



SOURCE

Connect • Grow • Serve

Looking Ahead:

March

TODAY:

Worship 8:30 and 10:15am; Adult Bible Study 8:30-9:30am; Puppet Ministry rehearsal 9:30am; High School Youth Fellowship 6:30-8:00pm

10: Women's Morning Small Group 10:30am; Ladies Night Out 5:30-7pm; Men's Evening Small Group 7pm;

11: PUSH 8:30am; Confirmation Class 6:00-8:00pm;

12: Men's Morning Small Group 6:30am; Sugar River Band Rehearsal 5:30pm; Men's Evening Small Group 7pm

13: Family Craft Night 6:00-10:00pm

15: Worship 8:30 and 10:15am; Sugar River/Asbury Food Drive; Puppet Ministry rehearsal 9:30am; Ecumenical Service @Lake City Church 6:00pm; High School Youth Fellowship 6:30-8:00pm

April

5: Palm Sunday Worship 8:30 and 10:15am;

9: Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service 7pm

10: Good Friday Prayer Service 7pm

12: EASTER!

Sugar River UMC
130 N. Franklin St.
Verona, WI 53593
608-845-5855

sugarriver@tds.net
sugarriverumc.org

Our Mission: Sugar River exists for families, friends, and neighbors to gather in faith, experience God, serve others, and become devoted followers of Christ.

Worship Preparation for MARCH 15TH

Text: : John 3:1-21

Questions Jesus is Asking: ... Are You a Teacher?

The only two actors in this scene from John's gospel are Jesus and Nicodemus. Nicodemus is a leader in the church. He is a Jew, a Pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin (the highest legal, legislative and judicial body of the Jews), and a highly respected teacher of the Old Testament Scriptures. Can you imagine being Nicodemus and having Jesus tell you that all of this is not enough to get you into the kingdom of God? Jesus confronted Nicodemus, you're the teacher, and yet you don't understand. We can learn from this passage of scripture. Do we understand God's grace, the good news, revealed in Jesus Christ? Join us this Sunday as we gather at the River.

In Christ,
Pastor Gary



¹⁰"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?"

John 3: 10-12

The Season of Lent through Pentecost - From Ashes to Fire

The coming seasons of the church calendar consist of Lent and Pentecost. Lent is forty days, beginning with Ash Wednesday and concluding with Easter morning worship. The next 50 days prepare for Pentecost, the birth of the church and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all followers of Christ.

Lent is a period of repentance and renewal. In the early church, baptism and penance were key Lenten themes. Historically during Lent, candidates prepared for Easter baptism and people did public penance for serious sins. Today the emphasis is upon fasting and prayer, meditation and reflection on the meaning of Easter. Fasting and Prayer have been important observances since biblical times. Lent is a time to simplify. Not so we can get rid of things we like, but to make room for the presence of God in our lives. These disciplines have often preceded great religious revelations or events. Here are some examples to read:

Exodus 34:27-28. Moses fasted and prayed for 40 days during the time that God gave him the code of the law as the Ten Commandments.

Kings 19:1-18. Elijah fled for his life through the wilderness, fasting 40 days and nights until he came to Mt. Horeb. There, God appeared and instructed him on how to overcome enemies.

Luke 4:1-13. After baptism, Jesus withdrew to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days before beginning His public ministry.

Consider how you might use this season to grow in your faith and draw closer to God. You can never know the full meaning of Easter without the 40 days of wilderness and the reflection upon what Christ has done for us through his life, death and resurrection. The empty grave (God's promise of victory over death) must be seen through the shadow of the cross (God's sacrificial gift). God's love for us led to humility and sacrifice. How might we return thanks during this season? Maybe journey through this season with others at Sugar River to deepen your understanding and experience of God's love in Christ Jesus. We will also look at the importance of forgiveness and take time to journal and pray. Each Wednesday night in Lent, the church will be available for times of guided prayer.

Following Lent, you may experience a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. That takes us from the ashes of Lent (the sign of repentance) to the flame of Pentecost (the power of the Holy Spirit).

CONNECT

Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

Proverbs 27:17

The Rockford, Illinois Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference is only a week away! On March 14th, men (of all ages) from all across the region will come together for this one-day men's conference. Join your Sugar River UMC brothers for a day of fellowship, inspiration and serious work on the "man code." Our goal is to take a group of at least 10 men to the conference. Come, get yourself energized and equipped to lead boldly and courageously as the man God has called you to be! For more information, including cost and registration materials, contact John Forester at 845-2577 or john.forester@charter.net. You can also visit www.ironsharpensiron.net.

March Ladies Night Out!

