



September 2025

# Messenger

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## FROM PASTOR LUIS FELIPE'S DESK

Welcome to Fall!

Welcome Back to Basics!

The first time I was introduced to our 2025–2026 theme, the image that came to mind was of those enlisted in the Armed Forces preparing for basic training. Along our faith journeys, we too encounter moments where it feels like we are in training—returning to the essentials, learning, stretching, and growing.

The disciples themselves spent nearly three years in intense “basic training” with no less than the Master, Jesus Christ. His teaching centered on the Kin-dom of God here and now, with radical love for all. At times, the disciples struggled to grasp His message, yet Jesus encouraged them that all would become clear in due time. At Pentecost, we are reminded of the Spirit’s power, equipping us to be the church Christ calls us to be.

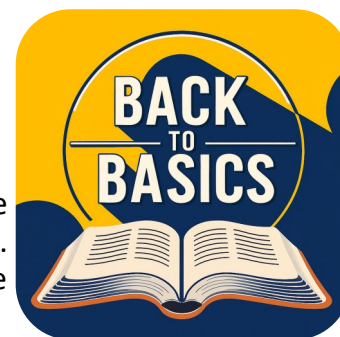
Just as it was for the first disciples, our training is never complete—it is a lifelong journey. Whether you are a long-standing member of our congregation or new to the community, we are all invited to return to the basics together. This fall, we will immerse ourselves in Jesus’ parables—stories intentionally told to the disciples and now given to us. We will listen as though hearing them for the first time, engaging in fresh ways with the call to discipleship.

Jesus Himself modeled this rhythm of grounding and growing. Before beginning His public ministry, He spent years studying, praying, and practicing the basics of God’s will. From that foundation, He built relationships and disciplined others. Likewise, our focus this year is “Back to the Basics”—leaning into simple, everyday practices that shape us as followers of Jesus.

All of our studies and programming will be centered on two practices: **Bible Literacy** and **Prayer**. These are not just disciplines, but lifelines for our walk of faith. By engaging them together, we strengthen our faith and grow closer to God and one another.

As we step into this new season, may we renew our commitment to **Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously**. Look for the many opportunities ahead to learn, connect, and create community as we walk this journey of discipleship together.

In Christ’s service,  
Pastor Luis Felipe



 SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## KICK-OFF & CHURCH

**Sunday Picnic**

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

during the 9:30 am service  
Picnic follows the service (bring a side dish to pass)





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Sycamore United  
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc



## SEPTEMBER 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)

Join us starting **Sunday, September 7** as we begin a new sermon series exploring the parables of Jesus. Each week, we'll look at a different parable and discover how its message still speaks to our lives today.

### SEPTEMBER 7 – 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Services of Holy Communion  
*Parable of the Lost Sheep / Kick-Off Sunday*  
Luke 15:4-7

### SEPTEMBER 14 - 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Parable of the Lost Son*  
Luke 15:11-32

### SEPTEMBER 21– 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*The Good Samaritan*  
Luke 10:25-37

### SEPTEMBER 28 – 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*The Mustard Seed*  
Mark 4:30-32;  
Matthew 13:31-52;  
Luke 13:18-19

### PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE UM MEN'S

#### Spiritual Congress

September 12 – 14, 2025  
Conference Point - On Beautiful Lake Geneva  
300 Conference Point Road Williams Bay, WI

#### Forged by Grace

Ephesians 2:4-10 Peter 4:10-11

Details and registration: [www.nicumm.org](http://www.nicumm.org)

## 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:

Dave Walker  
Bill Worden  
Bea Glawe

### Those for whom we pray:

David Dykema	Don Mathey
Diana Grace	Ralph Stover
Neil Weir	Nanette Richards
Mark McGee	Bruce Richards
Gary Blake	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	Donna Mathey
Damian	
Tia Incapreo	



### STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION - EMPOWERED TO GIVE GENEROUSLY

Being generous does not mean you give the greatest amount. God entrusts each of us with various amounts of time, talents, and treasures. As God's stewards, we are called to manage our blessings according to God's will. God is the source and owner of all things so our goal is to please and honor him with how we use our gifts and blessings to serve others. God knows that that we are not perfect. Since the fall of Adam, God has used ordinary people to do the extraordinary. Abraham was a man of God, but, when foreigners asked Abraham about his wife, he said that she was only a relative, not his wife. Jacob stole his brother's birthright, Peter denied Jesus, and the disciples quarreled.

