

September 2021

# Sumner Center UMC Newsletter

**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**

Cell: 507-438-1352 [bridget@countrywidecarriers.com](mailto:bridget@countrywidecarriers.com)



**Pastors Notes...** *As I sit in my office today, the day darkens, and the winds are beginning to blow. There is a rainstorm moving in and I must admit, I am rather looking forward to it. Listening to the thunder rumble, the rain patter as it hits the windows and the smell of freshly washed earth, Oh Lord, it has been a while since we have seen the waters of heaven come down upon our dry dusty earth to quench the thirst of Your creations. Oh, beautiful drops, we have missed your life-giving presence!*

***Have you ever noticed how quickly our surroundings change after a rain?***

*The once dead looking grass transforms into lush green lawns again, the shriveled leaves of the crops relax their stalks and open up to receive a much needed drink, birds sing as they bath themselves in the puddles left behind and the fragrance of rejuvenation fills the air as to say "take a moment and just be in my presence."*

*You see, folks, our creator and sustainer, in His wisdom, molded each element to be unique yet connective. As the earth experiences times of plenty and times of drought, moments of joy and moments of brokenness, seasons of growth and seasons of sleep so to do we.*

*Where are you stationed at this moment?*

*Are you feeling dry and dusty or refreshed and growing?*

*Wherever you are today, God says "take a moment and just be in my presence." If thanksgiving is in your heart or if exhaustion has overwhelmed your soul just come to me. You are my beloved and I miss you. So, like the long-awaited rain we all must find our way back to the one who gives us life. He is patiently waiting for us to see what is truly valuable. Are you ready to receive Him? Are you tired of breathing in the desert dust?*

*As the rain commits to providing an ever-needed drink, are you ready to commit to receiving His everlasting grace?*

*Take a moment...*



shutterstock.com · 1127697260



# The Way to Start your Day...

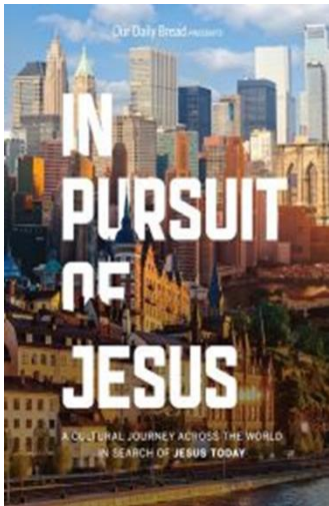
Go outside and face the East and greet the Sun with a blessing, chant or song that you made yourself and keep for early mornings. Do not fret if you do not know how to make a song it is very simple. First, don't try to think what words to use until you're standing there alone. When you feel the Sun, 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)

### September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship 10:30 am	6 	7 	8	9	10	11 
12 Worship 10:30 am +++++ 	13	14	15 Food Pack mission at Grand Meadow United +++++ 	16	17	18
19 Worship 10:30 am	20 In pursuit of Jesus Book study (see flyer for more information)	21	22	23	24	25
26 Worship 10:30 am	27 In pursuit of Jesus Book study	28	29	30		



## Fall Book Study

*Travel with Rasool Berry as he visits six countries on a journey to discover how people around the globe uniquely reflect and live out the message of Jesus in their communities. Along the way, he talks with Christians and non-Christians to piece together a mosaic of Jesus. This intriguing series will give your church or small group a rich understanding of how people in various cultures perceive Jesus, and it will challenge you to consider how your own upbringing influences your view of Him.*

### EPISODE 1 New York City

Start your journey in New York City . . . a place where the hustle is real and truth is relative. It's a melting pot of cultures, beliefs, and lifestyles. And it's the perfect point of departure for Brooklyn-based Rasool Berry to find answers to the question, "Who is Jesus?" *"Keep your eyes open to the worlds that you're going to step into, because God is there."* — Richard Perez

### EPISODE 2 Singapore

Singapore is a city in a garden, an economic powerhouse, and a place where community thrives through food, friendship, and faith including all of the world's major religions. Join Rasool as he discovers how Jesus emerges as the spiritual leader in this seeker-friendly place. *"I don't mean to be religiously conflicting, but when they say, 'Jesus is the Son of God,' then who is God?"* — Ahmadi Eri Rushadie (Hardy)

### EPISODE 3 Sweden

Sweden is a very secular and individualistic society where rebelling against authority, community, and the sacred is considered the norm. But even in a location where nature is idolized and the church is dying, Rasool finds glimpses of the holy. *"I like to work here because I know that maybe the church has died, but not Jesus."* — Annahita Parsan

### EPISODE 4 Argentina

In a country where democracy is young, freedom is not taken for granted. Neither is community and solidarity . . . or great food. Travel with Rasool throughout Argentina as he joins the tables of new friends to discuss life and liberty.

