

THE **MESSENGER**

The Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter

Volume 23, Issue 9 September 2022

"Do no harm, Do good, Stay in love with God" (Wesley's 3 General Rules)

It has been said "Christianity is not a religion that sits on the bleachers, but we are to be on the center court." In other words, remaining in silence has never been and even today no longer an option. Out of the rules, most of us do all that is needed to stay in love with God. However, in doing so, we are not seeing the whole picture.



We are always challenged through scripture, for my telling this time, I will go with the story of Joseph and his encounters with his brothers after they sold him and Jesus's teaching of what is "evil" is what is in our heart, and it is manifested in interactions with others. The way I see it, remaining silent is NOT doing good, on the contrary silence in this understanding is doing harm. Currently we are living in atmosphere still where the immigrant, the person of color, the LGTBQIA+ person, the one that practices other faiths, and the list can go on are not feeling safe even in our own communities. And why is that? Some are feeling the people on this list are changing the looks, the values, and the things that make us feel good about ourselves.

In the story mentioned above, Joseph had choices, he could send his brothers to die, make the suffer and so on, but he chose healing and reconciliation and yes, forgiveness. Jesus once again reminds us of what is in our hearts. I question, how we can worship God with our lips and at the same time use our mouths to say the most un-Christian's things to "the Other".

Doing harm, means doing nothing when we know things are not right, when words are used as a weapon, doing harm is crossing the street or walk on the other side of the street. Doing harm is staying inside our beautiful sanctuary because it is safe and comfortable. Doing harm is ignoring everything our faith stands for.

So, let us choose to DO GOOD! Let's choose to be agents of healing, restoration, and reconciliation. It is not about feeling good. It is about living out our discipleship call. That my friends is one of the hardest things we are called to do.

Many of us grew up when churches were the centers of our communities. Today we're relegated to the follower's position. In that position, we are invited to be spectators, not participants. However, in Jesus' invitation, it is about to leaving everything and following God's way of life. That is how we are to stay in love with God. Yes, and that is another contradiction, at least for me. How we can say we love God and not love our neighbor, how we can say we are followers of Christ and not practice Jesus' core values? When we deeply commit ourselves without any hesitation to do no harm, to do good and yes, staying in love God, we are in our discipleship journey.

Join me in that journey. Join me as we move forward in faith. Join me as we trust our call. Join me as we see Christ in our sibling's faces. Join me as we walk together building God's kingdom here and now.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Luis

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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.

September 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

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

September 3 - Saturday Celebration September 4 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Luis F. Reyes

Gospel Lesson: Luke 14: 25-33

Holy Communion will be served at all services.

September 10 - Saturday Celebration September 11 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Luis F. Reyes

Gospel Lesson: Luke 15:1-10

September 17 - Saturday Celebration September 18 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Luis F. Reyes

Epistle Lesson: 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Gospel Lesson: Luke 16:1-3

September 24 - Saturday Celebration September 25 - 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Luis F. Reyes

Gospel Lesson: Luke 16:19-31



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



Those for whom we pray:

Eric Gabriel
Dan Butler
Diana Grace
Carly Elder
Emily McLean
Stephanie Landis
John "Bud" Sackis
Carol Berndt
Calvin Foulk

Maggie Buie Riley Dunham Nate Lee Hayley Foord Lee Jeff Trott Tierny Cayo Merle Probasco Amy Walker

We extend our sympathies to the families of:

Marcia Raymond
Phyllis Price (Sue Johnson's mother)

The Service Personnel and Their Families

Cpt. Mark Browning,
 *SGT Ben Bushno
 SGT Shaune Clark
 SGT Matthew Einhorn
 PFC Timothy Einhorn
 PO1 Frank Incapreo
 SSG Christopher Isabel
 *Lt. Col. Garrett Slack
 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
*Maj Steve Haack
*PV2 Caden Grimaldi
PV2 Rachel McMillion
*CPL Joshua Caraballo
*indicates deployed personnel

SUMC SURVEY IS NOW AVAILABLE!



