



September 2023

Pastors' notes... Autumn is a wonderful time to observe nature. As I watch the swirling leaves stirred by the wind, I am reminded that they display an important lesson for all of us to follow suit in a way. Just as the trees don't stubbornly hold on to their dead leaves, so we shouldn't hold on to any unnecessary weight in our lives. When we long to enter a new season, the old can easily inhibit the new if we allow it. God's Word reminds us to:

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:31,32 (NIV)

To get rid of negativity in our lives, we must first identify it. How can we do this?

- » By reading God's Word.
- » By allowing His Spirit to show us the necessary heart changes we need.
- » By being willing to shun practices such as bitterness and anger.
- » By asking God to help us let go of the guilt from the past.

Oh how the Lord longs to empower and strengthen us for the new season ahead! If we're not sure of the issues detaining a kind and compassionate spirit, He will show us when we ask. And if guilt from the past is preventing this beautiful new season, we have His promises like this one to remember:

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:18,19 (NIV)

What are you holding on to that is preventing a freshness to the season ahead? Could it be that the decayed leaves are piling up and your heart needs to discard them for good? If so, why not reach out to the Lord in prayer? He longs to hear from you. Ask Him to shine light on any thoughts, circumstances, habits or other "decayed leaves" you might be clinging to. As you watch the leaves fall this season, my prayer is that you are reminded to let go of anything that would hinder a fresh relationship with God.

**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

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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)

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 11 am Worship Pastor Jon 	4 NO BOOK STUDY TODAY 	5 Mayberry Book Study @ Grand Meadow UMC 2 pm	6	7 Mayberry Book Study Via Zoom 6:30pm	8	9  Selichot
10 11 am Worship Pastor  Blessing of the Backpacks	11 Mayberry Book Study @ Brownsdale UMC 6 pm	12 Mayberry Book Study @ Grand Meadow UMC 2 pm	13	14 Mayberry Book Study Via Zoom 6:30pm	15  Happy Rosh Hashanah!	16
17 11 am Worship Pastor Jeremy Girard Sunday School  	18 Mayberry Book Study @ Brownsdale UMC 6 pm	19	20 Real hope for the hungry food pack day  Kick off night! 10:24 x 274	21	23 Wykoff 	24 Fall Fest 11 am parade Pastors Jon and Bridget will be participating Wykoff UMC German Dinner 11 – 3pm At Wykoff community center
24 Final day of Wykoff Fest  Yom Kippur 11 am Worship Pastor Bridget	25 Mayberry Book Study @ Brownsdale UMC 6 pm	26	27	28	29 	30 

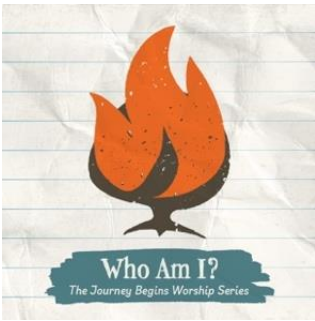
September Worship Schedule

14th Sunday After Pentecost

September 3, 2023

Pastor Jon Leading

Communion Sunday



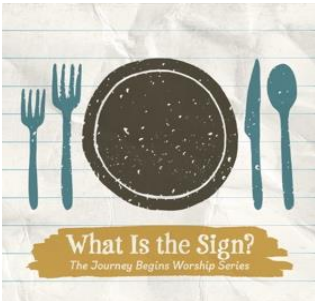
Knowing God and making a declaration of faith is an important part of the journey of faith. But then what usually follows an encounter with God is an acute and often painful awareness of self. Moses, following his father-in-law's sheep in the wilderness, far away from a shady past, stumbles across a God who calls him to a mission of liberation. One of his many objections is that he doesn't know who this God is. "Tell me your name," he asks. Who are you, so that I can answer when they ask who sent me." But alongside that question is a realization that he does not measure up to this ideal or to this calling. "Who am I," Moses asks again and again in an attempt to crawl out from under this call. Our awareness of self is an important element of the journey. But like our understanding of who God is, our understanding of ourselves changes and grows with time.

15th Sunday of Pentecost

September 10, 2023

Pastor Leading

"Blessing of the Backpacks"



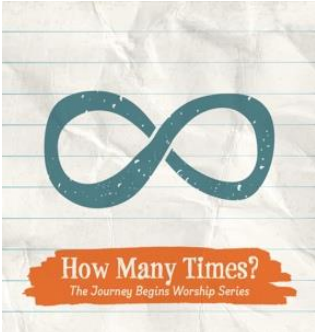
As we continue our journey of faith, the question today is this: are we called to look for signs of God's presence or are we called to be a sign of God's presence? The answer, as you might expect, is yes! We are the ones who are trying to be tuned into God's wavelength, listening to God's broadcast. Therefore, we must look for the signs that God is at work in and around us always. Today let our prayer time not just call for God to act around us, but to give thanks for the activity that is already happening. Remember, we are more than passive observers. We are active presenters, active signs of God's presence in the world. Today let us gather to once again commit ourselves to presenting the goodness of God in the world around us each day.

16th Sunday of Pentecost

September 17, 2023

Pastor Jeremy Girard Leading

"Presentation of Bible to Garrett Apenhorst our 3rd grade student"



Today we take a look at Peter's question. "How many times must we forgive?" This is one of those questions that we know how we're supposed to answer, but it is harder to do in practice than in theory. Today we gather to hear the story from Matthew where Jesus tells Peter that we forgive 77 times, or 70 times 7, or in fact, we just keep forgiving, this is a familiar text for many of us and each time we hear it we smile and nod and clap our hands. "Of course," we think, "we worship a forgiving God, and we know we need God's forgiveness over and over again." But then we realize that this means we also must be forgiving of those who offend us, again and again, perhaps. And then we wonder if that's even possible.

17th Sunday of Pentecost

September 24, 2023

Pastor Bridget Leading



God provides. It seems clear that this is one of the messages from our texts this week. But it should also be clear that God provides for our needs in unusual and sometimes confusing ways. Whether it is manna and quail in the desert or a surprisingly generous but perhaps somewhat unfair payment for labor, God provides in ways that give us pause and, hopefully, makes us think. When we look at the stories written as well as our own lives, we see that God works in partnership to meet needs. Effort is required to gather the manna that forms each morning and to capture the quail that roost in the evening. Labor in the vineyard is a part of the covenant made with God as we claim the joy of belonging to the kin-dom. We aren't passive recipients of God's grace but must be engaged in the process of discovery and acceptance.

God provides - we gather, and we share.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS



Sunday, September 10th

CALLING STUDENTS OF EVERY AGE!!!

Bring your backpack to Church this Sunday
And receive a special blessing For a safe and
fun-filled Year of School!



Sunday, September 17th

Garrett Apenhorst will be Receiving his Bible!

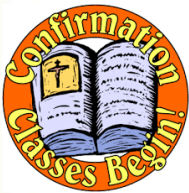
Congratulations Garrett!!



Sunday Stories with Jesus:

Sunday, September 10th @ 10:30 am

And every 2nd Sunday of each month



Wednesday, September 20th

Kick of night for all students age 7th grade and above
Who are interesting in joining confirmation class
Come to United Church of Grand Meadow to help
With food pack and a brief meeting to set schedule

You won't want to miss this Year's Wykoff Fall Fest!

September 22nd – 24th
Parade Saturday, Sept 23th
Beginning @ 11am

The church will have an entry in the parade, Saturday which begins at 11 am. Pastors Jon and Bridget will be walking in the parade and we invite all our children to be participant's with them. If you or your child will be available to walk along with the pastors, please have them arrive at the pre-entry line up by 10:30 am. Together with the pastors we will walk the parade route and hand out water bottles to spectators.

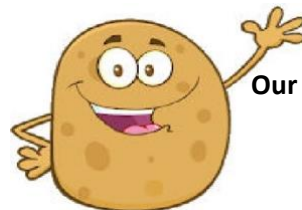
Wykoff UMC's

German Dinner will be held September 23th

11:00 am – 3:00pm

Menu to include:

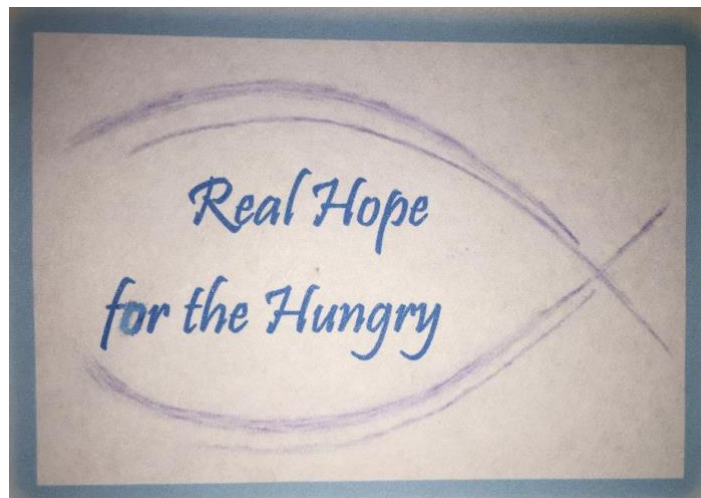
Our World-Famous Potato Salad
Pulled Pork Sandwiches
Homemade Pie - Beverages



Food Pack for
Real Hope for the Hungry
Wednesday, September, 20th

two shifts

6:00 pm and 7:00 pm ~ United Church Grand Meadow



~ **Need Volunteers** ~

Confirmation age + may participate in the event

25 cent will provide 1 meal for starving person

(Please donate to the cause)

Food will be shipping to TBD.

More information at real hope for the Hungry website.

Questions ask Pastor Jon Marburger 507-227-6711

Please let Jon know number participating.

What's In Your Closet!

Wykoff Community Clothing Drive



October 21st, 25th & 28th are right around the corner!

Don't hesitate, start filling those boxes now.

And what better way to re-purpose those outfits, then
to donate them to

The 2023 Clothing Drive!

If you are available to volunteer (volunteers are much needed) to help set
up the weekend before or take down the week after or have any
questions/comments /concerns

Contact Gretchen Lovejoy @ 1-507-696-7400

Labor Day

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

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labor

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