



SPRINGFIELD  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

MAY 2025

### Contact Information

Church Office: 507-723-6698

Pastor Michael Baker :

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Church e-mail:

[sumcspringfieldmn@gmail.com](mailto:sumcspringfieldmn@gmail.com)

Springfield UMC website:

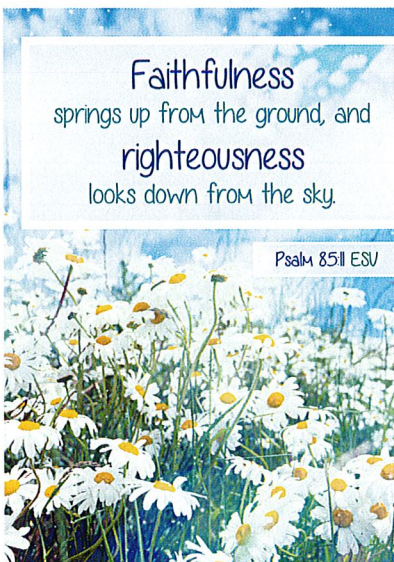
[umcspringfieldmn.com](http://umcspringfieldmn.com)

Facebook page:

Springfield UMC

Conference website:

[minnesotaumc.org](http://minnesotaumc.org)



# SPIRIT

### Sunday Mornings at Springfield UMC

9:00 a.m. Worship — live-streamed on Facebook

10:00 a.m. Sunday School — last day is May 18th

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  
at Springfield UMC

Every Saturday—7:30 a.m. Gideons meet at Springfield UMC

## So now what?

In case you missed it, our Easter theme this year was “from hardship to hope” and we talked about how the Resurrection of Jesus was a turning point for the followers of Jesus. They had hope again because Jesus was not dead, but He is alive. The fresh expression of faith that Jesus came to teach and to model for us did not end, but in fact, it was just getting started. We talked about the need to be Easter people, living witnesses of the power and the love of Jesus Christ, and following His example and the ways He taught us to live. Of course, none of us are perfect at this; the truth is we all need to be refreshed at one time or another, but because of Jesus, we have hope for the future. We can tell our heart to beat again and our soul to breathe again.

The natural question that comes after Easter is “so now what?” We have been through the time of preparation called Lent and we have been through the awesome experience of Easter, when Jesus offers us hope and a new life, so it is only natural after all that to ask, “how then shall we live?” Easter is a natural pivot point in our faith journey.

As a pastor, my practice after Easter has always been to focus on the nuts and bolts of Christianity, practical ways on how to live out our faith differently. This year, we are going to explore the Apostle's Creed, so after my vacation, we are going to spend six weeks talking about the

(cont. on p. 3)



## Offerings & Finances

*Approved 2025 budget = \$111,262.00*

*Weekly = 2,139.65*

### MAY

4 - Tiffany Pierson, Daniel Wait

6 - Linda Skarp

9 - Sharon Lang

17 – Pastor Michael & Dora Baker,

Jay & Cindi Drury

22 - Cindi Drury

25 - Rachelle Rients

28 - Ruby Potter, Al VanGrouw

29 - Dustin Gransee

30 - Micky Hildebrand

### As of April 20, 2025:

Needed for budget — \$34,234.40

Received toward budget — \$24,042.49

*Behind* — *-\$10,191.51*

**Other giving:** Building Fund \$100; Flower Fund \$335; Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$10.70; UMCOR \$56

### **Loose Change Offering:**

Springfield—4th Sunday of each month  
(for Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

### ***Flower pick-up reminder***

Partners With Christ wants to remind anyone who ordered flowers that the pick-up time is Friday, May 9th from 1:00-1:30 p.m. on the church parking lot. Alternate arrangements can be made if needed.

Thank you for ordering and supporting our fundraiser. Enjoy your beautiful flowers!

Electronic giving is an option! Convenient, consistent, easy. Arrangements can be made with your banking institution.