*"Jesus Christ is the great love of my life. It's impossible to talk about my faith without talking about freedom and passion."* — Lydia

### EPISODE 5 South Africa

In this Rainbow Nation where echoes of racial segregation still exist, there's a shared concept that "there's always room for one more." Journey with Rasool to South Africa to find an eclectic mix of strong-hearted people who face their cultural challenges with both grace and trepidation. *"I think that Jesus contradicted and broke all the rules. It's the way Jesus did everything. He went against the culture of the time."* — Grant Stevenson

### EPISODE 6 Galilee

Israel is a small country in physical size, but it's spiritual importance reverberates throughout the entire world. People from three major religions—Judaism, Islam, and Christianity—both live and visit here which makes it an ideal location for Rasool to ask, "Who do you think Jesus is?" *"[Jesus] was definitely a character who was very charismatic and very challenging to the Jewish establishment at the time."* — Rami Feinstein

### EPISODE 7 Jerusalem

We've traveled the world in pursuit of Jesus, so completing our travels where Jesus physically walked seems appropriate. If we can understand who Jesus is and why He came, then just maybe we can understand more about who we are and what our purpose is. *"If you pray in the name of Jesus, you will see a big difference in your life."* — Sabha Asmah

## CLASS OPTIONS (BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> – NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>)

**Stewartville UMC (IN-PERSON)** – Mondays @ 1:30 PM - LED BY PASTOR LAURA  
**ZOOM IN THE EVENINGS** – MONDAYS 6:30PM - LED BY PASTORS JON AND BRIDGET  
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR PASTOR ASAP SO THEY MAY GET A STUDY GUIDE TO YOU

# September Highlights

## Weekly Worship Series “Doers of the Word”

The Epistle of James provides us the spark we need for this late summer series. James gives us a chance to reflect on the nature of Christian service and how we can continue our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by engaging with our wider community in acts of service. One thing that is clear from current sociological research is that while there are many who question the institution of the church, getting involved in providing real help to better our neighborhoods and to lift up the individuals and families within them is an easy entry into the worship life of the church. James asks us to maintain an outward focus, even when we gather for worship. We invite you to engage with this epistle as we seek to be doers of the word.

---

## Charge/Church Conference Packet

Attention Leadership, it is that time of year again. Charge conference forms will start to be distributed.

**If you are one of the “lucky” lay members to receive a committee form to fill out, please do so efficiently so we may get the forms back to our Jean McNamara, and she may work on preparing them for our charge conference. Date of conference to be determined at this time**



Our doors are open, and our pews are prepared just for you. The legacy and sustaining life of Sumner Center UMC is in your hands. Come home and unite with Jesus Christ and your faith family! Let us Worship together in the beauty of this blessed Church.



August 11, 2021

Re-Gathering Plan for Churches



By: Bishop David Bard

*Bishop David Bard has turned the dial on the Minnesota Conference's [Phased Re-Gathering Plan for Churches](#) from blue to yellow. Below is a letter to Minnesota United Methodists explaining the reason for the change and offering specific guidelines:*

Dear Friends in Christ in the United Methodist Churches of Minnesota,

I greet you in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the peace and power of the Holy Spirit.

I hope the summer has afforded you opportunities for rest, refreshment, and renewal. I hope you have been able to enjoy the beauty of our state. I hope you have been able to connect with family and friends, perhaps after a long absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The summer began with deep hope that we were putting this pandemic in the rear-view mirror. People were being vaccinated at rapid rates. Case rates, test positivity rates, hospitalizations and deaths were all declining. Yet this pandemic has been filled with unpredictability, and we are once again entering a new phase. Vaccination rates have slowed considerably and a new variant of the coronavirus, the Delta variant, has been spreading rapidly. The Delta variant is more easily transmitted, and there have been breakthrough cases among those who have been vaccinated. The latest research indicates that vaccinated people, though remarkably protected from being infected with COVID, are still able to become infected. When they are infected, they are less likely to suffer severe illness or be hospitalized, yet appear able to spread the virus to others. The result of the slowing of vaccinations and the spread of the Delta variant is that test positivity rates are up—now surpassing 5 percent in Minnesota (with some counties substantially higher), case rates are up, and hospitalizations and deaths are increasing, particularly in those places where fewer people have been vaccinated.

