and flautists Sue Johnson and Chanette Oeser! ,

Thank you to Director Mary Thomas and the Handbell Choir and thank you to the Children's Choir and the Team of Music Directors, Peg Carey, Kitty Hagendorn, Phyllis Horst, Joel and Helen Maurer and Cris Woodin! Your groups music and energy is contagious!!!

To Our Tech team members thank you!

A huge thank you to the office staff, Jim and Debbie who are there to guide and remind me of the details needed to make this all successful! Thank you to our Pastors and church staff for the encouragement and support!

Most of all thank you to our families who support and encourage us to use gifts to make music and sing unto the Lord!

I look forward to continued growth and successes with our Music Ministries!

Meanwhile, I will see you.....in the Music!

Sing-Cheer-illy,

PJH!

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to be 'Pete & Debbie'.

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES

Senior THOUGHTS By Pastor Glen

The end of the chapter.

I like to read. Often reading a book is the last thing I do before I fall to sleep at night. And again often, sleepiness overtakes me before I get to a good stopping place, like the end of a chapter. I usually try to shake myself awake enough to be able to finish the chapter, mark my place knowing I can continue the story later, turn off the light, and go to sleep.

In a way, I guess I have come to the end of a chapter here with the Sycamore United Methodist Church. I had thought about struggling to carry on to the end of the conference year, but realize I need to take some time to settle into the new reality of my life. I trust, that like reading a book, the end of this chapter with you is not the end of my faith journey. God still is with me and has a purpose for me. There is indeed more ahead; but before I slide into it, I need to find peace with my sense of loss and grief following the passing of Jan.

I will always be grateful for the prayers and support I have received while with SUMC. I am especially grateful for Brent Anderson and Rhonda Cheney for their leadership with the Caring Ministry Network. I am also grateful for all of the volunteers who serve God by reaching out and touching the lives of persons who otherwise might feel alone and forgotten. I would remiss if I did not also thank Pastor Dan and the rest of the staff, who at times have helped me blunder along, prayed for me, and encouraged me during my time with you. I will always smile when I think of my time with you.

May God continue to bless you.

ABC PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS

It is hard to believe that our school year is over. There are so many emotions running through all of us here at ABC Preschool. We had a very successful year considering that we were still in Pandemic mode.



ABC Preschool was able to accommodate 106 children in our programs this year. That would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our team and SUMC staff. It was a year of doing what needed to be done to meet the needs of local families.

The program continues to expand here at ABC Preschool. We had great success with our all-day preschool program option this year. We will be offering a 2-day, 3-day, 4-day and a 5-day program for our four-year-old kids this coming year. We will continue to offer Early Drop Off and this will give an opportunity to use our After-Care program Monday through Thursday afternoons. The all-day option has been very successful. If you know is looking for a quality early childhood education for their child, have them call and talk to Lisa.

Once again, we thank you for all you have done to make this an incredibly successful year and we look forward to working together with everyone in the coming year. Our parent night will be held in August. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Blessings,

The ABC Preschool Staff

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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Summer is in the air! April showers have nourished the soil and Eastertide has nourished our souls. Farmers are preparing the fields for planting, and we are preparing to plant seeds of faith for the children of our church and community. Summer programming is about to begin, and we will need you to make sure those seeds are sown. Please see the special VBS announcement for how you can help.

Here's what else is happening in May:

- **Sunday School & Nursery** continues to be offered during the 10:00 service.
- **Virtual Sunday School** will continue. Watch for links and times to come.
- **Confirmation is almost over!!!** Mark your calendars with dates for the rest of the month:
- **Wednesday May 4th**: Confirmation Family Cook-out from 6:30-7:30pm. Both classes to attend.
- **Wednesday May 11th**: SUMC Class of 2022 - Confirmation rehearsal 6:30 – 7:30pm
- **Sunday May 15th**: SUMC Class of 2022 - Confirmation Service @ 10am Outdoors, weather permitting.
- **Field Day - May 22nd @ 11:00am** Families will celebrate summer and the end of 21-22 Sunday School sessions.
- **Families in Faith Committee** will meet again on Sunday, June 5th @ 11am in the Commons.

