

Sumner Center UMC Newsletter



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

October 2026

Autumn's Return

By Kathy Hawkins

The chill is back in the autumn air
Hoping the ragweed allergy does not flare

Some are praying for any possible drops of rain
While others have severely overflowing lanes

With a day of sunshine warming your face
Wanting these gorgeous days to slow the pace

Farmers out in the fields of beans and corn
Anxiously waiting to get started in the early morn

A tractor or combine out amongst the fields of beauty
God's faithful servants doing the farmers duty

Whether it be hungry human or critter they are feeding
This is the Autumn work after the Spring seeding

As the seasons change hold close to your heart
God is our companion right from the start



Sunday Worship:
In Sanctuary at 11:00 am
&

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
Also via Venmo and Paypal

Pastoral Support Team
Pastor Jon Marburger
Email: marburgerjon@gmail.com
Cell # 1-507-227-6711

Tony Derhaag
Email: derfahren@aol.com
Cell # 1-612-968-3811

Grace and Peace in the name of



Jesus
Christ: If
you have
items you
would like to
be
published in
the
newsletter,
please

contact Jean McNamara or Kathy Hawkins 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)

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 11:00 am Worship 	5	6	7	8 Wykoff Clothing Drive COLLECTION	9 Wykoff Clothing Drive COLLECTION	10
11 11:00 am Worship	12	13	14	15 Brownsdale noon lunch	16	17
18 11:00 am Worship	19	20	21 Wykoff Clothing Drive DISTRIBUTION	22	23	24 Wykoff Clothing Drive DISTRIBUTION
25 11:00 am Worship	26	27	28 Wykoff Clothing Drive DISTRIBUTION	29	30	31 Racine Community Pizza Halloween 



Message from Pastor Tony

Thoughts for October.

This is the time of year when the harvest will be well under way. Maybe some will have the harvest completed by the end of the month. Harvest time can be bountiful, average, or short of expectations. As the church nears the end of the church calendar year (this year Thanksgiving ends the church calendar year with advent being the beginning of the new church calendar), October can also be the month where the upcoming year is budgeted for and planned out. Think about where the church is at as we near the end of the year. Is the situation in the church bountiful, average, or short of expectations? Do you have a vision for where the church could be focusing on. If you do, then talk it over with your church council and SPRC committee members. The more information submitted, the more ideas can develop.

Failing to prepare, is preparing to fail. With Pastor Jon looking at retiring in just over a year from full-time pastoral leadership, what is the course the church will take after he steps back? Christ had a vision and a plan to lead and then step away. Christ took the time to mold and form the apostles into true leaders. They were not perfect, but two thousand years later, the church of God remains. We do not have the divine knowledge that God has, but we do have the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us when we ask for that guidance.

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth, length, height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly for more than all we can ask or imagine.

These words are from Ephesians 3:16-20. Act on them if you sense God's spirit.

Pastor Tony
Co-pastor of the Prairieland Parish



Message from Pastor Jon

On September 16th, for two hours and two shifts, volunteers gathered at United Church in Grand Meadow to pack food for the organization Real Hope for the Hungry. I do not have a total, but I am guessing slightly under a 100 volunteers participated. We packed an all-time high of 15,120 meals which will be sent to an orphanage in Ukraine. In the years we have participated in this feeding program, we have prepared just under 115,000 meals. People who might have otherwise gone hungry have been given simple and nutritious meals.

The mood for the food pack was upbeat and energetic. A wide age range of volunteers from youth to older adults participated. Participants placed the food ingredients into sealed bags which were weighed and placed into shipment boxes. Working together as teams, the process of packing the food is quite streamlined. This is the reason why thousands of bags of food are able to be prepared in only several hours of work. A number of churches used the food pack as the kickoff activity for their Confirmation programs.

The food is sent to where the need is greatest unless safety concerns or other prohibiting dynamics cause otherwise. We have sent food to places like Sudan, Haiti, Venezuela, the Ukraine, and even in the United States after a devastating hurricane on the East Coast. We truly are able to provide a worldwide impact by partnering with Real Hope for the Hungry which is locally based out of Austin Minnesota. You can learn more about this wonderful organization by checking out their website.

