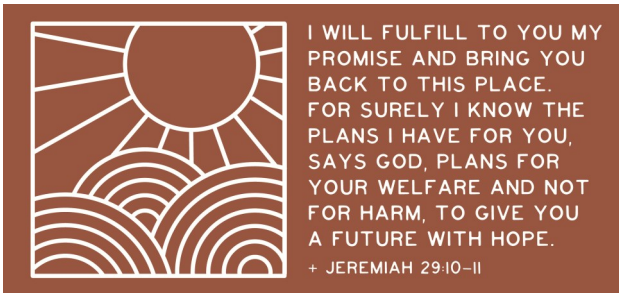
November 2026

THE Messenger

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION - "PRACTICING HOPE"



November is a month of Thanksgiving with time set aside for a homecoming of family, friends, and neighbors to recognize the many blessings we have received. It is also a time to receive God's commission to go into the world and spread his message of compassion, joy, and a future of hope. Your support of the missions and ministries of Sycamore United Methodist Church makes you an agent of God's love and grace.

Christianity was made for this: building bridges of homecoming and commissioning, sending and return, welcoming the stranger and being sent forth to visit the sick and the homebound. Sycamore United Methodist Church is made for it, too, as is each one of us, a child of God made in the image of God. To be clear, though: we are made to do this together, offering up all our skills, our hopes, our ideas, our money, and our hearts to answer God's call. This is why we come to you seeking a pledge for the coming year so we can prepare a program of work focused on a promise of "hope."

Our pledge commitment Sunday is November 22nd. Over the next several weeks you will hear and read messages helping you understand how our past, full of grace thanks to God, is likewise full of hope for the future. Please prayerfully consider what you can contribute financially to support next year's ministries and outreach. If you are unable to attend our commitment Sunday services, please return the pledge card you receive by mailing it to the church office (160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, IL 60178; attention Business Manager Jim McCue); give online at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving; or text "Giving" to (815) 895 -9113.









THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Sycamore United Methodist Church float possible! The list of people to thank is a long one—from those who gave their time, money, or donated materials to everyone who supported our spaghetti dinner fundraiser simply by enjoying a meal!

We are excited to share that our float received one of the top three awards—**Best Use of Theme!** While we are proud of this recognition, the greatest reward was the lasting friendships formed across generations, the connections made within our community, and the opportunity to share God's love along the way.

These are the reasons we wanted to participate, and they made the experience truly worthwhile. We are so blessed to be part of a church and community that generously supports efforts like this.

Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen!

SUMC Staff

Rev. Luis Felipe Reyes-Rosario
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Cory Blanco
Breakthrough Worship Leader
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Sycamore United Methodist Church

@sycamoreumc



November 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

Stewardship Month
"A Future with Hope"

November 1 - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints Sunday
Services of Holy Communion
Scripture Reading – Hebrews 12: 1-4
Liturgist- Scott Miller
Preacher – Rev. Danita Anderson,
Assistant to the Bishop NIC

November 8 - 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture Reading - Jeremiah 29: 10- 14
Liturgist: Kenda Jeske
Stewardship Moment –
Preacher – Pastor Luis

November 15 - 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture Reading: Issaiah 40: 26-31
Liturgist – Jim Staddord
Stewardship Moment - Scott Miller
Preacher – Jim McCue, Lay Servant

November 22 - Christ the King Sunday
Scripture Reading - Jeremiah 29: 10- 14
Liturgist & Stewardship Moment - Paul Calligham
Preacher – Rev. Chris Walters- President of the
Mid-West Methodist Foundation

November 29 - 1st Sunday of Advent
Scripture Reading; Mark 13:24-37
Lighting of the Advent Candle
Preacher - Pastor Luis

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Those for whom we pray:

Nancy
Jerrica Newby
Mike Milyanovich
Kelly Brens
Damian Olson
Vicki
Otto
Regan & James
Kathy M.
Aimee Alanis
Ellis McLives
Rosalie Gartner
Celeste
Carol Reed
Mary Alice Robison
Michael Ratcliffe
Jasmine Stipher
Kathleen M
Kathy Hewitt
Dale W.
Mike Strum
David Royer
Dave Mathey

We extend our sympathies to the families of:

Orrin Vandeburg

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
SPC John Archer
PV2 Zada Riddle
COMO Greg Page

**indicates deployed personnel*

Hope Haven for November

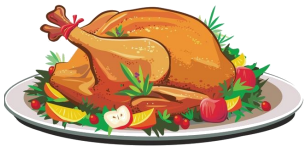
Prepare or buy just one course or the entire meal to feed 60-65 people! **Please call the church (815-895-9113) to let us know if you will be delivering it. Sign-up at the Welcome Center in the Concourse or by calling the church office at 815-895-9113.** You may also get on the Hope Haven volunteer list by texting HOPEHAVEN to the church #.

Food Pantry Needs for November

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 spaghettios, beefaroni)
Salad Dressing
Paper towels
Toilet Paper
Tissues
Toiletries
Bar Soap



Help Provide Thanksgiving Turkey Dinners



The Sycamore Food Pantry is planning ahead for Thanksgiving and asking for help providing turkey dinners for families in our community.

Sponsor a meal for $20!

To donate, **text TURKEY to 815-895-9113** or send a check to the church with **"Turkey Dinner"** in the memo line.

Thank you for helping provide Thanksgiving meals for local families!

SUMC Coat Ministry



As the colder months approach, our Coat Ministry will provide warm coats to individuals and families in need throughout our community.

Donations of new or gently used, clean coats (no dress coats) in all sizes are welcome. The ministry runs from the first Monday in October through January. A collection bin is located 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

Recovery Meetings Return!

We are thankful to partner with Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery once again in hosting a weekly recovery meeting for those living with or in recovery from addiction of any kind. This group meets Wednesdays from 6-7pm in the Lounge and is open to the community at large. As people of faith, let us extend compassion and hope by sharing this message. Together, we can help remove the stigma of addiction and remind those who are struggling that they are seen, valued, and loved.

Advent

- **ADVENT BOOK STUDY** starts November 18th or 19th and meets weekly through this Advent season. We will read the new study "Advent Can Still Change the World" by Rev. Josh Scott. Let's discover how reading these texts in their original context opens fresh meaning for contemporary faith, illuminating the gifts and challenges of Christmas for our lives today. Sessions meet weekly on Wednesdays from 11-12 or Thursdays from 5:30-6:30pm. A suggested donation of $20.00 is requested, and copies are available in the Resource Center. Register by texting ADVENT26 to the church phone number.
- **ADVENT DEVOTIONALS** will be available in the Resource Center starting November 22nd. "Until the Dawn" is a 14-week Advent–Epiphany worship and ministry bundle from Sanctified Art, blending art, scripture, poetry, and reflection to inspire hope, action, and resistance against despair until God's promised day comes. A suggested donation of $10.00 is appreciated

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** meets on the **2nd and 4th Sundays of each month (in November the 13th and 29th) from 6:00–8:00 p.m.** Join us for **food, games, and devotion.** All middle and high school youth are welcome!
- Register for our Children's Ministry programs!
  - **Magic Mondays** – Ages 4 and 5
    Text **MM26** to **815-895-9113**
  - **Christian Kids** – Kindergarten through 5th Grade
    Text **CK26** to **815-895-9113**

You can also register through the **Sycamore United Methodist Church website**. Click on **Children's Ministry** and scroll to the bottom of the page. We're looking forward to a fun and faith-filled year!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **December 20th is our Bethlehem Bazaar and Christmas Cookie Party!** Join us after the morning worship for an experience the whole family can enjoy. Engage in hands on activities, share your favorite Christmas Cookies, and enjoy brunch with your church family to celebrate the light of Christ shining in our lives.
- **Blue Christmas** is December 20th @ 4:30pm

Opportunities to Gather, Grow, and Serve

ABC Preschool

Fall brings so many opportunities for learning and discovery. At preschool, we are observing how nature changes all around us. These little moments encourage curiosity, wonder, and a deeper appreciation for the world God has created.

The mission project for November is to collect food items for the Food Pantry's Thanksgiving meal baskets. We are collecting boxed/canned sides and desserts. The preschool will be closed the week of November 23rd - November 27th to celebrate Thanksgiving. We look forward to sharing all the joys of Autumn with these little ones!

Worship, Music and Arts



The Music Ministries of Sycamore United Methodist Church invite you to **JOY!**, a Christmas musical celebration featuring six scripture-based narrations and exciting gospel-style arrangements of beloved Christmas carols by composer Joel Ramey.

Under the direction of Pete Hansen, the evening will feature our choir, soloists, ensembles including brass, reeds, and rhythm section, and special guests, **New Tradition Chorus** from Northbrook Illinois . The audience will also be invited to sing along with favorite Christmas carols!

Join us for an uplifting evening of music as we celebrate the joy of Christmas!

Jazz in Progress Concert

Join us for an evening of music with Jazz in Progress on Saturday, November 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Sycamore United Methodist Church. The concert will feature a variety of music, including selections for **Thanksgiving and Christmas**, making it a wonderful way to begin the holiday season. We hope you'll come and enjoy this special evening of music and celebration.

Jazz in Progress

PRIDE Ministry Updates

SUMC Promoting Reconciliation, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equality

PRIDE (Promoting Reconciliation Inclusion Diversity & Equality) believes people of all abilities, ages, ethnic backgrounds, gender identities and expressions, races, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic statuses should feel welcome to worship and be able to fully participate in the activities of the church as they are! Reminder you are a beloved child of God.

