

July 2021

# Sumner Center UMC Newsletter

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## Sunday Worship 10:30 am in-person

Weekly Worship Services will also continue to be offered each Sunday via  
Sumner Centers Facebook page

Pastor Bridget Sheely

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### *Pastors Notes*... Let's talk about freedom

Jesus makes one of the most amazing Inspirational claims in history. Consider for a moment the incredible hope expressed in the promise that Jesus can set people free. Unless you have lived a sheltered life, you have probably experienced an enslaved soul or have known loved ones who struggle to break free from ungodly chains. These ungodly chains may be easy to identify like an addiction, or the chains may be more "acceptable" like fear, greed, poverty, worldliness, doubt, anger, bitterness, legalism, racism, insecurity, despair, and depression. Whatever category you classify your "slavery", the result is the same - a failure to experience the abundant life promised by following Christ. To those living in bondage, Jesus offers freedom!

The freedom offered by Jesus is spiritual. His freedom is not a political revolution. True freedom is not about changing your outward circumstances. This is a significant concept because it reveals that Jesus can free you wherever you are. Paul was on the road to Damascus persecuting Christians. The prodigal was in a pig pen. Peter was in a boat fishing. One woman was drawing water from a well. Another woman found freedom when caught in adultery. A thief was on a cross of execution when Jesus set his soul free!

Spiritual freedom is not dependent upon physical circumstances that may have led or contributed to your bondage. Jesus can set you free in your marriage without causing a divorce. Jesus can set you free when you are overdrawn in your checkbook without making a deposit. Jesus can set you free from past or current

failures without loading a U-haul truck. Don't misunderstand this concept to mean something it doesn't. We may need to make, and Christ may lead us to make, some physical or circumstantial changes. But, one of the main truths of divine freedom is Jesus is more concerned about setting your soul free than defeating the Roman Empire or some other external force in your life.

Jesus' freedom is also purposeful. Jesus describes the freedom He offers resulting from abiding in His truth. Freedom is not a lack of restraint that allows one to fulfill any selfish desire, but genuine freedom takes place in the arena or stadium of divine truth. As we abide in Christ we are released from the chains of the world and released to be all that God created us to be. Like a fish has been created to swim in water, we are created to live in the truth of Christ's love.

Consider playing an instrument like the piano. Who is free the toddler who has never taken a lesson but freely bangs on the piano keys, or the person who has taken lessons, reads music, and creates beautiful even worshipful sounds with the same piano? Obviously, the skilled musician is free to play the instrument as it was designed. We were created to walk in fellowship with almighty God, but sin hinders that relationship by enslaving us in a separated life from God. Christ is the only one who can set us free to enjoy the life as a child of God instead of living as a slave of the world. As we celebrate our American freedoms this month let us also take time to acknowledge our spiritual freedom and celebrate the one who has gifted it to us.

# 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!** *Special thank you to Bonnie Hotopp for sharing this.*

## Calendar of Events

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

### July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> Worship 10:30 am 	<b>5</b> Book Study 1:30 @ SUMC or 6:30 Zoom	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>10:30 am</b>	<b>12</b> Book Study 1:30 @ SUMC or 6:30 Zoom	<b>13</b> 	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>10:30 am</b> Pastor Wane Souhrada leading worship	<b>19</b> Book Study 1:30 @ SUMC or 6:30 Zoom	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>10:30 am</b> Pastor Wane Souhrada leading worship	<b>26</b> Book Study 1:30 @ SUMC or 6:30 Zoom	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

Pastor Bridget will be on sabbatical July 17<sup>th</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>. Pastor Wane Souhrada will be available for pastoral support and worship during this time.

# Tips on Reading the Bible Daily

Plan Length: 365 days

Twelfth month of daily biblical connection. You are in the last month and your dedication has brought you closer to our Lord and stronger in your faith!

