



Messenger

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

May 2025

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

Adult Book Study begins

April 30th & May 1

Plant Sale - May 3 from 9am-1pm

Tech Talk - Common Scams

Saturday, May 3 at 10:00am

Phyllis, Family, & Friends Concert

Saturday, May 3 at 4:00pm

LIFT Dinner - May 7 from 6-6:45pm

ABC's of LFBTQIA+ - May 17 at 1pm

Confirmation Sunday is May 18



Pick from
hostas,
daylilies, iris,
columbine,
sedum, and
more.

Cost:
A donation
to our UWF
mission
fund.



We're looking for volunteers to help with Sunday transportation! You'll use your own car to pick up and drop off riders (usually only 1 or 2 people) who need a lift to church for the 9:30 service.

If you're willing to help or want more info, please contact Dave Leifheit at 815-757-1800 or Debbie at the church office!

It's official and Todd has been welcomed as our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries! Todd's enthusiasm and determination paired with Becca's compassion and leadership will be a dynamic combination as we support existing ministries and create new ones. In these new roles, Todd looks forward to working with a broader section of the congregation and Becca to using her new skills in her role as Director of Discipleship.

But we acknowledge that transitions require forethought, especially where children are concerned. We've devised a transition plan that will allow us to work collaboratively on children's ministry programs. Some of these transitions will take months and others a few years to allow time for training and to ensure stability. We are so excited to have this opportunity to be partners in ministry and would appreciate your support and prayers during this time of transition. We are indeed blessed to serve you and our community as we live out our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Blessings & Peace,
Todd and Becca



Rev. Luis Felipe Reyes-Rosario
LEAD PASTOR
LFReyes@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

Todd Puttkammer
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRIES
todd@sycamoreumc.org

Becca Rome
DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP & SPIRITUAL FORMATION
becca@sycamoreumc.org

Lisa Szydowski
ABC PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
abcpreschool@sycamoreumc.org

Cory Blanco
BREAKTHROUGH WORSHIP LEADER
cory@sycamoreumc.org



MAY 2025 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

www.facebook.com/SUMCIllinois/ or
www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=sycamore+umc

MAY 4 – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Services of Holy Communion
Acts 9:1-6, (7-20):
John 21:1-19

MAY 11 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 9:36-43:
John 10:22-30

MAY 18– FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 11:1-18
John 13:31-35

MAY 25 – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 16:9-15
John 14:23-29

REMEMBER SUMC IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST

A legacy gift is your opportunity to support the church's work beyond your lifetime, to change lives and honor the role the church played in your life, your family's life, our community, and our world. Legacy gifts allow flexibility to respond to the greatest needs of tomorrow. Legacy gifts can benefit the giver through tax savings. Retirement assets are particularly good assets to achieve the best tax outcome for a planned gift. Consult with your accountant, financial planner, or attorney before finalizing any charitable gift.



Sycamore United
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc

Give
THANKS
to the Lord
for He is good; His love endures forever.

—1 Chronicles 16:34



Those for whom we pray:

Nancy
David Dykema
Diana Grace
Beverly Duff
Neil Weir
Mark McGee
Rick Stewart
Gary Blake
Carol Berndt
Jimmy Schmidt
Carol Keneway
Mike Milyanovich
Jerrica Newby

Dwain Stadie
Mark Westrom
Dani Smith
Addison
Jamoni Zander
Norma Clarner
Diane Mathey
Damian
The Collins Family
Tia Incapreo
Don Mathey
Scott Kroos
Ralph Stover

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
MSG Matthew "Scott" Stewart
*LT Matthew Herbaugh
PVT Trevor Bassett

PO3 Samuel V. Bell
SGT Brock Grimaldi
*SPC Alexis Jones
*Maj Steve Haack
PV2 Rachel McMillion
*CPL Joshua Caraballo
SPC Sutit Jackson
PV2 Liam Keller
E-5 PO Hayden Royer
E-3 Amanda Royer
**indicates deployed personnel*



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 CAN YOU BE LIKE MARY MAGDALENE?

As we rejoice in the recent celebration of Easter and its message of hope, let us also remember how the story of the resurrection was told. In keeping with the spirit of Jesus to minister to all, it is a woman, a commoner, a person of faith and not credentials, who is chosen to be the first messenger of this world changing event. Mary Magdalene went to the tomb of Jesus, found it empty, and then encountered Jesus who said, "...Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." (John 20:17). Empowered by the grace of the Holy Spirit, Mary Magdalene began to share the story of Good News.