Mission work does not need to be complicated. Locally volunteering and supporting things like Real Hope for the Hungry can make a true impact for Christ and His Kingdom. I would like to send a heartfelt word of appreciation to everyone who helped us have another successful year supporting this wonderful mission and ministry. A true difference has been made!

Blessings,
Pastor Jon Marburger
Co-pastor of the Prairieland Parish

From Carol Brown, Real Hope for the Hungry:

Food has become the most urgent need. With Russia's continued strikes on warehouses, some estimate that up to 90% of modern food logistics and storage capacity has been destroyed or severely disrupted. Orphan Grain Train (OGT) rice meals (these are the meals that you helped package), beans, packaged goods, and all non-perishable food items are incredibly valuable, especially as winter approaches.



October Worship Schedule

October 4, 2026

Pastor Tony Leading / Betsey is pianist

October 4th gospel passage is the wicked tenants, which has the landowner leasing his land to tenants. When the time for harvest arrives, the landowner sends his slaves to collect his portion from the harvest. But the tenants stone, kill and beat the slaves.

October 11, 2026

Pastor Tony Leading / Betsey is pianist

October 11th gospel passage is about the wedding banquet where the king sends out his slaves to invite people to the wedding. People invited refused to come. The king then sent more slaves to express to the people what they are missing out on. Again, the people refused to come. But some people got upset with being asked again and seized the slaves and killed them.

October 18, 2026

Jim Hawkins Leading / Margaret is pianist

October 18th is Laity Sunday. The scripture reading will be from 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Where Paul gives thanks to all who spread the word of God. Laity will conduct the service.

October 25, 2026

Pastor Jon Leading / Kathy is pianist

October 25th gospel passage is about the greatest commandment where the Pharisees ask Jesus what is the greatest commandment. After Jesus answers, Jesus then asks the Pharisees a question which they cannot answer.



EMMAUS Walk

So just what is the “Walk to Emmaus” all about? No. It’s not a physical walk, but more of a spiritual journey along with Jesus on his walk to Emmaus. There are many devoted people to help guide you on the “walk.” My personal favorite time at the walk (Denise) was hearing the stories of those who have faced challenges in their life and how they overcame them with Jesus’ help. After hearing their individual stories throughout the weekend, we met in small groups to reflect. Our table of five was always the same, so we got to know each other well.

The accommodations are in a dorm-like setting with private rooms and bathrooms, and the food is fantastic. It is a weekend of music, laughter, sharing, and a few lovely surprises along the way.

If you are interested in finding out more, those at the Grand Meadow church who have attended are Tracy, Kim, and Ken. At Dexter you can talk to Denise. Sumner Center’s attendees have been Jean, Jim, and Kathy. I know we would all encourage you to attend. It is a time commitment but goes quickly and is very rewarding!

Dates are October 8-11 for the women’s walk and March 11-14 for the men. Tracy, from Grand Meadow, will be helping with this year’s women’s walk, so there will be a familiar face among the many.

*Stop in to fill your stomachs
with some free pizza before you
hit the streets for Halloween!!*



Halloween Community Pizza
Racine United Methodist Church
October 31 ~ 5-7pm



Brownsdale United Methodist

Located east of intersection Hwy 56 & Pleasant Street Downtown Brownsdale

Community Noon Lunch

Thursday, October 15th

12 O'clock – Noon

Come One – Come All!

Bring your friends!

Serving: hot dishes

Salads - Desserts

Beverages

FREE WILL DONATIONS



Any questions you may contact Wendy at 507-438-3006



**Wykoff United Methodist
Church
CLOTHING DRIVE
and
GIVEAWAY
2026**

WYKOFF COMMONS

(Former School Building, 201 W. Bartlett Street)
Clothing pickup available - Call 507-346-1056

COLLECTION

Thursday, Oct. 8

3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 9

1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Wykoff Commons

DISTRIBUTION

Saturday, Oct. 24 & Saturday, Oct. 31

10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 21 & 28

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

October Word Find



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

ASHER
BENJAMIN
BILHAH
CANAAN
DAN
DINAH
EGYPT
EPHRAIM
GAD
GOSHEN
ISSACHAR
JACOB
JOSEPH
JUDAH
LEAH
LEVI
MANASSEH
NAPHTALI
RACHEL
REUBEN
SIMEON
ZEBULUN
ZILPAH

