

**April
2022**

Sumner Center UMC Newsletter

13135 Cty Rd 102, Stewartville, MN

55976

(Physical Address)



Pastor's notes... Are you looking for a way to become more committed to your prayer life? Have you ever wanted your very own secret location to spend time with God? Maybe you should consider creating your own prayer closet.

What is a prayer closet? A prayer closet is a location where Christians go alone, in privacy, to spend a well-needed prayer time with the Lord. It is vital for Christians to have a strong prayer life. One reason why a believer should consider creating such a sacred place to pray is because of distractions. It is very easy to not be able to focus on only the Lord when there are so many different events happening in your life. Having a room that is quiet and private makes it easier to meditate on scripture and what the Lord wants to say to you. Jesus Christ secluded himself so he could pray on His own.

When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:6

How can we pray freely and openly with God when there are others nearby, who may disturb us and listen to us pray at that moment? Having a secret meeting location with God prevents any hindrances to the unbroken communion that is essential for meaningful prayer. My Friends here is your chance and...

It's as easy as 123...

1. Find a small out of the way area in your home
2. Be creative and decorate your space with inspirational items
3. Add your Bible and a daily journal

Gift yourself a space that is all yours and God's and may you find peace in your prayer closet!

**Worship:
Sundays
In Sanctuary at 10:30am
&
Sumner Center UMC Facebook Page**

**Pastor Bridget Sheely
Cell: 507-923-6247
bridget@countrywidecarriers.com**

**Visit our Church Website at:
<http://www.sumnercenter.com>**

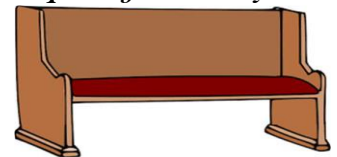
**Donations may be sent to our mailing address:
25378 151st Ave
Spring Valley, Mn 55975**

Grace and Peace in the name of Jesus Christ:

If you have items you would like to be published in the newsletter, please contact Pastor Bridget by the 3rd Thursday of the preceding month by emailing your information to: bridget@countrywidecarriers.com Or by bringing your information to her at the church.













*The Lord has reserved
a pew just for you!*



Calendar of Events

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

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
 <p>Communion Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am</p>						
 <p>Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am</p>				 <p>Maundy Thursday Worship Service @ Stewartville UMC 6:30pm</p>	 <p>GOOD FRIDAY Worship Service @ Sumner Center 6:30pm</p>	 <p>Holy Saturday</p>
 <p>Easter Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am</p>		 <p>Loren Smith Celebration of Life service 10:30 am</p>			 <p>EARTH DAY</p>	
<p>24 Pre-Recorded Conference Created Worship Airing @ 10:30 am at church and/or offered on Facebook</p>					 <p>Celebrate Arbor Day Plant A Tree</p>	

Sunday April 3- "Ramadan" This is a month of fasting, prayer, giving and self-evaluation observed by Muslims. The month lasts 29-30 days depending on the sightings of the crescent moon.

Sunday, April 10- "Rama Navami" This day celebrates the Hindu festival of the birthday of the God Rama. On the Hindu calendar the day falls on the ninth day of the month of Chaitra which is part of the spring Navratri festival.

Saturday April 16th-April 23rd- "Passover" The 7 or 8 day festival is one of the most important celebrations on the Hebrew calendar commemorating the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt.

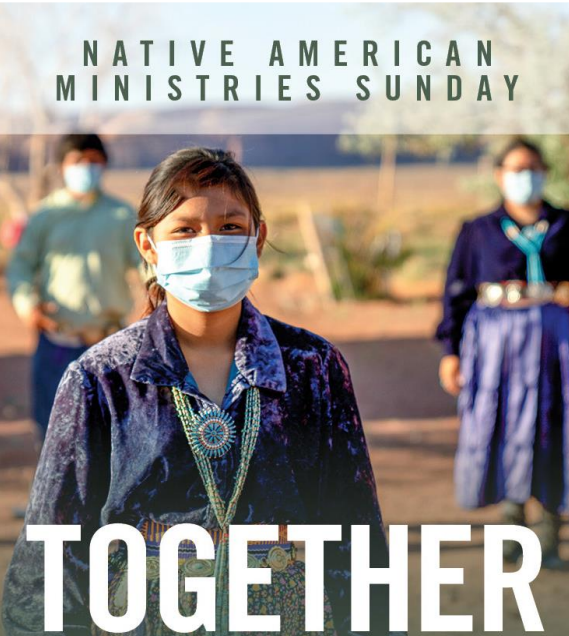
Thursday, April 28th- Yom Hashoah also called Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorates the lives of the Jewish people who died in the Holocaust of World War 2.

