

Volume 23, Issue 10

October 2022



A quote from John van de Laar book The Hour That Changes Everything – How worship forms us into the people God wants us to be:

MESSENGER

"A significant part of the practice of Sabbath is aligning ourselves with God's rhythm. As rhythm organizes a piece of music in time according to speed and pattern, so Sabbath organizes our lives according to God's sense of time – God's tempo and pattern. This is more than simply giving ourselves a breather, or allowing ourselves time to

rest so that we can launch back into our busyness with renewed vigor. Sabbath is about learning to recognize the significance of moments in time. It is about learning to recognize God's tempo and pattern for us, our community and our world, and it is about matching our pace with these eternal rhythms."

Let's have a conversation about our "Sabbath". So why it is important? Most of us are functioning base of routines, schedules and so on, and in the work of the church we keep a rhythm, but what happened when that rhythm is not on God's tempo.? So here is the blessing, our summer season gave us a time to pause, to ponder, to reflect so we can be once again on God's tempo. Maybe because of the transitioning I (we) didn't experience this past summer that way. When we focus on the ups and down of our discipleship journey, rather than on the journey, it is very easy to fall out of the wagon, it is our humanity. Nothing wrong with that, but here is the caution. It is crucial for us to be in sync with God's rhythm so ministry and mission can happen. I (we) get overwhelmed with things that are not in our control, we use a lot of our time trying to fix things, rather than trust God. We use the precious gift of time focusing too much on one obstacle, one challenge rather that wonders what is God saying, inviting us through that challenge or just maybe we need to change the tone, theme and focus of our conversation.

So, Van de Laar said "Sabbath is about learning to recognize the significance of moments in time. It is about learning to recognize God's tempo and pattern for us, our community and our world, and it is about matching our pace with these eternal rhythms."

Now that fall is upon us, can we find time for "Sabbath" so we can truly see and hopefully will not miss the big picture, the purpose of our journey of discipleship the reason we follow Jesus' footsteps. It has been my prayer, that we all took a moment to breath, to reflect to get back in the rhythm that lead us to keep building God's kin-dom here and now.

It is my prayer and hope that we fine rhythms that leads to hope, grow, ministry and mission. There is so much excitement of a new season in the life of our congregation; programs are in full swim, there is opportunities for all; our visioning team is all set and ready for the work, new class/ orientation for new "disciples" members is going... however, let us be caution, to keep the "sabbath" in mind so we don't lose the rhythm of God's spirit.

> God's blessings, **Pastor Luis**

<u>Staff</u>

Rev. Luis Reyes LEAD PASTOR LFReyes@sycamoreumc.org

Pastor Joe Munro Youth and Family Ministries Director joemunro@sycamoreumc.org

Pastor MaryLou Eubanks INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE mleubanks@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

Securely give online at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving



It's an easy way for anyone to give immediate donations. Checks may be mailed to the church at: 160 Johnson Ave., Sycamore, IL 60178.





Sycamore United Methodist Church ALL SERVICES WILL BE IN-PERSON AND LIVE-STREAM

JOIN US FOR

SERVICES ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE ONLY Saturdays at 5:00pm; Sundays at 8:30 & 10:00am

October 2022

Worship Schedule

<u>www.facebook.com/SUMCIllinois/</u>or <u>www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=sycamore+umc</u> or <u>www.sycamoreumc.org/live</u>.

October 1- Saturday Celebration October 2 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost World Communion Weekend

Pastor Luis F. Reyes Scripture Lesson: Psalm 37:1-9 Gospel Lesson: Luke 17:5-10 Holy Communion will be served at all services.

