

Messenger

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER



December 2025

SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 30 & DECEMBER 7

Hanging of the Ornaments at both services
(see page 6 for more details)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

7:00pm SUMC Annual Church Conference
All are welcome to attend.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

11:00am United Women in Faith Christmas Unit Meeting
(see page 6 for more details)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:00pm Jazz in Progress Christmas Concert
Food Pantry items or free will offering to be taken to support the Sycamore Food Pantry

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 9:30am Family Advent Service**
Our family Advent service will be a Baby Shower for Jesus at the 9:30 worship. Please bring hypo-allergenic diapers or wipes to donate to those in need.
- 10:30am Bethlehem Bazaar**
Join us after worship in the Bethlehem Bazaar where God's children of all ages can have fun at activity stations to experience the Advent story in new ways.
- 10:30am All Church Christmas Party & Cookie Share**
After you check out the Bazaar head to the gym for our all-church Christmas party/ Cookie Share. We'll gather for fun and fellowship with movies, games, music and more. Brunch will be served, but please bring 2 dozen Christmas cookies to share. RSVP by texting "PARTY" to the church phone number.
- 5:00pm Christmas Cantata - "Night of the Father's Love"**
The cantata focuses on the idea that the birth of Christ was the ultimate gift, a powerful and tender expression of the Father's love for the world.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

4:30pm The Longest Night/Blue Christmas
A Service of Loss, Healing & Hope at Sycamore United Methodist Church.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:30pm Family Service with Candlelight and Communion
Nursery will be provided.

9:00pm Traditional Candlelight Service of Lessons, Carols and Communion.
Nursery will be provided.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

12:00-2:00pm Christmas Day Dinner with all the fixings!
We will be hosting a Community Christmas Dinner on December 25th from 12-2pm with all the fixings! Text CHRISTMASDINNER to register to come and eat. If you are interested in helping or donating, please watch for information in the bulletin and your email inbox for ways you can share your gifts and/or time.



The annual **SUMC Giving Tree** this year will support CASA, a local organization that serves as the voice for children in DeKalb County who have experienced abuse or neglect. Grab an ornament with an item from their wish list from the giving tree and return unwrapped to church by 12/19.



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



DECEMBER 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

DECEMBER 7 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19:
Matthew 3:1-12:

DECEMBER 14 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 35:1-10:
Psalm 146:5-10:
Matthew 11:2-11:

DECEMBER 21 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 7:10-16:
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19:
Matthew 1:18-25

DECEMBER 21 - BLUE CHRISTMAS AT 4:30 PM

DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE AT 4:30 & 9:00 PM

Isaiah 9:2-7:
Psalm 96:
Titus 2:11-14:
Luke 2:1-20:

DECEMBER 28 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Isaiah 63:7-9:
Hebrews 2:10-18:
Matthew 2:13-23:



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Those for whom we pray:

Nancy	Fraedrich and their
Diana Grace	newborn twins
Neil Weir	Blake Trout
Mark McGee	Bea Skelton
Matthew Herbaugh	Larry Mathey
Jimmy Schmidt	Scott Walters
Jerrica Newby	Mike Milyanovich
Bob Clarner	Kelly Brens
Norma Clarner	Jessica Hagendorn
Austin & Becca	Damian

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	



We value the ministry of prayer and have refreshed our prayer list. Names typically remain for three weeks unless updated. To add or extend a name, please contact the church office.

Let's continue to lift one another in prayer, trusting God's care for all.



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

"...IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE" (ACTS 20:35)

In the scripture verse above, the Apostle Paul quotes Jesus to remind us that we honor God when we freely give of our time, talents, and treasures in service to others. We are now in the season of Advent to celebrate God's wondrous gift of his son Jesus to us. Just as the three wise men brought gifts for the baby Jesus, we will give gifts to family and friends as a way to recognize this life-changing event. But the impact of spiritually motivated gifts can often be lost in the excitement of exchanging a physical gift wrapped in a box. Our recently completed pledge drive, "Empowered by Grace", included testimonials from your fellow church members that can help put "giving" back into perspective. Think about these statements and how you can be a giving part of their outcome:

"I help with the food pantry."

"I sing in the choir."

"I help with our vibrant Christian education program for children and youth"

"I'm part of the Caring Ministry Network for those who are ill or homebound"

You may securely give of your financial resources online at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving, text **"Giving"** to **815-895-9113**, or mail a check to the church at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178 (Attention Business Director Jim McCue).

Thank you for your past generosity and for your generosity yet to come in the new church year. May you find that your actions of Stewardship lead to a faith-based life of grace, peace, and joy.

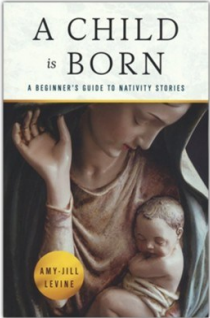
UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION

Please let the church office know if you've moved or have any updates to your contact information (mailing address, phone number, or email). Keeping our records current helps us stay connected with you!