Friday, April 29th-Laylat al Qadr is a day that observes the night when the Prophet Mohammad received the first verses of the Koran.

Our Mission of the month

The latest updates

MN UMC Conference April Mission



NATIVE AMERICAN
MINISTRIES SUNDAY


TOGETHER

OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE


The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways

YOUR DONATION CHANGES THE WORLD ONE LIFE AT A TIME

GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH:
Make checks payable to your local church or donate online via credit/debit card at ResourceUMC.org/SSGive



TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA



**TOGETHER, WE
EMPOWER LOCAL
SPIRITUAL
DEVELOPMENT AND
EDUCATE NATIVE
AMERICAN
SEMINARY
STUDENTS TO SERVE
GOD FAITHFULLY.**

Supporting the Ministry of
Christ Among Native People

One tribe in North America has told this story for centuries: when people “pale as birch” crossed the great water in large canoes, they brought with them “The Black Book.” However, the bringers of the physical Book could not have known what it would mean and look like to be Native and a follower of Jesus.

Today Native Americans—with many unique languages, many unique cultures—honor their heritage, and live as Jesus-followers, led by a rotation of primarily Native American pastors.

This work, and hundreds of other ministries, are possible because you give.

You may give by dropping a donation at our collection table at church or by mailing in your donation today.

Most Americans today recognize that the history following the arrival of the large canoes bore little resemblance to the one all Christians identify as Creator. That's why the people of The United Methodist Church, Native and non-Native, are creating a new history. Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we're able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus.

Will you help be a part of this wonderful process of reconciliation, restoration and release?”

Donate Today:
Sunner Center UMC
25378 151st Ave
Spring Valley, Mn
55975





April Events



Holy Week is on the horizon!



For many Christian churches, Palm Sunday, often referred to as Passion Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday.

The biblical account of Palm Sunday can be found in all four Gospels:

Matthew 21:1-11;

Mark 11:1-11;

Luke 19:28-44;

John 12:12-19.

This week is when we remember that our sinless Savior took the punishment that we should be receiving. This is the week when we remember that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This is the week when we are reminded that we can't save ourselves, but Christ saved us.

Why is Palm Sunday important? It's because our King and Savior came to save us through His sacrificial death and resurrection. Palm Sunday reminds us of that.



Why Is Good Friday called "good"?

The term "good" here does not mean "well done" but rather that this day recalls a tragic event in Christianity's history: the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Good has nothing to do with how you feel about his death; instead, it refers to its moral significance for all humanity. Thus, this day is called Good because it brings into focus the reality of evil and the need for forgiveness.

The difficulty for us is that living for God requires sinless perfection, and none of us is perfect. Not one, until Jesus came and took our place on that Friday so long ago!

That is why we need a Savior—because we need to be made holy: "without holiness no one will see the Lord"



Easter also called Resurrection Sunday or Pascha is one of the most important days in the Christian faith commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead according to the New Testament.

The Easter Triduum or Paschal starts on the evening of Maundy Thursday with the last supper continuing on through Good Friday and the crucifixion and burial of Jesus Christ into Holy Saturday and ending with prayers on the evening of Easter Sunday.

The day is the beginning of the Eastertide season and the end of Lent (40 days of fasting and prayer starting on Ash Wednesday ending on Holy Saturday) and Holy Week that started on Palm Sunday and lasts 7 days through to Holy Saturday.



"The scoop of the day" The latest updates concerning Annual Conference 2022

If you are interested in attending this year's Annual Conference, you may register on the conference webpage: www.minnesotaumc.org After April 1st.

Attendees are encouraged to book their hotel rooms as soon as possible but be sure your reservation allows you to cancel up until right before the event in case a COVID surge prevents us from meeting in-person. There will be COVID protocols in place at our gathering; they will be announced around the time registration opens.

It's been almost three years since we last gathered in-person. "We have been through so much, and to be able to be in-person, in community, to see each other's faces, and to worship, sing, pray, laugh and play together will be a joy," said Gregorson.

"Joy breaks" consisting of fun-filled, festive, uplifting activities between sessions will be offered throughout our time together.

As always, the gathering will be live streamed so that non-members and those who don't feel comfortable meeting in-person can still watch.

Should another COVID surge emerge right before Annual Conference, we would resort to plan B—which would involve live streaming presentations to small groups gathering at designated locations around the state (similar to last year) on the first day and a virtual business session via Zoom webinar on the second day.

We hope you join us at the 2022 Annual Conference to be renewed, restored, and to experience God's goodness and healing power at a time when we, and our world, desperately need them.

*Minnesota Annual Conference of the United
Methodist Church*

info@minnesotaumc.org
(612) 870-0058



The Rivers Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud May 24 and 25.

