

THE UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER



Pastor's Pen

Live a God Pleasing Life

Dear Friends in Christ,

During the weeks of September, Pastor Harlene and I will be preaching on the theme *“Live a God-Pleasing Life”* which is also the title for this year’s Stewardship Program. The sermon series will culminate on Sunday, September 25 with my sermon *“Generous Living”*. This will also be Commitment Sunday for our Fall Stewardship Program. That day will be your opportunity as a part of Sycamore UMC Church Family to commit your God-given gifts of time, talents and money in a way that pleases God.

When we give of ourselves, our resources, our time and our money, we are returning to God a portion of the gifts God has given to us to manage for Him, the Owner. This makes us partners with God in the work of stewardship. Jesus said, *“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you”* (John 15:15). Now that is a great honor—Jesus calls us his friends and allows us to be a part of his “business!”

As many of you know, I went on our SUMC Senior High Mission trip (LIFE Missions) to Cortez, Colorado in July. Each day our youth were challenged by the Youth Works Staff to find ways to live differently. As your pastor, I am excited to bring this same challenge home to you that together we might *“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18) and live differently because of our Christian faith! As we are made aware of the abundance of God’s grace in our lives, let us respond joyfully as we make our annual commitment.

My prayer for you as you make your commitment decision comes from Hebrews 13: 20-21: *“May the God of peace...equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in you what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”*

You will be receiving your Commitment Form later in September. Please complete it and bring it with you to church on either Commitment Sunday, September 25 or Commitment Saturday, September 24 or return it to the Church Office.

We are looking forward to seeing you in worship as we examine how to *“Live a God-Pleasing Life!”*

Faithfully Yours,

Pastor Bill Landis

PS: In addition two “Live a God-Pleasing Life” Bible Studies will be going on during September:

-Saturdays, 4-5pm, starting September 10- led by Julie Sgarlata.

-Sundays, 10-11am, starting September 11— led by Diane Parish.

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.

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September 2011 Worship Schedule

September 3 at 5:00 p.m.

September 4 at 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

“How To Get Mad and Not Sin”

Pastor Bill Landis

Matthew 18: 15-20

September 10 at 5:00 p.m.

September 11 at 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

“Live A God Pleasing Life: Faith Is the Foundation”

Pastor Bill Landis

Hebrews 11: 6-19, Matthew 9: 18-26

September 17 at 5:00 p.m.

September 18 at 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

“The Road To Discipleship”

Pastor Harlene Harden

Mark 8: 34

September 24 at 5:00 p.m.

September 25 at 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

“Life A God Pleasing Life: Generous Living”

Pastor Bill Landis

I Chronicles 29: 10-20, Luke 19: 1-10

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 home-bound and would like to partake of Holy Communion each month, please contact the Church office.



Bishop Hee-Soo Jung	Lori Harmon
Melissa Monzingo	Avery Gerdes
Don Stearns	John Stipher
June Krueger	Roy Dodson
David Howe	Carol Jacobsen
Hazel Ostrum	Paul Brown
Patricia Ackers	Billi Poppen
Dan Bauer and Family	



Pray for our Military

PVT Tom Fleenor	*PVT2 Nels Lindgren
*LT Robert Ortman	MSgt. Bianna Yeager
SPC Timothy Stewart	*PFC John Z. Talmage
*LCPL Brett Gulke	LCPL Derrick R. Wells
PVT Ben Bushno	SGT Shaune Clark
SGT. Neil Smith	*SPC Mitchell Stewart
LCPL Matthew Einhorn	CPT Garrett Slack
LCPL Kyle Keneway	PFC John Harris
CPT John C. Whitehead	David Whitehead
*SGT Dustin Bell	SGT Andrew Sheehan
Jason Abitua	*PFC Eathon Larson
*SGT Christopher Isabel	*CPL Anthony Dewitz
SGT Matthew “Scott” Stewart	
*indicates deployed personnel	

UMW Corner

The DeKalb District UMW Annual Fall Meeting will be held at Sheridan UMC on Saturday, October 1 from 9-1:00. The speaker is Joseph Hopkins, Justice Worker: Madison, Wisconsin. Look for details concerning registration, lunch, and carpooling on the UMW bulletin board in the concourse.

