

Sumner Center UMC Newsletter

May 2026

We all receive such a great gift when Kathy shares her poetry with us. You may ask yourself - why is poetry important to our world today? Well, if you turn on the TV, you can probably see why. Yes, it's mostly a ratings war that portrays the world we live in today as ugly, chaotic, violent and without mercy.

So, we need to also be reminded of the beauty around us and if we let it and embrace it, poetry can offer us a way to empathize with one another. In its immediacy, poetry is a counselor helping us to understand one another. Leading us away from hate to love, from violence to mercy and pity.

So, take a moment and enjoy these poetic words from our sister in Christ and may you find joy and inspiration to carry you through the day.

Leading the Children

By Kathy Hawkins

With bright shiny eyes the small children see
The actions of those around them by you and me

Listening to the stories of Jesus and leaning on each word
Capturing the sorrows and blessings they have just heard

In prayer the little ones learn to fold their hands
And thank the Lord for taking care of all throughout the lands

All in the church family are here to help raise
The children as they grow in knowledge of Christ's ways

The Sunday School teachers through the years we recall
And those who led from the pulpit and church halls

Sharing this love with the little ones around
Happy they can learn the peace we have found



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

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)

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2 Ad Council Meeting 10:00 am
3 11:15 am Worship 	4	5 	6	7	8	9
10 11:15 am Worship  	11	12	13	14 	15	16
17 11:15 am Worship 	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 11:15 am Worship 	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 11:15 am Worship 						

May Worship Schedule



May 3, 2026

Pastor Jon Leading

In today's reading of 1 Peter, Christians are described in three specific ways: as newborn babes, as precious stones, and as sojourners. Each description helps us appreciate an aspect of our identity as God's people. All in all, today's text seems to be giving us an image of the Christian community as a new, spiritual temple with its cornerstone

being Christ. The Christians who follow Christ are both the temple, and the priesthood that serves within it, offering up thanksgiving and prayer to God through Christ. To grow into our identity as God's people.



May 10, 2026

Pastor Jon Leading

Today we dive into the words of Peter that say: "Don't live in fear; don't hesitate to do good; don't let the threats cause you to not do what you know your faith calls you to do and to be." "Always be ready to make your defense". What a powerful statement about the need to be overt Christians in a world that has become cynical.



May 17, 2026

Pastor Bridget Leading

If you believe that worship should leave you feeling lighter, unburdened, and set free, then this is the week for you. Today Peter tells us to "Cast all our anxiety on him, because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). What could be better than that? In a text that is full of an admission of suffering and a call to discipline, to hear the call to cast anxiety away is a monumental ask, yet a powerful gift and promise.

This will also be a special service of Confirmation for:

Mason Vrieze



May 24, 2026

Pastor Bridget Leading

The day of Pentecost is upon us. May the Spirit of the Living God, dance with us on this day. Come, Whirlwind of Wonder! Sing to the groaning of creation. Come, still small voice of Hope! Enflame us with your passion for justice. Come, Liberator of the Least! Purify us of our grasping greediness.

Come, Advocate of selfless living! Silence our gossiping tongues. Come, Harmony of God's Heart! Wind of God, blow through us; Fire of God, burn within us; Tongue of God, speak to us on this day of renewal and birth.



May 31, 2026

Pastor Jon Leading

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Dear friends in Christ, we have come together on this Trinity Sunday to celebrate in word and song and to affirm our faith in God, the Three in One.

This will be a special service day of Worship!



Annual Conference 2026: Created to Serve Joyfully
Created to Serve Joyfully
By Rev. Carol Zaagsma

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4, NRSVUE)

This year brings many special anniversaries to celebrate in the United Methodist Church, including the 70th anniversary of the ordination of women, 50 years of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM), and the 30th anniversary of the permanent order of deacon. All of these milestones reflect the joyful growth of God's word and love through God's people.

Registration is now open for this year's annual conference session, to be held June 16-18, 2026, at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, MN, with an optional opportunity to participate in a Day of Justice on Monday, June 15.

Nominate for Awards

Help in our celebration of notable ministries and accomplishments from the past year through a variety of awards. We are seeking nominations for two different awards this year:

Foundation for Evangelism Laity Award: This award honors a lay person who demonstrates the gift of evangelism that brings people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ, encourages continued discipleship, and emphasizes living out one's faith in daily life. If this description fits someone you know, please nominate them here before April 30, 2026. Award recipients are then considered for one of 12 financial awards granted by the Foundation of Evangelism to further their ministry.

