



April 2026

THE Messenger

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Greetings!

Welcome to the Easter Festival!

And so, we finally come to what may be thought of – in some senses at least – as the most important Sunday of the year. If resurrection is just about a miraculous event that happened to Jesus long ago, or if it's only about something that happens to some people at the end of time, then it has little real value, no matter how fascinating it may be. But, of course, resurrection is about far more than this. It's the promise of God's life available to us both now and forever. And it is the call for us to follow Christ by becoming life-givers and agents of resurrection in our families, communities, and our world. What a glorious and miraculous challenge!

May the empty tomb be more than an event for us as we worship this year and may our worship lead us into a real and transforming encounter with God's irrepressible life!

Let's embody our identity as Easter People! Christ is Risen!

Easter blessings,
Pastor Luis Felipe

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Maundy/Holy Thursday, April 2

7:00pm - Tenebrae Service w/ Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 3

The Sanctuary will be open from 9-3 for personal reflection

7:00pm - Worship Service led by the youth

Easter Sunday, April 5

Services at 7:30am, 9:30am and 4:30pm
w/ Holy Communion

8:30-9:15am - Hot Continental Breakfast in the Concourse



EXTENDING OUR REACH

Starting after Easter, Sycamore UMC will be resuming, after a long hiatus, its ministry partnership with Oak Crest. Pastor and Lay Leaders from our congregation will plan and lead worship on the 1st and 3rd Sunday monthly, with some exceptions, in the Bradt Chapel. All people and faith traditions are welcome, so spread the word about this exciting step in caring for our greater community through worship.



SUMC
STAFF

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



APRIL 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/ or
www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=sycamore+umc

APRIL 2 - MAUNDY/HOLY THURSDAY @ 7PM
SERVICE OF COMMUNION & TENEBRAE SERVICE

Exodus 1-4, 11-14.
Psalm 116.
1 Corinthians 11.23-26.
John 13.1-17, 31b-35

APRIL 3 - GOOD FRIDAY @ 7PM
BUILDING OPEN FOR SILENT REFLECTION
YOUTH LEAD WORSHIP

Isaiah 52:12-53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10: 16-25
John 18: 1-19:42

APRIL 5 - EASTER SUNDAY
SERVICES OF HOLY COMMUNION
Sunrise Worship at 7:30am

Jeremiah 31:1-6
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18:

Celebration of Worship at 9:30am

Psalm 118
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20: 1-18

Easter Evening at 4:30pm

Isaiah 25:6-9
Luke 24:13-49

APRIL 12 - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

1 Peter 1: 3-9
John 20: 19-31

APRIL 19 - THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

1 Peter 1: 17-23
Luke 24: 13-35

APRIL 26 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalm 23
1 Peter 2: 19-25
John 10: 1-11



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Those for whom we pray:

Nancy	Jessica Hagendorn
Diana Grace	Damian Olson
Mark McGee	Becky Sass
Matthew Herbaugh	Vicki
Jimmy Schmidt	Otto
Bob Clarner	Regan & James
Norma Clarner	Lois Cullison
Larry Mathey	Kathy M.
Bea Skelton	Beth Rommel
Jerrica Newby	Aimee Alanis
Austin & Becca Fraedrich	Merle Probasco
and their	Ellis McLives
newborn twins	Rosalie Gartner
Mike Milyanovich	Robert Wolfe
Kelly Brens	

We extend our sympathies to the family of:

Kathy Lenschow
Linda Toles
Neil Weir (Bob and Karla Weir's son)
Jeanne Johnson

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	

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

MOVING FROM RESURRECTION TO TRANSFORMATION

We begin the month of April celebrating Easter. But the story of Jesus' work on earth does not end with his crucifixion, it is our call to action. "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives and trust this good news! (Mark 1:15). As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to do what Jesus did. Jesus' teachings give us a whole new way of living. His stories are meant to transform us from the inside out.



We are challenged to bring definitive examples of "Good News" to those around us. We are to live stewardship in action as we use our time, talents, and treasures to build the kind of world resurrection makes possible. At Sycamore United Methodist Church this means things like feeding the hungry by supporting our food pantry, serving the homeless with meals for Hope Haven, teaching children through the ABC preschool, breaking bread with our neighbors during worship, fostering a deeper understanding of God's word through bible studies and small group meetings, and bringing hope to a total stranger through our worldwide United Methodist connection.

Stewardship is our opportunity to help build the kind of world "Resurrection" is all about. You may support missions and ministries of our church through your offertory contributions, by sending a check to the church (160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178, attention Business Director Jim McCue), by donating on-line at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving, or be texting "giving" to the church phone number (815-895-9113). The Easter story is a reminder that through simple acts of service powerful forms of stewardship are possible.

3 SIMPLE RULES

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

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Let's head to Rainforest Falls, daily from 9-noon on July 13th-17th. You can register your child/ren age 4 through entering 5th grade now by texting VBS2026 to the church phone number. We're also looking for youth and adult volunteers to help guide our campers through the Central American rainforest. Text VBS HELP to sign-up now.