What is the Fall Thrift Sale? That little question has many answers. It's a chance to donate items you no longer use. It's motivation to clean out a closet, basement, or garage. It's an opportunity to spend time with others setting up merchandise for the sale. It's an outreach mission for our community. It's a tradition in our local UMW. It's in our gym on Fri. Sept. 23 from 9am-6pm. It's a \$5 "Bag Sale" on Sat. Sept. 24 from 9am-12 noon. It needs your help to be successful. Gather your clean men, women, and children's clothing, shoes, books, toys, home decor, linens, antiques and collectibles and bring them to the church on Tues. 9-20, and Wed. 9-21. Give us a hand any time that week to arrange and price items to sell. Large items will be sold at the garage sale on Fri. and Sat. There is something for everyone at this sale! Come and see how much fun thrift can be.

The west entrance doors in front of the church office will lead to the best bake sale of the season on Fri. Sept. 23 from 9-12 noon. The selection is outstanding with all your favorites and the smells are free. Bakers may drop off donations as early as 7:30 so our staff can display and price each item. Thank you for supporting our sales this fall. All proceeds are distributed to missions within our church, community, and world.

Our church has a unique opportunity to host a United Methodist missionary on Tues. Sept. 13 from 1-3pm. Karen Ujereh is from Indiana, but will share her experiences working with the people of Senegal, Africa. Initially her job was that of a financial executive. "My job is to insure that 100% of your gift goes to the ministry you have chosen," she explained. She has done so much more. Urban and rural agriculture, supervising the work of three prisons, and a Woman's Skills Center all focus on women. "I feel that the Lord has blessed me in more ways than I could ever explain," Ujereh said. "Because of my relationship with Jesus Christ, I have the gifts of peace, joy, love and abundant life. I do what I do to share God's love with everyone I meet." This event is open to all and promises to be uplifting and inspiring. Note: Mary Circle will not meet at our regular time that morning, but will gather with others at 1:00 for this special program with refreshments following.

Please Remember

Bulletin articles are due the Wednesday of publication. Please keep bulletin articles and announcements short, as we all work together to save resources of both paper and money. Questions? Call Jennifer in the Church Office. Thank you!





Live a God-Pleasing Life!

Stewards living a God-pleasing life are managers of all of God's creation. As owner, God has called us to be responsible as we fulfill the role for which we have been created, to do his will as long as we remain on earth. *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10).

We are not given these responsibilities because of our great talents and abilities. On the contrary, we often feel inadequate and unprepared for the tasks God places before us. Our strength is in the Lord. The Apostle Paul made that point very clear as he gave praise to God for his power within us: *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen"* (Ephesians 3:20-21). As stewards living a God-pleasing life, we welcome our opportunities for stewardship and give all the glory to God.

This month we will be studying the series: "Live a God-Pleasing Life!" in our worship services. We will discuss **faith** as the foundation for stewardship, for it is only through faith that we can please God. We will delve into the important role that **discipleship** holds in our lives as obedient stewards. We will study the Scriptures to learn how **generosity** is the hallmark of grateful stewards responding to the love and generosity of God. Our stewardship program emphasizes the grace of God who has called us to faith and continues to sustain us. Let the words of the writer to the Hebrews be our prayer:

"May the God of peace . . . equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever.

Amen" (Hebrews 13:20,21)

Please plan on joining us as we worship together and learn more about "Living a God-pleasing Life" during our services the weekends of Sept 10th & 11th; 17th & 18th and 24th & 25th. Pledge cards will be collected and blessed during the services on Saturday September 24th and Sunday the 25th. May God give you the grace to continue the faithful stewardship of the many blessings that he has entrusted to your care.

Thank You To All That Helped

If you played golf, donated a prize, sponsored a hold or worked in any way on the golf outing we want to THANK YOU very much. Because of you we will be able to apply over \$4200.00 to the church mortgage. Hope to see you again next year.

Thank You,

The Budget Booster Committee

"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had."

Acts 4: 32



Thank You

Military Ministry News

Word was received from Christopher Isabel that his one wish while he is on R and R in September is that he could see the Bears play on the 25th. So far we have been unsuccessful in getting tickets for him. If anyone knows of affordable tickets we could get for him and his family, we would love to hear from you.

This past month the Military Ministry Team signed and sent sympathy cards to the 22 families of the Navy Seals that were shot down in Afghanistan on August 6th.

Please check the poster area in the church concourse for pictures of Scott Maratto's Welcome Home Event!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

"Be sure to use the abilities God has given you... throw yourself into your tasks... God will bless you and use you to help others."

1 Timothy 4: 14-16 (TLB)

Our hands, along with knitting needles and crochet hooks, create wonderfully comforting and warm Prayer Shawls and Prayer Lap Covers (formerly Lap Robes) to be shared with God's people. All the items made are blessed and prayed over by our Ministry Team.

