

# Sumner Center UMC Newsletter



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

Fall – to lose the old, to have its proper place. This is just part of the many definitions of what the dictionary says “fall” is. What is crazy is that the dictionary is talking about fall like ‘I fell down’, not fall like ‘the season’ and yet how appropriate the definition is. I love fall!! The color change, the weather change, the smell change.....its about change. But to change means that something must go.

As I look out the window with trees all around my back yard, I see it happening right now. . What was once a tree deep in rich green, changing into a tree with vibrant shades of red and orange, soon becoming a tree that will be empty. Nothing left but the branches. I guess our human side finds that sad and we wish the color stayed, we think the only thing that makes the tree beautiful is the colorful leaves ...why does it have to be so bare but that’s a sign of what is to come.

But for every beginning there is an end and for every ending there is a new beginning. What I find amazing is that those trees still stand. There is beauty in the strength of those branches.

This is such a picture of what Jesus does in our lives. We go through all kinds of seasons. Some are seasons of hard times, some loneliness, seasons of loss or other things such as financial hardships. And those seasons change us. We have seasons that are bright and beautiful and rich in life. Then we have seasons that He allows things in our life to enter so that we don’t remain the same. But through all those seasons He is telling us let go and let Me. Let go and let me show you what I can do. Let go and let me show you what I can teach you... We have to let go to grow a new perspective.

*Is 43: 18-19 “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold I am doing a new thing: now it springs forth , do not perceive it? It will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the dessert.”* Total surrender is hard. But that is because total surrender means giving up control of our hearts, our souls and our minds. We cannot hold on to parts of us and say we have surrendered. God wants all of us. God wants us to let go of the things that are holding us. When we do and those things fall... and new life comes from it. Change happens in us and through us. He reminds us that He is still there standing strong and He still holding us up, much like the tree and the branches. He says let go of it and I will hold you.

We cannot accept the gift of salvation and then do it our way with our limits, holding on to the parts of our life we don’t want to let go. Our relationship with Jesus is worth more than just a part of us...let go and let God! And remember letting go is much like the leaves that will fall this autumn....it is a sign of

## ***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](mailto:bridget@countrywidecarriers.com)  
Cell # 507-438-1352

### **Pastor Jon Marburger**

Email: [marburgerjon@gmail.com](mailto: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)

## September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> Book Study at Grand Meadow United 2 pm	<b>4</b> Parish SPRC Meeting 6:30pm @ Grand Meadow	<b>5</b> Book Study via zoom 6:30pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 11:15 am Worship  	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Book Study at Grand Meadow United 2 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Book Study via zoom 6:30pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 11:15 am Worship 	<b>16</b> Noon Potluck At Brownsdale UMC	<b>17</b> Book Study at Grand Meadow United 2 pm	<b>18</b> Real Hope for the Hungry food pack at Grand Meadow Kick off to confirmation	<b>19</b> Book Study via zoom 6:30pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 11:15 am Worship  	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Book Study at Grand Meadow United 2 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Book Study via zoom 6:30pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 11:15 am Worship 	<b>30</b>					

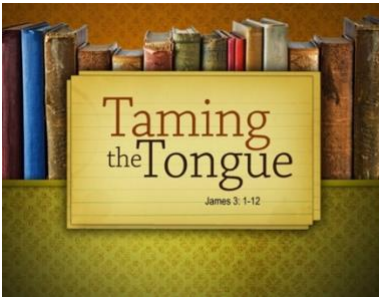
# September Worship Schedule

*faith*  
WITHOUT  
**ACTION**  
**IS DEAD**  
JAMES 2:17

**September 1, 2024**

**Pastor Jon Leading**

How do we proclaim inclusion when we live in a world of making distinctions? Today we are reminded that we are called to speak up and to follow the boldness of James and talk about the lines of respectability that we too often draw, consciously or unconsciously. The purpose of broadening our horizons is not only to be appealing to others, but to increase our own understanding and experience of the world. This enables us to see commonalities and connections and lessens our desire to make distinctions between cultures and peoples. Let's tear down what divides and invite all into the discipleship journey so that we can be forgiven and transformed as one people of God no matter our race, wealth, gender or age.



**September 8, 2024**

**Pastor Bridget Leading**

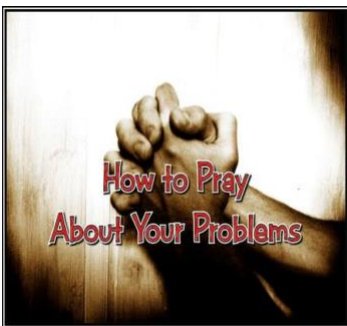
"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Where did that bit of wisdom come from? Certainly not from James. He holds a counter position. "The tongue is a fire," writes James, and "no one can tame the tongue – a restless evil, full of deadly poison." In our normal catalog of sins, gossip is somewhere far down the list. We are much more concerned about other kinds of misbehavior. James would have us reconsider our hierarchy and raise our awareness of the power of words to bring harm to the body of Christ.



