



Messenger

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

June 2025



The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly**, **serve joyfully**, and **lead courageously** in local communities and worldwide connections.

Friends,

Recently, the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table of the United Methodist Church (this body functions like a church council in our church, but for the whole UMC) unveiled the church's vision. Along with our mission and core values, we now have key components for a Strategic Plan. This comes after the Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee completed Pastor Luis's Ministry Assessment. The committee listed three goals for our congregation—one of them being the development of a strategic plan.

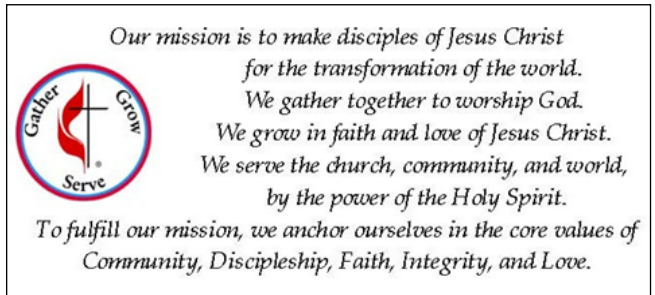
I'm aware we have been here before, but we have learned from our experience in the past. I agree that we need a sense of direction/what direction we must take as we remain committed to continuing the work of building God's Kin-dom.

Susan Beaumont shares, *"Strategic planning: in some congregations it's the 'go-to' solution whenever leaders feel stuck. We need to grow. We want more families with young children. We don't know what to do next. Let's plan! But strategic planning is usually a poor choice for getting unstuck. It takes a lot of time and energy—and in many cases postpones action when action is most needed. Strategic planning isn't the right thing to do in every situation. A hasty or poorly formed strategic plan is a waste of time and resources. A well-formed plan that isn't executed is also a waste."*

So, what is strategic planning, anyway? Strategic planning is a process that leads to a clear and documented statement of direction for our congregation. It begins with assessing where we are and where we are currently headed. It also involves looking outward at the context in which we do ministry. Myung Sun-Han shares that strategic planning is a Spirit-led process.

He identifies the following key elements in the process:

- Focus the energy forward
- Identify key disparities
- Claim the unique calling of your context
- Acknowledge the movement of the Spirit
- Allow enough time for prayer and discernment



At our last Council meeting, we agreed that a strategic plan would provide strong direction for the ministry, mission, and programs of our congregation. We have a good foundation to build upon, picking up where our Vision Team recommendations left us.

Our aim for this strategic plan is to offer guidance and direction to our leadership as we seek to live out our mission. This will be a bold plan that includes many of the hopes, dreams, and aspirations expressed by our staff, leaders, and congregation—some of which were shared during the visioning process.

We are in the early stages of this journey, and we will count on your guidance, wisdom, and commitment to the ministry, mission, and programs of our congregation.

Stay tuned!
Blessings & peace,
Pastor Luis



Summer Office Hours begin May 27th
Monday - Thursday: 8:30am-2:00pm
Fridays: 8:30am-12 Noon



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JUNE 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

JUNE 1 – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Services of Holy Communion

Acts 1:1-11

Luke 24:44-53

JUNE 8 - PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-21

John 14:8-17, (25-27)

JUNE 15– TRINITY SUNDAY

Psalm 8:

Romans 5:1-5:

John 16:12-15:

JUNE 22 – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Galatians 3.23-39

Luke 8.26-39

JUNE 29 – THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Galatians 5.1, 13-25

Luke 9.51-62



Sycamore United
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc

3 SIMPLE RULES

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



Those for whom we pray:

Nancy	Dani Smith
David Dykema	Addison
Diana Grace	Jamoni Zander
Beverly Duff	Norma Clarner
Neil Weir	Diane Mathey
Mark McGee	Damian
Rick Stewart	The Collins Family
Gary Blake	Tia Incapreo
Carol Berndt	Don Mathey
Jimmy Schmidt	Ralph Stover
Carol Keneway	Scott Kroos
Mike Milyanovich	Nanette Richards
Jerrica Newby	Bruce Richards
Dwain Stadie	Bob Clarner
Mark Westrom	Tammy O'Reilly

We extend our sympathies to the families of:

Beverly Duff (Jerry Armstrong's mother)
Betty Jespersen

The Service Personnel and Their Families

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

thank you

Thank you to all of you who offered cards, emails, texts, or in-person words of sympathy during the recent passing of my mother, Beverly Duff. Just as I unconditionally cherish the love of my biological family, I also truly appreciate the love and support of my SUMC family. God Bless you all.