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

WEEKLY ADVENT DEVOTION WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE

Each week during Advent, we'll share a packet of daily devotions to guide your reflection and prayer. Look for it in your eNews or on the church website.



OUR ADVENT STUDY IS COMING!

Join us for the study of *A Child Is Born* by Amy-Jill Levine. Beloved UMC Pastor, Adam Hamilton praises this book, saying, "Christians know and love the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus. But behind these stories are other nativity stories found throughout the Hebrew Bible. Levine has written a wonderful and inspiring book, helping us see the connection between these moving stories and the birth of Christ. A book to be savored!" Classes meet on Wednesdays from 11-noon, starting 11/26 or Thursdays from 5:30-6:30pm, starting December 4th. Register by texting ADVENT to the church phone number. Copies are coming to the Resource Center soon, or you can purchase them online.

YOUNG ADULT

- **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.

FAMILY MINISTRY

- We're excited to kick off the second semester of Christian Kids and Magic Mondays! Registration will be available soon, and we hope you'll join us for another great season of growth and fun.
- We are also seeking nursery/childcare providers to help care for our youngest members. We're looking for individuals who can serve 3–6 hours a month, on Sundays and some weeknights during meetings and events. If you or someone you know would like to help, please contact Todd Puttkammer.

YOUTH MINISTRY

- **SUMC Life Missions** is officially registered for next year's Mission Trip! We'll be heading to Louisville, KY, June 29 – July 3, partnering with Youth Works. A sign-up sheet is posted — we're looking forward to another impactful trip!
- **Our Thursday morning breakfast and devotion** (for Sycamore High's late start schedule) is being finalized — stay tuned for the kickoff date!
- **Youth Groups** continue to meet every other Sunday from 6–8 PM. Next meetings are scheduled for December 14th and 28th.
- **We are in great need of adult volunteers** to help make these gatherings possible. If you have questions or would like to get involved, please contact Todd Puttkammer..

PRIDE MINISTRY UPDATES

The PRIDE Committee is reflecting on a wonderful year filled with community, activism, education, friendship, and fellowship. We have our last monthly game night "Don We Now Our Gay Apparel" of the year on 12/13 from 4-7pm in the gym. This game night is holiday themed so wear your most festive attire and join us for food and games! All ages are welcome! Stay tuned for our 2026 events! Lots more coming soon!



3 SIMPLE RULES

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

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

ABC PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS

December is here! The magic of the Christmas Season is a joy to see.

Our classes start the month off with a gingerbread theme and then we jump into the study of Christmas. For 2 weeks everyone will learn about the joy and wonders that this time of year brings to all children and adults alike. We end our month with activities and stories that teach about the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The children will have their annual Christmas Concert on December 9 beginning at 6:00 PM.

Our Monthly Mission Project for December will be to work with:

Central DuPage Hospital Child's Life Toy Donation's

Age Range: Young Child - Teens

Notes: All Must Be New in Package & Non-Edible & Non- Scented

Playdoh	Legos	Board games
Barbie	Stuffed Animals	Puzzles
Hot wheels	Fidgets	DIY kits
Disney Princess	Coloring books	
Uno	Card games	



The hospital has an area for children to select a toy or other item to have while they are receiving their various treatments. To be able to provide a child with something to play with or have while receiving chemotherapy or several other treatments they are going through is truly a blessing. We will have a donation box available to contribute to. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

We wish each one of you a blessed Christmas Season and a wonderous New Year as we go into 2026

Blessings,
The ABC Preschool Staff

A Christmas Cantata presented by
SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Night of the
Father's Love**

The Awe and Mystery
of God with Us

by **Pepper Choplin**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th
at 5:00 PM**

160 Johnson Ave., Sycamore, IL sycamoreumc.org 815-895-9113

NIGHT OF THE FATHER'S LOVE THE AWE AND MYSTERY OF GOD WITH US

All the mystery, the awe, and the palpable excitement of that night are imaginatively captured in a Christmas mosaic that combines fragments of the familiar with Pepper Choplin's always-unique perspective in word and music. Night of the Father's Love skillfully guides the listener through the Christmas story, as though hearing it again for the first time. Three narrators interject with familiar scripture passages and personal reflections, while an intriguing array of musical styles beautifully express the essence of Christmas: the gift of the Father's love.

Night of the Father's Love will be presented on December 14, 2025 at 5:00 by our Chancel Choir. A reception of light refreshments will follow, hosted by the United Women of Faith and the United Methodist Men. We look forward to seeing you there! For more information contact the church office at 815-895-9113.

