

November 2021

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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



Sumner Center UMC Newsletter

Pastor Bridget Sheely

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



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Walk The Walk by Ron Tranmer

We can go to church on
Sunday.

Pray morning, noon, and night,
but it's not worth a sack of
beans

If we're not living right.

Heavenly Father is not fooled
by those who talk the talk,
but live their lives unwilling
to really walk the walk.

The "walk" is showing
kindness

and compassion every day
to everyone we find in need
while walking life's pathway.

The "walk" is in the footsteps
of Christ; for it was He
who taught by His example
and then said, "Come follow
Me."

The walk is straight and
narrow
and takes us not to sin,
but to the gates of heaven
where we will enter in.

May we always walk with God,
and Jesus Christ, His Son.
And let it be that all will see
our talk, and walk, are one

Deuteronomy 5:33

*You shall walk in all the way that
the Lord your God has
commanded you, that you may
live, and that it may go well with
you, and that you may live long in
the land that you shall possess.*

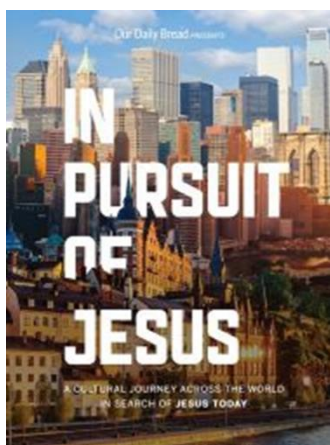


Calendar of Events

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

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2  All Souls Day	3	4	5	6  Set your clocks BACK one hour before going to bed tonight.
7 Worship 10:30 am	8	9	10	11  VETERANS DAY AMERICA SALUTES YOU	12	13  World Kindness Day
14 Worship 10:30 am	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Worship 10:30 am	22	23	24	25  Happy Thanksgiving	26	27
28 Worship 10:30 am Confirmation Sunday  FIRST SUNDAY OF Advent	29  Happy Hanukkah	30				

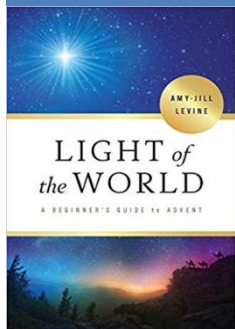


Fall Book Study

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 7 Jerusalem (Series finale – November 1st & November 4th classes)

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



4-week Advent Study

CONTACT PASTOR BRIDGET IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THIS BOOK STUDY

Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent by Amy-Jill Levine explores the Nativity stories in the gospels of Luke and Matthew, looking at the historical contexts and literary connections in each story.

(Chapter 1) Story of Zechariah and Elizabeth

(Chapter 2) Mary and the angel

(Chapter 3) The birth of Jesus and his first visit to the temple

(Chapter 4) Looks at the story from Joseph's side, the visit of the magi and the slaughter of the children.

Throughout each chapter, Levine considers the different characters in the narratives, as well as their place and importance in the story, as she seeks to help the reader understand what these stories would have meant to those who first heard them, as well as what they might mean to us today and to faith communities near and far.

Levine notes, "Each [gospel] presents the story of Jesus' birth in its own way, and each offers a narrative that challenges, that provokes, that shocks, and that makes the reader want to hear more" (p. 113). She looks at the nativity narratives in light of Jewish tradition and history and the Hebrew Scriptures, as well as the political realities in the first century. In addition, she draws out implications for today and how we live as followers of Christ; there are questions for reflection interspersed throughout the book.

November Highlights

3 Week Worship Series

“A Life That Matters”

We end this liturgical year with a short series from the gospels. We’ve covered a lot of ground in this Year and 2020-21.

And rightly so; it has been a tumultuous time. Maybe it has been useful for us to reexamine our practices and our patterns in order to move into the new world that is coming into being around us. Maybe the church that has been isn’t the church that is needed today. And our task is to discern that new community and new disciples and how we live into that new promise and new hope. So, what would this new understanding of the life of discipleship look like? What are

some of the markers that help us grow into a life that matters, as individuals and as a community of faith and transformation? This series is designed to give some answers to these questions. It is not, however, supposed to be exhaustive; there are a lot of other markers that might be included in such a list. But, guided by the lectionary-assigned gospel texts for these three Sundays in November 2021, we discover three elements out of many that go to make up “A Life That Matters.”



November 28, 2021

Confirmants

Angel Apenhorst

Iyone Vath

Savy Vath

“When we receive him in our hearts, Christ makes himself present and takes shape in our lives.”

– Pope Francis



Advent Worship Services

November 28th – First Sunday of Advent

December 5th – Second Sunday of Advent

December 12th – Third Sunday of Advent

December 19th – Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24th – Christmas Eve Worship

December 25th – Christmas Day “No Service”

December 26th – Sunday Worship Service



Bishop's letter: Vaccinations, masking, and caring for others

October 21, 2021



In light of the increase in COVID-19 cases in Minnesota, Bishop David Bard issued the following pastoral letter to Minnesota United Methodists in which he encourages vaccinations and masking, and points out that the United Methodist tradition does not provide much support for religious exemptions for vaccinations:

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.

