

December 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

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*For on this day in the city of David  
our Savior was born!*

*What emotions stir your heart as your eyes  
draw you into this moment?*

*Where do your thoughts take you?*

*Why did these people from all walks of life  
gather together?*

There was but one reason the shepherds left  
their work behind and the wisemen walked  
away from their studies. There was but one  
reason each put aside their wants, needs,  
and routines in life. There was but one  
reason they chose to come to Bethlehem.

### TO WORSHIP HIM!

We have entered the season of preparation  
and celebration. Yet our culture has  
diverted our attention to be more engaged in  
self-promotion and social priorities.

Friends, why do we not gather to Worship any longer? This is a question that has been weighing heavy not only on my soul but on many across this nation who gather and see the empty pews. I know there are countless loving and caring Christians in our communities who truly love God, follow His teachings and who have invited Him into their homes and family life, yet have slowly and unintentionally looked past His invitation to come into His home and Worship Him. Friends this is not about finger pointing or judgement this is a call to self-examination. Bringing ideas forth and sharing them of how we can all find our way back together and once again gather in His name to Worship. Sumner Center UMC is the heartbeat of Jesus Christ in this region. The strength and reverberation of that beat is determined by each of us. You are important! You are loved! You are welcomed!

**Will you come home this year for Christmas?**

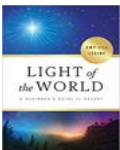


# Calendar of Events

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

## December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Church bake sale after worship on December 5<sup>th</sup>!</b> 			1	2 Zoom Advent Study 6:30pm	3	4
<b>5 Worship</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <b>Communion</b>  Second Sunday of Advent Hanukkah	<b>6</b> In-person Advent Study <b>1:30pm</b> Stewartville  Hanukkah	<b>7</b>  Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	<b>9</b> Zoom Advent Study <b>6:30pm</b>  Hanukkah	<b>10</b>  Hanukkah	<b>11</b>  Hanukkah
<b>12 Worship</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <b>SisterLuv</b> <b>Gospel Singers</b> <b>preforming</b>  Third Sunday of Advent	<b>13</b> In-person Advent Study - 1:30pm Stewartville  happy COCOA day	14	15	<b>16</b> Zoom Advent Study <b>6:30pm</b>  Hanukkah	17	18
<b>19Worship</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <b>Children's Church</b>  Fourth Sunday of Advent	<b>20</b> In-person Advent Study <b>1:30pm</b> Stewartville	<b>21</b>  Blessed YULE and happy solstice	22	<b>23</b> Zoom Advent Study <b>6:30pm</b>  Hanukkah	<b>24</b>  Christmas Eve Candlelight Service <b>7:00pm</b>	<b>25</b>  Unto Us a Child is Born
<b>26Worship</b> <b>10:30 am</b> Worship will be led by conference staff and played on screen at church and online via Facebook  KWANZAA	<b>27</b>  KWANZAA	<b>28</b>  KWANZAA	<b>29</b>  KWANZAA	<b>30</b>  KWANZAA	<b>31</b>  NEW YEAR'S EVE  KWANZAA	



4-week Advent Study

CONTACT PASTOR BRIDGET IF YOU ARE INTERESTED

# December Highlights

## December 5<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday of Advent

Communion Sunday

**Come One Come All!!**

**You will not want to miss Worship today!**

Our bakers have been busy, and they have made a fantastic variety of Christmas treats for you to purchase and share at your holiday gatherings or to enjoy for yourself! All proceeds will go to providing holiday gifts at our area Care Centers. The success of this sale depends on YOU!!



### DAILY ADVENT CHALLENGE

Make a plan NOW to do something to develop your spiritual life AFTER the New Year begins. Allow Advent to become the start of something greater all year long.

## December 12<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday of Advent

### Sister Luv

Gospel Singers will be  
Performing for our worship service

Please invite your family and your friends

**This will be a Fantastic Musical Christmas Event no one will want to miss!!**



## December 19<sup>th</sup> - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship at 9 am

## December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Worship

**7:00 pm Traditional Service**



*Christmas Eve  
Candle Light Service*

## December 26<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Worship Service

Worship will be led by conference staff and played on screen at church and online via  
Facebook

# Mission Moments

Racine & Sumner Center UMC will be collecting \$\$ during Advent to support



## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

821 million people go to bed hungry every night. Let's change that.

**A \$20.00 Donation can purchase a flock of chickens.**

Did you know a good hen can lay more than 200 eggs a year?

**A \$30.00 Donation can fund the basics to starting a beehive and training**

Did you know that beehives can as much as double some fruit and vegetable yields through natural pollination?

**A \$120.00 Donation can purchase a goat**

Did you know a goat provides nutritious milk every day which families can then drink or produce cheese or yogurt, also goat manure can fertilize farms and help in yield production?

**Collectively our donations could be the gift clean water or seeds for a garden, or livestock and so much more....**

Heifer International is an amazing non-profit organization that reaches across the world to communities in need and we have the opportunity to be an active helping hand in this mission!

**Your generous donations will help families not only survive but thrive!!**

Will you act now and send in your donation today?

