



FROM PASTOR LUIS' DESK

Siblings in Christ,

As we enter the unofficial season of summer, I find myself wondering how, amid all we hope to do, we can remain connected to God and to one another.

As I reflect on the readings for Trinity Sunday, two complementary themes stand out. First, we are invited to recognize and welcome the work of the Triune God in creation: God creates, reveals God's self to humanity, and empowers us to share in the care of the world.

Second, Jesus calls his followers to welcome others into the community of faith through baptism in the name of the Triune God. Together, these themes remind us that God is always creating, always connecting, and always revealing the deep relationships that bind all things together.

God's work in creation

God's work in community

Because of this, we are called to participate in God's work by sharing in God's community and welcoming others, indeed all creation, into the gracious, growing, life-giving communion of the Trinity.

One of the challenges of being the church in a networked age is discerning what the church's place is and imagining what it can become. For some, connectedness feels threatening, and the church can be tempted to become a place of escape, separation, or control. For others, connectedness may seem to endanger identity, leaving small communities fearful of being lost in the wider world.

Yet if we embrace what can be learned and rediscovered through new connections, and if we dare to imagine our place in this interconnected universe, we may find renewed inspiration for ministry, community, and worship.

What would it mean to define ourselves by our connectedness rather than by our differences? What if we saw our faith community as one expression of a deeply interconnected universe?

If our ministry were guided by the ways we are connected to others, rather than by how they differ from us, we might become more open, more welcoming, and more faithful. As we experience the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the presence of the Spirit at work in and through us, we begin to ask new questions, pray new prayers, sing new songs, and take new actions.

How might these Sundays become a celebration of this creative connectedness, and a time for dreaming about new ways our community can share in it right where we are?

Let us stay connected and continue growing in our relationship with God and with one another.

Blessings and peace,



HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

June 3 - 11am

Summer Book Study begins

June 7 - 9:30am

Graduation Sunday

June 21 - 2:00pm

Kara Eubanks in Concert

June 22 - 5:00-8:00pm

Tom & Jerry's
Float Fundraiser

June 28-July 3

LIFE Missions Mission Trip



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Sycamore United
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc



JUNE 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

JUNE 7 - SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GRADUATION SUNDAY

SERVICES OF HOLY COMMUNION

Genesis 12:1-9

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

JUNE 14 - THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 19:2-8a

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35 – 10:8, (9-23)

JUNE 21 - FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 21:8-21

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

JUNE 28 - FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

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.

Give
THANKS
to the Lord
for He is good; His love endures forever.

-1 Chronicles 16:34

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Those for whom we pray:

Nancy
Diana Grace
Jimmy Schmidt
Bob Clarner
Norma Clarner
Jerrica Newby
Mike Milyanovich
Kelly Brens
Damian Olson
Becky Sass
Vicki

Otto
Regan & James
Kathy M.
Aimee Alanis
Ellis McLives
Rosalie Gartner
Robert Wolfe
Ralph Rowe
Gene Miller
Rick Bianco
Amy Ridnour

We extend our sympathies to the family of:
Jody Giltjes (Alex Wilson's mother)

The Service Personnel and Their Families

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

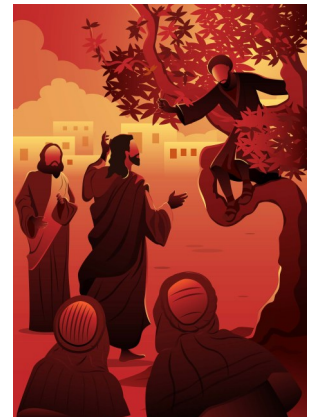
*Maj Steve Haack
*CPL Joshua Caraballo
SPC Sutit Jackson
PV2 Liam Keller
E-3 Amanda Royer
*PV2 John Archer
**indicates deployed personnel*



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

HAVING A ZACCHAEUS AWAKENING

We are in a time when taxes are on our minds. They are being debated in the legislature, a bill has come in the mail and needs to be paid, and taxes are added to the cost of everyday items for food, clothing, and shelter. These are required payments. The same was true in Jesus's time, although tax collection was somewhat different. The tax collector, under protection from Rome, could gather the required taxes, but could also collect additional sums to keep for themselves and they could become very rich. Such was the case in the Biblical Book of Luke about Zacchaeus the Tax Collector. On his way to Jerusalem for the last time, Jesus entered Jericho where he encountered Zacchaeus sitting in a tree in order to see him.