Jerry Armstrong

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

Loving and serving others lies at the heart of a life modeled after Christ. In Matthew 20:26, Jesus tells His disciples, "But whoever would be great among you, must be your servant". This verse upends conventional ideas of greatness by emphasizing humility and selflessness over power and status. Genuine love for others naturally leads to a desire to serve them—not out of obligation, but from a heart transformed by grace. Whether it's through small acts of kindness or larger sacrifices, choosing to serve reflects God's love and honors the example Jesus set during His earthly ministry.

Service rooted in love is not transactional, it does not seek recognition or reward. Instead, it stems from an understanding that we are all deeply valued in God's eyes, and thus called to treat others with the same care and compassion we've received. By adopting a servant's heart, we participate in God's work, offering dignity and hope to those around us. As we love and serve others, we not only reflect Christ's character but also experience the deep joy that comes from living beyond ourselves, embracing the path of true greatness Jesus described.

We are empowered by grace to do good works by being generous stewards of God's gifts. You may financially support the work of the church by mailing a check to 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178 (attention Business Director Jim McCue); by giving on-line at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving; or by texting "Giving" to 815-895-9113. Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and treasures.



OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

ALL AGES

- **Crafters and Helping Hands wanted:** Crafters and helping hands needed June 6th from 1-4 or 5-8pm in the gym for our annual VBS craft day.
- **COMING SOON!** Starting in July, we will be starting a video study around season 1 of The Chosen. It will meet Wednesdays 11-12 or Thursday evenings 7-8 pm. This study will be available to ages 14 and up.
- **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.

SUMMER KIDS 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. Other dates include: 6/16, 7/21, 8/4 & 8/21. Register for one or more by texting SUMMERMM2025.
- **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. Register for one or more by texting SUMMERCK2025.
- **Tunes and Togetherness** is an opportunity for kids, ages 2-6, to sing, move and make music together in this joyful preschool-prep class for little ones and their grown-ups. We gather on alternate Mondays (6/9, 6/23, 7/14, 7/28, 8/11), from 9-10am. Older siblings are welcome to join the fun. Register by texting TUNES.



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 June 1, 15, and 29. As always this is open to all middle schoolers and High Schoolers. We have food, games, and some devotional time.
- 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.



ADULTS

- **Singles Fellowship** meets June 24th at 6pm for pizza and conversation at Ski's (patio, weather permitting). All stages and ages are welcome!

LIFE FUNDRAISER MISSIONS IS JUNE 4TH



Come support our LIFE Missions trip to Benton Harbor MI which is July 27-August 1 and treat yourself to a great lunch or dinner! We are teaming up with Andale Taco Shop at 202 E. State St., in Sycamore. **On June 4th a percentage of all sales that day will be donated to our mission trip.** Thank you in advance for your continued support!!

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS



There will be a Summer Choir on June 22, 2025. We will meet that morning at 8:30 and learn a fairly easy centering song and anthem. We will then present the songs on that same day at 9:30 a.m. Service, All voices welcome from age 13 and up! You don't need to know how to read music, just a love for singing and be able to carry a tune! (We'll provide the bucket to carry the tune in!!)

We are also in need of anyone who would like to sing, play an instrument etc. for Summer Music. If you play, sing, or, know someone who does, please let me know!!

See you on Sunday!

Pete Hansen

Director of Worship and Music

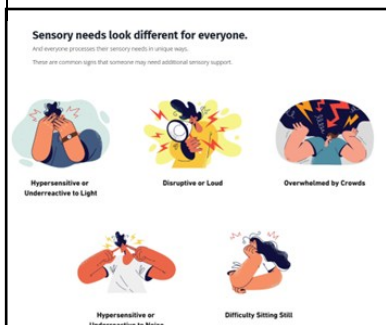
P.R.I.D.E. COMMITTEE

PRIDE is excited for the excitement that June brings! Starting off strong with partnering with Youth Outlook and Family Service Agency for their Pride Palooza in Dekalb on May 30th. Then we will be having another Coffee, Connection, & Conversation after service on 6/8 where we will be reading an inclusive children's story book and having treats! Then we will be downtown Dekalb on 6/21 at 1pm for our 3rd annual Pride Fest hosted by Dekalb Pride. Then we are partnering with Faith Now and Salem Lutheran Church for a Pride Ecumenical Worship Service on 6/28 at 5pm at Salem. And wrapping up the month with our 2nd annual PRIDE Formal! 6/28 at 6:30pm all ages and everyone welcome for dancing, crafts, snacks, and fun hope to see you there!



