

Sumner Center UMC Newsletter



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

April 2023

Pastors' notes... Easter is coming and for many of us, we may think about Easter bunnies and colorful eggs that cover our front yards. But what is the meaning of Easter from the Bible, and why do Christians celebrate this holiday?

Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb on the third day after his crucifixion. **Easter is the fulfilled prophecy of the Messiah who would be persecuted, die for our sins, and rise on the third day (Isaiah 53).** Remembering the resurrection of Jesus is a way to renew daily hope that we have victory over sin.

We celebrate Easter because not only did our Lord conquer death, but without the Resurrection, we have no foundation for our faith.

1 Corinthians 15:13-15 says, *"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised."*

In other words, Christianity has no point if the Resurrection didn't happen. Christians would've been martyred for nothing and placed their faith in false hope.

Thankfully, the Resurrection did occur, and for those reasons, we have immense hope and assurance. So, let us gather this Easter season and praise God in all His glory that we are His Easter people!



"Father, I thank You for the miracle of life – abundant life here and eternal life with You in Heaven. Help me celebrate that life every day as I seek You and follow Your plan for my life. Today, I say with the Apostle Paul, "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" Amen."

**Worship:
Sundays**

**In Sanctuary at 11:00am
&
Sumner Center UMC Facebook
Page**

**Pastor Bridget Sheely
Cell: 507-923-6247**

bridget@countrywidecarriers.com

Visit our Church Website at:

<http://www.sumnercenter.com>

Donations may be sent to our mailing

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 to (bridget@countrywidecarriers.com) Or by bringing your information to Worship on Sunday mornings)






**The light of God remains
to shine bright in the
community of Sumner Center
UMC, only by your generous
giving heart!**

**Thank you for your dedication
and love!**

Calendar of Events

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

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
2 Combined Worship Service at Summer Center UMC @10am Meal to follow 	3	4	5 	6  Maundy Thursday	7 Good Friday Service  At Racine UMC 6 pm	8  Holy Saturday
9 11:00 am Worship  Easter Sunday	10 Hamburger Night @ Wykoff Community Center 4:30-7pm	11	12	13	14	15
16 11:00 am Worship  EMANCIPATION DAY	17	18	19	20	21	22  earth DAY
23 11:00 am Worship	24	25	26	27	28  ARBOR DAY	29
30 11:00 am Worship						

APRIL HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

First @ 10 am (First Sunday of the Month 10 am Service)
Racine, Wykoff and Sumner Center UMC's
consolidated worship service

Worship Service hosted by Sumner Center UMC @10am



Worship
Communion
Mission focus

Fellowship Meal **A MEAL WILL FOLLOW WORSHIP**



Good Friday – April 7th

6:00pm Joint Worship @ Racine UMC



Easter Sunday Worship

Racine UMC 8:30 am

Wykoff UMC 9:45 am

Sumner Center UMC 11am

CHRIST IS RISEN



Annual Conference 2023: Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience



Minnesota Annual
Conference 2023

May 31-June 1

Registration to attend this year's conference is open.

Just go to: www.minnesotaumc.org

and

click on: Annual Conference Session Registration and Info

A palpable sense of the Holy Spirit. Great worship and conversation. Tools that you can bring back to your local church.

Those are some of the things you can expect at the 2023 Annual Conference, scheduled for May 31-June 1 at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud.

Drawing on Luke 24: 13-35, the theme of this year's gathering is "Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience."

"A post-resurrection story where everything has changed but all the implications of it still seem a bit cloudy fits the time and space we are living in as a church," said Rev. Cindy Gregorson, director of connectional ministries and clergy assistant to the bishop. "We, too, are on the road. We, too, are asking deep questions and trying to make sense of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus today. And we, too, are seeking to offer hospitality to all even in the midst of our uncertainty and finding that we encounter Christ in transforming ways when we do."

Our time together will include:

- an inspiring Episcopal Address from Bishop Lanette Plambeck—our spiritual shepherd who will preside over her first annual conference as our resident bishop.
- guest speaker, Rev. Michael Beck, who will offer practical ways that churches can connect to their communities and reach new people that are lay-led, low-cost, highly relational, and contextual. Beck co-pastors two Florida churches where he directs addiction recovery programs, a jail ministry, a food pantry, an interracial unity movement, and house a faith-based inpatient treatment center. The churches are traditional congregations and a network of 13 fresh expressions that gather in tattoo parlors, dog parks, salons, running tracks, community centers, burrito joints, and digital spaces. Beck is also director of remissioning at Fresh Expressions, an organization that makes space for church leaders to use both traditional services as well as innovative forms of church to live out Christ's mission, the idea being that one does not replace the other, but rather creates a mutual benefit for both—a "mixed economy of church."
- uplifting worship services, including a celebration of ministry milestones at the Service of Life in Ministry on Wednesday, May 31, and a message from this year's conference preacher, Rev. Becky Jo Messenbrink, at morning worship on Thursday, June 1.
- an engaging missional report that celebrates what we've accomplished together and looks ahead to what's next, followed by table conversation around discipleship in the Wesleyan way
- a business session where we'll vote on legislation, including the conference budget and churches that are disaffiliating.
- a report from the Transitional Table, a think tank of clergy and laity that has been meeting over the past year to creatively brainstorm how to position Minnesota Conference staffing, structure, and resources as we move ahead.
- an opportunity to meet with colleagues and friends in your district for lunch on Wednesday, May 31.

