

Sumner Center UMC Newsletter



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

July 2024

Pastor's Notes... "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong." – Ecclesiastes 5:1

Have you ever entered into a place of worship without truly preparing your heart and mind for the encounter with God? Solomon's words in Ecclesiastes 5 resonate deeply, reminding us of the importance of approaching worship with intentionality and reverence.

Solomon urges us to "guard our steps when we go to the house of God." This isn't merely about physical steps but about the pattern of our lives—the decisions we make, the attitudes we hold, and the sincerity of our worship. It's about coming prepared to encounter God in a real and meaningful way.

I want you to understand the imagery of the ancient steps leading up to the Temple in Jerusalem. Each step was intentionally designed to be different, requiring careful attention from those who ascended them. Similarly, our approach to worship should be intentional and deliberate, not haphazard or thoughtless.

When we enter into God's presence, we shouldn't do so casually or without consideration. Rather, we should approach Him with reverence and awe, ready to engage with Him personally and relationally.

Worship isn't merely a ritual or routine; it's a sacred opportunity to encounter the living God. It takes more than prepared leaders; it requires a prepared group of people. That preparation begins long before we enter the doors of the church—it starts with the condition of our hearts throughout the week.

Before entering into a state of worship, prepare your heart, mind, and life to encounter God in a real and transformative way. Our worship should be genuine and pleasing to God, reflecting the sincerity of our devotion and the depth of our love for Him.

Come, beloved let us worship our amazing God Together!

Sunday Worship: In Sanctuary at 11:15am & Sumner Center UMC Facebook Page

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

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

Pastoral Support Team Pastor Bridget Sheely

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

Pastor Jon Marburger

Email: marburgerjon@gmail.com
Cell #507-227-6711



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 or dropping at Church. The light of God remains to shine bright in our community only by your generous giving heart! If you would like to donate a gift, you may send donations to the address above or deliver it in person during Sunday morning worship service

Calendar of Events

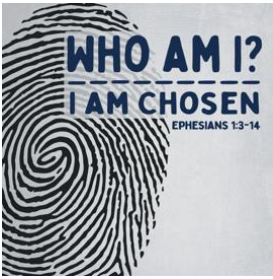
(Subject to change and/or be added to as the need arises)

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7 11:15 am Worship 	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 11:15 am Worship Children's bible study with Kathy Hawkins – 10:30am	15	16	17	18	19	15  AT THE RACINE LIONS DINNER Beginning @4pm
21 11:15am Worship	22	23	24 Wykoff UMC baked potato dinner 4-7pm At communtiy center in Wykoff	25	26	27
28 11:15 am Worship	29	30	31			

- Pastor Jon vacation scheduled: July 17th – July 24th
- Pastor Bridget vacation scheduled: July 25th – July 31st

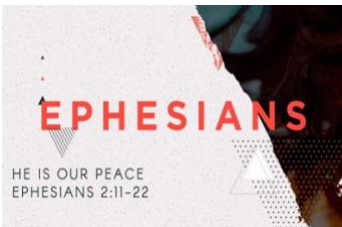
July Worship Schedule



July 7, 2024

Pastor Jon Leading

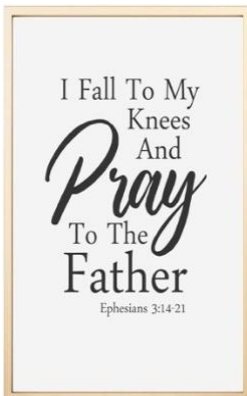
Ephesians is divided neatly into two halves. The first half, chapters 1-3, provides a theological foundation for the faith in some of the most beautiful language in the Epistles. The second half, chapters 4-6, focuses on the ethical dimensions of the faith: How do we live it out? For the next few weeks, we will be walking our way through Paul's writings to the church of Ephesus.



July 14, 2024

Pastor Bridget Leading

Friends, what does it mean to be the dwelling place or a dwelling place for God? How can we present the church and/or the community of faith of something worthy of that designation? In this second chapter of Ephesians, this is the description that we are given of the church: the dwelling place of God. God takes up residence among us. So, as we unite in worship today let us ponder on the question: What does it mean to be God's home?



July 21, 2024

Pastor Bridget Leading

"I pray that you may be strengthened," writes the author of the letter in Ephesians. Paul is praying that we might come to understand something of what is going on here. He prays that we might know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge! So how do you know the unknowable? The only way we can know something as deep and as profound as the love of God that we experience through the grace of Christ is through the witness of the church. How do you understand any one's love? By living it, by sharing it, by talking about it. By giving God thanks for it. Our prayers and our songs should be full of the experience of being loved into wholeness, being "rooted and grounded" in love, so that we can begin to see that all our actions, all our doing in the world is motivated or in response to the love that defines us.



June 28, 2024

Pastor Jon Leading

To declare that there is a life worthy of the gospel is to claim that there is a life that isn't. There are choices to be made in how we live out our faith. And some of those choices reveal whether we are indeed "rooted and grounded in love" or not. Our scripture for this week shows us that a primary sign of the gospel-worthy life is unity. This isn't so much an individual check list of dos and don'ts, but a plumbline by which we measure the health of the whole body. We retain our individuality, of course, as a variety of gifts are needed. But it is the unity of the body that reveals the gospel at work in and among us.

