



# 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

Church Office: (515) 448-4701 Dial-a-Devotion (515)448-3355

## December 2021

To say life has changed over the past 2 years would be an understatement; we’ve all been deeply changed in many ways. We can lean into our faith and our God, constant and ever-present.

During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are familiar, but also tender and perhaps heavy with emotion. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. It’s a time to acknowledge the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. We may have a deep longing for God to come close to us.

The season of Advent begins November 28, followed by Christmas, and then Epiphany (January 6, celebrated on the 9<sup>th</sup>).

Using the theme *Close to Home*, adapted from @sanctifiedart. Our plans for this season include:

Daily devotions – published on Facebook each morning, OR available in printed form available at the back of the sanctuary. If you need one delivered, call the office.

Advent wreath candle readings – included with this printed newsletter and also as a separate attachment to your emailed newsletter. Extra printed copies will be on the table.

An Advent bag for families – an Advent calendar, books, and wreath readings, and other things to learn about Advent and Christmas is being delivered to the porches of PreK, elementary and middler families. If you don’t have one by Dec 1, let us know. (We keep updating our list!)

Advent worship is special for us. We’ll light the Advent wreath, sing (new words sometimes to familiar tunes), with some special music provided the first three Sundays by Lincoln Barkley and Ann Shriver. Services will also be enhanced with artists renderings, created for *Close to Home*.

Scriptures will help us, as we wait in anticipation. We’ll have baptisms and celebrate communion in this season of waiting. Thanks to Nicole Nicoletti-Calvert for designing a new banner for us as we ponder what it means to have Christ in our hearts, *Close to Home*.

We will add poinsettias to our chancel mid-month (if you’d like to provide one, from yourself, or in memory or honor of another, place your order directly through the Eagle Grove Greenhouse, 448-5181, and they will deliver).

For your planning, we will have a Longest Night Service at 6pm on December 21, and our Christmas Eve worship will also be at 6pm on the 24<sup>th</sup>. More details about them in next issue.

This season begins our church year. Pause and reflect, in person or online, as we first wait for the coming baby Jesus, then celebrate his birth and all that means for us today.

In Christ, *Pastor Alaire*

Pastor: Alaire Willits

Office Secretary: Amy Hunt

Financial Secretary: Denise Helmick

Treasurer: Tracy Crail

Organist: Ann Shriver

Custodian: Amy Hunt

Ministers: ALL MEMBERS

## Celebrating baptisms and new members

We will be celebrating several baptisms during Advent:

November 28 – Axyl Alt

December 5 – Taytum, Jaden, and Breckley Sadler

December 19 – Gwendolyn Helmick

We will be receiving transfer members on December 12. Let Pastor Alaire (712-212-5333) know by December 8 if now is the time for you to join EGUMC. We'll take care of any paperwork.



Coffee Time - a new location! Congregational Care is moving our gathering time after worship to the Fireside Room and Chapel. All are welcome to stay for coffee, hot chocolate, or tea each week.

Thanks to all of you for your gifts and contributions we took to the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Ingathering for Mission. Eagle Grove UMC gave about \$3150 or the \$64,000+ received at Webster City. The conference total from all 5 sites is just over \$483,000. What a wonderful difference we're making.



### Special Advent and Christmas Giving.

During this season of anticipation and remembering, it has been the tradition here at EGUMC to receive special giving for mission and outreach, in addition to regular tithes and offerings for our general budget and expenses.

The mission team decided this year these Advent gifts will be divided, some staying local to help families and children, and a portion going to the Kindling Fund for our Iowa UMC Conference Camps. Camp Okoboji and Wesley Woods are planning a 2022 season – our gifts will help keep the grounds in good shape. They receive no apportionment dollars any more, only camper fees and designated giving.

Indicate “Advent offering”, and watch for updates.

Prayers, please, for:

Deb Falwell, Leola’s daughter, as she continues to slowly recover from covid-19. Your support has been amazing, so keep it up!

Pat Moser’s family and friends as they grieve her death on November 6. Her celebration of life was here on November 12.

all those coping with viruses (Covid19 and others), RSV, the “yuck!” and dealing with testing, as well as those recovering from surgical procedures. May you know God’s healing presence

## Dial-a-Devotion

### Tuesdays

December 7—Marilyn Helmick

December 14—Maggie Wright

December 21—Melody Amonson

December 28—Kurt Knudsen

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.



