

# Sumner Center UMC Newsletter



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

## May 2023

**Pastors' notes...** It is with great pleasure that I share with you this month the wonderful poetic writing of our sister in Christ from Sumner Center UMC. Thank you, Kathy Hawkins, for sharing your talent with all of us and giving us fun and uplifting inspirations of Spring!

### **The Signs of Spring - By Kathy Hawkins**

The dreary days of winter are soon to be in the past  
As snow turns to rain and the earth comes alive at last  
Crying children wanting to be outside to run free  
Parents wondering if it will ever dry up so it can be  
A trip to the farm to let the kids exuberantly run  
The squeals and giggles describe all the fun  
Traipsing down the driveway through mud and muck  
Wanting to get to the puddles just like a duck  
Standing at the edge looking as the water ripples in the breeze  
The little ones know mom and dad would want them to freeze  
The thoughts of jumping in are so urgently strong  
Would it really be so awfully terribly wrong  
When coming from behind they hear boots approaching  
They turn to see the person they were hoping  
With a smile and a laugh in jumps the crazy lady  
Who on more than one occasion has been a bit shady  
The splashing begins with various sizes of rubber boots  
The squeals and hollers and oh the many hoots  
Puddles being emptied one splash at a time  
You would have thought they were losing their mind  
Exhaustion eventually flows through all of their bodies  
Clomping back to the house and snickering at the follies  
Met by the stern eyes of dear old mom and dad  
Knowing it's okay because they can't be mad  
The drips and the dribbles of mud off faces so sweet  
Surely they wouldn't be the ones to take the heat  
That crazy lady was leading the charge they said  
Grandma caused the uproar and should be the one sent to bed  
Mom and dad stood shaking their head with disbelief  
With a Grandma like that they were in for countless years of grief



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

**Pastor Bridget Sheely**

**Cell: 507-923-6247**

[bridget@countrywidecarriers.com](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the preceding month by emailing your information to [bridget@countrywidecarriers.com](mailto: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)

## May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> SPRC Meeting 10:30am Sumner Center UMC
<b>7</b> Combined Worship Service Wykoff UMC @10am Meal to follow.	<b>8</b> Hamburger Night @ Wykoff Community Center 4:30-7pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 11:00 am Worship Sunday School 10:30 am "Children's Time, stories of Jesus" 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Ascension	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 11:00 am Worship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  Shavuot Starts	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Shavuot Ends
<b>28</b> 11:00 am Worship 	<b>29</b> memorial DAY 	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  Minnesota Annual Conference 2023 May 31-June 1	 Minnesota Annual Conference 2023 May 31-June 1		

# MAY HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS



**May 7, 2023**  
**First @ 10 am** (First Sunday of the Month 10 am Service)  
Racine, Wykoff and Sumner Center UMC's  
consolidated worship service

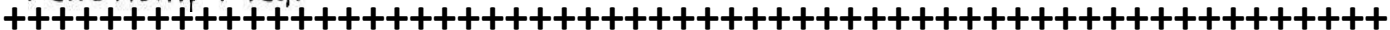
## Worship Service hosted by Wykoff UMC @10am



**Worship**  
**Communion**  
**Mission focus**

**A MEAL WILL FOLLOW WORSHIP**

Fellowship Meal



Minnesota Annual  
Conference 2023  
May 31-June 1

### Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience

We are in need of a delegate for Annual Conference, if you are interested or would like to know more about this volunteer position contact Pastor Bridget.

**Registration to attend this year's conference is open until May 1st**

Just go to: [www.minnesotaucm.org](http://www.minnesotaucm.org)

and

click on: Annual Conference Session Registration and Info

Don't forget to reserve your hotel accommodation as well!



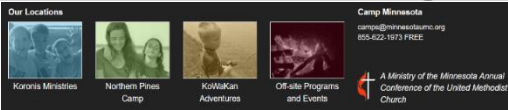
## Camps and Events

Summer 2023 camp registration is OPEN! to see all the exciting camp offerings and to register go to [www.minnesotaucm.org](http://www.minnesotaucm.org) and click on the icon.



Camping fun isn't just for the kids!

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



Go online and check us out!!!! Make Summer 2023 the best by coming to camp, meeting new friends and creating memories to last a lifetime!

Register today, don't delay!

Hey, remember that – camp scholarships are available, contact your churches leadership for details!



Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. The theme of the [2023 Annual Conference](#)— will take place May 31-June 1—is “Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience.” Bishop Lanette Plambeck invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering as an expression of our gratitude for God’s blessings in our lives. Our Love Offering this year will tangibly share God’s extravagant love with a hurting world by addressing the growing mental health needs in Minnesota.

