October 2026

THE Messenger

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Children, Youth and Family Programs

God is on the move at SUMC. We trust God's blessings will pour over the Puttkammer family as they navigate Todd's departure from SUMC and his transition into a new full-time position. We are grateful for his joyful service to the ministries of this church. We give praise to God for all those who have answered God's call to care for the Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at SUMC. See below where you can connect, serve and grow.

- **Sunday School** – led by Julie Sgarlata and Jake & Kelly Brens
- **Trunk or Treat** – led by Cliff Lo and the Youth
- **Children and Family Ministries** – led by Sami Haas
- **Youth Group** – currently led by Pastor Luis and will meet the 2nd & 4th Sundays each month from 6-8pm

Staff Pastor Parish Committee continues to meet and discern how to support and serve the families and volunteers impacted by this transition. If you have questions or concerns please reach out to a member of the committee or Pastor Luis.



SUMC Staff

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Sycamore United Methodist Church

@sycamoreumc



October 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

2026 Theme Sharing Our Spiritual Gifts"

1 Corinthians 12:11-12

October 4 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
3rd Grade Bible Sunday
Services of Holy Communion
Galatians 5: 22-25
Matthew 7: 15- 20
Oak Crest service at 2: 30pm

October 11 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Confirmation for Oliver Gale
Romans 12: 3-8

October 18 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost
Laity Sunday
United Women in Faith Pin Presentation
1 Corinthians 12: 12-31
Oak Crest service at 2: 30pm

October 25 - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
(9:30 service only)
1 Corinthians 13

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

We extend our sympathies to the families of:

Patsy Remala

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
Robert Wolfe
Celeste
Pastor Bill Landis
Mary Alice
Robison
Carol Reed
Michael Ratcliffe
Jasmine Stipher
Kathleen M
Dale W.
Mike Strum

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*

Sharing Our Spiritual Gifts

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

The inventory only takes about 10 minutes Once you submit your responses, you'll receive your **Spiritual Gifts ranked according to your answers**, along with suggestions for ministries and opportunities at Sycamore UMC where your gifts might be a great fit.

Whether you already know where your gifts lie or you're curious to discover something new, we hope you'll participate as we explore our yearly theme:

Different Gifts. One Spirit. Many Ways to Serve.

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

"Generosity and the Harvest Moon"



According to the Farmer's Almanac, as you read this message you will have just experienced the fall Harvest Moon (September 25-27). It is so named because it is the first full moon after the autumnal equinox where the sun passes directly over the earth's equator causing the phenomenon of the moon rising as the sun sets. Historically, this allowed extended evening working hours for farmers to bring in their fall harvest. It is a time to recognize how God rewards us as faithful stewards of his creation. As the scriptures say, "But this I call to mind and there have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:21-23 RSV).

You do not have to be a farmer to understand the analogy of planting seeds of faith and sharing with others the abundance of God's rewards to us. We are invited to partner with God, stay connected with him through prayer, and be awed by his steadfast love. At times there may be uncertainty as to what next step in our lives God wishes us to take, but repeatedly he provides pathways for us to follow. When we remember God's goodness and generously share of our time, talents, treasures, we will have hope.

You may financially support the missions and ministries of Sycamore United Methodist Church in several ways. You may give by way of the Sunday church offering; checks may be mailed to the church at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, Illinois 60178 (attention Jim McCue, Business Manager); securely give online at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving; or text "giving" to the church phone number – 815-895-9113. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Opportunities to Gather, Grow, and Serve



A big **thank you to everyone who helped make our Kick-Off Sunday, Church Picnic, and Faith in Action Fair a success!**

Thank you to those who planned, set up, brought food, served, cleaned up, hosted tables, and joined us for the day. We are especially grateful to all of the ministries and community organizations who shared the many ways we can put our **faith into action**.

We appreciate everyone who helped make it a wonderful day of **worship, fellowship, and connection!**

Adult Studies

- **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. **Drop in at any class.** 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** meets on the **2nd and 4th Sundays of each month (in October the 11th and 25th) from 6:00–8:00 p.m.** Join us for **food, games, and devotion.** All middle and high school youth are welcome!
- Registration is now open 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**

Children, Youth & Family Ministries

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!

ABC Preschool



The school year is off to a great start! We began classes in early September and have been enjoying getting to know our little ones and their families. September brings us crisp fall mornings and opportunities to explore and discover nature and the changing seasons. Our classes are diving into their fall themes of apples and fall colors. Our Butter Braid fundraiser is beginning, and we are excited to bring back the Book Fair. The book Fair begins October 12 and will run thru the 18th. On Sunday October 18th, the fair will be open and available to the congregation following the 9:30 service.

SUMC
Promoting Reconciliation, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equality

PRIDE Ministry Updates

PRIDE (Promoting Reconciliation Inclusion Diversity and Equality) will be holding Game Night on 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!

Opportunities to Gather, Grow, and Serve

Worship, Music and Arts

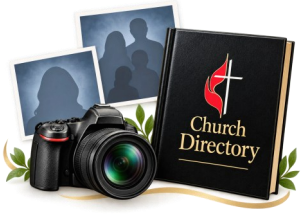


Join us for an uplifting evening of music featuring the **Chancel Choir**, an **instrumental combo**, and talented soloists, trios, and quartets—all under the direction of **Peter Hansen, Director of Music**.

And the best part—you'll be part of the music too! Come ready to raise your voice as we sing together the hymns and songs we know and love.

Lift your spirit, stand on the promises, and sing your cares away!

New Church Directory is Coming!



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.



Coffee, Conversation & Connection

Mom's Faith & Fellowship will meet the 4th Wednesday each month **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!

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.

Opportunities to Gather, Grow, and Serve

Hope Haven for October

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 #.



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!

Food Pantry Needs for October

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 spaghettios,	Tissues	
Canned fruit	Canned Tuna	beefaroni)	Toiletries	





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!

UWF Soup Sales at the SUMC Craft Show



UWF will once again be selling soup mixes at the Pumpkinfest Craft Show!

Most of the mixes are gluten-free and low in sodium. When prepared with low- or no-sodium broth, they make an easy and wholesome meal. You can also customize the ingredients you add to suit your family's tastes.

Soup mixes are $10 each. Add a gift bag and bow for an additional $5 to create a thoughtful and easy gift.

Stop by to pick up your favorites or try something new! Additional craft items will also be available at the UWF booth in the Commons.

Friday, October 23 • 11:00 AM–5:30 PM
Saturday, October 24 • 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Purchase a few for yourself or give them as gifts while supporting the mission work of UWF.

OCTOBER 2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

				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	2	3
4 THIRD GRADE BIBLE SUNDAY WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:30 AM **Sunday Worship Service** 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH **Sunday Evening Worship**	5 9:00 AM ABC Preschool PTO Meeting 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 4:30 PM GS Troop 4294 5:30 PM Disciple Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1	7 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 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 7 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	8 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" season 4 5:30 PM Congregational Care and Outreach 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 5 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	9 ABC Preschool No School 6:00 PM GS Troop 983 6:00 PM GS Troop 912	10 9:30 AM Float Construction
11 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** 5:00 PM Confirmation Class of 2027 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	12 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 5:30 PM Discipleship Committee 6:00 PM ABC Preschool Open House 6:00 PM Adult Book Study Books I and II of Samuel 6:00 PM Finance Comm.	13 5:30 PM Disciple Study	14 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	15 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" season 4 6:00 PM GS Troop 720 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	16	17 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 10:00 AM Memorial Committee 4:00 PM PRIDE Game Night 5:00 PM PRAISE! Hymn Sing
18 ABC Preschool Book Fair 9:30 AM **Sunday Worship Service** 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 11:00 AM NOW Circle 11:00 AM Trunk or Treat 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH **Sunday Evening Worship**	19 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 6:30 PM Worship Comm.	20 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 6:30 PM Food Pantry Board	21 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	29 7:00 AM Pumpkin Fest Prayer Breakfast 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	23 11:00am - 5:30pm SUMC Pumpkin Fest Craft Show 	24 9:00am - 4:00pm SUMC Pumpkin Fest Craft Show
25 9:30 AM **Sunday Worship Service** 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	26 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	27 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 5:30 PM Disciple Study	28 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	29 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Video Study "The Chosen" season 4 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	30 12:00 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting	31