

Sumner Center UMC Newsletter

February 2023



Pastors' notes...

As Valentine's Day approaches, I want to share with you A new idea to express your feelings. I say, forget the standard drug store card and find a more meaningful message with a Valentine's Day Bible verse. Now, I know you may say "What does the Bible say about Valentine's Day?" The holiday was established in the 14th century, so the Bible doesn't have any specific messages about Valentine's Day, but it does have a lot to say on the subject of love. With over 570 mentions, love is a central theme of the Bible and we learn how much God is love and loves us with a steadfast love that endures forever. Throughout the Psalms, we can read a lot of love letters to God, in Song of Solomon we uncover lusty verses of poetry, and in the New Testament Jesus models servant love, and Paul teaches us more about the kind of love that makes a marriage strong.

The Bible covers all facets of love, and I just know you will have no problem finding some sweet love quotes to write into your sweetheart or friends cards and notes.

Anyone would be inspired to receive a note that centers on a Godly love using scripture such as:

Proverbs 17:17 (NLT)

17 A friend is always loyal,
and a brother is born to help in time of need.

1 Corinthians 13:7 (NLT)

7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful,
and endures through every circumstance.

John 15:13 (NLT)

13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for
one's friends.

Song of Solomon 4:10 (NLT)

10 Your love delights me,
my treasure, my bride.
Your love is better than wine,
your perfume more fragrant than spices.

There are so many more verses! Use this Valentines day to
spread the Good News.

and

SHARE THE LOVE!

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)

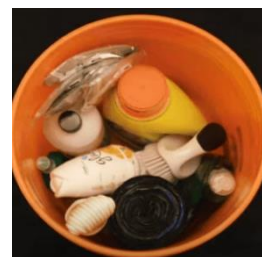
February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 	3	4
5 Combined Worship Service at Wykoff UMC @10am Meal to follow	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 11 am Worship Children's Storytime @10:30 am	13 Hamburger Night @ Wykoff Community Center 4:30-7pm	14 	15	16	17	18
19 11 am Worship	20 	21 	22 	23	24	25
26 11 am Worship	27	28				

March 5th - 1st (Sunday of the Month) @ 10 am Worship Service will be hosted by Racine UMC

Our Mission service project for March will be UMCOR Cleaning Kit Materials

A supplies list will be distributed by Pastor this month, you may receive the list at church or contact Pastor Bridget for more information.



FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

Sunday, February 5, 2023

First @ 10 am (First Sunday of the Month 10 am Service)

Racine, Wykoff and Sumner Center UMC's
Will consolidate all 3 worship services into:

Worship Service hosted by Wykoff UMC @10am

**Worship
Communion**



Mission focus – MENSTRAL KIT INSTRUCTIONS

Fellowship Meal

A MEAL WILL FOLLOW WORSHIP



Sunday, February 19th – Transfiguration of Our Lord

the Transfiguration of Jesus is an event where Jesus is transfigured and becomes radiant in glory upon a mountain.

In the account, Jesus and three of his apostles, Peter, James, and John, go to a mountain (later referred to as the Mount of Transfiguration) to pray. On the mountaintop, Jesus begins to shine with bright rays of light. Then the Old Testament figures Moses and Elijah appear next to him and he speaks with them. Both figures had eschatological roles: they symbolize the Law and the prophets, respectively. Jesus is then called "Son" by the voice of God the Father, as in the Baptism of Jesus.



Wednesday, February 22, 2023 – Ash Wednesday

Joint Worship service @ 6 pm - at Sumner Center UMC

What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the Lenten season, a period of 40-some days focused on spiritual purification and repentance. It is a day of fasting for Catholic and Anglican churches. Ash Wednesday gets its name from the practice of the distribution of ashes upon the foreheads of Christians.

What do the black marks mean?

