



October 2025

# Messenger

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

---

## FROM PASTOR LUIS FELIPE'S DESK

Dear Siblings in Christ!

May the peace, hope and love of our Holy Triune God be with you all.

It is the middle of the season after Pentecost. Fall/ Autumn is upon us and somehow, it's harvest season and yet we are more than halfway through our series on Jesus' Parable and we are still learning.

Going Back to Basics have giving us in real time an opportunity to open ourselves to embrace Jesus's teaching with a new understanding, I hope. As we continue unpacking Jesus' teaching emphasizing love, forgiveness, humility and the kindom of God throughout the Parables, I pray we all have gained something we may have missed. Let me recap so far...

Love and compassion –

to love God and love neighbor

Forgiveness-

urging us to forgive as have been forgiven.

Humility and Service

true greatness comes from serving others rather than seeking power or recognition.

Kindom of God

It is here and now, calling us for a radical transformation in how people live.

Let's continue this journey, praying that this experience continues building our understanding of being a disciple of Christ here and now.

Harvest blessings,

*Pastor Luis Felipe*

---

## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

- SUMC Float Pumpkin Fest float team will be having a **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser** on October 4th 4:00-7:00 tickets available now or at the door.
- **Dine to Donate** on October 6th from 5-8pm at **Tom & Jerry's**. Proceeds will go toward the SUMC Pumpkin Fest Float.
- October 11th at 5:00pm **"How Sweet the Sound" Hymn Sing**
- **3rd Grade Bible Sunday** is October 12th. Any Child in 3rd grade will receive a blessed bible to continue their journey in Christ
- Mark your Calendars for our **Blessing of the Animals** on October 12th at 6pm. This will be a short service of prayers and readings, including "The Rainbow Bridge".
- October 18th at 4:00pm **PRIDE Game Night**
- **Trunk or Treat** is October 19th at 12pm is open to all. Register your trunk by texting TT25 to the church phone # (815-895-9113) and join the fun. **Candy donations would also be appreciated.**
- **SUMC Pumpkin Fest Craft Show**  
Friday, October 24 from 11:00am-5:30pm  
Saturday, October 25 from 9:00am-4:00pm





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



Sycamore United  
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc



## OCTOBER 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/](https://www.facebook.com/SUMCIllinois/) or  
[www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=sycamore+umc](https://www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=sycamore+umc)

Our sermon series exploring the parables of Jesus continues. Each week, we'll look at a different parable and discover how its message still speaks to our lives today.

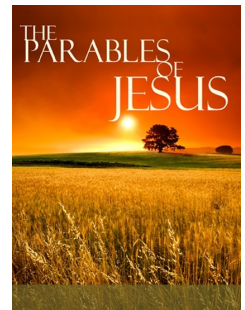
**OCTOBER 5 –**  
**17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
World Communion Sunday  
*Laborers in the Vineyard*  
Matthew 20:1-6

**OCTOBER 12 –**  
**18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
3rd Grade Bible Sunday  
*The Widow and the Judge*

Luke 18:1-8

**OCTOBER 19 –**  
**19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
*Pearl of Great Price*  
Matthew 13:45-46

**OCTOBER 26 –**  
**20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
Only 1 service at 9:30am  
Reformation Sunday



### 3 SIMPLE RULES

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



As a church family, we deeply value the ministry of prayer. To help us be intentional and current in lifting up names before God, we have refreshed our prayer list. Typically, names remain on the list for about three weeks, unless we receive an update to extend them. If you would like a loved one's name to be added back, please contact the church office. Together, we will continue to hold one another in prayer, trusting God's care for each person on our hearts.

#### **The Service Personnel and Their Families**

SGT Matthew Einhorn	*Maj Steve Haack
PFC Timothy Einhorn	*CPL Joshua Caraballo
CPO Frank Incapreo	SPC Sutit Jackson
SFC Christopher Isabel	PV2 Liam Keller
MSG Matt "Scott" Stewart	E-5 PO Hayden Royer
*LT Matthew Herbaugh	E-3 Amanda Royer
PO3 Samuel V. Bell	*PV2 John Archer
SSGT Brock Grimaldi	<i>*indicates deployed personnel</i>
*SPC Alexis Jones	

#### **Those for whom we pray:**

Nancy	Bob Clarner
David Dykema	Norma Clarner
Diana Grace	Donna Mathey
Neil Weir	Austin & Becca
Mark McGee	Fraedrich and their
Matthew Herbaugh	newborn twins
Jimmy Schmidt	Blake Trout
Jerrica Newby	Bea Skelton

#### **STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION - THE FALL HARVEST**

As you read this newsletter, local farmers will be working on their fall harvest. In the Old Testament, God's people gave offerings as they harvested their crops and as new livestock were born. They gave the first part of their crops and livestock, trusting that God would bless them with a good harvest and more animals. Offerings to God have evolved over time to gifts given at weekly services. The Apostle Paul wrote: "On the first day of each week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income..." (1 Corinthians 16:2). God wants us to give regularly of the financial rewards we receive.