October 8 - Saturday Celebration October 9 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost Pastor Luis F. Reyes Scripture Lesson: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 Gospel Lesson: Luke 17:11-19

October 15 - Saturday Celebration October 16 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost Laity Sunday Pastor Joe Munro

Scripture Lesson: Jeremiah 31:27-34 Epistle Lesson: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Gospel Lesson: Luke 8:18:1-8

October 22 - Saturday Celebration October 23 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost Reception of New Members REVIVAL! See page 7 for more details

October 29 - Saturday Celebration at 6:00pm October 30 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost Reformation Weekend 1 service at 9:00am

Pastor Luis F. Reyes Scripture Lesson: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

@sycamoreumc





Congratulations to Jake and Stephanie Landis on the birth of their son Benjamin Jacob on September 27th. Benjamin joins big brother Henry at home.



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION IT'S IN YOUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The second weekend of September was billed as "Kickoff Sunday" and included an "Opportunity Fair" to promote the many activities and organizations found at Sycamore United Methodist Church. It didn't take long for those visiting the displays to realize the variety of ways to serve or be served through our church's ministries. Here are just some examples:

- ed at ys
- We offer the inspiration of mission trips for youth and adults; an outreach through visitations, calls, and cards to those in nursing homes or the homebound; and help for refugees trying to adjust to relocation to the U.S.
- We have three worship services during the weekend ranging from informal to traditional.
- We have a robust music program that includes adult and youth choirs; handbell choir; special ensembles; and sounds from a 17-rank, 1,200 pipe, 2-keyboard Howell pipe organ.
- Christian education opportunities include Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, ABC pre-school, and adult bible studies.
- Our church building provides meeting space for Scouts, United Women in Faith, United Methodist Men, and multiple other groups and clubs.
- We are the site of the Sycamore Food Pantry.

And the list goes on. None of this would be possible without your commitment of time, talent, and money. So, as your prayerfully consider the part you play in the life of Sycamore United Methodist Church, **PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY!** You may securely give your donations on-line at <u>www.sycamoreumc.org/giving</u>, text <u>Sycamore</u> to 844-950-3370, or mail a check to the church 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: chicken noodle soup, chili beans, saltine crackers and canned fruit. Monetary donations are always welcome.

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



Prepare or buy just 1 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 if you are interested.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Hope Haven

Would you be interested in delivering Meals on Wheels during the month of October? It only takes about an hour to an hour and a half of your time. Please contact Debbie at the church office (815 -895-9113) if you would like more information or would like to participate.



Food Pantru



With Joy Dinners is now LIFT (Living In Faith Together)! October 12th from 6-6:55pm

Generations will gather around tables with the sharing of food, fellowship, and learning. This free will dinner centers around a scriptural theme where groups will break bread, study, play and pray together. We hope you will join us as we get nurture our connection as a community of faith.

This years CROP Hunger Walk will be at Federated Church on October 2nd, stepping off at 2 pm.

This annual walk is a hunger relief fundraiser with funds going globally and locally toward food, seeds, clean water projects and some relocation settlement for refugees such as those arriving in the US from Ukraine and Afghanistan. Joel Maurer is the church team walk coordinator and he can take your checks or cash made out to CWS/CROP. Our you can conveniently give online to the church team called Sycamore United Methodist Church Food Pantry Walkers at<u>www.crophungerwalk.org/dekalbil</u>. Please give generously!



ALL SAINTS DAY-NOVEMBER 5 AND 6



We will be celebrating All Saint's Day, on November 5th and 6th at all services of worship. We will read the names of members and friends of the congregation who have passed away in the last twelve months. As candles are lit in their memory, bells are also rung. As we did last year, we are going to create a visual program with photos that are submitted. It is a loving tribute and a chance to honor those we miss so much. If you would like to have your loved one remembered in this manner (photograph), please submit up to three pictures/photos to the church office by October 31st. You can stop by, mail, or e-mail your pictures to the church.



PUMPKIN FEST WORSHIP TIMES

Don't forget that service times are altered due to Pumpkinfest—the **October 29th** Saturday Celebration takes place at **6:00 p.m**., and there is only one service Sunday the 30th at **9:00 a.m**.

