

# Sumner Center UMC Newsletter

## July 2025



Pastors Notes...

Summertime is crazy. It could be tempting to put off Bible reading until some sort of "September Kickoff." Don't do it. Get in the Word and spend some time hanging out with your Heavenly Father!

Today, I want to share a simple study you can use to engage with God through His Word.

### **Study for July: A Walk Thru Proverbs**

July has 31 days. Proverbs has 31 chapters.

Read one a day (I like simple math.)

Proverbs is filled with wisdom, challenge, and encouragement. Each chapter will only take about 4-6 minutes to read. So... here's what I encourage you to do.

1. Read the full chapter in the morning as your day begins.
2. Identify 1-3 verses that encourage, inspire, or challenge you.
3. Set a reminder on your phone to look at those verses three times throughout your day.
4. Read those verses one more time (or even the whole chapter) right before going to bed.

I don't know about you, but I've been seeing a lot of spiritual warfare around me lately. Chaos, divisions, anger. In times like these, we need to RUN to God in prayer. He is the answer. He is the Author of peace, unity and love. And there is power in the name of Jesus!

May you find peace in the words of our Grace filled Lord and have a Happy July!

**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**

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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 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 	5
6 11:15 am Worship 	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 11:15 am Worship	14	15	16	17	18	15 Parish wide VBS Worship Service @ Dexter UMC 6:30pm
20 No worship service today!	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 11:15 am Worship	28	29	30	31		

# July Worship Schedule



**July 6, 2025**

**Pastor Jon Leading**

This is the week that once again we pause and celebrate our freedom as a nation and the Independence and Liberty that we now enjoy. Today, we not only take a look at the Liberty we enjoy as Americans, but greater than that, we continue to take a look at the Liberty that was made possible through the death of our Savior, Jesus Christ on the Cross.

All of the blessings we enjoy as Christians could not have taken place without our Savior who bled and died and rose again 3 short days later so that we could experience new life and freedom spiritually

The Parable of the Good Samaritan  
Luke 10: 25-37



**July 13, 2025**

**Pastor Bridget Leading**

How often do we really pay attention to the world around us? Whether we are going to work, or to school; whether we are running our errands or even trying to get in some exercise, do we really look around us to see the state of the world, our nation, or our neighborhood? What do you see?

Where have you seen the handiwork of God?. When Jesus talked about God at work, he talked about seeds planted in the ground and yeast hidden in the dough and pearls tucked away somewhere. We have to look harder and look deeper. We have to interpret as we see, understand as we look.

## “Christmas In July”

Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> – Parish wide Candlelight Worship Service.

6:30pm @ Dexter UMC

This special worship service will be in leu of our normal Sunday morning service

**There will be no service on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>!**



**July 27, 2025.**

**Pastor Jon Leading**

Often, we are told that prayer is one of the most important things a Christian can do. It is also one of the most powerful tools we have. Through prayer we can talk to God, ask questions, and know God, ourselves.. The Lord's Prayer is a guiding framework for the practice of prayer.

It is one of the greatest examples given to us by Jesus in the Bible. This is just one example of how to pray and an excellent place to begin if you are unsure of how to pray. You see, when we understand how to pray through the Lord's Prayer, we have a greater understanding of how to pray in general because each section of the prayer teaches us about God and also teaches us one of the best ways to pray

# **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**

**Notebooks  
Folders**

**Backpacks  
Pencil boxes**

**Erasers  
rulers**

**Glue  
Glue sticks  
Scissors**

**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](mailto:jeanmac75@gmail.com)**

**Your participation is greatly appreciated!**

# It's time for VBS!!!

July 18th<sup>h</sup> 5-8 pm (Friday evening) and July 19th 9am-12 noon (Saturday morning)  
Age 3 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Where: Dexter UMC

## "Christmas In July"

### Mission project

We will be collecting school supplies for the area schools. Your Donations for this mission may be brought to the Saturday Evening Worship Service.



Story time. Games and fun

Delicious snacks. Music

Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm @ Dexter UMC

Prairieland Parish Candlelight Worship Service.

All Church members and community members are invited!

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## 2025 Annual Conference highlights summary

About 500 of us from across Minnesota came together in St. Cloud to worship, learn, discern our shared future, and celebrate what God is doing through us. Drawing on 1 John 4, our theme was "Created to Love Boldly." We were reminded that God loves us beyond measure and inspired to share God's love in a hurting world.

