

May 2021

Sumner Center UMC Newsletter

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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

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Pastors Notes...

It is with a joyous heart that I may announce Sumner Center UMC's doors will again open to worship in our beautiful sanctuary each Sunday starting: **June (date to be announced)**

@10:30am

In-person worship begins

Online and weekly radio broadcasts will remain in effect

We have journeyed through a long and trying year, for sure. So, let us all unite, and praise God for His love and care that has guided our every step and His wisdom which has helped us to remain focused on Loving Our Neighbors even when we too were at our most vulnerable.

A special thank you to the church council for working diligently on the task of organizing the recommended guidelines offered by the CDC concerning how to enter back into in-person worship safely. We have provided a Question and Answer section in this newsletter that will, I believe, answer most questions. If you have further questions contact me, Pastor Bridget.

As brothers and sisters in Christ it is our responsibility to honor each other's positions concerning personal health care choices.

As United Methodist's we also stand in agreement and compliance with the CDC and our Minnesota Conference

recommendations for providing a safe, healthy, clean and caring facility.

Moving forward will be a true blessing yet let us not forget that our community, country and the world is still fighting this pandemic. So, we must move forward with caution, care, and understanding

To open our doors, we must have a few very important positions filled.

2 volunteers each week to spend a few minutes after worship to disinfection the pew area, doorknobs, bathroom area, alter area. There will be a supply of commercial disinfectant spray for these areas.

2 volunteers each week to usher congregants to their pew and to release congregants in a safe and orderly manner after worship.

Pianist needed!

As of this time Margaret Clark will be able to play the 1st and 2nd Sundays of each month.

We are looking for a pianist or two for the 3rd, 4th and sometimes 5th Sundays of each month. This is a paid position.

Please contact me, Pastor Bridget if you are able to volunteer as an usher or sanitizing helper or if you or someone you know is interested in the pianist position.



Returning to In-Person Worship

What You Need to Know

Q: When will we return to in person worship?

A: In person worship will be available starting in June

Q: I enjoy worshipping online. Will online worship continue to be offered?

A: Yes, we will host in person worship and continue to share on Facebook ~ YouTube ~ on your radio 89.7 FM within surrounding area of Racine

Q: How should I enter the building?

A: To help control the flow of people entering the building we ask everyone to enter at the usual entry of the church. You will be met by an usher that will escort you to your seat starting at the front of the church and working towards the back.

Q: What safety protocols will be in place to help keep us safe and healthy?

A: Masks must be worn by all participants and sanitizing stations are available at doors. Everyone is expected to maintain social distance, and volunteers will be located at the door and the sanctuary to help direct people to seats, answer questions and redirect those who forget or ignore safety precautions. **Note: worship leaders will not be masked at the pulpit and lectionary.**

Q: Do I have to be vaccinated to attend worship in-person?

A: No. You do not need to be vaccinated. However, you need to make the right decision for yourself. This may not be the right time for you to participate in in-person worship. Your health and safety are something only you can determine.

Q: What will be different when we come back to worship?

A: As always, we will strive to provide a meaningful worship experience, but some things will be different. Some examples:

- We will all be wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.
- Hymnals and Bibles will not be available in the pews – you're encouraged to bring your own Bible.
- Communal singing will be allowed, while wearing masks.
- No food or beverages will be allowed.
- Cushions and chairs will remain in place.
- Video and other tech equipment will be visible and in use to support our online presence.

Q: Will there be a coffee hour or time for us to congregate before or after worship?

A: No. At this time, we are only opening the sanctuary for worship. We ask that you not congregate in any area of the building to greet and converse with others.

Q: Can I bring my own bottled water or coffee from home?

A: Please do not bring food or beverages with you to church.

Q: Will Children's Church be available?

A: No. Not at this time. Children and youth will need to remain with their family during the entire service. Family groups must stay together. There will continue to be "Time for Children" during worship, but kids must remain in their seats with their families.

Q: How will the offering be taken?

A: We will not pass the plates at this time. Instead, there will be an offering plate available where you can drop off your financial support of the church as you are exiting the sanctuary.

Q: Will communion be offered now that we're back in the sanctuary?

A: Yes, we expect to offer communion to those participating in in-person worship the first Sunday of each month. This will happen differently than how we are used to doing it and more information will be coming so that we can hopefully begin this in June.

Q: How will we exit the sanctuary following worship?

A: During the postlude or the music after the benediction on Sundays without an accompanist, the ushers will invite people to exit the sanctuary row by row. Please wait in your seats until invited to leave by one of the ushers, then promptly leave the building using the main doors of the church.

We are very excited to be offering in-person worship again after more than a year apart. Before attending, please consider your vaccination status, health situation and make the best/right decision for you. Online worship (via Facebook, and YouTube) and on your radio at 89.7 FM in areas surrounding Racine, will continue to be available for those not ready or able to attend church in person.

