

Sumner Center UMC

Newsletter

November 2024



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

Pastors notes...My friends, I offer this prayer of gratitude this holiday season and May God bless you all with his mercy and love.

I thank you, Lord God, for the gift of creation, "for the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies," for the abundance that we have which over and around us lies.

I thank you, Lord God, for the gift of life — my life, the lives of all whom I treasure as family and friends, and the lives of all humanity who I know as my brothers and sisters.

I thank you, Lord God, for the salvation you offer me and all my brothers and sisters through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the glorious communion of our Church.

I thank you, Lord God, for the talents and the strength and for the men and women who serve the Church as dedicated volunteers who do so much to your praise and glory.

I thank you for the presence and support of who gather every week in your Holy Sanctuary who give so generously of their time, treasure, and talents, and who serve as faithful witnesses to others as disciples of Christ.

I thank you for the gift of your Holy Word and for the Sacraments I and my brothers and sisters are so privileged to celebrate and receive.

I thank you, Lord God, for this great country in which we live, for the freedoms we know, for the safety we know, for the rights we exercise.

And as we celebrate Thanksgiving Day I thank you for the food, the fellowship, and fun that all will share around their tables with family and friends. May we always remember that every day is day of thanksgiving for those who believe in you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and may we move from that thankfulness into the mission "to feed the hungry, to give water to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick, to visit the imprisoned, or ransom the captive, and to bury the dead" In Jesus name we pray this day!

Amen.

***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)

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2  Ad Council Meeting 10:00 am
3 11:15 am Worship  All Saints' Day	4 Stewartville Pizza Ranch Evening Community "Little Pantry" Fundraiser	5 	6	7 Confirmation Zoom class 6:30pm	8	9
10 11:15 am Worship  Church Conference @ United Church of Grand Meadow 4 pm	11 	12	13	14	15	16
17 11:15 am Worship 	18	19	20	21 Confirmation Zoom class 6:30pm	22	23
24 am Worship 	25	26	27 Prairieland Parish Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service @ Zion UMC, Sargeant 6:30pm	28 	29	30

For those with interest in donating monies or gifts for the children of Fillmore County. This year's letter to the church has a list of specific guidelines.

1. If buying presents for a child, you must spend at least \$50 per child.
2. Cash donations of any amount are welcome
3. An additional extra donation of NEW items is welcome (Toys, Teen items, winter clothing & boots, clothing in all sizes, blankets, books, pajamas, board/card games, gift cards).

If you wish to participate, please respond to Jean McNamar by Nov. 10th so that she may let the folks at "Christmas in Fillmore County" know. If donating money, make your checks out to the church with the memo notation of "Angel Tree".



November Worship Schedule



November 3, 2024

Pastor Bridget Leading

All Saints Day is one of those moments where we celebrate and remember those who have made the journey or who have taken the next step. We remember them because they are still a part of us, shaping us, mentoring us – maybe not in a direct way, but in a real way. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day. In a journal entry from November 1, 1767, Wesley calls it "a festival I truly love." On All Saints Day, we recognize that we are part of a giant choir singing the same song. It is the song Jesus taught his disciples; a tune that has resonated for more than 2,000 years; a melody sung in glory and on the earth. Our great privilege is to add our voices to this chorus.



November 10, 2024

Pastor Bridget Leading

Today Jesus is asking us to keep a vision of the kin-dom before us always, to look beyond this moment—for good or for all—and see what God has in store for creation. We are not asked to ignore the moment; this isn't a call to pie-in-the-sky blindness. Instead, we live in this moment; we work in this moment, because we know what is coming; we know the promise and that gives us courage to keep going forward, even when it seems as if we are hitting a wall and not accomplishing anything. We worship a God of peace when there is no peace. We act as brothers and sisters of one loving family, even when we are divided and filled with hate.



November 17, 2024

Pastor Jon Leading

Our Gospel reading today is not an easy one. You see, Jesus did not hesitate to talk of the end times. And as a matter of fact, in addition to what we have from Jesus today, we also acknowledge that God called on John to give him a vision to write what we know as Revelation. The truth of the end times is not mere speculation, but has an intensely practical purpose to strengthen, reassure, and nerve believers as we face the impending woes. Better that we know that something is coming than to be caught unaware. Right?



November 24, 2024

Pastor Jon Leading

Today we jump from Marks Gospel over to the Gospel of John. Today we listen to a brief yet surprisingly profound conversation between a prisoner in chains and his jailer holding all the keys, and you can't help but wonder where the power resides.

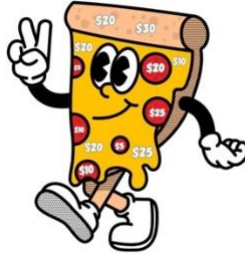
November Prairieland Parish Events

Monday, November 4th

Come to the Pizza Ranch in Stewartville

To support our area "Little Pantry" food shelf mission

LET'S RAISE SOME DOUGH



THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

All evening tips will go to funding this great local Mission Project!

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Annual Charge Conference

Our District Superintendent, Michelle Hargrave, will be leading A Cluster Charge Conference on:

Date: Sunday, November 10th

Location: United Church of Grand Meadow

Time: 4:00pm

Together we will enjoy worship, fellowship, and sharing
Several churches in our area will be attending which will give us all
opportunity to connect with each other.