God also wants us to give cheerfully. 2 Corinthians 9:7 reads, "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." As we grow as disciples; as we understand more and more what God has done for us through Christ; as we see that Jesus gave himself for us; can we not help but be prompted by the Holy Spirit to respond cheerfully by sharing abundantly of the resources given to us by God? When God's people give faithfully from willing and loving hearts, God is pleased.

May this year's fall harvest inspire you to give regularly and cheerfully in support of the ministries of Sycamore United Methodist Church. You may mail your check to the church at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178 (attention Business Manager Jim McCue), give on-line at [www.sycamoreumc.org/giving](http://www.sycamoreumc.org/giving), or text "Giving" to the church phone number – 815-895-9113. Blessings be to you for a bountiful fall harvest.

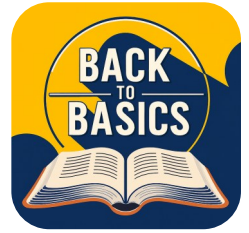
#### **REMEMBER SUMC IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST**

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.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

### **BACK TO BASICS: 25-26 MINISTRY THEME**

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.



This year, we're focusing on "Back to the Basics" in our walk of faith. Together, we want to grow through simple, everyday practices that shape us as followers of Jesus. We will focus all studies and programming toward Bible Literacy & Prayer Practice.

Our hope is that these practices will strengthen our faith as we grow closer to God and one another.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Would you like to claim this community of faith as the place to live out your discipleship? Our **New Disciple/Member class** is coming on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> following morning worship. Please let us know if you're interested.

### **CONFIRMATION**

**Intro & Planning Meeting — Sunday, October 5 at 8:30 a.m.**

All 8th graders and high school students interested in Confirmation are invited. We'll set class dates/times and go over what to expect as you continue your faith journey.

### **3RD GRADE BIBLES**

**Presentation — Sunday, October 12 during the 9:30 a.m. service**

Third graders—and upper-elementary children new to our church—are invited to receive a Bible to begin their own study of God's Word.

### **YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT**

- **Youth Group** will continue to meet every other Sunday. We extended the time now to 6-8pm. Next meetings are scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. As always this is open to all Middle and High School youth. 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. A virtual meeting is available.

### **ADULTS**

**Fall Studies are always happy to have newcomers**

- **Monday Night Bible Study:** *Hope for Troubled Times: The Books of Judges and Ruth*. Runs weekly through December 8, 6-7pm weekly. Text JUDGES to register.
- **Tuesday Night Video Study:** *The Chosen* meets weekly Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30pm starting on October 2<sup>nd</sup> in the lounge.
- **Wednesday Book Study:** *Short Stories by Jesus*. This study on the parables meets weekly through November 19<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 12:30pm. Text PARABLE to register.

### **ABC PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS**



Our Mission Project this month will be "The Pink Party" to support breast cancer survivors.

Open House will be on Monday, October 6 from 6-7 PM.

Pumpkin Festival Flags are on sale in the ABC Preschool office.

Costume Parade will be held on Thursday and Friday, October 30 & 31

Butter Braid Fundraiser will be running the month of October with orders due by 10/22





## OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE



*How Sweet  
the Sound* AN AUTUMN  
HYMN SING  
*Let the colors of fall and  
the beauty of sacred  
song fill your heart.*

Saturday, October 11th at 5:00 pm

Sycamore United Methodist Church, 160 Johnson Ave., Sycamore. IL

Join us for an evening of inspiring music featuring the **Chancel Choir**, an **instrumental combo**, and talented soloists, trios, and quartets—all under the direction of **Peter Hansen, Director of Music**. Best of all, **YOU** will be part of the evening as we raise our voices together, singing the hymns and songs we all love.

Come ready to lift your spirit, stand on the promises, and sing your cares away!

### **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

Animals of all kinds are welcome to attend **Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**. This short service will have readings and prayers for our four-legged and winged family members. The Red Barn Animal Hospital will be handing out treats and answering questions.

### **TRUNK OR TREAT**

**Sunday, October 19 at 12:00 p.m.**

Join us for a spooktacular afternoon! Register your trunk by texting TT25 to 815-895-9113. Candy donations are welcome. Trunk registrations accepted up to—and on—the day of the event. We can't wait to see your costumes and creativity!



### **PRIDE MINISTRY UPDATES**

#### **Teacups for The Trevor Project**

PRIDE recently hosted their 3rd annual *Teacups for The Trevor Project* fundraiser with nearly 60 people in attendance! It was a meaningful afternoon of conversation, delicious treats, and an inspiring message from Dr. Jessica Lapinski on the importance of life-saving mental healthcare access. Thank you to everyone who supported this wonderful event.

