

April 2021

Sumner Center UMC Newsletter

Sunday Worship



Weekly Worship Services are offered each Sunday via Sumner Centers Facebook page or if you do not have access to the internet contact Pastor Bridget and a weekly DVD of worship will be mailed to your home. During this time of a pandemic we are trying new and innovative ways to come together in the name of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Bridget Sheely

Cell: 507-438-1352 bridget@countrywidecarriers.com

Grace and Peace in the Name of Jesus Christ:

If you have items you would like to be published in the newsletter, please contact our church secretary, Norma Kenning, by the 3rd Thursday of the preceding month by emailing your information to: Racine UMC (rscumc@hmtel.com) Or by bringing your information to Norma during office hours (Thursdays, 5-7)

Pastors Notes...

I hope you have enjoyed our Lenten Book Study and worship services this season featuring the book "Love Is the Way" by Author Bishop Michael Curry. If you did not get a chance to partake in the services, I highly recommend you purchase this book. Bishop Curry's writings are both connectional and inspiring! He addresses the core values of being a Christian in our society today. He brings you into deep thoughts and evaluations of how you are living a life of Christian love.

We praise God for the blessings in our lives but how often do we think about "being a blessing" to someone else? I have a very good friend who told me that as her children were going up, each morning before school she would kiss them on the forehead and say: "Now, remember to be a blessing to someone today." From kindergarten to their senior year she never missed a day practicing this ritual, she said "because you never grow to old to be a blessing."

Those words repeat themselves in my thoughts many days. And many evenings I think about my

day and wonder – "have I missed an opportunity to be a blessing today?"

Friends in this past year that we have traveled there has been many situations that have brought us and our communities to the brink of brokenness. If ever there was need to spread blessings it is now!

*Small acts of kindness,
Simple words of encouragement
Brief moments of understanding
Opportunities to stop the "hate" talk*

We have the ability to change the world by our words and deeds. This is our number one mission as followers of Christ. To be Christ Like!

I don't know about you, but I am exhausted of listening to and partaking in the endless complaining, and finger pointing we, as a society, have become. Spring is here. Let us make this a new season of loving ALL God's children. Especially those who disagree with us.

And, don't forget to – Be a blessing for someone today!






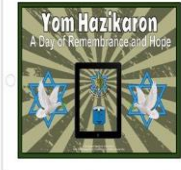


The Way to Start your Day...

Go outside and face the East and greet the Sun with a blessing, chant or song that you made yourself and keep for early mornings. Do not fret if you do not know how to make a song it is very simple. First, don't try to think what words to use until you're standing there alone. When you feel the Sun, you'll feel the blessing, chant or song too. Just open your heart and release it. You see, a morning needs to be greeted. A new day needs to be honored. It is our responsibility to welcome the Sun and create a good day for it. We must also make a good world for it to live in one day at a time. So, as you rise out of bed tomorrow remember to look to the East and offer your blessing. And if you are very lucky there may be a time when the sky thanks you back with colors of beauty and magic. **Now that's the way to start a day!**

Calendar of Events

(subject to change and/or be added to as the need arises)

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  Maundy Thursday Online Worship 6:30pm	2 Good Friday  Online Worship 6:30pm	3
4 Easter Sunday  Worship	5	6	7  WORLD HEALTH DAY	8	9  HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY	10 <i>Happy Siblings Day</i> 
11 Holy Humor Sunday  <small>12-B © 2010 The People's Church www.peopleschurch.com</small> "Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life."	12	13 	14  Yom Hazikaron <small>A Day of Remembrance and Hope</small>	15	16	17
18 Worship	19	20	21	22  EARTH DAY	23	24
25 Worship	26	27	28	29	30  PLANT A TREE ARBOR DAY	

Tips on Reading the Bible Daily

Plan Length: 365 days

Estimated Completion Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Nineth month of daily biblical connection. If you would like to start now no worries, it is never too late to begin connecting with the Word.

