



*Springfield
United Methodist
Church*

AUGUST 2025

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Facebook page: Springfield UMC

Conference website:
minnesotaumc.org

**Faith in Action,
Empowering
Generations**



SPIRIT

Sunday Morning at Springfield UMC

9:00 a.m. Worship

Live-streamed on Facebook

Every Monday, 2 & 6 p.m.

Worship service aired on cable TV Ch. 8

Every Wednesday — 6:30 a.m. Ecumenical Men's Bible Study

Every Saturday — 7:30 a.m. Gideons meet

Feel like an outsider?

It is so hard to believe that summer is nearly over. Don't get me wrong - we still have the month of August, but by the time you read this, two of the three summer months will be behind us.

Recently, I've had conversations in both churches with people who feel like they can't come to worship or Bible study because they don't understand what's going on. They feel as though everyone else is in sync, and they're somehow out of step with the group. In those situations, we tend to think everyone else is smart and we're not.

I remember my early days in seminary; my classmates were using all those words—sometimes big words—that I didn't understand. And the professors didn't always take the time to explain what words like existential and epistemology meant. Yes, I could've asked. But I didn't want to risk being laughed at (which did happen at least once...a story for another time). All of this is to say: I understand what it's like to feel like an outsider, to feel like the only one who doesn't know what's being said or what's going on.

Perhaps you've felt that way too. Maybe you've been in Bible studies that felt way up there, when you were down somewhere by floor. Or you have listened to Sunday sermons that were far above your head, even when everyone else seemed to get it. I want you to know that you are not alone. The irony is that we feel like we are the only one with a question, but my experience has taught me that if one person has a question, most likely there are others who have the same question or are wondering the same thing.

(cont. on p. 3)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10th!

You're Invited to

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

with the people of the
Springfield United Methodist Church

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10TH

WORSHIP SERVICE STARTS AT 10:30AM

AT BROWNS PARK, ON THE 200TH BLOCK OF SOUTH PARK AVE, SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

*WE WILL HAVE A BLESSING TO RECOGNIZE

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS, POLICE AND VOLUNTEER FIREMAN

*POTLUCK TO FOLLOW, BURGERS PROVIDED, SIGN UP FOR SIDES

*IN THE CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER THE EVENTS WILL MOVE TO THE CHURCH

We have invited Springfield's firemen, law enforcement, and ambulance personnel to be our guests. If you have extra folding chairs, please bring some along.

A Blessing of First Responders will be at 11:30am, with a potluck/fellowship time to follow. Please RSVP by Wednesday, Aug. 6th, if possible. There is a sign up in the narthex for a variety of items/sides to share. Thank you to Tom and Angela Buesing for catering the hamburgers and brats from Tommy's Central Street Steakhouse. Partners With Christ will provide plates, napkins and silverware.

Outsider *(cont. from p. 1)*

This came up at the men's breakfast in Springfield, and it struck me that when we feel like that, when we feel like we are unworthy to be in a Bible study or to be in worship, that is Satan talking to us. Satan wants us to feel unworthy, to accuse us of anything he can throw at us, so that we won't want to go. We won't want to be a part of the family of

God. So that we distance ourselves. Satan wants us isolated because then we are a much easier target to take down if we are trying to do life and faith on our own.

I want to encourage you to come to church whenever you can. I get that life is busy; there are many demands on our time. During the summer, you might want to get away and enjoy the outdoors, but I also want you to be connected in worship, in fellowship, and in learning and growing in your faith, so I want to invite you to come to church as often as you can. I will do my best to make sure we have opportunities at every level, so no matter where you are on your faith journey, there will be something for you. Of course, I can't do that all by myself, especially with two churches, so I might ask for some volunteers to host or lead groups.

Most importantly, I want to encourage you to ask questions. If you have a question about God or faith, or something I have said, or even just about what is going in church, I want to invite you to ask me about it. I have office hours at both churches. You can ask me before or after church, or you can call, text, or email. And though it might feel far outside your comfort zone—I'd be thrilled if you asked during the sermon! Raise your hand and say "Pastor, what did you mean by this?" or "what does this word mean?" or "can you tell us more about this character in the Bible?" Sermons can absolutely be interactive.