#### **Game Nights**

Join us for our monthly Game Nights in the gym from **4:00–7:00 pm**. Bring a friend, a favorite board game (or use one of ours), enjoy some snacks, and spend time connecting with others.

- October 18
- November 15
- December 13

#### **Bonfire & Big Questions**

PRIDE is partnering with Faith Now! for another evening of faith exploration and conversation around the fire pit. Join us on **Saturday, October 26 at 5:00 pm**, as we close out Pumpkin Fest weekend with meaningful dialogue, warmth, and fellowship.

🗉 All ages are welcome at all PRIDE events—we'd love to see you there!




## OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

### UWF SOUP SALES AT THE SUMC CRAFT SHOW

UWF will once again be selling soup mixes at the Pumpkinfest Craft Show. These soup mixes are gluten free. The mixes have very little sodium themselves so when made with no sodium broth they are a healthy meal. You can customize the ingredients you add to please your family. Mugs and delightful craft items will be available at our booth to pair with the soup mixes so that you can create a great gift. We'll even wrap it up and tie it with a bow. Come get your favorites or try something new. You will find us in the Commons Oct. 24 and 25. If you would like to place a large order of 8 or more soup mixes, contact Cheryl Callighan 815-262-1831

### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR OCTOBER

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



### THE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP...SPONSOR A TURKEY DINNER for \$15 each (goal is 125 meals)

To donate text "Turkey" to the church # or scan the QR Code & choose "Turkey" in the Designation Box



### COAT MINISTRY BEGINS IN OCTOBER

Coat Ministry will be starting on Mondays beginning October 13 and continuing thru March 16 from 12:00 to 3:00 pm. Donation of coats for men, women and children (please NO wool dress coats), gloves, mittens, hats, socks, snowpants would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

# DINE to DONATE

fundraiser night


benefiting: Sycamore United Methodist Church

## 5-8PM

## Monday, October 6

Dine In - Drive Thru - Carry Out - Delivery

10% of all sales between 5-8pm will be donated to Sycamore United Methodist Church



**Tom & Jerry's**

Restaurant

Sycamore, IL

1670 DeKalb Avenue - Sycamore

**#HeroesEatGyros**

### SUPPORT OUR PUMPKIN FEST FLOAT!

We're excited to be part of this year's Pumpkin Fest parade, and we need your help to make our float a success! Donations are needed to cover supplies, decorations, and other expenses.

You can support the float in a number of ways:

- Visit our Amazon wish list at: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1OUXMKUFFL3D8?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1OUXMKUFFL3D8?ref=wl_share) or by scanning the QR Code.
- Monetary donations are always welcome
- Attend our **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser** on Saturday, October 4th from 5:00-7:00pm. Tickets are available now!



FLOAT

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD CREATING AND DECORATING OUR SUMC PUMPKIN FEST FLOAT.**

# OCTOBER 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the November issue of The Messenger is October 20th

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	2 4:00 pm TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	3	4 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 4:00-7:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the SUMC Float
3 8:00 AM Confirmation Informational Breakfast 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b> 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	6 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 5-8:00 PM Dine to Donate at Tom & Jerry's 6:00 PM Bible Study: Judges and Ruth 6:00 PM ABC Preschool Open House 7:00 PM Trustees	7 4:30 PM GS Troop 4294 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 983 Information Meeting	8 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 Girl Scout Family Informational Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	9 4:00 pm TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 5 7:00 PM GS Leader Mtg 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	10 6:00 PM GS Troop 912	11 5:00 PM Hymn Sing "How Sweet the Sound"
12 <b>3rd Grade Bible Sunday</b> 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b> 6:00 PM Blessing of the Animals	13 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 4:45 PM GS Troop 5070 5:00 PM Discipleship Committee 5:30 PM Finance/Stewardship Committee 6:00 PM Bible Study: Judges and Ruth	14 9:30 PM Mary Circle 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4	15 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team Meeting 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM Staff Pastor Parish Relations Comm. 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	16 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	17 12:30 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting	18 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 10:00 AM Memorial Committee 4:00 PM PRIDE Game Night
19 <b>UWF Pin Presentation</b> 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 12:00 PM Trunk or Treat 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b> 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	20 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 6:00 PM Bible Study: Judges and Ruth 6:30 PM Worship Comm.	21 1:00 PM Grace Circle 4:30 PM GS Troop 4294 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1	22 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	23 7:00 AM Pumpkin Fest Prayer Breakfast 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	24 11:00 AM - 5:30 PM Pumpkin Fest Craft Show	25 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Pumpkin Fest Craft Show
26 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM UWF NOW Circle 6:00 PM Bonfire and Big Questions	27 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 4:45 PM GS Troop 5070 6:00 PM Bible Study: Judges and Ruth	28 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:00 PM GS Troop 734	29 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	30 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" 6:00 PM Nominations Committee 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	31	November 1 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast

