



November 2025

# Messenger

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION - THE FALL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN EMPOWERED BY GRACE

Cell phones are now commonplace in most people's daily lives, and frequently we are told to "silence" our phones before the start of worship. But what might happen if we could call God during worship to ask him how he saw our effort in fulfilling the purpose for which he created us? What kind of marks would he give us for being his witness, or how we were doing in our service to others, or how we are doing in our giving? Would God tell us that he is pleased with the ways we are using the time, talents, and treasures he has entrusted to us?







Think about your attendance at worship and participation as a member of the choir, an usher, communion assistant, coffee host, or church van driver. How do you help support Sunday school, our local youth Life Missions program or the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)? Are you part of an adult video, book, or Bible study group? Do you help with the Food Pantry, help with meals at Hope Haven, or deliver Meals on Wheels to shut ins? Are you part of United Women in Faith, United Methodist Men, or serve on the Church Council?

In 2 Corinthians 8:7 the Apostle Paul writes to the church in Corinth, "But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us...see that you also excel in this grace of giving." Through your generosity, God makes an impact on the lives of those around us. The missions and ministries of Sycamore United Methodist Church are only made possible through your generous support.

During November we will undertake our stewardship campaign titled "**Empowered by Grace!**" It will conclude with our special pledge commitment Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup>. We hope and pray that you will participate in our pledge drive by sharing the support of your time, talents, and treasures with your church family. If you are unable to attend the commitment Sunday service, please mail your pledge card to the church at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, Illinois 60178 (attention Business Director Jim McCue), set up your regular giving through our website at [www.sycamoreumc.org/giving](http://www.sycamoreumc.org/giving), or text "giving" to 815-895-9113.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SUMC Christmas Festivities and Fellowship on December 14<sup>th</sup>!

-  • **Family Worship Service** at 9:30 with our kids' choirs, interactive worship elements, and a pick-up all kid's choir to close our worship in joyful song!
-  • **The Bethlehem Bazaar** is at 10:30 in the Concourse where God's children of all ages can have fun at activity stations to experience the Advent story in new ways
-  • **Our Christmas Party & Cookies Share** is also at 10:30 in the gym with games, music, and more. Please bring two dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to share. Brunch will be served.
-  • **The Christmas Cantata**, Night of the Father's Love, is at 5pm. Come to hear scripture, reflections, and sensational music as we celebrate the essence of Christmas.



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Sycamore United  
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc



## NOVEMBER 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 through November 16. Each week, we'll look at a different parable and discover how its message still speaks to our lives today.

### NOVEMBER 2 - ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

All Saints Sunday  
*Parable of The Lost Coin*  
Luke 15:8-10

### NOVEMBER 9 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Parable of the Talents*  
Matthew 25:14-30

### NOVEMBER 16 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

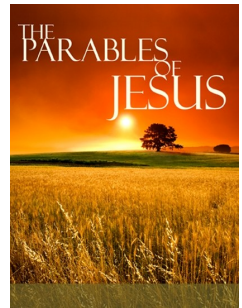
*Parable of the Sower*  
Mark 4:1-20  
Matthew 13:3-23  
Luke 8:4-15

### NOVEMBER 23 - COMMITMENT SUNDAY CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

1 John 5:1-6  
John 15: 1-17

### NOVEMBER 30 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Mathew 24:36-44



## In Our Thoughts & Prayers

### Those for whom we pray:

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

We extend our sympathies to the families of:

Bruce Bickner (Brian Bickner's father)

### The Service Personnel and Their Families

SGT Matthew Einhorn  
PFC Timothy Einhorn  
CPO Frank Incapreo  
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

### PUMPKIN FEST FLOAT TAKES 2ND PLACE!

Congratulations to our Pumpkin Fest Float team for winning **2nd place!** Your creativity, hard work, and joyful spirit shined. Thank you to every builder, painter, donor, and parade-day helper who made it happen!



### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR NOVEMBER

Canned beans  
Crackers  
Canned fruit  
Canned meals  
(i.e spaghetti, beefaroni)  
Canned veggies

Crunchy Peanut butter  
Diced Tomatoes  
Spaghetti sauce  
Mayo  
Salad Dressing  
Cereal

Boxed potatoes  
or stuffing  
Paper towels  
Tissues  
Toiletries  
Bar Soap



# DINE TO DONATE

**Wednesday, November 5th - All Day**

**DINE IN, DRIVE THRU, or TAKEOUT**  
**15% OF SALES WILL BE DONATED TO**  
**THE SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST MEN**



**202 E. State St., Sycamore**



### COAT DRIVE UPDATE!

Since opening on **October 13**, we've given out **95 coats in just three weeks!** Thank you for helping us keep our neighbors warm this season.