We invite you to help Sycamore United Methodist Church live out our mission, "Gather, Grow, Serve" by completing the survey as we look towards God's vision for our future. Please answer the questions based on your experience. If there are multiple people in your household have each individual fill out their own survey to give us the best data possible.

The survey can also be taken online at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVZZ8SC or by scanning the QR code. Paper copies are available at the Welcome Desk or in the church office.

Please complete the survey by Friday, September 16.

Thank you so much for taking the time to fill this out.



RMD and Charitable Contributions

Are you over 70 ½ and would like to make a tax-efficient donation to the church?

Federal tax law requires a person over age 72 to take required minimum distributions from his/her retirement account. The amount is determined by using a table published by the IRS. Distributions must begin no later than April 1 following the calendar year in which the owner reaches age 72. There is a penalty for failing to receive the required minimum distributions (RMD). The penalty is 50% of the amount by which the RMD exceeds the distribution actually made.

A few years ago, the standard deduction was increased substantially. Many persons who might have been able to itemize their deductions and claim a deduction for their charitable donations now find that their standard deduction is more than their itemized deductions, so they receive no tax benefit from the donation.

But, the law does allow a person who is 70 ½ years of age to use a qualified charitable distribution. That is, the retirement account owner can direct the plan fiduciary to pay the amount directly to the charity, not the account owner. When done correctly, the owner/taxpayer can exclude the amount paid to the charity from taxable income. The amount paid to the charity will still be reported on a 1099-R, so it will count as a part of the required minimum distribution. But the payment will not be taxable. So, rather than a person taking his/her distribution, and then making the donation which could be an itemized deduction, but may provide no tax benefit if the standard deduction exceeds the itemized deductions, the person can have the distributions paid directly to the charity, not have to include that distribution in taxable income, and still get the standard deduction. A person might even be able to increase his or her donation by 10-20%, because he/she might otherwise have had to pay tax at that rate on the distribution!

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES

BOY SCOUT TROOP 2 NEEDS YOU!

We're looking for adult volunteers and boys (aged 11-18) to join our Troop to keep it going! Troop 2 meets every Monday night from 6:30 to 8pm in the Activity Room. We go on overnight adventures once a month, like to Eagle Cave, the Grant Pilgrimage, Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail and others. All outings are planned by the scouts with guidance by adult leaders. Boys plan, shop and cook all their meals on their adventures. As a part of scouting, the boys attend a week long camp filled with activities, swimming, shooting, rock climbing, robotics and more. We've attended Tesomas Scout Camp in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, Canyon Camp in Stockton and Camp Lowden in Oregon in Illinois.





FOOD PANTRY NEEDS THIS MONTH

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

Pantry Present needs are: canned fruit, chicken noodle soup, scalloped potatoes, corned beef hash 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.

HOPE HAVEN MEAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED for September 12, 18 and 26.

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.



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION Do you struggle with generosity?

Are you struggling with the question: "What should be my financial commitment to my church?"



Life is full of examples of the commitments that we make. We make commitments to make our house and car payments. We pledge to make timely credit card payments and payments to our internet, telephone, gas, and electric suppliers. As God's children, we should have an even greater willingness to commit financial resources for the work of the Lord being done through our church. Here are some thoughts as to why church generosity is so beneficial:

- •Your commitment to church giving safeguards your decision not to let love of money overcome love for the Lord.
- •Your generous gift says you are taking a definite stand on the side of God. To make such an affirmation is part of living the new life we have in Christ.
- •Your commitment today follows in the tradition and spirit of many biblical examples (think of Abraham, Jacob, the Israelite nation, and David).
- •Think of your giving in terms of the blessings God entrusts to you. It is your statement of faith.

As the Psalmist wrote, "I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people" (Psalm 116:14). May God's blessings remain with you as you commit to faithful stewardship of the many blessings entrusted to your care.

To give thanks for the gifts God imparts, 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, Illinois 60178.

Mark Your Calendars!







KICK-OFF SUNDAY is Sept. 11th

Come for fun, faith formation, fellowship, and of course FOOD! Wear your favorite sports themed attire to set the tone for the great year ahead!