God has placed us among many people who do not know Jesus but who need to hear and benefit from his message. You can be the Mary Magdalene catalyst that makes this happen. With God's help, you can become an intentional witness to open the eyes of others to the opportunities a Christ-like life offers. You may do this by giving of your time, your talents, as well as your treasures to support the missions and ministries of your congregational family at Sycamore United Methodist Church.

To help share the Good News in our neighborhoods, towns, and around the world through our United Methodist connection, consider a donation of support. You may mail checks to the church at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178 (attention Business Director Jim McCue), go on line to contribute at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving, or text "giving" to 815-895-9113. Be part of Stewardship in Action and "go and tell others."

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

ALL AGES

- **LIFT Dinner** resumes May 7th at 6pm in the Commons. Our last LIFT Dinner of the program year will have us looking to Jesus as our healer. Join us for food, fellowship, and fun as we live in faith together. Dinner is Stromboli and Salad with the UWF acting as hosts. Text **LIFT** to RSVP.
- There's still time to make it official! Claiming membership here at Sycamore UMC is one way to take the next step on your spiritual journey. If you feel called to make this church your spiritual home, join us May 4th from 10:45 to 12:30, which will help you learn more about our beliefs and mission. A light lunch and childcare will be provided. Text **New Member** to register or see Becca for more information.
- **BREAKTHROUGH & BBQ** – This summer come see what Breakthrough Worship is about! Starting May 25th, we will have a monthly outdoor service on the last Sunday of the month from 4:30-6pm. Bring your lawn chairs and a side to share for this unique worship and small group experience.

CHILDREN

- **Children's Ministry Programs** meet regularly. Magic Monday meets May 12th from 12-1:15pm for PK-1st children. Christian Kids(K-5th) practice loving God, self, and neighbor on Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm with some school pick-up options. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information go to: <https://sycamoreumc.org/childrens-ministries/> Newcomers are always welcome!
- **Sunday School** (PK-MS) is weekly at 9:30am service.
- **SAVE THE DATE!! VBS** will take place July 7th-11th from 9-noon daily. This is an exciting opportunity is for children ages 4 years old through 5th grade to learn about Jesus as our **TRUE NORTH**. Register your child by texting **VBS2025**. Youth and Adult Volunteers are also needed. If you have any questions or would like to help, please see Becca.



SUMMER KID MINISTRIES @ SUMC

- **Magic Mondays** continues through the summer for kids age 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 2nd. Registration information coming soon.
- **Christian Kids** will meet on designated Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30pm beginning June 11th. We will find ways to expand our understanding of God and ourselves through activities and service. We will also have fun being Christian Kids in our community through excursions around town. Registration information coming soon.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT

- **Youth Group** will continue to meet every other Sunday during the summer. We extended the time now to 6-8p.m. Next meetings are scheduled for May 4th and 18th. As always this is open to all middle schoolers and High Schoolers. We have food, games, and some devotional time.

**LIFE
MISSIONS**

- Our **SUMC Life Missions trip** is scheduled for July 27th - August 1st . We are going to Benton Harbor MI through Youth Works. Any donations would be appreciated. To donate please scan the QR Code and choose "Life Mission Donations" in the Designation Box



- **Young Adults Fellowship** meets every Thursday evening from 6-7:30. Anyone age 18-29 are invited for dinner and discussion about how God is showing up in our lives.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

ADULTS

- Our **Spring Book Study**, *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* starts April 30th or May 1st. Author and pastor Peter Scazzero offers a road map for discipleship that is powerfully transformative. Topics include how to identify emotionally unhealthy practices, how to grow your soul in grief and loss, and how to develop healthy emotional communication skills. Text STUDY to the church phone # to register.
- **Singles Fellowship** meets May 27th at 6pm for pizza and conversation at Ski's (patio, weather permitting). All stages and ages are welcome!

ABC PRESCHOOL

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 30 children heading off to kindergarten with graduation ceremonies on Wednesday, May 21 and Thursday, May 22. We invite family and friends to join us as we send them off with blessings and celebrations.

ABC Preschool was able to accommodate 88 children in our programs this year. That would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our team. 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 continue to offer 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 Friday 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!