ADULT STUDIES

Let's spring into a new relationship with God, self, and neighbor! Join one of these sensational studies:

- **Disciple Fast Track; Tuesdays 5:30-6:45pm; Starting April 7th**
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 prophets in the Bible who foretold the coming of Our Savior. Members read individually for about 20 minutes a day and then meet once a week for discussion. Text DISCIPLE to the church phone number to register.
- **The Chosen Video Study; Thursdays 5:30-6:30; Starting April 9th**
Participants will watch this dynamic series about Jesus' life and teachings. Newcomers are welcome anytime as episodes stand alone. Participants will view an 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.
- **Spring Book Study; Wednesdays 11am-12pm or 6-7pm; Starting April 22nd**
Connecting Across Differences by Rev. Dr. James Borishade, is a guide rooted in the Bible for fostering meaningful relationships in all areas of life, from friendships to work relationships to marriage and more. Whether you are seeking to grow personally, overcome challenging relational situations, or improve workplace dynamics, you'll be equipped with a road map for better communication. Text STUDY to the church phone number to register.

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

- **SUMC Life Missions** - Pizza fundraising has started \$12 dollars per pizza cheese, sausage, or pepperoni. There is an order form in the resource center or contact Todd Puttkammer. Pizzas will be made on April 25th and can be picked up on April 26th.
- **Youth Group** will be every other week. The next youth group is April 12th and 26th, 6-8 p.m. We have food, games, and devotion. All are welcome.
- **Breakfast and Devotions (BAD)** has continued with growth we are currently meeting once a month for about an hour.



FAMILY MINISTRY

We are excited for our **Bike Rally and Blessing of the Bikes**. This is a community event we will be having on May 3rd from 11am-3pm. We will have a safety course, food trucks, police and fire departments will be here along with community vendors. This will be an amazing time to meet people in our community. All are welcome and bring your bikes.

PRIDE MINISTRY UPDATES

PRIDE (Promoting Reconciliation Inclusion Diversity and Equality) is so excited to be bringing individuals and families together to join in conversations, meals, games, and fellowship. We continue our monthly Game Nights: April 18th, May 16th from 4-7pm in the gym. All ages & abilities welcome! Reminder you are a beloved child of God and we hope to see you soon!



OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

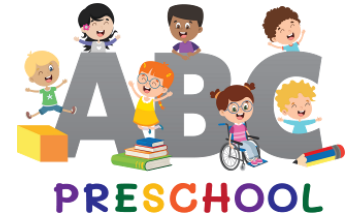
ABC PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS

Easter Eggstravaganza will take place the week of March 30. There will be lots of Bible stories, Easter Egg coloring and a good old fashion Easter Egg hunt!

Spring Sing for our children will be held on Tuesday, April 14

Spring Pictures along with Graduation Pictures will be taken on April 13 & 14

Blessings,
The ABC Preschool Staff



WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS

A concert poster with a brown, textured background. On the left, a woman (Kara Eubanks) is seated at a piano, playing a violin. On the right, a young boy (Nick Hansen) is smiling. The text on the poster reads: 'VIOLIN & PIANO IN CONCERT', 'KARA EUBANKS, VIOLIN', 'ACCOMPANIED BY NICK HANSEN, PIANO', 'SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 5:00 pm', 'SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH', '160 Johnson Avenue Sycamore, Illinois', and 'ALL ARE WELCOME'.

Join us for a concert featuring **violinist Kara Eubanks**, accompanied by **Nick Hansen on piano**. Kara will perform a program that highlights the beauty and expressive sound of the violin.

The concert will be held on **Sunday, April 19 at 5:00 p.m. at SUMC.**

All are welcome to attend.



NURSERY AND CHILDCARE UPDATE

Becca and I have completed the transition in most of our ministry areas. I wanted to share a brief update on our policies.

Nursery and Childcare will continue to be offered. I am working to add more help and staffing to ensure a safe and positive environment for all our children. For now, Nursery will be held in Classroom 2 during services. Childcare events will take place in either the Chapel or Classroom 2, depending on the request.

Nursery:

Children must be 6 months–4 years old and free of symptoms for 24 hours. Please provide diapers, wipes, and a change of clothes. No snacks will be given; water or bottles are allowed. A sign-in sheet with parent/guardian contact information is required.

Childcare:

This is for events outside of weekly worship services that the nursery would cover. A request form must be submitted at least 48 hours in advance to the office or to me. We will do our best to accommodate and I will confirm directly. Forms will be available in the resource center, or I can provide you with one.

My goal is to continue this ministry while maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all our kids.

Blessings and peace,

Todd Puttkammer



OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Women of the Bible Fashion Show

A fun, faithful, and at times modern look at some famous and infamous women in the Bible.

Sunday April 26, 2026 at 1:00 PM

No Tickets Needed. A free-will donation will be taken

ALL ARE WELCOME!
Bring family and friends!

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore IL

COLLECTING POP TOPS & PULL TABS FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Our congregation is joining Sycamore Middle School students in supporting the Ronald McDonald House by collecting pop tops and pull tabs through May.



