



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

January 2022

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts.

The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich, and a way to think about home in different ways. It's something we seek and something we are called to build. In many ways, these scriptures are like blueprints—detailing the dreams of a God who makes a home with us. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth; sacred ground is all around us.

As we gather through Advent, and into the Christmas season, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home—wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, love, and courage.

On **Tuesday, December 21**, come join us at 6pm on the Longest Night of the year. For some, in this season when we're surrounded by the sounds and sights of joy, there are so many very different thoughts and moods. The very nature of the season can remind us of those who are absent from our circle of family and friends. Others struggle with changes that have meant loss and struggle. We gather on this night, seeking comfort and strength from others, and from the God who is always close. We all have times of darkness, even in this season when light is so important to our worship. Our service is open to any in the community who would like to come. UCC

Pastor Todd Edeker and others will be assisting.



On **Christmas Eve**, we will worship at **6pm**. Our time together will include Scripture, carols, readings, and of course, candles (glow bracelets for the young!) and *Silent Night*. A tradition for many, this service pulls us in, and then sends us out, back into our families and the world, to spread love, joy, peace and hope.

You'll have not 1, but 2 opportunities to worship on **December 26**. In person in the chapel (not recorded), we'll gather at **10am** with the keyboard, to sing some of the many carols of the season, sharing joy and laughter with friends. Our Bishop and Cabinet have recorded a beautiful 1st Sunday of Christmas service that will be posted on our **Facebook** page. You may want to experience both!

The Scriptures are a blueprint for our faith journey, and on **January 2, 10am**, we'll begin a new calendar year looking at a part of the “blueprint” United Methodists have - John Wesley's Covenant Service. The words may be from the past, but our promise can move us into the future.

The calendar marks Epiphany on January 6 – we will celebrate the Magi and their discovery and their new vision – and ours - on January 9. May God's light shine in and through YOU!

Pastor: Alaire Willits

Office Secretary: Amy Hunt

Financial Secretary: Denise Helmick

Treasurer: Tracy Crail

Organist: Ann Shriver

Custodian: Amy Hunt

Ministers: ALL MEMBERS





THE CLOSET

At a recent meeting of EGAMA, the ministerial association heard about a need – on any given day, there are many students (40+) in the schools in need of more appropriate clothing for the season. This situation is further complicated by the fact that the every space in every building is in use – there’s no place to store any clothing we might collect.

And so...after a little brainstorming by a small task force, The Closet is being born. This is an ecumenical outreach, being designed to meet specific needs. We will begin with a few basic steps – and we will continue to grow and expand, we know. We are planning and adjusting as we go along. Pictures and updates will be coming, but you can be part of this project. We’re beginning with these parameters:

Cash donations are requested, and will be matched by another donor. We can probably use at least \$1000 or more in giving to meet imminent needs, before the end of the year.

At this time, absolutely NO outside clothing donations from the community will be accepted. Specific items to meet specific situations will be purchased by the team.

We will focus on sizes 4-16 (elementary and middle school).

The Closet will NOT be “open to the public”, like the Food Bank is. Staff at school will refer, and distribute.

The team has some fun ideas like an “Undie Sunday” for all of us to purchase specific items; those will happen in 2022. Eventually we may receive new and nearly-new clothing; we have setup and organization to do first. Please, please do not ask about, or drop off ANY clothing, new or nearly-new right now – there’s nowhere to process it. Give us a couple of weeks! We’ll keep you posted.

Eagle Grove is a giving, loving community. The Closet will be yet another avenue to give a boost to those who need a little help. Thanks for being part of the birthing process.

A Note about Giving:

I want to take a moment and thank you each for your financial support of EGUMC – you’ve made lots of cuts and adjustments this past year, and your giving has been consistent. Thank you! If you need gifts credited for your taxes (they are deductible, you know!), the end of the year is approaching. Remember you can mail, or use tithly.com, as well as leaving them in the offering plate on Sunday.

Advent is also a time we think of extra giving, and there are a couple of outreach options you should know about. All you need to do is indicate with your check where you want your gift to go.

a.) the tornados in KY and other states are devastating. UMCOR is already putting their plans in motion. Remember 100% of your gift will go to help those needing assistance.

b.) our Advent special offering will be divided, some staying local to help children and youth, and a portion will be sent to the Conference Kindling Fund, to assist in the upkeep of our two Iowa UMC camps – Okoboji and Wesley Woods.

c.) The Closet (see article in this newsletter) is being birthed, and financial gifts will be the most helpful as we begin that project.

It really does give such joy – to us and to others - the we are able to give gifts of ANY size, and know they will help others in need. Together we make a difference. That’s living our faith---Pastor Alaire

-Prayers and thought for people of Kentucky and surrounding states for the devastating tornadoes they had the past week or so ago.

-Please keep in your thoughts and prayers for Amy’s grandma Betty Conaway, she has been in the hospital since Thursday December 9. If you would like to send her cards her address is:
428 Stockdale Drive —Eagle Grove, IA 50533

Dial-a-Devotion

Tuesdays

January 4—Paul Wilde

January 11—Bev McVicker

January 18—Marilyn Sill

January 25—Sharon Seibert

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.



The Eagle Grove United Methodist Men will meet this Saturday, December 18th, at 7:00 am at the Family Table. Attendees have been low the last couple months, so we hope you can mark your calendars and make it. The 45 minutes to hour include a short devotional, breakfast, and fellowship. Just a time for men to get together. We look forward to seeing you there. We wish you and your families a blessed Merry Christmas!

2021 Share Christmas With A Family

Thanks for your participation!!

Each year it takes approximately \$10,000 in cash contributions to purchase gift certificates for food.



The annual Turkey Supper is back!! It will be on January 22, 2022. This will be take out only from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.! Delivery is available with prior arrangements made. You can call Amy at the office and she will take down all your information for your delivery. Tickets are available for purchase for \$15.00. Right now you can get them in the office or contact someone you know that will be able to get them to you.



Thank you to all those who have made our Advent worship services so special. Musicians include, Ann Shriver, Lincoln Bartley, Louie Shriver, and Sunday December 19, 2021 Cadence Stephens will be singing for us.

Thank you to have helped light our Advent wreath so far. This includes the Alts, Amonsons, Andersons, and Jacobsens.

Last but not least thank you to all who have beautified our sanctuary with poinsettias.

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| -Evelyn Grandgeorge | In memory of Dean Grandgeorge |
| -Betty Wilde | In memory of Mike & Nellie Adams
In memory of Cecil & Laura Wilde |
| -Lincoln Bartley
2 poinsettias | In memory of Chuck Bartley
In memory of Marge Bartley
(from your family) |
| -Kelley & Melody Amonson
2 poinsettias | In memory of Fred & Francis Evans
& Lyle Amonson
In celebration of life of our children &
grandchildren |
| -Kay Calligan | In memory of Michael Calligan |
| -Deb & Dylan Thielen | In memory of Mark Thielen |
| -Rick Derscheid | In memory of Kay Derscheid |
| -Chad & Ann Wilde | In celebration of our children & grandchildren |
| -Dan & Colleen Soma | In memory of our moms & dads |
| -Dean & Marilyn Helmick
3 poinsettias | In memory of Cecil & Laura Wilde
In memory of Clyde & Edna Helmick
In memory of Denae Schaumburg |
| -Daphne Willwerth | In memory of Bob & Charlotte Willwerth
& Darrell Shirbrow |
| -Del Kramersmeier & family | In memory of Janet Kramersmeier |