Here's what to look forward to:

- Opportunity Fair learn about how you can stay in love with God and do good here at SUMC and beyond!
- Church Wide Picnic after 10:00 worship
- Live Music
- Ice Cream Truck
- Bounce House
- Games

AND MORE!!!



FALL THRIFT AND BAKE SALE

Mark your calendars! The UWF Thrift and Bake Sale is Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. Like everything else we have adapted to the times and our available, smaller work force. The sale will feature \$10 Bag Sale on Friday (8:30 - 5) and \$5 Bag Sale on Saturday (9:00-noon). We need items that will fit into brown, grocery bags. Please consider donating gently used adult clothing, kids' clothes, toys, shoes, housewares, puzzles, books, and unique treasures that might delight our shoppers. We will be declining large items, office electronics, furniture, lamps, and heavy sets of dishes. Drop off days are Sept. 26-28. Please be respectful of other church activities and only bring donations during these days between 9 AM and 3 PM. Baked goods can be donated by 7:30 AM on Sept.30. All proceeds go to the missions supported by UWF.

Thank You!

A big thank you to all who helped make the UWF drive-through dinner a success! Whether you helped at the event, sold tickets, or purchased a chicken dinner, we are grateful for your support. Special thanks to Kevin Sargent, Jerry Armstrong, Paul Callighan, Vance Morris, Susan Mossholder, Bernie Schelkopf, Amy Ridenhour, Stephanie Barnes, Norma Nieves, Julie Sgarlata, and the fabulous women of our UMF Mission Team; Cheryl Callighan, Rhonda Cheney, Peggy Simonds, and Peggy Terry.

Thankful and blessed to be part of this church...

Lorrie Wildenradt

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all of the cards and prayers during Pat's recent illness and passing. Your kind thoughts, words and prayers have been a comfort to me during a difficult time.

Dick braham

SING A NEW SONG - MUSIC MINISTRIES

Chancel Choir

First rehearsal is Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Music Room at the church. We will sing on Sunday September 11, 2022 at the 10 o'clock service. Choir typically sings every week at the 10 o'clock services and a few special services and presentations. This Fall we will have a Revival/ Homecoming themed Service. And in December will present our Advent/Christmas Cantata. More details to follow as these events get closer.

Children's Choirs

Meets weekly on Wednesday's from 6:15-6:45, beginning Wednesday, September 14. Each Children's Choirs sings one Sunday per month at 8:30 and 10 o'clock worship services. Each choir has a designated Sunday they sing. Please contact Peter Hansen, church office, or, one of the directors for additional information.

Children's Choirs and Directors are:

- Cherubs Choir, ages 3-Pre-K sings first Sunday of the month Kitty Hagedorn Director Helen Mauer, pianist
- Kids Choir, ages K-3, Phyllis Horst and Cris Woodin Directors
- Jr. Choir, ages 4-8 Peggy Carey Director and Joel Maurer, pianist

Handbell Choir: Mary Thomas, Director

Meets Thursdays from 7-8:30 in the music room beginning date this coming season is Thursday, September 8. Contact Mary for more additional information.

Youth Ensemble: high school/college ages.

I would like to add the youth ensemble back into the music program if there is an interest. Contact Peter if you are interested in singing. Start date can then be determined.

Tech Team

We need techies! Slides/video and sound help needed!

Sunday Morning Worship Team

Not sure you want to be a soloist, but love to sing and love to sing/play with others? Worship leaders John & are needed to lead hymns and praise songs at our Sunday worship services.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOE

Thank you everyone for your support of all our LIFE Mission trips in 2022, it's hard to believe they are over and now we are already talking about 2023. I just wanted to let you know that our sign-up for the high school trip will be Tuesday, September 20th at 7pm at SUMC. If you know someone who is in 8th grade thru high school, please have them here that evening to hear all about where we will be serving and the commitment it takes to be a LIFE Missions member. Our board is assuming that on that evening we will be filled up so please make sure you are there to sign-up.

We are also starting all our programs in September:

- B.A.D. (breakfast and devotion) on Thurs., Sept. 22nd
- Middle & High School Youth Group on Sun., Sept. 25th
- Young Adult Bible Study on Tues., Sept. 13th

We hope to see you there!

