

THE UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER



Pastor's Pen



A New Year and New Beginnings

2011 was a tumultuous year, whether it was Japan's earthquake and tsunami; or the tenth anniversary of 911. These were tragedies that changed the direction of our country, our way of thinking as well as our character. But, in spite of all the events of the past year, we find ourselves at the beginning of a New Year.

A New Year allows us a time to reflect and think about what the past has brought and what the New Year could bring. It is a time to stop and analyze, to take stock of our priorities, values, pursuits and goals. We need to ask questions like "Who am I, what am I doing with my life?" "What should I be doing as a Christian with my life and the stewardship God has given me?" The scripture tell us that, all of life is stewardship – a stewardship of our time, talents, treasures and God's truth.

As we embrace this New Year, let us continue to gather, grow and serve humanity for the transformation of our community and the world. To every member of this great church may this be a year of good health, phenomenal decision-making and blessings galore?

Pastor Harlene Harden



Sycamore United
Methodist Church
160 Johnson Avenue
Sycamore, Illinois 60178

Phone: 815-895-9113
Fax: 815-895-1042
www.sycamoreumc.org

Saturday Celebration
5:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship
8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School
10:15 a.m.

Inside this issue:

Worship Schedule/ In Our Thoughts and Prayers	2
Church News	3-5
Calendar	6
Those Who Serve	7
Church News continued	8-11

January 2012 Worship Schedule

*Sunday, January 1, 2012

10:00 a.m. only

Pastor Harlene Harden

Saturday, January 7, 2012

5:00 p.m. and

Sunday, January 8, 2012

8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Pastor Bill

Saturday, January 14, 2012

5:00 p.m. and

Sunday, January 15, 2012

8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Pastor Harlene Harden

Saturday, January 21, 2012

5:00 p.m. and

Sunday, January 22, 2012

8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Pastor Bill Landis

Saturday, January 28, 2012

5:00 p.m. and

Sunday, January 29, 2012

8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Pastor Harlene

Baptisms:

To schedule a baptism, please call the church office at least 2 months in advance. Baptisms may be scheduled at either the 8:30 or 10:00 a.m. service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Holy Communion:

Holy Communion is observed the first Sunday, and the second Saturday, of each month. If you are homebound and would like to partake of Holy Communion each month, please contact the Church office.



Bonnie French

Virginia March

Carol Bolander

Callie Rodgers

Jay Ramp

Elsie Atkinson

Jack Kenyon

Dick Swain

Bettyann Walker

Shawn Kaelin

Goni Peterson

Emory Bell



Pray for our Military

Men & Women

*LT Robert Ortman

*PFC John Z. Talmage

LCPL Derrick R. Wells

SGT Shaune Clark

SGT Matthew Einhorn

*CPL Kyle Keneway

*CPT John C. Whitehead

*SSGT Andrew Sheehan

*SPC Mitchell Stewart

SPC Timothy Stewart

*SGT Christopher Isabel

*CPL Anthony Dewitz

*PVT Sam Summers

*SGT Matthew "Scott" Stewart

*indicates deployed personnel

MSgt. Bianna Yeager

*LCPL Brett Gulke

*PFC Ben Bushno

SGT. Neil Smith

CPT Garrett Slack

PFC John Harris

David Whitehead

Jason Abitua

*SGT Dustin Bell

*PFC Eathon Larson

Sycamore United Methodist Youth Ministry

January 1— New Year's Day, no youth groups
 January 5— Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.
 January 8— Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.
 January 19- Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.
 January 22— Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.
 February 2- Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.
 February 6- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.
 February 16- Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.
 February 19- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.
 March 1- Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.
 March 4- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.
 March 11- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.
 March 15- Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.
 March 29- Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.— Spring Break
 April 8- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.
 April 12- Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.
 April 22- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.
 April 16- Sr. High Youth B.A.D. 8:00 a.m.
 May 6- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.
 May 20- Jr. High 4:30 p.m., Sr. High 6:30 p.m.

Hope Have Meals

Is your group at church or in the community looking for a service project? One of the most satisfying ways to help others is to feed them a meal. Our church is responsible for providing the evening meal for Hope Haven on the second, third, and fourth Mondays of each month. The number of people fed remains at about 35 and we try to furnish a main dish, vegetable, salad, and dessert. Look for the sign up sheets on the bulletin board at the south end of the concourse. Disposable containers are encouraged and need to be delivered at their DeKalb location by 6:45. If you have questions or need help with delivery please call Sue Richter (winter months meal coordinator). Our efforts are appreciated by many hungry people right here in DeKalb County.