COAT MINISTRY TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

Our SUMC Coat Ministry will begin giving out coats during Food Pantry hours on Mondays beginning October 10th. Please put your gently used coats in the bin in the hallway by the Concourse





MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

In May, 2006, Phyllis Anderson and Jeanne Johnson introduced a new program to SUMC. It was called "Prayer Shawl Ministry" and named and structured after a 1998 ministry by Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo in Hartford, Connecticut.

We met for one hour in the morning of the first and third Mondays of each month with about 12 people who knitted and crocheted. Our meetings were opened with prayer and closed with us standing around a table holding finished shawls. We each gave a short prayer that the shawls would bless someone's life in a special way.

Soon we added new items to make:

Prayer Squares ("mini" shawls that can be easily held in a pocket) Hats, scarves, and mittens – to be used with our Coat Ministry Baby hats for the newborn babies at Kishwaukee Hospital nursery Lap robes (to cover legs for people sitting in wheelchairs or just sitting)



Since we did not meet in 2020 or 2021 due to COVID, we tried to reestablish the group early in 2022 by meeting on the 2nd Monday of the month. However, after 16 years, interest in the group has waned, people have moved away or passed away, and only 1 or 2 people showed up for our last few meetings. Therefore, it was decided to disband at this time.

We are grateful to all who so faithfully took this awesome journey of sharing God's love and caring with others through our Prayer Shawl Ministry. Thank you for all the items you have donated over the years. We hope that the shawls, hats, scarves, prayer squares, and lap robes that have been given out will continue to bring the recipients comfort. The remaining shawls will be given out by the pastors, the Caring Ministry team, or will be donated to another organization.

"Refugee Good Neighbor Team" News

After a bumpy Summer, our 2 Afghan families are back on course and are adapting well to life in the United States.

The Haroon family, consisting of Haroon, his wife Qadrya, baby son Mosa and Haroon's brother Sohrab, were able to find a more suitable apartment and moved in a couple of weeks ago. Haroon successfully passed his drivers exam and is now able to drive the used Toyota Rav4 that he bought in anticipation of getting his driver's license. That will greatly help this family in being independent.

The Masoud family, which are Masoud, his wife Qalima, young daughters Zahra and Harir, have kept us busy taking them to medical appointments for the girls and for Qalima's OB appointments. They are excitedly awaiting the arrival of their 3rd daughter later in October and all is going well with Qalima's pregnancy. The Good Neighbor team are planning on gifting them needed essentials for the baby, one week after her arrival, which is the custom in Afghanistan.

Masoud has changed jobs and is now working at Aurora Meat Packing with hours from 5am to 5pm, which is of great help and relief to Qalima to not be alone during the evening hours. Best news of all is that Masoud and his family were successful in obtaining their Green Cards! Masoud texted several members of our team with the exciting news and said he was so happy and thanked us for all the help we provided in this critical goal.

Our team will continue working with both families, transitioning off with fewer visits per month, until we end our engagement in December. We will also be working soon with a new World Relief coordinator and look forward to more directed guidance to help us with some of the challenges we have encountered. Katie Lo is the Team Lead for the Masoud family and Deanna Wray is Team Lead for the Haroon family. We are grateful for their work in this task.

Your prayers for success in our continued efforts with our families is welcome.



Visioning Team News

Sycamore United Methodist Church Vision 2022 Team Members

Bob Armstrong (not related to Jerry) Jerry Armstrong (not related to Bob) Zach Buie Cheryl Callighan Peggy Carey – Co- Convener Zeke Colwell – Recorder Eric Cotter Donny Faulhaber- Co-Convener Jessica Gale Avery Gerdes Adam Holliday Carol Larson Vance Moore Rob Stover

Staff

Craig Fritz Pastor Joe Munro Rev. Luis F. Reyes





Discovering God's Future for Your Church

For the last several weeks we has been asking congregants to fill out a survey to help cast the vision for our congregation. With over 225 responses, now the Vision team is ready for it is work. In order to do this, work the team is using resources from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. Wesley is a United Methodist Seminary.