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Prairieland Parish wide Worship Service Opportunity



Hosted by: Zion UMC, Sargeant, MN

Date: 27th.

Time: 6:30pm

1 Timothy 4:4-5

"For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer."

All are invited to come and give thanks to the One whom has blessed us in so many ways!

Prairieland Parish

Is joining Together for a 4-week book study titled:

“The Christmas Letters” by Magrey DeVega

Each week we will watch a 10-minute Video followed by a time of connectional open forum and discussion.

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We will meet in-person Tuesday’s @ 2 pm

@ United Church of Grand Meadow

November 26th, December 3rd, December 10th, December 17th

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**Zoom Study Opportunity
to be led by Bishop Lanette Plambeck**

In this study, United Methodists across the Dakotas and Minnesota will gather via zoom on Tuesday Evenings with Bishop Lanette to dive into Romans, 1 John, Philippians and Colossians and see what they reveal about the miracle that God became human in the birth of Jesus.

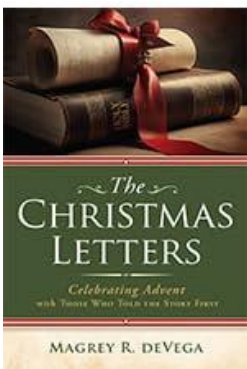
**Weekly discussions will be held via Zoom on Tuesday evenings,
Nov. 26-Dec. 17, 7-8:15 p.m.**

Mark your calendars for this is a great opportunity to join with our Bishop and others!

The Zoom link will be provided @ minnesotaumc.org as the first discussion date draws near

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You may go on-line to purchase your own book or reserve a book with Pastor Jon or Bridget for \$13.50



You may or may not know the story of your birth. If you do, there is something special about hearing your origin story again and remembering how it all began for you. That’s why we observe Advent: to celebrate how it all began for us.

In *The Christmas Letters*, Magrey deVega invites you to hear about the miracle of Christ’s birth from those who first told the story. The letters in the New Testament, known as the Epistles, contain the first attempts by the church to understand and celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation.

They point us to the origins of what we believe about Jesus, fully human and fully divine. By spending time with these holy, ancient words this Advent, you’ll come to know the meaning of Christ’s coming like never before.

Together we will read the New Testament letters, Romans, 1 John, Philippians, and Colossians as our Christmas letters of the season and find within them an invitation from God to deepen our understanding of the Incarnation and embrace a fuller commitment to Jesus Christ



Season's Greeting faith family members!

Sumner Center UMC has had a wonderful faith filled year! We have continued to share in the Lord's call that **ALL people are children of God and are welcome to our weekly worship services at 11:15am with Children's Church at 10:30am.** Our prayer is that you will join us each week to sing praises to our Lord, offer our prayers of Thanksgiving and grow in our faith together through the power of His Word!

Sumner Center UMC has also been very busy with our focus on mission opportunities such as but not limited to:

- Supporting our Local Food Shelf of Fillmore County each month.
- Collecting School Supplies for our amazing Fillmore County Children
- Donating "Birthday Bags" to the Racine Food Shelf filled with all the supplies to make a birthday cake.
- Operation Angel Tree
- Holding a bake sale in December with all donations going to our local care center active departments

Along with supporting these great missions, we also have extended our connectional ministry with Prairieland Parish by linking together for Wednesday Evening Lenten Services serving a simple meal of Soup and sandwiches, VBS, confirmation, Book Studies, and working together to feed the hungry by packing over 14,000 meals for Real Hope for the Hungry organization. These meals will be sent around the world to those in need.

Friends, with the Advent and Christmas season approaching we, your faith family, thought it a perfect time to reach out to all our dear faith family members, such as yourself, with an invitation of love and prayers for each and everyone connected to Sumner Center UMC and ask for your commitment to "Coming Home" for Christmas.

Advent brings us together by preparing our hearts for the hope of unity, joy of togetherness, peace for our community and beyond, and sharing our love for each other and our Lord.

There is no better way to celebrate this Christmas season than with great friends and the power of Jesus Christ teachings!

Each Sunday morning as the church gathers in worship at 11:15am will you join your friends in a faith filled service of anticipation and celebration of the one whom we love and who calls us His beloved?

The Spirit is alive and strong at Sumner Center UMC, but we will not be complete as a church family without YOU! Please, will you commit to Coming Home to be with your faith family in this most precious season?

Let us live in the words from the author of Hebrews 10:25 *"Brothers and Sisters let us not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near."*

Shalom to you!

"And may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7)

Sumner Center Faith Community

Thanksgiving



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|--------------|------------|---------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Thanksgiving | pilgrim | pumpkin | turkey | dressing | cranberries |
| pilgrim | indian | autumn | pie | cornucopia | feast |
| mayflower | november | stuffing | rolls | cornbread | drumstick |
| gratitude | thankful | Massachusetts | Plymouth | squash | wishbone |
| yams | grandma | grandpa | uncle | aunt | cousin |
| family | mother | father | brother | sister | carve |
| gobble | traditions | fall | leftovers | acorns | |