As the weather warms more activities will be added for us to come together as a church family. Keep your eyes peeled in our FB Group and your inbox for more information.

May the Good News nourish your soul this month as we sow seeds of faith. May they be nourished by the light that is Christ and a promise for future growth. Paul reminds us in the book of Acts: "For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls."

Let's go on treasure hunt!

At Treasured VBS, kids will discover they are priceless to God. While participating in Treasured children don't just hear about God's love; they see it, touch it, sing it, taste it, and put it into action through God Sightings. As they travel from station to station, kids go deeper into their understanding of God and God's Son, Jesus. Kids will discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold – it's them!



Mark your calendars for July 11-15 from 9-12 daily. Kids ages 4 through 12 are invited to participate. Registration is \$20 per child. Go to this link to register your child: <https://forms.gle/RZ4ksCbYUBYzQTFT8>

Join us as we hunt for the treasure within us all! Helpers will help kids dig deep and connect with each other and Christ. Volunteers (ages 12-adult) are needed to help before and during all the fun. Register now to join our crew! You can work in front of the kids or behind the scenes. Go to this link to volunteer: <https://forms.gle/w4hTqaSaMULecm2M7>

Help is needed for the following positions:

- Station Leaders
- Adult Helpers
- Crew Leaders (age 15 to Young Adult)
- Jr. Leaders (age 11 -14)
- Decor


We will need help completing our supply list, so stop by our base camp in the concourse or your inbox soon.

Peace and Blessings,
Becca Rome

May 2022 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the June issue of The Messenger is May 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 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	2 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 7:00 PM Church Council	3 9:30 AM Craft Group 5:00 PM Refugee Good Neighbor Team 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3	4 3:45 PM Christian Kids 6:15 PM Kids Choirs 6:30 PM Confirmation Cookout 7:00 PM Adult Choir	5 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	6	7 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
8 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 9:00 AM Children's Virtual Sunday School 9:30 AM Acolytes 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 2:00 PM Girl Scouts	9 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:30 PM Food Pantry	10 9:30 AM Mary Circle 5:45 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:30 PM Staff Parish Committee	11 9:30 AM Esther Circle 3:45 PM Christian Kids 6:15 PM Kids Choirs 6:30 PM Confirmation Rehearsal 7:00 PM Adult Choir	12 7:45 AM B.A.D. (Breakfast and Devotion) for High School Students 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	13 7:00 PM Pack 141 Advancement Night	14 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
15 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services (10:00 service will be outside weather permitting) 9:00 AM Children's Virtual Sunday School 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 6:30 PM Middle & Senior High Youth Group	16 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Worship Comm.	17 9:30 AM Craft Group 5:45 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM Leading Ladies	18 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 3:45 PM Christian Kids 4:30-7:00 PM Drive-thru Dinner for Sycamore Lions 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee 6:15 PM Kids Choirs 7:00 PM Adult Choir	19 11:00 AM ABC Preschool Littles Sing 4:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:30 PM Young Adults Dinner & Bible Study 7:00 PM Trustees 7:00 PM Adult Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Crew 360	20	21 8:30 Continental Breakfast 9:00 AM Grab Your Hats presented by Pastor Dan 8:00-1:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 9:00 AM Memorial Comm. 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
22 SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER AND ACOLYTE RECOGNITION 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 11:00 AM Kids Field Day 2:00 PM Girl Scouts	23 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:45 PM Reconciliation Group	24 1:00 PM UMW Missions Team 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4	25	26 10:30 AM Dementia Support Meeting 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM ABC Preschool Graduation 6:30 PM Young Adults Dinner & Bible Study	27 9:00 AM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting	28 8:30-1:00 UWF Trunk Shop & Bake Sale 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
29 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services	30 HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY! 	31 12:30 PM Food Pantry	June 1	2 4:30 PM TOPS	3	4 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!