



August 2025

Messenger

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FROM PASTOR LUIS FELIPE'S DESK

Greetings In Christ's Name!

Welcome to August! Soon our kids, teachers, and staff will be heading back to school. However, we're still in the summer season until mid-September. I'm not sure why, but this summer seems to have flown by.

As we begin to settle in and prepare for a new program year, I want to take time this month to share about our newly adopted UMC vision for the whole church. I've decided to present this vision in a sermon series throughout the month, highlighting its three core components.

As we reflect and move forward this year under the theme "**Back to Basics**" and our Core Value — **Discipleship**, it is essential that we take a deeper look at what it means to:

- **Love Boldly**
- **Serve Joyfully**
- **Lead Courageously**

I hope and pray you'll join me on this meaningful journey.

Please see the schedule below.

AUGUST 3 – 8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - COIMMUNION SUNDAY

Pastor Luis Felipe, preaching: "**Love Boldly**"

Readings: Leviticus 19: 9-18; Matthew 22:37-39: | John 13:34-35

AUGUST 10 – 9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Pastor Luis Felipe, preaching: "**Serve Joyfully**"

Readings: Nehemiah 8:10; Psalm 100: 1; 1 Peter 4:10; John 13: 14-15

AUGUST 17 – 10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

(Pastor Luis on vacation)

Becca Rome, Director of Discipleship & Spiritual Formation, Preaching

Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

AUGUST 24 – 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Pastor Luis Felipe, preaching: "**Lead Courageously**"

Readings: Joshua 1:9 & Ephesians 6: 10

AUGUST 31 – 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(Pastor Luis will be attending a national meeting)

Alex Wilson, Certify Lay Minister- Preaching

Readings: Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16;

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

It is my hope and prayer you enjoy these final days of summer.

See you all in Worship.

Blessing & peace,
Luis Felipe





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Sycamore United
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE



HOPE HAVEN MEAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR AUGUST

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.** You may also get on the Hope Haven volunteer list by texting HOPEHAVEN to the church #.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR AUGUST

Canned beans
Crackers
Canned fruit
Canned veggies
Canned meals
(spaghettios, beefaroni,
etc)
Crunchy Peanut butter
Diced Tomatoes
Spaghetti sauce
Mayo
Salad Dressing

Boxed potatoes
or stuffing
Cereal
Paper towels
Tissues
Toiletries
Empty Egg Cartons



The Food Pantry will be handing out **school supplies and backpacks** in August so we are doing a school supply/backpack drive. Please put your items in the tub in the Concourse.



Congratulations to Todd and Abbie Puttkammer on the birth of their son, **ReinHardt J. Puttkammer!** ReinHardt was born on **July 23rd**, weighing **9 lbs. 5 oz.** and measuring **22 inches long**. Mom and baby are both doing great, and the family is now home and settling in together.

3 SIMPLE RULES

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

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

The Service Personnel and Their Families

Cpt. Mark Browning,	SGT Brock Grimaldi
*SGT Ben Bushno	*SPC Alexis Jones
SGT Shaune Clark	*Maj Steve Haack
SGT Matthew Einhorn	PV2 Rachel McMillion
PFC Timothy Einhorn	*CPL Joshua Caraballo
PO1 Frank Incapreo	SPC Sutip Jackson
SFC Christopher Isabel	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>
PO3 Samuel V. Bell	

We extend our sympathies to the families of:

Sylvia Berger, Nate Johnson and Rick Stewart

Those for whom we pray:

Nancy	The Collins Family
David Dykema	Tia Incapreo
Diana Grace	Don Mathey
Neil Weir	Ralph Stover
Mark McGee	Nanette Richards
Gary Blake	Bruce Richards
Carol Berndt	Bob Clarner
Jimmy Schmidt	Tammy O'Reilly
Carol Keneway	Ray Larson
Mike Milyanovich	Matthew Herbaugh
Jerrica Newby	& family
Dwain Stadie	Austin & Becca
Mark Westrom	Fraedrich and their
Dani Smith	newborn twins
Addison	Stephanie Landis
Jamoni Zander	Jessica Hagendorn
Norma Clarner	Blake Trout
Diane Mathey	Dave Walker
Damian	



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION - LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE


Recent news reports talked about the magnificent visuals seen in various parts of the country from the special appearance of the northern lights. Along those same lines, have you given much thought to the light you shine as a Christian? The Bible says, *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven"* (Matthew 5:16).