In spite of our imperfections and frailties, God wants to use us, just as he did those biblical heroes as his hands and feet to feed the hungry, house the homeless, build his church, and seek the lost with his Gospel. God has made us his stewards, and he equips us for the task. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"And God is able to make all grace to you, so that in all things, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"* (2 Corinthians 9:8).

God doesn't expect us to be perfect stewards, but God expects us to have attitudes that meaningfully give in praise and service to him. Small amounts can have a big impact. For example, any given week there are about 200 givers supporting our church. By giving \$20 a week for a year, our narrative budget shows just over \$200,000 needed for nursery school through adult programming (Discipleship and Spiritual Formation) would be fully funded. This includes things like Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and adult bible and book studies. Examples of this kind of generous stewardship is what prompted Jesus to say, *"Well done, good and faithful servant"* (Matthew 24:23).

May Grace empower you to give generously. You may mail a check to the church at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, Illinois, 60178; give securely on line at [www.sycamoreumc.org/giving](http://www.sycamoreumc.org/giving); or text "Giving" to 815-895-9113. Thank you for your support of the missions and ministries of Sycamore United Methodist Church.



## OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

### ALL AGES

- **Kick-off Sunday** is September 7<sup>th</sup> to celebrate our program year's theme of "Back to Basics". In honor of this, we will hold a congregation-wide potluck picnic after the 9:30 service. UMM will be grilling hotdogs and brats. Please bring a salad, side, or dessert to share.

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- **Magic Mondays** is faith-filled fun around stories, crafts, games, and more. Preschool kids age 4 meet every other week starting 9/22 from 12-1:15pm. Bring lunch or a snack to help with kindergarten readiness. Register for one or more sessions by texting MM25.
- **Christian Kids** will meet on Wednesdays, beginning September 10th from 4:00pm-5:30pm. We will expand our understanding of God and ourselves through activities and service. Register by texting CK25.
- **Children's Choirs:** 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 pm

### 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 September 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</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.

### ADULTS

#### Fall Studies Starting the Week of 9/7:

- **Monday Night Bible Study:** *Hope for Troubled Times: The Books of Judges and Ruth*. Runs September 8 – December 8, 6-7pm weekly. Text JUDGES to register.
- **Wednesday Book Study:** *Short Stories by Jesus*. This study on the parables starts September 10<sup>th</sup>, meeting weekly from 11am to 12:30pm. Text PARABLE to register.
- **Tuesday Night Bible Study:** *Disciple: Luke & Acts*. Starts 9/23 from 5:30-6:45pm weekly. Text DISCIPLE to register. Here's more info:
  - "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."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?** During the 12 weeks we meet to look at the Bible. Members read individually for about 20 minutes a day and then meet once a week for discussion.
- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** "The Chosen" season 2 Video Study begins Thursday, October 2nd at 5:30pm in the church lounge.

### P.R.I.D.E. COMMITTEE

The PRIDE Committee invites you to join us for our third annual Teacups For The Trevor Project a tea party benefiting The Trevor Project, a non-profit that provides 24/7 crisis support services, research, and advocacy for LGBTQ+ youth. Join us September 20th at 2:30pm for afternoon tea, snacks, a silent auction, and guest speaker. Tickets are available for purchase by texting "Teacups" to 815-895-9113 to reserve your ticket. A donation of \$25 per ticket is recommended for this event. We also have our Monthly Game Nights 9/27, 10/18, 11/15, 12/13 from 4-7pm in the gym! We hope to see you soon!



**P**PROMOTING  
**R**RECONCILIATION,  
**I**INCLUSION,  
**D**DIVERSITY, and  
**E**EQUALITY



## OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

### WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS

#### JOIN OUR MUSIC MINISTRIES



##### CHANCEL CHOIR

WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING AUG. 27

7:00-8:30 PM



##### HANDBELL CHOIR

THURSDAYS BEGINNING SEPT. 4

7:00-8:00 PM



##### CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

(KIDS AND JR. CHOIR)

THURSDAYS BEGINNING SEPT. 10

5:30-6:00 PM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

#### 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

## LIFE MISSIONS

### BENTON HARBOR TRIP UPDATE

A huge thank you to everyone who supported and donated to the Sycamore Life Mission trip to Benton Harbor, MI. I couldn't be prouder of our team and the incredible work they accomplished.