**Way to Go!!! God bless you!**



Day 334 - Ezekiel 43-44; 2 Peter 2

Day 335 - Ezekiel 45-46; 2 Peter 3

Day 336 - Ezekiel 47-48; 1 John 1

Day 337 - Daniel 1-2; 1 John 2

Day 338 - Daniel 3-4; 1 John 3

Day 339 - Daniel 5-6; 1 John 4

Day 340 - Daniel 7-8; 1 John 5

Day 341 - Daniel 9-10; 2 John

Day 342 - Daniel 11-12; 3 John

Day 343 - Hosea 1-4; Jude

Day 344 - Hosea 5-8; Revelation 1

Day 345 - Hosea 9-11; Revelation 2

Day 346 - Hosea 12-14; Revelation 3

Day 347 - Joel; Revelation 4

Day 348 - Amos 1-3; Revelation 5

Day 349 - Amos 4-6; Revelation 6

Day 350 - Amos 7-9; Revelation 7

Day 351 - Obadiah; Revelation 8

Day 352 - Jonah; Revelation 9

Day 353 - Micah 1-3; Revelation 10

Day 354 - Micah 4-5; Revelation 11

Day 355 - Micah 6-7; Revelation 12

Day 356 - Nahum; Revelation 13

Day 357 - Habakkuk; Revelation 14

Day 358 - Zephaniah; Revelation 15

Day 359 - Haggai; Revelation 16

Day 360 - Zechariah 1-3; Revelation 17

Day 361 - Zechariah 4-6; Revelation 18

Day 362 - Zechariah 7-9; Revelation 19

Day 363 - Zechariah 10-12; Revelation 20

Day 364 - Zechariah 13-14; Revelation 21

Day 365 - Malachi; Revelation 22





STORM '21

**July 17, 2021**

900 John Wesley Ave  
Stewartville, MN 55976

**Youth in grades 7-12 and adult drivers are invited to be part of STORM '21 a day of serving Jesus by serving others in several communities in Minnesota.**

You will spend the day serving and gather for Parking Lot Chapel at the end of the workday. STORM staff will help guide you through your jobs, which may include painting, gardening, hauling brush, building, demolishing, repairing, etc.

STORM will provide lunch and a t-shirt for each participant. The event is pay-what-you-can, understanding that all donations will go toward projects and camp expenses.

**STORM Stewartville**  
**08:30 am — 06:30 pm (CDT)**

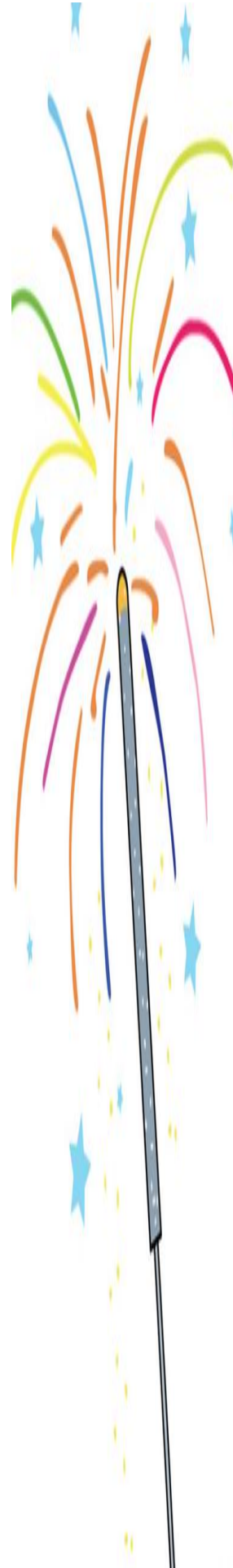
**If you are interested and/or would like to register, you may learn more on the conference website:**

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org>

**Or you may contact Catie Levnick**

**Stewartville UMC Office: (507) 533-4625**

**Email: [youthsumc@gmail.com](mailto:youthsumc@gmail.com)**



## **Area Independence Day Activities**

### **PATRIOTIC CONCERT- CHATFIELD BRASS BAND**

Date: July 1  
Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Cost: Free

### **Cherry Grove**

SATURDAY, JULY 3, 2021 AT  
10:45 AM(4th of July Parade)

### **Stewartville**

#### **Summerfest Arts in the Park**

Sunday, July 4, 2021  
10:00 AM 4:00 PM  
Bear Cave Park

#### **Summerfest Parade**

Sunday, July 4, 2021  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

#### **Summerfest Fireworks**

Sunday, July 4, 2021  
8:30 PM 11:00 PM  
Bear Cave Park

### **Harmony Fourth of July**

7 to 9:30 a.m. – Pancake  
Breakfast at Harmony Fire Hall

### **Selvig Park all day activities**

Tours at Niagara Cave

**Smoked Pork Chop Dinner at  
Picnic Shelter, served by  
Harmony United Methodist  
Church**

Bouncy House and Obstacle  
Course

11:30 a.m - 9th Annual  
Hammell Equipment Kiddie  
Pedal Pull

12 to 2:30 p.m. - Don Scott  
Blues, Live music at Harmony  
Spirits

3 p.m. - Grand Parade  
4 to 7 p.m. - The Jim Busta  
Band featuring Mollie B

## Phased Re-Gathering Plan for Churches

The Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is providing this phased re-gathering plan to guide local churches during the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan takes into account faith community recommendations provided by the Minnesota Department of Health as well as the [phased plan released by the Office of Gov. Tim Walz](#). The suggestions in the phased plan below are driven by our Three Simple Rules:

**We are a people that do no harm.** We practice physical distancing to minimize harm to others, especially the vulnerable.

**We are a people that do all the good we can.** We care for the spiritual and physical needs of our neighbors, providing food, emotional support, and supporting our health care system.

**We are a people that stay in love with God.** When we love God through prayer, praise, and worship, we grow in love of our neighbor. Love of God and love of neighbor are inseparable.