Blessings,
The ABC Preschool Staff

WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS

April has been a very busy month for the music, worship and arts ministry! There were many extra nights of worship, rehearsals, preparations, and presentations! We would like to say thank you to worship leaders, the Breakthrough band, and the tech team. Also a special to thank the soloists, ensembles and instrumentalists who assisted during holy week and throughout the month. Thank you to our children's choirs and their directors for all your tireless work and commitment.



A big thank you to the Chancel Choir for leading many worship services and presenting an amazing and very moving cantata on Palm Sunday! Thank You to our church family, whose kind words, encouragement and being engaged with us during worship!

As we move into May, we will still be ringing, still be singing, still be playing and, still be leading worship! There is still time to join us!!

Summer will soon be here, and we are in need of anyone with musical or artistic talents to share. Singers, guitar players, instrumentalists etc. Please, please consider sharing your gifts and talents.

What is your Passion? What is Your Call?

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE



PPROMOTING
RECONCILIATION,
INCLUSION,
DIVERSITY, and
EQUALITY

P.R.I.D.E. COMMITTEE

The Pride Committee invites you to our first Tech Talk event on May 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to noon. We'll start with a short presentation on common scams and how to avoid them. After that, volunteers will be available for one-on-one tech support. Please bring any devices and passwords you may need. This event is open to all ages! Thank you to everyone who came out for movie night

on the 26th. We had a great time watching Luca and enjoying popcorn and candy with friends! Save the date for our 2nd Annual Pride Formal on June 28th! Stay tuned for more upcoming events.



HOPE HAVEN MEAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR MAY

Prepare or buy just one course or the entire meal to feed 60-65 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.**

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MAY

Canned beans
Crackers
Canned fruit
Canned meals
(spaghettios, beefaroni etc)
Crunchy Peanut butter

Canned veggies
Diced Tomatoes
Spaghetti sauce
Mayo
Salad Dressing
Boxed potatoes or stuffing

Cereal
Paper towels
Tissues
Toiletries
Empty Egg Cartons



This summer, get ready to hit the trails
for the ultimate Alaskan adventure!

What: Vacation Bible School

When: July 7-11

Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Where: Sycamore UMC

Register at: VBS2025 (text to church # 815-895-9113)

MAY 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 4:00 pm TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Adult Book Study	2	3 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Plant Sale 10:00 AM Memorial Committee 10:00 AM Tech Talk Common Scams 4:00 PM Phyllis, Family and Friends Concert
4 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM New Disciple/Member Class 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	5 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Trustees	6 3:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 5:30 PM Girl Scout Family Information Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1	7 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM Confirmation Rehearsal & Picnic 6:00 PM LIFT Dinner 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	8 4:00 pm TOPS 4:30 PM GS Troop 1717 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 5 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Adult Book Study	9 6:00 PM GS Troop 912	10
11 NEW MEMBERS REC'D 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:00 PM GS Troop 998 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship	12 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 5:00 PM Discipleship Committee 5:15 PM GS Troop 5070 5:30 PM Finance/Stewardship Committee 7:00 PM Church Council	13 9:30 PM Mary Circle 11:00 AM ABC Preschool 2's Spring Sing 3:30 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4	14 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 11:00 AM ABC Preschool 2's Spring Sing 4:00 PM Christian Kids 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	15 4:00 PM TOPS 4:30 PM GS Troop 646 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Youth Ministries Team 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM Adult Book Study	16 7:00 PM Pack 141 Pack Meeting	17 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 1:00 PM Learning the ABC's of the LGBTQIA+ Community: An Educational Series on Inclusion
18 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	19 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Worship Comm.	20 1:00 PM Grace Circle 3:30 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1	21 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Network 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 4:30-6:30 Lions Drive-thru Dinner 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	22 4:00 PM TOPS 4:30 PM GS Troop 1717 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM ABC Preschool Graduation 7:00 PM Adult Book Study	23 ABC Preschool no school	24
25 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM New/Disciple/Member Class 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Worship and BBQ	26 Church offices closed Have a safe Memorial Day!	27 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 3:30 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:00 PM Singles Fellowship at Ski's	28 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids	29 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Adult Book Study	30	31

3 SIMPLE RULES

1. Do no harm 2. Do good 3. Stay in love with God.