Discovering God's Future for Your Church is based on a model for vision discernment developed by Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr.- director of the Center and professor of Church Leadership at the Seminary. This process will help our congregation articulate a renewed vision by considering its mission or purpose through the lens of our identity, our internal context, and our external context.

We are grateful for our Vision Team and will covenant to keep them in our prayer as they lead us in discerning our church vision.

There will be more opportunities to engage in this process. Stay tuned.

SING A NEW SONG - MUSIC MINISTRIES

Music Musings.....

Do you Like to sing? Like to make music? Like to play instruments? We need you!

Children's Choir Rehearsals Weds. Evenings 6:15-6:45 p.m. in the Music Room

Choir Rehearsals Weds. Evenings 7-8:30 p.m. in the Music Room

Handbell Choir Rehearsals 7-8 p.m. in the Music Room

Mark your calendars....the Revival is coming!!! A Saturday Night and Sunday Morning of worship, scripture, testimoni- als & singing those great gospel hymns and

songs!. Highlights! An instrumental combo, soloists, duets, trio's, quartets, the chancel choir and most importantly... YOU singing along as the Spirit moves you!!! You DON"T want to miss this!!!

Revival Service Oct. 22 @ 5:00 p.m.

Revival Services Oct 23 @ 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.







CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

God is good, all the time and all the time, God is good! We were blessed with a marvelous turn out for our Kick-Off Sunday. The UMM provided yummy brats and hotdogs for our enjoyment. Music and games galore helped us to ring in the new church programming year triumphantly in the name of Jesus! Here's what to look forward to this month:

Confirmation Begins October 5th from 7-8p for the returning class of 2023. We will meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month in The Commons. Please contact Becca or Pastor Joe with questions.

3rd Grade Bible Sunday is October 16th. Are you related to a 3rd grader? We are distributing Bibles to aid them on their spiritual path on October 15th. Click this link to register your 3rd grader: <u>https://forms.gle/</u><u>uWAKj9y4Kfp9uBUw6</u>

Acolytes with a twist: Acolytes is morphing into a new group for children and youth to learn about their spiritual gifts and serve! Mark your calendars for October 23rd at 11 and keep an eye out for more information to come.

Costume Sunday will be October 23th after 10:00 service! Kids (or kids at heart) are invited to wear their costumes to church! There will be Trick-or-Treating, Pumpkin Carving and Halloween fun to be had. Please consider donating NUT FREE CANDY. You can drop off candy in The Concourse Bin or the office.

Here's what fun fall programming we offer:

- •Weekly Sunday School is under way! Sunday School is offered at the 10:00 service for kids aged PK-Middle School. We start out worshiping with our church family and then head to have some spiritual fun! NOTE: The first of the month is a shortened lesson to allow the children to return for communion with family.
- •Christian Kids meets Wednesday from 4:00-5:30. Students in grades K-5 (MS students can be helpers) are welcome to enjoy spiritual lessons, crafts, snacks, and service opportunities. We visit seniors, serve our church and the community at large throughout the year. The church bus picks-up at North Grove but other locations can be added. Registration fee is \$30 per semester for one child to cover cost of snacks. Each additional child will be \$5.00. Register your child using this link: <u>https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?</u> formId=93c99ca0-8a02-4d65-aa9e-aabb60714ef8&envId=p-EnpCOn6a4EGn4NxAc0h-pQ
- •Magic Mondays: (bi-monthly, 12-1pm) Preschool kids are invited to to start your week off with some faithfilled fun. We eat lunch together, sing songs, and hear an uplifting story about God's amazing love. Each session will have a craft and games base on the theme for the day. Contact Becca with questions.

I pray that you will join us for some of these great opportunities to connect with other families and to the life of this wonderful community of faith. God is working for us and within us all.

Blessings, Becca Rome

ABC PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS

I'd like to welcome our ABC Preschool families as we begin our 2022/2023 school year. We have 90 beautiful little children beginning the year with us. The staff is looking forward to all the new faces and families that we have the pleasure of getting to know during the year.