One of the things about Methodism is our commitment to keep growing in our faith. It doesn't matter where we start. What matters is that we keep asking, keep seeking, and keep learning. That's not always easy—but it's how we grow closer to God and become more and more like Jesus.

Blessings on your August as we soak up the last days of summer!

Pastor Michael

New Vision and Desired Outcome Adopted at Annual Conference

The Minnesota Conference adopted for itself the powerful new vision statement that The United Methodist Church unveiled in May: "The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections." Our vision flows out from our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our conference also named a hoped-for outcome for our shared ministry: "Communities transformed by the love of God, where wounds are healed, connections flourish, and every person finds belonging."

SAFE
**(Springfield Area
Food Emergency)**
food voucher program
is operated through the
Springfield Ministerium. If you or
someone you know is in need of
food assistance, please visit or call
any of the churches in Springfield
or Comfrey.



Glenn Ellison
1931-2025

As a church family, we continue to uphold the family of Glenn Ellison, who died June 13th. He is survived by his wife Mary, daughter Emily, and son James and his family, and others.

Glenn's life was full of service to his country, having served in the U.S. Army through which he was awarded the Bronze Star, and U.S. Air Force, during which time he flew combat missions in Vietnam and became part of the flight crew on Air Force One. His interest in flying opened many opportunities to share his expertise and gain recognition for his vast knowledge.

Glenn's memorial service was held in our sanctuary on June 21st. The sense of loss will always linger, but the sustaining love freely given in Jesus Christ brings peace and comfort.

Thank you to our church family for all the kindness shown to us during Glenn's illness and death. Your prayers and support have been a great comfort. To those of you who assisted during the visitation and funeral, we are truly grateful.

Mary, Emily, James and family

As a church family, we uphold Tom and Angela Buesing as they work through the loss of Tom's mother, Elaine Asman. She passed on to eternal life on April 3, 2025. A Celebration of Life service was held June 3 in Tracy MN.

A woman of many talents, she leaves behind a legacy of love that will endure in every life she touched.

Volunteers in Ministry for August

August 3rd

Dick Gransee— Usher
Tom & Angela Buesing —Communion Stewards
Ellen Horn —Greeter
Dustin Gransee—Sound
Jex Richert—PwrPt
Usher/volunteer—Acolyte
Keith Olson—Liturgist/Comm. Server

August 10th—

10:30 a.m. Worship at Brown's Park, Potluck picnic following

Al & Jean VanGrouw—Ushers/Greeters
Aiden Krebs—Sound
Jenn Schultz—PwrPt

August 17th

Al & Jean VanGrouw—Ushers
Thomas & Kinsley Hesse—Greeters
Tyler Jensen—Sound
Dora Baker—PwrPt
Usher/volunteer—Acolyte
Angela Buesing—Liturgist

August 24th

Al & Jean VanGrouw—Ushers
Jerry & Cheryl Diede — Greeters
Jex Richert — Sound
Thomas Hesse - PwrPt
Usher/volunteer—Acolyte
Doug Robertson—Liturgist

August 31st

Al & Jean VanGrouw—Ushers
Jacki Kranz — Greeters
Dave Lyle — Sound
Tyler Jensen—PwrPt
Usher/volunteer—Acolyte
Joyce Schwarzrock—Liturgist

Thank you to all who are providing treats for summer fellowship hour, and to Cheryl Diede for making the coffee and lemonade!

If inclement weather prevails, this event will be moved to the community center.

Monetary Donations can be made
to Partners with Christ and left
with the church office

Offerings & Finances

As of July 27, 2025:

Needed for budget — \$64,189.50
Received toward budget — 43,837.49
Behind — -\$20,352.01

4th Sunday of each month: Loose Change Offerings for Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Other giving: \$100 to Building Fund; July loose change offering \$48.36; Texas Flood Relief \$230 —
Matching funds challenge was met! Thank you!

Electronic giving is an option!

Convenient, consistent, easy.

