

Sumner Center UMC Newsletter



A Note from Pastor Bridget...

Easter People Raise Your Voices! Peace and Grace to you during this beautiful Eastertide season. I love this time of year. As we approach Spring into Summer and celebrate the Holiest and most rejuvenating season of our spiritual lives. Easter is a time for us to not only repent of our sins but a time to renew our commitment to our Lord and Savior. For He has Risen! He has Risen, Indeed!! And with His resurrection we have been given a most precious gift. The gift of eternal life. So, what does that mean to you? **How much of your earthly life are you willing to actually commit to your Lord?** Does worshipping Him enter into your vow of commitment? Matthew 18:20 states: "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." This verse assures believers that when they gather together in the name of Jesus, He is present with them. It emphasizes the importance of community and His presence in the lives of believers.

Hebrews 10:24-30 states: "24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not 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." This verse reminds us that it is very important to gather together in worship. For those are the times we grow and mature in our faith and encourage others to as well.

Is daily prayer important to you? A popular scripture about prayer is Philippians 4:6: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." This verse encourages seeking God through prayer and expresses the importance of gratitude.

Another important verse is 1 Thessalonians 5:17: "Pray without ceasing." This verse emphasizes the importance of consistently praying, even in the midst of daily life. For prayer is the way we become more personal and intimate in our relationship with Christ.

How deliberate do you take the call of the Great Commission? Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This verse commands followers of Jesus to spread his teachings and baptize new believers in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This means inviting others into a relationship with Christ.

My dear and faithful friends, these are questions only you can answer for yourself, and Eastertide gives us opportunity to re-focus our priorities and find ways of renewal and new growth. Now is the perfect moment for self-examination and personal acknowledgements of truly how faithful and committed you have been to Him who has gifted you this earthly life and if you are ready to take a deeper step into committing your time, energy and yourself to Him who loves you so. May you find your way to come home and find your center with Him your great Redeemer, Sustainer, Savior and Friend.

God Bless and I am Looking forward to growing and maturing in faith with you every Sunday. Let us praise our Lord! Easter People Let Us Raise our Voices – Let's do it together! For He has Risen! He has Risen, Indeed!!

***Sunday Worship:
In Sanctuary at
11:15am
&
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 or dropping at Church

Calendar of Events

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

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2	3 Ad council meeting 10 am
4 11:15 am Worship 	5 	6	7 Season finale meeting for confirmation 6:30pm At United Church of Grand Meadow	8 Community wide bake sale hosted by Stewartville UMC proceeds to purchase supplies for "Little Pantry" area food stations	9	10
11 11:15 am Worship 	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 11:15 am Worship  Confirmation of Addy McNamara	19	20	21 SPRC Meeting 6:30pm Grand Meadow	22	23	24
25 8:30 am Worship	26 	27	28	29 	30	31

May Worship Schedule



May 4, 2025

Pastor Jon Leading

This week is about God calling us to follow. For many, if not most in our worshiping community, something happened a while ago and today is a good day to remember that "something" that call. How did you first hear the call of God on your life? Do you remember how you felt when you realized that it was God? Have we gotten off track?

Have we lost the passion that we had for following God's will? What do we need to redirect or pick up again - to feel that we are on the path to becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ? Today I invite you to listen for that voice. I invite you to remember the first time you heard the call; I encourage you to think of those you know who haven't heard God or responded to Christ in any way. Carry their names with you. Pray for them, resolve to befriend them, to encourage them -by walking alongside them and being ready to help them discern the voice of God in their lives.



May 11, 2025

Pastor Jon Leading

Today we gather in our time of worship to share tribute to those in our lives we call Mom.

It is our honor to celebrate with you. So, this Mother's Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. Today we remember you. Happy Mother's Day!



Sunday, May 18, 2025.

Pastor Bridget Leading

Today we celebrate Addy McNamara as she stands at our Lord's altar to make covenant with Him and renew her baptismal vows. Congratulations Addy! You are a true cherished child of God!!



May 25, 2025

Pastor Bridget Leading

this week is about carrying on a conversation with God. You see, God doesn't tap us on the shoulder and then leave us alone to figure it out from there. God is a constant presence, guiding, advising, hinting, and strengthening us for the journey into discipleship.

A Mother's Love

By Kathy Hawkins

*Reading through a faded-paged book with the binding rubbed bare
A tree of the family that goes way back to a beginning pair
As she reads the names of each person as they entered
The family grew in size with love being the center
A childhood with parents and siblings so caring
Meeting the love of her life became a special pairing
A family they became along the way as little ones arrived
Monetary riches were few but the love in their hearts thrived
Through the many years the children grew and left the nest
Bringing spouses into the family to make them all feel blessed
The grandchildren soon came arriving one by one
Expanding the family tree and providing joy brighter than the sun
More years passed and those grandchildren found their special mates
Adding another generation that would be called the greats
The look in her worn eyes shows a lifetime lived well
Moments of happiness and loving memories dwell
A mother's love is there for a life-time and beyond
It lasts throughout the generations and forms a special bond
Celebrate each day you get to share with her
Even when her love turns to a near silent whisper
Carry on that love and pass along for years to come
She has been the teacher and the heart where the love came from*



HAPPY
MOTHER'S DAY

Three small hearts in purple, pink, and purple are arranged horizontally below the main text.