UMM

Come start the new year with the United Methodist Men. We will meet the 12TH and the 29th of the month. The 12th at our evening meeting we will have a speaker and dinner. Our speaker is Jerry Johns. As a Professor of Reading, Mr. Johns develops reading programs for children. The meeting starts at 6:00 with dinner served right away. We will have a devotional before the speaker. On the 29th we will have our breakfast meeting. We will be planning our winter projects. We hope to see you at both meetings.





Leading Ladies

Leading Ladies meets to provide fellowship amongst Christian Women. We also support one another throughout this journey we call life. If you are looking for friendship and fellowship you are welcome to come to any of the Leading Ladies' activities.)Some upcoming events are:

January 17th Bible Scavenger Hunt

February 21st Leap Year Celebration



Red Cross Blood Drive

What can you do in less than an hour?

- Update your Facebook page
- Play Angry Birds
- Read on your Kindle

SAVE 3 LIVES

Use your time wisely - give blood on **February 11th from 9AM-2PM**

On February 11th our church will participate in a Red Cross blood drive.

Reserve your appointment time to fit into your schedule.

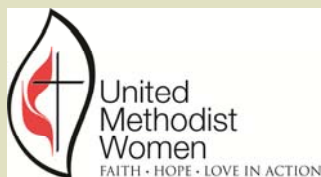
Beginning January 15th we will have a table in the Concourse to sign up blood donors, you can call Cheryl Callighan 815 748-5714, or reserve your spot by following the link on our church's website: www.sycamoreumc.org

UMW News

The Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Women 2012 Winter School of Christian Mission will be Jan. 20-22 at Camp Reynoldswood in Dixon, IL. Participants may choose one of the three mission studies offered on the theme "All Things Made New":

- The Journey - Diane Facemyer
- Haiti - Steve Good
- Joy to the World - Fernando Siaba

There will be time for study, worship, fun, learning, fellowship and also mission project to help make beds for homeless veterans. Registration forms and details are on the UMW bulletin board in the concourse. Contact Becky Brown or go to the NIC UMW website for more information. nicumw@gmail.com



Military Ministry News

The month of December has been a busy one: shipping packages to three of the deployed, sending greeting cards to 18 military members and their families, collecting 300 calendars for the Prescott AZ VA, and collecting 202+ items for the patients at Hines VA, which were delivered before Christmas by Dannie Stanbery. We would like to thank those of you who signed Christmas cards, brought items for Hines and calendars for the VA in Prescott. You have made many service personnel happier this holiday season!

News from our troops: A surprise for us was that LCPL Brett Gulke arrived home the end of November with Megan and baby Torrie Yvonne to have her baptized on Sunday morning. We were pleased that our own SFC Ed Richter Jr. was recognized at the Bears game on Sunday, December 18th. Our own veteran, Nels Lindgren was interviewed recently by the Daily Chronicle with a nice article about him. We are pleased to say several of our deployed personnel will be returning back to the states during the month of January, along with SSG Dustin Bell who arrived home just before Christmas. Please continue to keep the military in your prayers. May 2012 find us with more peace around the world; and a Happy New Year to all!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3: 1 NIV

In early December we were invited to Oak Crest to share the story of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. After a warm welcome from about 25 residents, we presented a "show-and-tell" and passed around some shawls, lap covers, and handmade articles. Our own Fran Buckner was there working her Prayer Shawl; also, Bee Bue attended.

As the new year begins, we proudly submit this summary of what our hands have made in 2011:

52 Prayer Shawls 30 Scarves 8 Prayer Lap Covers 16 Pair Mittens
460 Baby Hats (Kishwaukee Hospital) 18 Hats and Head Bands

Many, many Prayer Squares are made and given away during the year; also, soon we'll have enough Bears finished for the Mother Bear Project to send a 2nd box to the orphaned children in Africa.

January/February Meeting Dates

Monday, January 16– 9:30 a.m.

Monday, February 6– 9:30 a.m.

