



# Messenger


SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER



**LIFT DINNER IS WEDNESDAY, MAY 1ST.** Let's eat, pray, and play together as we think about how caring for our Earth is a way of showing love of God to others. Text LIFTDINNER to the church phone number to let us know you're coming.

**PROGRESSIVE DINNERS ARE COMING BACK!** Are you looking to meet new people? Not sure where to start? Come join us for a unique approach to a three-course meal on **Sunday May 26, 2024 at 6 pm.** We will have each course at a different location. Appetizers will begin at SUMC. We will then move to a new location for the main meal with dessert at a 3rd location. Sign up sheets are available in the concourse.

*Progressive Dinner*




**BLOOD DRIVE AT SUMC**  
**Saturday, May 18th**  
**from 8:00-1:00**  
**in the gym**

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

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS MAY 19TH**  
Join us at the **9:30 service on Sunday, May 19th** as we celebrate our confirmation class of 2024! These young people have been hard at work over the past year developing their faith and preparing to affirm their baptismal vows to our congregation. The process has included weekly classes in the fall and a variety of field trips and service projects in the spring. We are so proud of these 11 students and hope you will join us in welcoming them into full membership in the church!



*Confirmation*



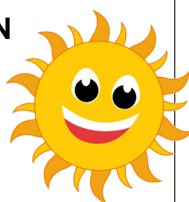
**MAY'S DRIVE-THRU DINNER**  
Pork Chop Dinner from Country Store  
hosted by the Sycamore Lions  
**May 15 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.**  
Cost: \$15.00/ticket

\*Tickets are available at the church office\*

**COMING in JUNE:** 5 B's Drive-thru Dinner  
Watch for more details in bulletins and June newsletter.

**SEE PAGE 4 FOR CHILDREN'S SUMMER PROGRAM INFORMATION**

- Magic Mondays
- Christian Kids
- Vacation Bible School
- Summer Camp



Scan the QR Code on Page 4 for more info on the website & to register.

## SUMC STAFF

Rev. Luis Felipe Reyes-Rosario  
LEAD PASTOR  
LFReyes@sycamoreumc.org

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Lisa Szydlowski  
ABC PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR  
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Securely give online at  
[www.sycamoreumc.org/giving](http://www.sycamoreumc.org/giving)  
or by texting "giving" to  
815-895-9113. Checks may be  
mailed to the church at:  
160 Johnson Ave., Sycamore, IL 60178.



Sycamore United  
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc

## MAY 2024 WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Sundays at 9:30 am  
Children's Sunday School at 9:30 am  
Sunday Evening Service at 4:30 pm

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

**May 5 - 6th Sunday of Easter**  
**Services of Holy Communion**  
Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98;  
John 15:9-17

**May 12 - 7th Sunday of Easter**  
**Mother's Day**  
Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

**May 19 - Day of Pentecost**  
**Confirmation Sunday**  
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34;  
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

**May 26 - Trinity Sunday**  
Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29  
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

## CHURCH BUDGET PROFIT/LOSS 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER 2024

Actual 2024	Budget 2024	Actual 2023
<b>Income</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Income</b>
<b>\$ 190,331</b>	<b>\$209,047</b>	<b>\$208,671</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Expense</b>
<b>\$ 251,928</b>	<b>\$255,935</b>	<b>\$313,494</b>
<b>Profit/Loss</b>	<b>Profit/Loss</b>	<b>Profit/Loss</b>
<b>\$ 61,597</b>	<b>\$46,887</b>	<b>\$104,823</b>



**Those for whom we pray:**

Nancy	Jon Bean
David Dykema	Elise Bernhardson
Doris Sloniker	Gene Miller
Helen Meadowcraft	Neil Weir
Mike Milyanovich	Dave Walker
Dick McLaughlin	Carol Thornton
Ray Larson	Charlee Gautcher
Diana Grace	Lilly Faulhaber
Jericca Newby	Hugh Bisco
Pat	Beth Rommel
Jeff Murphy	Bill Riddle
Tammy Hemmelgam	Mark McGee
Collin	Norma Clarner
Tessa, Stefan & family	Janene Riesen
Beverly Duff	

