



Eagle Grove and Goldfield United Methodist Churches

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

121 W Chestnut Street
P.O. Box 214 ~Goldfield, IA 50542-0214

December 2024



Church Office Hours

M - Th: 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Sundays

Worship: 9:30 A.M.

Fellowship following worship

Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.

Youth Outreach

Wednesdays - 2:00 - 4:30 P.M. (PK- 7th Grades)

Wednesdays - 5:30 - 7:00 P.M. (8th - 12th Grades)

Dial-a-Devotion
A new devotion is recorded every Tuesday morning
515-448-3355

December 3 - Sharon Seibert
December 10 - Sharon Seibert
December 17 - Melody Amonson
December 24 - Sharon Seibert
December 31 - Sharon Seibert

United Methodist Women

First Wednesday of Every Month: 9:30 A.M.

Rotary Ann Social: Third Thursday - 2:00 P.M.



Check us out on Facebook! Search “Eagle Grove UMC”.



December Birthdays

December 9 - Blanche Bosteder, Adalie Pamperin
 December 10 - Alivia Helmick
 December 11 - Diane Amonson
 December 14 - Kelly Amonson
 December 15 - Tarissa Middleton, Heather Mack
 December 19 - Larry Hill, Jersey Willwerth
 December 21 - Fiona Nicolletti-Calvert, Lenore Spellmeyer, Cecelia Wilde
 December 24 - Carol Porter
 December 25 - Paul Wilde
 December 28 - Abel Davidson
 December 29 - Kyle Amonson
 December 30 - Lincoln Bartley

We are working on filling service volunteers if you or your family are willing and able to help fill positions. We are specifically in need of acolytes and appreciate any volunteers. Please let the office know if you would like to volunteer!



December Events

December 4 - Kids' Club, Confirmation, Youth Group
 December 4 - Faith Formation - 4:30 P.M.
 December 4 - Admin Council - 5:30 P.M.
 December 11 - Kids' Club, Confirmation, Youth Group
 December 15 - Children's Christmas Program
 December 18 - Kids' Club, Confirmation, Youth Group
 December 21 - United Methodist Men Family Table - 7:00 A.M.
 December 24 - Christmas Eve Service - 5:00 P.M.



We Have Not Loved Our Neighbors

By: Rev. Cindy Hickman

My neighbors put up Christmas decorations outside last week. Their front door is outlined in lights. They hung a huge wreath on their fence. During the day it is bright with red berries and bows. At night it twinkles in the darkness with red and green and blue lights.

Yesterday we answered in kind and hung up a wreath above our garage door and placed three small Christmas trees on our stoop.

At night, while we are inside, our Christmas lights twinkle back at their Christmas lights.

I don't know my neighbors. Beyond drive-by waves and a brief conversation I once had with the woman who lives in the house about the berm of landscaping her husband wanted in front of the house and her disappointment (more than disappointment, actually, more like frustration, maybe even disgust) that he didn't pull the weeds on the berm, I have never really spoken to my neighbor or anyone who lives in the house.

But their Christmas lights send a festive hopeful glow into the darkness.

Our United Methodist Confession and Pardon includes these words: "We have not loved our neighbors." In this post-election season of "us and them," and in this pre-Advent season when we remember Mary and Joseph, driven from their homes by an empire-ordered census, I am wondering about the "us and them" of us.

In recent weeks the Holy Spirit has been nudging me, whispering "Do you know the 'them' and 'they' that are so often referred to in our conversations?" "Neighbor" conjures up images of borrowed cups of sugar and evening conversations in the driveway. Neighbors come when a tree falls across your driveway, or your dog dies and you are bereft, or you are stuck in traffic and your child is sitting on your front steps locked out of the house after the bus has dropped them off. "Neighbor" implies an undeniable shared dependency in the day-to-day that so often morphs into a deeper sense of sharing. Lives lived side by side.

T.D. Jakes once preached (loudly and in a rich Southern accent), "How can I pray for you if I don't know you?" And I would add how can you pray for me? Isn't prayer and our mutual reliance on God transforming us from "us and them" to simply "we" together?

I love the house to house lights of Christmas. I ooh and ahh as I drive through my town. May they guide our way through the sort of thinking that results in divisive pronouns to the us of Christmas.

A multitude of Epiphany stars shine from our roof lines.



For more resources, including current news, reflections, and podcasts, visit www.iaumc.org.

A Message From the Pastor

Dear Eagle Grove United Methodist Church Family,

As we find ourselves in the final month of 2024, I am filled with gratitude as I reflect on how quickly time has flown. December is a beautiful reminder that the year is coming to a close, and it gives us a chance to pause and appreciate the wonderful work God has done in our lives and within our church ministry. Each moment spent together has been a blessing, and I am thankful for your commitment and support throughout the year.

This Advent season, I am excited to introduce our sermon series titled, "The Gift of Jesus." This series will focus on the joy and hope that comes with celebrating the birth of our Savior. Each week, we will highlight a different aspect of this incredible gift, exploring how Jesus brings light into our lives and the world around us.

I encourage you to join us for this special series. Let's gather together in worship, share in the hope of the season, and grow closer as a community. Your presence is an important part of our church family, and we would love to see you each week as we celebrate this joyous time.

May this December fill your hearts with peace and joy, and may you experience the love of Christ in new and deep ways.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Laurene Banza

Youth Ministry Updates



Summer 2025 camp registration is open! If you would like to see a schedule of camp opportunities, visit <https://www.iaumc.org/camps>.

Mission Ingathering 2024 brings in 47,788 lbs of donations

Ingathering was a great success this year, with Midwest Mission picking up requested supplies from five locations in Iowa totaling 47,788 lbs. Monetary and in-kind donations totaled \$460,462.03, according to the Iowa Conference Department of Administrative Services.

Site totals are:

Cedar Falls - 11,837 lbs

Cherokee - 7,007 lbs

Fort Dodge - 7,930 lbs

Greenfield - 9,997 lbs

Mount Pleasant - 11,017 lbs

"Thank you to everyone in Iowa who came out and donated items!" Midwest Mission shared in a reel on its Facebook page. "Your donations are going to fill up our empty shelves so that we can be prepared to provide for the next person in crisis! Thank you for helping us send hope around the world and around the corner!"