Hi Ladies ~ The next Ladies' Night Out is just around the corner! We will meet on Tuesday March 10th between 5:30 and 6:00 at Bucatini, a new Italian restaurant in Middleton (the old Macaroni Grill place). I will call in advance for reservations, so check your calendars and let me know if you can join the fun. My e-mail is millmann4@tds.net and phone is 273-2602. Hope to see you there! Pam

(Stay tuned in the coming weeks, we are working to plan a special springtime "spa day" for the women of SR probably in April.)

Discover Life at the River:

On Sunday April 5th we are offering an opportunity to Discover Life at the River. This is a chance to hear how Sugar River came to be, our mission and vision, as well as programming opportunities to meet the needs of you and your family. This class will allow you to gather information about Sugar River and determine if we are a fit for your church home. We will meet for approximately 45 minutes between worship services.

Discover Your Life at the River:

On Sunday April 19th there will be an opportunity to Discover Your Life at the River. At this point discussion includes Living the Christian Faith and The Meaning of Membership. For those who choose to become members, there will be a reception of members on May 3rd at both services. This class will meet from 11:30-1:30 with a luncheon served and child-care available upon request.

GROW

High School Mission Trip – June 20-28 The High School Youth are preparing for their mission trip to Hancock County, Mississippi this summer! This is the official ground zero for Hurricane Katrina. For many families, there is no hope in site – we can make a difference! Please begin supporting them in prayer as they work on the details of the trip.

Children and Youth News

Preschool - 5th Grade!

"Easter: Go and Tell"

We will begin our Easter: Go and Tell unit on March 8th. The students will learn that Jesus' has asked his followers to continue what he started. Each of us has unique abilities we can use to tell the good news of Jesus. The children will explore Easter traditions and Bible stories through art projects, cooking experiments, and science activities.

Middle School

"Middle in the Middle"

Stories on the Way to Jerusalem will be our Lent focus. The students are encouraged to bring their little devotionals with them each week during Lent. The devotionals are available in the Children and Youth Ministry office. Let Jamie Day know if you need more information! !

Adult Bible Study—Sunday's 8:30—9:30 am



Bible study is key to knowing who God is, who we are as God's people and how we are to live in God's world. Join us in a "drop-in" Bible study at 8:30am Sunday mornings in the conference room. No registration is required. Just come and join the discussion and feel free to bring a friend with you!! Come as often as your schedule allows. Led by David Johnston. Call Marian Maldonado-Pagan at 278-1477 for more information.

"When you are reading a book in a dark room, and come to a difficult part, you take it to a window to get more light. So take your Bibles to Christ."

—Robert Murray M'Cheyne

Seeking God Together

A united worship service of pastors and worship leaders from the Madison area are gathering for the single purpose to praise and worship God through music and prayer. Pastor Gary will be participating during a prayer time. It's a chance to join the "Christian Family Tree" for worship.

Date: Sunday March 15 Time: 6:00 PM – 9 PM

Location: Lake City Church, 4909 E. Buckeye Rd., Madison, WI



SERVE

Semi-Annual Sugar River-Asbury Food Drive - Sunday, March 15

Sugar River and Asbury UMCs will once again join hands to collect food and cash for the Verona Food Pantry and Middleton Outreach Ministry. Demand at the Verona Food Pantry has increased over 25% in the past year. Help meet the ever increasing need experienced at the pantries by bringing your monetary or food donations to church on Sunday, March 15. Grocery bags with a list of most needed items will be available Sunday, March 8. All food bags and cash donations will be collected at the March 15 services. Thank you for caring for those in need.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink... I needed clothes and you clothed me." Matthew 25: 35-36

Breakfast Bag Service Project :

Congratulations to our Sunday School children. They exceeded their goal of providing 300 breakfast bags to the children who use the food pantry!!

February-March Mission of the Month: Energy Assistance Program

Have you seen an increase in your utility bills this winter? Did you put your children to bed at 7:00 last night, not because it was their bedtime, but because it was the only way to keep them warm? Will you decide tomorrow whether to pay the overdue heating bill or buy groceries to feed your family this week? Are you dreading April 15th, not because it is tax day, but because that is the date by which your utility bills must be paid or you will lose your subsidized housing and possibly face homelessness? Are you feeling blessed right now that you answered yes to only the first question?

Many families in the Verona area who are on low or fixed incomes would answer yes to one or more of the other questions. While utilities cannot be disconnected for nonpayment during the winter months, the moratorium for that ends April 15th. If utility bills are not current at that time, families living in subsidized housing stand to lose that assistance. The result can be devastating to many.

What can we do? Ten dollars a day will provide heat and electricity for a needy family for a day. Can you sponsor a family for a day? a week? a month? Please add your pledge this Sunday. We have until March 15th to reach our goal of 150 days.