In August, 71 soft baby hats were delivered to the Kishwaukee Community Hospital nursery, one to be given to each newborn baby. Looking ahead to Autumn and Winter, we are again making scarves, hats, and mittens to be used by clients of the Food Pantry and long with the church's Coat Ministry.

September/October Meeting Dates

Monday, September 5– Labor Day– **No Meeting**

Monday, September 19, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, October 3, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, October 17, 9:30 a.m.

Questions? Please call:

Phyllis Anderson (815) 899-9957

Jeanne Johnson (815) 895-5594

Wanted!

All creative men and women! You don't have to come to meetings to donate your home made projects for our table at the Annual Craft Fair. And of course, all proceeds to go church projects. Call Bonnie French at (815) 758-0772 with questions or to arrange drop off.

Giving one unit of blood can save three lives - one of them could be someone you love. Give blood on September 10th.



"Be sure to use the abilities God has given you... throw yourself into your tasks... God will bless you and use you to help others."

1 Timothy 4: 14-16 (TLB)



SEPTEMBER

8:30 AM Sunday Worship 8:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Wor- ship 10:00 AM Stewardship Bible Study 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School	9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (1st & 3rd) 9:15 AM Moms-In-Christ 12:00 PM Sycamore Food Pantry	9:00 AM Christian Con- ditioning 9:00 AM Craft Group (1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th) 9:05 AM ABC Preschool Chapel (1st & 3rd) 10:30 AM Preschool Parables with Mrs. S 11:30 AM Clergy Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Craft Group (2nd) 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study: Living Beyond Yourself	6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:05 AM ABC Preschool Chapel (1st & 3rd) 12:50 PM ABC Preschool Chapel (1st & 3rd) 3:15 PM Christian Kids' Conditioning 6:15 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Adult Choir	9:00 AM Christian Conditioning 10:45 AM Worship Staff (1st & 3rd) 12:00 PM Church Staff Meeting (1st & 3rd) 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study: Bad Girls of the Bible	10:00 AM History & Archives Committee	4:00 PM Stewardship Bible Study 5:00 PM Saturday Wor- ship Service
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study at Oak Crest 11:00 AM Leadership Meeting 4:00 PM Feed the Foot- ball Team— Youth Group	2	3
4	5 	6 12:00 PM Sycamore Food Pantry 6:30 PM Rachel Circle	7	8 7:45 AM Sr. High Youth — Breakfast and Devotions (BAD) 4:00 PM Feed the Foot- ball Team— Youth Group 6:00 PM UMM Dinner	9	10 9:00 AM Red Cross Blood Drive
11  10:00 AM Family, Food & Fun 12:00 PM Adult Ministries— Afternoon at the Movies	12 6:00 PM Budget Boosters 6:00 PM Finance Committee 7:00 PM Church Council	13 9:15 AM ABC Preschool Board Meeting 1:00 PM Mary Circle hosts All Circles 6:00 PM Staff Parish Committee 7:00 PM Leading Ladies	14 9:30 AM Esther Circle 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee	15 ABC Preschool Pictures 4:00 Pm Feed the Foot- ball Team— Youth Group 6:30 PM Military Ministry 7:00 PM Trustees Committee	16 ABC Preschool Pictures	17 9:00 AM Memorial Committee
18	19 6:30 PM ABC Preschool Open House for Parents and Children 6:30 PM Caring Ministry Meeting 7:00 PM Adult Ministries 7:00 PM Ruth Circle	20	21 1:15 PM History & Archives Committee	22 7:45 AM Sr. High Youth — Breakfast and Devotions (BAD)	23 9:00 AM Bake Sale Garage Sale Thrift Sale	24 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Garage Sale Thrift Sale
25 4:30 PM Jr. High Youth 6:30 PM Sr. High Youth	26 6:30 PM Discipleship Committee	27 1:00 PM UMW Mission Team 6:00 PM Evangelism Committee 6:30 PM Worship Committee	28 5:30 PM With Joy! Dinner 6:00 PM Endowments 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee	29	30 5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal	

Open/Lock Team

September 4	Leroy Greathouse
September 11	Gil Larimer
September 18	Dick Graham
September 25	Marv Wildenradt



8:30 a.m. Service

Dave Stevens
 Rich Diehl
 Michelle Stevens
 Don Adams
 Ken Raymond
 Jack Ratcliffe

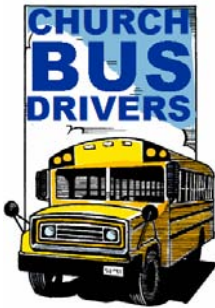


10:00 a.m. Service

William Fraedrich
 Bill Fraedrich, Jr.
 Arliss Fraedrich
 Rich Bianco
 Joe Gibson
 Shelly Gibson

Church Van

September 4	Kara Morris
September 11	Dave & Nancy Leifheit
September 18	Mary Roush
September 25	Mark & Ann Reed



The deadline to submit articles for the October newsletter is Monday, September 19.

