

Calendar of Events

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

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 am Worship  	2	3 Book Study In person 2pm or Zoom 7pm	4	5 Food Shelf 6-8 pm	6	7
8 8:30 am Worship 	9	10 Book Study In person 2pm or Zoom 7pm	11	12 Confirmation Zoom class 6:30pm Food Shelf 6-8 pm	13	14
15 8:30 am Worship 	16	17 Book Study In person 2pm or Zoom 7pm	18	19 Food Shelf 6-8 pm	20	
22 8:30 am Worship 	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm</i>	25 	26 Food Shelf 6-8 pm	27	28
29 8:30 am Worship	30	31 				

December Worship Schedule



December 1, 2024

Pastor Bridget Leading

So, what do we do when we get ready to go home? We make lists. We put things in order. We set our minds on our destination. What is our destination? Our destination is home. So now we begin to prepare. First, we prepare with Light, of course, because light is crucial to Advent. We light the candles on the wreath, not to count down to Christmas, but as a beacon to call us home. "We'll leave the light on for you" isn't just a slogan for a hotel chain, but a gospel promise that we will find our way by the light that is Jesus the Christ and now is reflected in the body of Christ, the church. Today is our reminder that it is time to head home. So, I invite our reader to come forward to light our first candle of advent.



December 8, 2024

Pastor Bridget Leading

Christmas is approaching. Sometimes there is a joy in the waiting, like counting down the days before vacation or a party. Other times, it feels like that snowball rolling down a mountain that is going to swallow you up before you can get out of the way. It's easy to slip into that mode, to recognize that there is much to do before Christmas gets here. We've got to move heaven and earth; we've got to shovel out; we've got to clear the path. That is why John the Baptist seems to fit in so well with the Advent season. There is threat aplenty in the early part of the Gospel of Luke. Sometimes, we'd like to skip over John's tirade and get on to the angels and the baby and the sheep. But no, let's pause and listen in again: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" (Luke 3:4.)



December 15, 2024

Pastor Jon Leading

Joy is at the heart of the journey through Advent to Christmas: Joy in the knowledge of what God has done throughout the ages, joy in the realization that God is able and that God does change things for the better, joy in the assurance that God can enter into our lives no matter what our situation may be. The Apostle Paul calls us to a life of rejoicing:

- .. to live a life full of rejoicing and gentleness
- ... to put aside worry in the confidence that the Lord is near
- ... to lift our requests in prayer, with thanksgiving
- ... to trust that the Peace of God will guard our hearts and minds.



December 22, 2024

Pastor Jon Leading

Sometimes when we are trying something new, or when we are facing a difficult decision, or when we want to celebrate something, or when we just feel lost and alone and uncertain about life, the universe and everything, we need a blessing. We don't always think of it that way, or word it like that. We say we need advice, or support, or companions, or someone to come along beside and lift us up again so we can see more than the tops of our shoes. We seek a blessing.

Christmas Eve Service **A Service of Word & Carols - 5:30pm**

Pastor Jon Leading



December 29, 2024

Pastor Bridget Leading

Today on this first Sunday after Christmas I would like us to find our center with the words written in Colossians 3:12-17- 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

December Prairieland Parish Events

Prairieland Parish

Is joining Together for a 4-week book study titled:

“The Christmas Letters” by Magrey DeVega

Each week we will watch a 10-minute Video followed by a time of connectional open forum and discussion.

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We will meet in-person Tuesday’s @ 2 pm

@ United Church of Grand Meadow

November 26th, December 3rd, December 10th, December 17th

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**Zoom Study Opportunity
to be led by Bishop Lanette Plambeck**

In this study, United Methodists across the Dakotas and Minnesota will gather via zoom on Tuesday Evenings with Bishop Lanette to dive into Romans, 1 John, Philippians and Colossians and see what they reveal about the miracle that God became human in the birth of Jesus.

**Weekly discussions will be held via Zoom on Tuesday evenings,
Nov. 26-Dec. 17, 7-8:15 p.m.**

Mark your calendars for this is a great opportunity to join with our Bishop and others!

The Zoom link will be provided @ minnesotaumc.org as the first discussion date draws near

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**Christmas Eve Service Opportunities to fit your holiday schedule
A Service of Word & Carols**

Pastor Bridget Leading Services at:

Brownsdale: 4:00pm

Dexter: 5:30pm

Sargeant: 7:00pm

Pastor Jon Leading Services at:

Grand Meadow: 4:00pm

Racine: 5:30pm

Sumner Center: 7:00pm



Center your day with God

Reading one scripture lesson each day of advent from December 1st – 25th



Day 1: Isaiah 40:9-11

Day 2: John 1:9

Day 3: Isaiah 7:14

Day 4: Numbers 24:17

Day 5: 1 Peter 1:19-20

Day 6: Galatians 4:4-5

Day 7: Micah 5:2

Day 8: John 7:42

Day 9: Genesis 3:15

Day 10: Isaiah 40:3-5

Day 11: Isaiah 11:1-5

Day 12: Zechariah 6:12-13

Day 13: John 1:10-13

Day 14: John 1:14

Day 15: Luke 1:26-38

Day 16: Luke 1:39-45

Day 17: Luke 1:46-56

Day 18: Luke 1:57-66

Day 19: Matthew 1:

Day 20: Matthew 1:22-23

Day 21: Luke 2:4-7

Day 22: Matthew 2:1-2

Day 23: Luke 2:25-35

Day 24: Isaiah 9:2-5

Day 25: Isaiah 9:6



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

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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 Racine food shelf.

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

Holiday Tunes

- Away in a Manger
- Choir of the Bells
- Dominick the Donkey
- Frosty the Snowman
- Holly Jolly Christmas
- Jingle Bell Rock
- Jingle Bells
- Let it Snow
- Little Drummer Boy
- Little St Nick
- O Holy Night
- Rudolph
- Santa Baby
- Silent Nigh
- Silver Bells
- The Christmas Song
- The First Noel
- Winter Wonderland



S G R D A M A F C I F Z Z X F K U H J X
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Our mission is
to make disciples
of Jesus Christ for
the transformation
of the world

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 am in person
Online
Radio 89.7 FM

Church Website
<https://www.umcracinemn.org>



2024