[\*\*Donate to the Love Offering\*\*](#)

If you wish to donate by check, you may drop it off at church on Thursday evenings between 5-7pm during worship on Sunday mornings or mail it to the church. Be sure to put "Love Offering" in the memo line. Donations need to be given by May 25<sup>th</sup> so that they may be presented at Annual Conference.

## Descriptions of recipients



### **Mental Health Partnerships Grant for Minnesota Conference Churches**

*60 percent of the 2023 Love Offering*

Your gift to the 2023 Love Offering will help our churches offer mental health support to their communities. Congregations receiving funds from this grant will begin or expand a partnership with a local school, food shelf, meal program, shelter, or other entity that provides mental health services to community members. Churches could also become a member of a local National Alliance on Mental Illness organization and host meetings and educational events. This grant will be coordinated by the Minnesota Conference’s Mission Promotion Team. Funds will be distributed beginning in Summer 2023. Grant funds will be seed money for new programs or expansions of existing programs.

### [Mental Health Connect](#)

*10 percent of the 2023 Love Offering*



We help open doors

Mental Health Connect is a collaborative of faith-based communities working together to support community-based resources, provide support and education, improve access to mental health services, and connect individuals and families with the services they need. There are now 30 faith communities in the collaborative.

### [Mental Health Minnesota](#)

*10 percent of the 2023 Love Offering*



Mental Health Minnesota was founded in 1939 as the state’s first mental health advocacy and education organization. This non-partisan organization is an affiliate of Mental Health America. Its mission is to advance mental health and well-being for all, increase access to mental health treatment and services, and provide education, resources, and support across Minnesota.

### [Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health](#)

*10 percent of the 2023 Love Offering*



Leading with compassion, knowledge and support

The Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health (MACMH) provides education and resources to professionals, families, and youth throughout Minnesota and beyond. Founded in 1989, MACMH aims to promote positive mental health for all infants, children, adolescents, and their families. Among other things, it offers guidebooks for teachers and free mental health fact sheets.



### [Volunteers in Mission \(VIM\) Scholarships](#)

*Recipient of 10 percent of 2023 Love Offering*

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (VIM) participants of every age serve in all 50 states and more than 100 countries. Most teams from Minnesota spend up to two weeks working on hands-on projects in construction, disaster response, teaching, health care, and packing supplies for overseas shipment. Team members pay their own way, and every year, 10 percent of the Love Offering goes to help offset the cost for first-time participants. Scholarships awarded range from \$100-\$400 per application.



# Have you ever considered volunteering for mission work?

Here are Hands-on opportunities offered by the United Methodist Conference. You may find more information by going to [www.minnesotaumc.org](http://www.minnesotaumc.org) and clicking on the outreach & mission icon.



**Volunteers in Mission** - Through [Volunteers in Mission](#), United Methodists can serve in a wide variety of ways in all 50 states and more than 100 countries. Volunteers in Mission scholarship information can be obtained by calling (651) 208-9000.

**More Opportunities to Serve** - There are also a wide variety of churches, ministries, and organizations that the Minnesota Conference recommends that provide opportunities for hands-on service. Check them out and get involved with one that aligns with your interests and passions.

## Local

- **The Dignity Center** at Hennepin Avenue UMC in Minneapolis supports people in poverty by assigning them an advocate who meets with them regularly and helps them set and meet goals; it also provides participants access to a wide variety of resources to help them achieve stability. **(Adults)**
- **Emma Norton Services** in St. Paul provides housing and support services to women, children, and youth overcoming homelessness, mental illness, and chemical dependency. Volunteers are needed for everything for painting, light construction, office help, tutoring, reading, and more. **(Youth and adults)**
- **Feed My Starving Children** packs and ships meals to hungry children and families in 70 countries throughout the world. Volunteers are needed six days a week to help pack in the Twin Cities area. **(All ages)**
- **Wesley Foudation**, a United Methodist campus ministry at the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities, coordinates with youth and college-age volunteers to offer summer mission trips as part of its ministry. **(Young adults)**
  - **Hennepin Avenue UMC Community Meals** in Minneapolis serves meals every Sunday evening. **(Youth and adults)**
  - **Matthew 25 Food Distribution** is a ministry of Coon Rapids UMC that provides groceries to hundreds of people on the second Sunday of each month. **(All ages)**
  - **Mobility Worldwide MN – Twin Cities** in Minneapolis builds and ships personal energy transports (three-wheeled, hand-cranked wheelchairs with hauling capacity) to persons with disabilities in 80 countries. Woodworking volunteers are needed. **(Adults)**
  - **Simpson Center for Servant Ministries** collects and distributes fresh food items to families in South Minneapolis each summer. It also provides tutoring and music lessons and serves the community in a variety of other ways. **(All ages)**
- **Simpson Shelter** meals are served nightly and each morning in South Minneapolis. Individuals and teams are needed. **(All ages)**
- **S.T.O.R.M. Camp** provides service to others in rural communities in Minnesota each summer. Youth spend a week doing clean-up and light construction work. Contact [davidebrown55@yahoo.com](mailto:davidebrown55@yahoo.com) or (651) 792-6578 to learn more. **(Youth and adults)**
- **Urban C.R.O.S.S.** provides service to others in the Twin Cities area each summer. Teams of youth and young adults spend a week doing clean-up and light construction work. Contact [urbancross.st.paul@gmail.com](mailto:urbancross.st.paul@gmail.com) or (651) 774-8736 to learn more. **(Youth and adults)**
- **Wesley Meals** are served at Historic Wesley on Grant in Minneapolis each Saturday. Volunteers are always welcome. Call 612-878-3505 to learn more. **(All ages)**



