



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

## February 2025

### **Love**

By Kathy Hawkins

Parents of a newborn baby have glistening eyes  
Filled with hope and dreams for what ahead lies  
A toddling child with a face filled with cookie crumbs  
Makes the grandparents chuckle, smile, and hum  
A sarcastic joke or teasing by someone in their teens  
Makes those around feel accepted like a pair of well-worn jeans

The young adults finding themselves in life  
Rarely complete their path without a little bit of strife  
As we age and become the ones to need a hand  
We learn the little things have actually been quite grand

The love inside for parents and child at all ages  
Could fill a book of love on oh so many pages  
My heart is full of love from morning to night  
Go ahead and tell them or give a hug so tight  
Our father in heaven shares his love for all  
No matter how thick we make that wall  
Take a moment each and every single day  
To thank God for showing us how to find love along the way

February is a beautiful month right before lent to center our thoughts on this crazy little thing called "Love".

Today is also the perfect time to spend time with the One who calls us His Beloved by reading the wonderful words of the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians Chapter 13 otherwise known as the Love Chapter.

For Paul gives us specific instructions on what unconditional love looks like and how we are to share this love with others as he shares that... *4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

As Kathy wrote in her beautiful poem...

Take a moment each and every single day  
To thank God for showing us how to find love along the way

**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**

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**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.

# Calendar of Events

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

## February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> <b>Ad</b> <b>Council</b> <b>Meeting</b> <b>10 am</b>
<b>2</b> 11:15 am Worship  With communion	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 11:15 am Worship 	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 	<b>13</b> Confirmation Zoom class 6:30pm	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 11:15 am Worship 	<b>17</b>  <b>Brownsdale</b> <b>UMC Noon</b> <b>Potluck</b> <b>Dinner</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Parish SPRC Meeting @ Grand Meadow 6:30pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 
<b>23</b> 11:15 am Worship 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Confirmation Zoom class 6:30pm	<b>28</b>	

# February Worship Schedule



February 2, 2025

Pastor Bridget Leading

## COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE

*In 1663 Richard Alleine, a Puritan, published *Vindiciae Pietatis: or, "A Vindication of Godliness in the Greater Strictness and Spirituality of It"*. In 1753, it was again published in John Wesley's *A Christian Library*. Wesley found the service rich and meaningful. The liturgy currently used begins with the Invitation which is taken directly from Wesley's service of 1780.*



February 9, 2025

Pastor Jon Leading

Today we will hear Luke's story of Jesus calling the first disciples which is unique among the synoptic Gospels. While Mark and Matthew speak of Jesus walking along the Sea of Galilee and abruptly calling Simon, Andrew, James, and John to follow him, only Luke tells the story of a miraculous catch of fish preceding the call. Our text today offers rich possibilities for reflecting on how God calls ordinary people to discipleship and mission. After all, there is nothing the slightest bit extraordinary about Simon Peter and his fishing partners. They are simple fishermen, and they are simply doing what they did every day. They are minding their own business, cleaning their nets after a long, particularly

discouraging night of work, when Jesus comes along, enters into their utterly normal, mundane lives and changes everything.



February 16, 2025

Pastor Jon Leading

Some say that happiness, according to the world around us, depends on 'happenings'. If things go according to what I have planned, then I am happy. But if the opposite is the case, happiness disappears. It is a happiness that comes and goes, it doesn't last. Jesus here is talking about happiness based on God's profound love for us. He is teaching us that if we seek happiness for happiness' sake, we will always be disappointed. However, if we seek God and his kingdom, happiness will be a reality regardless of the circumstances.



February 23, 2025

Pastor Bridget Leading

The command to "love your neighbor as yourself" means not only to love them as much as you love yourself, but to love them as if they are yourself. We don't live according to the flesh, our "self" defined by and confined to our physical bodies, but according to the Spirit: even though we appear in separate bodies we are all one, in one spirit. You and your neighbor are part of the same body. To love our neighbor is to love ourselves. Today we look at the teaching of Jesus in Luke 6.27-38 in which Jesus lays out the heart of his message: God loves us perfectly—"God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked"—and we are to have that same love for others, even for our enemies. And we extend this teaching by Paul's words to the people of Corinth - through 1 Corinthians 15. 35-50 where he tells of the greatest love God has blessed us with, eternal life. Paul says we are raised in a resurrection body which is different from our biological body. But, as with a seed, the first body must die for the second to come. What we sow does not come to life unless it dies; it is sown in weakness and raised in power. To live a life of love is the message and the promise is that we will receive the power of love through salvation

# February Prairieland Parish Events

## BROWNSDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Community Noon Lunch  
Monday, February 17th  
12 O'clock – Noon



Bring your friends! Serving:  
hot dishes - Salads - Desserts - Beverages  
FREE WILL DONATIONS

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### Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> - Parish SPRC Meeting

Location: United Church of Grand Meadow  
Time: 6:30pm

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### Mark your calendars! Lent is coming up in March....

