

Sumner Center UMC Newsletter

November 2022



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

Pastors' notes...

Time to Give Thanks:

November is typically a time for reflection on thankfulness - recognizing the things, people, and aspects of life that we appreciate.

Expressing gratitude is a proven way to lift your spirits, reduce stress and improve your overall health.

The holidays can be a stressful time but taking a step back to acknowledge the positives can really make a difference, not only to yourself but also to others. Your thanks could be the one ray of sunshine in someone else's day.

So, to celebrate the season and give thanks, I want to share some of the things for which I am thankful and after reading, I encourage you to spread the positive vibes by sharing your gratitude with your friends and family, on social media, in a hand-written note or however you decide. I am sure it'll make a difference!

Here are some of the things I am thankful for this Thanksgiving.

I am thankful... that we live in a country where I am free to Love God with all my heart, soul, and mind without persecution.

I am thankful... for the gift of having family in my life!

I am thankful... for the community of friends God has provided me. I have been truly blessed by His gracious guidance which has brought me into treasured relationships with so many kind people in Racine, Sumner Center and Wykoff.

Praise God from whom ALL blessings flow! When life begins to weigh me down may I always find my way back to Him with humility and thanksgiving and remember to acknowledge what beautiful gifts I have received! Faith - Family - Friends...

That's what life is truly about!
Give thanks with a grateful heart!!!

**Worship:
Sundays**

**In Sanctuary at 11:00am
&
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**

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 Worship on Sunday mornings)



**The light of God remains
to shine bright in the
community of Sumner Center
UMC, only by your generous
giving heart!**

**Thank you for your dedication
and love!**

Calendar of Events

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

November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 SPRC Meeting with D.S Cynthia Williams 6-7pm Via zoom	2	3	4	5 
6 Worship 11 am 	7	8 	9	10	11 	12
13 Sunday School 10:30 am "Children's Time, stories of Jesus" Worship 11 am	14 District Charge Conference 6:30pm Via Zoom	15	16	17	18	19
20 Worship 11 am 	21	22	23  6:00pm @Wykoff UMC	24 	25	26
27 Worship 11 am 	28	29	30	"Because of Bethlehem" Advent Zoom Study begins (12/1/22@ 6:30pm)		

What is All Saints' Day?

All Saints' Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, the Feast of All Saints, the Feast of All Hallows, the Solemnity of All Saints, and Halloween, is a Christian solemnity celebrated in honor of all the saints of the church, whether they are known or unknown.

What Is Christ the King Sunday?

Christ the King Sunday is the very last Sunday on the calendar of the Christian year. Christ the King Sunday was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI in response to the tragedy of World War I and the growth of secularism in the world. Still today—in the face of our chaotic, divided world that often seems ruled by the forces of darkness—Christ the King Sunday is meant to remind us that in the end, God does reign over all things. Christ the King Sunday says our task is to not only to trust in this truth, but to live the kind of lives through which the Holy Spirit of God can work to bring the full reign of Christ to fruition in all creation!


What Is Advent Season?

Advent Season is a very special time of year that sometimes gets lost in the bright lights of the Christmas season it precedes. The first day of Advent is the first day of a new Liturgical (or church) calendar and begins a four-week period of preparation in anticipation of the nativity of Jesus at Christmas. The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. It is a time for faith communities and families to remember, through prayer, reflections, special music, and good deeds what the true meaning of Jesus' birth is.

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

All Saints Sunday

November 6th



July 17, 1943 ~
January 13, 2022

Loren Smith

Let us give honor to those who fought the good fight. For it is because of them that we may move forward as better people.

A Service for the
Eve of Thanksgiving
Ecumenical Worship at
Wykoff United Methodist
6:00pm November 23, 2022
As we unite in worship this evening, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. May we together experience the presence of God.

*We Gather to Prepare Our
Hearts to Meet Our Lord*



Blessing
Lord of bounty and blessing, we come to you this day in gratitude for all that we have been given. We are grateful for the blessings and for the opportunities to be of service to others in your Holy Name. Bless each of us, that we may become true blessings to others. For we ask all of these in the name of Jesus. Amen.

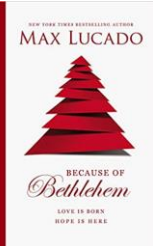
River Valley District Charge Conference
When: November 14, 2022
D.S. Cynthia Williams will preside over a district conference via zoom. All clergy and laity are invited and welcome to attend
Yearly forms that will be presented for approval will be:
2023 clergy compensation
2023 Nominations of officers
2023 Membership reports
Please plan on a time of virtual connecting, conducting Conference business, and a time of worship and teaching.

**Every Second
Sunday of the Month
Children's Sunday School:**

Stories of Jesus
10:30 am
Age Pre – k through 6th grade
Matthew 19:14 (NIV)
14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

*Advent Book Study -beginning on
Thursday, December 1st via zoom
Or

You may use this book as an independent study



For some, Christmas is a time of excitement, celebration, and family, while for others it is a time of loneliness, grief, and loss. No matter what this season holds for you, the promise of Christmas will bring you a lifetime of hope.

Christmas begins what Easter celebrates. The child in the cradle becomes the King on the cross. Because of Bethlehem, we have a Savior in heaven. These are the heart shaping promises of Christmas. Long after the guests have left, the carolers have gone home, and the lights have come down, these promises endure.