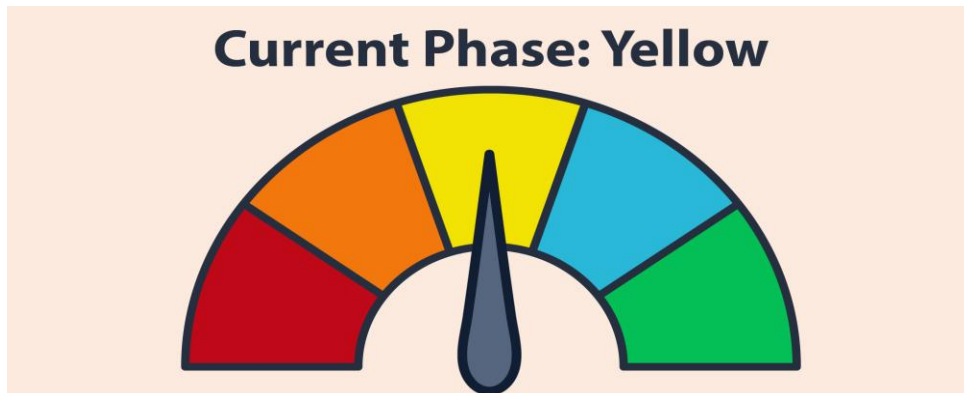
Please note: the church will be open for worship only at this time. All other activities and most meetings will continue to be held virtually.

Self-Screen Before Attending

Have you had...

- Fever or feeling feverish?
 - New cough?
 - New headache?
 - Sore throat?
 - Muscle aches?
- Loss of taste or smell?
- Shortness of breath?

If you are sick, or have any of these symptoms, please stay home and get better. If you become sick within a few days of attending in-person worship, please let the office know for the purpose of contact tracing



Access Yellow Phase guidelines go to Mn Conference webpage:

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/regatheringplan>








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)

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  <small>TheSilverPen.com</small>
2 Worship online Communion	3	4	5 	6 	7	8 Ad Council Meeting 1 pm @ church
9 Worship online 	10	11	12	13 	14	15
16 Worship online	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Worship online 	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Worship online	31 					

Tips on Reading the Bible Daily

Plan Length: 365 days

Estimated Completion Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Tenth 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 272 - Isaiah 16-18; Ephesians 1