Prairieland Parish will be gathering as Christ's community each week as we rotate Sanctuaries – There will be A light meal starting at 6pm Followed by an informal worship/study. This is a beautiful opportunity for us to journey though the Lenten Season together by uniting as a Parish and accepting each other's invitation to praise His Name in each other's Holy Sanctuaries



*“Lent is a season in which we especially focus on examining our hearts, confessing our sins, and reflecting on the significance of Christ’s death.”*

See our full schedule and study information below



# Lent




**Ash Wednesday – March 5, 2025**  
**Hosted by: Sumner Center UMC**  
**7 pm - No Meal served for this Service.**

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**Week 1 - Weds – March 12th**  
**6:00pm meal served**  
**Hosted by: Zion UMC, Sargeant**

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**Week 2 – Weds – March 19th**

**6:00pm meal served**  
**Hosted by: Racine UMC**

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**Week 3 - Weds - March 26th**  
**6:00pm meal served**  
**Hosted by: Brownsdale UMC**

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**Week 4 – Weds – April 2nd**  
**6:00pm meal served**

**Hosted by: Wykoff UMC**

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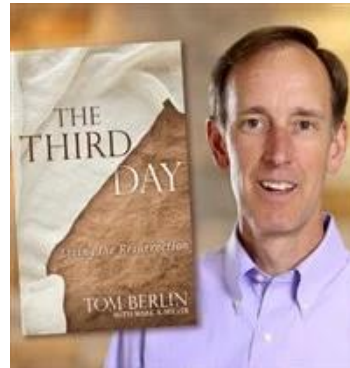
**Week 5 – Weds – April 9th**  
**6:00pm meal served**

**Hosted by: United Church of Grand Meadow**

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**Good Friday – April 18, 2025**  
**7:00 pm**

**Hosted by: Dexter UMC**  
**No Meal served for this Service**



## 2025 Lenten Study: 'The Third Day' by Bishop Tom Berlin

Bishop Lanette Plambeck and the Minnesota Conference Appointive Cabinet will host a Lenten study around the book "The Third Day." We as a parish will follow along with this weekly study as we gather each Wednesday evening for a brief light meal followed by a short video and discussion time in sanctuary.

*In The Third Day: Living the Resurrection,* Tom Berlin uses his gifts of storytelling and understanding the Scriptures to connect the reader to the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on new life and redemption rather than loss.

So, let us join Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection. This study traces events around these characters, along with Paul and the disciples at Emmaus, and how the resurrection transforms their lives.

If you are interested in purchasing a book for your own personal weekly meditation you may do so by ordering online at: Amazon, Christianbooks.com or Cokesbury.com

You do not need to purchase a book to join the Wednesday evening gatherings.

# Camp Minnesota prepares for unforgettable summer

**Swimming. Campfires. Archery. Crafts. Horseback riding. High ropes.**

**Registration for summer camp is open on the conference website [www.minnesotaumc.org](http://www.minnesotaumc.org).**

There is camping opportunities for all ages! Children and Adults!!

“2025 is going to be a really exciting year,” Each campsite has new programming, new activities, and fresh spins on camping favorites!

Camp Minnesota comprises Camp Koronis in Paynesville, Northern Pines Camp in Park Rapids, and Camp KoWaKan near Ely. Last year, 123 Minnesota United Methodist churches sent kids to camp, and 950 children and youth had a life-changing camp experience.

What’s new?

Koronis has a week-long camp designed for teens, and each participant chooses a specialty to focus on that week. In addition to past specialty favorites like horses and water skiing/wakeboarding, this year they can opt for “castles and cabins.”

“This specialty combines the popularity of character-based role-playing games with all that summer camp has to offer,” said Ziegler. “Our experienced game-masters are ready to guide our campers into an imaginary world of adventure, treachery, and triumph as they work together to complete the quest set before them.”

Meanwhile, at Northern Pines, two of last year’s camps are expanding: Books and Crafts Camp, which has historically been for youth in grades five through eight, now has an option for high schoolers as well. Last year, those campers knitted with large needles, made paper using items in nature, and lots of time to read and then discuss what they’d read. Additionally, Night Owls Camp will be back for a second year and will be four nights vs. last year’s three. These campers stay up late to explore the stars, the sky, and the sounds at night, and play some games in the dark. Northern Pines is also adding bocce ball to its roster of camp activities, which already includes archery, axe throwing, gaga ball, volleyball, and swimming.

Camp Minnesota offers all the traditional camp activities with some faith-building components—like worship, Bible study, and song—layered on top.

Dan Ziegler noted that one of the special things about camp is that the experience is deliberately “unplugged.” “Kids won’t see computers, cell phones, or electronics at camp,” he said. “Instead, we play games side-by-side in the grass under blue skies, we develop new friendships face-to-face, we swim and canoe in the sparkling natural waters of the lake, we cook many of our meals together outside over glowing embers, we sing accompanied by acoustic guitars and enveloped by the light of tiki-torches and the campfire, we learn firsthand from the faith stories told by staff and counselors, and we fall asleep to the sound of the crickets and the soft light of the moon. Good things happen when we unplug and allow reality to break through!”

Northern Pines has 44 acres of old growth forest. This summer, cabin groups at that site will create their own unique space in the woods where they’ll have small group time, Bible discussions, and possibly do some crafts. At Koronis, campers spend most nights in rustic cabins. But “pathway” campers will trek deep into the forest to spend one night in a yurt. They will make “smookies” (s’mores with fudge-striped cookies) at night and cook breakfast over the open fire before returning to camp in the morning.

Both Ziegler and Hobson are excited for the summer and care deeply about campers having a meaningful, fun, and faith-building experience.

**Don’t miss out—register for camp today! And remember there are camping experience for people of all ages. Even Adults!**



# VALENTINE

word search



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

WORD LIST:

VALENTINE  
 HEART  
 LOVE  
 FLOWERS  
 CUPID  
 FRIENDSHIP  
 KISS  
 SWEETHEART  
 TRUE LOVE

COUPLE  
 CHOCOLATE  
 CANDY HEARTS  
 FEBRUARY  
 PINK  
 HUG

CARD  
 DIAMOND  
 RING  
 TEDDY BEAR  
 ROSES  
 FAMILY  
 ROMANCE  
 SWEET  
 AFFECTION