



The Sugar River

SOURCE

Connect • Grow • Serve

Looking Ahead:

December

TODAY:

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

30: PUSH 8:30am;

January

1: Happy New Year!!

4: Worship 8:30 and 10:15am; Puppet Ministry rehearsal 9:30am; Family Production Nite 4pm; High School Youth Fellowship 6:30-8pm;

6: Women's Morning Small Group 10:30am; Men's Evening Small Group 7pm

7: PUSH 8:30am; Confirmation 6-8pm; Couples Group

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

9: Monthly Family Craft Night 6-10pm

11: 4: Worship 8:30 and 10:15am; Puppet Ministry rehearsal 9:30am; High School Youth Fellowship 6:30-8pm;

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 JANUARY 4TH

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

From GPS to JPS...

What an Epiphany!

Global **P**ositioning **S**ystem (GPS) is an amazing invention. Finalized in 1993 for the military, it has now become a common civilian tool. We can use GPS to be directed to our destination without getting lost. We can even find the quickest or shortest route to our destination. The Star of Bethlehem served as a GPS system over 2000 years ago to bring the Three Magi or Wisemen to worship Jesus. We celebrate this visit and the end of the 12 days of Christmas as Epiphany. The light from the star that night had shown a path to Jesus for the Magi. Out of that humble stable originated the light of our Savior (God in human form). Jesus is the light of our life that "whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). **J**esus' **P**romise of **S**alvation (JPS) is available to each one of us whether we are on the fast track in life, feeling lost, or just not sure where we are going. Locking your life's coordinates into Jesus will get you through all types of life's terrain, detours, and back roads.



'After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:1-2

Come join us Sunday as we explore Epiphany, the Three Magi, and Jesus' promise of salvation. The light that shown on Jesus is now the light that shines out to illuminate our path in this life.

Wade W. Whitmus
UMC Lay Speaker

Christianity's Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why

The New Testament teaches that there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5, NRSV). Beginning January 11th, Sugar River UMC will engage in an eight-week study called "Christianity's Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why."

This special church wide event will include worship, sermons, and small-group studies; and we are making a special effort to invite people from the community to join us. The study is being publicized through banners and newspaper articles. One or more new study groups will be formed to welcome our guests. Please invite your neighbors and friends to join us.

"Christianity's Family Tree" is based on a video-based study of the same name created by the Reverend Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. The study is designed for all who want to know more about other families within the Christian faith, including our differences and what we share in common. The study will focus on a different denomination or faith tradition each week, including:

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Orthodoxy | Catholicism | Lutheranism | Presbyterianism |
| Anglicanism | Baptists | Pentecostalism | Methodism |

For more information on this special event and how you can participate, please visit the information center in the Fellowship Hall, or contact Jackie Roessler, jroessler@gmail.com, John Forester john.forester@charter.net, or Pastor Gary gholmes@chorus.net or 845-5855.

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

sugarriver@tds.net
sugarriverumc.org

CONNECT

January Ladies Night Out

The January Ladies' Night Out will be held on Tuesday January 13th at Flat Top Grill at Hilldale Mall. As per usual, we will plan to gather between 5:30 and 6:00 as personal schedules allow. Since I do call the restaurant in advance, please RSVP if you plan to join us for food, fellowship, and fun. I can be reached at millmann4@tds.net or 273-2602. Hope to see you there! Pam

Men's Movie Night

All Sugar River Men are invited to join us for dinner and a movie. A Chili dinner will be served at 5:30, with the movie to follow. Based on the best-selling book "The Ultimate Gift" by Jim Stovall, the story sends trust fund baby Jason Stevens on an improbable journey of discovery, having to answer the ultimate question: "What is the relationship between wealth and happiness?"

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us. For more information, contact Curt Johnson at 845-5814 or cjohnson@pharmacy.wisc.edu

CURRENT Groups are coming to Sugar River

This January, Sugar River is transitioning from small groups to CURRENT groups. Like the river's current, our hope is that the CURRENT groups carry you on the faith journey, have momentum, and that you get caught in the next current. CURRENT groups allow you to **CONNECT** with God and others, **GROW** in your faith, hope and love, and **SERVE** others in need.

Pastor Gary will begin a sermon series on January 11th entitled "Christianity's Family Tree." We are encouraging everyone in our congregation to consider joining a CURRENT group during this 8 week series. We have enthusiastic new small group leaders ready to form new groups! Please

Discover Life at the River: On Sunday, January 11, 2009 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 the worship service

Discover Your Life at the River: On January 25, 2009 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 in February. This class will meet from 11:30-1:30 with childcare provided available upon request and luncheon served. If you are unable to attend these classes, there will be additional opportunities every few months. To register or receive more information, please contact Betsy Forester at sugarriverumc@tds.net or 845-5855.

GROW

Children and Youth News

Preschool - 5th Grade!

"Digging Into the Bible!"

We will begin the new year by Digging Into the Bible! We will be exploring the different chapters, authors, and information this great book has to offer! Come experience hands on learning through archeological digs, creating illuminated manuscripts, and baking scripture cookies.