HANGING OF THE ORNAMENTS

The season of Advent is a highlight of any congregation's life. It is a time of joy, color, light, and anticipation. And it is a time of worship. This is a season that calls us to fall to our knees in worship of the awesome God. On the **First Sunday of Advent, November 30th and the Second Sunday of Advent, December 7th**, after the worship services you are invited to bring an ornament from your household and place it on the Christmas Tree located right in the concourse outside the Worship Center. In doing this we will setting/preparing for Christmas. From your house to the House of Worship.



THE UWF HOLIDAY LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD ON DEC. 4TH AT 12 NOON.

We will have holiday music provided by Wes Carr. Please bring your own table service. Check with your circle leader for what type of side dish to bring. If you are not in a circle, please bring a salad side dish to pass. If you will need childcare contact Todd. ALL are welcome. First timers, we are happy to have you join us and you don't even have to bring any food!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR DECEMBER

Canned beans

Crackers

Canned fruit

Canned veggies

Crunchy Peanut butter

Canned meals

(i.e spaghetti's,
beefaroni)

Diced Tomatoes

Spaghetti sauce

Mayo

Salad Dressing

Boxed potatoes
or stuffing

Paper towels

Tissues

Toiletries

Bar Soap



JAZZ IN PROGRESS TO PERFORM A

HOLIDAY CONCERT

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 160 JOHNSON AVE., SYCAMORE, IL

SATURDAY, DEC. 6
7:00 - 8:15 PM

MUSIC BY **JAZZ IN PROGRESS**
CO-HOSTED WITH CHAPTER DX OF
P.E.O. INTERNATIONAL

★ FOOD PANTRY ITEMS OR FREE WILL OFFERING TO BE TAKEN
TO SUPPORT THE SYCAMORE FOOD PANTRY ★

www.facebook.com/JazzInProgress LIVE STREAM, TOO!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Food Pantry's Thanksgiving Dinner giveaway.

Because of your kindness and generosity, dozens of families in our community were able to enjoy a complete Thanksgiving meal. Your gifts made a real difference and helped us share hope, hospitality, and God's love with neighbors who needed it most.

We are truly grateful for your continued support!



HOPE HAVEN FOR DECEMBER

Prepare or buy just one course or the entire meal to feed 60-65 people! Please call the church (815-895-9113) to let us know if you will be delivering it. 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 # of 815-895-9113.

DECEMBER 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

NOTE: The church offices will be closed Wednesday, December 24th thru Friday January 2nd,
If you have an emergency and in need of assistance, please call the church number at 815-895-9113.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 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 6:30 PM SPPRC 7:00 PM Church Conference	2 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM GS Troop 697	3 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Advent Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 7 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	4 12:00 PM UWF Unit Mtg. 3:30 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Adult Advent Study 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	5 6:00 PM GS Troop 983	6 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 7:00 PM Jazz in Progress Concert
7 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship	8 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 5:00 PM Discipleship Committee 5:30 PM Finance/ Stewardship Committee 6:00 PM Bible Study: Judges and Ruth	9 11:00 AM Mary Circle 11:00 AM ABC Preschool 2's Christmas Sing 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:00 PM ABC Preschool 3's Christmas Sing 7:00 PM ABC Preschool 4's Christmas Sing	10 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Advent Study 11:00 AM ABC Preschool 2's Christmas Sing 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	11 3:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Adult Advent Study 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	12 12:30 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting 6:00 PM GS Troop 912 7:00 PM Pack 141 Pack Meeting	13 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 4:00 PM PRIDE Game Night "Don We Now Our Gay Apparel"
14 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Bethlehem Bazaar 10:30 AM Christmas Party & Cookie Share 5:00 PM Christmas Cantata 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	15 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 4:45 PM GS Troop 5070 6:30 PM Worship Comm.	16 1:00 PM Grace Circle 4:30 PM GS Troop 4294 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM GS Troop 697	17 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team Meeting 11:00 AM Adult Advent Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 7 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	18 3:30 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Adult Advent Study 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	19	20 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast
21 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	22 ABC Preschool no school 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry	23 ABC Preschool no school 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 3:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 4:30 PM Family Service w/ Communion 9:00 PM Traditional Service w/ Communion	25 Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas 12:00 PM Christmas Day Dinner	26 ABC Preschool no school Church offices closed	27
28 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	29 ABC Preschool no school Church offices closed	30 ABC Preschool no school Church offices closed	31 ABC Preschool no school Church offices closed	January 1 ABC Preschool no school Church offices closed	2 ABC Preschool no school Church offices closed	3

The deadline for the January issue of The Messenger is December 20th



Christmas Poinsettias Order Information

It's time to order your Christmas poinsettias.
The poinsettias will adorn our Sanctuary in memory
of family and friends during this Christmas season.

The poinsettias are \$12.00 each for a 2 quart pot.
Please return your order form and money
to the church office by Tuesday, December 16.

Your
Name _____

In Honor/Memory (please circle one) of:

In Honor/Memory (please circle one) of:

How Many? _____

Please include total amount _____

Make checks payable to
Sycamore United Methodist Church
and indicate for "poinsettias".

