



May 2026

THE Messenger

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCING OUR NEW ABC PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR – KATIE LO

We are pleased to welcome Katie Lo as the new Director of ABC Preschool. Please see page 8 for her Letter of Introduction to learn more.

STRENGTH FOR THE ROAD AHEAD: A SEMINARY UPDATE

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Joshua 1:8

Joshua is chosen to lead the Israelites into the promised land after 430 years of wandering and waiting. God assures Joshua that the conquest ahead will be worth it. To lead, Joshua must let go of what was, embrace what is, so that God’s will can be fulfilled. It won’t be easy; Joshua must be intentional in his prayers and actions. In doing so, God promises prosperity, not just for Joshua, but for all God’s people.

This verse is balm for my weary soul. I, like Joshua, still have much ahead of me. I am officially halfway through my degree, with two more years to go. The second half has more classes, increased hours for my clinical and ordination requirements, in addition to my duties to the church, family, and a commitment to my spiritual and personal care.

Being strong will require change and trust. After prayerful consideration and in conversation with Pastor Luis and SPPRC, I will be reducing my hours at SUMC as of June 1st from 30 hours a week versus my usual 40+. My responsibilities are mostly online and will be done from my SUMC office.

You may see me in the building, but I may not be working for the church at that moment. So, I may ask you to email or text me, refer you to another staff member, or I may have signs on my door to let you know my availability. Please don’t take this personally. I’m called to be in ministry with you, but I will need your help navigating that in different ways.

Please continue to pray for our congregation and me. God has great things in store as we courageously let go of what was, live into our identity as followers of Christ, so that we can transform the world in his holy name.

Blessings,
Becca Rome
Director of Discipleship

EXTENDING OUR REACH

We have begun a 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.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

May 3 - 11am-3pm

Bike Rally at SUMC

May 15 - 4-7pm

Float Spaghetti
Dinner Fundraiser

May 17 - at 9:30 service

Confirmation Sunday

May 20 & 22—9:30am

ABC Preschool
Graduations

May 27 - All Day

Andale Taco Shop
Life Missions Fundraiser

May 31 - at 9:30 service

Lisa Szydlowski
Retirement Recognition



SUMC STAFF

Rev. Luis Felipe Reyes-Rosario

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BREAKTHROUGH WORSHIP LEADER

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Sycamore United
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc



MAY 2026

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays at 9:30am

Children's Sunday School at 9:30am

Sunday Evening Service at 4:30pm

www.facebook.com/SUMCIllinois/ or

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

MAY 3 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SERVICES OF HOLY COMMUNION

Acts 7:55-60

John 14:1-14

MAY 10 - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

Acts 17:22-31

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

Service of Baptism @ 4:30pm – Breakthrough

MAY 17 - ASCENSION SUNDAY

SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION & COMMUNION

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

MAY 24 - PENTECOST SUNDAY

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

Acts 2: 1-21

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

MAY 31 - TRINITY SUNDAY

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalms 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20



Dear Church Family and Friends,

We would like to thank everyone for their condolences upon the death of our son, Neil. They really touched our broken hearts. We look to faith, family, and friends to help us move forward.

Blessings,

Bob and Karla Weir

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Those for whom we pray:

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

We extend our sympathies to the family of:

Allen Roush
Bert Fredrick
Lana Haka
Dan Rodgers

The Service Personnel and Their Families

SGT Matthew Einhorn	*SPC Alexis Jones
PFC Timothy Einhorn	*Maj Steve Haack
*CPO Frank Incapreo	*CPL Joshua Caraballo
SFC Christopher Isabel	SPC Sutit Jackson
MSG Matt "Scott" Stewart	PV2 Liam Keller
LT Matthew Herbaugh	E-3 Amanda Royer
PO3 Samuel V. Bell	*PV2 John Archer
SSGT Brock Grimaldi	<i>*indicates deployed personnel</i>

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE



It is spring planting season. Farmers are planting crops, home vegetable gardens are being prepared, and flowers and plants are bringing color and decoration to homes and businesses. Spiritually, we are challenged to plant seeds of hope as recounted in the parable of the sower in Mark 4:2-9. All seeds have the power to produce abundantly. But the scripture reminds us that all seeds do not flourish because they wind up getting eaten by birds, or land on rocky soil, or get choked out by weeds. Jesus is saying that God is the great sower, giving all of us the seeds of grace, love, and forgiveness. It is up to us to live up to our potential, so these seeds grow.

May you find rich soil at Sycamore United Methodist Church to sow seeds with generosity that impact your life, the community, and the world. May you find a positive message of forgiveness, grace, and love. May you see God at work trying to make life better for others and join in these tasks. May you be surrounded by others trying to become Disciples of Jesus Christ and support each other on the journey.