1. Start reading the Bible today -- there is no
2. Set aside a specific time each day. Set your great, but feel free to use any time that works
3. Read the Bible for the sake of learning, not a short prayer to God before you begin, asking understanding, then be refreshed by the words you read!



better time, and there's no reason to wait. schedule and then stick to it. Mornings are consistently for you. simply to accomplish your next reading. Say the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and

Day 243 - Psalm 145-147; 1 Corinthians 11:1-15

Day 244 - Psalm 148-150; 1 Corinthians 11:16-34

Day 245 - Proverbs 1-2; 1 Corinthians 12

Day 246 - Proverbs 3-4; 1 Corinthians 13

Day 247 - Proverbs 5-6; 1 Corinthians 14:1-20

Day 248 - Proverbs 7-8; 1 Corinthians 14:21-40

Day 249 - Proverbs 9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-32

Day 250 - Proverbs 11-12; 1 Corinthians 15:33-58

Day 251 - Proverbs 13-14; 1 Corinthians 16

Day 252 - Proverbs 15-16; 2 Corinthians 1

Day 253 - Proverbs 17-18; 2 Corinthians 2

Day 254 - Proverbs 19-20; 2 Corinthians 3

Day 255 - Proverbs 21-22; 2 Corinthians 4

Day 256 - Proverbs 23-24; 2 Corinthians 5

Day 257 - Proverbs 25-27; 2 Corinthians 6

Day 258 - Proverbs 28-29; 2 Corinthians 7

Day 259 - Proverbs 30-31; 2 Corinthians 8

Day 260 - Ecclesiastes 1-3; 2 Corinthians 9

Day 261 - Ecclesiastes 4-6; 2 Corinthians 10

Day 262 - Ecclesiastes 7-9; 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

Day 263 - Ecclesiastes 10-12; 2 Corinth.11:16-33

Day 264 - Song of Solomon 1-3; 2 Corinthians 12

Day 265 - Song of Solomon 4-5; 2 Corinth. 13

Day 266 - Song of Solomon 6-8; Galatians 1

Day 267 - Isaiah 1-3; Galatians 2

Day 268 - Isaiah 4-6; Galatians 3

Day 269 - Isaiah 7-9; Galatians 4

Day 270 - Isaiah 10-12; Galatians 5

Day 271 - Isaiah 13-15; Galatians 6

Day 272 - Isaiah 16-18; Ephesians 1

Well, how about that!

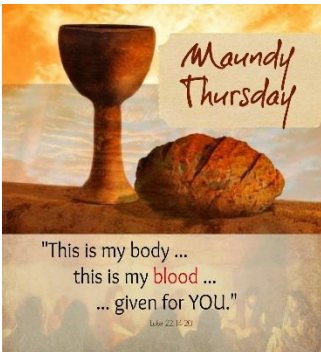
Only 93 days to go!



Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!



4/1/2021

Worship & Communion

Facebook Live @ 6:30pm

Racine UMC Facebook page

Sumner Center UMC Facebook group page

Led by Pastors Laura Nordstrom, Jon Marburger, Bridget Sheely



4/2/2021

Ecumenical Worship Service @ Stewartville Civic Center 10:30 am

(led by local area Pastors)

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Online Worship Facebook Live @6:30pm

Racine UMC Facebook page

Sumner Center UMC Facebook group page

Led by Pastors Laura Nordstrom, Jon Marburger, Bridget Sheely



4/4/2021

Racine UMC Parking Lot Service 9:00 am

Bring your own elements for communion.

Also available on:

Local Radio 89.7 FM @ 9am

Recorded service posted on Facebook

Led by Pastor Bridget Sheely

2021 Annual Conference: Jesus. Waymaker.



By: Cindy Gregorson

“We can preach Jesus. Not an abstract Jesus, but the real one. The one found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The times the church has lost its way is when Jesus is not its way.”

Those are the words of Bishop Michael Curry—author of our Lenten study book “Love is the Way”—to the Leadership Institute at The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City last fall. He was responding to a question about how we can be the beloved community and help bridge the divides in our society. **Preach Jesus.**

In 2019, we adopted a vision for the Minnesota Annual Conference that said we envision a Methodism that is rooted in Jesus, grounded in Wesleyan theology, inclusive of all, and engaged in the work of reconciliation and justice. **Rooted in Jesus.**

It has been a really hard year. When you are in the valley, what do you need? *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.* I need Jesus. Not an abstract Jesus. Not trite religious platitudes. The real Jesus who is God incarnate, who heals the sick, who frees the imprisoned, who speaks truth to power, who welcomed in sinners and outcasts, who stretched out his arms in love on a cross even for a thief, who would not stay dead in a tomb no matter how much the religious leaders of the day tried to silence him. He was radical and real, and he was good news for a whole lot of people who thought they had no hope. That is what we need—that kind of hope and love, the belief that new life is possible today in spite of the daily bombardment of more bad news.