Contact your financial institution for arrangements.

A PayPal link can be found on the church website at
umcspringfieldmn.com/giving.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 - Jeff & Diane Schultz, Dillon & Brittney Schultz | 17 - Will Vanderwerf |
| 4 - Tim Schwanke | 22 - Robert Runck |
| 5 - Jeremy & Tiffany Pierson | 27 - Gary Richert, Doug Robertson, Paige Schwarzrock |
| 6 - Wayne Rice | 29 - Milo Veenstra |
| 8 - Greg & Amanda Lang | 29 - Jim & Mary Vogel |
| 12 - Al & Jean VanGrouw | 31 - Amanda Lang |
| 13 - Jerry & Cheryl Diede | |
| 16 - Travis & Laura Richert | |

Lifelong learners

"If you don't have wisdom that goes with knowledge, you are only a walking encyclopedia," wrote Jack Wellman, a Kansas pastor. "A book of knowledge is useless without the wisdom to know how to apply that knowledge. ... Information without transformation leads only to frustration."

Consider the many benefits of wisdom — and how you can use what you've acquired to serve God, your church and your community. To better fulfill your calling, what wisdom might you yet need to acquire?

As another school year begins, here's a prayer for students of all ages: All-wise, all-knowing God, make us willing learners and seekers of your wisdom, not for the gain of knowledge for its own sake, but that we might handle every situation we face with the wisdom of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------|---|------------------------------------|-----------|---|--|
| August 2025 | | | | | | |
| 3 9am Worship - Communion | 4 | 5 10am Worship at SILH, then visits 5-7pm Community Night Out @ Riverside Park | 6 6:30am Men's Bible Study | 7 | 8 10am Pastor visits at The Maples | 9 7:30am Gideons 9:30am Partners with Christ |
| 10 10:30am Worship at Brown's Park, then picnic lunch. Plan B - at church | 11 | 12 1pm Partners assemble teacher bags, then deliver | 13 6:30am Men's Bible Study | 14 | 15 | 16 7:30am Gideons |
| 17 9am Worship | 18 | 19 7pm Admin Council | 20 6:30am Men's Bible Study | 21 | 22 | 23 7:30am Gideons |
| 24 9am Worship - Loose Change offering | 25 | 26 | 27 6:30am Men's Bible Study | 28 | 29 | 30 7:30am Gideons |
| 31 9am Worship | | | | | | |

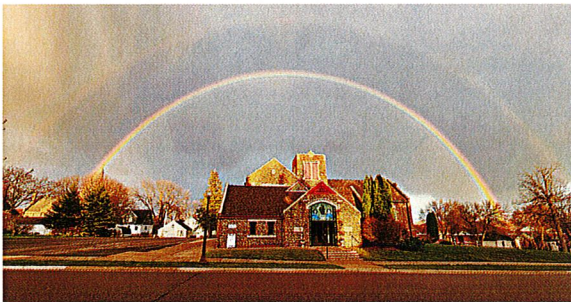


Springfield United Methodist Church
205 North Marshall Ave PO Box 8
Springfield MN 56087

Dated Material - Please Expedite

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Captivity transformed

In Jesus' first sermon in Nazareth, he read from Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ... to bring good news to the poor ... to proclaim release to the captives" (Luke 4:18, NRSV). Then he declared this Scripture fulfilled — in him. Ever since, in countless ways, Jesus has transformed captivity and dead ends into freedom and new beginnings.

A modern instance is a lovely new apartment complex built out of Lorton (Virginia) Reformatory, a prison that operated from 1910 to 2001. The beautifully renovated apartments — fittingly named Liberty Crest — opened in 2017. This project demonstrates wise stewardship by channeling new life into an old space, and care for people in need by reserving more than 25% of the units for low-income renters. Whether this project's developers are disciples of Jesus or not, the divine power of resurrection has been at work through them.

We're all held captive by something: illness, debt, oppression, violence, our own sin or another sort of dead end. But Jesus brings liberty where only prison was known. He transforms death into life, despair into hope, endings into bright new beginnings. May we who follow him do the same.