Please e-mail all newsletter articles to:

office@sycamoreumc.org to make sure your submissions are received.

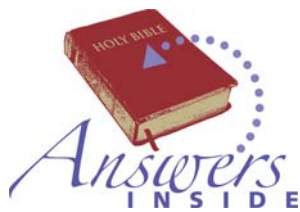


Blood supplies are critically low.
 Give blood, you'll get a great feeling on September 10th



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: When Is Your God Time?

Fall Line- up for Christian Education:

Sunday: 8:45 am- **Bible Breakfast Club** for K-5th Grade led by Mary Crissman

8:45 am - **Adult Sunday School** in the Conference Room led by Susan Edwards

10:00 am – **Sunday School**

Ages 3-5 are in Room five Kindergarten is in Room 8

First and Second grade are in the small Commons Classroom

Third grade is in the Scout Room.

3rd graders will receive their Bibles during the 10:00 service on Sept. 18.

Fourth and Fifth grade is in the large Commons Room.

Sixth through Eighth grade is in the Middle School Room.

High school is in the youth room.

Rally Day is September 11. HS students are asked to lead games at 10:00 a.m.

Adults – **Living a God-Pleasing Life** (Stewardship study) led by Diane Parrish 4 sessions starting September 11

Monday: 7:00 pm – **Why? Making Sense of God’s Will** by Adam Hamilton led by Julie Sgarlata in the lounge (2nd and 4th Mondays) 4 sessions starting Sept. 26th

Tuesday: 9:00 pm – **Christian Conditioning** led by Julie Sgarlata in the Commons (All are welcome! Mats and weights optional)

10:30 am – **Preschool Parables** – a spiritual story hour designed for all preschoolers in the Sanctuary and Concourse beginning September 13

7:00 pm – **Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit** by Beth Moore led by Ann Elder starting Sept. 6th

Wednesday: 6:30 am – **Fearless** by Max Lucado led by Darin Hagemeyer starting September 14

3:15 – 5:15 pm – **Christian Kids Connections** – Academic, Spiritual and Physical activities designed for K- 5th in the Commons starting on Sept. 14

6:00 – 8:00 pm – **Confirmation** for second year students (8th grade) in the high school youth room starting Oct. 5th

6:15 – 7:45 pm – **Bible’s The Story: From Adam to Armageddon** by Ted Miller led by Pastor Bill Landis in the Commons on 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/19, 11/2 & 11/16

Thursday: 9:00 am – **Christian Conditioning** led by Julie Sgarlata in the Commons (All are welcome! Mats and weights optional)

10:00 am- The Journey: Forgiveness, Restorative Justice & Reconciliation written by Stephanie Hixon & Thomas Porter. Led by Patti Hill in the Commons (Starts September 28th)

10:15 am - Adult Bible Study at Oak Crest the first Thursday of each month (currently finishing **24 Hours That Changed the World**)

7:00 pm – **Bad Girls of The Bible** by Liz Curtis Higgs led by Kara Morris starting September 15th

Saturday: 4:00 pm – **Living a God-Pleasing Life** (a stewardship study) led by Julie Sgarlata in the lounge (4 sessions) beginning Sept. 10.



**Christian
Ministries**

Music Matters

I hope you have had a wonderfully refreshing summer. I am thankful to all the individuals and groups who participated in the music this summer. I was gone for Kid's Praise, directed by Julie Sgarlata's daughters Natalie & Lindsay, but I heard it was wonderful!

The praise continues this fall—come join us for an **ADULT CHOIR WELCOME DINNER on Wed., August 24, 6:30 p.m.**, in the Commons. Choir members will bring a dish to pass, but if you're interested in coming to "try us out," please be our guest. We will have a short rehearsal in the sanctuary after the dinner, and will sing August 28 at 10 a.m. Adult Choir is for high school age and up. WE ALWAYS HAVE ROOM FOR MORE SINGERS!