One of the scripture verses that has been a touchstone in recent years is the invitation of Jesus in Matthew 11:30. Here’s the version from The Message: “*Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out?...Come to me, get away with me and you’ll recover your life...Walk with me, work with me, watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace...Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.*” When we don’t know the way, Jesus shows us the way. When we can’t make a way, Jesus is the waymaker.

Our theme for Annual Conference 2021 is “Jesus. Waymaker.” Yes, The United Methodist Church is in a bit of a turmoil. Yes, we have pressing challenges to face as a nation. You are understandably worried about your own local church and hungry to be together in community. We could focus on all of that at annual conference session, but it seems the place where we are going to find our life and our way is Jesus. So we are going back to our roots and centering ourselves on Jesus.

Here are the key things you need to know about this year’s Annual Conference, at which we will celebrate where we’ve been and what we’ve accomplished together, and look ahead to where we’re headed on our shared journey:

Dates: Annual Conference will be Tuesday, June 22 to Thursday, June 24. It will be mostly virtual since we are still unable to hold large gatherings safely.

Celebration of Life and Ministry: This worship service—which recognizes milestones in ministry, including ordination and commissioning—will be Tuesday evening, June 22. Honorees and their guests will participate in-person, and others are invited to watch via live streaming.

Small group in-person teaching day: There will be one in-person day on Wednesday, June 23; it’s open to all, and will take place at host sites around the state. Each venue will have up to 50 people and maintain the COVID protocols in place at the time. The day will include a virtual presentation from teaching session speaker, Rev. Rachel Billups—an author who serves as pastor of Ginghamburg Church in Ohio—followed by a live virtual Q&A. We will then have group conversations at the sites, and ZOOM breakout rooms will be available for those not comfortable meeting in-person. This will allow us to have some face-to-face conversation, and provide an opportunity to be in community.

Business session: The business session, where we discuss legislation, will be Thursday, June 24 and conducted through a ZOOM webinar.

Registration: Registration on the Minnesota Conference website will open May 1. It will be announced in conference emails.

Legislation: The window to submit legislation has just opened ([submit here](#)), and proposed legislation is due April 8. We request that only essential legislation be submitted as a virtual business meeting is not the most conducive for dialogue and debate.

Clergy Session: Clergy Session will be virtual and is set for Thursday, May 27.

No matter what we are going through, there is Jesus. **Jesus. Waymaker.** Join us in June!

[Rev. Cindy Gregorson](#) is director of ministries for the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

UPDATE!

Fundraising Event!

The greatest among you shall be your servant. Mt. 23:11

**Racine UMC & Sumner Center UMC are collaborating to –
raise funds with the intention of purchasing gift cards
in the spirit of Gratitude
for our Frontline County workers.**

**Our Mission is to sell yard signs displaying John Wesley's 3 simple rules:
We have collected funds to purchase 96 gift cards!!!**

Mower County Sheriff's Department = 25 cards

Fillmore County Sheriff's Department = 19 cards

Grand Meadow Police Department = 3 cards

Grand Meadow First Responders = 15 Cards

Spring Valley Area Ambulance = 18 cards

Stewartville First Responders = 15 cards



WE are in need of \$490.00 to complete our mission goal.

If you would like to donate to or purchase a yard sign in support of this mission please contact Pastor Bridget. Help us extent our appreciation to Chatfield and Grand Meadow area ambulance personnel!

Chatfield Area Ambulance = 24 card cards

Grand Meadow Area Ambulance = 25 cards.

Recommended \$15.00 donation per sign.

Easter Word Search

F L O W E R S G N I R P S Z O
S K C I H C T E B P A R A D E
Y T P B Z E T M P M G E H Y S
D G X P N A R J B S P A A E S
N E Z N R U A S U B T S P D A
A K O O A E D N N T D T P I R
C B C E B T I A N E A E Y Y G
X E G T B A T E Y K F R G L P
D G E N I L I B U S F T G I S
S C I E T O O Y V A O W E L U
S K C U D C N L I B D O M V N
U I Y K R O F L S P I L U T D
O H Y G V H T E V A L X J F A
K X R A W C F J A H U N T J Y
Y L I M A F A S P E E P S E M

Basket
Bonnet
Bunny
Candy
Chicks
Chocolate
Daffodil
Decorate
Ducks



Dye
Easter
Egg Hunt
Eggs
Family
Flowers
Grass
Happy
Jellybeans

Lily
Parade
Peeps
Rabbit
Spring
Sunday
Tradition
Tulips