2026 Jeanne Audrey Powers Ecumenism Award for Healing a Broken World: This award honors a person who has made significant efforts to build the beloved community, in particular through collaborative partnerships and ecumenical efforts, working for justice and reconciliation for all persons. Interfaith engagement is essential for promoting peace, justice, and mutual understanding. Its work emphasizes collaboration, inclusivity, and practical action in communities, reflecting the United Methodist Church's commitment to living out Christ's call for unity and compassion. Youth, laity, and clergy are eligible for this award. Nominate those you know before April 30, 2026.

Submit a Proposal for a "Serve Joyfully" TED-Style Talk

We're excited to bring back TED-style talks again this year. So, be discerning what word God might be stirring in your heart to speak into the theme of "Created to Serve Joyfully." Details on how to submit an idea for a talk can be found here: [Find vvdetails on how to submit an idea for a talk.](#) Please submit your proposal here by April 30, 2026.

Volunteer to Support Worship

Would you like to serve as a liturgist or read scripture, help serve communion, usher, play an instrument, or sing in a mass choir? Show your interest by logging onto www.minnesotaumc.org and click on the Minnesota Annual Conference icon and follow the directions.

Participate in the Love Offering

Foster generous giving by coordinating a special offering for the 2026 annual Love Offering. This year's Love Offering will benefit the following ministries:

Midwest Mission (30%)

Love Boldly Mental Health Ministries Grant for Minnesota Conference Churches (20%)

The Endowment for Theological Education (20%)

Minnesota Conference Emergency Response Fund (20%)

Volunteers in Mission Scholarships (10%)

Workshops

We are planning four workshop opportunities for Wednesday afternoon.

Utilizing AI Technologies for Good: This workshop will help ministry leaders understand practical and ethical ways to use emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, to strengthen communication, outreach, and discipleship efforts

Innovation in Rural Ministry: Small but Mighty: Celebrate the amazing ways rural churches ground ministry in relationships and collaboration, while exploring tools grounded in our Wesleyan faith and rooted in Jesus that you can bring back to your church to revitalize current ministry and co-create something new.

The World is Our Parish: John Wesley is celebrated for having declared “the world is my parish.” Hear how United Methodists around the world serve in ministry in ways that make this phrase come to life, with specific focus on Africa, the Middle East, and Ukraine.

Created to Serve Joyfully – A Hands-On Mission Experience: Experience the joy of service firsthand with a collaborative effort between the Mission Promotion Team and Midwest Mission. Those gathered in this workshop will assemble Personal Dignity Kits (PDKs), which provide essential hygiene items that restore health and dignity to those facing crisis.



*I am a disciple
of Jesus Christ.*

3 NEPHI 5:13

Here is a guide to help you find hope and a renewed sense of faith in this springtime season.

Spring is a beautiful time of year when the winter weather subsides, and the flowers begin to bloom.

Because of this, spring is often associated with hope and rebirth—two major aspects of the resurrection of Christ. Easter, the day to celebrate this resurrection, even happens during the spring season.

Bible verses about spring can be found throughout Scripture, from Genesis to the Book of John. Below are 20 verses that exemplify positivity and renewal.

Did you know that reading Bible verses about spring can be a powerful way to draw closer to God as we are presented with the possibility of new beginnings.

It's time to gift yourself a moment with God. Find a quiet spot, open your bible each day and read a verse, meditate on it, and find a way to bring it into your day.

