

# Sumner Center UMC

## April 2024

**Pastors notes...** We are now in the season of Easter. What a beautiful time of our church year. For Christians, Easter is not just one day - it's a season of 50 days, a week of weeks, derived in its length from the fifty days between Passover and Pentecost. Easter season begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends with Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. The original purpose of the Easter season was to continue the formation of new Christians in the faith. Christians have historically referred to this formation process as "mystagogy" or "leading people into the mysteries." Let us use this season as an opportunity to renew our commitment to our Lord and Savior. Let us find opportunity to invite others into a Kin-dom relationship with Christ. Let us share our testimony as gift. Many of us have served our Lord for many, many years. We have gained wisdom, through our experiences. Do not hide these God given lessons under a bushel. Now is the time to say with confidence "Yes, Lord I will be your voice, hands, feet and arms of love to all I meet!" Find your way to the cross and cherish all it has provided you. For because of it we are Easter people, we are children of the resurrection, and we are the beloved children our Master is counting on to build His kingdom here on earth.

Friends, walk forth this Easter season carrying the cross upon your heart and the wisdom to share the truth of the resurrection. We are never too old to extend God's Love.

I am very excited to share this beautiful poem by Kathy Hawkins as a gift for your meditation moments with Christ. Thank you, Kathy, for sharing your God given gift with us.

### Wooden Cross - By Kathy Hawkins

As the morning sun rises and through the window does glow  
Another day starts with thanksgiving and prayers that flow  
She holds the small wooden cross in her withering hand  
The sides have been rubbed smooth as glass made by sand  
Her daily activities though slower than in years past  
Are accomplished walking side by side with one who is vast  
Now the days more simple than the ones of yesteryear  
No more children to feed, bathe, or wipe away tears  
Time moves forward and nothing stands still  
Except for the love of the one above who died on that hill  
That wooden cross in her pocket she holds as she goes through the day.  
A Reminder of who walks with her each and every step of the way



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](mailto:bridget@countrywidecarriers.com)  
Cell # 507-438-1352

### **Pastor Jon Marburger**

Email: [marburgerjon@gmail.com](mailto:marburgerjon@gmail.com)  
Cell #507-227-6711

### **Pastor Abigail Ozanne**

Email: [pastorabigailo@gmail.com](mailto: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)

## April 2024

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>
<b>7</b> 11 am Worship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 11 am Worship 	<b>15</b> Brownsdale UMC Noon Community Potluck	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 11 am Worship 	<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b>
						
<b>28</b> 11 am Worship 						

# April Worship Schedule



**April 7, 2024.**

**Renee Wilson Leading**

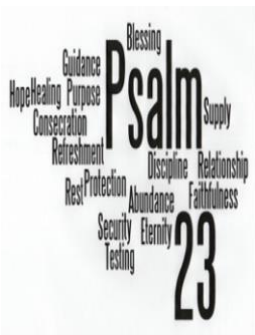
We gather today with Thomas and his need to see something real before his belief can kick in. We all can relate to Thomas and his response because we all have uttered the words. I must see it before I believe it. Simply because it is easier to believe when we can see something. So, let me ask you this. Are you prepared to be the one who is charged with being the presenter, the one who is tasked with showing the truth to those who need tangible proof to believe? Jesus Christ has said – “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And our mission is to show the gospel at work in not only our lives but other people’s lives as well.



**April 14, 2024**

**Pastor Abigail Leading**

As we gather today, I would like us to begin our worship with the words written in 1 John 3:1-7 “1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3:3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 3:4 Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 3:5 You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 3:6 No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. 3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.”



**April 21, 2024**

**Pastor Bridget Leading**

The real question for us today is not, “Will God speak to me, to us today?” Instead, the true question is - will we listen for that voice that is speaking? Jesus doesn’t say, “Listen and maybe I’ll have something to say.” He says, “Listen to my voice.” “I am speaking” is the implied message, so pay attention. Come let us worship.



**April 28, 2024**

**Pastor Bridget Leading**

Love is our mission. Love is our command. Today we find our center with Love surrounding us. 1 John 4: 7-16 says: God Is Love  
7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. So, let us come to Him who loves us this day by giving our love back to Him as we praise and worship Him. Come let us unite in our loving call to worship Him by uniting in our call to worship

# Minnesota Conference News

## What to know about General Conference

Hundreds of United Methodists around the globe are preparing to spend two weeks away from home, work and family to serve as delegates at General Conference. Plus the many volunteers who so graciously offer their time and talents. General Conference will be slated [for April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina](#). The theme for the gathering [will be “...and know that I am God” from Psalm 46](#)

General Conference is always a major undertaking with delegates and other church leaders coming from four continents. But planning for the big meeting has been made more complicated by not only COVID's disruptions but also the exit of about a quarter of U.S. churches under a General Conference-approved provision that expired at the end of last year.