Opportunities to Gather, Grow, and Serve



New Church Directory is Coming and There are Still Spots Open!



Our new SUMC Church Directory won't be complete without you! Photography appointments will be available **Wednesday, November 4 and Thursday, November 5 from 2:00–8:30 p.m. in the SUMC Chapel**. Schedule your appointment online at www.ucdir.com using **Church Code: IL501** and **Password: photos2**. In-person scheduling will begin on **Sunday, October 11**, or you may call the church office to make an appointment. Everyone photographed will receive a **complimentary 8×10 portrait and directory**, with additional portraits available for purchase.



SUMC Giving Tree

Each year at SUMC, a charity is chosen to support with donations through our "Giving Tree."

This year's charity is the Family Service Agency's Youth Shelter. The shelter offers a safe place to live and stability for young people in crisis.

Their greatest needs are household cleaning supplies, laundry soaps, and fabric softener sheets. The laundry soaps and fabric softener sheets should be perfume- and dye-free.

There will be a display in the Concourse after Thanksgiving, which will include directions for donating and a list of the items needed.

Sharing Our Spiritual Gifts

God has given each of us unique gifts meant to be shared! We invite everyone at SUMC to take our **Spiritual Gifts Inventory** and discover how God may be calling you to serve.

The inventory takes just **10 minutes!** Once completed, you'll receive your Spiritual Gifts ranked according to your responses, along with suggestions for ministries at Sycamore UMC where your gifts could make a difference.

Whether discovering new gifts or building on those you already know, we encourage everyone to participate!

Different Gifts. One Spirit. Many Ways to Serve.

WITH Joy! Wednesday Dinners

Join us every Wednesday from **5:30–6:45 p.m. at SUMC** for dinner and fellowship. **No registration is needed**, and all are welcome! Cost is a **free-will donation**.

November Menu:

- November 4: Baked ziti, garlic bread, salad, and lemon cake
- November 11 (Veterans Day Celebration): Upside-down chicken pot pie, salad, and pumpkin bars
- November 18: Guest chefs Pastor Luis and Norma (menu to be announced)
- November 25: No JOY dinner – Happy Thanksgiving!

NOVEMBER 2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the December issue of The Messenger is November 20th

1 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 9:30 AM **Sunday Worship Service** 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM Confirmation Class of 2027 11:00 AM Float Tear Down and Pizza Party 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH **Sunday Evening Worship**	2 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Book Study Books I and II of Samuel 6:00 PM Trustees	3 POLLING PLACE 4:30 PM GS Troop 4294 5:30 PM Disciple Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1	4 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 2:00-8:30 PM Directory Pictures 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 5:30 PM WITH Joy! Dinner 6:00 PM All Recovery Meeting 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 7 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	5 2:00-8:30 PM Directory Pictures 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Girl Scouts 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	6 6:00 PM GS Troop 983	7 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast
8 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 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	9 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 4:45 PM GS Troop 5070 6:00 PM Adult Book Study Books I and II of Samuel 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 7:00 PM Church Council	10 5:30 PM Disciple Study	11 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 5:30 PM WITH Joy! Dinner 6:00 PM All Recovery Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	12 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 5 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:15 PM Pack 141 Den 6 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 4 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	13 6:00 PM GS Troop 983 6:00 PM GS Troop 912 7:00 PM Pack 141 Pack Meeting	14
15 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 9:30 AM **Sunday Worship Service** 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM Confirmation Class of 2027 11:00 AM NOW Circle 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH **Sunday Evening Worship**	16 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:30 Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Book Study Books I and II of Samuel	17 1:00 PM Grace Circle 4:30 PM GS Troop 4294 5:30 PM Disciple Study 6:00 PM GS Troop 697 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1	18 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 6:00 PM All Recovery Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	19 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM PRIDE Comm. 5:30 PM Adult Book Study 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	20 12:00 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting	21 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 7:00 PM Jazz in Progress Concert
22 COMMITMENT SUNDAY 9:30 AM **Sunday Worship Service** 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	23 ABC Preschool no school 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Book Study Books I and II of Samuel 6:30 PM 4-H Choreboys/Girls	24 ABC Preschool no school 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 5:30 PM Disciple Study	25 ABC Preschool no school 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:00 AM Mom's Faith & Fellowship 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 5:30 PM WITH Joy! Dinner 6:00 PM All Recovery Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	26 Church Office Closed ABC Preschool no school 	27 Church Office Closed ABC Preschool no school	28
29 9:30 AM **Sunday Worship Service** 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	30 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 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	1 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 5:30 PM Disciple Study	2 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 6:30 PM All Recovery Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	3 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Adult Book Study 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	4 12:00 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting	5