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

Jeanetta Boughton (Mark Overby's mother)

**The Service Personnel and Their Families**

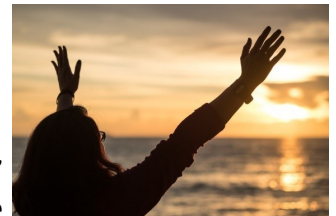
Cpt. Mark Browning,	SGT Brock Grimaldi
*SGT Ben Bushno	E4SPC Alexis Jones
SGT Shaune Clark	A1C Brock Larson
SGT Matthew Einhorn	*Maj Steve Haack
PFC Timothy Einhorn	SPC Caden Grimaldi
PO1 Frank Incapreo	PV2 Rachel McMillion
SSG Christopher Isabel	*CPL Joshua Caraballo
Lt. Col. Garrett Slack	SPC Sutit Jackson
SFC Matthew "Scott" Stewart	PV2 Liam Keller
*LT Matthew Herbaugh	E-5 PO Hayden Royer
PVT Trevor Bassett	E-3 Amanda Royer
PO3 Samuel V. Bell	<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.

*thank you*

Dear Church Family,  
 Thank you so much for all of your cards, texts, and well wishes for Ray's 90th birthday and for our 71st Wedding Anniversary. It has meant so much to us.  
 Ray and Carol Larson

**STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION  
 Empowered by Jesus**



In John 17:4 – Jesus prays to God:

"I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do." By fulfilling his purpose on earth, Jesus brought honor and praise to God. In the same way, when we fulfill the purposes God gives us, we bring him glory. During the Easter season we learned we are to follow in Jesus' footsteps ...

- We are empowered to serve.
- We are empowered to witness.
- We are empowered to give.
- and we are empowered to do our best.

Living the rest of your life for the glory of God may require a change in your priorities, your schedule, your relationships, and everything else. The path that glorifies God will likely be more difficult. Even though it won't be easy, God will give you wisdom, strength, and faith to make the choices to live for Him. You will receive divine power through the Holy Spirit working through God's Word. This power will enable you to choose the right path that gives God glory.

Prayerfully consider how being empowered through Jesus translates into your generous stewardship. You may give securely on-line at [www.sycamoreumc.org/giving](http://www.sycamoreumc.org/giving) or text "giving" to 8158959113.

## DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

- LIFT Dinner on May 1st at 6:00pm
- Progressive Dinner is May 26th - see page 1 for details
- Small Groups

The Discipleship Team is creating small groups to live out our core values in three ways: **Faith & Fellowship, Prayer Groups, & Support Groups**. If you are interested in participating in one or more of these groups, please talk to the Discipleship Team Representative at the Welcome Center following worship or see Becca with your questions.



Scan the QR Code for registration links on the website

## CHILDREN'S/YOUTH MINISTRIES SUMMER PROGRAMS

• **Magic Mondays continues through the summer for kids ages 4-entering 2nd grade.** We will have some faith-filled fun around stories, crafts, games and more. Kids meet every other week over the summer from 9-10:30 am starting June 3rd. Registration links and information is available on our website. Dates: 6/3, 6/17, 7/1, 7/15, 7/29, 8/12



• **Christian Kids will meet on designated Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30pm beginning June 12th.** We will find ways to expand our understanding of God and ourselves through a monthly mindfulness retreat. We will also have fun being Christian Kids in our community through excursions around town. Registration links and information is available on our website. Dates: 6/12, 6/26, 7/17, 7/31, 8/14

