

Sumner Center UMC Newsletter



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

September 2026

Welcome back! Your Sumner Center newsletter is now being put together by Kathy & Jean, with info supplied by our pastors and you. Thank you for saving the church postage money by receiving this newsletter by email. But if receiving your newsletter by mail just works better for you, that is fine too. Please let us know of any email or mailing address changes. Your input is appreciated.

Kathy & Jean

Important Dates:

September 6 - Communion Sunday

September 7 - Labor Day

September 13

Story Time – 10:30 am

Car Show @ Dexter – Supper @ 5:00 pm; Car Show @ 5:30 pm

September 16

Food Pack @ Grand Meadow—Shifts @ 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm

First Day of School

By Kathy Hawkins

The tears were strong and coming fast
I'm sure my little one will eventually have a blast
The first day of school can be so hard
But couldn't I be there to guard
He made his way down the driveway to catch the bus
There really shouldn't be such a fuss
A mother's love is embedded deep in her soul
Yes mama is the one with tears and needing to be consoled

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

Also via Venmo and Paypal

Pastoral Support Team

Pastor Jon Marburger

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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 Jean McNamara or Kathy Hawkins 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)

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 11:00 am Worship 	7 Labor Day 	8	9	10	11 25th Anniversary of 9/11	12
13 11:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Supper & Car Show – Dexter 	14	15	16 Food Pack Shifts @ 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm 	17	18	19
20 11:00 am Worship	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 11:00 am Worship	28	29	30			



Message from Pastor Tony



A thought on change from Tony:

I have always found the reactions of people to a comment or a word can bring on a wide variety of responses. The word—change—is definitely one of them. Each day brings on the changes from light to dark and then from dark to light. What is most amazing is the reaction of some people who do not like the darkness at all, especially in the winter when it gets dark so soon, then do not like getting up in the morning when it becomes light.

Take the word—change—and apply it to what we do. All too often when change is introduced the first reaction from those that want to keep things exactly how they were, why change? Things are fine just the way they are. But have you ever realized change is what GOD has to do all the time. The Bible tells us that atonement for sin before Christ, was to sacrifice an animal. Ask yourself this question, based upon keeping that atonement for sin, would there be enough sheep in this world to atone for all the sins that need to be atoned for? GOD changed the way sins were atoned for by sacrificing His Son Jesus and Jesus obediently accepted that change.

What helps me get through any change is a statement I heard in my working years at Scott County. It goes like this. Change does not guarantee improvement, but to improve you must change or at least do things differently. When introduced to change think of this. Will someone benefit by this change? Had Christ been fully human, what do you imagine would have been his reaction to GOD when asked to come to Earth and die to atone for all of mankind's sin? Had Christ been self-centered, his response would have been quite different than what the Bible tells us.

The word—change. Does it bring on fears or anxiety like, I do not see how this change can help. Or I am not going to like this at all. Both are self-centered. When you hear, things are going to change, is apprehension, nervousness, resistance or even utter defiance what first comes to your mind? Or do words like improvement, a new approach, a better way or learning new things first comes to mind? When we think of what others may benefit from any change, we see more possibilities.

Granted, if from experience you know any proposed change will not improve the situation for all others, then do not try it. But ask yourself, do I know what is best for all others? GOD does and he changed atonement for sin. Christ gave us a new command, love one another as I have loved you. By coming to Earth as a baby, Jesus changed the environment of his existence, leaving Heaven to be by those privileged to see him and learn from his examples. Thirty-three years is only a short time when compared to eternity.

Thank you, Heavenly Father and Jesus, for being willing to change atonement for sin.

Message from Pastor Jon

I was fortunate enough to have the privilege to grow up on a farm. Often the opportunity was present to work alongside my Dad just about every day. Hard work, perseverance, honesty, and a host of other admirable characteristics were a part of life skills which I had the ability to learn in the process. The experience is something which I would never trade.

Recently I saw a list of what was considered to be the worst jobs. To my surprise, the top of the list was baling hay. Many of my summers on the farm included baling hay. Yes, I agree the work could be especially physically demanding. Sometimes the heat and dust could make things difficult especially on days with high humidity and little breeze. The hours could get long depending on how much work needed to be done, and by the time the first crop of hay was harvested the second crop was ready to begin. However, I would have to say that baling hay was definitely not the worst job I have experienced.

My memories of hay baling are mostly positive. My Dad hired a number of my friends to work with us to do the baling. Being with my buddies made for some great times. We often ate like kings. Not only did we get great home cooked meals, but lunch and snacks were provided throughout the day. A sense of accomplishment came from a freshly stacked load of hay put in the barn. I found the smell of fresh alfalfa to be pleasant, and the knowledge the dairy cows would benefit from the hard work expended. Like I said, growing up on a farm was a good thing.