At the beginning of this week, three news items in particular captured my attention. I would ask us all to continue to pray for Haiti, and include prayers for the missionaries recently kidnapped there. Pray for their safe release, and pray for a Haiti that is safer and turning a corner toward peace and shared prosperity.

The two other news items are related. Former Secretary of State Colin Powell died from complications related to COVID. Though vaccinated, Powell's underlying health conditions contributed significantly to his vulnerability. At the same time that news was being reported, more news about COVID was also being shared. The five states with the fastest rising caseloads for COVID are Vermont, Colorado, New Hampshire, Michigan, and Minnesota. This time of year, you may want to see the Gophers in a top five list for NCAA football. The top five list for rising COVID caseload is a list we would like to avoid. Ninety-six percent of our ICU beds are occupied, and the pressure is expected to continue for the next few weeks, with a current positivity rate of 8.5 percent as reported in the Star Tribune on Wednesday.

Allow me to take this opportunity to remind you of my consistent encouragement to promote public health, further the common good, care for the well-being of others, do no harm, do good, and love your neighbor, all in the name and spirit of Jesus.

Specifically, I encourage you: 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. The unvaccinated remain those most likely to be hospitalized and suffer severe illness or death because of COVID. They are also capable of spreading the disease for longer periods of time. Get vaccinated. Encourage your fellow-church members to get vaccinated. If you are eligible for a booster, get your booster shot.

Due to our positivity rate, we remain in the [Yellow Phase of our Re-Gathering Plan](#), which strongly encourages masking by everyone when meeting in-person and indoors. If you are in a high-risk area, consider mandating masks for indoor, in-person gatherings. After vaccinations, masks are the next best tool we have for slowing the spread of the coronavirus, and slowing the spread also prevents the virus from developing into new variants. Together, masking and vaccinations will help us stem the rising tide of the coronavirus.

Finally, allow me to say a word about religious exemptions for vaccinations. The United Methodist tradition of the Christian faith does not provide much support for a religious exemption for vaccinations. John Wesley promoted the best cures and preventative measures of his day in his work "Primitive Physick." Founding hospitals is a significant part of our history as Methodists. Our Social Principles assert that "health care is a basic human right." I have consistently encouraged Minnesota United Methodists to get vaccinated. It would be extraordinarily difficult to use our United Methodist tradition to substantiate a religious exemption claim for a COVID vaccination.

Friends, I continue to 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. When we act out of love for neighbor and care for our community, we offer a powerful witness to the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,

Bishop David A. Bard
Interim Bishop, Minnesota Conference

Mission Moments

Real Hope for the Hungry

2200 12th St. SW
Austin, MN 55912
507-433-4489

September 27, 2021

Sumner Center United Methodist Church
25375 151st Ave.
Spring Valley, MN 55975

We are SO blessed by your support for our mission of feeding the starving and hungry. Thank you for your donation of \$300.00 (check # 10968, 9/12/21), which covered the cost of 1200 fully nutritious meals. [For tax purposes, nothing of reportable value was provided to you in exchange for this contribution. *Real Hope for the Hungry* is a 501c3 non-profit charitable organization that does not receive any funding from the US government.] On September 15th, a wonderful group of volunteers packed a total of 7128 meals which will soon be on their way to Haiti. It has been a little over a month since they were rocked by the largest earthquake they have ever experienced, and that was followed two days later by a hurricane. The need is SO great. The meals will not only feed the survivors in the area where GoServ Global (which is distributing the meals) ministers, but will also feed the great number of people who have fled there because of available medical care and other aid. What a difference you are making in their lives, not only through your donation, but also through your prayers.

We have been so blessed that the Lord has given us partners who share our desire to not only feed the hungry, but to also give them hope - Real hope - which is found only in Jesus Christ. Please pray with us that those who receive this food will also hear the gospel and have the opportunity to respond to our loving Lord. We know that you join us in the desire that the hungry will have not only full stomachs, but also full lives.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him will praise the Lord!
Psalm 22:26

You are loving in truth and in action; you have treated those in need as you would want to be treated. You are allowing God to use you as His hands and feet. May God mightily bless you and all that you do.



With great gratitude,

From this....

..... to those in need

Carol Brown



With the generosity of our faith community, many children will be full of joy this Christmas season knowing that they are loved by Christ.

Again this year Sumner Center will be sponsoring the "Angel Tree" toy drive. If you would like to sponsor a child in need, please contact: Jean McNamara

email jeanmac75@gmail.com

phone 507-421-0942

You may purchase gifts or give a monetary donation so gifts may be purchased by the organization. It is recommended that all donations, gifts or money be around \$40.00-\$50.00.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

BEANS
BREAD
BUFFET
CAKE
CELERY
CIDER
COOKIES
CORN
CRANBERRIES
DELICIOUS
DINNER
DRINKS
FAMILY
FRIENDS
GRAVY
HAM
HARVEST
HOST
ICE CREAM
PASTA
PEAS
PIE
POTATOES
PUMPKIN
RIBS
ROLL
SALAD
SOUP
SPINACH
SQUASH
STUFFING
TABLE
TURKEY
TURNIPS
VEGETABLES
YAMS

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

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

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.
Find and circle each word.