Those black marks are meant to be crosses, although as the day wears on they can look like black smudges. They are a mixture of ashes, Holy Water and, sometimes, olive oil. It's especially significant, because Jesus was greeted in Jerusalem as a hero and the Messiah by the mob and he would eventually be put to death by the hands of the Romans at the insistence of those people. The ashes are meant to remind Christians about human mortality, while also showing the individual's desire for repentance and mourning of their own sins. As the priest or minister puts the ash on the body, he, or she, says "Remember that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return" (Genesis 3:19) or "Repent, and believe the Gospel" (Mark 1:15).

Minnesota Conference News

River Valley District welcomes new superintendent.



Photos by Charlie Berg

By: Christa Meland

After more than 30 years in ministry, Rev. Michelle Hargrave stepped into a new role as River Valley District superintendent on Jan. 1. She succeeds Rev. Cynthia Williams, who recently transitioned to superintendent of the Twin Cities District.

Hargrave has spent the past 10 years as lead pastor at Centenary UMC in Mankato, which worships about 140 each week and welcomed 20 new members last year.

Under her leadership, Centenary has developed two vibrant signature ministries:

Holy Grounds, which serves breakfast to food-insecure neighbors, and Social Justice Theatre, which engages church and community members in theater productions to illuminate social justice, explore spiritual values, and build community.

Hargrave has served in a variety of appointments across four districts—from Winona to Minneapolis/St. Paul to Duluth. Bishop David Bard, who announced her new appointment last month, noted her diverse experience and said she's well-positioned for the superintendent role.

"She has been deeply engaged in the communities to which she has been appointed," he said. "Rev. Hargrave loves Jesus Christ, loves the church, and is committed to its flourishing in these complex times. She is also deeply committed to the mission, vision, and values of the Minnesota Conference."

Serving the River Valley District is somewhat of a return to Hargrave's roots. She grew up attending Albert Lea UMC, which borders the district. "I have a heart for the region," she said.

Her call to ministry came when she was 15 and shared a message on Laity Sunday. A woman told her afterward: "You should be a pastor." At that point, Hargrave had never seen a woman pastor, but that comment got her thinking and helped her discern that she was in fact called to pastoral ministry. Upon earning her undergraduate degree, she attended and later dropped out of Iliff School of Theology in Denver. But she was inspired to re-enroll in seminary after hearing Minnesota's first female bishop, Sharon Brown Christopher, preach; Hargrave finished her master of divinity at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.

More recently, Hargrave completed the Nonprofit Church Leadership Program and earned an MBA at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota. She describes herself as a strategic thinker whose passion in ministry is being able to participate in the transformation of lives, systems, and churches. She's excited to journey with congregations seeking to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world.

"I have never been more clear about an appointment and felt really deep inside me this is what I'm supposed to do," she said. "I have had such beautiful mentors who paved the way for me. I've been feeling pulled the last few years to figure out how I can offer that same gift to clergy coming after me...It's my turn to support the system."

Hargrave is encouraged by the hope and passion that Bishop Lanette Plambeck brings to the Minnesota Conference and "the way she's holding together the work of piety and the work of social witness in the world." She also noted that it's been powerful for the conference to closely examine issues of racism in the last few years and she looks forward to continuing that work.

When asked why she is committed to The United Methodist Church at this time of denominational schism, Hargrave

said: “It’s my home. I have been deeply formed by that Wesleyan pull between loving God and loving your neighbor. It has shaped my life always. I think the UMC is continuing to wrestle with what that looks like, and I’m here for that journey.”

Hargrave formerly chaired the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and currently serves on the Episcopacy Committee and the Transitional Table—a group that’s helping the conference look at staffing and structure possibilities as we move into the future. She is thrilled to step into in this new role as a district superintendent.

“I’m humbled to have the opportunity to serve the conference and hopefully give back after all the support the conference has given me,” she said. “I hope I’ll be a blessing.”



