



Eagle Grove United Methodist Church

Love God, Love Others, Change the World

“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World”

421 West Broadway Street ~ P.O. Box 101 ~ Eagle Grove, IA 50533
Church Office: (515) 448-4701 Dial-a-Devotion (515)448-3355

Dear friends,

Like many of you, I am anticipating a different Holy Week and Easter celebration than in 2020. We are worshipping BOTH in-person, and via Facebook Live, at 10am. Even as more folks are getting vaccinations, we still will ask everyone to mask and keep social distance (the virus is NOT gone!); the place you worship is wherever you're more comfortable, and we understand. We're excited that we have several regular listeners to Sermons By Phone. Hearing the Word is important to us.

Throughout the Lenten season, many of you have been using a daily devotional calendar, and also making donations into your Blanket Banks for Church World Service. You may bring your family's bank to worship on Easter, or the week after, OR you could make Denise's work a little simpler and count what's in the bank, and write one check to the church, and indicate CWS in the memo. Either will work! Thanks for being part of our Mission focus for Lent.



The Scriptures of Lent have walked us through considering *Rend Your Hearts; Claim the Promise*, as we heard about Noah, Abraham, Moses, and others. We'll gather in person and online on **Palm Sunday** to *Claim the One Who Comes*, and then move through Holy Week.



Maundy Thursday and **Good Friday** evenings at 6pm, I will share a brief service on Facebook (and Sermon by Phone).

On Saturday, you are invited and encouraged to participate in a **prayer vigil**. You can choose a 30 minute time, between 6am Saturday and 6am Easter morning for contemplation and reflection, pausing wherever you may be. The church will not be open. We will have some readings to guide you (or you may use your own). Maggie Wright is coordinating all this, so contact her at 515-448-5025 or 515-293-0444 or email wrightm@mediacombb.net by Monday, March 29. Reading will be posted on the webpage (we'll mail or drop off if that's easier – talk to Maggie.)

On Easter morning, I will share a sunrise reflection from my porch at 6:45am via FacebookLive. Then we will gather for Celebration and Worship in the sanctuary and online at 10am to proclaim “Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed!”

We are thankful this is a new year, a new time...and we have new energy to discover how we can live as Easter People! ---Pastor Alaire



Pastor: Alaire Willits

Office Secretary: Amy Hunt

Financial Secretary: Denise Helmick

Treasurer: Tracy Crail

Organist: Ann Shriver

Choir Director: Cheryl Ketchem

Custodian: Amy Hunt

Ministers: ALL MEMBERS

What's what? Changes, and no changes!

The church office is open Tuesdays, 10-11:30. Emails and messages are checked during the week by 4p.m. Monday - Friday.

Midweek update emails will continue to be sent by the pastor. If you are not receiving it, let her know alairew@gmail.com

We have moved to mid-month printing of our newsletters. Because of the way the church year falls, dates with shift a bit. Email is the best way to send information egumc@goldfieldaccess.net If you cannot email, call and ask for a return call so Amy can verify a voice-to-voice. Or you can drop off a written note on Tuesday mornings when we are here.

Info deadline

Friday, April 9

Confirmation -May 9

Friday, May 7

Print date

Tuesday, April 13

Tuesday, May 11

Would you like a visit?

After Easter, I will have received both of my covid vaccinations, and waited the suggested 2 weeks -and so I will be able to visit your homes. I am hoping you are all getting your shots; it's really important. If you would like a visit from me in your home, I am asking YOU to invite me— I will be in Eagle Grove both Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons in April, and would love to get to have real conversations, unlike the driveway visits last summer! Call 712-212-5333; if I don't pick up, please leave a message, or email alairew@gmail.com.

I am excited to begin this portion of our ministry together. I will still, of course, be available for sudden pastoral care needs; these visits will be a time for us to just sit and chat for a bit.—Pastor Alaire



One of the greatest thing about being a United Methodist is being connected! Let me share a story of a connection that you're all now a part of.

Last fall, I began a Sunday evening Bible Study on Zoom, coordinated through Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City. About 25 of us are connecting, sharing our faith stories and giving encouragement to each other.

Then the tragic winter storms came to Texas. Joci, from the group, noticed folks living under a bridge, close to her temporary home in Houston—and she reached out to help them. She told us about it... and I shared her story of taking coffee over to them one morning, and her desire to get them socks, and sweaters.

Now our story of connecting—\$400 is being sent from donations you gave!! Joci is working with Star of Hope Mission in Houston. Their vision—"ending homelessness, one life, one family at a time". We have connected one to one! Joci will be sending photos as our gifts are put to work. Think what a difference \$400 can make! Wow! Thank you!!!

To answer your questions, UMCOR (Untied Methodist Committee on Relief) was in Texas, and Kentucky, giving aid at both of these weather disasters. Your giving in the past made that possible. And Church World Service—they were there too! The blankets we'll purchase are for future needs. Blankets are just \$10 each— how many did your family purchase!

The amazing thing about mission and outreach—little bits and small contributions make HUGE differences and have an amazing impact!! We are God's hands in the world.

Dial-a-Devotion

Tuesdays

April 6– Marilyn Sill

April 13—Bev Wilde

April 20—Paul Wilde

April 27—Maggie Wright

The weekly Sunday sermon is now available by phone— just call

515-212-2802. The newest one will be up by about 7am on Sundays (before actual worship!), and remain all week. The phone number for access will always be the same.



It's been difficult to stay connected in this virus time. Many of you have been sending, and receiving cards since we can't visit or have Fellowship Time.

Blanche has been at home working on that task extra hard. She has a birthday and anniversary list, and she also keeps track, as best she can, of surgeries, and other issues of concern.

In the back of the sanctuary, you will now find a small table. Each week, she will have cards for celebrations, as well as some for cares and concerns to send out to folks in our church family.

You are invited to stop and sign them - the card will come from all of us!

Our church family cares about each other - and these are just one way to can show that.

Stu Smith, brother of Bev Wilde donated a print of the First Easter Dawn Stain Glass Window that's on the east wall of the sanctuary, to our church.

We have hung this print inside the front door and surrounded it with smaller prints of other stain glass windows. This was an anonymous donation to complete the grouping. Please look at these and view the beauty of our stain glass windows.

Flowers for Easter Sunday will be done like the Poinsettias in December. You must order through the Eagle Grove Greenhouse and pay them. Orders in by March 31st. Ann will then give me the information to put in the newsletter later that month. In addition to Easter Lilies, they will also have Hydrangeas, Cyclamen, Kalanchoe, Begonias, and Calla lilies, and mums. These are just a few different varieties if you would like something colorful to display for Easter.