- **VBS is July 8-12. Get ready to dive into a friendship with God!** Kids ages PK (age 4 & 5) through entering 5th grade are invited on an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. At Scuba VBS, kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about through Bible stories, games, crafts, and of course... SNACKS! Reserve your child's spot by texting VBS2024 to the church number (815)895-9113 or scanning the QR code. You don't want to miss this annual time of faith-filled fun!
- **We're going to CAMP!** Downers Grove UMC hosts an annual summer camp at Wesley Woods Retreat Center in Williams Bay, Wisconsin and we're excited to join them there this year from June 24th-27th. Children entering 2nd-8th grade in the fall of 2025 are invited to experience this fun, enriching, and biblically-based summer camp. Students entering the 9th-12th grades can serve as high school counselors or counselors-in-training for a reduced fee. Adult volunteers are also welcome for a reduced fee. Visit the youth and families bulletin board in the concourse to grab a brochure and register. Deposit deadline is June 9th.

## YOUNG PEOPLES' AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

- Graduate recognition is June 2nd
- Confirmation is May 19th—see page 1 for details

### YOUTH

**June 2nd is Graduation Sunday!** Join us in celebrating this year's graduates at either worship service. Youth group that evening will be out at the fire pit. Let's kick off summer with s'more's and maybe even some testimonies from our grads.



**GRADUATES!...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 Tuesday, May 28th** so that your post-graduation plans can be included in the church bulletin. **Memorial Scholarships will also be given out that day at the 9:30 am service.** If you send the information in after that date we cannot guarantee your name will be in the bulletin.



## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND OUTREACH**

- Caring Ministry Network is looking for volunteers
- Hospitality Team needs greeters

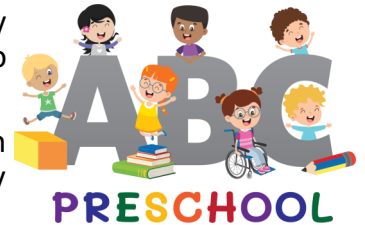
The Caring Ministry Network is in need of more volunteers to reach out to our members who are homebound, living in nursing homes, or just might need a little extra gesture of care.

The Hospitality Team is looking for greeters to welcome folks to worship on Sunday mornings. This volunteer opportunity is low-commitment but makes a big difference! Contact Pastor Hannah, Debbie Elleson, or Beth Rommel if you are interested.

## **ABC PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS**

It is hard to believe that our school year is almost over. There are so many emotions running through all of us here at ABC Preschool. We've had so many successes this year as each child has flourished in his and her own way.

We will celebrate 45 children heading off to kindergarten with graduation ceremonies on Wednesday, May 22 and Thursday, May 23. We invite family and friends to join us as we send them off with blessings and celebrations.



ABC Preschool was able to accommodate 110 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. ABC will begin a full daycare in the fall! Registration for this program has begun and is almost full at this point. In addition to this we have our 2-day, 3-day, and a 5-day program for our four-year-old kids this coming year. We will continue to offer Early Drop Off, and our After-Care program Monday through Thursday afternoons. The all-day option has been very successful. If you know anyone who 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!

The ABC Preschool Staff

## **WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS**



We are wrapping up our singing and playing year for the children's choirs and handbells. Be ready for some special brass ensemble music on Mother's Day and something special for Confirmation and Pentecost Sunday too!

Chancel Choir will continue singing into early June. Stay tuned for more details about Summer Choir during the Summer.

Speaking of Summer, I am look for singers, instrumentalists, keyboard players, etc. to fill spots for special music during the summer. Please see me or let the office staff know if you are interested, or, know someone who is!

See you on Sunday Morning!  
Pete

## **PRIDE COMMITTEE**

PRIDE's next meeting will be Monday, May 20th at 6:45 PM in the Conference Room. This will be our first meeting after General Conference 2024. Anyone from the congregation is welcome to attend, ask questions, and learn more about our work.



# MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH INDOOR PICNIC

UWF Indoor Picnic A UWF unit meeting will be held on Thursday, June 6th, at 12 noon. It will be filled with fun, fellowship, and a fundraiser. It's an indoor picnic. Please bring your own sack lunch. In addition, bring a dessert treat that fits in the special brown box that will be provided. You can get these boxes at your circle meeting or at the end of May at the Welcome Center. Fill them with any delicious treat. You can decorate the boxes or tie them up with a bow to make your treat extra special. Please label the contents of your box to let people know if they are gluten free, contain nuts, etc. These will all be displayed on the dessert table. We will then sell the dessert boxes to each other for \$5 each. It's all in fun and to help out the UWF fundraising efforts for mission work this year.

