

Sumner Center UMC Newsletter

June 2026

The summer solstice marks the peak of solar light. I find it a perfect time of year to remember to take time each day and find connection with our Lord and His creation. So, I would like to share with you an inspirational devotional which I believe offers a quiet, grounding ritual to honor the season. By reflecting on the longest day, you can celebrate the fruits of your growth, release what no longer serves you, and align your energy with the abundant warmth of the sun.

Step One

1. The Setting & Grounding: Find a quiet, sunlit spot in your backyard, on a local trail, or near a window.

Action: Sit comfortably, close your eyes, and take three deep breaths.

Focus: Feel the warmth of the sun on your skin. Imagine its light sinking into your body, grounding you to the earth, and awakening your spirit

Step Two

2. Scripture & Reflection: The solstice invites us to contemplate the relationship between physical warmth and inner light.

Read: Matthew 5:14-16 — "You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Meditate: As nature is in full bloom, ask yourself: What dreams and intentions did I plant in the spring that are growing now? How can I share my unique gifts to bring light and joy to my community?

Step Three

3. A Devotional Prayer

Creator God, thank You for the rhythm of the seasons, the warmth of the sun, and the abundance of life around us. As You have filled the sky with extra daylight, pour Your light into my heart. Give me the courage to stand still in Your grace, to nurture my spirit, and to let Your love shine through me to others. Amen.

Step Four

4. Actionable Devotional Practices: Embody your devotion with one of these seasonal acts:

Weeding and Releasing: Write down any fears, distractions, or habits you want to let go of on a small piece of paper. Safely burn it in a backyard firepit or safely tear it up to clear space for new growth.

Build a Nature Altar: Gather stones, blooming flowers, or pinecones from your local area. Arrange them in a meaningful space as a physical reminder of creation's beauty and your connection to the earth.

Embracing the Evening: The solstice is about the sun's peak, but it also gently marks the beginning of shorter days. Go for an evening walk, observe the sunset, and express gratitude for the day



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

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

Also via Venmo and Paypal

Pastoral Support Team

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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. 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

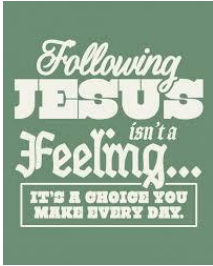
(Subject to change and/or be added to as the need arises)

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 11:15 am Worship 	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 11:15 am Worship 	15	16 Annual	17 Conference	18	19 	20
21 11:15am Worship HAPPY Father's Day 	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 11:15 am Worship	29	30				



June Worship Schedule



June 7, 2026

Pastor Jon Leading

The stated mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This doesn't happen by accident; we don't fall into discipleship. It requires effort and intention and a disciple-making plan. A disciple is a follower. It could even be argued that the whole of the life of faith is wrestling with that call to follow him.

When we deepen our relationship with God in Christ, we come closer to being able to trust in the unknown. And by investing your time with him the unknown will be revealed.



June 14, 2026

Pastor Bridget Leading

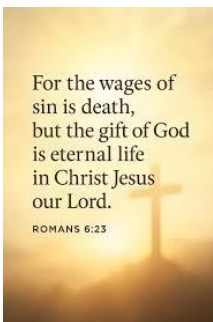
Today we celebrate big dreams, grand visions. Today, we imagine what is possible with God in our own congregation, in our own community. Today, we give thanks for all that has been, even as we ask God to take us further, to equip us for more. Folks, we are called to out-of-the-box thinking, to the creative use of resources, and ultimately to trust that we have enough and we are enough—enough to be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



June 21, 2026

Pastor Bridget Leading

The world's human community began with one man. The redemption of humanity was wrought by one man. Today, we celebrate the contributions of strong, godly men to our community.