Questions? Please call:

Phyllis Anderson (815) 899-9957

Jeanne Johnson (815) 895-5594

Red Cross Blood Drive

Sit back

Relax

Save 3 lives!

Give blood February 11th



"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven"


Ecclesiastes 3: 1

NIV



January

8:30 AM Sunday Worship 8:30 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School	9:20 AM ABC Preschool Music 12:00 PM Sycamore Food Pantry 7:00 PM Advent Bible Study	8:30 AM Christian Circuit 9:15 AM Christian Conditioning 9:00 AM Craft Group (1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th) 9:00 AM Beth Moore Bible Study 9:05 AM ABC Preschool Chapel (1st & 3rd) 9:20 AM ABC Preschool Music 10:30 AM Preschool Parables with Mrs. S and MDO 11:30 AM Clergy Staff Meeting 1:00 PM ABC Preschool Music 1:00 PM Craft Group (2nd)	6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:05 AM ABC Preschool Chapel (1st & 3rd) 9:20 AM ABC Preschool Music 12:50 PM ABC Preschool Chapel (1st & 3rd) 1:00 PM ABC Preschool Music 3:15 PM Christian Kids' Conditioning 5:00 PM Sunshine Ringers 5:30 PM With Joy! Dinners 6:00 PM Confirmation: 2013 Confirmands 6:15 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Confirmation: 2012 Confirmands 7:00 PM Adult Choir	9:00 AM Christian Conditioning 9:20 AM ABC Preschool Music 10:45 AM Worship Staff (2nd & 4th) 12:00 PM Church Staff Meeting (2nd & 4th) 1:00 PM ABC Preschool Music 7:00 PM Adult Handbells	9:20 AM ABC Preschool Music	5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service:  <i>Start the New Year with Prayer</i> One Service ONLY 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School	2 <i>Offices Closed</i>	3	4	5 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study at Oak Crest	6	7
8 10:00 AM Acolytes 11:30 AM Family, Food and Fun	9 6:00 PM Budget Boosters 6:00 PM Finance Committee 7:00 PM Church Council	10 9:15 AM ABC Preschool Board Meeting 9:30 AM Mary Circle 6:00 PM Staff Parish	11	12 6:00 PM UMM Dinner with Jerry Johns	13	14 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast
15 11:15 AM Adult Bible Study	16 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Adult Ministries 7:00 PM Ruth Circle	17 7:00 PM Leading Ladies	18 1:15 PM History & Archives	19 6:30 PM Military Ministry 7:00 PM Trustees	20	21 9:00 AM Memorial Committee
22	23 6:30 PM Discipleship	24 1:00 PM UMW Mission Team 6:30 PM Worship Committee	25 9:00 AM Northern Illinois Conference Clergy Tax Seminar	26	27	28 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 PM LIFE Missions Pizza Lock-In
29	30	31				

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

The deadline to submit articles for the February newsletter is
Thursday, January 19.

Please e-mail all newsletter articles to:
office@sycamoreumc.org to make sure your submissions are received.

Open/Lock Team

- 1 Lane McMillion
- 8 Rich Kaler
- 15 Gil Larimer
- 22 Marv Wildenradt
- 29 Leroy Greathouse



8:30 a.m. Service

- Robert Weir
- Dick Pearson
- Bonnie French
- Jill DiVita
- Martha Heflin
- Ed Eggers
- Vicki Eggers



10:00 a.m. Service

- Dave Keneway
- Paul Rasmussen, Jr.
- Joe Villa
- Carter Bitner
- Tom Slater
- Barry Reynolds
- Don Clayberg

Church Van

- 1 Jim & Marcia Stoddard
- 8 John & Linda Toles
- 15 Kara & Michael Morris
- 22 Mary & Jordan Kalk
- 29 Dave & Nancy Leifheit



Men and Women of SUMC!

Save the date(s)

Women's Retreat: Sea Side Escape

March 9, 10 \$25.00 registration

Men's Retreat March 16, 17

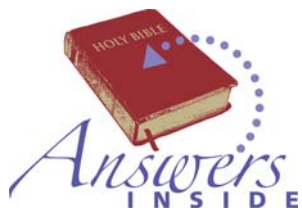
Registration begins soon.

Watch the bulletin for more info.