We will also be collecting new or gently used duffel bags at the event. These will be given to foster children so that they can carry their belongings in a nice bag, not a plastic garbage bag when they are moved from place to place. Please be sure there are NO wheels on the bags.

## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Food Pantry needs include: canned meals (beefaroni, spaghetti'os, etc.), canned fruit, canned corn, canned beans, soups, chunky peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper, toiletries



## HOPE HAVEN MEAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR MAY 13TH

Prepare or buy just one 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 (815-895-9113) to let us know which delivery option you will be using. Sign-up at the Welcome Center in the Concourse or by calling the church office at 815-895-9113.**

## MEALS ON WHEELS IN MAY



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

- Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays on Sycamore West
- Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays on Sycamore East.

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

DAILY PRAYERS FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE				
APRIL 26 GOD'S GRACE TO BE FELT BY EVERY UNITED METHODIST	APRIL 27 WE KEEP OUR MISSION ON DISCIPLE MAKING	APRIL 28 TRUE INFORMATION TO BE SPREAD AND SHARED	APRIL 29 ALL BISHOPS AS THEY LEAD AND PRESIDE	APRIL 30 PRESENTERS OF LEGISLATION
MAY 1 CHARLOTTE, NC AS IT HOSTS THE CONFERENCE	MAY 2 INTERPRETERS	MAY 3 IN ALL THINGS: TO DO NO HARM, TO DO GOOD, AND TO STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD	MAY 4 FOR ALL DECISIONS MADE AT GENERAL CONFERENCE AND FOR THE FUTURE	MAY 5 FOR ALL THOSE SEEKING TO FOLLOW GOD THROUGH THE WORK OF THE UMC AND THOSE TRAVELING FROM GC

# MAY 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the June issue of The Messenger is May 20th

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study "Help Is Here" 12:15 PM Weekday Prayer Service 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM LIFT Dinner 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	2 12:15 PM Weekday Prayer Service 4:00 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Virtual Book Study "Help Is Here"	3 12:15 PM Weekday Prayer Service	4 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Memorial Committee
5 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b> 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	6 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 5:15 PM Girl Scout Troop 5070 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Trustees	7 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3	8 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study "Help Is Here" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Cherub/Kids Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	9 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Dens 5 & 6 7:00 PM Virtual Book Study "Help Is Here"	10 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	11 12:00 PM Post Office Food Drive
12 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 2:00 PM GS Troop 2304 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b> 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	13 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 5:15 PM Girl Scout Troop 5070 5:30 PM Finance and Stewardship Comm. 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Church Council	14 9:30 AM Mary Circle 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4	15 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 11:00 AM ABC Preschool 2's Sing 11:00 AM Adult Book Study "Help Is Here" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	16 11:00 AM ABC Preschool 2's Sing 3:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Peoples Family Ministries Comm. 6:30 PM Girl Scout Leader Meeting 7:00 PM Virtual Book Study "Help Is Here"	17 7:00 PM Pack 141 Pack Meeting	18 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive
19 <b>CONFIRMATION                      SUNDAY</b> 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b> 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	20 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study	21 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM BOOM Worship Worship Experience 1:00 PM Grace Circle 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3	22 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 & 11:00 AM ABC Preschool Graduation 11:00 AM Adult Book Study "Help Is Here" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	23 9:30 & 11:00 AM ABC Preschool Graduation 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Dens 5 & 6 7:00 PM Virtual Book Study "Help Is Here"	24	25
26 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b> 6:00 PM Progressive Dinner	27 <b>HAVE A SAFE                      MEMORIAL DAY!</b>	28 9:30 AM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4	29 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	30 4:00 PM TOPS	31	June 1 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast