



September 2026

Messenger

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

WORDS FROM PASTOR LUIS - UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Spiritual gifts are gifts from God, given to Christian believers to build up the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11–13 (NRSV) explains that Christ gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers “to equip the saints for the work of ministry” and to strengthen the body of Christ as we grow in unity, faith, maturity, and the fullness of Christ.

Spiritual gifts are different from talents or learned skills. As United Methodists, we understand these gifts not as personal achievements, but as the Spirit’s work in us through grace and faith in Jesus Christ. They are given not for personal gain, but to empower ministry in the world.

Discovering your spiritual gifts—and recognizing them in others—is important. Others may see our gifts before we do, and assessment tools can help us understand how those gifts can serve the community of faith. Spiritual gifts affect the church in three key ways:

- Using our gifts brings life and vitality to individuals and the congregation, strengthening the church’s spiritual health.
- When spiritual gifts are neglected, the whole community is affected.
- Serving in areas where we are not gifted can lead to frustration and weaken our shared ministry.

Spiritual Gifts Help You Live Your Call

In the Wesleyan tradition, faith is an ongoing process of conversion, shaped by our response to God’s call. God calls us into relationship through grace, Jesus calls us to follow leads new life, the Holy Spirit calls us to righteousness and service, and we are called to love others in Jesus’ name.

As we discover and use our spiritual gifts, the Holy Spirit helps us understand who we are and how we are called to serve—transforming how we live, serve, and relate to God and others.

We invite you to discover—or rediscover—your spiritual gifts by taking the Spiritual Gifts Survey.



KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Our Annual Kick-off Sunday is September 13th at 9:30am worship. We will begin with worship together around our annual theme of Spiritual Gifts. Following worship, there is a picnic. United Methodist Men will be grilling, so please bring a side dish to share.

FAITH IN ACTION FAIR

This year our Kick-off Sunday will include a FAITH IN ACTION FAIR. This event is an opportunity for you to meet some of the ministries of the church and outside organizations where you can use your spiritual gifts in new ways. We are excited to have

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • HOPE HAVEN | • ABC PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S MINISTRY |
| • VOLUNTARY ACTION CENTER | • SYCAMORE FOOD PANTRY |
| • SAFE PASSAGE | • GOOD NEIGHBOR TEAM |
| • ROOTED FOR GOOD | • UNITED METHODIST MEN |
| • FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY | • UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH |
| • CASA | • MEAL MINISTRY |
| • DEKALB MUTUAL AID | • CARING MINISTRIES |
| • OPPORTUNITY HOUSE | |



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Sycamore United
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc



SEPTEMBER 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

SEPTEMBER 6 - FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SERVICES OF HOLY COMMUNION

Romans 13: 8-14

Matthew 18:15-20



2026 THEME SHARING OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS"

1 Corinthians 12:11-12

SEPTEMBER 13 - SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST KICK-OFF SUNDAY & FAITH IN ACTION FAIR

1 Corinthians 4: 13

"God Gives Gifts to Everyone"

SEPTEMBER 20 - SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ephesians 4: 1-16

"God distributes the gifts according to God's grace"

SEPTEMBER 27 - EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Acts 1: 1-8

*"Promise – Holy Spirit will be our Comforter
and Our Guide"*

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

Those for whom we pray:

Nancy	Rosalie Gartner
Jerrica Newby	Robert Wolfe
Mike Milyanovich	Celeste
Kelly Brens	Pastor Bill Landis
Damian Olson	Mary Alice
Vicki	Robison
Otto	Carol Reed
Regan & James	Michael Ratcliffe
Kathy M.	Jasmine Stipher
Aimee Alanis	Kathleen M
Ellis McLives	

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 Sutip Jackson
PV2 Liam Keller
E-3 Amanda Royer
SPC John Archer
PV2 Zada Riddle

**indicates deployed personnel*

DUFFLE BAG COLLECTION - THANK YOU!

A heartfelt **thank you to everyone who donated duffle bags for children in foster care!** Because of your generosity, **72 bags were collected!**

Many children entering foster care must leave home carrying their belongings in trash bags. Your donations of new and gently used duffle bags will provide children with a more dignified way to carry their personal belongings during a difficult transition.

Thank you for helping UWF make a difference in the lives of children in foster care!



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

"FAITH IN ACTION"

Our church mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We do this by sharing our time, talents, and treasures. This is why your Stewardship Committee is teaming with the Discipleship Committee to sponsor the "Faith in Action Fair" as part of the kickoff of our fall programming on September 13. James 2:17 says "So too, faith by itself, if it does not result in action, is dead." This fair will feature church groups doing disciple work as part of their mission and it will also feature non-profit community groups supported by our church who can share how our help lets them fulfill their mission.

In the Bible there are multiple stories of Faith in Action. In Hebrews we have Noah building an ark in reverence to God's warning. In Acts we are told about early church believers praying together, sharing resources, and caring for the needy. Today we can apply our faith through acts of kindness, spending meaningful time studying the Bible, and recognizing ways to use one's monetary gifts to joyously live in service to others.

Be inspired as you visit the "Faith in Action Fair" following the morning church service September 13 and then join church members and friends for a fellowship picnic.

Thank you for your continued support of the missions and ministries of Sycamore United Methodist Church. In addition to offerings given during the church service, checks may be mailed to the church at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, Illinois 60178; you may securely give online at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving; or send the text "giving" to the church phone number – 815-895-9113.



OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

ADULT STUDIES



- **MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY** starting September 14th from 6-7pm weekly in the Lounge. This semester our Adult Bible Study, led by Tim & Cindy Hagen, will encourage participants to consider "Living Boldly for God" as they examine I & II Samuel. No prior study experience is needed, and all are welcome to this no cost study. Register by texting BIBLESTUDY to the church phone number.
- **DISCIPLE FAST TRACK** starts 22nd and meets Tuesdays from 5:30-6:45 in the Lounge. This 12-week study immerses readers in the letters traditionally attributed to Paul. The study is ideal for busy people who want to fit an in-depth Bible study into their schedule. A donation of \$25.00 is suggested. Register by texting DISCIPLE to the church phone number.
- **WEDNESDAY BOOK STUDY** starts September 16th from 11-12 in the Activity Room. This fall we will ponder our spiritual gifts in a 7-week study. A suggested donation for the book is requested and copies are coming soon. Register by texting BOOKSTUDY to the church phone number.
- **THE CHOSEN VIDEO STUDY** starts September 10th from 5:30-6:30 in the Lounge. This group meets weekly on Tuesday evenings to view an episode of the hit series The Chosen and discusses it in relation to Scripture and our everyday life. Each episode stands alone, so newcomers are always welcome. Register for this no cost study 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.



CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

- **Youth Group** will be every other week. The next youth groups are September 13 and 27, 6-8 p.m. We have food, games, and devotion. All are welcome.
- We are live with fall registration please text MM26 for **Magic Mondays (ages 4 & 5)** or CK26 for **Christian Kids (grades** to (815) 895-9113. Or you can go to Sycamore United Methodist Website click on Children's Ministry and scroll to the bottom. We are looking forward to a fun and faithful year.
- We are still seeking someone to serve in childcare for the fall services and events. If you would like more information or know someone who would be interested, please contact Todd Puttkammer.
- **We are also 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 that our children are cared for and supported each week.
- **Confirmation Orientation** will be on September 20 at 11:00 a.m. We will discuss the plan for this year and go over expectations. Please contact Todd Puttkammer with any questions.
- We are excited to be invited to join the **Northern Illinois Conference Fall Youth Retreat at Timber-Lee!** The retreat will be held September 25–27. Registration is now open. If you are interested in attending, please let Todd Puttkammer know. The cost of the weekend is \$180 per child. To register, visit: <https://niumc-reg.brapp.com/2026NICFallYouthRetreat>

LIFE MISSIONS

We have started the plans for our 2027 mission trip, and it looks like Colorado will be this year's destination. Stay tuned for more updates as we start our fundraising events.



OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE



ABC PRESCHOOL

Welcome to a brand-new school year! We are so excited to fill our classrooms with bright smiles, curious minds, and kind hearts as our little learners embark on their preschool journey. Staff are getting their rooms set up for another incredible school year. There are 5 different classes this year, and full-day options as well. Students will begin their journey on September 8th & 9th. We can't wait to see all the wondrous things this new school year will hold!

PRIDE MINISTRY UPDATES

PRIDE (Promoting Reconciliation Inclusion Diversity and Equality) continues its programming with our monthly Game Nights: September 19th and October 17th from 4-7pm in the gym. All ages & abilities welcome at all events! Reminder: You are a beloved child of God and we hope to see you soon!



WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS

September is here, and our music, worship, and arts programs will be starting a new season!

Mark your calendar for the start dates of our ensembles! If you've been thinking about joining any of our music groups, we'd love to have you join us!

- **Chancel Choir**

Chancel Choir meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room

For those of you who have wanted to sing with the choir but haven't had the time or been able to make the weekly commitment, now is your chance to try it out! The music is always fun, upbeat, and inspirational! Contact Peter Hansen or the church office for more information.

- **Handbell Choir**

Handbell Choir begins on Thursday, September 3, and meets from 7:00–8:00 p.m.

The Handbell Choir rings once a month and also performs with the Chancel Choir, et al., for a special combined ensemble presentation! Contact Mary Thomas, Peter Hansen, for more information.

- **Children's Choir(s)**

We currently have two Children's Choirs: Kids Choir and Jr. Choir. Children's Choirs begin Wednesday, September 16, from 5:30–6:00 p.m. For more information, contact the church office.

Tech Team

We really need you! We are always looking for new additions to our Tech Team!

Slides/video and sound help are needed! Not sure if you're qualified? Don't worry—we'll teach you everything you need to know to be successful! Please contact Alex Wilson or the church office for more information. Contact Alex Wilson, Peter Hansen, or the church office for more information on any of these groups.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

"SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 @ 12:00 NOON – UWF UNIT MEETING

Our Program will feature chair yoga, provided by Elder Care Services, along with information about their offerings to the community. Not an “elder”? Join us anyway – Chair yoga is a gentle style of yoga can be done while sitting in a chair or using it for balance. It helps build strength, improve flexibility, and reduce stress.



We will have a Taco Bar lunch. Meat will be provided by the Mission Team.

Members of Ruth Circle are asked to bring a variety of taco shells and desserts. Grace Circle should bring the toppings (lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, sour cream, salsa, etc.) If you are not a circle member, take your pick of what to bring. Can't provide anything? No problem, come and enjoy the fun, fellowship, and food. Please remember to bring your own table service.

Bring your friends, all women, all faiths are welcome. "



HOPE HAVEN FOR SEPTEMBER

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 #.

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 blessed to have many wonderful volunteers who help each week.** We are prayerfully seeking someone with a heart for service to help lead and coordinate this vital ministry **alongside our dedicated volunteers.** If you feel called to learn more, please reach out to the church office.



HELP PROVIDE THANKSGIVING TURKEY DINNERS

Thanksgiving will be here before we know it, and the **Sycamore Food Pantry** is already planning ahead! We are asking for your help in providing turkey dinners for families in our community.

If you would like to make a donation, simply **text TURKEY to 815-895-9113**, or send a check to the church with **“Turkey Dinner”** in the memo line.

Thank you for helping make Thanksgiving a little brighter for our neighbors in need!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER

Soup
Crackers
Canned Chili
Canned Refried Beans
Canned fruit

Canned veggies
Crunchy Peanut butter
Canned Peas, Beans
and Corn
Canned Tuna

Spaghetti sauce
Mayo
Canned meals
(i.e spaghetti, beefaroni)

Salad Dressing
Paper towels
Toilet Paper
Tissues
Toiletries

Bar Soap



SUMC COAT MINISTRY

As the colder months approach, Our Coat Ministry will be providing warm coats to individuals and families in our community who are in need.

We welcome donations of new or gently used, clean coats (not dress coats in all sizes). The ministry will begin the first Monday in October and run through January. The collection bin is now at the south end of the Concourse.

Thank you for helping us share warmth, kindness, and God's love with our neighbors!

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

SYCAMORE COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, September 19 | 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Sycamore United Methodist Church Commons

160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore



Give the gift of life! The American Red Cross will hold a community blood drive at SUMC. **Appointments are preferred.** Schedule at [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) or call **1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)**.

📌 **Special Bonus:** Give blood September 1–20 and receive an exclusive **Red Cross x Hello Kitty collectible item**, while supplies last!



COFFEE, CONVERSATION & CONNECTION

Mom's Faith & Fellowship will meet on **September 23 from 9:00–10:00 AM in the church lounge at Sycamore United Methodist**. Moms are invited to enjoy a warm cup of coffee, good conversation, and a dedicated hour of fellowship, encouragement, and connection with other moms in our preschool community. All are welcome.

COLLECTING POP TOPS & PULL TABS FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Our congregation has joined the Sycamore Middle School students in supporting the Ronald McDonald House. We'll be collecting pop tops and pull tabs September thru May. Please bring your tabs and place them in the container located **on the table under the United Women of Faith bulletin board in the Concourse**. Your small contribution makes a big difference for families in need—thank you for helping us support this cause!



WITH
(Wednesdays In The House)
DINNERS

Joy!

Every Wednesday
beginning
September 16th
5:30-6:45 pm
at SUMC
No need to register

Menu

September 16: Sloppy Joes and salad
September 23: Breakfast Casserole and Fruit
September 30: Walking Taco/Nacho Bar

ALL ARE WELCOME!

COST: FREE WILL DONATION

FELLOWSHIP TIME ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Coffee is provided each Sunday morning during Fellowship Time, and we're looking for volunteers to bring treats! Whether you'd like to celebrate a special occasion, enjoy time to mingle after worship, or simply share something happening in the life of your group or ministry, providing treats is a great way to connect with others. Sign-up at the Welcome Center or call the church office.

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S SPIRITUAL CONGRESS

September 11–13, 2026

Conference Point, Lake Geneva

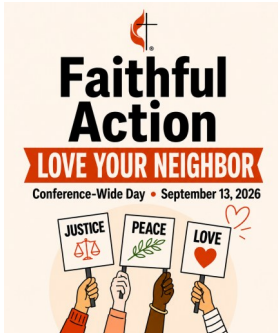
Join United Methodist Men for a weekend of **worship, inspiration, fellowship, and service** centered on the theme "*Walking Each Day with Hope*" (Isaiah 40:31). Enjoy inspiring speakers, music, worship, a service project, and fellowship on the shores of Lake Geneva. Come for one day or the entire weekend; overnight accommodations are available.

Details, costs & registration: www.nicumm.org

SEPTEMBER 2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the October issue of The Messenger is September 20th

		1 4:30 PM GS Troop 4294 5:30 PM Nominations Committee 6:00 PM GS Troop 697 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1	2 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 11:00 AM ABC Preschool Open House 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 7 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	3 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM GS Family Information Meeting 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	4 6:00 PM GS Troop 983	5
6 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship	7 Church offices closed ABC Preschool no school	8 6:00 PM Trustees	9 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	10 12:00 PM UWF Unit Mtg 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" season 4 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 5 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	11	12 9:00 AM Scouting Day
13 KICK OFF SUNDAY AND FAITH IN ACTION FAIR 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 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	14 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 4:45 PM GS Troop 5070 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 6:00 PM Adult Book Study Books I and II of Samuel 7:00 PM Church Council	15 1:00 PM Grace Circle 4:30 PM GS Troop 4294 5:30 PM Nominations Committee 6:00 PM GS Troop 697 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:30 PM Food Pantry Board	16 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 5:30 PM WITH Joy! Dinner 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 7 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	17 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" season 4 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM GS Leader Mtg 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	18 ABC Preschool no afternoon classes 7:00 PM Pack 141 Pack Meeting	19 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 8:00 AM Red Cross Blood Drive 4:00 PM PRIDE Game Night
20 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM Confirmation Class of 2027 Orientation 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship	21 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Book Study Books I and II of Samuel	22 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 5:30 PM Nominations Committee 5:30 PM Disciple Study	23 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:00 AM Mom's Faith & Fellowship 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 5:30 PM WITH Joy! Dinner 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	24 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" season 4 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 5 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	25 12:00 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting	26
27 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 2027 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	28 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 4:45 PM GS Troop 5070 6:00 PM Adult Book Study Books I and II of Samuel 6:30 PM 4-H Choreboys/Girls	29 5:30 PM Disciple Study	30 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Adult Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 5:30 PM WITH Joy! Dinner 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	October 1 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" season 4 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 3 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	October 2	October 3 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast



The Prairie South District takes faithful action in **Supporting our Immigrant Neighbors**. Join us Sunday, September 13th from 2-2:45pm at Memorial Park, AKA Peace Corner (First & Lincoln Hwy). You are invited to witness alongside our ecumenical siblings and community neighbors our United Methodism values in this peaceful demonstration.