Church Staff e-mail directory

Rev. Bill Landis, Sr. Pastor	pastorbill@sycamoreumc.org
Rev. Harlene Harden, Associate Pastor	pastorharlene@sycamoreumc.org
Craig Fritz, Organist	craigfritz@sycamoreumc.org
Barb Johnson, Mother's Day Out Director	barbjohnson@sycamoreumc.org
Jim McCue, Business Director	jimmccue@sycamoreumc.org
Joe Munro, Youth Director	joemunro@sycamoreumc.org
Bev Rauch, Music Director	bevrauch@sycamoreumc.org
Julie Sgarlata, Education Director	juliesgarlata@sycamoreumc.org
Jennifer Snow, Administrative Assistant	jennifersnow@sycamoreumc.org
Lisa Szydłowski, ABC Preschool Director	abcpreschool@sycamoreumc.org



Education News

Dear SUMC family,

2012 starts my fifth year as the Christian Education Director. Please take the time to answer the following questions in order for us to best need your educational needs.

Please return your answers with your name and phone number to my mailbox located in the concourse by January 10th.

1. Are you interested in long term studies? (12 weeks) or (4 to 6 weeks)
2. What authors or books of the Bible would you like to study?
3. Are you interested in participating in a retreat?
4. Are you interested in adult education on Sunday mornings? 8:30 or 10:00
5. What days and times would you be able to participate in a study?

Happy New Year,

Julie Sgarlata

When Is Your God Time?

Time: A Most Priceless Resource. What are you doing with it?

Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

2 John 1:9

New adult studies: sign ups are January 8th and 15th

- Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*: Sundays after the 10:00 church service starting January 15th, bring your own sack lunch or snack, led by Diane Parrish, book cost is \$6.30

- The Beloved Disciple: Following John to the Heart of Jesus* by Beth Moore, led by Marcy Welch, starting January 10 at 9am

Adult ministries needs leaders for a couples study, *Your time starved marriage*. This study utilizes a DVD format. Please contact Diane Parrish at 815-751-4942 for more information.

Coming Soon!

- Prayer 101 seminar coming in February

Experience lent with the stations of the cross, save the dates for April 1, 5, or 6th.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Giving blood - \$0

Saving a life - priceless

Be a blood donor on February 11th



Music Matters

A blessed New Year's to everyone, and I want to thank you for a wonderful 2011! I so appreciate the help and support for the Christmas Choral Celebration, GLORY! TWENTY-ELEVEN. I received many e-mails, notes, comments, etc., but one that touched me particularly was from a lady who has sung professionally for many years in the area. She has been experiencing significant health challenges, and she said that the wonderful music and spirit of the choir helped "ease her pain." What a great thing to be able to do for someone!

If you'd like a DVD of the production, please sign the sheet on the music room door. Watch the newsletter or bulletin for pick-up details. Donations are accepted. Special thanks to Nancy Miller for hosting the party following the production (on her birthday!) and Craig Fritz for his wonderful accompaniment.

We did make the ark! We received over \$2000 in door donations at the production, and several generous people have contributed more since then to reach the \$5000 level. I am so proud of this congregation for their generous heart. We will be able to help dozens of people through this contribution, and the way Heifer International operates, the families who receive the animals will pass an offspring on to another needy family.

WE HAVE A WONDERFUL MUSIC EVENT SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, AT 5:00 P.M.! The **O'REILLY QUARTET**, who has sung for our worship services a few times, to great acclaim, will be presenting an entire concert at the Saturday Celebration service. Tammy O'Reilly is the daughter of members Charles and Betty Primm. A free-will offering will be taken. Invite friends!

Thanks to Carol Keneway and Nancy Malmassari for making new reversible stoles for the Handbell Choir. They are beautiful! Thanks also to everyone who contributed special music during the Christmas season.

Here's the schedule for youth and children's choirs for January:

Wed., January 4 Children's Choirs resume at 6:15 p.m. (Adult Choir 7 p.m.) This is a great time to join—contact Bev Rauch at the church office if you want more info.

