

Sumner Center UMC

March 2024

Pastors notes... There's plenty to love about eggs, bunnies and chocolates, but Easter Sunday holds a much deeper meaning. Yes, this highly anticipated holiday offers an opportunity to gather with family, but it can be so much more. On Easter, we remember the love Christ showed mankind when he gave the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf. He is risen from the dead, so we truly have reason to celebrate! While this special day offers a valuable reminder and reason to celebrate, it should by no means be the only day on which we show our gratitude. After all, the essence of Easter is not exclusive to one single day. So let me offer a few tips for incorporating Easter's message into your daily life.

- **Find Meaning Beyond Easter Day** - The resurrection story can be told throughout the year, for it is always imbedded with a deeper meaning. This story forms the essence of our faith; we know that, in Christ, death can be defeated and give way to everlasting life. By remembering this throughout the year, we can find relief from the burden of sin as well as greater joy in the blessings of everyday life. Christ's resurrection gives us a reason to live not only for today, but to sustain hope in our future, no matter how difficult the circumstances we currently face.
- **Show compassion and grace for others**
- **just as Jesus has done for us**
- **Commit to regular prayer**
- **Read relevant Bible passages**
- **Continue to testify**
- **Attend church or participate in a Bible study group.**

Remember the hope and renewal of Christ's promise after spring has given way to summer.

Spring lends itself to a greater consciousness of the idea of Easter. During this season, we are surrounded by new beginnings and a fresh sense of optimism. To celebrate Easter year-round is to keep the hope of that special day alive, even as the seasons change. This Easter, go beyond the eggs and candy to find a deeper, more meaningful experience. You can find great hope and fulfillment in Christ's remarkable feats on Easter Sunday and throughout the year.



Grace and Peace in the name of Jesus Christ:

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

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

Email: bridget@countrywidecarriers.com

Cell # 507-438-1352

Pastor Jon Marburger

Email: marburgerjon@gmail.com

Cell #507-227-6711

Pastor Abigail Ozanne

Email: pastorabigailo@gmail.com

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 or dropping at Church. The light of God remains to shine bright in our community only by your generous giving heart! If you would like to donate a gift, you may send donations to the address above or deliver it in person during Sunday morning worship service

Calendar of Events

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

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 11 am Worship 	4	5	6 Lenten gathering 6:00pm meal followed by group discussion. Hosted by: Brownsdale UMC	7	8	9 
10 11 am Worship 	11	12	13 Lenten gathering 6:00pm meal followed by group discussion. Hosted by: Wykoff UMC	14	15	16
17 11 am Worship 	18 Brownsdale UMC Noon Community Potluck	19	20 Lenten gathering 6:00pm meal followed by group discussion. Hosted by: Grand Meadow UMC	21	22	23
24 11 am Worship 	25	26	27	28  Maundy Thursday	29  GOOD FRIDAY Service @ Dexter UMC 7pm	30  HOLY SATURDAY
31  Happy Easter Sunday ... HE IS RISEN ...						

March Worship Schedule

March 3, 2024

Pastor Jeremy Girard Leading

Third



We are now fully on our journey through Lent. Today we will hear from the Gospel of John, it seems, is in a hurry to get to Jerusalem. So, even though we aren't ready for this, here we are today hearing about cleansing the temple even before we get to the teaching or healing or storytelling that we love so much. It's almost as if Jesus – according to John – has an agenda, and it begins with worship. No, wait, it begins with the right kind of worship. Not right in form or structure, not right in genre or setting, but right in intention. Right in presence.

March 10, 2024

Pastor Bridget Leading



Ask someone on the street to quote a Bible verse, any Bible verse, and you may get a blank stare. But ask them to name a Bible verse and you are in business: As many will say - John 3:16. It's the perfect verse. Because it seems John 3:16 has become a kind of trademark for society — it provides a way to reduce and simplify one version of the Christian gospel to a quick sound bite.

March 17, 2024

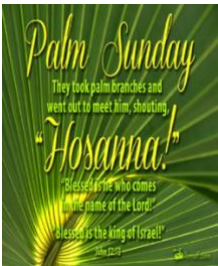
Pastor Bridget Leading



Let us come together this day with our focus to be on a day of prayer - for the inspiration to discover and the wisdom to know what is ours to do.. Losing our lives to God does not mean we burn ourselves out to save the world all on our own. Let us remember that losing our lives to God also means trusting that God does not need us to do everything—only the things we are called to do. So, let us find our center as a time to both surrender to God and commit ourselves to discerning God's call to service in the specific neighborhood and community where we are planted.

March 24, 2024

Pastor Jon Leading



The story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, tells us that after his celebrated arrival. He went into the Temple and looked around at everything. As we gather here for worship today may it be with a sense that Jesus has walked in too and is looking around. May our eyes be open to see Him, may our hearts be ready to be seen by Him, may our worship be worthy of His presence, and may we be transformed so that we see the world through His eyes. Amen



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE – March 29, 2024

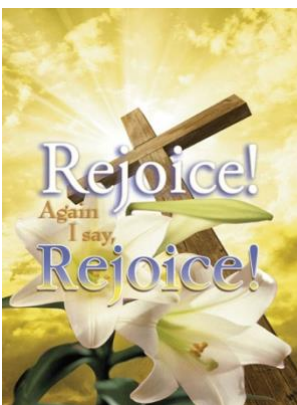
7:00 pm

Hosted by: Dexter UMC

No Meal served for this Service

MARCH 31, 2024

Pastor Jon Leading



Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Death has been swallowed in victory.