We are now in need of **coats for men, women, and children** (please, **no wool dress coats**).

**Gloves, mittens, hats, socks, and snow pants** would also be greatly appreciated!

Donations can be dropped off at the church during office hours or on Sunday mornings. Thank you for helping share warmth and kindness with our community!

### HOPE HAVEN FOR NOVEMBER

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.

## 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.

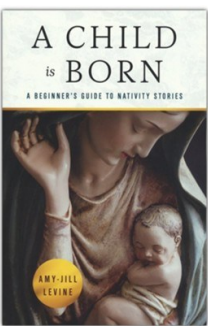
This year, we're focusing on "Back to the Basics" in our walk of faith. Together, we want to grow through simple, everyday practices that shape us as followers of Jesus. We will focus all studies and programming toward Bible Literacy & Prayer Practice.

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



### **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 4<sup>th</sup>. Register by texting ADVENT to the church phone number. Copies are coming to the Resource Center soon, or you can purchase them online.



### **NEW MEMBER INFORMATION**

**New Member Information Classes** are on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> from 11-noon. If you're new or want more information about how we live out our mission through the ministries of this church, join us for these two short sessions to explore who we are and the ways we can support you on your journey of faith. Snacks and childcare will be provided.

### **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 November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<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.
- **Young Adults Friendsgiving** with Faith Now on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Join us for food, fellowship, and festivities. Please bring a side to share. Newcomers and friends are welcome.

### **ABC PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS**

Our Mission Project for November will be our Thanksgiving Baskets! ABC Staff, families and Sycamore United Methodist Church families will join to put together 10 Thanksgiving meals for local families in need. We will be using Sign-up Genius for food donations along with a QR code if you wish to donate money to help fund this project.



Harvest Parties will be held the week of November 17-21  
No School the week of November 24-28

ABC Preschool collects stickers. All kinds of stickers for use in the classrooms

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

### PRIDE MINISTRY UPDATES

The PRIDE Committee has enjoyed seeing so many congregants and community members at our monthly game nights this year. Thank you for helping make them such a welcoming and joyful space. There are two more game nights scheduled for this year on November 15 and December 13 from 4 to 7 p.m. in the gym. Everyone is welcome to attend. As we approach the holiday season, we wish you peace, health, and happiness. We look forward to continuing to build community together in 2026. Stay tuned for upcoming events.

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



### WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS

The Hymn Sing was Great Success! Many from the congregation and community enjoyed an evening of hymns, songs and celebration! Many thanks to the guest musicians who helped us out, Morgan Turner, Wes Carr and Nick Hansen. Thank you to Kevin Sargeant, Paul Callighan, and Dave Leifheit for ushering, and, to the United Women in Faith for their continued support and many goodies and treats afterwards!

**A big thank you to the choir for all you do in preparing and leading this service!**

- Children's Choirs meets Wednesday's 5:30-6:00 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Meets Wednesday's 7-8:30 pm • Handbell Choir Meets Thursday's 7-8:15 pm Chancel Choir: Meets Wednesday Nights 7-8:30 in the music room. (ages High school to Super Senior!) Now is the time to join, as we will be learning our Christmas Cantata, "Night of the Father's Love" which will be presented December 14, 2025 at 5 p.m.
- Children's Choirs: We have TWO this year. Kids choir (ages pre-k to 3rd grade) and Jr. Choir (ages 4th-8th grade) The choirs sing once a month and meet in the music room on Wednesday's from 5:30 – 6 pm.
- Handbell Choir: Meets Thursdays in the music room at 7-8 pm They ring o'clock at the 9:30 morning service, on the second Sunday of the month. Tech Team: We are always looking to add more tech's to our Team. Audio (sound) or Video is your thing, contact Peter Hansen Director of Music. Instrumentalists, pianists, and singers are always needed!