Thanks to all who were helped with Trunk-or-Treat at the annual Halloween Walk. What an afternoon! Over 400 kids, in every costume you can imagine. We're already planning next year!

Thank you from Melodee about chicken and biscuits. She sent something and says we can edit or cut if need be.

### Kudos to Alana Alt and Heather Brown



Alana organized a Bake Sale during the Holiday Craft Fair as well as collecting financial gifts for Deb Farwell (Leola's daughter), who is in Iowa City hospitals recovering from Covid.

Heather, through her non-profit *No Child Hungry*, got donations and volunteers who put together bags of nutritious and easy to prepare foods to help 62 students over

Thanksgiving break. What a difference you are making in our community.

Thanks!



M&M (Methodist Middlers), and Dynamic Disciples (K-gr 4) are meeting Wednesdays after school. In November we talked about gratitude, and being thankful. Many of the Middlers gave service at the Chicken and Biscuit Dinner.

In December, we'll meet 3:30-5pm December 1 and 15, with an extended session on December 8, beginning about 1:30 with games and art projects, as well as snacks and learning.

We have 20-25 kids coming, and new faces every week. We begin with snacks; they are hungry! December snacks are planned, but if you can help provide in the new year, let the office know. It will be for things like hamburger, tortillas, cheese, ham, buns, and Doritos, or financial support to buy the food, as well as sweet treats. The list begins... we'll talk to you about what and when.

Every week there's singing, and a lesson, often a game, and prayer. Any Kindergartener though middle school is welcome to join in. Watch our church Facebook page for photos and updates.

## God's Portion Chicken & Biscuit Meal

by United Women of Faith

Thank you to all who supported our annual fundraiser by purchasing meals, working, and praying! A delicious meal was enjoyed by all!

Approximately 185 dinners were sold, a record number, making our first attempt at drive up serving a success! Dirk Helmick and Denny Jacobson delivered 15 meals to homes.

A faithful team of 12-15 women cooked & cut chicken, prepared gravy & biscuits, served and cleaned up. Denise Helmick prepared the carrots and several more donated pans of fantastic bars. A group of 7 youth did a great job helping dish up the food and running dinners out to cars. Don Duel helped serve and Kelly Amonson stood out in the cold to take money.

Appreciation is given to all who gave generously of time, talents, service and financially. Funds collected will be used to support the mission work of the United Women of Faith.

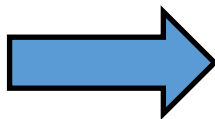
To God be the Glory!

Here is a picture of the kids who helped out that day



Don't forget about the Community Thanksgiving meal.

Details on the flyer.



Any help will be welcomed!!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE!

**EAGLE GROVE  
COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING**  
*Organized by The Eagle Grove Chamber of Commerce*

**MEAL DETAILS**  
**THANKSGIVING DAY, NOVEMBER 25TH**  
**11AM-1PM**  
**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
204 S. JACKSON  
**DINE IN, CARRY OUT, DELIVERY**  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**  
CALL EAGLE GROVE PHARMACY  
515-448-5914  
FOR RESERVATIONS

**HELP NEEDED**

**IN ADVANCE**  
SALADS (15 servings per) AND PIES/BARS MADE AHEAD  
AND DROPPED TO THE CHURCH BEFORE 11 AM THURSDAY

**THANKSGIVING DAY**  
9AM-11AM SET UP & PREP  
11AM-1PM SERVERS, DELIVERY DRIVERS, PICK-UP ORDERS  
1PM-3PM CLEAN UP

**MONETARY DONATIONS**  
TO PURCHASE SUPPLIES

**VOLUNTEER/FOOD DONATION SIGN-UP**  
Call or Text  
Missie @ 515-851-1228  
or Derek @ 515-293-0263

**MONEY DONATION SENT/DROPPED TO**  
EAGLE GROVE CHAMBER, 212 W. BROADWAY, PO BOX 2,  
EAGLE GROVE, IA 50533