Your help, please! We are hiring! The job description for the part-time Minister of Congregational Care and Outreach is posted on Sycamoreumc.org. Please take a minute to think about people you know who love the Lord and have a heart for sharing God's love and connecting God's people together. Maybe a nurse, a teacher, a social worker, looking to do something different, that places Christ front and center in their life. Share the information about the job and point them to the website for more details or

share this QR Code with But that's not all-them. from there, pray for your friend and for any and all candidates and ask God to guide all those involved in the search process.



UNITED METHODISM 101

Are you looking to learn more about the United Methodist Church and how you can become part of this fellowship of faith? **United Methodism 101** is a 5-week study of the church and the opportunities available here at Sycamore United Methodist Church.



Classes begin Sunday, September 18th from 11am-12pm. Pastor Luis and other SUMC staff members will lead sessions as we prepare for a special service on October 23rd where you can commit to living out our call to be disciples of Christ within Sycamore UMC, our community, and God's vast creation.

Go to this link to register: https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=4d94ec59-711b-4a16-8345-bb8214415984&envld=p-EnpCOn6a4EGn4NxAcOh-pQ

ADULT BIBLE STUDY Setting Boundaries for Living – The Books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy This is a 14-week study covering the Old Testament books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Class meets Monday nights from 6:00pm – 7:00pm starting September 12th and concluding December 12th. Location of the study will be the Church Lounge. Bring your Bible with you! There is also a Study Guide and a Class Schedule, both to be distributed at our first Monday meeting. Sign-up on the bulletin board in the Concourse or go to this link



to register: https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=de85ab70-559b-4f65-ac8abf02a791218d&envld=p-EnpCOn6a4EGn4NxAc0h-pQ

ABC Preschool Ministry News

I'd like to welcome our ABC Preschool families as we begin our 2022/2023 school year. The ABC Team is happy to be coming back with all 6 classrooms open this year and we have reopened our schedule Monday through Friday this year. We have many new faces within our ABC families and our team as well.



Classes will begin on Tuesday, September 6 with our soft opening known as Phase in. We will have Doorothy the OpenDoor Coffee Truck here serving coffee and other fabulous specialty drinks to kick off our back-toschool morning. Stop by between the hours of 8:30-11:00 and have a cup of coffee, visit with old friends, and meet new ones!

We are looking forward to a safe and successful school year here at ABC Preschool.

Blessings, The ABC Preschool Staff

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Back to School is upon us and we are looking forward to a hopeful, new year and the resumption of our Children's Ministry programs this fall.

We celebrated the new school year at Blessing of Backpacks on Sunday, August 14th. It was a marvelous opportunity to acknowledge our children, parents, and school workers and pray for their safety and success. Each child was given a little gift and as a congregation we were able to gift the Sycamore Food Pantry with mounds of school supplies distribute to their clients with school age children. I am filled with gratitude at the generosity of this congregation!

Fall Programs Kick-Off this Month! So, mark your calendars and register your child below to reserve a spot!

Here's what fun fall programming is coming your way:

•Kick-off Sunday is September 11th. Wear your favorite sports themed attire to set the tone for the great year of programming ahead! After the 10:00 worship, there will be an Opportunity Fair in the concourse where you can find learn about how you can stay in love with God and do good here at Sycamore UMC and beyond! In addition, our church picnic will be happening on the front lawn following worship. The UMM will be grilling and the Families in Faith will provide the sides. We can all scream for ice cream when an ice cream truck arrives. Kids can enjoy games, or a bounce house and the adults can chat and enjoy the sounds of live music from. We hope you will join us.