We are a people and a world in need of healing beyond our doing. God invites us to come sit by still waters, and to allow God to restore our soul.

"That is our hope for the 2022 annual conference session—that it will be one of deep community, experiencing the goodness of God who sets a table before us, and that we can enter into holy conversation with one another about the future of the Minnesota Annual Conference as we navigate this unique time we are in," said Rev. Cindy Gregorson, director of connectional ministries and clergy assistant to the bishop.

Drawing on Psalm 23 and John 10:10-11, our theme is "Jesus: Healer."

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest
valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long."
—Psalm 23

The thief's purpose is to steal
and kill and destroy. My
purpose is to give them a rich
and satisfying life. "I am the
good shepherd. The good
shepherd sacrifices his life for
the sheep."
John 10:10-11 NLT



General Conference further postponed to 2024

The Commission on the General Conference disseminated the following press release on March 3:

Nashville, Tenn.: As the pandemic continues and the wait time for visas stretches to over two years in some countries, the Commission on the General Conference announced today that the 2020 General Conference cannot be held in 2022 due to COVID-related and governmental policies/constraints.

Commission members received a report based on conversations with multiple officials of the U.S. Department of State outlining the massive backlog of visa applications in some areas. This backlog has led to wait times up to 800+ days for scheduling an initial interview. In addition, commission members described an increasingly complex interview process in some areas requiring two or three interviews, which also creates a roadblock that would preclude participation by many delegates outside the United States of America.

Commission chairperson Kim Simpson said the decision to postpone once again was an exceedingly difficult one, with many factors to consider—including visas and passports, the health and safety of delegates, volunteers and other attendees, vaccination rates, and the need for provisions for quarantine or medical care should any delegates contract COVID-19.

"We engaged in a fair, thorough, integrity-filled discussion of the alternatives," said Simpson. "The visa issue is a reality that is simply outside our control as we seek to achieve a reasonable threshold of delegate presence and participation. Ultimately our decision reflects the hope that 2024 will afford greater opportunity for global travel and a higher degree of protection for the health and safety of delegates and attendees."

The Book of Discipline 2016 requires the Commission to take necessary measures to assure full participation of all General Conference delegates. Consistent with that guidance, the Commission determined that the physical attendance of as many delegates as possible at the General Conference is critically necessary.

A significant advantage of further postponing the 2020 General Conference to 2024 is that the Commission has already secured a venue for what would have been the regularly scheduled quadrennial event. An announcement about the location will be forthcoming as soon as the required logistical planning is complete.

According to Sara Hotchkiss, Business Manager of the General Conference, moving the legislative gathering to 2023 was an option that was discussed, but was not found to be feasible due to a number of reasons, including but not necessarily limited to the logistical challenges of planning, the remaining backlog of visa applications and interviews, and the proximity to the 2024 General Conference.

A technology study team appointed by the Commission reported in February 2021 that it wasn't feasible to create a virtual alternative of the General Conference that would safeguard the integrity of the voting and credentialing process, meet legal requirements, and support the complexity of the legislative committees required by ¶507.11

including but not limited to interpretation in multiple languages, and meaningful participation across multiple time zones. While many churches and organizations have adapted technology for events that are based heavily on presenter/observer situations, that is not the type of gathering that embodies a General Conference. Full participation of delegates in Christian conferencing as a means of grace was not seen as possible under these circumstances.

Secretary of the General Conference, Gary Graves, said the further postponement raises a number of additional questions not specifically addressed in The Book of Discipline 2016. "As the postponed 2020 General Conference now enters the typical cycle of preparation for a General Conference that would have been held in 2024, we will need to look to the Judicial Council for clarity regarding which preparations and processes are based on the postponed 2020 General Conference and which would need to be enacted should this be seen as a new 2024 General Conference."

The Judicial Council recently ruled that, "the deadlines for petitions submission in ¶ 507 are based on the date of the postponed General Conference and reset with each postponement."

The Commission will meet again on March 28 to continue the work of preparing for the postponed 2020 General Conference and looking ahead for possible solutions that may help avoid delays in future meetings should unforeseen circumstances occur or persist.

Word Search: Everything Easter!

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Ascend
Ash Wednesday
Barabbas
Basket
Boiled eggs
Bonnet
Chocolate bunny
Crucifixion
Doubting Thomas
Dress
Egg hunt
Equinox

Eternal Life
Fat Tuesday
Golgotha
Good Friday
Ham
Heaven
Hippity
Hollow
Jellybeans
John
Judas Iscariot
Last Supper

Lent
Mardi Gras
Mary Magdalene
Maundy Thursday
Pastels
Peter Cottontail
Plastic Eggs
Resurrection
Shroud of Turin
Solid
Spring
Spring Break

Thirty
Three
Tulips