The grave has lost its sting.

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed!

And we are alive in Christ! Glory to God! Alleluia!

A LENTEN REFLECTION CONCERNING WORSHIP

Lent gives us an opportunity to reflect, re-connect and repent. Lent is also a wonderful time to find answers to the many questions we have about our faith. One of the basic questions I hear more and more in our current culture is this...

WHY DO WE NEED TO GATHER TO WORSHIP?

We were created to worship God. Whether we are praising Him in an extravagant celebration of joy, a quiet expression of reverence and humility, or out of simple obedience to His voice, our worship is an outward expression of what's going on in the inward heart of mankind. Worship has often been misunderstood as the musical prelude to the sermon, rather than the means by which we, as the people of God, invite the dominion of His Kingdom to be established on earth. The purpose of our worship is to glorify, honor, praise, exalt, and please God. Our worship must show our adoration and loyalty to God for His grace in providing us with the way to escape the bondage of sin, so we can have the salvation He so much wants to give us.

HOW, WHEN and WHERE DO WE WORSHIP?

Since God is the object of our worship, He and He alone has the right to determine how we are to worship Him. Worship is a time when we pay deep, sincere, awesome respect, love, and fear to the one who created us. Our singing, praying, studying His word, giving, and communion are designed by God to bring us closer to Him and to cause us to think more like He thinks, thus becoming more like Him. James 4:8 tells us to, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." Our worship not only honors and magnifies God, but it is also for our own edification and strength. Worship helps us develop a God-like and Christ-like character. We become like unto those we admire and worship. When we worship God, we tend to value what God values and gradually take on the characteristics and qualities of God, but never to His level.

To call ourselves children of God, we must be in a constant atmosphere of wanting to learn more and to learn we must be in community with others who are aspiring to draw closer to God. Worship is built and based off coming together in community. We can believe, love and know God but we cannot grow in faith without joining together in community.

Jesus said: Matthew 18:20

For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

The guide to worship is based in the beginning chapters of the Old Testament. After giving the Ten Commandments, the Lord gave explicit directions to Moses about building a tabernacle of worship in which He would come to dwell among His people (Exodus 25:8, 9). The people spent a year at Sinai building the tabernacle according to God's pattern and learning how to worship. God's plan for His people's redemption was to be realized through the priestly ministry of worship. In Christ, all believers have become a "royal priesthood" that

we “may proclaim the praises of Him who called [us] out of the darkness unto His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

But the command to worship did not stop there. We are to this day in covenant with God (promising our obedience to worship Him) and called to be His “chosen people.” Through Jesus Christ we have been adopted into his grace.

**MANY TIMES IN SCRIPTURE OUR CALL TO WORSHIP IS EXPRESSED.
HERE ARE JUST A FEW FOR YOU TO MEDITATE ON THROUGHOUT LENT.**

Psalm 84:10

For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside.

I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.”

Luke 4:8

Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’”

Psalm 99:5

Exalt the Lord our God
And worship at His footstool;
Holy is He.

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Psalm 100:1-4

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before Him with joyful singing.
Know that the Lord Himself is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving
And His courts with praise

Hebrews 10:24-25

24And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Isaiah 56:7

Even those I will bring to My holy mountain
And make them joyful in My house of prayer.
Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar;

Revelation 14:7

and he said with a loud voice, “Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.”

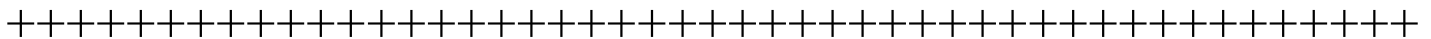
**Let us unite in love to praise our Lord and Savior
so we may grow together in our Christian
Maturity!**

**And always remember Jesus encourages us to
invite others as well!!**



To all the helping hands that repaired and replaced our church bathroom. Your gift of time, talent and hard work is greatly appreciated!

Never underestimate the difference you make!!!



2024 MISSION COMMITMENT

THIS YEAR WE WILL CONTINUE OUR LEGACY OF LEADING AS A MISSION FOCUSED CONGREGATION. OUR PROJECTED MISSIONS WILL BE BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- UMC LOVE OFFERING IN MAY
- FILLMORE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION IN JULY
- FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH FOOD SHELF MONITARY COLLECTION
 - ANGEL TREE SUPPORT IN NOVEMBER
- BAKE SALE WITH ALL DONATIONS GOING TO AREA CARE CENTERS
 - NATURAL DISASTER RESPONSE
- AND MUCH NEEDED CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR OUR CHURCH

Hoppy Easter

S S Y E Q S A S P R I N G B R E A K E X S E H K
 T E A M G W K S Y V F F U T Y T T T D G K G U V
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|---------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| Basket | Blue | Bonnet | Bunny | Candy | Carrot |
| Chicks | Chocolate | Coloring | Cottontail | Daffodil | Decorate |
| Ducks | Dyed Eggs | Easter Basket | Eggs | Flowers | Grass |
| Green | Happy | Hard Boiled | Hats | Hidden | Hippity |
| Hoppity | Jelly Beans | Lily | Marshmallows | Pastel | Peeps |
| Pink | Plastic Eggs | Posies | Purple | Rabbits | Spring Break |
| Sweets | Tulips | White | Yellow | | |