GET TO KNOW REV. MICHELLE HARGRAVE:

Family: Husband, Kelly, a musician; young adult children, Zane and Liz

Favorite scripture: 1 Kings 19 (where Elijah experiences God in silence and learns not to go it alone)

Gifts cited by colleagues: Strategic, creative, faithful friend, dedicated to sustaining relationships, says what needs to be said

StrengthsFinder strengths: Strategic, learner, input, intellection, ideation

Favorite book: “Holy the Firm” by Annie Dillard

Favorite movies: “Lord of the Rings,” “Star Wars,” “Star Trek,” “Harry Potter”

Favorite TV show: “Doctor Who”

Hobbies: Photography, playing clarinet, hand embroidery, needlepoint, sewing, bullet journaling, writing poetry

Favorite food: Pancakes (she also loves tea)

People she admires: Brené Brown; colleagues in ministry who have gone before her and taught her how to be a good, whole person: Kathi Austin Mahle, Lynda Ellis, Bill Mate, Tom Brennan, Ruth Phelps, and Brian Hacklander

Something interesting most people don’t know: She hates clowns (“they’re creepy”)

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Meet and worship with Bishop Lanette at one of 6 gatherings

The gatherings (four of which will be live streamed for those unable to attend in-person) will take place at:



Alexandria UMC (2210 6th Ave E, Alexandria): **Saturday, Feb. 11, 2-4 p.m.**

Mankato: Hilltop UMC (108 S Manitou Dr, Mankato): **Sunday, Feb. 12, 2-4 p.m.**

Woodbury: The Grove UMC (7465 Steepleview Rd, Woodbury): **Saturday, Feb. 18, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

Rochester: Evangel UMC (2645 Broadway Ave N, Rochester): **Saturday, Feb. 18, 2-4 p.m.**

Duluth: First UMC (230 E Skyline Pkwy, Duluth): **Saturday, Feb. 25, 2-4 p.m.**

Plymouth: Messiah UMC (17805 County Road 6, Plymouth): **Sunday, Feb. 26, 2-4 p.m.**

If you are interested in attending one of these events, log onto the conference website at:

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org>

Click on the article with the title:

**“Meet and worship with Bishop Lanette at one of 6 gatherings”
and choose the**

**“Register for the gathering”
option at the bottom of the article**

Lent



Ash Wednesday - February 22nd



6:00 pm Joint Worship Service @ Sumner Center UMC

**Gathering as Christ's community (5 church connection)
Each week - A light meal starting a 6pm
Followed by an informal worship/study.**

Week 1 - Lenten practice focus – Prayer

Weds - March 1, 2023

Hosted by: Racine UMC

Week 2 – Lenten Practice Focus – Giving of Alms

Weds - March 8, 2023

Hosted by: Dexter UMC

Week 3 - Lenten Practice Focus - Lectio Divina

Weds - March 15, 2023

Hosted by: Sumner Center UMC

Week 4 – Lenten Practice Focus - Daily Examen

Weds - March 22, 2023

Hosted by: Grand Meadow UMC

Week 5 – Lenten Practice Focus – Hostis

Weds - March 29, 2023

Hosted by: Wykoff UMC



Palm Sunday – 1st (Sunday of the Month) @ 10 am service hosted by Sumner Center

Sunday – April 2nd

Good Friday – April 7th



6:00pm Joint Worship @ Racine UMC

Easter Sunday Worship

Racine UMC 8:30 am

Wykoff UMC 9:45 am

Sumner Center UMC 11am

 **He is
RISEN**

EASTER WORD SEARCH

ANGELS
APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
BLOOD
CALVARY
CROSS
CROWN OF THORNS
CRUCIFIXION
DARKNESS
DEATH
EARTHQUAKE
EASTER
GOLGOTHA
HIGH PRIEST
JESUS CHRIST
JOSEPH
JUDAS ISCARIOT
KING
LAMB

MARY
NAILS
PASSOVER
PIECES OF SILVER
PIERCED
PILATE
RESURRECTION
ROBE
ROMANS
SACRIFICE
SIMON OF CYRENE
SOLDIERS
SON OF GOD
SPEAR
STONE
TEMPLE
THIEVES
THREE DAYS
TOMB