The question we have to ask is, "How clearly and how brightly am I reflecting Christ in my life?" There are lots of things that diminish our reflections. Grudges and anger, grief, and guilt all diminish and tarnish our reflections. God designed us to be reflections of him, and what is happening in our lives, in our hearts, in our minds, and in our actions affects the brightness of the reflections.

God wants us to be his light, so others will be drawn not to us, but to Jesus, the *"light of the world"* (John 8:12). The depth of our own relationships with God matters a lot when it comes to letting his light shine!

We busy ourselves with a lot of activities, things that are important to us. We are going to be investing our time and energy in many things, yet each of us needs to ask, "How much am I investing in the lives of others as I give of my time, talents, and treasures?"

As children of the light, we have this Good News to tell. Jesus reminded us of the urgency of the proclamation of his redemption. We read in John 4:35 that Jesus said, *"Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are [ripe] for harvest."* We are "Empowered by Grace to Witness" effectively, passionately, clearly, and with perseverance. Let us respond to Christ's gift of salvation by giving generously of our gifts. To make a monetary donation you may mail a check to the church (Attention Business Manager Jim McCue) at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178, give on-line at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving, or text "Giving" to 815 895-9113.

<div>June 30th</div> <div>Finance Comparison</div> 			
	2025 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL
INCOME	\$268,318	\$317,040	\$282,271
EXPENSES	\$365,417	\$353,801	\$340,120
NET	(\$97,099)	(\$36,761)	(\$57,849)

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

VBS

Thank you to all who participated, volunteered, or supported this amazing ministry of our church. 105 children, from over 70 families, journeyed into a deeper relationship in this wild world. At TRUE NORTH VBS, kids learned that even when we wonder, feel alone, feel powerless, when we need hope, and when we need help, we can trust Jesus to always be with us! Each day saw faith explorations, memorable music, and epic adventures where kids explored their relationship with Jesus and with one another.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **Blessing of the Backpacks** is on August 17th. Donations of school supplies and backpacks are needed for food pantry families and can be dropped in the bin located in the Concourse.
- **Kick-off Sunday** is September 7th to celebrate our program year's theme of "Back to Basics". Jesus reminds us to lean into the simple things. He spent years studying and praying, the basics of God's will, before going out into the world to build relationships and disciple others. In honor of this, we will hold a congregation-wide potluck picnic after the 9:30 service.



ALL AGES

- **BREAKTHROUGH Worship & BBQ** – This summer come see what Breakthrough Worship is about! August 31st, we will have our last outdoor service from 4:30-6pm. Bring your lawn chairs and a side to share for this unique worship and small group experience.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- **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 on 8/4 & 8/21. Register for one or more by texting SUMMERMM2025.
- **Christian Kids** will meet on Wednesday, August 6th from 3:30-5:30pm. We will expand our understanding of God and ourselves through activities and service. Register 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 8/11 from 9-10am. Older siblings are welcome to join the fun. Register by texting TUNES.
- **Fall Programing Starts Soon:** Be watching for Fall Programming such as Christian Kids, Magic Mondays, and Children's Choirs to start the week of September 7th. 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 July 13th and 27th (5-7pm on the 27th). As always this is open to all Middle High Schoolers. We have food, games, and some devotional time.
- **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.

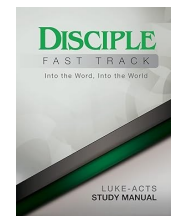
ADULTS

- **Singles Fellowship** meets August 26th from 6-7:30pm for dinner and discussion. Newcomers are welcome.
- **Summer Video Study** is on Monday nights at 6pm in the Lounge to watch and discuss episodes of *The Chosen*. Newcomers are welcome anytime as episodes stand alone. Participants will view and episode and discuss its depiction of the Bible story. Come for one or all, but please register by texting **CHOSEN** to the church phone number.
- **Fall Classes Start Soon!** We have 2 Bible Studies, a Book Study, and Prayer Groups coming to help strengthen you on your discipleship journey starting after Kick-off Sunday on September 7th.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

DISCIPLE FAST TRACK BIBLE STUDY

- “I received new insights, new friends, and a new richness in my life.”
- “It turned the lights on.”
- “We were able to see and accept each other as we are.”
- “The commitment is doable and worth the time investment.”
- “I came to learn about scripture. I didn’t realize how much I’d learn about myself.”



These are some comments from people who participated in the last **Disciple Bible Study**. Are you looking to get to know more people at church or learn more about the Bible? Join us for Disciple Bible study. During the 12 weeks we meet, we'll look at the books of Luke and Acts in the Bible. Class members read individually for about 20 minutes a day and then meet once a week for discussion. The class is on Tuesday nights from 5:30 – 6:45 in the lounge of the church, starting September 23rd. Contact the church office to get more information or to register.



WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS

August is here! Which means, school and our music programs will soon be beginning a new season! ! Hope you are enjoying the extra warm weather, outdoor activities, travels and all the fun that summer brings! Music and worship here has certainly been exciting and fun so far too! Mark your calendars for the start dates of our ensembles! If you've been thinking about getting into the music and arts, we'd love to make music and fellowship with you!

Chancel Choir Our first rehearsal and beginning date is Wednesday, August 27th 7-8:30 pm. For those of you who have wanted to sing with choir but haven't had the time or able to make the weekly commitment now have a chance to try it out! The Music is always, fun, upbeat, and inspirational! Please see Peter Hansen or contact the office staff for more information!

Tech Team We really need you! We are always looking for tech team helpers! Slides/video and sound help needed! Un sure If you're qualified or not? Not to worry, we'll show and teach you all that is necessary to be successful at it! Please contact Alex Wilson or the office staff for more information!

Breakthrough Do you play guitar, bass, drums, sing? Do you enjoy the contemporary style of worship and music? Contact the office for more information.

Handbells Choir: Handbells Choir begins on Thursday, September 4 from 7-8 pm They ring once a month and have done a special combined ensemble Sunday a few times each season! Contact Peter Hansen or the church office for more information.

Children's Choir(s): We currently have 2 Children's Choirs. Kids Choir and Jr. Choir! They will begin the Wednesday after our Fall Sunday Kickoff! The start date is Wednesday September 10 from 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Instrumental Ensemble: Play as needed during the church year. While primarily this has been a brass ensemble, all band/orchestral instruments are welcome to participate!

See Peter Hansen for more information on any of these groups, or, inquire at the church office!

Pete Hansen

Director of Worship, Music and Arts

P.R.I.D.E. COMMITTEE

The PRIDE Committee is excited to continue with our events through the year! We have our first collab event with Faith Now Dekalb coming up on 8/9 Bonfire & Big Questions at 6pm! Come eat and explore your faith with us! All ages welcome! We have our upcoming monthly Game Nights 8/16, 9/27, 10/18, 11/15, & 12/13 from 4-7pm in the gym! Bring a friend and come join in fun and fellowship! Everyone is welcome! Also save the date for our 3rd annual Teacups For The Trevor Project tea party and silent auction on September 20th at 2:30pm ticket sales coming soon! We hope to see you soon!



PPROMOTING
RRECONCILIATION,
IINCLUSION,
DDIVERSITY, and
EEQUALITY

AUGUST 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the September issue of The Messenger is August 20th

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM UWF Thrift Sale	2 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM UWF Thrift Sale
3 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM PRIDE Comm. 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship	4 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:00 AM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Summer Video Study - "The Chosen"	5 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Troop 18 Food Prep	6 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 3:30 PM Summer Christian Kids	7 4:00 pm TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group	8	9 6:00 PM Faith NOW Bonfire & Big Questions
10 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM Pumpkin Fest Parade Float Team 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	11 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:00 AM Tunes & Togetherness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 5:00 PM Discipleship Committee 6:00 PM Summer Video Study - "The Chosen"	12 9:30 PM Mary Circle 1:00 PM Grace Circle	13 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 6:00 PM Girl Scout Mtg.	14 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group	15	16 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 4:00 PM Game Night hosted by the PRIDE Committee
17 BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship	18 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:00 AM Magic Mondays 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Food Pantry 5:00 PM Discipleship Committee 6:00 PM Summer Video Study - "The Chosen"	19 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 6:00 PM Singles Fellowship at Ski's	20 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 3:30 PM Summer Christian Kids	21 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Youth Ministries Team	22	23
24 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM UWF NOW Circle 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	25 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:00 AM Tunes & Togetherness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Summer Video Study - "The Chosen"	26	27 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	28 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group	29	30
31 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Worship and BBQ	September 1 Offices Closed in observance of Labor Day	September 2	September 3 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	September 4 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group	September 5	September 6 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 8:00-1:00 Red Cross Blood Drive

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BLESSING of the backpacks

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 17
at 9:30am**



Students, educators, and education support staff are invited to attend this service, where special prayers will be said for you as you go back to school.



SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

KICK-OFF
Sunday

&

CHURCH
Picnic

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

during the 9:30 am service

Picnic follows the service

(bring a side dish to pass)