Love Offering –

You may donate by write your check out to Racine UMC and sending your check to the church or by putting it in the offering plate during Sunday service. REMEMBER TO WRITE “LOVE OFFERING” IN THE MEMO LINE. **We will be accepting donations through June 1st.**



Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session.

The theme of the [2025 Annual Conference](#)—which will take place June 11-13, 2025 at the St. Cloud Convention Center—is “Created for Love.”

Our Love Offering theme this year is “Love in Action.” Bishop Lanette Plambeck invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering as we put love into action

This year’s Love Offering will go to:

Descriptions of recipients

Africa University for Student Scholarships

30% of the 2025 Love Offering



[Africa University](#), a United Methodist-related school in Zimbabwe, currently educates about 2,500 students from 24 African countries. Africa University is committed to increasing the number of students who enroll from all the countries of sub-Saharan Africa where The UMC is growing and in need of ethical and well-formed leaders. The best way to recruit promising students from across Africa is to have more scholarship funds available. With your support, students are equipped to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, reduce hunger, improve public health, instill hope, and build prosperous and peaceful communities.

Immigration Law & Justice Network

30% of the 2025 Love Offering



[Immigration Law & Justice Network](#), an organization first established by The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), supports 19 sites across the country, each providing low-income immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers with urgently needed immigration legal services, advocacy, and education. Immigration Law and Justice Network envisions a nation where every immigrant has access to justice in an anti-racist immigration system that honors the dignity of all people. Financial support from the Love Offering is critical at this moment, and every dollar will make a difference to immigrants seeking access to justice.

OC Ministries

20% of the 2025 Love Offering



[OC Ministries](#), a Minnesota Conference Advance Special that's celebrating its 35th anniversary, supports schools, medical clinics, churches, agriculture projects, vision clinics, curriculum writing, and student scholarships in Chile, Haiti, Jamaica, Liberia, Puerto Rico, Sierra Leone, and Uganda. Formerly known as Operation Classroom, its goal is to inclusively minister to the bodies, minds, and souls of children and their families. OC Ministries partners with United Methodists around the world, including the Richard Ormsby Secondary School in Baiwalla, Sierra Leone; the Egypt Project avocado farm that supports ministries in Jamaica; a guesthouse for visitors in Liberia; and the La Saline Clinic in Port au Prince, Haiti. Your support fulfills children's practical needs, ensuring they have access to food, education, and a nurturing environment to thrive.

Midwest Mission

20% of 2025 Love Offering



[Midwest Mission](#), a depot in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) relief supply network, brings people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief so that people's lives are changed for the better, alleviating them from poverty and crisis. Disaster relief, health, education, and micro business supplies are given freely through trusted partner nonprofits internationally and in the United States. This is thanks to countless volunteers and donors—the backbone of Midwest Mission—who work hard to show God's love in a practical way. This includes more than 133 donors and 50 volunteers who came to Midwest Mission from Minnesota in 2024 alone! This year, Midwest Mission is celebrating 25 years of making a difference.

UMCOR and Midwest Mission Kit Collection



In addition to the Love Offering, congregations are invited to collect supplies and make kits requested by either [Midwest Mission](#) or the [United Methodist Committee on Relief](#) (UMCOR). Midwest Mission asks Minnesota UMC communities to focus on [Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits](#) this year.

Midwest Mission's [current needs](#) are:

- Night pads ([access sewing pattern](#))
- Panties (sizes: child 10-14, women 5-8)
- Leather Work Gloves (size large)
- Onesies (0-6 months, new)
- Diaper pins (with plastic closures)
- Sleepers or gowns (0-6 months size) ([access sewing pattern](#))
- Liquid household cleaner - 56-80 oz. total (no spray bottles)

Midwest Mission also accepts folding walkers, crutches, canes, wheelchairs, knee scooters, sewing machines (electric in good condition or treadle), sewing notions, and gently used/new non-electric tools (i.e. rakes, brooms, and shovels). There will be a truck at Annual Conference in St. Cloud June 11-13 ready to be filled with donations. It is helpful if supplies and kits are boxed up and labeled with the donating church's name and address and the type and quantity of kits or items in the box.

May Day



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

BUTTERFLY
CELEBRATE
FERTILITY
MAY QUEEN
RAINDROPS
TRADITION
CHILDREN
FESTIVAL
LAUGHTER
PURITANS
SUNSHINE

ANCIENT
BELTANE
BLOSSOM
FLOWERS
MAY DAY
MAYPOLE
OUTSIDE
RAINBOW
RIBBONS
SINGING
BASKET
COLORS
MAYDAY
PARADE
ROMANS
SPRING
BLOOM
BUDS
FUN