The manger is the message.
As you curl up in a comfortable spot and look into the odd, wonderful story of Bethlehem, may you find enduring hope for all seasons of your life. Advent Devotional Guide included.

Sign up with Pastor Bridget today!



Open Hearts.
Open minds.
Open doors.

Grace and Peace to you and yours from Pastor Bridget,

“O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.” (Psalm 95:1-2)

What a beautiful invitation for all Christians!

It is one of my favorite verses of the Psalms because of its call for all God’s children to gather in celebration and praise.

I pray you have enjoyed the wonders of a beautiful summer. As we have entered into the fall season, I would like to take the opportunity to touch base with you and offer an open invitation to re-establish your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Racine, Wykoff, and Sumner Center United Methodist churches are three beautiful sanctuaries with a strong foundation in faith and commitment to our Lord and Savior. Unfortunately, like many churches, we have experienced a drastic decline in worship attendance and active participation. I am reaching out in hope that we may find ways to solve this very important question.

How can we, as a faith community, help to guide His beloved children back to worship?

In our current culture, time seems to be a precious commodity and our schedules tend to become overloaded with the daily “must do’s”. I completely understand how overwhelmed you may become as you are pulled in many different directions. I empathize with these struggles. This is why I am reaching out. In this newsletter there is listed the upcoming events for fall and the beginning of winter. This includes but is not limited to all the activities our churches will be involved in. As you see, we will be continuing many of our traditional events and worship experiences but we are also expanding into new and innovative ways to gather in worship as well. Here is a list of some of the upcoming events and worship services:

Sunday worship services offered: Racine UMC @ 8:30 am Wykoff UMC 9:45 am Sumner Center UMC @ 11:00 am
Children’s Church 8:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Story time with Jesus 10:30 am

November

Sumner Center to participate in the Fillmore County “Angel Tree” children’s mission

11/6 – All Saints Day.....Honoring those precious in heart that we have lost in the past

11/23 – Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship @ Wykoff UMC.....Uniting with our Brothers & Sisters in Christ both United Methodist & Lutheran

11/27-Advent Season Begins.....The New year begins by reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ’s birth

11/27-3 Church Advent Mission to begin.....All are invited to participate in this “Reverse Advent” mission. More details below

December

12/1 4-week advent book study begins.....” Because of Bethlehem” by Max Lucado

12/4 Communion Sunday & Bake Sale @ Sumner Center UMC (money to be donated to area Care Center’s for their monthly programs)

Christmas – “Celebration of His birth” services to be held:

Saturday - Christmas Eve

Wykoff – 4:00pm

Racine 5:30pm

Sumner Center 7:00pm

Sunday (12/25) there will be no in person worship.

Worship Services will be offered online only.

We will be starting the New Year by offering a once-a-month united worship experience.

Communion, Special Music, laity readings, fellowship with meal and a mission focus:

More information on this new
1st @ 10 am monthly worship
Experience will come in the
December newsletter





**“Gathering at His Table Sunday”
The First Sunday of each month –
Worship @10 am”**



Racine, Wykoff & Sumner Center UMC’s are starting the new year off

with a new worship experience!

ALL GOD’S CHILDREN ARE WELCOME

**Sunday, January 1, 2023
Racine, Wykoff and Sumner Center UMC’s
Will consolidate all 3 worship services into one
Worship Service at Sumner Center UMC @10am**

*This new once a month Worship consolidation opportunity
for all 3 congregations and neighborhood friends
will offer us a chance to join as one for a day of:
praise of His name
followed by a meal
and a monthly mission focus.*

The Monthly rotation for first quarter between each Church Sanctuary is as follows:

- January 1st @ Sumner Center UMC @ 10am
- February 5th @ Wykoff UMC @ 10am
- March 5th @ Racine UMC @ 10 am

So, mark your calendars that on..... **Sunday January 1, 2023**

Worship service for Racine & Wykoff will be located at **Sumner Center UMC @ 10am!!**

A MEAL WILL FOLLOW WORSHIP

First quarter Mission focus will be to
Assemble kits for UMCOR

HYGIENE KIT INSTRUCTIONS (January mission focus)

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE KIT (“PERIOD PACK”) INSTRUCTIONS (February mission focus)

CLEANING KIT INSTRUCTIONS (March mission focus)

A list of supplies will be sent out via future newsletters, social media and in person church handouts a few weeks prior to worship each month. So be on the lookout!!!!

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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Collect these food items at home in a basket then each week or by Christmas Eve worship bring items to church and place them at the alter to be blessed before they are distributed to our area food shelves.

This is a fantastic Advent mission that will help area food banks re-stock Their shelves after the holiday depletion of items.

The Church leadership will determine where to distribute the bounty of gifts donated

Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving

pilgrim

mayflower

gratitude

yams

family

gobble

pilgrim

indian

november

thankful

grandma

mother

traditions

pumpkin

autumn

stuffing

Massachusetts

grandpa

father

fall

turkey

pie

rolls

Plymouth

uncle

brother

leftovers

dressing

cornucopia

cornbread

squash

aunt

sister

acorns

cranberries

feast

drumstick

wishbone

cousin

carve