The Adult Choir is a caring community in the family of God, and has extended their love and prayers to Craig Fritz and his family in the death of Craig's father over the summer.

Midge Hartsuch in the Adult Choir likes to write, and wrote the following verse that she shared with us at Summer Choir:

What makes us keep coming to choir? What motivation do we require?

Is it the chance to make new friends? Or the thrill of finding some good, tight blends?

Is it the camaraderie? Or Bev's soul-felt soliloquies?

Is it the chance to vent your cares? Or the delicious food we often share?

Is it the expertise of Craig the Man? Or a chance to sing a solo, if you can?

Or is it to spread the message of God's love?

I believe it is all of the Above.

Thanks, Midge!

Children's Choirs begin Wednesday, September 14, from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m. We have 3

Children's Choirs:

CHERUBS is for 3 – 5 year olds, and meets in the Scout/Craft Room. Kitty Hagendorn directs, and Helen Maurer accompanies the group.

KID'S CHOIR is for K – 2nd grade, and meets in Pre-School Room 5. Phyllis Horst and Cris Woodin direct this group. KID'S CHOIR will sing in church on Sunday, Sept. 18 at both services.

JUNIOR CHOIR is for 3rd through 6th grade, and meets in the Choir Room. Peggy Carey directs, and Bev Rauch plays piano.

YOUTH ENSEMBLE is for 7th through 12th grade (college age is welcome, too) and practices once a month. The first practice is Sunday, **September 18, after the 10:00 service**. It lasts until noon. We will sing on Sunday, September 25, at both services.

Adult Handbells is directed by Mary Thomas, and if you're interested in any more information about this wonderful group, please call Mary at 895-5206. **Children's Handbells** are directed by Deb Loitz and Stephanie Maurer, and please call Deb at 991-1101 if you're interested in that exciting ministry.

We also enjoy various instrumentalists, small groups and soloists throughout the year, so if you'd like to know more about that or our contemporary music, please contact me at the church office.

Finally, we have some upcoming events that I think you will enjoy. One is the return of **BRUCE AND DAN** in concert on Saturday, **October 15, 5:00 p.m.** This duo graced our sanctuary last fall with their harmonies, humor, and guitar skills, and we hope you will invite friends.

Also, our annual CHRISTMAS CHORAL CELEBRATION will be Saturday, December 3, and Sunday, December 4, at 6:30 p.m. Don't miss it!

We will be taking a group to the Gaither concert at the Metro Center in Rockford on Friday, Nov. 11, 7:00 p.m. If you're interested in tickets, please contact Bev Rauch at the church office by Thursday, Sept. 15. Reserved tickets are \$19 to \$28. I have never been to one of their events, but everyone I know who has gone has raved about it!

Blessings,

Bev Rauch

*Bruce & Dan
In Concert
October 15
5:00 p.m.*



**Handbell
Choir**

**begins
soon!**

*Children's
Choirs begin
September 14
at 6:15 p.m.*

Adult Ministries

Tales from the classroom:

My mom and I went to the prayer class this summer where we were supposed to relax, close your eyes and imagine yourself on a walk. So I said oh I love doing these types of things, I thought it would be fun and well it was. I was always a couple steps behind the group. We were supposed to imagine that we were walking up a hill and at the top would be a beach. Well I was still at the bottom of the hill when everyone else was at the beach. But I could not make myself walk faster! So when I got up to the top of the hill and finally saw the beach everyone else was on the beach and sitting with Jesus. When I finally got to the beach to sit down and talk to Jesus everybody else was giving him a hug and walking back up the hill. When I got up after talking to Jesus I felt like he had a job for me. When I started to walk up the hill I was walking really slowly I tried to make myself go faster but it was no use I was behind. When I finally got to the bottom of the hill everybody else was done and had their eyes open. I really enjoyed the class, I got a lot out of it and I found that there are a lot of different ways to pray and you don't always have to pray at night. By Brooke, 7th grade



Looking For Scholarship Recipients

Did you receive a scholarship from the SUMC for college expenses? We are looking for you! The Endowment and Investment Committee is looking for past and present scholarship recipients to highlight the impact our endowment and investment funds have made on our college students. Please contact Betsy Hull at 312-805-9271 or bhull@niu.edu if you received recently received a scholarship from the church, or if it's been a few years, or even decades. :) Thank you!

Don't Throw It Out!

Don't throw it out ! We need it for the SUMC Garage Sale 9/23 & 9/24. Drop off at the church on Wednesday 9/21 between noon & 7 p.m., or we'll pick up large items (like furniture, etc). Please **NO** TV's, computers, or bedding.