A PayPal link can be found on the Springfield church website at [umcspringfieldmn.com/giving](https://umcspringfieldmn.com/giving).

### ***Local opportunities to support***

**SAFE** (Springfield Area Food Emergency) —gives vouchers for groceries at Springfield Market and Mike's Discount Foods at Comfrey. Monetary donations can be made via the offering plate on Sunday mornings (checks to SAFE) or sent to Katie Mueller, St. Paul Lutheran Church, 303 N Cass Ave, Spfld.

**Springfield Area Food Shelf**—financial assistance and/or volunteer for service days and unloading truck deliveries. For information, contact Shari Koll at 507-227-0386.

**Community Treasures Thrift Store** — financial assistance via church offering plate or deliver to the store. Be the first to see the treasures that come through the door in donations by volunteering your time. Katie Dauer at 651-285-1864.

Apostle's Creed, not only where it came from and why it was needed, but also what it means to say "I believe in God, the Father Almighty. I believe in Jesus Christ, His Son. I believe in the Holy Spirit." My hope is that reviewing the Apostles Creed will refresh us in our faith, as we go back to the fundamentals of Christianity. The Triune God. The communion of saints, and the life everlasting.

One of my favorite things to do is to teach and I love to teach the confirmation kids (most of the time). Not only does their enthusiasm and energy become my enthusiasm and energy, but I get to review many of the things that I learned in confirmation. That was a long time ago, so much of it has faded away, but I discovered that it is easier to remember the 10 Commandments when you have to know it for the kids. Most people don't have that opportunity, so we need to take the time to refresh our memory, to go back to the basics. To have a strong foundation for our faith in God. It might seem repetitive and beneath us, but the truth is that remembering and relearning some of the things we learned in confirmation can refresh our faith and make it come alive again.

I won't be doing this alone; I will be using the book *The Creed* by Adam Hamilton, and I love how he describes the Apostle's Creed: it is what Christians believe and why. Those are the two most frequently asked questions I get...what do we believe and why, so my hope is not only will this refresh you, but it will give you answers when you get asked those questions, out there in the "real world". I am excited to dive into the Apostle's Creed this month with you and I hope you will join us; to continue the journey you started on Easter morning.

Pastor Michael Baker

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## Q&A session regarding General Conference changes

There have been many questions about last year's General Conference. Several major changes for the UMC were passed or adopted and the proposed plan for regionalization will be voted on this year at our Annual Conference in St. Cloud.

As a few people requested, I would like to host a gathering for anyone who has questions or would like to know more about what happened at General Conference and what the changes mean for the future of the United Methodist Church. You are all invited to join me on *May 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm at the church* for a time of questions and discussion. I will do a quick review of what happened, answer any questions, and talk about options to get involved.

## Bingo volunteers needed

A couple volunteers are needed for Bingo at St. John Lutheran Home on Friday, May 10th, from 1:45 to 3:00 p.m. Please let Cheryl Diede know if you are able to help with this event. Thanks!

## Your 2025 SUMC Leadership

Michael Baker, Pastor  
Dick Gransee, Admin. Council chr.  
Tom Buesing, Lay Leader  
Diane Schultz, Council ecretary  
Angela Buesing, Treasurer  
Deb Beyer, Financial Secretary  
Jeff Schultz, Finance Chr  
Tim Schwanke, Trustees co-chr.  
Clayton Beyer, Trustees co-chr.  
Jenn Schultz, SPRC chr.  
Joyce Schwarzrock, Lay Delegate to  
Ann. Conf, Partners With Christ rep.  
Amy Lee, Spiritual Growth chr.  
Cheryl Diede, Missions/Memorials  
chr.  
Al VanGrouw, Men's Group rep.





## Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

### Our Mission

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

### Our Vision

Grow in Love of God and Neighbor  
Reach New People  
Heal a Broken World

### Expression of Our Vision as Lived Out Values

Rooted in Jesus  
Grounded in Wesleyan Theology  
Inclusive of All Persons  
Engaged in the Work of Justice and Reconciliation

April 17, 2025

Dear Springfield United Methodist Church,

*Gamsahabnida! ("Thank you" in Korean)*

You are receiving this thank you letter because your congregation has paid 2024 apportionment in full. Dr. David W. Scott writes in his article, "The Many Meanings of Connectionalism" saying, "Connectionalism is a fundamental part of what it means to be church for Methodists." I do know that it's not possible to hit 100% without deep understanding of connectionalism of the United Methodist Church. I do also know that it is an indication of faithfulness as people called United Methodist.

Having been in local ministries for 28 years, I have been appointed to pretty large congregations where money wasn't an issue at all, and I have been appointed to small congregations where everything was fine but money. Lack of or insufficient financial resources make a direct impact on the mission and ministry of a faith community. When monthly financial reports are in the red for months, it's hard to be hopeful for the future and passionate about the mission of the church. Uncertainty feeds anxiety and fear. Survival mode kicks in and we find every possible way to stay afloat. Where is apportionment in all this conversation?

This is why I say that paying apportionment in full is a sign of faithfulness. This is the reason why I express my deepest gratitude and thankfulness for your faithfulness and connectional support. It's a sign of faithful giving of two coins offered by a widow at the Jerusalem temple. It's an act of giving not from abundance but from faithfulness that a widow brought a handful of meal in a jar and little oil in a jug to the prophet Elijah even though she was planning to eat it as her last meal and die along with her son. I ran across this inspiring message written by an anonymous author. It speaks of a simple truth so loud, "generosity is the matter of heart." It goes like this:

"Fear not. If an ant comes to your barn door and asks for help, will you be poor if you give it a handful of wheat? You are like a little worm at the door of My house, where everything is provided. "I help you." Soul, is this not enough? Do you need more wisdom than what is in God the Father, more love than what is in Jesus, more strength than what is revealed by the Holy Spirit? Come with your empty bucket, and the fountain will surely fill it. Gather your wants, your emptiness, your sorrows, your needs, and come with them. Behold, the full stream of God is waiting to meet your needs."

What more can you ask? Go, soul. Here is your strength. The everlasting God is your help.

"Fear not. I am with you always. Wander not. I am your God, always helping you."

Thank you for your faith. Thank you for your support for mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church.

Your Servant in Christ,

Woojae Im  
District Superintendent, Prairie Winds District

Lanette Plambeck, **Resident Bishop** • Woojae Im, **Conference Superintendent of the Prairie Winds District**

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[woojae.im@minnesotamc.org](mailto:woojae.im@minnesotamc.org)



# May Service Ministries

**Usher for the month**—Tyler Jensen

## **May 4th**

Jenn Schultz—Communion Steward  
Jenn Schultz—Greeter  
Keith Olson—Sound  
Jex Richert—PowerPoint  
Kinsley Hesse & Lyhla Pierson — Acolytes  
Deb Beyer—Liturgist/Comm. Server

## **May 11th—Mother's Day**

Dillon & Brittney Schultz Family—Greeters  
Dustin Gransee—Sound  
Thomas Hesse—PowerPoint  
Jacari Richert & Parent — Acolytes  
Keith Olson—Liturgist

## **May 18th**

Tim & Kayla Tierney Family —Greeters  
Dave Lyle—Sound  
Aiden Krebs—PowerPoint  
Kendall Beyer & Savannah Tierney —  
Acolytes  
Angela Buesing—Liturgist

## **May 25th**

Jeanelle Schultz—Greeter  
Aiden Krebs—Sound  
Jex Richert—PowerPoint  
Kylie Beyer & Aubrey Krebs — Acolytes  
Doug Robertson—Liturgist





# SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION

SUNDAY MAY 18 2025

11:00AM YARD GAMES & GOLF  
AT THE SPRINGFIELD GOLF CLUB

BURGER LUNCH PROVIDED AROUND NOON  
ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN.  
PLEASE RSVP IF POSSIBLE



Fun  
Times!