Jesus saw something more in Zacchaeus than a tax collector sitting in a tree. Zacchaeus' desire to see Jesus, even if it meant having to climb a tree to do so, shows the fledgling beginnings of faith in the message Jesus was preaching. Jesus saw this and so invited himself to dinner with Zachhaeus. Revealing himself as the Seeker and Savior of lost souls, Jesus moves Zacchaeus to announce, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." (Luke 19:8) His faith compels Zacchaeus, joyfully and of his own accord, to right what he had wronged and to give generously to the poor.

Just as Zacchaeus once was lost, but now was found, so our own awakening can allow us to experience the joy of generosity from voluntarily giving to support the missions and ministries of Sycamore United Methodist Church as we seek to make Disciples of Jesus Christ. In addition to gifts given in the offering plate on Sunday, checks may be mailed to the church at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, Illinois 60178; securely given online at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving; or by sending the text "giving" to the church phone number – 815-895-9113. Thank you for your faithfulness.

REMEMBER SUMC IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST

A legacy gift is your opportunity to support the church's work beyond your lifetime, to change lives and honor the role the church played in your life, your family's life, our community, and our world. Legacy gifts allow flexibility to respond to the greatest needs of tomorrow. Legacy gifts can benefit the giver through tax savings. Retirement assets are particularly good assets to achieve the best tax outcome for a planned gift. Consult with your accountant, financial planner, or attorney before finalizing any charitable gift.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

- **CHILD REGISTRATION INFORMATION:** 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.

- **YOUTH & ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** 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.

- **SUPPLYING RESOURCES:** If you can't help during VBS, you can support us by purchasing an item from the VBS display, shopping the Amazon Wishlist, or giving through the church giving portal (scan QR codes).

- **CRAFT DAY:** is coming!! Bring your hot glue guns, hot glue sticks, favorite scissors, and a playful spirit as we create decorations for our VBS decor on June 7th after morning worship until 2pm. Can't make it??? Grab an adopt a prop kit in the concourse to help out from home.



VBS \$ Donation



AMAZON LIST



CHILDREN'S SUMMER PROGRAMMING

- Enrollment is now open for all of our summer programs. VBS, Christian Kids, Magic Mondays and Youth Group. If you have any questions, contact Todd Puttkammer. Scan the QR Code for more information and to sign-up

ADULT STUDIES

Summer Book Study; Wednesdays 11am

- Looking for a summer read that strengthens your faith? Join our Summer Book Study *Unveiling Mary Magdalene* by Liz Curtis Higgs. This moving story, closely paralleling the biblical account, includes by a verse-by-verse study of the first-century Mary Magdalene and her life-changing encounters with the Christ. Sessions meet Wednesdays @ 11am beginning June 3rd. Register by texting SUMMERSTUDY.

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

- **Youth Group** will be every other week. The next youth group is June 7th and 21st, 6-8 p.m. We have food, games, and devotion. All are welcome.
- **Breakfast and Devotions (BAD)** has wrapped up for the year. Thank you to everyone who supported this ministry throughout the school year. We also want to congratulate all of our seniors as they move into the next phase of their lives. We wish you God's blessings in all that comes next!

PRIDE MINISTRY UPDATES

PRIDE (Promoting Reconciliation Inclusion Diversity and Equality) continues its programming with our monthly Game Nights: June 27th and July 25th 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. We are overjoyed to be hosting the ecumenical Pride Worship service on June 28th at 4:30pm followed by a community meal here at SUMC! We will be joined by community faith leaders and we hope you can join us! 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

VIOLIN & PIANO
IN CONCERT




KARA EUBANKS,
VIOLIN

ACCOMPANIED BY
NICK HANSEN, PIANO

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2:00 PM

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
160 Johnson Avenue Sycamore, Illinois

ALL ARE WELCOME

WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS

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, June 21 at 2:00 p.m. at SUMC.**

All are welcome to attend.



GRADUATES!...June 7th is Graduation Sunday! Please email the church office at office@sycamoreumc.org with: **Your name, school graduated from, school planning to attend and your major by Tuesday, May 26th** so that your post-graduation plans can be included in the church bulletin. **Memorial Scholarships will also be given out that day at the 9:30 am service.** If you send the information in after that date we cannot guarantee your name will be in the bulletin.

TOM AND JERRY'S PUMPKIN FEST FLOAT FUNDRAISER

Join us on **June 22nd from 5:00–8:00 PM** for the **Pumpkin Fest Float Fundraiser!** Enjoy **great food and fun** while supporting this year's float.



HOPE HAVEN FOR JUNE



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 JUNE

Soup	Canned veggies	Spaghetti sauce	Salad Dressing
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



DIRECTOR NEEDED – SYCAMORE FOOD PANTRY

The Sycamore Food Pantry is in need of a new Director. This important ministry provides food and hope to many in our community, and we are prayerfully seeking someone with a heart for service to help lead it. If you feel called to learn more, please reach out to the church office.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

FAITH IN ACTION

When you hear *faith in action*, what comes to mind? For some, it means attending church, volunteering, giving, serving, or sharing God's Word. And yes—those are all examples of faith in action. But what if faith in action also includes using the spiritual gifts God has already given you?

