



# Eagle Grove United Methodist Church

Love God, Love Others, Change the World

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

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421 West Broadway Street ~ P.O. Box 101 ~ Eagle Grove, IA 50533

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Lent is a time many of us try to bridge the gap between the Christians we are, and the Christians we would like to be. In worship, we've been looking at some spiritual practices – ones that parallel the promises we make in our membership vows.

We began looking at worship and prayer, and the challenge was to say a prayer 5 times a day- morning, at each meal, and then at night. “Thank you, God” can be the place to start. Then we thought about study and reading Scripture, aiming for 5 verses a day. While we can do both of these individually, we know the synergy of the group. Gathering for worship, coming together for study is powerful. These are really both/and practices. Alone, or in community.

Service, being kind to others without expecting anything in return, became our next practice to examine. How many opportunities do you have each day to show kindness? Five? I'm sure! So often we think service is a work trip, or a big project. Those are WOW!, but the day-in, day-out acts we all can do (and many already do) really, really matter. A kind word or a phone call can even bring tears of gratitude.

We'll talk about giving – our offerings and gifts, as well as ourselves. Yes, regular financial gifts are necessary to meet expenses, and we can give them out of gratitude and thanks, not as an “obligation”. When those gifts are combined, again a WOW! Giving of ourselves, through our talents, as we're in service to our congregation as well as community is as important as our monetary gifts.

A practice so many are afraid to talk about is witnessing. We think that's about knocking on doors, or giving a testimony! NOT always!! Our witness as Christians is through all we say and do (good or bad!). When we serve others, doing kind things, that's witness. When we stop and listen, that's witness. When we take soup to a neighbor, that's witness. When we begin a sentence “My church is going to...”, that's witness. When we like and share a FB post from the church page, that's witness.

The model we have for all this is Jesus. As a church, we should look to see what Jesus did, and do the same. As individuals, we should look to see what Jesus did, and do the same. If Jesus stopped to serve people, we should do the same. If Jesus was about helping people with mental illness, we should do the same. If Jesus was about feeding the multitudes, so should we. If Jesus prayed with others, so should we.

As we travel on our spiritual journeys, the bumps and rocks of life get us off course. Just stop and take a breath, and try again. God never said it would be simple, or even easy.

So in this Lenten season, we can pause and ponder. Our prayer can be, “Thank you, God, for loving me, as I am. Here I am, Lord...where can I make a difference, how can I be the disciple I want to be. Lead me, Lord. Amen” --Pastor Alaire

Pastor: Alaire Willits

Treasurer: Tracy Crail

Custodian: Amy Hunt

Office Secretary: Amy Hunt

Organist: Ann Shriver

Ministers: ALL MEMBERS

Financial Secretary: Denise Helmick

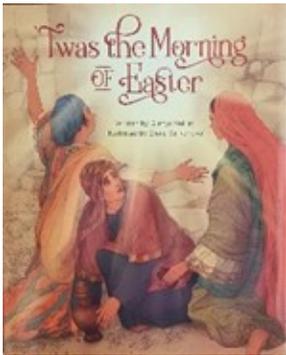
Our Lenten special mission giving has been designated to go to Church World Service, primarily for blankets they send all around the world. These \$10 blankets are far from fancy, but are invaluable to each recipient. Some are given here in the US after tornados or fires; others are going to the Balkan countries right now for refugees searching for places to stay and comfort in all their upheaval. As of March 20, 75 have been purchased and will continue to receive contributions until Easter. On behalf of those many, many folks we will never meet, THANKS!



Some of us are discovering an “abundance” of fabrics, and possibly some already-completed quilt tops that could be made into Cover Them With Love quilts for Midwest Mission. There’s an on-going list of places that would love to be blessed.

These lightweight quilts have specific dimensions, do not use batting or ties, and can be of any, or no, pattern, as long as the fabric is cotton. There is also some fabric to make into the one-handle school bags – it’s not upholstery fabric! Last year we made over 60.

Some conversation has started about gathering to become a group to do this. It’s lot’s more fun to spread out in Fellowship Hall, especially if there’s coffee and treats. Interested? Know some others in town that would enjoy this? Call Pat Manues, or the office.



## What’s a Storywalk?

Storywalks are a creative way for children and adults to enjoy reading while spending time outdoors. It’s a perfect experience to have with children in your family.

Beginning **Saturday, April 16**, at 2pm, we’ll have laminated pages from a beautiful Easter book, *‘Twas the Morning of Easter* displayed around our parking lot and outside the building at different stations.

A Storywalk is to be an interactive storytelling experience, and so from 2-3pm that Saturday, we would like to have *live* storytellers at each of the pages.

We need a number of volunteers, one for each station, who will read a page as people stop by. Each page has just 4 lines of text! Youth and adults of every age can be readers; chairs can be provided. These storytellers will wear a simple long headpiece/scarf for their costume, and many will have a small spring/Easter gift for the children (no candy!)

We intend to keep the Storywalk set up at least through the weekend, so anyone can walk and read the glorious story of Easter and Resurrection – the weather will determine if that’s possible. It will only have readers from 2-3 pm on Saturday.

If you’d like to be a reader – call or email the office [egmuc@goldfieldaccess.net](mailto:egmuc@goldfieldaccess.net) , 515-448-4701 or Pastor Alaire [alairew@gmail.com](mailto:alairew@gmail.com) Great way to witness! Great way to serve! Do you have ONE hour? Thanks.



Camp season is here! WooHoo!!! We have kids and families who are interested and making plans to go to camp!