Sun., January 8 Both Junior Choir

Sun., Jan. 15 Both Kid's Choir

YOUTH ENSEMBLE PRACTICE AFTERWARDS

Sun., Jan. 22 Both Cherubs, Youth Ensemble

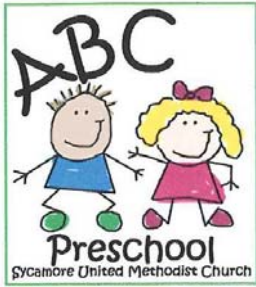
Blessings,
Bev Rauch

Red Cross Blood Drive

Change a life, starting with your own.
Donate blood on February 11th

*The O'Reilly
Quarter
Saturday,
January 14
5:00 p.m.*





ABC Preschool Ministry News

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Blessings to each and every one of you in the coming New Year.

For our January mission project we will be cleaning out our closets! ABC will be donating to Hope Haven and Safe Passage items that we collect in the month of January. Things like shoes, coats, towels, toys, etc. will be collected in the preschool office. On January 30th we will load up our cars and off we go to give to others! If you wish to drop off items just bring them down to the preschool office and we will take it from there. Thank you!

Please remember that we are collect Campbell's labels for our Labels for Education Program. The Campbell's Company has a wonderful program that allows us to clip and turn in labels from their products and redeem them for points to spend in their education catalog. Please cut out the **UPC code** on the acceptable products and drop them off in the ABC Preschool mailbox located at the south end of the Concourse. See the table by the bulletin board for more information.

All preschoolers took part in our first Christmas Choral Concert on Thursday, December 8th. Our music teacher, Laurie Horn, along with the ABC Staff worked very hard daily with the children to create a lovely evening of joyful Christmas music for all to hear. It was a huge success with an incredible turn out of parents, families and friends. We thank Jim McCue for his help with the video and sound for the evening.

The preschool will be closed for Christmas break beginning on Monday December 18th through Monday, January 2nd. Classes resume on Tuesday, January 3rd.

We thank Sycamore United Methodist Church for all your support of ABC Preschool. We appreciate all that you do for us. We look forward to working together on many projects during the New Year.

Blessings,
The ABC Preschool Staff



Thank You

Sycamore UMC,

We would like to say thank you very much for your donation. We really appreciate your kindness. Thank you so much.

Blessings,

Thanks,

Sarah Dillon, Tree of Life Ministry



Red Cross Blood Drive

The need is constant; the gratification is instant.

Give blood, you'll get a great feeling on February 11th

Thank You

We express our heartfelt gratitude for all the support we received during our son's battle with cancer, and more recently after his passing. We thank Pastor Bill for his visit to David's home, the comfort given to his wife and children, and for his beautiful message at Dave's memorial service. We thank Pastor Harlene for her phone calls and prayer that gave us strength. The help that we received for the memorial service from Jim McCue, Jennifer Snow, Julie Sgarlata, Craig Fritz, and the women who were in charge of the luncheon is deeply appreciated. David was comforted by the prayers through the prayer chain, the prayer shawl, and cards received from the Caring Ministry. Finally, we thank all of you for your many cards, phone calls, words of comfort, and your prayers. We are truly blessed to be part of this wonderful church family. Marilyn and Marv Howe and the family of David Howe



Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School - Matthew

Jesus of Nazareth is the most influential person who ever lived. The message of Matthew's gospel is thoroughly practical and highlights Jesus' teaching about commitment, lifestyle and relationships. Simultaneously, it is a deeply spiritual book that stresses how Jesus clearly fulfilled Old Testament prophecies that foretold the coming Messiah. The Daily Bible Commentary series is designed for all those who want to study the Scriptures in a way that will warm the heart as well as instruct the mind. This study is designed to be used on a daily basis, with you reading a short passage from the Bible and then learning more about it from the commentary entry.

When: Sunday mornings 8:30 to 9:30

Starting January 8th through May 2012

Who?? Anyone who wants to know the Messiah better!

Book cost a mere \$4

Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday to do list:

Pick up batteries

Return library books

Give blood

Be a blood donor on February 11th from 9AM-2PM





Non-Profit Organization
Permit Number 76
Sycamore, IL 60178
Postage Paid

Sycamore United Methodist Church

160 Johnson Avenue
Sycamore, Illinois 60178

Phone: (815) 895-9113

Fax: (815) 895-1042

E-mail: jennifersnow@sycamoreumc.org

Open Hearts... Open Minds... Open Doors

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.SYCAMOREUMC.ORG