

Sumner Center UMC Newsletter



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

August 2023

Pastors' notes... I remember as a kid when the 1st of August would roll around, I would find a sadness enter my heart. "That's it!" I would think – "summer is over and school is right around the corner." The dooms day clock would then begin to tick and as my fun in the sun began to come to an end for the year my mood would change for feeling foot loose and fancy free to having a dark cloud follow me around. As a kid I felt like the good life was over!

But as I have grown, I have realized I a new truth which is that I am ready for change of the air, the change of the smell of the day and the changed look of the landscape. Change is a good and renewing feeling when we embrace the idea life is more fulfilling and exciting when change enters our daily routines. Moving forward with acceptance to changes in our lives opens the doors new possibilities and joyful anticipations. When the fall season approaches, I find peace and joy in the words of 1 Timothy 4:4-5 "For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer." The inspiration of these words reminds me not to waste my time mourning the summer that was but to look forward with thanksgiving in my heart to what will be. There is so much to enjoy as we journey through these fall days. Such as watching our favorite football games on lazy Sunday afternoon's or how about taking a drive to watch the trees transform, don't you just love those moments! I have a dear friend who loves to walk through the fallen leaves just to hear them crunch under her feet. (Kathy Hawkins Hee Hee!) What is your favorite fall activity or memory? What is one fall event you have always wanted to attend but never had the time to do so? This is your chance. Make this season one for the memory books. You deserve to treat yourself to some fall fun. Happy Fall Y'all!!

**Sunday Worship:
In Sanctuary at 11:00am
&
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**

Pastoral Support Team

Pastor Bridget Sheely

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

Calendar of Events

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

August 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|--|--------|----------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 11 am Worship Guest Speaker  <i>communion</i> <i>sunday</i> | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 11 am Worship Pastor Bridget | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 11 am Worship Pastor Bridget | 21 | 22 Mayberry Book Study @ Grand Meadow United Church 2pm | 23 | 24 Mayberry Book Study Via Zoom 6:30 pm | 25 | 26 |
| 27 11 am Worship Pastor Jon | 28 Mayberry Book Study @ Brownsdale UMC 6 pm | 29 Mayberry Book Study @ Grand Meadow United Church 2pm | 30 Prairieland Parish Leadership Committee Meeting At Grand Meadow 6:30pm | 31 Mayberry Book Study Via Zoom 6:30 pm | | |

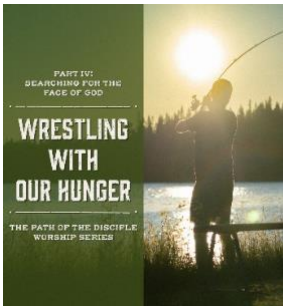
August Worship Schedule

10th Sunday After Pentecost

August 6, 2023

Guest Speaker Leading

Communion Sunday



Whether you call them “God-sightings” or “glory moments,” being alert to the presence of God is a fundamental requirement for the disciple. Some might even argue that it is these discovery moments that keep us going on the pathway to discipleship. They are oases or rest stops along the way that refresh us and remind us that we are not alone and that we do have strength for the journey. And worship is where we can announce that we are hungry for God. We come together and call upon the Lord to meet us here in worship, to fill us, and send us out into the world full of that presence and that hope. So, I say today let the benediction not be an end of our searching, but an invitation to carry the search for God’s presence beyond the walls of the church. Come, let us take this time to share our love with our Lord...

11th Sunday of Pentecost

August 13, 2023

Pastor Bridget Sheely Leading



This week, we ask, “What is before us; what is the vision toward which we move?” What would the world look if it were truly aware of God’s presence? What would our community look like if we whole heartedly believed what we say about Jesus and about grace and salvation? How would it be reflected in our relationships, in our conversations, and in our daily lives? When we ask, “What are you seeking?” we are talking about kingdom living. We are talking about the community of faith representing the body of Christ. As we worship this week, let us remember to celebrate the signs of God’s presence among us. May we find ways to lift up our acceptance, our hospitality, our fellowship, and our service to the wider community. As we gather today let us give God thanks that we can be and are a sign that God is at work in the world.

12th Sunday of Pentecost

August 20, 2023

Pastor Bridget Sheely Leading



Today, as we worship, let us give thanks and praise to God who has gone beyond fair in offering salvation and grace to all of us sinners and has given us a way where there was no way. God loves us even when we haven’t been all that loveable. Let our praises be sung and spoken with grateful hearts as we acknowledge the gifts of the Spirit and the blessing that service brings.

Let our worship be a reminder that we often see the face of God within us. Let this be a time where we find encouragement as we celebrate how we have moved closer to the kingdom in how we live with one another, how we praise and rejoice in one another, and how we challenge and then support one another. Come, let us go beyond fair and move into grace manifested in love in all our relationships.

13th Sunday of Pentecost

August 27, 2023

Pastor Jon Marburger Leading



We seem to be always beginning. Or at least we have a tendency to speak about how we start our journey of faith. To some, that seems redundant. “We began long ago,” they might think. And that could be true. Yet, each day is a new beginning, a reaffirmation of the desire to be a disciple of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. So, once again, the journey begins.