My hay baling days are long over. My body and stamina does not allow any longer for that kind of exertion. There are ample reasons why many farmers no longer bale small hay bales. Ecclesiastes 3 states: "To everything there is a season and a purpose...." May we all appreciate the seasons of life and have gratitude for the blessings of the abundance God gives. Rural life is a great teacher of this truth.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon Marburger
Co-pastor of the Prairieland Parish



September Worship Schedule

September 6, 2026

Pastor Tony Leading

Tony will be at Grand Meadow, Racine and Sumner Center. The scripture passage will be from Matthew 18:15-20 where Jesus teaches about sin in the church. First you talk to the person about what you have noticed. If the person will not listen, take two or three and that can testify about the sin and finally take it to the church.

September 13, 2026

Pastor Tony Leading

Tony will be at Grand Meadow, Racine and Sumner Center. The scripture passage will be from Matthew 18:21-35 where Jesus gives the example of the unforgiving servant that had his debt cancelled by the king, but failed to do the same for someone that owed him.

September 20, 2026

Pastor Jon Leading

Pastor Jon will be at Grand Meadow, Racine and Sumner Center. The scripture passage will be from Matthew 20:1-16 where Jesus talks about the master that hired workers in the early morning, at noon, middle of the afternoon and then at the last hour. All received the same pay.

September 27, 2026

Pastor Jon Leading

Pastor Jon will be at Grand Meadow, Racine and Sumner Center. The scripture passage will be from Matthew 21:23-32 where Jesus' authority is questioned by the chief priests and elders. When they ask Jesus their question, Jesus tells them he will answer if they answer his question. They do not answer the question Jesus gave them and rather than answer their question, Jesus tells them of two sons, one who said no, but later did what the father asked and the other who said yes and never did what the father asked.



Looking Ahead

Giving you insight to the month of October, Laity Sunday is October 18 and the lectionary has paying taxes to Ceasar out of Matthew. The New Testament reading for that day is from 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 which is about giving thanks for the faith of the Thessalonians. The Old Testament reading is from Isaiah 45:1-7 which talks about what the Lord does to his anointed. October 18th, is the Sunday the laity of the church conduct the service. Between now and then think about taking up the opportunity to be part of the service and see if the Spirit of God stirs in your heart the thought of taking a more active role of leadership within the church. Laity can be very influential within the church when the power of God is awakened within them. It is an amazing thing how the Spirit of God can lead you. The Bible is full of people that followed the Spirit of God. Abraham left his homeland. Moses returned to Egypt after fleeing and hiding for forty years. All the prophets that inspired so many. King David at a young age answered the call of God. How each of the apostles went to spread the word of God after Pentecost. It may be your opportunity to live out Ephesians 3:20 (NIV) Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine, because of his power that is at work with us.

Tony

September Word Find

Explanation of the word find page from the last trumpet.

If you connect the words that are capitalized in this paragraph, you will see a picture that stands out. Not colored, not highlighted, that picture may be seen, but it is more difficult to see. When you combine the words GOD and LOVE they form the horizontal "arms" of the cross. The word SALVATION forms the vertical center of the cross.

When you combine the words CHRIST and OBEDIENCE you will see that the cross is firmly supported on the foundation of the OBEDIENCE of CHRIST.

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

The words at the top are what we can do---SHARE WITH OTHERS, the good news of GOD's LOVE, and the SALVATION we know has a firm foundation based upon the OBEDIENCE of CHRIST.

You may wonder why are the words JESUS and SAVIOR not at the top? The reason is JESUS never wanted to be higher than GOD the Father. JESUS ALWAYS wanted GOD the Father first. With the OBEDIENCE of JESUS to GOD the Father, JESUS demonstrated how we can best HONOR GOD the Father. Our PRAISE to GOD should be with JOY.

JESUS promised the HOLY SPIRIT to the disciples and the HOLY SPIRIT arrived at Pentecost. In the great commission, JESUS tells us that, I am with you ALWAYS. We are RIGHTEOUS when we accept the words of CHRIST and act upon them.

Below the cross and the foundation, it is on, we find the remaining words. All of these words are backwards. The PHARISEES had the Law of Moses as their foundation for their authority and could not recognize CHRIST as GOD's son. SIN and HATE lead us to SEPERATION from GOD. CHRIST overcame SIN and DEATH with His Resurrection, thus allowing us to overcome SIN and DEATH.

Thank GOD for His wondrous LOVE.

ALWAYS
CHRIST
DEATH
GOD
HATE
HOLY
HONOR
JESUS
JOY
LOVE
OBEDIENCE
OTHERS
PHARISEES
PRAISE
RIGHTEOUS
SALVATION
SAVIOR
SEPARATION
SHARE
SIN
SPIRIT
WITH

