



January 2026

# Happy New Year!

# THE Messenger

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 - Mission Trip Informational Meeting at 5pm
- 5 - Bible Study—The Book of Romans at 6pm
- 7 - Book Study "The Lord's Prayer" at 11am & 6pm
- 8 - Video Study "The Chosen" at 5:30pm
- 19 - MLK, Jr. Celebration at New Hope Baptist in DeKalb at 6pm
- 22 - Breakfast & Devotion for HS Youth at 7:30am
- 24 - Rockford Ice Hogs Fundraiser Game at 7pm
- 24 - Game Night from 4-7:00pm.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
**Men's Pancake Supper**  
**is February 5th from 4-6:30 pm**



**Tickets are available in the Concourse on Sundays or from any UMM member**



## SYCAMORE UMC GAVE ABOVE AND BEYOND THIS YEAR TO PROVIDE FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Our annual SUMC Giving Tree supported children and youth served by CASA or Court Appointed Special Advocates. Thanks to the generosity of so many of you, the hygiene items the children requested as well as gift cards to various restaurants were provided. When the items were delivered, a case workers commented that was the perfect time for these donations. And in the days and weeks prior to our delivery, 20 new children were added to their caseloads. Thank you again for helping to make a difference in the lives of these children and responding to God's call to care for God's people, no matter their circumstance or ages.

Our annual Community Christmas Dinner on December 25<sup>th</sup> from 12-2pm served nearly 200 meals to those in need of a meal or companionship. Thank you to all who gave of their resources, especially the Sycamore Lion's Club who covered the cost of the meat. Also, thank you to all who gave of their time by cooking, cleaning, conversing, or serving food. This ministry has grown because of your generosity, and we look forward to seeing how it grows.



## HOPE HAVEN FOR JANUARY

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.

## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY

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



The Sensory Room will be announcing approval to the church council and the congregation of the first 2 phases by Trustees. We also received our first donation and will begin moving forward for this inclusive space.



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Sycamore United  
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc



## JANUARY 2026 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/](http://www.facebook.com/SUMCillinois/) or  
[www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=sycamore+umc](http://www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=sycamore+umc)

### JANUARY 4 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6:  
Ephesians 3:1-12:  
Matthew 2:1-12:

### JANUARY 11 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Isaiah 42:1-9:  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17:

### JANUARY 18 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUNDAY HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 49:1-7:  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9:  
John 1:29-42:

### JANUARY 25 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 9:1-4  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18:  
Matthew 4:12-23:

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.

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

## The Service Personnel and Their Families

SGT Matthew Einhorn  
PFC Timothy Einhorn  
\*CPO Frank Incapreto  
SFC Christopher Isabel  
MSG Matt "Scott" Stewart  
\*LT Matthew Herbaugh  
PO3 Samuel V. Bell  
SSGT Brock Grimaldi  
\*SPC Alexis Jones

\*Maj Steve Haack  
\*CPL Joshua Caraballo  
SPC Sutit Jackson  
PV2 Liam Keller  
E-5 PO Hayden Royer  
E-3 Amanda Royer  
\*PV2 John Archer  
*\*indicates deployed personnel*

We extend our sympathies to the family of:  
Betty Richardson

## Those for whom we pray:

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



## Congratulations, Rob!

Please join us in congratulating **Rob Stover**, our Church Council President, on his appointment as **Head Football Coach at Sycamore High School!**

We're proud of Rob and wish him and the Spartans a successful and rewarding season ahead!

## STEWARSHIP IN ACTION THINKING ABOUT THREE GIFTS

The story about Wise Men from the East following a star that leads them to baby Jesus is found in the book of Matthew and includes this passage, "...and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh." (Matthew 2:11) The Wise Men impart a timeless lesson on generosity through their actions. Each gift holds symbolic and valuable significance. Gold in the context of this story is a way to acknowledge Jesus' divinity – God in the flesh; frankincense is a gum from a tree and was burned in worship services as part of offerings of thanks to God; and myrrh is a spice used in embalming and predicts Jesus giving His life on the cross for those who believe in him.