Financial Update

January 1 to March 31



	2026 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL
INCOME	\$251,864	\$233,649	\$222,959
EXPENSES	\$265,509	\$246,142	\$285,969
NET	(\$13,645)	(12,493)	(\$63,010)

As you prepare for your spiritual spring planting, consider a gift to the church as a seed of hope. Checks may be mailed to the church (160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178, attention Business Director Jim McCue), donations may be given on-line at www.sycmaoreumc.org/giving, or text "giving" to the church phone number (815-895-9113). Remember, these seeds of hope bring a promise of a rich harvest.

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

• **Spring Book Study; Wednesdays 11am-12pm or 6-7pm**

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 Fundraiser** - On May 27th, we will be partnering with Andale Tacos for an all-day fundraiser to support our 2026 Mission Trip to Louisville, KY. Come out, enjoy some great food, and help support this meaningful mission!
- **Youth Group** will be every other week. The next youth group is May 10th and 24th, 6-8 p.m. We have food, games, and devotion. All are welcome.
- **Breakfast and Devotions (BAD)** gathering continues to grow! We meet once a month (typically the 3rd Thursday) for about an hour. Come join us for fellowship and encouragement.



FAMILY MINISTRY

- **We are currently looking for Sunday School teachers.** If you feel called to serve and can help even occasionally, please reach out to Todd Puttkammer. If everyone takes a turn, we can easily fill the schedule and ensure our kids are well cared for each week.
- We are also seeking to hire an **additional Nursery/Childcare provider.** This is a paid position. If you're interested or would like more information, please contact Todd Puttkammer.
- 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 11-3p.m. 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) continues its programming with our monthly Game Nights: May 16th and June 27th from 4-7pm in the gym. We will once again be at Pride Fest downtown DeKalb on 6/20! We love bringing people together for conversations, meals, games, and fellowship. 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

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

Please join us Sunday, May 31st during the 9:30 service and coffee hour as we celebrate Lisa Szydlowski's retirement and honor her 16 years of dedicated service as ABC Preschool Director. We thank her for the countless children she has nurtured, guided, and inspired over the years.

ABC PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS

It is hard to believe that our school year is almost over. There are so many emotions running through all of us here at ABC Preschool. We've had so many successes this year as each child has flourished in his and her own way.

We will celebrate 30 children heading off to kindergarten with graduation ceremonies on Wednesday, May 20 and Friday, May 22. We invite family and friends to join us as we send them off with blessings and celebrations.

ABC Preschool was able to accommodate 93 children in our programs this year. That would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our team. It was a year of doing what needed to be done to meet the needs of local families.

The staff here at ABC Preschool would like to welcome our new Director, Mrs. Katie Lo. Everyone is looking forward to working with Katie to continue making ABC one of the most successful preschools in our area. This fall will be our 40th year in operation!

We will say goodbye to some of our staff members as they move on to new adventures in their lives. Blessings to Vicki Stevens, Kendall Colness, Kristin Salerno, Aleesa Gunderson, Jessie Martin, Bridget Johnson and Lisa Szydlowski.

Once again, we thank you for all your support this year to help make this successful. We look forward to working together in the coming school year. Our Parent Night will be held in August. Have a wonderful summer and be safe!

Blessings,
The ABC Preschool Staff

WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS

April has been a very busy month for the Music, Worship, and Arts Ministry. There have been many extra nights of worship, rehearsals, preparation, and special presentations.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our worship leaders, the Breakthrough Band, and the tech team. A special thank you also goes to the soloists, ensembles, and instrumentalists who assisted during Holy Week and throughout the month. Thank you to our children's choirs and their directors for your tireless work and commitment. A big thank you to the Chancel Choir for leading so many worship services and for presenting such a moving and meaningful cantata on Palm Sunday.

We are also grateful to our church family for your kind words, encouragement, and engagement in worship. Your support means so much.


As we move into May, we will still be ringing, still be singing, still be playing, and still be leading in worship. And there is still time to join us. Summer will soon be here, and we are looking for anyone willing to share their musical or artistic talents. Singers, guitar players, instrumentalists, and others are all welcome.

Please consider sharing your gifts with us.



OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MAY

Soup	Canned veggies	Spaghetti sauce	Salad Dressing	Bar Soap
Crackers	Crunchy Peanut butter	Mayo	Paper towels	
Canned Chili	Canned Peas, Beans	Canned meals	Toilet Paper	
Canned Refried Beans	and Corn	(i.e spaghetti, beefaroni)	Tissues	
Canned fruit	Canned Tuna		Toiletries	



Our **Sycamore Food Pantry** is in need of a few extra hands on **Mondays during the summer months**. Volunteers help with a variety of tasks, from organizing and stocking to assisting those who come for support. If you're able to give even a little time—whether it's once or throughout the summer—it would make a meaningful difference. Please contact Jody Jones or the church office to learn more.



HOPE HAVEN FOR MAY

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.

MEALS ON WHEELS

We have the opportunity to serve our community through **Meals on Wheels this May**, and we'd love your help! We are looking for volunteers to deliver on the **Sycamore East and West routes** on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.



We still have a openings on the **East Route** on Thursdays

If you have a little time to share, this is a simple but meaningful way to brighten someone's day. Deliveries begin with pickup between **10:30–11:00 a.m.**

Please consider signing up or contacting the church office—we truly appreciate your help in caring for our neighbors.



PUMPKIN FEST FLOAT SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Join us for a delicious evening of food and fellowship at our **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Friday, May 15, from 4:00–7:00 pm.**

Tickets are **\$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5–12, and free for children under 5.** A **family rate of \$30** is also available. Scan the QR Code or text SPAGHETTI to the church phone number of 815-895-9113.



Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door. Bring your family, invite friends, and enjoy a great meal together.



LIFE FUNDRAISER MISSIONS IS MAY 27TH



Come support our LIFE Missions trip to Louisville KY which is June 29-July 3 and treat yourself to a great lunch or dinner! We are teaming up with Andale Taco Shop at 202 E. State St., in Sycamore. **On May 27th a percentage of all sales that day will be donated to our mission trip.** Thank you in advance for your continued support!!

MAY 2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

 <p>Summer Office Hours begin May 26th Monday - Thursday: 8:30am-2:00pm Fridays: 8:30am-12 Noon</p>					1	2 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Aruna Run 10:00 AM Memorial Committee
3 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11am-3pm Blessing of the Bikes and Bike Rally 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship	4 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 7:00 PM Trustees	5 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	6 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 PM Adult Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM Adult Book Study 6:30 PM All-Recovery Mtg 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 7 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	7 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pumpkin Fest Float Team 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	8 6:00 PM GS Troop 912	9
10 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	11 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 4:45 PM GS Troop 5070 5:30 PM Finance Comm. 7:00 PM Church Council	12 5:30 PM Disciple Fast Track "The Prophets" 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:30 PM Food Pantry Board	13 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 PM Adult Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM Adult Book Study 6:00 PM ABC Preschool Governance Committee 6:30 PM All-Recovery Mtg. 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	14 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Discipleship Committee 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 5 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	15 4-7:00 PM Float Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser	16 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 4:00 PM PRIDE Game Night
17 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM NOW Circle 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship	18 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 Ruth Circle 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry	19 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	20 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 AM ABC Preschool Graduation 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team Meeting 11:00 PM Adult Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 4:30-6:30 Lions Drive-thru Dinner 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 7 6:30 PM All-Recovery Mtg. 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	21 9:30 AM ABC Preschool Graduation 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	22 9:30 AM ABC Preschool Graduation 6:00 PM GS Troop 983	23
24 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	25 Church offices closed 	26 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 5:30 PM Disciple Fast Track "The Prophets" 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4	27 Andale Taco Sho Life Mission Fundraiser 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 PM Adult Book Study 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	28 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM PRIDE Comm. 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	29	30
31 Lisa Szydowski Recognition at 9:30 service 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:10:45 AM VBS Decoration Committee 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship	June 1 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Trustees	June 2 5:30 PM Disciple Fast Track "The Prophets" 6:00 PM GS Troop 697	June 3 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 6:30 PM All-Recovery Mtg.	June 4 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group	June 5	June 6 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 4:00 PM VBS Craft Day

Meet the incoming director of ABC Preschool



Katie Lo

Introduction

Hello! My name is Katie Lo. My husband and I moved to Sycamore in 2009. We have been members of SUMC for 8 years. I am a leader of the Good Neighbor Refugee Team here at SUMC. Upon hearing of the opening for director of ABC Preschool, I felt called to serve the church in a new way. It is a calling to use my dedication to the compassionate care and education of young children while serving alongside the staff here at SUMC.

Experience

I have a master's degree in early education from NIU along with a bachelor's degree in Communicative Disorders. I am a licensed teacher with an endorsement in Special Education. I served as the nursery director at Faith United Methodist Church for 7 years. I am a former ABC Preschool teacher and have spent the last 2 years teaching at Two River's Head Start in Sycamore.

