

SUMNER CENTER UMC NEWSLETTER

December 2023

In the Still of the Night

By Kathy Hawkins

A little white country church so peaceful and still
Surrounded by bare fields in the long winter chill

The people that gather come from near and far
To share the joy of the child born under the star

The tree decorated by hands with tender loving care
Topped with an angel who looks to be fluttering in the air

Garland boughs framing the sanctuary so green
With bright red bows spreading cheer for all to see

Wreaths hanging from the balcony on high
Expressing a circle of love that makes my heart sigh

The sanctuary is ready to tell the story of old
Sharing the love of a father worth more than gold

A long and weary path they did travel that night
Mary and Joseph knew this was a needed plight

The birth of this babe so precious and small
As he lay near the animals in the tiny stable stall

The angels were a glorious sight to behold
Appearing in the field to the shepherds it's told

Leaving their flocks on the hillsides alone
Traveling to see the glorious king with no throne

God's son was born to save you and me
Hold the spirit of Christmas each day is my plea

The love you feel from your family so dear
Extends to those in this little church so near

A little white country church so peaceful and still
Surrounded by bare fields in the long winter chill



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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Cell # 507-438-1352

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Pastor Abigail Ozanne

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Cell #507-607-0779



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)

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 11 am Worship   Second Sunday of Advent	4	5 Advent In person Bible Study @ Grand Meadow 2pm	6 Confirmation 6:30 pm	7 Advent Bible Study Zoom 6:30pm 	8	9
10 11 am Worship  Third Sunday of Advent BAKE SALE DAY!	11	12 Advent In person Bible Study @ Grand Meadow 2pm	13	14 Advent Bible Study Zoom 6:30pm	15	16
17 11 am Worship  Fourth Sunday of Advent	18	19 Advent In person Bible Study @ Grand Meadow 2pm	20	21 Advent Bible Study Zoom 6:30pm 	22	23
24  Christmas Eve Service 7:00PM (no morning service)	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 11 am Worship  Happy New Year						

December Worship Schedule

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Pastor Beth Perez Leading



Everything this time of year feels necessary. Important. Like it won't be Christmas unless I make it to every party, every sale, every program. Many of us experienced a Christmas season (or two or three) where it didn't feel safe to gather, which lends even more import to the opportunities we get to gather and celebrate now. I must say, though, it feels like the only thing not on my schedule or my to-do list right now is time to breathe. Today as we gather, we find our center by focusing on peace. Peace for our world, peace for our country, peace for our community and peace in our lives. It's time to stop and take a moment to enjoy the peace this season offers us.

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Pastor Abigail Leading



Today we gather in our 3rd Sunday of Advent which is also sometimes called Rose Sunday

This is the day we focus on Joy! Joy of the Good News. Joy of His promise to come again. To honor this special Sunday it is our tradition to light pink candle on the Advent wreath.

Come, Let us praise our loving and living God!

4th Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Pastor Bridget Leading



Advent is all about getting ready. But what are we to be ready for? Was Mary ready for the angel Gabriel to appear to her? How about an angel in your living room? Would you be ready? Mary is the model for what it means to be a follower. She shows us what surrendering to God is all about. She is the quintessential disciple of the one to whom she is about to give birth. But it wasn't an easy "yes." It wasn't just a "sure, whatever you say" kind of thing. It was startling; it was an angel in the living room, for heaven's sake!



December 24, 2023

Pastor Jon Leading

A Service of Word, Carols, and Communion
Evening Worship @ 7:00 pm
(no morning worship)

December 31, 2023

Pastor Jon Leading



On this first Sunday after Christmas, as we gather with exhaustion of the season still fresh upon us. Let us gather this day with the beautiful and inspiring words of the great Apostle Paul. Written in Colossians 3:12-17

December Announcements

Annual Advent Community Mission

**REVERSE
ADVENT CALENDAR**

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM



Collect these food items or others at your choosing at home in a basket then each week or by Christmas Eve worship bring items to church and place them at the alter to be blessed before they are distributed to our area food shelves.

This is a fantastic Advent mission that will help our Racine food bank re-stock its shelves after the holiday depletion of items.

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Christmas Eve Worship Service Opportunities to fit your schedule.



Morning Services

Racine @ 8:30 am
Sargeant @ 9:00 am
Brownsdale @ 10:30 am

Late Afternoon Services

Grand Meadow @ 4:00 pm
Dexter @ 5:30 pm

Evening Services

Sumner Center @ 7:00pm
Wykoff @ 7:00 pm.

Sumner Center Christmas fundraisers!

We are selling customized blankets.

(funds to help general expenses)

Size 50 in x 36 in



These fleece blankets would make a great Christmas Gift for the ones you love and/or a nice treat for yourself!

Perfect for having handy in your vehicle.

A cozy lap blanket by your favorite chair

A great gift for all ages!!!

Cost per blanket is \$30.00

You may contact Pastor Bridget

bridget@countrywidecarriers.com

507-438-1352

Or

Kathy Hawkins

kittykathawk@att.net

507-269-6291

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Sunday – December 10th (after worship)

Sumner Center Annual Christmas treats bake sale!



Come to Worship and enjoy a beautiful Advent service.

Leave with a great variety of Christmas treats for your holiday get togethers!

ALL PROCEEDS FOR THIS CHRISTMAS TREAT EVENT WILL BE DONATED TO AREA CARE CENTERS FOR THEIR RESIDENT FUNCTIONS

YOUR SUPPORT OF THESE EVENTS IS GREATLY NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!

Christmas Bible Reading Plan



20 DAYS | OrganicChristianLiving.com

Preparing The Way

- DAY 1: JOHN 1:1-5, 14-18
- DAY 2: LUKE 1:1-12
- DAY 3: LUKE 1:13-25
- DAY 4: JOHN 1:6-9 + LUKE 1:76-80
- DAY 5: JOHN 1:19-34

The Christ is Born

- DAY 11: LUKE 1:46-58
- DAY 12: LUKE 2:1-7 + MICAH 5:2
- DAY 13: LUKE 2:8-14
- DAY 14: LUKE 2:15-20
- DAY 15: MATTHEW 1:1-17

Christ's Birth Announced

- DAY 6: LUKE 1:26-38
- DAY 7: ISAIAH 7:14
- DAY 8: MATTHEW 1:18-25
- DAY 9: ISAIAH 53
- DAY 10: LUKE 1:39-45

The Three Wise Men

- DAY 16: MATTHEW 2:1-12
- DAY 17: MATTHEW 2:13-15 + JOB 42:2
- DAY 18: MATTHEW 2:16-18
- DAY 19: MATTHEW 2:19-23 + PROVERBS 19:21
- DAY 20: 1 JOHN 4:9-11



*For unto us a Child is born....
and His name will be called
... Prince of Peace*



Christmas

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Ally	Angel	Bethlehem	Bows	Candles	Cards	Carols
Chimney	Christie	christmas	Coal	Dancer	Dancing	Dasher
Debbie	December	Decoration	Eggnog	Elves	Faith	Flo
Garland	Gingerbread	Grinch	Holiday	Holly	Hope	Icicles
Jolly	Kringle	Liz	Mistletoe	Nativity	noel	Nutcrackers
Ornament	Poinsettia	Prancer	Reindeer	Santa	Scrooge	Silver bells
Sleigh	Snowman	star	Stockings	Three Kings	Tinsel	Toys
tree	Trimmings	Vacation	Vixen	Wise Men	Workshop	wreath