I know that, in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ, you want to do all you can to promote public health, further the common good, and care for the well-being of others. How might we do that in this new phase of the pandemic?

First and foremost, if you have not been vaccinated and are eligible to receive a vaccine, do it. It is the single most important thing you can do to care for yourself and for others. Those currently suffering the most serious illness right now are the unvaccinated. Of those who are currently hospitalized with COVID, well over 90 percent are people who have not been vaccinated. Please get vaccinated. Encourage your fellow-church members to get vaccinated.

Because the positivity rate has exceeded 5 percent for the state as a whole, which means there is substantial community transmission, we are moving the dial back to yellow in our [Phased Re-Gathering Plan for Churches](#). We understand there is great variation across our state in terms of community transmission and vaccination levels among your congregants, but please use caution. **When your county surpasses a 5 percent positivity rate ([check your county's current rate here](#)), we ask that you reinstate the [yellow phase guidelines](#) of social distancing, indoor masking, and no congregational singing.** After vaccinations, masking and social distancing are the next best tools we have for slowing the spread of the coronavirus, and slowing the spread also prevents the virus from developing into new variants. And of course, outdoor gatherings are considerably safer than indoor gatherings, so that is a great option as weather permits.

Friends, we are not where we had hoped to be at this point in the summer. We had hoped vaccination rates would have outpaced virus variations. We had hoped that our masks could be put in the bottom of our drawers or in the back of our closets. Yet I believe that by God's grace we can muster the resilience, the kindness, and the determination to do what needs to be done to get past this pandemic. As followers of Jesus, we can lead in promoting public health, furthering the common good, and caring for the well-being of others. Thank you.

Bishop David A. Bard

Interim Bishop, Minnesota Conference

# Labor Day

[www.DailyMesses.com](http://www.DailyMesses.com)

In honor of Labor Day, this is a Word Find with a variety of different jobs.

HINT: Spaces and punctuation have been removed from words in the puzzle. Words can be found in ALL directions.



ACCOUNTANT  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
ANESTHESIOLOGIST  
ARCHAEOLOGIST  
ARCHITECT  
AUTHOR  
BUS DRIVER  
CARPENTER  
CASHIER  
CHEF  
CLERK  
CONSULTANT  
CUSTOMER SERVICE  
DAD

DAILY MESSES  
DAYCARE  
DOCTOR  
ENGINEER  
FIRE FIGHTER  
FLIGHT ATTENDANT  
FOOD PREPARATION  
GARBAGE COLLECTION  
GARDENER  
GRANDPARENT  
JANITOR  
LANDSCAPING  
LAW ENFORCEMENT  
LAWYER

MAIL DELIVERY  
MANAGER  
MARKETING  
MASON  
MECHANIC  
MILITARY  
MOM  
MOVER  
NANNY  
NEWS  
NURSE  
PAINTER  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
PLUMBER

PRESIDENT  
PYSCHOLOGIST  
SALES  
SECURITY  
SURGEON  
TEACHER  
TELEMARKETER  
TRANSLATOR  
TRAVEL AGENT  
TRUCK DRIVER  
WAITRESS

---

## BIBLE SCAVENGER HUNT

---

This is an “active” scavenger hunt. Look up the Bible verses to find the missing word and complete each action checking them off as you do. Compete with others, time yourself, or just have fun! 😊

1. Cover your \_\_\_\_\_ & bow to the nearest tree. Psalm 40:3
2. Look in a \_\_\_\_\_ for 30 seconds. 1 Corinthians 13:12
3. Turn on a \_\_\_\_\_, do five jumping jacks and then turn it off again.  
John 8:12
4. Wash a dirty \_\_\_\_\_. Luke 22:42
5. Stand on a \_\_\_\_\_ reach as high as you can. Psalm 18:2
6. Open a \_\_\_\_\_, touch your toes 10 times, then close it. John 10:7-9
7. Put a \_\_\_\_\_ around your waist. Ephesians 6:14
8. See if you can find an \_\_\_\_\_. (But don't kill it!) Proverbs 6:6
9. Toss a \_\_\_\_\_ in the air and catch it. 3 John 1:13
10. Hold your \_\_\_\_\_ for 30 seconds. Acts 2:26
11. Crawl under a \_\_\_\_\_ and count to fifty. Psalm 23:5
12. Turn your \_\_\_\_\_ around backwards. Luke 6:29