Sumner Center will be collecting school supplies in the month of July



We are asking you to help collect items such as:

Crayons
Colored pencils
Markers
Pencils

Erasers
rulers

Notebooks
Folders

Glue
Glue sticks
Scissors

Backpacks

Pencil boxes

Etc...

**Please drop off your donations at Sumner Center UMC
during the month of July during worship time of 11:15am
or
contact Jean McNamara to drop off you items with her
at: 507-421-0942
email: jeanmac75@gmail.com**

**It's time for VBS!!!
August 16th 5-8 pm (Friday evening)
and**

**August 17th 9am-12 noon (Saturday morning)
Age 3 years old through 5th grade
Where: Dexter UMC**

This is a fantastic Parish event for all our kids!

Science experiments

Mission projects

Story time

Games and fun

Delicious snacks

Story time

Music



Prairieland Parish
Is joining Together for a 6-week book study titled:
“Go Fish”. By author Andy Stanley

Each week we will watch a 12-minute recorded session by Andy Stanley followed by a time of connectional open forum and discussion.

Pastors Jon and Bridget are offering 3 different study groups for your convenience. We hope one of these sessions will work for your schedule.

Group 1 – will meet in-person Monday’s @ 6pm
Led by Pastor Bridget @ Brownsdale UMC

August 19th – August 26th – September 9th – September 16th – September 23rd – September 30th
(note there will be no meeting on September 2th in honor of Labor Day)

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Group 2– will meet in-person Tuesday’s @ 2 pm
Led by Pastor Jon @ United Church of Grand Meadow

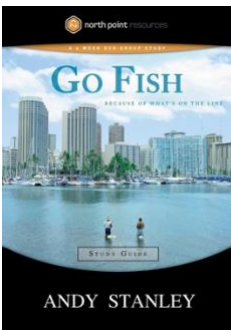
August 20th – August 27th – September 3rd – September 10th
September 17th – September 24th

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Group 3 -will meet via zoom Thursday’s @6:30pm
Led by Pastor Bridget & Pastor Jon

August 22nd – August 29th – September 5th – September 12th – September 19th – September 26th

Meeting ID – 852-0481-0148



You may go on-line to purchase your own book or reserve a book with Pastor Jon or Bridget for \$7.50

Tell Faith-Filled Fish Tales

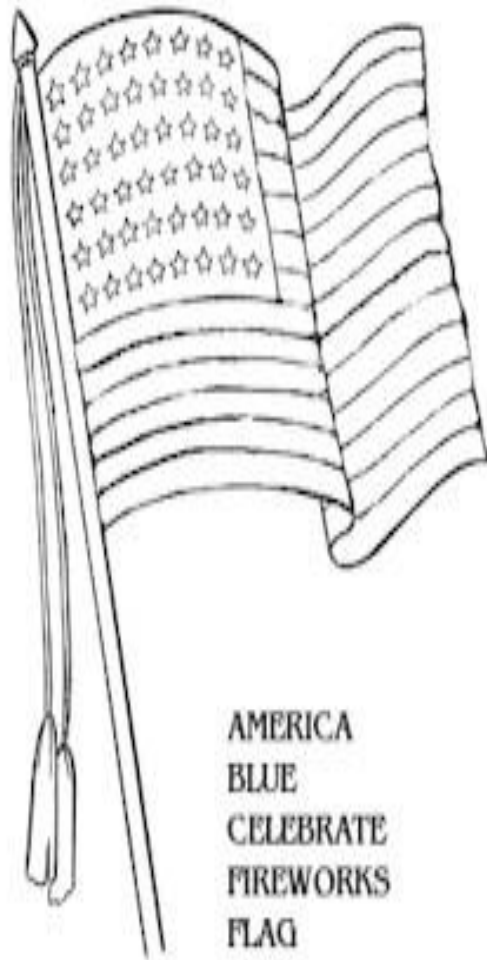
Fishing stories. We’ve all heard them. “It was this big.” “You should have seen the one that got away.” People love to tell stories of their fishing adventures. When it comes to faith, however, most people clam up. Why is it we can’t talk about what God has done in our lives as naturally as we can spin fishing tales?

In this six-session companion study to the “Go Fish” Andy Stanley explores the motivation behind sharing our faith. Discover God’s heart for those who don’t know Him and the role that we can play in introducing others to Him. Along the way you will be equipped with tools that will help you make sharing your faith a natural part of your life.

Story Behind the Book

Andy Stanley, senior pastor of three North Point Ministries campuses, with a cumulative congregation of more than twenty thousand, has had countless conversations with everyday Christians who struggle to share their faith with confidence and ease. Though not everyone has “the gift,” evangelism is something we’re each called to. This curriculum was designed to take the fear out of sharing the good news of Christ, and to help you talk about it as naturally as you would that exciting fishing trip last weekend!

4th of July



AMERICA
BLUE
CELEBRATE
FIREWORKS
FLAG
FOURTH
FREEDOM
HOLIDAY
INDEPENDENCE
JULY
PARADE
PICNIC
RED
STARS
STRIPES
SUMMER
UNITED
WHITE

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