Registration will open March 15. Both voting members and guests are welcome and encouraged to attend. Clergy Session will take place Tuesday, May 23 from 9 a.m. to noon via Zoom.

The hope for this annual conference session is to have rich table discussion where we encounter the risen Christ, experience heart-transforming moments as we listen deeply to each another, and respond with clarity and passion about how and where God is calling us as the United Methodist Church in Minnesota.

"It feels like a new beginning for the people called Methodist in the Minnesota Annual Conference, and my prayer is that we come, open to however Christ might meet us as we gather at table together so that we can see and experience all that God would have for us," said Gregorson.

Camps and Events

Summer 2023 camp registration is **OPEN!** to see all the exciting camp offerings and to register go to www.minnesotaumc.org and click on the icon.



Don't forget about the Early Bird incentive. **Register before April 30 and receive a \$25 Camp Store Credit.** Save even more by bringing a friend with you to camp.

Camper Grade = grade completed as of June 2023. Please see our FAQ section for answers to common registration questions. If you need further assistance, contact the camping office at camps@campminnesota.org, or give us a call at 855-622-1973.

There are camping opportunities for ages birth – 99 years old.

These are just a few fun times to be had!

Teddy Bear Camp 1

Horse Camp

Trailblazer Camp

Ultimate Challenge

Teen Specialty Week - Archery

Autumn Gathering

Grandparent/Grandchild Camp at Northern Pines

Junior High Christian Youth Camp

Senior High Christian Youth Camp

Discovery Camp






Games Galore and More

Mini Treehouse

KoWaKan Group Boundary Waters Adventure

KoWaKan Teen Trek - Boundary Waters Adventure

Canadian Fishing Camp

Our Locations				Camp Minnesota	
				camps@minnesotaumc.org 855-622-1973 FREE	
Koronis Ministries	Northern Pines Camp	KoWaKan Adventures	Off-site Programs and Events	 A Ministry of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church	

Go online and check us out!!!!

Make Summer 2023 the best ever by coming to camp, meeting new friends and creating memories to last a lifetime!

www.minnesotaumc.org

click on



And register today!

Hey, don't worry – camp scholarships are available, contact your churches leadership for details!

Word Search: Everything Easter!

designed by tracy consani saunders for www.5minutesformom.com

R W D G D S T Y N E P C Y R A M E N E Y
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Ascend
 Ash Wednesday
 Barabbas
 Basket
 Boiled eggs
 Bonnet
 Chocolate bunny
 Crucifixion
 Doubting Thomas
 Dress
 Egg hunt
 Equinox

Eternal Life
 Fat Tuesday
 Golgotha
 Good Friday
 Ham
 Heaven
 Hippity
 Hollow
 Jellybeans
 John
 Judas Iscariot
 Last Supper

Lent
 Mardi Gras
 Mary Magdalene
 Maundy Thursday
 Pastels
 Peter Cottontail
 Plastic Eggs
 Resurrection
 Shroud of Turin
 Solid
 Spring
 Spring Break

Thirty
 Three
 Tulips



Calling All Eggheads!

Easter Trivia Questions and Answers About the Hoppy Holiday

Once spring has sprung, Easter isn't far behind! The festive day, feted with bunnies and colored eggs, has a variety of historical origins and is considered one of the holiest and most important Christian holidays. The traditions, religion and customs associated with Easter are varied and impressive, and the history behind many of Easter's symbols is rich. You may think you know all there is to know about Easter, but we bet at least some of these Easter trivia questions and answers will still stump you!

Question: Is more candy sold for Easter, Christmas, Valentine's Day or Halloween?

Answer: Halloween

Question: About how many chocolate bunnies are produced each year?

Answer: 90 million

Question: In the 13th century, the church prohibited eating what during Holy Week?

Answer: Eggs

Question: What baked good is a Good Friday tradition in England?

Answer: Hot cross buns

Question: How many jellybeans do Americans consume each Easter?

Answer: 16 million

Question: What's the most popular Easter candy in America?

Answer: Marshmallow peeps

Question: In the Bible, how many days passed between Jesus' death and resurrection?

Answer: Three

Question: The Sunday before Easter is called what?

Answer: Palm Sunday

Question: What is the 40-day period before Easter?

Answer: Lent

Question: When Easter eggs were first dyed, it was to represent what?

Answer: The blood of Jesus Christ

Question: How many states consider Good Friday a holiday?

Answer: 12

Question: Buying what for Easter is said to bring good luck for the rest of the year?

Answer: New clothes

Question: Easter's date is determined by what?

Answer: The moon

Question: What flower is considered an Easter symbol?

Answer: Lily

Question: What bread-based snack is associated with Easter?

Answer: Pretzel

Question: Why are pretzels considered an Easter food?

Answer: Because their design is said to look like praying arms and hands

Question: Besides bunnies, what animal is considered an Easter symbol?

Answer: Lamb

Question: Which day of Holy Week is to honor the Last Supper?

Answer: Holy Thursday

Question: In the Bible, who was the first person to enter Jesus' tomb?

Answer: Peter

Question: Easter Sunday is also called what?

Answer: Resurrection Day

Question: In the Bible, what Jewish holiday was being celebrated the week of Jesus' death and resurrection?

Answer: Passover

Question: In the Bible, Judas traded Jesus in exchange for what?

Answer: 30 pieces of silver

Question: In the Bible, what prisoner was released instead of Jesus?

Answer: Barrabas