It will be up to the delegates to prayerfully make the decisions that will chart where the denomination goes from here.

**Delegates** - Plans call for the coming General Conference to have 862 voting delegates — 55.9% from the U.S., 32% from Africa, 6% from the Philippines, 4.6% from Europe and the remainder from concordat churches that have close ties to The United Methodist Church.

**Petitions** - During General Conference, delegates will spend most of their time deliberating and voting on petitions — the United Methodist equivalent of congressional bills.

Delegates deal with three categories of petitions.

- The first, and biggest, category proposes changes to the Book of Discipline, the denomination's governing document that contains its doctrine, constitution, church law, rules of organization and procedures.
- The second type of petition deals with the Book of Resolutions, which contains the denomination's positions on current social issues. Resolutions expire after eight years unless General Conference readopts them. Because the last regular session of General Conference was eight years ago, all resolutions will be up for a vote this time around.
- The third type of petition is non-disciplinary, meaning it asks General Conference to take a certain action such as forming a study group or task force.

All told, the coming General Conference has 1,099 total valid petitions before it — including 352 new petitions submitted since General Conference's delay in 2020. Those petitions can be found in the [Advance Daily Christian Advocate](#), which contains proposed legislation.

**Daily Christian Advocate** - That information and other developments will be in the Daily Christian Advocate, which contains the daily proceedings of General Conference. Like everything at General Conference, the Advance Daily Christian Advocate and Daily Christian Advocate are translated into the gathering's four official languages: English, French, Portuguese and Kiswahili. For the first time, delegates and others will be able to access both the Advance Daily Christian Advocate and the Daily Christian Advocate at the website [DailyChristianAdvocate.org](http://DailyChristianAdvocate.org). General Conference delegates and first reserves receive free access to [DailyChristianAdvocate.org](http://DailyChristianAdvocate.org) with their delegate identification numbers. Others may access it for a one-time fee of \$49.99.

If you are interested in more detailed information concerning General Conference you may log onto the Mn Conference website at: [minnesotaumc.org](http://minnesotaumc.org) for all the latest updates.

# Mn Annual Conference 2024: Jesus. Redeemer.

## The DoubleTree in Bloomington is a new venue for Annual Conference



*But now, says the Lord – the one who created you, Jacob, the one who formed you, Israel: Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. – Isaiah 43:1 (CEB)*

At the 2024 Annual Conference, we will gather to be reminded what it means to be named and claimed by Jesus for the sake of our mission. We'll explore how to live together, anchored in our identity as Christ followers who are inspired to live with hope, possibility, and purpose. Drawing from Isaiah 43:1, the theme of this year's Annual Conference is "Jesus. Redeemer."

Planning is well underway for the 170th Session of The Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, to be held May 29-30, 2024, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington.

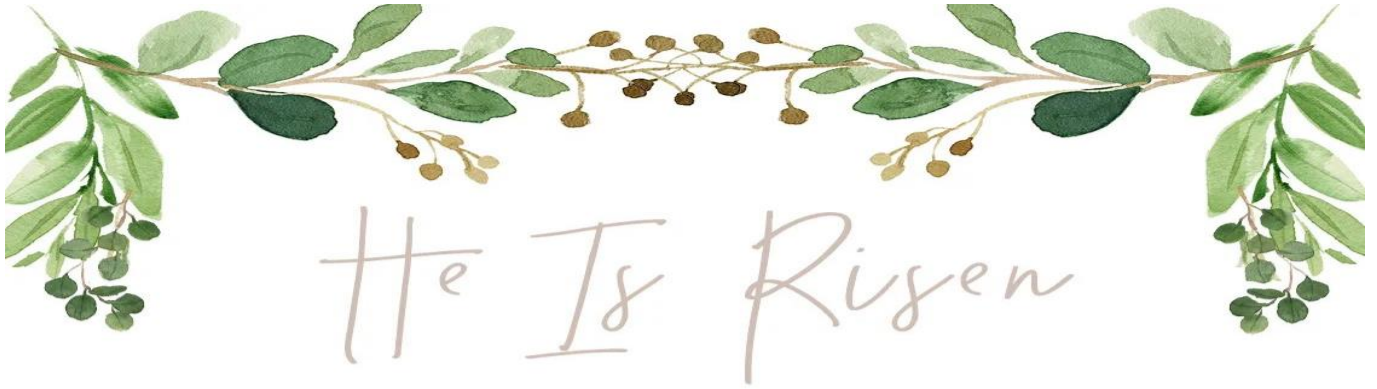
The Book of Discipline reminds us that the purpose of the annual conference is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by *equipping* its local churches for ministry and by providing a *connection* for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God."