Checks can be made out to SRUMC with JFF-energy assistance in the memo.

Sunday School Chicken Fund Raiser

Did you know...a chick can start providing a family in need with eggs after just five months?

The Sunday school and Middle school children will be collecting coins to put towards the purchase of a flock of chicks. Each flock of chicks costs \$20. **How many flocks do you think we can purchase to help families in Tanzania?** Consider helping your children devise a way to earn extra coins around the house. Spring is a great time to share the many benefits of a little chick with our Christian brothers and sisters around the world! We will be collecting for this project through Easter Sunday. Look for the donation bin in both the Middle school classroom and the elementary school classroom.



Verona Food Pantry . .

NEEDS FOR MARCH



Canned beans
pancake mix
syrup
Jelly

Easter Flowers:

This year we have a wonderful opportunity to provide flowers. Not only will Sugar River be gorgeous on Easter morning, but for Laura Tomlinson's wedding on April 4th as well. House of Flowers is preparing, transporting and storing the flowers so they can be used for both events and making sure they are cared for appropriately during the week. If you wish to purchase flowers, please make your check payable to Sugar River with "flowers" in the memo. Orders will be taken until March 15th. Thank you for contributing to Laura's special day and Easter morning at the River!



ODDS & ENDS

Find Out More

Pastor: Gary Holmes 608-845-5855 gholmes@chorus.net
regular office hours: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday thru Thursday

Director of Community Life
Betsy Forester 608-845-5855 betsy.srlife@tds.net
regular office hours: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Director of Children and Youth Ministries:
Jamie Day 608-833-4945 sr.childrensministry@tds.net
regular office hours: 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Wednesday

Director of Worship and Music:
Pedro Oliveira Jr. 608-845-5855 poliveirajr2@gmail.com

Sugar River United Methodist Church
130 North Franklin Street
Verona, WI 53593
Phone: 608-845-5855
E-mail: sugarriverumc@tds.net

Visit us on the web!

sugarriverumc.org

Worship Leaders:

March 15th

8:30

Greeters: Downs Family

Ushers:

Liturgist: Alan Downs

Children's Message:

Fellowship hostess: Leslie

Miller

Teachers:

Preschool: -

Elementary: Brian Earley,

Tracey Shaughnessy, Todd
Connell

10:15

Greeters: Daniels Family

Ushers: Jessie & Erin Billmeyer

Liturgist: - Len Daniels

Children's Message:

Teachers:

Preschool: Katie Sloat

Elementary: Aimee

Wierzbza, Donna Doyle, Roger

Porter

Middle School: - Karen

Daniels

Our Story

Sugar River United Methodist Church is a new church start of Asbury United Methodist Church of Madison, Wisconsin. We have been holding worship services every Sunday morning since January 9th, 2005 in Verona.

We are not a perfect church. We don't have our own church building yet. We don't have all the "bells and whistles" that other more established churches may have. But, we are an inspired group of men, women and children who contribute our gifts and talents to serve God and serve others as best we can.

Announcement Slides

Announcement requests should be sent to Lori at: lori.zemlicka@gmail.com and must be received by Wednesday of each week. The team would like requests to be submitted in bullet format with 3-4 lines of information (including a contact person). If there is a need to include additional information please use the *Source* to describe activities/events in more detail. *Here's an example of the amount of information to be included in requests:*

Announcement Format Request

-Requests should be 3-4 bullets (i.e., short sentences) in length

-Please submit requests by Wednesdays to lori.zemlicka@gmail.com

-Questions? Contact Lori Zemlicka

Team Leaders

Children's Ministry	Jamie Day
Church Council	Darryl Graham
Community Services	Kristi Johnson Jason Sloat
Discipleship	Marian Maldonado-Pagan
Facilities	Robert Pagan
Finance	Ben Miller
Membership	Betsy Forester
Operations	Dan Day
Outreach	Mike Polk
Welcoming (WAVE)	Pam Millmann

The Source

For the Source . . .

Where: source@tds.net or 845-5855

When: Noon on Wednesday

For the Calendar . . .

Where: sugarriverumc@tds.net or 845-5855

When: Noon on Wednesday (prior to last Sunday of month for print)

By the Numbers . . .

03/01/09 Attendance:	8:30 - 86
	10:15 - 86
	Total - 172
Ash Wednesday	70
	(242)

Offering:	\$2,916
Offering - year to date:	\$32,701
Year to date GOAL:	\$42,130

2009 Sugar River Directories are available.

Pick up a copy of the 2009 Directory. They will be available at the rear of the sanctuary or in Fellowship Hall.