Day 273 - Isaiah 19-21; Ephesians 2

Day 274 - Isaiah 22-23; Ephesians 3

Day 275 - Isaiah 24-26; Ephesians 4

Day 276 - Isaiah 27-28; Ephesians 5

Day 277 - Isaiah 29-30; Ephesians 6

Day 278 - Isaiah 31-33; Philippians 1

Day 279 - Isaiah 34-36; Philippians 2

Day 280 - Isaiah 37-38; Philippians 3

Day 281 - Isaiah 39-40; Philippians 4

Day 282 - Isaiah 41-42; Colossians 1

Day 283 - Isaiah 43-44; Colossians 2

Day 284 - Isaiah 45-47; Colossians 3

Day 285 - Isaiah 48-49; Colossians 4

Day 286 - Isaiah 50-52; 1 Thessalonians 1

Day 287 - Isaiah 53-55; 1 Thessalonians 2

Day 288 - Isaiah 56-58; 1 Thessalonians 3

Day 289 - Isaiah 59-61; 1 Thessalonians 4

Day 290 - Isaiah 62-64; 1 Thessalonians 5

Day 291 - Isaiah 65-66; 2 Thessalonians 1

Day 292 - Jeremiah 1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2

Day 293 - Jeremiah 3-4; 2 Thessalonians 3

Day 294 - Jeremiah 5-6; 1 Timothy 1

Day 295 - Jeremiah 7-8; 1 Timothy 2

Day 296 - Jeremiah 9-10; 1 Timothy 3

Day 297 - Jeremiah 11-13; 1 Timothy 4

Day 298 - Jeremiah 14-16; 1 Timothy 5

Day 299 - Jeremiah 17-19; 1 Timothy 6

Day 300 - Jeremiah 20-22; 2 Timothy 1

Day 301 - Jeremiah 23-24; 2 Timothy 2

Day 302 - Jeremiah 25-26; 2 Timothy 3

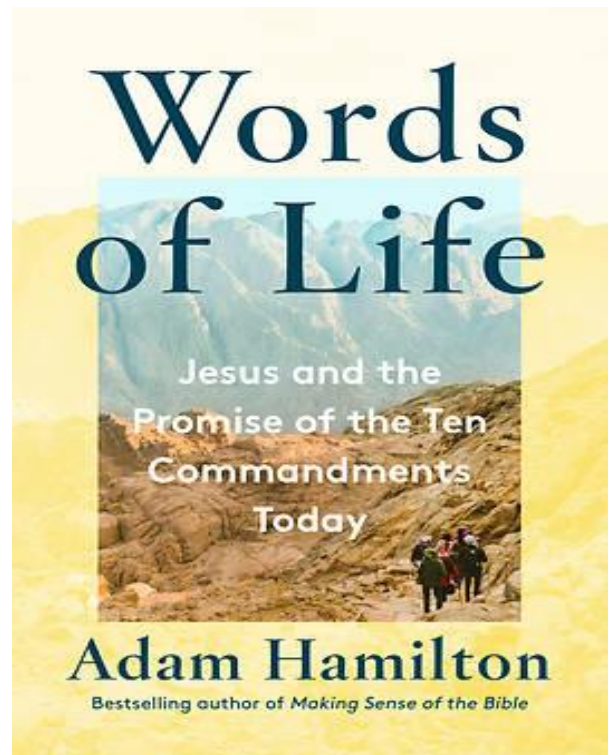


Bible Study (Coming in June)

10-week study

Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, the list of "thou-shalt-nots" found in the Bible. Jesus saw these commandments not as onerous burdens, but as guideposts to help us experience a good and beautiful life. These ten ancient "words" were given to us by a loving God who longed to set safe boundaries, create order out of chaos, help communities live peacefully, and protect us--often from ourselves.

In this book of Scripture and inspiration, bestselling author Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. He considers the commandments in their historical context, considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus reinterpreted them, and showing how every thou-shalt-not was intended to point to a life-giving "thou shalt." He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood, as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day. In a culture marked by workaholicism, materialism, and social media-driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence, and peace.



A landmark work from one of our most trusted biblical thinkers, *Words of Life* is an inspiring, thought-provoking read for anyone seeking to live a meaningful and joyful life.

Study opportunities

once a week (Date and time to be determined)

Pastor Laura Nordstrom, UMC Stewartville afternoon in-person study

Pastor Jon Marburger & Pastor Bridget Sheely evening zoom study

Judy Finley, UMC Stewartville – Evening in-person study

If you are interested in joining this Book Study or would like to purchase a copy for your personal study, contact Pastor Bridget

**Hardcover
\$15.99**



Register for 2021 Annual Conference: 'Jesus. Waymaker.'

taking place **June 22-24**, with June 22 and 24 being entirely virtual and June 23 being in small, in-person groups at various sites across the state.

The upcoming Annual Conference invites you to: connect and worship with United Methodist friends and colleagues; hear from Bishop David Bard; recognize clergy entering new phases of life and ministry; celebrate what we have accomplished together and how we've pivoted over the challenging past year; and learn from teaching session speaker, Rev. Rachel Billups, senior pastor at Ginghamburg Church in Ohio!

Everyone is welcome to sign up for the in-person day on June 23

(listed below are our local site locations)

Albert Lea: Albert Lea UMC, 702 S Highway 69

Rochester: Christ UMC, 400 5th Ave SW

Virtual meeting: Participants will be part of a Zoom call and assigned to breakout rooms for small group discussions

Voting members should register for the virtual days (June 22 and 24); everyone else can watch online. [Learn more](#) / [Register for Annual Conference](#) by logging into the Mn Conference webpage at: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/annualconference>

Love Offering Information



Send your donations to Racine UMC with "Love Offering" written in the memo. Donations must be received by May 31, 2021.

The Methodist Border Friendship Commission

Recipient of 50 percent of 2021 Love Offering

The [Methodist Border Friendship Commission](#) (MBFC) is a ministry of the El Valle District of the Rio Texas Conference of the UMC. It supports a number of immigrant and refugee service organizations along the Texas border.

Ruby's Pantry host churches

Recipient of 20 percent of 2021 Love Offering

Albert Lea UMC, First UMC (the Coppertop) in Duluth, and Forest Hills UMC in Forest Lake each host monthly [Ruby's Pantry](#) grocery distributions at their churches as a way to live out Jesus' call to feed the hungry and love our neighbor.

Matthew 25 food distribution

Recipient of 20 percent of 2021 Love Offering

Originating at Spirit River Community UMC in Isanti 12 years ago, this food distribution ministry has been relaunched as a partnership between Spirit River, the Spirit River Foundation, and Coon Rapids UMC. Matthew 25 is based on Jesus' words: "Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me."

Volunteers in Mission (VIM) scholarships

Recipient of 10 percent of 2021 Love Offering

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (VIM) participants of every age serve in all 50 states and more than 100 countries. Most teams from Minnesota spend up to two weeks working on hands-on projects in construction, disaster response, teaching, health care, and packing supplies for overseas shipment.