**You may mail a check to:**

**Sumner Center UMC**

**25378 151<sup>st</sup> Ave**

**Spring Valley, Mn 55975**

**Write: Heifer International in the memo field of your check**

Or

You may bring your donation to our worship services in December and drop it in our collection box

**Thank you and Merry Christmas!**



# Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

November 05, 2021



*The United Methodist Council of Bishops on Friday, Nov. 5 approved a plan for episcopal oversight in the North Central Jurisdiction that includes Bishop David Bard continuing to serve as interim bishop for the Minnesota Conference in 2022. He will also continue to serve as resident bishop for the Michigan Conference. Here is the press release the North Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops sent out:*

At this morning's meeting of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist, the Council approved a plan submitted by the North Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops to extend the current coverage of episcopal areas in the jurisdiction. Under the agreement, the current plan will continue until new episcopal elections within the jurisdiction are held, and the Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy makes new assignments, **or** the NCJ College proposes to the Council of Bishops another plan for episcopal coverage within the jurisdiction. The previous agreement approved by the Council of Bishops was set to expire on December 31, 2021.

The plan was offered following consultation with the North Central Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy and extends the episcopal oversight of the Northern Illinois Conference by Bishop John Hopkins and of the Dakotas/Minnesota Area by Bishop Laurie Haller and Bishop David Bard. Bishop Haller will continue to assume primary supervisory responsibility for the Dakotas Conference, and Bishop Bard will offer primary supervisory responsibility for the Minnesota Conference. As approved by the Council, this plan provides maximum flexibility to the jurisdiction, allowing the jurisdiction, if needed, to submit a new proposal at any time.

The regular session of the jurisdictional conference is scheduled for November 2022.

# Random Acts of CHRISTMAS KINDNESS

Donate toys and books to a local charity.	Make compliment cards and hand them out to strangers.	Hold the door for a stranger.	Make cards for troops serving over seas.
Help a friend with their school work.		Donate supplies to your local animal shelter.	Help your neighbor carry in their groceries.
Send encouraging emails or text messages to family and friends	Compliment a stranger.	Walk a neighbor's dog.	Give away clothing you don't need.
Sit by someone new at lunch.	Donate food to your local food pantry.	Help someone who has dropped something.	Make a bookmark for a friend.
Donate needed items to a local shelter.	Make cards for your teachers.		Make a homemade gift for a friend.
Bring in a neighbor's trash bins.	Make a thank you card for your mail carrier.	Return someone's cart at the store.	Collect spare change and donate to charity.



# How Well Do You Know Your Christmas Carols?

Match the title with the lines from the song.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ___ O Little Town of Bethlehem      | 1. Good tidings we bring to you and your kin                           |
| ___ What Child Is This?             | 2. Long lay the world in sin and error pining                          |
| ___ Love Came Down at Christmas     | 3. Please have snow and mistletoe and presents on the tree             |
| ___ Go, Tell It on the Mountain     | 4. Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day                |
| ___ Jolly Old Saint Nicholas        | 5. From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold     |
| ___ We Wish You a Merry Christmas   | 6. Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary           |
| ___ Of the Father's Love Begotten   | 7. The ox and lamb kept time   |
| ___ Carol of the Bells              | 8. Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light   |
| ___ God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen     | 9. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation                          |
| ___ Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella | 10. The world, they treat you mean, they treat me mean, too            |
| ___ Pat-a-Pan                       | 11. And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains            |
| ___ Sweet Little Jesus Boy          | 12. On December five and twenty  |
| ___ O Holy Night                    | 13. From the eastern kingdoms come the wise men far                    |
| ___ Silver Bells                    | 14. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light              |
| ___ It Came Upon a Midnight Clear   | 15. Children laughing, people passing, greeting smile after smile      |
| ___ Hark! The Herald Angels Sing    | 16. The blind will see, the lame will walk, the dead will rise again   |
| ___ I'll Be Home for Christmas      | 17. O'er the fields we go, laughing all the way                        |
| ___ Away in the Manger              | 18. Star and angels gave the sign                                      |
| ___ Sing We Now of Christmas        | 19. Peace on Earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled          |
| ___ Angels, We Have Heard on High   | 20. Treetops glisten & children listen to hear sleighbells in the snow |
| ___ Silent Night                    | 21. Lean your ear this way   |
| ___ Mary, Did You Know?             | 22. The men of olden days gave the King of Kings their praise          |
| ___ We Three Kings                  | 23. Behold, throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light           |
| ___ O Come All Ye Faithful          | 24. He is Alpha & Omega, He the source, the ending He                  |
| ___ Joy to the World                | 25. Let Earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare Him room       |
| ___ Little Drummer Boy              | 26. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes                             |
| ___ The Holly and the Ivy           | 27. Round yon Virgin Mother and Child                                  |
| ___ Fum, Fum, Fum                   | 28. Beautiful is the mother! Hush! Hush! Beautiful is her Child!       |
| ___ Jingle Bells                    | 29. One seems to hear words of good cheer from everywhere              |
| ___ White Christmas                 | 30. The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir         |