Many people say, "I don't have spiritual gifts," but chances are, you're already using them every day. Do you enjoy organizing paperwork, building things, cooking, crafting, writing, technology, serving others, or helping behind the scenes? These can all be spiritual gifts.

In 1 Corinthians 12:11–12, we are reminded that God gives each person unique gifts through the Spirit, and together we form one body in Christ. God calls us to use these gifts to support one another and grow in faith.

The Discipleship Team has updated a **Spiritual Gifts Inventory** to help you discover and better understand the gifts God has given you. This tool can help you identify your strengths, connect with others who share similar gifts, and find meaningful ways to serve through the ministries of our church.

Paper copies will be available for you to complete. Once finished, please return them to the church office, where staff can help you explore and nurture your gifts within our faith community.

So... are you ready to put more action into your faith journey?



June UWF Unit Meeting

The June United Women in Faith Unit Meeting will be Sunday, June 14th immediately following the morning worship service. All women are welcome to join us for a salad potluck lunch. You do not need to be a circle member. Bring a salad to share and your own table service. Mission team will provide the desserts. Our program will be presented by a speaker from CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

DUFFLE BAG COLLECTION

Many children in the foster care system leave their home with their possessions in trash bags. During June and July, UWF will be collecting new or gently used (clean, working zippers, no wheels) duffle bags to be distributed to foster care participants. There will be a collection box in the church.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH ANNUAL THRIFT SALE

As you prepare for summer garage sales and decluttering, please remember to set aside items for our upcoming Thrift Sale on **August 14th & 15th**. We gladly accept **gently used clothing, housewares, toys, and décor**.

Please **do not donate** TVs, Christmas trees, office electronics, furniture, dinnerware sets, textbooks, or other large/heavy items, as we are unable to accept them.

Donations will be accepted **during the second week of August only** — **please, no early drop-offs**.

We'll also need helping hands for **set-up and sale days**, so please consider keeping some time available to volunteer!



Do you love cooking or connecting through food? Our weekly meal ministry is returning soon. Volunteers are needed to help prep, serve and clean up. Whether you can help once or regularly, your gifts can nourish and care for our church and community in meaningful ways. Text MEALS or see Cassie Grashorn.

JUNE 2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

Summer
OFFICE HOURS

Summer Office Hours
Monday - Thursday: 8:30am-2:00pm
Fridays: 8:30am-12 Noon

	1 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry	2 5:30 PM Disciple Fast Track "The Prophets" 6:00 PM GS Troop 697	3 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Summer Book Study 3:00 PM Summer Christian Kids 6:30 PM All-Recovery Mtg	4 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Congregational Care & Outreach 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group	5	6 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast
7 GRADUATION SUNDAY 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM VBC Craft Day 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	8 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Summer Magic Mondays 6:30 PM Worship Comm.	9 5:30 PM Disciple Fast Track "The Prophets"	10 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Summer Book Study 6:00 PM ABC Preschool Governance Committee 6:30 PM All-Recovery Mtg.	11 11:00 AM Food Pantry Training 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group	12	13
14 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM UWF Unit Meeting 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship	15 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 Ruth Circle 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 5:00 PM Discipleship Committee	16 1:00 PM Grace Circle 5:30 PM Disciple Fast Track "The Prophets" 6:00 PM GS Troop 697	17 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team Meeting 11:00 AM Summer Book Study 3:00 PM Summer Christian Kids 6:30 PM All-Recovery Mtg.	18 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group	19	20 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast
21 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM NOW Circle 2:00 PM Kara Eubanks Concert 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	22 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Summer Magic Mondays 5-8:00 PM Tom & Jerry's Float Fundraiser	23 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 5:30 PM Disciple Fast Track "The Prophets"	24 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Summer Book Study 6:30 PM All-Recovery Mtg.	25 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group	26	27 4:00 PM PRIDE Game Night
28 LIFE Missions Trip 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM Pumpkin Fest Parade Float Team 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship	29 LIFE Missions Trip 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Food Pantry	30 LIFE Missions Trip 5:30 PM Disciple Fast Track "The Prophets"	July 1 LIFE Missions Trip 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Summer Book Study 6:30 PM All-Recovery Mtg.	July 2 LIFE Missions Trip 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group	July 3 LIFE Missions Trip	July 4

3 SIMPLE RULES

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