A Christmas Cantata presented by  
**SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Night of the Father's Love**

The Awè and Mystery of God with Us

by **Pepper Choplin**

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

160 Johnson Ave., Sycamore, IL [sycamoreumc.org](http://sycamoreumc.org) 815-895-9113



**SCRIPTURE REMINDS US, “GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.” IN THAT SPIRIT, OUR STAFF MEMBERS HAVE TAKEN A MOMENT TO REFLECT AND SHARE WHAT THEY’RE PERSONALLY GRATEFUL FOR THIS SEASON. MAY THESE EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE REMIND US ALL OF GOD’S ABUNDANT GOODNESS.**

*from Pastor Luis* - During busy periods and when managing long to-do lists, small moments can often be overlooked. Practicing gratitude helps me slow down, reflect, and reconnect—with me, with others, and with what truly matters. I’m grateful for those moments of comfort that bring unexpected joys reminding me that there is always something worth to celebrate. Wishing all a blessed holiday season!

*from Becca Rome* - We have never stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in our prayers. - Ephesians 1:16 (EHV). This scripture hung in my grandfather’s office and now is in mine. Many of you have prayed for me, encouraged me, and given grace as I navigate my seminary and ordination path. For all your spoken and unspoken support, I give thanks to God in this season of gratitude.

*from Todd Puttkammer* - I am so thankful for my family — especially my wife, who is the glue that keeps us all together. She is incredible at everything she does, balancing a full-time job while raising our kids (and, honestly, me too!) and keeping our lives organized and on track. I’m truly blessed to have her unwavering support in all my adventures and ideas, no matter how wild they may be. She is the one person I can always count on, no matter what.

*from Jim McCue* - I am thankful for every day I get to see my children and grandchildren, my son and daughter in law and the family they have brought into my life. I remember with gratitude my grandparents, my parents and in-laws, brothers and sisters who have gone ahead of me. I cherish the times with all of them. My family is a blessing, one that God has created for me.

*Craig Fritz* - I'm grateful to God for calling me to SUMC many years ago. The great friendships and blessings I have received from so many people in our congregation is something I give thanks for this season.

*from Pete Hansen* - I am thankful and grateful for Family and Friends. Those who I spend many hours making music, sharing stories, sharing struggles and sharing Joy’s and happiness with.

For a congregation, community and Church in which we encourage, pray, support, share and care for each other.

Thankful to have a beautiful wife and family to be with everyday!


*from Lisa Szydlowski* - I'm thankful for being given the life that I've prayed for. My beautiful family, food on our table a roof over our head and more blessings each day than I deserve

*from Cory Blanco* - I'm thankful for family, friends, and health.

*from Debbie Elleson* - I’m thankful for my family and friends—especially my grandson, who brings joy and laughter to each day and is truly a blessing to us all. I’m also grateful for my job and for this loving congregation, who make coming to work a joy and a privilege.



# NOVEMBER 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>The deadline for the December issue of The Messenger is November 20th</div>						1 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast
2 <b>All Saints Sunday</b> 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM New Disciple/Member Class 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b> 6:00 PM Confirmation Class of 2026 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	3 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Bible Study: Judges and Ruth 7:00 PM Trustees	4 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	5 <b>All Day... Dine to Donate at Andale</b> 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 7 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	6 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 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	7 6:00 PM GS Troop 983	8
9 <b>Stewardship 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>	10 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: Judges and Ruth 7:00 PM Church Council	11 9:30 PM Mary Circle 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4	12 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	13 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 Handbell Choir	14 12:30 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting 6:00 PM GS Troop 912 7:00 PM Pack 141 Pack Meeting	15 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 4:00 PM PRIDE Game Night
16 <b>Stewardship Sunday</b> 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM New Disciple/Member Class 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b> 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	17 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 6:00 PM Bible Study: Judges and Ruth	18 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	19 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 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 7 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	20 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" 6:00 PM Young Adult Friendsgiving 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM GS Leader Mtg 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	21	22
23 <b>Commitment Sunday</b> 9:30 AM <b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:45 am PRIDE Comm. 11:00 AM UWF NOW Circle 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH <b>Sunday Evening Worship</b>	24 ABC Preschool no school 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	25 ABC Preschool no school 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4	26 ABC Preschool no school 11:00 AM Advent Study 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING! 	28 ABC Preschool no school Church offices closed	29
30 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 Confirmation Class of 2026 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	December 1 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: Judges and Ruth 6:30 PM SPPRC 7:00 PM Church Conference	2 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	3 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM 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 11:30 PM UWF Unit Mtg. 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM 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 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 7:00 PM Jazz in Progress