So, here in the late summer and beginning of fall, when some things are winding down and other things are starting up, it is time for us to remember who we are and to whom we pledge our ultimate allegiance. Now is the time we go back to our first love and embrace our God with passion and with joy.



Join us for our 7th Annual
National Night Out
get to know your neighbors in Racine

When:

Tuesday, August 1st 6 pm – 8 pm

Where:

Racine United Methodist Church Parking Lot

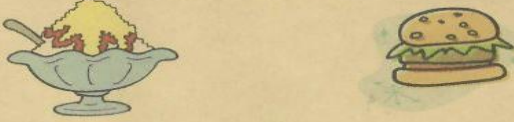
What:

Pizza from the Community Woodfire Oven

We have some
great events
offered
in August that give
you opportunities
to gather as
God's
community.

Racine United Methodist Church ~ 401 East Main Street ~ Racine

Come
And
Catch up
With
Your
Neighbors!

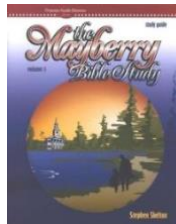


ICE CREAM SOCIAL
DRIVE – THRU
(PICNIC TABLES will be available)
Dexter United Methodist Church
Sunday, August 6
4:00 – 6:00 PM
Sloppy joes and potato salad,
Homemade ice cream and
apple or rhubarb crisp
Free will Offering

Prairieland Parish

Together we are joining in a 4-week book study titled:

"The Mayberry Bible Study"



This Mayberry Bible Study will help adults, youth, and even non-church members, to refresh our world weary souls. With practical applications for daily living, these 4 classic episodes with relevant scriptures are for us to use as modern parables on the teachings of Jesus.

Week 1: Andy's English Valet - Lesson: The Secret Service - Ephesians 6:7 - Andy Taylor tries to be a gentleman to a gentleman's gentleman allowing Malcolm the valet to work off a debt he can't repay. However, It's Andy who serves a higher purpose when he makes Malcolm feel at home by accepting help he doesn't want. Finally, this master sees that the only thing better than being served is being of service.

Week 2: Class reunion - Lesson: A Peace of the Past - Psalm 85:8 - Andy and Barney make peace with the passed girlfriends, that is when they look up the old gang to check on their old flames. But it's an awkward date, when Barney finds that true love can be truer for others and Andy learns that some people just can't come home again. As the past gives way to the present, our boys look for a peace filled future.

Week 3: Dogs, Dogs, Dogs - Lesson: Begging for Mercy - Matthew 5:7 - A pack of lost pups hunts for refuge with Andy and nearly turns the courthouse into a doghouse. Then Barney chases the dogs out - only to fetch them right back when his conscience attacks. As the pack turns the jail into the pound, Opie reminds them that neither man nor dog should have to beg for mercy.

Week 4: The Darlings are Coming - Lesson: Crime and Commitment Proverbs 16:3 - When a hillbilly family comes to pick a friend up, Andy has to lay the law down. As Mr. Darling stands by a betrothal promise, his daughter Charlene falls hard for the Sheriff, and Andy works overtime to stay true to his duties as Peace Officer. When each one tries to win, it's an amazing display of uncommon commitment.

There will be 3 different study groups offered for your convenience

Group 1 – will meet in-person Monday's @ 6pm

Led by Pastor Bridget @ Brownsdale UMC

August 28th – September 11th – September 18th – September 25th

note -no meeting on September 4th in honor of Labor Day

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Group 2– will meet in-person Tuesday's @ 2 pm

Led by Pastor Jon @ Grand Meadow UMC

August 22nd – August 29th – September 5th – September 12th

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Group 3 -will meet via zoom Thursday's @6:30pm

Led by Pastor Bridget & Pastor Jon

August 24th – August 31st – September 7th – September 14th

Meeting ID – 876 7236 9724

As disciples for Jesus Christ, it our mission to keep the ministry of His Word alive and strong in our community. Keeping His light shining in Sumner Center is made possible by God's Grace and your support to this amazing and historical church.



To fulfill our budgeted expenses each year we rely on the kindhearted generosity of each of you.

Will you continue to help keep God's doors open by sending the church a donation today?

Donations may be sent to our mailing address:

25378 151st Ave

Spring Valley, Mn 55975



"This [GENEROSITY]
that you perform is *not only*

SUPPLYING THE NEEDS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

but is also *overflowing* in many
expressions of THANKS TO GOD."

2 Corinthians 9:12

AUGUST

G K B S E W V N N H F A B T N E M E T I C X E H
V N G D I A M O N D J S X H G S E I D O O G A R
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I H J F E Y V U P A T I O L J B I L H Y J B O F
W V S R Z S H M B B C Q Z A P G S E A N B E R Z
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CARDS
JINGO
BEADING
LUCKY FULTON
BUCKS
EXCITEMENT
AUGUST

FITNESS
COMMUNION
BINGO
GOODIES
NEWSLETTER
DIAMOND

NAILS
FOOD SOCIAL
PATIO
SUMMER
SEWING
POKENO

SKIPBO
MOVIE
MUSIC
OUTSIDE
IMPRESSIVE
BIRTHDAY PARTY