



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

January 2025



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)

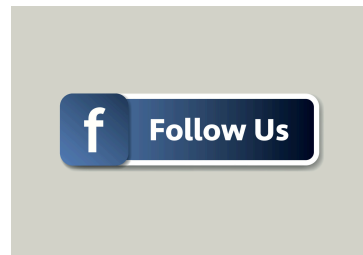
United Methodist Women

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

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

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

January 7 - Paul Wilde
 January 14 - Joe Stein
 January 21 - Kurt Knudsen
 January 28 - Marilyn Sill



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



January Birthdays

January 2nd - Lavonne Deuel

January 13 - Avery Lawson

January 13 - Johnny Pamperin

January 13 - Amanda Poncin

January 30 - Jon Koester



January Meetings/Events

January 8 - Worship Team - 9:30 A.M.

January 8 - Kids' Club, Confirmation, Youth Group

January 15 - Kids' Club, Confirmation, Youth Group

January 18 - United Methodist Men @ Family Table - 7:00 A.M.

January 22 - Faith Formation Team - 4:30 P.M.

January 22- Kids' Club, Confirmation, Youth Group

January 29 - Kids' Club, Confirmation, Youth Group

January 29 - Admin Meeting - 5:30 P.M.

Make Epiphany Come Alive with These Six Ideas

By: Jeremy Steele

Epiphany is one of the most joyous feast days in the church year as we celebrate the visit of the Magi and Jesus' coming as Savior of all people. Because it happens 12 days after Christmas, the celebration can be lost in post-holiday fatigue. However, with a little creative thinking, this holy day can shine. Here are ideas to spark your Epiphany brainstorming session!

1. Twelfth Night Dinner

One of the most traditional ways to celebrate Epiphany is to gather for a meal, tell the story of the Magi visiting the Christ-child and give gifts to the children. To bring the story to life, have some church members dress up as the Magi and recount the story of their journey to Bethlehem in first person while walking around and giving small candies or coins to the children.

You might invite children to participate in a tradition from many parts of the world. Have them leave their shoes by the door as they enter — along with some grass for the wise men's camels. While the children are inside, have someone remove the grass and replace it with wrapped candies. Remind the children to check their shoes for a little surprise.

2. Magi Star Gazing Night

In honor of these ancient star gazers, celebrate the season by following in their footsteps. Invite the telescoping community to set up their scopes on the church lawn and look up at the night sky. Many theologians and scientists believe that the star the Magi were tracking was actually the planet Jupiter. You can check this chart to see when it is visible in the night sky. To take this idea to the next level, try inviting a local expert to give an astronomy lecture highlighting upcoming astronomical events.

3. King Cake Bake Sale

A food traditionally associated with Epiphany is the King Cake (aka galette des Rois, Bolo Rei, Three Kings Cake, Roscón, etc.). Because it is made in so many different ways around the world, you can offer a variety of cake types in the King Cake-style. King Cakes are round (like a bundt cake) to symbolize a king's crown. Each King Cake will contain some sort of bean or trinket (even a small plastic baby) to symbolize baby Jesus. Whoever receives the piece with the trinket gets to wear a crown and prepares the cake the next year.

4. Magi Welcoming Teams

This is one of the most common times of year for people to move into a new community, but because of its proximity to holidays it can be difficult for those people to get connected. Consider putting together a packet of information and local goodies and follow in the footsteps of the Magi, taking these gifts to new arrivals in your community.

5. Star Singers Fundraising

In Germany, singers holding a large star go from house to house singing and asking for donations for a worthy cause. You might take your youth choir house to house and use the tradition of putting money in the shoes of children as a way to raise money for a project, mission or ministry.

6. An Epiphany Blessing of Homes and Chalking the Door

Mark the season of Epiphany with a custom long-observed overseas, especially in Great Britain: a Chalking the Door Service. People come together in a gathering place, whether it be a home, hospital, church or workplace, to mark doors with chalk, inviting God's presence and blessings on the physical space and the people within it. Further details about the service, including special liturgy in remembrance of the three Magi, are provided by Discipleship Ministries.

However you choose to celebrate Epiphany, we hope that your church will be a light in your community reaching out to all people with the grace of Christ.



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



A Message From the Pastor

Beloved Eagle Grove United Methodist Church Family,

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we continue to celebrate the gift of the birth of Jesus Christ, I hope this gift is bringing joy, peace and love in you and your family.

Now as we come to the end of this year 2024, and looking forward to welcoming the new year 2025. I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for each and everyone of you. Your support, collaboration, faith in Christ, presence and love have made our community a true blessing. Together, we have worked hand in hand, united in purpose, and shown kindness to one another and to those beyond our church.

As we welcome the new year, let us embrace the theme of "New Year, New Beginning." In January, we will start a worship sermon series focused on God's grace and how it transforms our lives. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect on the blessings we have received and to grow in faith together.

Thank you for the many cards and gifts during the Christmas season. Your thoughtfulness brings joy to our hearts. As we look forward to 2024, may we continue to shine our light in the world, so that others may see our good works and glorify our Heavenly Father.

Let us pray for God's grace to guide us, our church family, and our ministries throughout 2025. Together, we can go beyond our boundaries and make a positive impact in our community and beyond.

Wishing you all a blessed New Year 2025!

Pastor Laurene Banza



Youth Ministry Updates



Members of the youth group helped pack bags of food for the "No Child Hungry" program in Eagle Grove. This program provides bags of food for students in need over the extended winter break.



The children performed "From the Manger" for the congregation on December 15th. The children did a great job! Thank you to all those who helped in organizing this presentation.