Today we are called to give three gifts of our own, those of:

**Time** – Such as attendance at worship, being part of a bible study, or supporting a church committee.

**Talents** - Think of singing in the choir, playing handbells, or teaching Sunday School.

**Treasures** – Giving regular offerings, supporting food for the needy and shelter for the homeless or homebound, or making provisions for legacy giving in your memory.

In this new year please prayerfully consider how you can approach generosity with the same spirit as the three Wise Men. Your support for our missions and ministries can be in the form of a check mailed to the church at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, Illinois 60178 (attention Business Manager Jim McCue); a donation on line at [www.sycamoreumc.org/giving](http://www.sycamoreumc.org/giving); or a text using the word "giving" sent to (815) 895-9113. Thank you for your faithfulness. 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.

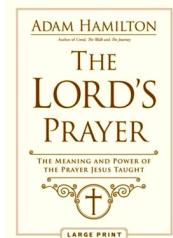
## OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are starting to plan for this year's VBS, *Rainforest Falls*, which will be happening July 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars and save the date for any kiddos age 4-entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade or adult/youth volunteers. We're looking for people for the decor team to make transform the church into the Central American Rainforest. Those interested are invited to join us on February 1<sup>st</sup> after the 9:30 worship service, around 10:45. Or, please reach out to Becca Rome or Todd Puttkammer.

### ADULT STUDIES STARTING IN JANUARY

- **Winter Bible Study:** *Free by Grace: The Book of Romans* is a 14-week Bible study that explores God's grace, faith, and the freedom found in Christ. The class will meet on Monday evenings from 6:00–7:00 pm, beginning January 5, in the Church Lounge. Participants are asked to bring their Bible. A study guide and class schedule will be provided at the first meeting. All are welcome to join this time of learning and spiritual growth together.
- **Winter Book Study:** Join us for our winter book study, *The Lord's Prayer* by UMC Pastor Adam Hamilton. Starting January 7<sup>th</sup>, we will find the meaning and power of the prayer Jesus taught and we use so often today. There are two options to participate: Wednesday mornings from 11-12 or Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm. Register by texting WINTER. Copies are available in the Resource Center.
- **The Chosen Video Study** is on Thursday nights at 5:30-6:30pm in the Lounge to watch this dynamic series about Jesus' life and teachings. 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.



### 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.

### YOUTH MINISTRY

- **2026 Mission Trip to Louisville KY** through Youth Works - June 29 – July 3 - sign up is available. We are looking for one more female chaperone. The informative meeting will be on January 4<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.
- **Youth Group** will be every other week. The next youth group is Jan. 4th, 6-8 p.m. We have food, games, and devotion. All are welcome.
- **Breakfast and Devotions** for Sycamore High's late start schedule, will start on Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 a.m.

### FAMILY MINISTRY

- The church fundraiser Rockford Icehogs hockey game is January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. BMO Center. Tickets available at <https://www.gofovo.com/event/Sycamoreunited2>

### PRIDE MINISTRY UPDATES

The PRIDE Committee is excited to jump into 2026 with education and socializing events! We are once again partnering with Youth Outlook and their Thrive educational series on empowering parents, teachers, and caregivers for LGBTQIA+ youth. Join us 1/13, 1/20, and 1/27 at 6pm to learn more about supporting the LGBTQIA+ youth in your life! Join us for our committee meeting on 1/22 at 5pm to learn more about what we are doing to bring inclusiveness to our church and community. Our monthly game nights continue on 1/24 from 4-7pm in the gym. Join us for food and fun! All ages welcome! We hope to see you soon!



## OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

### ABC PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We cannot wait to begin our new session beginning January 5!

No School on Monday, January 19

Annual Teddy Bear Week fun begins on January 20!

Mark your calendars, as registration for school year 2026/2027 begins on Monday, March 2. We will enroll current families, Sycamore UMC families and alumni families first and then open enrollment begins, March 4.

We thank Sycamore United Methodist Church for all your support of ABC Preschool. We look forward to working together on many projects during the year.



Blessings,  
The ABC Preschool Staff

### WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS

As we begin this new year, what new beginnings are you looking to forward to experience and be a part of A new hobby, a new book study, a new group in the church?

How about trying a new beginning with being a part of Music Worship or Arts area? We have many groups to offer. Here's a list of some! For more information, contact Peter Hansen, Music Director.