**September 15, 2024**

**Pastor Bridget Leading**

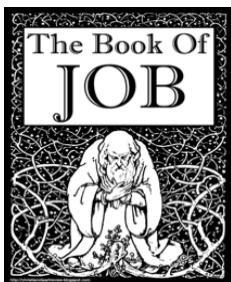
Today as we dive into the book of James, we will notice that he doesn't like all this hanging around waiting for stuff to happen. He wants to get to work. James is a doer, a worker. And he says if we are going to fill ourselves up with something, if we are going to occupy ourselves with something, it might as well be the right things.



**September 22, 2024**

**Pastor Jon Leading**

We think prayer is something we know about. But do we? There are many who hear the common "sending our thoughts and prayers" and believe that it is a way of avoiding taking a stand and making the changes that need to be made. How do we redeem the idea of prayer? James doesn't believe it is ineffectual. This epistle of doing, of putting your faith to work in the world, of living out salvation in ways that impact the world around you, also believes that prayer is a power we need to use. Prayer and action are not opposites but complements in the spectrum of responding in faith.



**September 29, 2024**

**Pastor Jon Leading**

Today we gather to worship as a people who are in this imperfect world and called to love the world as did the one who sent the Christ so that whosoever believes in him might have eternal life. And that truth supersedes all the hurt and pain we may experience as we journey to His Kingdom.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

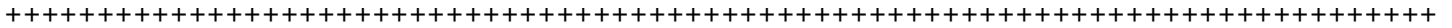
SUNDAY  
SCHOOL  
KICKOFF



Mark Your calendars!

Spread the word to all your friends and family!

Today is the start of another fun, faith filled year of Children's Church featuring stories of Jesus with Kathy Hawkins @ 10:30am



## Farmers' MARKET @SUMC

June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,  
August 7, 21, 28, September 4

(No market 8/14-VBS week at SUMC!)

4-7 pm



*Through the Farmers' Market @SUMC, we hope to*

- increase access to fresh, affordable, nutritious food-
- support local farmers and businesses-
- foster an atmosphere of community fellowship-
- offer sustainable products that respect and protect our environment-

Held rain or shine at Stewartville United Methodist Church  
900 John Wesley Ave NW-Stewartville, MN

For vendor information, contact Kristin Gontea  
SUMC Director of Outreach

kristin.gontea@stewartvilleumc.org 507-533-4625



## Food Pack for Real Hope for the Hungry

Wednesday, September 18th

two shifts

6:00 pm and 7:00 pm ~ United Church Grand Meadow



~ Need Volunteers ~

Confirmation age + may participate in the event

**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.

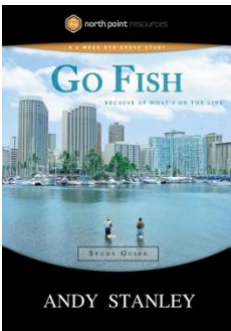
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**Group 1– will meet in-person Tuesday’s @ 2 pm**  
**Led by Pastor Jon @ United Church of Grand Meadow**  
September 3rd – September 10<sup>th</sup>  
September 17<sup>th</sup> – September 24<sup>th</sup>

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**Group 2 -will meet via zoom Thursday’s @6:30pm**  
**Led by Pastor Bridget & Pastor Jon**  
September 5<sup>th</sup> – September 12<sup>th</sup> – September 19<sup>th</sup> – September 26<sup>th</sup>

**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!



# VBS Re-Cap

What a great time all the children had had VBS this year!

**A Special thank you to all our adult and youth volunteers**

Your generous hearts gifted these kids with time spend with old and new friends  
in the name of Jesus Christ!!

Mason Vrieze and his mom Alayna were our games area leaders and they had the kids hoppin, skippin and jumpin with some super fun activies.

Tracy Hoover and Norma Kenning were our head chefs and the kids just loved their spectacular treats

Pastor's Jon and Bridget led story time with stories about Daniel and his friends and feeding the 5000.

Pat Graves of Dexter and Pastor Matt from St. John's Lutheran had the kids mesmerized with the science experiments

And Julie Clayton of Brownsdale and her helpers had our kids crafting for faith

A very special thank you to Kelli Poppenhaugen of Dexter for being our coordinator!





# AUTUMN

## WORD SEARCH



### WORD LIST

ACORN  
AUTUMN  
BONFIRE  
BRISK  
CIDER  
CORN  
CRISP  
EQUINOX  
FALL  
FESTIVAL  
FOLIAGE  
FOOTBALL  
GOURD  
HALLOWEEN  
HARVEST  
HAYSTACK  
JACKET  
LEAVES  
NOVEMBER  
OCTOBER  
PINE CONE  
PUMPKIN  
SCHOOL  
SEPTEMBER  
SQUASH  
SWEATER  
THANKSGIVING  
TREES

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