Our hope is that annual conference session will equip attendees with new information, ideas, and inspiration, while strengthening connections in ways that foster beloved community. Here are a few details to note about this year's annual conference:

- Opening worship begins at 9 a.m. Wednesday morning and will feature Bishop Lanette Plambeck's Episcopal Address.
- Several learning sessions focusing on different ministry topics will be offered during lunch on Wednesday.
- The Celebration of Life of Clergy will take place Wednesday, May 29 at 7 p.m. at Hennepin Avenue UMC in Minneapolis. This is a worship service in which we celebrate ordination, commissioning, licensing, associate membership, and retirement. There will be free parking at or near the church as well as a shuttle option from the DoubleTree for a fee.
- Our conference preacher, Rev. Luke Nelson, will deliver the message during Thursday morning worship. We will also receive the Love Offering at this time (stay tuned for more information about it later this month).
- We will hear a couple of TED-style talks sharing a redemption story or unique perspective on our focus scripture, Isaiah 43:1. Watch for an invitation to submit a concept statement or idea for consideration.
- Rev. Chris Kliesen Wehrman and David Nyberg are our worship coordinators, and they have [extended an invitation to participate in offering music and liturgy](#) at our gathering.
- On Tuesday evening before Annual Conference begins, there will be an optional family-friendly social event at a church or local park.

**If you are going to be a lay delegate for Annual Conference this year be sure to log onto the Mn conference website at: [minnesotaumc.org](https://minnesotaumc.org) and register. You will also be responsible for booking your own room accommodations and making your own travel plans. Hotel rooms at the DoubleTree are available at \$149 per night, and you can [reserve one now](#). Annual Conference registration will open April 1. Pre-conference webinars will be offered online May 13 and 14 from 7-8:30 p.m. All voting members are asked to attend one of these calls to become familiarized with the proposed legislation.**





# He Is Risen

30 DAY BIBLE READING PLAN  
ORGANICCHRISTIANLIVING.COM

## The Plot

DAY 1: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-2  
DAY 2: MATTHEW 20:17-19  
+ JOHN 11:12-11  
DAY 3: LUKE 19:28-44  
Day 4: LUKE 19:45-20  
DAY 5: JOHN 12:27-50  
DAY 6: LUKE 22:1-23  
+ JOHN 13:1-30  
DAY 7: JOHN 13:31-14  
DAY 8: JOHN 17

## The Crucifixion

DAY 9: MATTHEW 26:36-56  
DAY 10: LUKE 22:54-65  
+ MATTHEW 26:57-68  
DAY 11: LUKE 23:1-25  
+ JOHN 18:28-19:1-16  
DAY 12: MATTHEW 27:27-44  
+ LUKE 23:39-43  
+ JOHN 19:25-27  
DAY 13: MATTHEW 27:45-56  
+ LUKE 23:44-49  
+ JOHN 19:28-37  
DAY 14: PSALM 22  
+ ISAIAH 52:13-15, 53  
+ JOHN 15:9-17  
DAY 15: MARK 15:42-47  
+ MATTHEW 27:62-66  
+ MATTHEW 16:13-27

## The Resurrection

DAY 16: MATTHEW 28:1-10  
+ JOHN 20:1-18  
DAY 17: LUKE 24:13-49  
+ 1 CORINTHIANS  
15:3-8  
DAY 18: JOHN 20:19-31  
DAY 19: JOHN 21  
DAY 20: MARK 16:14-20  
+ ACTS 1:1-11  
DAY 21: ROMANS 5-6:14  
DAY 22: ROMANS 8:1-17  
+ GALATIANS  
3:26-4:7