**Handbell Choir** Meets on Thursday Nights at 7 pm in the music room. No experience necessary, they will teach you how to be a "ringer!"

**Chancel Choir** Meets Wednesday Nights at 7 in the music room. All that is required is the love and a passion for singing and making music with some new friends! Can't read music? No worries, we'll teach you all you need to know! If you can carry a tune in a bucket, that's great! We'll even provide you with a bucket!

**Children's Choir** meets Wednesday's at 5:30-6:00 pm . Currently we have two children's choirs. Jr Choir and Kids Choir.

**Breakthrough Band** Leads worship on Sunday Evenings at 4:30 pm. They are always in need of instrumentalists (piano, guitar, drums et. al) and singers!

We are also in need of Brass, string and woodwind players for special services and music throughout the year. In addition to the musical aspects of our worship experience, we are also looking to expand our Ministry to include dance, short skits and theatrical liturgy too!

And, we are also looking for communion stewards, liturgy and scripture readers for our services, Breakthrough leaders and Sound a Video tech's as well.

As we begin 2026, I'm looking forward to hearing from, meeting and welcoming many of you very soon to experience and be a part of our Music, Worship and Arts ministries area! And, starting a new beginning and a Spirit led journey with you as well!

A poster for a Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. It features a stylized portrait of Martin Luther King Jr. in blue and white. The text on the poster includes: 'New Hope Missionary Baptist Church', 'MARTIN LUTHER KING JR CELEBRATION', 'Monday, January 19, 2026 | 6 PM', '1201 Twombly Road, DeKalb', 'YOU CAN ALSO WATCH ON FACEBOOK LIVE', and '@NEWHOPEMBC'.

### IN COLLABORATION WITH

- Malta United Methodist Church
- Grace United Methodist Church
- First United Methodist Church of DeKalb
- The United Methodist Church of Sycamore
- First Congregational United Church of Christ
- Federated Church of Sycamore
- Rollo United Church of Christ
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of DeKalb

# JANUARY 2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Happy New Year! ABC Preschool no school Church offices closed	2 ABC Preschool no school Church offices closed	3 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast
4 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b> 5:00 PM Mission Trip Informational Meeting 6:00 PM Confirmation Class of 2026 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	5 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 6:00 PM Bible Study: The Book of Romans 7:00 PM Trustees	6 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM GS Troop 697 6:30 PM Food Pantry Board	7 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study "The Lord's Prayer" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM Adult Book Study "The Lord's Prayer" 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 7 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	8 3:00 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	9 6:00 PM GS Troop 912	10
11 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b>	12 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 4:45 PM GS Troop 5070 5:30 PM Finance/ Stewardship Committee 6:00 PM Bible Study: The Book of Romans 7:00 PM Church Council	13 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:00 PM Thrive Educational Series	14 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study "The Lord's Prayer" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM Adult Book Study "The Lord's Prayer" 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	15 3:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" 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	16 6:00 PM GS Troop 983 6:00 PM Pinewood Derby set-up	17 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Pack 141 Pinewood Derby 10:00 AM Memorial Committee
18 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM NOW Circle 4:00 PM Pack 141 Meeting 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	19 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 Ruth Circle 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 6:00 PM Bible Study: The Book of Romans 6:00 PM Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at New Hope Baptist in DeKalb	20 1:00 PM Grace Circle 6:00 PM GS Troop 697 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:00 PM Thrive Educational Series	21 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team Meeting 11:00 AM Adult Book Study "The Lord's Prayer" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM Adult Book Study "The Lord's Prayer" 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 7 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	22 7:30 AM Breakfast and Devotions for HS Youth 3:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM PRIDE Comm. 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 5 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	23 12:00 PM ABC Preschool CPR Training	24 9:00 AM Leadership Day 4:00 PM PRIDE Game Night
25 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b>	26 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 4:45 PM GS Troop 5070 6:00 PM Bible Study: The Book of Romans	27 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:00 PM Thrive Educational Series	28 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study "The Lord's Prayer" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM Adult Book Study "The Lord's Prayer" 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	29 3:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	30	31

## 3 SIMPLE RULES

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