Our United Methodist faith communities can and must be first responders in caring for the spiritual, physical and mental health of all of God's people all across Minnesota by actualizing these Three Simple Rules. We have come to understand, like never before, that the church is not a building. It is the expression of God's love made visible through the actions of devoted followers of Jesus. We offer this plan as a framework to help church leaders make healthy and pastoral decisions, not as a fixed set of guidelines that will account for every circumstance. Although each church will need to make some decisions specific to its context and discernment, it is our expectation that every congregation will operate within each designated phase at any given time.

### About the Plan



COVID-19 is still circulating but the infection rate is decreasing or low, and larger gatherings can take place. Churches can open with no capacity limits but social distancing is still highly encouraged and masks are recommended for anyone unvaccinated. We would offer these considerations as

you determine your requirements in this new phase: What is your congregational make-up? If you have children in worship, we would encourage you to continue to require

masking for all to protect them until they have an opportunity to be vaccinated. If your congregation is made up of primarily older individuals who have all been vaccinated, then you may consider eliminating your masking requirement.

Pay attention to the vaccination rates and the COVID positivity rate in your community. If the positivity rate increases above 5 percent, you may want to re-impose masking requirements. Remember the essential risk factors of COVID: indoors, proximity, and length of time. A good rule of thumb to keep people safe is to meet two of these three conditions when meeting in a public space, especially when you don't know the vaccination status of participants: outdoors, social distanced, masked.

If masking is optional in your setting, create an environment of respect for those who continue to wear masks. We all have different vulnerabilities. People should not be chided about their lack of faith or made to feel uncomfortable because they choose to do something that allows them to participate with a degree of comfort. You might want to encourage those with colds to wear a mask when they come to church to protect others. Continue to have masks and hand sanitizer available as an act of hospitality.

Keep offering people different worship options as we are all emerging from COVID in different phases: outdoor, indoor, online. Make use of all modalities to allow for the fullest participation.

Congregational singing is still considered a high-risk activity. Consider doing congregational singing outdoors, having people masked if there's congregational singing indoors, or having only members of your worship band sing while others hum along.

Children's ministries should continue to require that all adult volunteers and all participants wear masks until more children have been vaccinated.

Be cautious about how you re-introduce coffee fellowship time and potlucks. Eating and mingling indoors creates higher-risk conditions.

Continue all sanitation practices from the previous phases. All toys and materials in the nursery and children's areas should be cleaned after each use.

Continue to use no-touch alternatives for the passing of the peace and greeting each other (including the pastor at the end of the service).

Serve communion in individual cups and pre-cut the bread.



# Fourth of July Word Search

Find the hidden words associated with the Fourth of July.

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

AMERICA  
COLONIES  
CONSTITUTION  
COOKOUT  
DECLARATION  
FIREWORKS  
FLAG  
FOURTH  
FREEDOM  
FUN  
GAMES  
HOTDOGS  
INDEPENDENCE  
JULY  
LIBERTY  
PARADES  
PARTY  
PATRIOT  
PICNIC  
STARS  
STRIPES  
SUMMER  
THIRTEEN



# All About Love Bible Verse Race

Fill in the blanks of each Bible verse using the words provided.



## Celebrate Love!

his	fails	meal	joined	quench	rivers
tongue	wife	himself	love	better	calf
rejoice	envy	boast	hope	favor	fountain
binds	actions	strands	separate	first	greatest
return	virtues	mine	noble	rubies	good

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not \_\_\_\_\_, it does not \_\_\_\_\_, it is not proud.

May your \_\_\_\_\_ be blessed, and may you \_\_\_\_\_ in the wife of your youth.

And now these three remain: faith, \_\_\_\_\_ and love. But the \_\_\_\_\_ of these is love.

He who finds a wife finds what is \_\_\_\_\_ and receives \_\_\_\_\_ from the LORD.

Better a \_\_\_\_\_ of vegetables where there is love than a fattened \_\_\_\_\_ with hatred.

A wife of \_\_\_\_\_ character who can find? She is worth far more than \_\_\_\_\_.

And over all these \_\_\_\_\_ put on love, which \_\_\_\_\_ them all together in perfect unity.

Therefore what God has \_\_\_\_\_ together, let man not \_\_\_\_\_.

Many waters cannot \_\_\_\_\_ love; \_\_\_\_\_ cannot wash it away.

Dear children, let us not love with words or \_\_\_\_\_ but with \_\_\_\_\_ and in truth.

Two are \_\_\_\_\_ than one, because they have a good \_\_\_\_\_ for their work.

He who loves his \_\_\_\_\_ loves \_\_\_\_\_.

We \_\_\_\_\_ because he \_\_\_\_\_ loved us.

Love never \_\_\_\_\_.

My lover is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am \_\_\_\_\_.

A cord of three \_\_\_\_\_ is not quickly broken.

