



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

Connecting

In this Covid time, we miss being able to connect with others. Staying safe often means being isolated.

Over the next weeks and months, EGUMC is going to systematically and randomly work to connect ourselves with each other in a variety of ways.

We're setting up random "groups", each with a coordinator. Their task is to intentionally make several contacts with each of the others, by phone, text, email or written note or card – and encourage them to reply.

We all miss fellowship times, and they're not going to be possible soon. This is a new way for these new and different times. So don't be surprised if you get a call or message, a note or email from someone you don't know. Smile to yourself, and then reply. Just do it.

Step 2 – remember how great it is to receive Christmas cards? Maybe this is the year to send them again. A short message of cheer – we all need that. To read "thinking of you. How's it going?" Wow! It's great to know someone cares. Our mailboxes are so full of junk. It's time to make a change. What do you think?

To help you out – we have stamps (really, we do), note cards and LOTS OF CHRISTMAS CARDS at the church - and we have volunteers to bring them to you.

Call 448-4701, or email, and soon you'll find a bag of supplies on your doorstep, ready for you to send.

If you don't hear from "someone" in a couple of weeks, let the pastor or office know. We can all be "in the loop" if we communicate with each other.

The church has always been one way we can make connections. In this covid time, it's sooooo hard. Let's each stop and think how we can change all that. Joy and hope can come with each card, email, and call. Thanks to those of you who have been doing this already – this is a great way to live our faith!

– Pastor Alaire

P.S.– your contact info will be "protected" as best as we can.



Saturday, November 28
9:30am

Decorate sanctuary

Advent worship - 10am
Sundays on FB live
from the sanctuary

Link to service will be emailed early
afternoon

Advent devotionals
5 minute reflection from
Pastor Alaire
Wednesdays on FB

Longest Night service*
FB on Monday, December 21

Christmas Eve worship*
FB on Thursday, December 24

*More info coming in December 15
newsletter as we adapt our plans
to being unable to gather inside
together, per our Bishop's directive.

Pastor: Alaire Willits

Office Secretary: Amy Hunt

Financial Secretary: Denise Helmick

Treasurer: Tracy Crail

Organist: Ann Shriver

Choir Director: Cheryl Ketchem

Ministers: ALL MEMBERS

Custodian: Amy Hunt



Reorganization of the Eagle Grove United

Methodist Women –now United Women of Faith

- Withdraw affiliation from the official United Methodist Women organization
- Financial obligations to the Iowa Conference will be eliminated - approx. \$3000./year
- Projects, missions, and service can be determined locally
- Concentrate on serving our local church and community
- Reorganize as a local United Methodist Christian Women’s group with a new name
- Meet as 1 group - disband 2 smaller circles
- Meet the 1st Thursday of the month @ 9:30 a.m. (no meetings January & February)
- Team leadership with Chair, Secretary, Treasurer
- Pledges given yearly, keep our own account
- Meetings to include business meeting, devotion with discussion, snack
- Possible projects: - Prayer retreat for local women - Service projects
- Long Term member recognition - Youth - Study Group - Children in Need - Serve funerals, events - Fund Raisers - Bazaar - Salad luncheon
- Mentor other women

Purpose Statement: Be the hands and feet of Jesus to do good works in our church, community, and world.



Dial-A Devotion-Tuesdays

515-448-3355

December 1--Marilyn Sill

December 8--Maggie Wright

December 15--Marilyn Helmick

December 22--Melody Amonson

December 29--Kurt Knudsen



We know poinsettias give us joy. December worship services will be recorded in the sanctuary, even if we cannot gather in person. We have a new tree, and your poinsettias will truly make our space special. This year, they will be ordered directly through the Eagle Grove Greenhouse. Call 515-448-5181. Deadline is December 2. They will deliver. Please plan to pick up after Christmas; we will coordinate times with you.



As part of sharing this season's joy, we also remember those who are hungry and need our help. Please send any donations you would like to make to help provide food for others to the church office before **Dec. 13**. The mission team will determine how our gifts can best be used to help feed others. Thanks for helping beautify our sanctuary, and also for helping others in this time.

Deck the Halls with Hope, Faith, Joy, Peace, and Love

2020 Readings for Advent and Christmas Eve



The season of Advent is the four week time of preparation for the coming of Jesus. Advent also anticipates Jesus' return again one day. It begins on the Sunday nearest to November 30, this year on Sunday, November 29 and continues until Christmas Eve on December 24.