Please call Dick (815) 751-7977 or Tom 815 895 5166 for pick-up



UMM– Our Meeting Schedule Is Changing

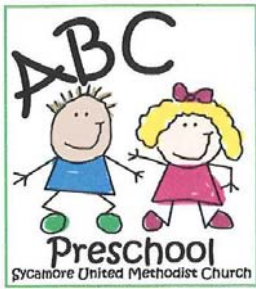
We are planning dinner meetings starting September 8th and the second Thursdays of the following months. Guest speakers will be featured at each meeting along with devotions and the usual fellowship.

Our speaker on September 8th will be Eric Hoffman, Site Manager of Reynoldswood Christian Camp and Retreat Center. Eric will give a talk and slide presentation of projects and programs at our Reynoldswood.

Men's Breakfasts are planned for September 24th and the fourth Saturday of the following months with devotions, current issue discussions and bible studies and how they affect men.

...and always good fellowship.





ABC Preschool Ministry News

ABC Preschool is busy planning another wonderful year!

Phase-In starts the week of September 6th. We will be welcoming returning families and many new ones to our preschool family. We are very excited about the upcoming school year. Here are a few planned events:

Open House is being held on Monday, September 19th. This gives families and opportunity to see the classroom and meet other families that will be attending here. ABC staff and Preschool Board members will be hosting Coffee Hour between services on Sunday, September 11th. Please join us and meet your staff members.

We do have The Sycamore Pumpkin Festival 50th Anniversary Flags in the preschool office and the SUMC office for sale. The flags were designed by SUMC member Erica Snodgrass and her design is also on the official Pumpkin Festival license plate. Congratulations Erica!

ABC has joined the Labels for Education Program through the Campbells Company. Please cut out the UPC codes off of the many products that are approved and drop them off to either the preschool office or place them into the preschool mailbox located at the south end of the Concourse. Labels can be turned into the company for a variety of educational tools at no cost!

Once again we would like to thank ABC families and those who attend Sycamore United Methodist Church for all their support of the preschool. We look forward to working together on many different projects during the year.

Blessings,
ABC Preschool Staff

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

It is such a blessing being a part of this SUMC congregation. The prayers, cards, hugs, phone calls, texts I received the past few weeks since my father's death have truly been overwhelming. This is what its all about, being a part of the family of God where we care and support each other through good and difficult times. Thanks for showing me, my mom, sister and brother-in-law Christ's love. It was greatly appreciated.

In Christ,
Craig Fritz



Thank you to everyone for all the thoughts, prayers and cards during the recent death of Bill's niece, Kaylene Amos.

Bill & Jo Landis

Old Fashioned Potluck

As a culmination and celebration of our Stewardship Campaign, “Living a God Pleasing Life”, the stewardship committee would like to invite all who worship with us to join us in an old fashioned Methodist Potluck on Sunday, September 25, after the 10:00 worship service. What is an “old fashioned potluck”? Well, it is what it sounds like ... potluck ... whatever is brought is what we will eat! Sound like fun? Mark your calendars now and bring your favorite dish to share, be it meat, vegetable, salad, or dessert. Drinks will be provided by the committee. Hope to see you there as we celebrate God’s blessings in our lives.

Leading Ladies

Leading Ladies is a group for women in their 40's, 50's, and 60's. We gather to support one another and spend time with other Christians. We all seem to have hectic, demanding lives and look forward to our time spent together. If you would like to join us, be placed on our email list, or have any other questions, call Cheryl Callighan at 815 748-5714

September 13th (note: early date to avoid Thrift Sale) - **Minute to Win It**

Hostess - Elaine Davis

October 18th - Pumpkin Night

Hostess - Sue Richter

November 15th - Praying in Color

Hostess - Ann Elder

Red Cross Blood Drive

What can you do in less than an hour?

- Watch a TV sitcom
- Play computer solitaire

SAVE 3 LIVES

Use your time wisely - give blood on **September 10th from 9AM-2PM**

On September 10th, our church will participate in a Red Cross blood drive with their mobile unit.

Reserve your appointment time to fit into your schedule.

You can sign up in the Concourse, or call Cheryl Callighan 815 748-5714, call the church office 815-895-9113, or reserve your spot by following the link on our church's website: www.sycamoreumc.org



*Leading
Ladies meets
September
13!*





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

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.SYCAMOREUMC.ORG

Blood
DRIVE

Pause to remember 9/11
Show that you care,
Be a blood donor on September 10th