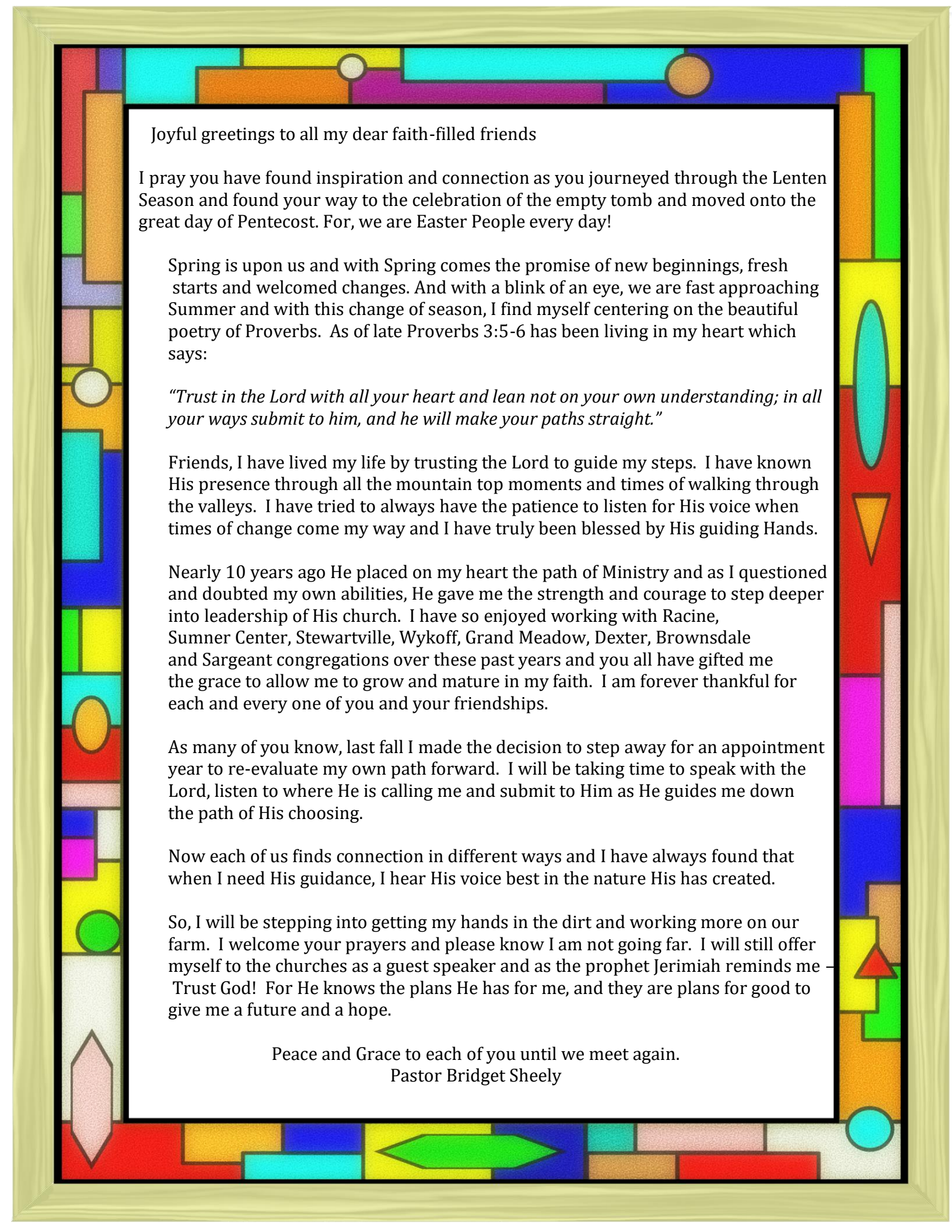


June 28, 2026

Pastor Jon Leading

Today Paul orients us toward living a new life because justification is probably the beginning of what we may call Christian life, which is followed by sanctification. However we understand justification, one thing that stands clear is that Paul understands a new walk with Christ as the work of grace in which resurrection power propels believers to live worthy lives.

Paul also reminds us that the "gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." That is when we labor for God with faith, what we get is indeed more than wages for we cannot measure it with earthly standards, but it is far more beyond us. It can only be called the gift of grace — that we are given what we do not deserve and that gift is eternal life. Today we must ask ourselves who we serve and whose we are in all what we do.



Joyful greetings to all my dear faith-filled friends

I pray you have found inspiration and connection as you journeyed through the Lenten Season and found your way to the celebration of the empty tomb and moved onto the great day of Pentecost. For, we are Easter People every day!

Spring is upon us and with Spring comes the promise of new beginnings, fresh starts and welcomed changes. And with a blink of an eye, we are fast approaching Summer and with this change of season, I find myself centering on the beautiful poetry of Proverbs. As of late Proverbs 3:5-6 has been living in my heart which says:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Friends, I have lived my life by trusting the Lord to guide my steps. I have known His presence through all the mountain top moments and times of walking through the valleys. I have tried to always have the patience to listen for His voice when times of change come my way and I have truly been blessed by His guiding Hands.

Nearly 10 years ago He placed on my heart the path of Ministry and as I questioned and doubted my own abilities, He gave me the strength and courage to step deeper into leadership of His church. I have so enjoyed working with Racine, Sumner Center, Stewartville, Wykoff, Grand Meadow, Dexter, Brownsdale and Sargeant congregations over these past years and you all have gifted me the grace to allow me to grow and mature in my faith. I am forever thankful for each and every one of you and your friendships.

As many of you know, last fall I made the decision to step away for an appointment year to re-evaluate my own path forward. I will be taking time to speak with the Lord, listen to where He is calling me and submit to Him as He guides me down the path of His choosing.

Now each of us finds connection in different ways and I have always found that when I need His guidance, I hear His voice best in the nature His has created.

So, I will be stepping into getting my hands in the dirt and working more on our farm. I welcome your prayers and please know I am not going far. I will still offer myself to the churches as a guest speaker and as the prophet Jerimiah reminds me – Trust God! For He knows the plans He has for me, and they are plans for good to give me a future and a hope.