1.—Zechariah 10:1

2.—James 5:7

3.—Genesis 1:14

4.—Psalm 85:11-13

5.—Hosea 6:3

6.—Romans 15:13

7.—Proverbs 23:18

8.—Lamentations 3:21-23

9.—Song of Solomon 2:11-12

10.—Romans 12:2

11.—Isaiah 40:31

12.—John 8:12

13.—Isaiah 35:1-12

14.—Luke 12:27

15.—Song of Solomon 2:1-2

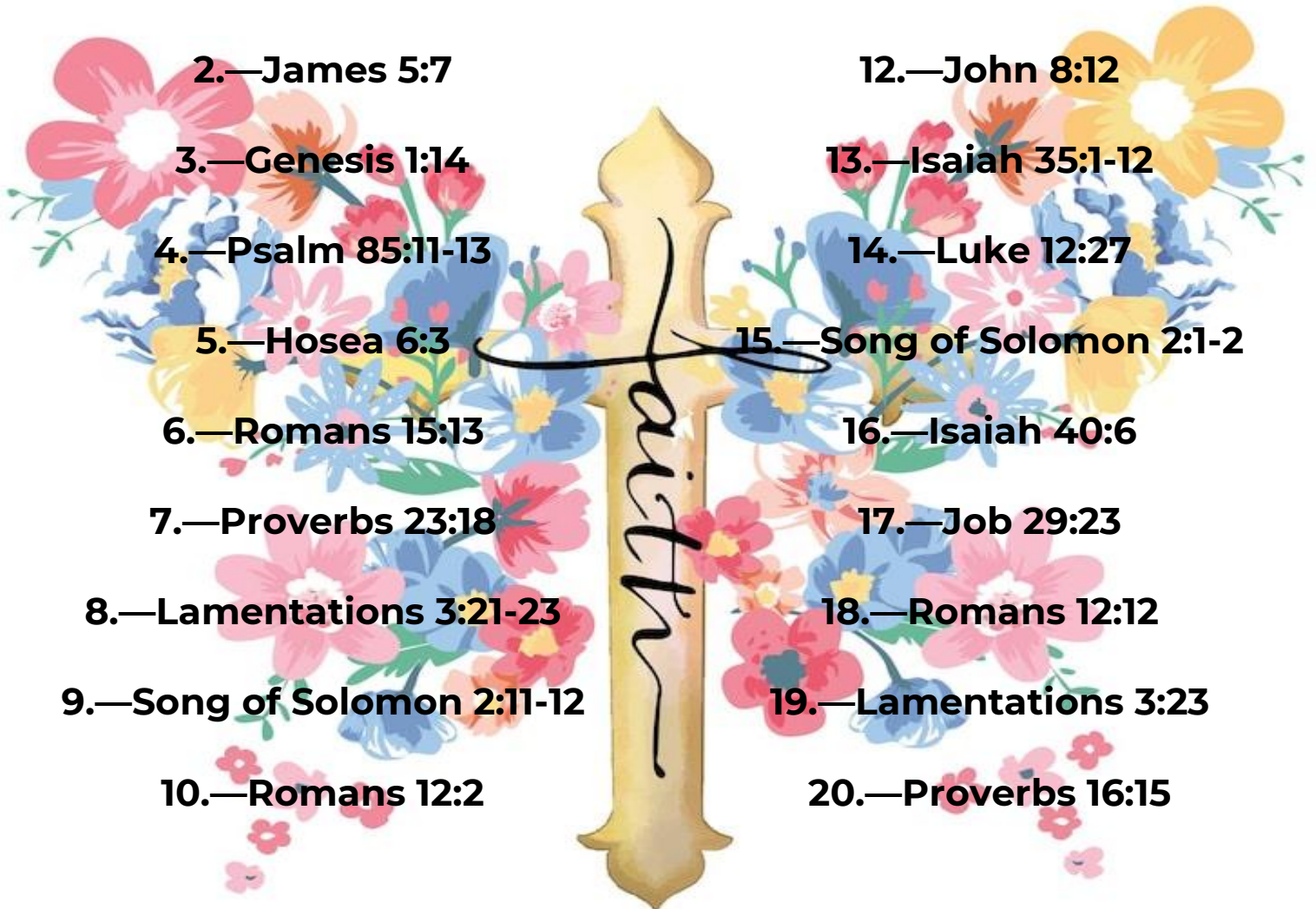
16.—Isaiah 40:6

17.—Job 29:23

18.—Romans 12:12

19.—Lamentations 3:23

20.—Proverbs 16:15



Name: _____

Date: _____

Ready For Spring

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- Caterpillar
- Butterfly
- Sunshine
- Daffodil
- Puddles
- Flowers
- Violet
- Sprout
- Spring
- Shower
- Season
- Pollen
- Picnic
- Tulip
- Seeds
- March
- Lilac
- Cloud
- Chick
- Bloom
- April
- Wind
- Warm
- Thaw
- Soil
- Rain
- Nest
- Bird
- Mud
- May
- Egg