- •Christian Kids returns Wednesday, September 14th and meets weekly from 3:45-5:30. Students in grades K-5 (MS students can be helpers) are welcome to enjoy spiritual lessons, crafts, and service opportunities. We will be visiting seniors, serving our church and the community at large throughout the year taking the church bus. The church bus picks-up at North Grove, North School and possibly of other locations. The afternoon always starts with games to allow time for those coming from other areas. Registration fees will be \$30 per semester per child. The fee covers the cost of snacks. Register your child for the semester using this link: https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=93c99ca0-8a02-4d65-aa9e-aabb60714ef8&envId=p-EnpCOn6a4EGn4NxAc0h-pQ
- •Magic Mondays: (bi-monthly, 12-1pm) Preschool aged children are invited to join Miss Becca, Ms. Kristin, and friends to start your week off with some faith-filled fun. Send your child with a lunch for because we will have lunch together. This is a great chance to help your little one to practice for kindergarten!. We will move into the sanctuary to sing songs and hear an uplifting story about God's amazing love. And you can be we will create crafts and play games to help reinforce the message for the day. Register for this faith filled experience on Monday, September 12th using this link: https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=2825f699-fc74-4079-ab9f-ee2d27682e64&envId=p-EnpCOn6a4EGn4NxAcOh-pQ. Look for the next registration link for September 26th.
- •Fall Book Study; The Last of the Really Great Wangdoodles: We will explore faith-based connections to this classic children's story. Children in grades 4-MS are invited to join us bi-monthly on Thursdays from 6:30-7:15pm starting on September 15th. We will play games, create crafts, snack, and discuss the connections and ways we can see the teachings of Christ through a fictional lens. This group will meet virtually, with a final feast in person on December 20th. Click here to register your child for this fantastic adventure: https://forms.gle/vd25DjhiLXdD8wRP9

Looking Ahead:

- Families in Faith will meet Sunday, October 2nd following the 10:00 service.
- •Costume Sunday will be October 24th! Kids (or kids at heart) are invited to wear their costumes to church! There will be pumpkin carving and Halloween happiness to follow the 10:00 worship!

As we return to school and programming, I am filled with hope for what's to come. God is with this congregation and has given us the greatest example of hope in Christ Jesus. May we lean into that hope as we build upon what was and walk boldly towards what God intends for the children of this community of faith.

Blessings, Becca Rome

SEPTEMBER 2022 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 4:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2	2	3 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
4 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School	5 Have a safe Labor Day! Church offices closed.	6 ABC Preschool Phase-in 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3	7 ABC Preschool Phase-in 6:30 PM LIFE Missions Board Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	8 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Potawatomi Cub Scout Round Table	9	10 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
11 KICK-OFF SUNDAY 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 11:00 AM Church Picnic and Activities 2:00 PM Girl Scouts	6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM Finance Comm.	13 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	14 6:15 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	15 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leader Meeting 6:30 PM Kids Fall Book Club via Zoom 7:00 PM Trustees 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Potowattomi Cub Scout Round Table	16	17 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
18 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 11:00 AM United Methodist 101 11:00 AM Confirmation Orientation	6:00 PM Adult Bible Study	20 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study & Dinner 7:00 PM LIFE Missions Trip 2023 Sign-up 7:00 PM Leading Ladies	21 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 3:30 PM Christian Kids 4:30-7:00 PM Drive-thru Dinner for Pay It Forward House 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee 6:15 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	22 7:50 AM B.A.D. (HS Breakfast & Devotion) 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 6:30 PM Genealogy Interest Group 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	23 1:00 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Pack 141 Campout	24 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
25 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 11:00 AM United Methodist 101 2:00 PM Girl Scouts 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Grp	oloo laan Dibio olaaj	27 1:00 PM UMW Missions Team 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study & Dinner	28 3:30 PM Christian Kids 6:15 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	29 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:30 PM Kids Fall Book Club via Zoom 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	30 8:30 AM-5:00 PM UWF Thrift Sale	October 1 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM–12:00 PM UWF Thrift Sale 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service



GENEALOGY INTEREST GROUP TO MEET EACH MONTH

All are welcome: beginners and experienced researchers (I call "tree climbers"). At Sycamore United Methodist Church, Commons Room, 6:30 P.M. on the 4th Thursday of the month. Please enter through the South door (#4).

Join us to share successes and "brick walls". Do you use DNA results to find family members? Have you tried the colorization feature now offered in Ancestry? Have you hired an expert to help with your research? Have you found your family on the 1950 census that was just released? What are your favorite tools; Newspapers, Findagrave, Family Search, etc.?