Peace and Grace to each of you until we meet again.
Pastor Bridget Sheely

Meet Pastor Tong Derhaag who will be co-pastoring with Pastor Jon Marburger starting July 5, 2026



Family

I was born in Shakopee, Minnesota and lived my life at home until age 30 as my father died when I was 12. I have one sister. My Mother died 7 years after I married Hazel.

Education

After graduation from Shakopee Senior High School in 1974, I attended Mankato State University (as it was called then). Majored in Business and Accounting (BA degrees) with minors in Computer Science and Mathematics.

Appointment History

No official United Methodist Appointment, however, did preside over services for 4 straight years at Jordan United Methodist Church in Jordan, MN. Pastor Larry Kasten was assigned the Jordan church when the previous pastor left and after 3 weeks asked the congregation and myself if each would be comfortable with the arrangement as Jordan and Lydia wanted the same service time as was their custom.

Continuing Education and Training

As a Certified Lay Speaker for Minnesota, completed all assignments. To improve preaching presentations, attended Toastmasters for 2 years. Presided over services at Shakopee Presbyterian Church. Spoke at Fish Lake Lutheran Church outside of Prior Lake.

Service and Community Involvement

Youngest of the original Catholic Lay Distributors of Communion at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Shakopee. Assisted with Communion for Seniors of St. Mark's congregation that were at Friendship Manor in Shakopee. Currently assist Pastor Larry Kasten with services at Norbella Senior Living in Prior Lake.

Call to Ministry

While attending Heritage United Methodist Church in New Prague, Minnesota followed the suggestion of Pastor Judy McEachran to seek Lay Speaking.

Passion for Ministry

While partaking in week long VBS during the summers at Zion United Methodist Church of Lyda, performed as the programs "problem child" who never fully understood all the things a person should do to live a God-Centered life.

Vision of the Church

As listed previously, multi-denominational fill-in. There is only ONE GOD. All children of GOD worship the SAME GOD. The passages of Matthew 12, Mark 3 and Luke 4 all address a kingdom divided. Mark 9 tells of Jesus pointing out that if someone is not against us, they are for us. Wherever I have been I only speak of unity in Christ as the vision for the church. The mission statement of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Gifts for the Ministry

Preaching, in-depth examination of the Scriptures, looking to find a way to do things rather than pointing out how it cannot be done, personal care and awareness for those that need just a little extra love to overcome any emptiness they may encounter, finding a new delivery of a message each week as often as possible, being open to any request that builds the Kingdom of God.

Leadership Style

As Christ did, be there for anyone who may need a guiding thought but always looking to encourage anyone who feels led or ready to begin their own personal development to being a local leader of their church or venturing out as I have. I know the power that will be behind them will be greater than the perceived obstacle in front of them when the Spirit of God is leading them.

Spiritual Disciplines and Study

Taking the ways of Christ and applying current slogans and phrases to overcome any perceived obstacle, such as A battleship is safest in the harbor but that is not the purpose for which it was built, When the going gets tough, the tough get going. But most importantly, be fully committed to the journey God has me on and be inspired by the words of Jesus in the Garden the night he was arrested, NOT MY WILL BUT YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Summertime is almost here! Bring on the warm weather, pool parties, and long afternoons spent outdoors. From retirees to teens, the summer brings adventure and opportunities for fun that are often harder to come by in the colder months

As you head into the season ahead, it is important to maintain regular engagement with scripture. Don't let your summer fun indirectly and unintentionally lead you away from your relationship with God.

Regular Bible reading is one of the best ways that we can connect with God, and it can be your go-to source for personal reflection and inspiration in the summer months.

Below are some summer Bible verses that touch on themes of adventure, rest, the wonder of creation, and more.

May you find time each day to open your bible and share a moment of reflection with our Lord.

Psalm 23:2-3
Matthew 11:28-30
Exodus 33:14
Mark 6:31
Isaiah 40:31

Joshua 1:9
Psalm 32:8
Proverbs 3:5-6
Isaiah 30:21
Romans 8:28

Job 12:7-10 “
Psalm 65:12-13 “
Colossians 1:16-17
Psalm 24:1
Psalm 96:11-12



As we welcome summer, let us not forget how easy it is for our changing (or lack of) routine to lead us away from our faith and our local church community. Whether kids are running around the house more than normal, or you're out and about exploring the world, it is important to be intentional about staying in God's word, otherwise it probably won't happen. Take time to rest and reflect this summer.

I hope these summer Bible verses help you make your summer as spiritually engaging and impactful as possible.

Summer

Rollercoaster
Theme parks
Sunglasses
Fireflies
Fireworks
Flipflops
Popsicles
Snowcones
Sprinkler
Sunscreen
Carnival
Cookouts
Icecream
Swimming
Vacation
Beaches
Camping
Fishing
Parades
Parties
Picnics
Sandals
August
Family
Movies
Shorts
Splash
Bikes
Lakes
July
June
Pool
Fun



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