You know a full week at camp is a fantastic experience. Did you know that full week costs \$500. We want to help our families as much as we can, and we'll also tap the Conference Campership fund (which requires us helping the kids first.) You can change lives with your gift.

- Any financial contribution you'd like to make for our campership fund will be greatly appreciated! A jar is in the sanctuary, or mail to the church.
- Contributions given at the Lenten Lunch served here on March 31 will go in the campership jar.
- We're planning a HUGE bake sale, with proceeds to go to the campership fund April 30, as part of the Chamber's Shop Hop. Anyone, I repeat ANYONE, can donate items to sell. Our kids are great bakers, but many of them learned from you, so we'd love your baked treats and goodies. We're asking the kids and their families to staff the sale.
- Sunday, May 1, is Camping Sunday. Kali Tomlinson, IAUMC camp program coordinator, will be our guest and be talking about camping during worship AND we're planning to have lunch after worship. Donations for camperships will be gladly received.

Studies show a week at camp is more valuable to a youth's spiritual growth than a whole year of Sunday School. Families should have received a flier; there are more in the office. BTW, there's camping opportunities adults might like as well! Ask!

A HUGE thanks to Nicole Nicoletti for sharing her talent as she created our mural for the front of the sanctuary. A new panel is being added each week....and I heard she has one more to add on Easter morning! Come and see!

-Prayers for the family and friends of Betty Conaway (Amy's grandmother), who passed away on March 13th. Her service will be June 11th.

-Prayers also for the family and friends of Fred Schnell. His service is Friday, March 25.

-We pray also for the safe travels as all of our snow birds return home! We've missed you and can't wait to see and talk with you again.



We dedicated over 35 prayer shawls Camille McCollough Rogers brought in – most were by her mom Marge. Prayer shawls are can surround someone with love and care – if you know someone who needs that sense of God's arms wrapping around them for any reason, let the office or Congregational Care (Sharon Seibert, Maggie Wright, Blanche Bosteder) know. The shawls are meant to be given.

## What's Happening

- Sun, March 27 10 am...WORSHIP *Where Your Treasure Is*
- Wed, March 30 Afterschool -5p... *Dynamic Disciples* (K-4) and *M&Ms* (gr 5-8)
- Thur, March 31 Noon-1p...*Community Lenten Lunch @* Eagle Grove UMC,  
Brownbag lunch and brief worship
- Sun, April 4 10 am...WORSHIP and communion *Connections*
- Wed, April 6 No Afterschool programming (early dismissal)
- Thur, April 7 9:30 am...*United Women of Faith*  
noon-1p...*Community Lenten Lunch @* First Baptist Church,  
Brownbag lunch and brief worship
- HOLY WEEK**
- Sun, April 10 10 am...PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP *We're Walking With Him*
- Wed, April 13 Afterschool -5p... *Dynamic Disciples* (K-4) and *M&Ms* (gr 5-8)
- Thur, April 14 **MAUNDY TUESDAY**  
5:15 pm...WORSHIP in our sanctuary, with communion.
- Fri, April 15 **GOOD FRIDAY**  
6 pm...Community SOUP SUPPER followed by  
7 pm...Community WORSHIP @ Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Sat, April 16 7 am...*Methodist Men @* Family Table.  
2pm-3pm...*StoryWalk* outdoors, around our building. Details in article
- Sun, April 17 **EASTER DAY!!!**  
**6:30 am, virtually...SUNRISE SERVICE** on Facebook  
**10 am...CELEBRATION WORSHIP** with communion
- Wed, April 20 Afterschool -5 pm... *Dynamic Disciples* (K-4) and *M&Ms* (gr 5-8)
- Sun, April 24 10 am...WORSHIP. Presentation of Bibles to youth grades 3 and up.
- Wed, April 27 Afterschool -5pm... *Dynamic Disciples* (K-4) and *M&Ms* (gr 5-8)
- Sat, April 30 10 am-3pm...BAKE SALE for camperships. We'll be set up at the Senior Center, as part of the Chamber spring Shop Hop. Specifics coming – all donations will be welcome, as well as your purchases that day.
- Sun, May 1 10 am...WORSHIP with communion. Camp Sunday, Kali Tomlinson, IAUMC program coordinator will be with us. Plan to stay for lunch after worship.
- Wed, May 4 Afterschool -5pm... Year-end PICNIC for *Dynamic Disciples* (K-4) and *M&Ms* (gr 5-8) Program will take a break until summer events begin.
- Sun, May 8 10 am...WORSHIP, celebrating the Christian Family and honoring our high school graduates

**Dial-a-Devotion**

**Tuesdays**

April 5—Kurt Knudsen

April 12—Melody Amonson

April 19—Sharon Seibert

April 26—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 that time of year again. Lilies can be ordered through the OFFICE not the greenhouse this time. DEADLINE is Sunday, April 10, 2022.

*Lenten Season Gifts*



The Lenten Season is here, and it is a good time to give in celebration, honor, or memory of others. Dressing the Sanctuary with lilies is a beautiful way to do so. If you would like to purchase a lily, please make checks payable to the church and drop off in the office. The cost of a Lily is \$18.50.

DEADLINE: Sunday, April 10, 2022 10:00 a.m.

I/WE will provide a Lily (please circle) in **Memory of, Honor of, or Celebration of:** (please print clearly)

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—You may cut this part of and drop off with payment in the office, or in the offering March 27, April 3, or April 10.

—If you would like to purchase a plant other than a lily please contact the greenhouse directly.