One of my favorite times of year is Fall. There are so many changes in our world that take place. The colors, the smells, and the amazing wonders all around us. One of the changes is the start of Chapel. Every child that attends ABC Preschool takes part in Chapel twice a month. The sharing of the word of God here is so important in their little lives. They love to hear all the stories and music that we share with them. We invite all families to join us for worship, stories, and music.

Pumpkin Fest is huge here in Sycamore and that goes for ABC families too. We will be having fun with pumpkins, and autumn curriculum all month long. If you find yourself in need of an official Pumpkin Festival Flag for your home or as a gift for others, stop by the Preschool office and pick one up today.

The collection item of the month will be empty plastic spice jars and plastic coffee cans, plastic creamer bottles and plastic juice bottles with the lids. We use them in our dramatic play areas this month. Thank you in advance.

Blessings, The ABC Preschool Staff

Page 8

OCTOBER 2022 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the November issue of The Messenger is October 19th

.SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NOTE: Pastor Luis will be attending the North Central Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne IN from Monday Oct 31 st to Saturday November 5 th .					September 30 8:30 AM– 5:00 PM UWF Thrift Sale	1 9:00 AM– 12:00 PM UWF Thrift Sale 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
2 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 11:00 AM Families in Faith 11:15 AM United Methodist 101	3 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM ABC Preschool Open House 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 1 7:00 PM Church Council	4 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study & Dinner	5 11:15 AM "Freeing Jesus" Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 6:15 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Confirmation Class of 2023 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	6 7:50 AM B.A.D. (HS Breakfast & Devotion) 4:30 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Visioning Team 7:00 PM "Freeing Jesus" Book Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	7	8 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 10:00 AM NIC Fall Local Pastors Meeting 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
9 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 1:00 PM Girl Scout Training 2:00 PM Girl Scouts 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Grp	10 10:00 AM Magic Mondays 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study	11 9:30 AM Mary Circle 6:00 PM Staff Parish Committee 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study & Dinner	12 11:15 AM "Freeing Jesus" Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 6:00 PM LIFT Dinner 6:15 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	13 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM "Freeing Jesus" Book Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Potawatomi Cub Scout Round Table	14	15 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
16 3RD GRADE BIBLE SUNDAY 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 11:15 AM United Methodist 101	17 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM Worship Comm.	18 5:00 PM Girl Scout Recruitment Event 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study & Dinner 7:00 PM Leading Ladies	19 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 11:15 AM "Freeing Jesus" Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 4:30-7:00 PM Drive-thru Dinner for Fire Dept. Stutz Restoration 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee 7:00 PM Confirmation Class of 2023 6:15 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	20 7:50 AM B.A.D. (HS Breakfast & Devotion) 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Visioning Team 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leader Meeting 6:30 PM Genealogy Interest Group 7:00 PM Trustees 7:00 PM "Freeing Jesus" Book Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	21 1:00 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting	22 9:00 AM UWF District Meeting 5:00 PM REVIVAL! at the Saturday Worship Service
23 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 11:00 AM Acolyte Training 2:00 PM Girl Scouts	24 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:45 PM Reconciliation Group	25 1:00 PM UMW Missions Team 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study & Dinner	26 11:15 AM "Freeing Jesus" Book Study 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	27 7:00 AM Kiwanis Pumpkin Fest Prayer Breakfast 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM "Freeing Jesus" Book Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Handbell Choir		29 9:00 AM– 4:00 PM SUMC Craft Show 6:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Grp 30 9:00 AM Sunday Worship Service	31 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study	The Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church is now helping to support the immigrants coming to the Chicago area that are in need. Sycamore United Methodist Church will be the drop spot for our district. The items SUMC will be collecting are: First Aid kits, Medicine for Adults (i.e. Tylenol or Advil), Personal Hygiene and Feminine Products, Duffel Bags. Items will be collected for at least the next month and can be dropped off in the box in the Concourse. Questions? Please call the church office at 815- 895-9113				