## National

- **Appalachia Service Project** serves individuals and families in five states. Volunteers, ages 14 and up, serve for a week during the summer months. **(Youth)**



- **Henderson Settlement** coordinates year-round opportunities for individuals and teams, ages 14 and up, who wish to volunteer in rural Kentucky. **(All ages)**
- **Midwest Mission Distribution Center** in Chatham, Illinois, works with volunteers of all ages to sort and pack UMCOR relief supplies. Volunteers stay in a dorm on campus. **(All ages)**
- **Mountain T.O.P.** serves individuals and families in Tennessee. Volunteers, ages 14 and up, serve for a week during the summer months.

**(Youth)**

- **Red Bird Mission** serves individuals and families in rural Kentucky. Youth and adult volunteers are desired year-round for light construction and office work. **(Youth and adults)**
- **Spirit Lake Ministry Center** in North Dakota hosts youth and adult volunteers to serve on weekly work teams in the summer. Arrangements can be made for families also. **(All ages)**
- **Tree of Life Ministries** serves individuals and families on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Volunteers, ages 14 and up, are wanted to serve for a week in the summer. **(Youth)**
- **YouthWorks** coordinates Christ-centered mission trips to connect teenagers to God, each other, and communities. It offers opportunities in 70 cities across the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico. **(All ages)**

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## International



**Caribbean and Central America** work teams for adults go each winter. Contact [Rev. Lyndy Zabel](#) (612-230-6124). **(Adults)**

- **Haiti** work teams for youth and adults are coordinated by [Pat Toschak](#) (507-438-6429). **(Youth and adults)**
- **Imara International** sends youth and adult work teams to Kenya several times a year. **(Youth and adults)**
- **OC Ministries** sends youth and adult work teams to Jamaica, Liberia, and Sierra Leone several times a year. Contact [Rev. Lyndy Zabel](#) (612-230-6124). **(Youth and adults)**
- **Southeast Asia** work teams for youth and adults from Minnesota are scheduled for Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand. Contact [Rev. Lyndy Zabel](#) (612-230-6124). **(Youth and adults)**
- **Strong Missions in Costa Rica** hosts youth and adult teams year-round in the San Jose area. **(Youth and adults)**
- **Ubuntu Journeys** are hosted by United Methodist Women and provide short-term mission service opportunities for women in multiple countries each year. These journeys are about women of faith coming together to address social issues and discover new ways of working together and growing spiritually. **(Adults)**
- **United Methodist Volunteers in Mission** lists dozens of opportunities for youth and adults throughout the world to serve on construction, medical, or teaching teams, or others. **(Youth and adults)**
- **World Beat Connection** takes volunteer music teams to Jamaica each February. Contact [barbarameyermusic@comcast.net](mailto:barbarameyermusic@comcast.net). **(Youth and adults)**

*Mark 16:15*

*And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."*

# Springtime

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

vibrant	umbrella	tulips	sunshine	spring	springbreak	showers
seeds	rainbow	rain	rabbit	puddle	picnic	peeps
pastels	new	nest	may	march	lily	lilac
lamb	ladybug	kite	hunt	holiday	grass	goodies
flowers	eggs	easter	duck	daffodil	crawfish	chocolate
chick	carrot	candy	buzzing	butterfly	bunny	bubble
bonnet	blossom	bloom	birds	bees	basket	april