Becca and I had the privilege of leading this amazing group, and together, we were truly able to make a difference in the lives of the people in Benton Harbor. Our team took on a variety of tasks including weeding, harvesting, and planting in community gardens, building a pizza oven, volunteering at a church's Vacation Bible School, sorting clothes and stocking the local thrift store, partnering with the Boys and Girls Club, and even painting houses and curbs.

We served as disciples of God and represented Sycamore United Methodist Church Life Mission in a spirit of faith, love, and generosity—just as we've been taught through Scripture. Throughout the trip, we spent time discussing how we can bring these lessons and experiences back to serve our own community.

We also shared meals, work, and devotionals with other church groups, forming meaningful new relationships with fellow followers of Christ. Along the way, we gained a deeper understanding of cultural differences and the deep pain these can sometimes cause within communities. This trip challenged us to grow in empathy, to serve in ways that may seem small but carry lasting impact, and to walk more faithfully in love and compassion.

I am so honored and grateful to have led such a hardworking, giving, and Christ-centered group. Thank you again for your prayers, encouragement, and support. God is good!

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

### HOPE HAVEN MEAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER

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 SEPTEMBER

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



### 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!

### 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 in two easy ways:

- Visit our Amazon wish list at:  
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1OUXMKUFL3D8?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1OUXMKUFL3D8?ref=wl_share)  
or by scanning the QR Code.
- Monetary donations are always welcome



FLOAT

Every gift—big or small—helps us share our church's presence and spirit with Sycamore at this community event. Thank you for your support!



**American  
Red Cross**

### **BLOOD DRIVE AT SUMC**

**Sat., September 6th from 8:00-1:00 in the gym**

For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org)



### UWF THRIFT SALE WAS A SUCCESS!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the UWF Thrift/Bake Sale a success. Whether you set-up, donated, helped organize, baked, or shopped at the sale, you are all part of this mission. We donated items to Hope Haven, Safe Passage, the Pumpkinfest float committee, and Hope Chest (a group located in Rochelle that supports the migrant workers). Our food pantry clients had great fun coupon shopping. We pulled items that will be used in three upcoming events. It is always a treasure trove of items that we are saving from the landfill. Our profit of \$3,800 will all be used for various missions locally and beyond our community. UWF appreciates all of your support!

# SEPTEMBER 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 HAVE A SAFE LABOR DAY! Church offices closed	2 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 7:00 PM Trustees	3 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	4 4:00 pm TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	5 6:00 PM GS Troop 912	6 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 8:00-1:00 Red Cross Blood Drive
7 <b>Kick-Off Sunday &amp; Church Picnic</b> 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM Church Picnic 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b> 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	8 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 4:45 PM GS Troop 5070 6:00 PM Bible Study: Judges and Ruth	9 9:30 PM Mary Circle 4:30 PM GS Troop 4294 5:30 PM Finance/ Stewardship Committee 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 7:00 PM Church Council	10 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	11 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM GS Leader Mtg 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	12	13 8:00 AM DeKalb County Scouts
14 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b>	15 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Bible Study: Judges and Ruth	16 1:00 PM Grace Circle 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1	17 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 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	18 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	19 7:00 PM Pack 141 Pack Meeting	20 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 2:30 PM Teacups for Trevor
21 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	22 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 4:45 PM GS Troop 5070 6:00 PM Bible Study: Judges and Ruth	23 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 4:30 PM GS Troop 4294 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:00 PM Singles Fellowship Group	24 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	25 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 5 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	26 12:30 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting	27 4:00 PM PRIDE Game Night
28 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM UWF NOW Circle 11:00 AM UWF Meet and Greet 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b>	29 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Bible Study: Judges and Ruth	30 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study	October 1 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 L.I.F.T. Dinner 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	October 4 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	October 3	October 4 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast

## COMING IN NEXT MONTH!

"How Sweet the Sound" Hymn Sing  
3rd Grade Bible Sunday  
Blessing of the Pets  
PRIDE Game Night  
UWF Pin Presentation  
Trunk or Treat  
SUMC Craft Show  
SUMC Craft Show

October 11th at 5:00pm  
October 12th at 9:30am service  
October 12th at 6:00pm  
October 18th at 4:00pm  
October 19th at 9:30am service  
October 19th  
October 24 from 11:00am-5:30pm  
October 25 from 9:00am-4:00pm