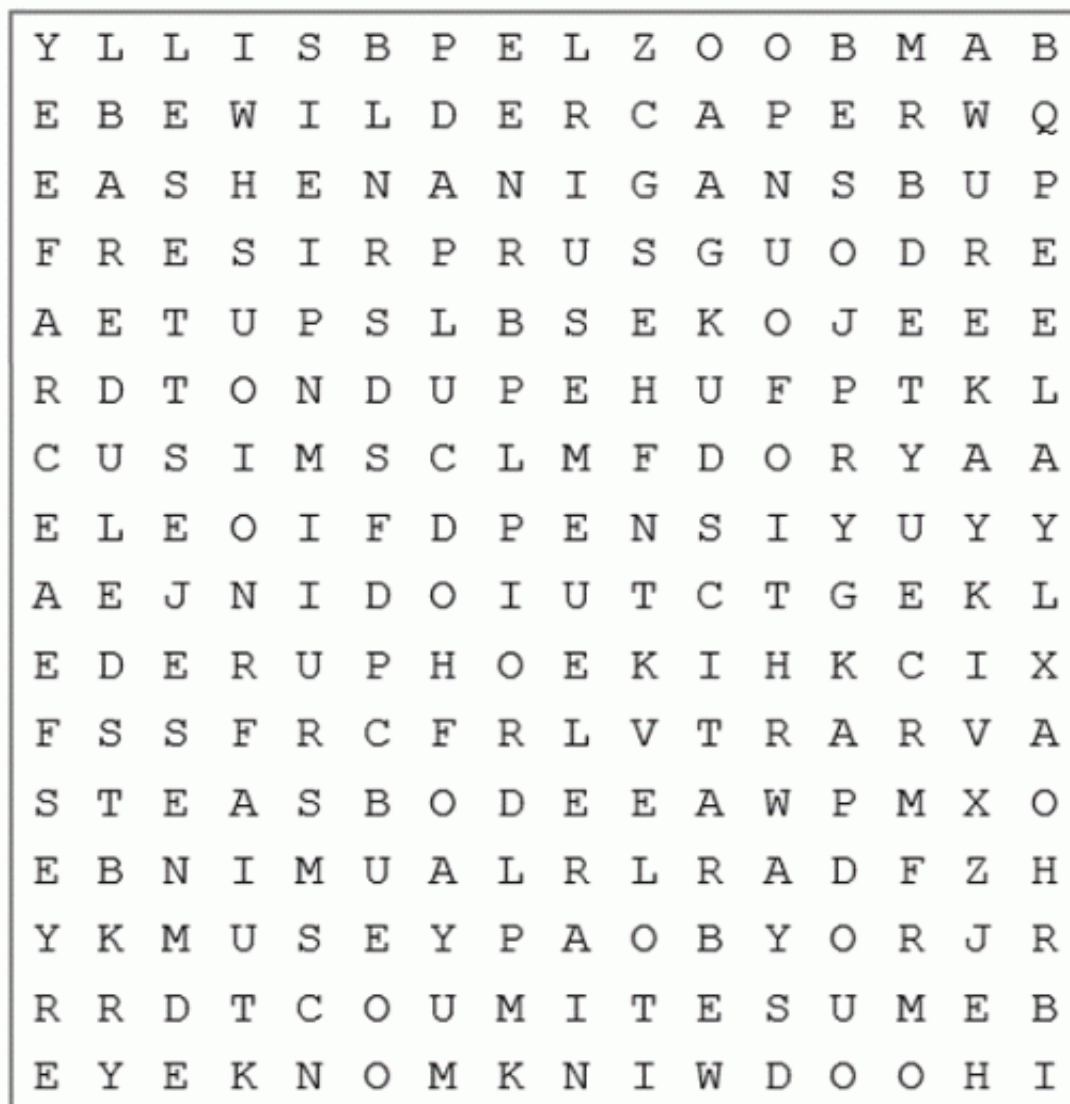
## The Gospel

DAY 23: ACTS 2  
DAY 24: ACTS 3  
DAY 25: ACTS 4:1-31  
DAY 26: ACTS 5:12-42  
DAY 27: JOHN 15:18-25  
+ HEBREWS 12:1-4  
DAY 28: 1 CORINTHIANS  
15:1-23  
+ ROMANS 3:21-26,  
10:9-17  
DAY 29: 1 PETER 3:13-17  
+ COLOSSIANS 4:2-6  
DAY 30: 2 TIMOTHY 2:23-26  
+ 1 TIMOTHY 4:12-16



# APRIL FOOL'S Day

APRIL 1st



APRIL  
BAMBOOZLE  
BEFUDDLE  
BEMUSE  
BEWILDER  
CAPER  
DELUDE  
DUMBFOUND  
DUPE  
FARCE

FIRST  
HOAX  
HOODWINK  
JEST  
JOKES  
LAUGHTER  
LEVITY  
MALARKEY  
MISCHIEF  
MONKEY

BUSINESS  
PRANK  
PREPOSTEROUS  
SHENANIGANS  
SILLY  
SURPRISE  
TOMFOOLERY  
TRICK  
WACKY