# 2025 Love Offering

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. Donations to the 2024 Love Offering totaled **\$142,963.40**, a 78 percent increase from the 2023 total! How much will we raise this year?

This year’s Love Offering will go to:

**Africa University** for student scholarships (30%)

**Immigration Law and Justice Network** (30%)

**OC (Operation Classroom) Ministries** (20%)

**Midwest Mission** (20%)

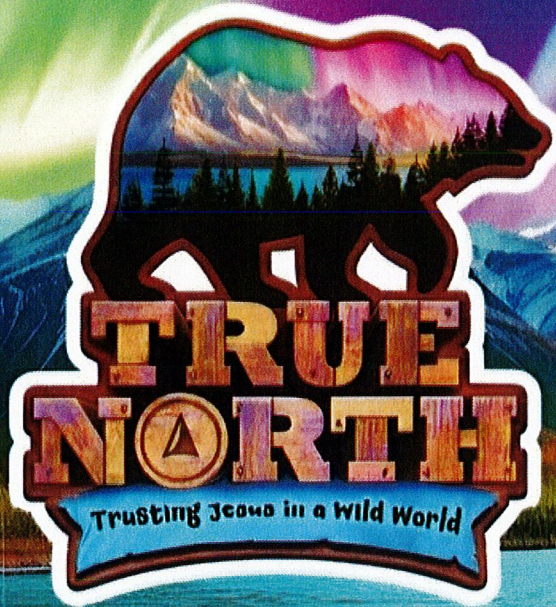
**We will also collect supplies and kits** for Midwest Mission and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

*Springfield UMC will receive its Love Offering on Mother’s Day, May 11th.  
Please indicate “Love Offering” on your checks  
or offering envelope.*

A flyer from Midwest Mission is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. This describes what is being collected for people in need, both globally and locally. Any items brought to our church will be taken to Annual Conference. Items may be left by the secretary’s office door.



# Save the Date!



This summer, get ready to hit the trails  
for the ultimate Alaskan adventure!

What: Vacation Bible School - Springfield Area

When: Sun June 15 ~ Thurs June 19

Time: 5:30p Meal, 6:00p - 8:00p

Where: Springfield United Methodist Church

Register at: Watch for more info soon!

Registration  
forms are in  
family  
mailboxes at  
church.

Return completed  
form (1 child per  
form)

to Jenn Schultz  
by June 1st.

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Volunteers will be  
needed to assist in  
various capacities.  
Contact Jenn for  
more information.



# May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:30am Gideons
<b>4</b> 9am Communion Worship followed by Fellowship Hour 10am Sunday School	<b>5</b> Pastor's day of Sabbath - call Joyce with any pastoral concerns	<b>6</b> 10am Pastor conducts worship at SJLH, then visits. 5:30pm Joint SPPRC mtg @ Spfld	<b>7</b> 6:30am Men's Bible St. 6:30 Confirmation	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10am Pastor visits at The Maples 1-1:30 m Partners plant pick-up	<b>10</b> 7:30am Gideons
<b>11</b> 9am Worship followed by Fellowship Hour 10am Sunday School	<b>12</b> Pastor's day of Sabbath - call Joyce with any pastoral concerns	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30am Men's Bible St. 6:30 Confirmation	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:30am Gideons
<b>18</b> 9am Worship followed by Fellow- ship Hour. 11am picnic & games @golf club; 1:30pm Gen. Conf. Info mtg	<b>19</b> Pastor's day of Sabbath - call Joyce with any pastoral concerns	<b>20</b> 7pm Admin Council	<b>21</b> 6:30am Men's Bible St. 6:30 Confirmation	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:30am Gideons
<b>25</b> Loose Change Offering 9am Worship followed by Fellowship Hour	<b>26</b> Pastor's day of Sabbath - call Joyce with any pastoral concerns	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30am Men's Bible St.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:30am Gideons





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

Dated Material - Please Expedite

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