Please place your tabs in the container under the United Women of Faith bulletin board in the Concourse. Your small contribution makes a big difference for families in need—thank you!

HOPE HAVEN FOR APRIL

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 APRIL

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Soup | Canned fruit | Spaghetti sauce | Salad Dressing |
| Canned beans | Canned veggies | Mayo | Paper towels |
| Crackers | Crunchy Peanut butter | Canned meals | Toilet Paper |
| Canned Chili | Diced Tomatoes | (i.e spaghetti, beefaroni) | Tissues |
| Canned Refried Beans | Canned Peas | | Toiletries |



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Join us for a Red Cross Blood Drive at Sycamore United Methodist Church in the Commons on **Saturday, April 4, from 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.** To schedule an appointment, call **1-800-RED CROSS** or visit **RedCrossBlood.org**. Please bring a **photo ID**, your **blood donor card**, or **two other forms of ID** with you to your appointment. Your donation can help save lives — thank you for supporting this important ministry of care for our community!

American Red Cross

ALL-RECOVERY MEETING AT SUMC

All-Recovery Meetings are held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. This non-denominational gathering is open to anyone and supports all recovery pathways, including AA, NA, SMART Recovery, and others. It offers a safe space for hope, connection, and healing.

The meeting is facilitated by Steve McBride, DeKalb County Recovery Coach with Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery (SVVOR), a nonprofit serving Lee, Whiteside, Ogle, and DeKalb counties through peer and family support, as well as recovery groups.

For more information, go to their website at svvor.org



THE GREATER CHURCH

- **Communication Input Wanted:** The conference is asking for your help in examining the process the conference uses to communicate with NIC United Methodists, its main audience. The final report, expected in early summer, will advise the communications department on what media to use to reach its audience as well as identify less effective approaches. Take the survey at : <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKIZ2O6uPqqHrPhBVXhNVcMN7qcu8sZgVPQoDjMenx0da4iw/viewform>

APRIL 2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the May issue of The Messenger is April 20th

			<p>1 9:00 AM ABC Easter Event 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Lenten Adult Book Study 12:00 PM AARP Tax Preparation 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper 6:30 PM All-Recovery Mtg 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 7 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>2 9:00 AM ABC Easter Event 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Lenten Adult Book 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 Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p>3 No ABC Preschool 7:00 PM Good Friday Service</p>	<p>4 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 8am-1pm Red Cross Blood Drive</p>
<p>5 EASTER SUNDAY 7:30 AM Easter Sunrise Service 8:30 AM Easter Continental Breakfast 9:30 AM Easter Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Easter Evening Worship</p>	<p>6 No ABC Preschool Church offices closed 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Bible Study: The Book of Romans</p>	<p>7 4:30 PM GS Troop 4294 5:30 PM Disciple Fast Track "The Prophets" 6:00 PM GS Troop 697 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1</p>	<p>8 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 12:00 PM AARP Tax Preparation 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:30 PM All-Recovery Mtg. 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" season 3 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Congregation Care & Outreach 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 5 7:00 PM GS Leader Mtg 7:00 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p>10 6:00 PM GS Troop 912 6:00 PM GS Troop 983</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group</p>	<p>13 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 5:30 PM Discipleship Committee</p>	<p>14 11:00 AM ABC Preschool 2's Spring Sing 5:30 PM Disciple Fast Track "The Prophets" 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:00 PM ABC Preschool 3's Spring Sing 7:00 PM ABC Preschool 4's Spring Sing</p>	<p>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 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 7 6:30 PM All-Recovery Mtg. 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>16 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" season 3 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</p>	<p>17 7:00 PM Pack 141 Pack Meeting</p>	<p>18 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 4:00 PM PRIDE Game Night</p>
<p>19 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM NOW Circle 5:00 PM Kara Eubanks in Concert</p>	<p>20 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 Ruth Circle 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Worship Comm.</p>	<p>21 1:00 PM Grace Circle 4:30 PM GS Troop 4294 5:30 PM Disciple Fast Track "The Prophets" 6:00 PM GS Troop 697 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1</p>	<p>22 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study "Connecting Across Differences" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM Adult Book Study "Connecting Across Differences" 6:30 PM All-Recovery Mtg. 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>23 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM PRIDE Comm. 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" season 3 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 5 7:00 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p>24 12:30 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting</p>	<p>25 9:00 AM Women of the Bible Dress Rehearsal 5:00 PM LIFE Missions Pizza Making</p>
<p>26 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 PM Confirmation Class of 2026 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group</p>	<p>27 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 4:45 PM GS Troop 5070</p>	<p>28 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 5:30 PM Disciple Fast Track "The Prophets" 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4</p>	<p>29 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study "Connecting Across Differences" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM Adult Book Study "Connecting Across Differences" 6:30 PM All-Recovery Mtg. 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>30 3:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" season 3 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p>May 1</p>	<p>May 2 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 10:00 AM Memorial Committee</p>