Many create an Advent wreath of evergreens, reminding us of the unending love of God for us. Traditionally, we place four candles around the circle, lighting one, then one more each Sunday.

Generally, we use 3 purple and one pink candle, with a white candle in the center. This year, if you don't have colored candles, use what you have. We can be reminded to pray and serve others, just as we are, in these times, as Jesus taught. The candle for the third Sunday of Advent is usually pink, a symbol of our joy as the birth of Jesus draws near. Perhaps this year, you just use a different color you have – joy comes in many ways. The 5th candle, the Christ Candle, is placed in the center, to be lit on Christmas Eve along with the other four candles to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world and that God loves us very much.

As you light these candles in your home each week, know that you are acting in concert with millions of Christ followers all around the world. May Advent be a season of centering and renewal, as well as a source of peace for you and yours. God bless you!



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT - HOPE Isaiah 64:1-9:

In a world of war, famine, and disease, where children grow up as orphans, where families go hungry and entire regions face destruction by illness, God, we call upon you to come.

In a world where so many have lost hope, we call upon you, Lord of Hope, to come.

In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Hope into our world. We await the birth of the Christ-child, the coming of God into our lives in a new way. We light the candle of hope.

Dear God, we pray for the hope that is in Christ to come into our lives in a new way. May we become hope that is alive in our world. Amen.



SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT – FAITH Isaiah 40:1-11

We know that God's love has always been with us. God's love has been made known to us through the birth of the Christ-child.

In our homes we gather around Advent wreaths to pray in faith and remember and look forward with hope. At times we're filled with stress, yet we can discover moments of more calm. We trust God's faithfulness. God's light comes into the world and nothing can overcome it. We light the candles of hope and faith.

God-with-us, we're listening to you.
We're listening for you. Speak to us, God.

We're ready to receive all the good things – grace, mercy, love, peace, joy, belly laughs, and hope – all the good things you have prepared for us. In faith, we look to you. Comfort and hold us; speak and excite us! Amen.



THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT - JOY

Luke 1:39-56

In a world of despair, where there has been so much sadness and loss, God, we call upon you to come.

In a world where joy may be a distant memory, we call upon you, Great God of Joy, to come. We light the candles of hope and faith.

And now we light the candle of joy, determined to choose joy instead of sadness as we miss so many things we thought were essential to a merry Christmas – we thought were essential – but alas, are not: parties, Christmas visits, concerts and sporting events, hugs, kisses, and large family gatherings.

Dear God, we pray for the joy that is found in Jesus, that those who seek it may truly find it.

As Mary proclaimed, may we glorify you, and celebrate in the joy you can give. Amen.



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT - PEACE

Isaiah 9:6 and Matthew 5:9

In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Peace into our world. We await the birth of Emmanuel, God with us, to come into our lives in a new way.

As we look at the candles' light, we remember when God's light comes into the world and nothing can overcome it.

We light the candles of hope and faith and joy. We light the candle of peace in spite of anger, violence, social unrest, depression, addictions of all kinds, and pandemic conditions. We know you are ever-present, offering the peace that surpasses even our understanding.

Dear God, we pray for the peace that only You can bring through your Son, Jesus the Christ. May we walk in the paths of peace. Amen.



CHRISTMAS EVE - LOVE

John 1:14 and Luke 2:1-20

On this holy eve, we remember the gifts of God this season of Advent: the hope, faith, peace, joy, and love that has been made known to us in a new way in this time.

Our candles remind us that when God's light comes into the world, nothing can overcome it. We remember the continuity of a circle, and recall God's love knows no end.

We light the Christ candle, in the center of our circle, in the center of our lives. The light of "God With Us" brings respite, provides comfort and companionship, and fills us with love and peace, hope and joy that is not dependent upon our current situation. Jesus lives in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment.

Christ is Born! Alleluia! Come fill us with the Light of Christ, the Love of God, and the Power and Passion of the Holy Spirit. May we shine into our world holy unconditional warmth and light to all. Amen.

-Reminder, since we will not be worshipping in person, please remember to mail your financial gifts to the church. P.O. Box 101. Thank you.

- Reminder, Upper Room books for November/December are available at the church.