• **Episcopal Address:** In her Episcopal Address, Bishop Lanette Plambeck urged us to lean into "the reckless, unrelenting grace of God" even when the world around us seems bent on despair. She reflected on the word "hallelujah"—which is found only in Psalms and Revelation; it's used not as individual praise but as a collective call to praise the Lord. She invited us to "raise our hallelujah" as a form of sacred resistance against fear and false gospels, as a testimony to what God has done, and as a commitment to what God will do through us. She encouraged us to be a people who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

• **Teaching Sessions:** We heard two teaching sessions from Rev. Dr. Tim Eberhart, a theologian and professor at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. He said climate disruption, political division, spiritual fatigue, and community breakdown are colliding and amplifying one another. He didn't sugarcoat the realities of our time, but he did bring hope. He talked about how trees survive and regenerate after a fire. Some have seeds that actually need fire to break their dormancy; the fire opens and releases the seeds so they can begin



to germinate and be the bearers of new life. He invited us to look for those “fire seeds”—tiny sparks of renewal that survive even the most devastating burn—and he identified five: active discipleship, social holiness, lifelong learning, radical equality, and a bold, embodied belief that God is love.

• **New Vision and Desired Outcome:** The Minnesota Conference adopted for itself the powerful new vision statement that The United Methodist Church unveiled in May: “The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.” Our vision flows out from our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

• **Celebration of Life in Ministry:** We honored and thanked 15 clergy entering retirement, and we celebrated one pastor ordained as a deacon, five ordained as elders, five commissioned as provisional pastors (a step on the way to ordination), one recognized as an elder in full connection from another denomination, and five authorized to serve as local pastors in the congregations and ministry areas in which they are appointed.

**Love Offering for Missions:** Each year, churches in the Minnesota Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with Annual Conference. As of the end of Annual Conference, churches across the state had together given \$57,615. This year’s Love Offering recipients are: United Methodist-related Africa University for student scholarships (30%), Immigration Law and Justice Network (30%), OC Ministries (which ministers to children around the world), and Midwest Mission (a depot in the United Methodist Committee on Relief supply network). We are invited to continue to give throughout the remainder of 2025.

• **Legislation:** Hundreds of voting members in attendance at Annual Conference approved the majority of legislation under consideration, including: a resolution calling on all congregations to commit to taking climate action by creating or strengthening a “green team” for action in four areas each year—worship, education, practice, and advocacy

A resolution encouraging all congregations to examine our church property deeds and personal and business property deeds, as well as the books in our municipalities and counties, for discriminatory language/laws and have them removed

A resolution that publicly opposes the U.S. presidential administration’s proposed plan for the U.S. to “take over” and own” the Gaza Strip and calls for the Palestinian people to have a voice in their own destiny and a right to their land

A resolution affirming that withholding humanitarian aid to those in need is antithetical to the Gospel message and opposing the actions of the U.S. government to withhold aid from the people of Gaza

• **Laity Session:** At the Laity Session, the Minnesota Conference’s three co-lay leaders reminded lay people from across the state that we are all called to ministry through our baptism, and there are many ways to use our individual gifts to share God’s love and proclaim the good news of Jesus. They are in the process of establishing a conference Board of Lay Ministry to equip and enable lay persons to be in mission and ministry in all aspects of life. We can stay tuned for opportunities to participate!

• **General Conference 2028:** We celebrated that the Minnesota Conference has been selected to host General Conference, The United Methodist Church’s top lawmaking assembly, in 2028.

# INDEPENDENCE DAY

## WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



**HAPPY 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY!**

The words appear UP,  
DOWN, BACKWARDS, and  
DIAGONALLY.  
Find and circle each word.

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

AMERICA

ANTHEM

BARBECUE

BLUE

CAMPING

CELEBRATE

DEMOCRACY

FIREWORKS

FLAG

FREEDOM

GAMES

HOLIDAY

INDEPENDENCE

LIBERTY

MONUMENTS

NATION

PARADE

PARTY

PICNIC

RED

STARS

STATES

STRIPES

SUMMER

UNCLE SAM

UNITED

VACATION

WHITE