PPROMOTING
RECONCILIATION,
INCLUSION,
DIVERSITY, and
EQUALITY

NEW SENSORY ROOM



Something special is happening at SUMC to live out our social principles of ministering to people of all abilities. An idea was put forward to both Discipleship & Family Ministries to create a space that extends hospitality to children and adults with differing sensory needs. This idea was brought before the Trustees, who approved the first phase of the project and agreed to support the initial work of clearing and painting to transform the Chapel into this space. A group of nine individuals from the church, staff, and the community have begun the planning process and divided the work into three phases. A complete plan will go before Trustees, Finance, and finalized at the

July Church Council Meeting. All phases will maintain the integrity of the heirloom items should the room be needed as a worship or meeting space. The upgrades will be completed in a timely manner to avoid disruption to the use of the space during Sunday services. The volunteers welcome your prayers as they plan this inclusive space to benefit the families of this church and fill a need for the families in our community. We welcome your feedback and extend an invitation to anyone feeling called to support this project in any way. Questions should be directed to Todd or Becca, who are the staff liaison for this project. Or if you'd like more information about sensory friendly churches, use [this link](#) to learn more.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE



HOPE HAVEN MEAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR JUNE

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 JUNE

Canned beans	Diced Tomatoes	Paper towels
Crackers	Spaghetti sauce	Tissues
Canned fruit	Mayo	Toiletries
Canned meals	Salad Dressing	Empty Egg Cartons
(spaghettios, beefaroni etc)	Boxed potatoes or stuffing	
Crunchy Peanut butter	Cereal	



UWF UNIT MEETING

The UWF June 5th unit meeting will be at 12 noon in the Concourse. It is a salad luncheon, so please bring a salad to share AND YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE. Mission Team will provide desserts. Our speaker will be from the Ruth Project. This organization supports foster and adoptive families. We will be collecting art supplies for their craft activities. Here is a list of items needed.



1. blunt point scissors
 2. boxes of 24 or 36 crayons
 3. bottles of glue
 4. boxes of colored pencils
 5. glue sticks
 6. brightly colored mini pompoms
 7. non-drying modeling clay (This can be found at Hobby Lobby, Walmart or Michaels)
- The other items are available at Walmart and the Dollar Tree.

All women are welcome to join in the fellowship of the luncheon and this fun mission



VBS HEADS NORTH JULY 7-11

Join us this summer for an Alaskan adventure using Jesus as our compass for loving God, self, and neighbor.

- Register your age 4-entering 5th grade child for daily fun from 9-noon by texting **VBS2025**
- Volunteer (MS-Adult) to guide our kiddos on the trail of truth by texting **VBSHELP2025**
- **CRAFTERS WANTED** June 6th from 1-4 or 5-8pm in the gym to help make our Alaskan Adventure come to life.
- **Donate items from our Amazon Wishlist** or our tree in the Concourse. Monetary support is also appreciated
- **PRAYERS** are always welcome for this ministry, volunteers, and the families attending, that Christ's love will lead the way.

Please feel free to reach out to Becca with any questions.

JUNE 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 GRADUATION SUNDAY 8:00 AM Teacher Appreciation Brunch 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	2 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:00 AM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Trustees	3 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	4 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study	5 12:00 PM UWF Unit Mtg. 4:00 pm TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Adult Book Study	6 VBS Craft Day 1-4:00 or 5-8:00 PM	7 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast
8 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM Children's Storytime sponsored by Pride Comm. 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship	9 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:00 AM Tunes & Togetherness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 5:00 PM Discipleship Committee	10 9:30 PM Mary Circle	11 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 3:30 PM Summer Christian Kids	12 4:00 pm TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Adult Book Study	13	14
15 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	16 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:00 AM Magic Mondays 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Worship Comm.	17 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Grace Circle 5:00 PM VBS Adult Leader Training	18 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Network 11:00 AM Adult Book Study	19 Church offices closed 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Youth Ministries Team 7:00 PM Adult Book Study	20	21 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast
22 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM UWF NOW Circle 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship	23 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:00 AM Tunes & Togetherness 12:00 PM Food Pantry	24 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 6:00 PM Singles Fellowship at Ski's	25 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 3:30 PM Summer Christian Kids	26 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group	27	28 6:30 PM PRIDE Formal
29 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Worship and BBQ 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	30 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry	July 1	2 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness	3 Church offices closed 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group	4 Church offices closed	5

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



UWF ANNUAL THRIFT AND BAKE SALE FOR MISSIONS

Friday, August 1(9 AM- 5PM) and Saturday, August 2 from (9AM-noon)
 Items are \$10 a bag both days, but Saturday is BOGO.

Housewares, clothing, books, puzzles, toys, shoes, holiday/home decor, and other treasures.