Middle School

"Middle in the Middle"

Middle School youth will continue to meet in the "MIDDLE" of each month. We feel the importance of our youth attending worship during Communion Sunday (first Sunday of each month) and our Family Sunday (last Sunday of each month). Come check out our Good God Theatre!

Second Semester Teachers Needed

The first semester of Sunday school has come and gone so quickly. You have all made serving in Children's ministry very rewarding. So many of you were able to serve in this ministry with your children – thank you for your dedication! It is now time to check your calendar for the second semester. As a reminder, we are expecting that each family of an elementary or preschool child sign up as a servant teacher three times during each semester. The elementary rotation is set up that if you serve three Sunday's in a row – you are teaching the same material to different groups as they rotate each week! Middle school parents only need to serve once or twice during the semester due to our reduced class times. Thank you for checking your calendars and signing up!

January Family Production Night

The next Family Production Night will be January 4th at 4pm. Come enjoy an evening of worship and fellowship with your family. The worship is designed to touch little lives and build them up in God's love. Inviting other families is strongly encouraged. This is a great way to show others what Sugar River is like. After an entertaining program around the theme "Digging Into The Bible," we will enjoy a meal together.

Special Thank You!

A special thank you goes out to Greg Popp for helping us purchase an oven. Your donation has made it possible for us to make this purchase in such a timely manner! The children in Sunday school have already put it to use making cookies for the men's shelter!

SERVE

Sugar River's E-Prayer Ministry

Did you know that Sugar River has an electronic prayer ministry? The next time you have a special concern or request that needs immediate prayer, send it to sugarriverumc@tds.net and the staff will send it out to all the "Links" on our e-prayer chain. These prayer warriors have volunteered to keep all concerns confidential and promise to lift all concerns up in pray. If you'd like to become a "Link" on the e-prayer chain, send your email address to Amber at the above address.

Worship Assistants Needed

Each Sunday it takes a team of people to make our worship services successful. Each Sunday we need Greeters, who provide that welcoming handshake and warm smile that greets us all. We need ushers, who hand out bulletins, help you find a seat and wait on us for our offerings. We need liturgists, someone who leads us in the responsive reading and scripture lesson. There are sign up sheets on the podium in Fellowship Hall. We are all Gods servants, so please consider serving.



Flowers for the Altar

The sign up sheets for providing Flowers for the Altar are now located on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Whether to celebrate a special occasion or to glorify God, consider providing flowers to decorate the Altar. Thank-you.



2009 Pledge Update

We are off to a great start as 46 pledges have been submitted, about 71 percent of the pledges from the previous year. Our hope is to receive at least the same number of pledges as in 2008. If you have not done so already, would you please consider completing your pledge card soon. This would be greatly appreciated and help us to continue to plan for 2009.

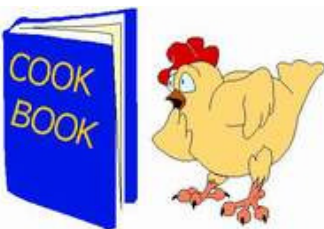
Thank you and God Bless,

Direct Deposit of Offering or Capital Campaign Contributions

If you are interested in doing a direct deposit of your offering and/or capital campaign payments, there are forms available in the church office. If you want to do both by direct deposit, just indicate how much for each. Direct deposit allows us to budget our finances, saves writing a check, and it's confidential.

The Cookbooks Are Here!

The "Sugar River Serves" cookbooks have arrived! The cookbooks are \$10 each with all proceeds going to the Capital Campaign. Please see Melissa Ryan or Tracey Shaughnessy to purchase a copy. And don't forget, they make great Christmas presents.



Verona Food Pantry . .

NEEDS FOR
DECEMBER

Tuna
Peanut butter
Jelly





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

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:

January 4th

8:30

Greeters: Johnsons
Ushers: Foresters
Liturgist: Tim Wolf
Children's Message: Heather and Erin
Fellowship hostess:
Teachers: Family Sunday

10:15

Greeters: Daniels
Ushers: George and Peggy Ross
Liturgist: - Brian Earley
Children's Message: Erin and Heather
Teachers: Family Sunday



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.

Team Leaders

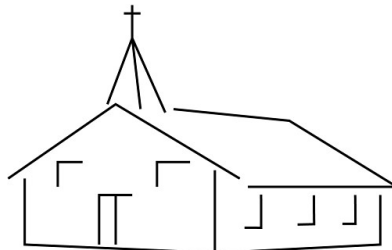
Children's Ministry	Jamie Day
Church Council	Darryl Graham
Community Services	Kristi Johnson
Discipleship	Marian Maldonado-Pagan
Facilities	Robert Pagan
Finance	Ben Miller
Membership	Betsy Forester
Operations	Dan Day
Outreach	Mike Polk
Welcoming (WAVE)	Pam Millmann
Youth Ministry	Joe & Jocelyn Przywara

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



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 . . .

12/21/08 Attendance:	8:30 - 71
	10:15 - 102
	Total - 173

Offering:	\$4,771.00
Offering - year to date:	\$195,918
Year to date GOAL:	\$205,577