



Eagle Grove United Methodist Church

Love God, Love Others, Change the World

“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of World”

421 West Broadway Street ~ P.O. Box 101 ~ Eagle Grove, IA 50533

Church Office: (515) 448-4701

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JUNE 2020



Pastor: Jim Roth

Office Secretary: Amy Hunt

Financial Secretary: Denise Helmick

Treasurer: Tracy Crail

Organist: Ann Shriver

Choir Director: Cheryl Ketcham

Custodian: Sara Ell

Ministers: ALL MEMBERS

Pastor's Pen (June 2020) *What is "Seed" in the Bible?*

I have fond memories of outdoor worship services. At one I "seed-sowed" while recalling the legend/lore of Johnny Appleseed (my children's message there was the iconic halving of an apple to reveal its seed speckled star-sun pattern core). At the "too numerous to count" grave site committal services I proclaim Jesus' wheat grain teachings from John 12 (when the grain seeds fall to the earth, they "die" by sprouting to grow and bear much fruit). At the 9-11 first anniversary commemorative event, the grain seeds sown of heroes everywhere were honored and God was glorified through patriotic hymns and homilies. And here at EG-UMC, our "Drive-In" parking lot Sunday Services since March 29 have been conducted for sowing seeds of faith as "Spirit-Soul Food" during this ongoing COVID-19 Virus Crisis Pandemic (at the first, I commended us for hosting our first ever Blood Donation Drive on January 29, 2020, and challenged us to grow this seed through personal blood donations and by holding regular drives in the future).

While "seed" in the Bible has many meanings, the most profound understanding is through Jesus' parables featuring seed (e.g., seed and soil, seed and weeds, and mustard seed faith), that the Word of God is "seed" to be planted in us to bear much fruit. This is why I've devoted much of my energies and efforts, here and elsewhere in my pastoral ministry, to encourage Bible Study as the primary "tool" for Discipleship. For any disciple (student and follower of Jesus), regular Bible reading with prayerful study (personal, small groups, and worship settings) is transformational (self, church, and world) by growing in God's love, grace, and service.

Included in this newsletter is a sample (several weeks) of a daily devotional Bible reading program (tentatively titled "The 52x3 Worship & Scripture Orders"). This is a continuation of what we have posted to the church website (and to the glass church doors) for the past few weeks. I hope to learn that some, several, many here become "hooked" on the Bible and its manifold blessings. This includes the Confirmation Class 2019—2020. They and their families received from me a personal invitation with a sample set of six weeks, along with, yup, you guessed it, some garden seeds to plant, specifically sunflower seeds (I've been told that at their maturity, their flowers turn each day 180 degrees to keep following the sun, just as we need to keep following "The Son" Jesus Christ). That invitation is paired with another: to officially "Claim the Name" (Christian) and become members of The Church at the outdoor Drive-In Sunday Service on June 21 (10am), "Live-Streamed" (via Face-Book).

Closing (below) with the lyrics from *Thy Word Is a Lamp*
(by Amy Grant 1984, from Psalm 119:105; UMH page 601).

--- Blessings and Peace, Pastor Jim Roth

*Thy Word Is a Lamp unto my feet and a Light unto my path.
When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.
Please be near me to the end.
Now I will not forget your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide, and hold me to your side,
And I will love You to the end.
Thy Word Is a Lamp unto my feet and a Light unto my path.*

“Hey, Did You Know?” --- Missions Focus (Past, Present, and Future). For March and April, our emphasis was to support the Scout Ministries of Eagle Grove through the collection of soda/sudz cans and bottles (for their nickel each redemption value). While “Scout Sunday” (March 15) was an early Covid Casualty, the hundreds of cans and bottles you dropped off here did make their way to the Scouts to support their benevolence activities. During this Lent—Easter period we also encouraged one another to support a variety of area, regional, and global agencies (personal choice). In May we are encouraging one another through the Second Annual Undies 500+ Campaign (that is to make diaper/underwear product or monetary donations to UDMO, Eagles’ Wings, Head Start, Elementary School, Lotus Project, Beacon of Hope, etc.), with the goal being to surpass last year’s numbers (718 total). Now for June, let us celebrate the “Birthday of the Church” (Pentecost Season) through gifts of cleaning products/sanitizers/wipes (products or monetary donations) to combat Covid as we consider how to transition back to holding inside the church activities (July 5).

News from the Administrative Council --- Meetings held with Conference Superintendent Carol Kress (March 11 and April 27) resulted in the decision to change the pastoral appointment status for the Eagle Grove UMC church from “Full-Time” to “Half-Time” effective July 1, 2020. Pastor Jim Roth’s appointment here will draw to a close on June 30, and he has been reappointed to the four-point “Town and Country Parish” at Leon, Iowa. The subsequent Ad Council meeting was held on May 13 in the Fellowship Dining Hall (safe social distancing practices adhered to, one person/couple per table). The following decisions were made: Receipt of the Church Leadership for 2020 Report from the Nominations Committee (yes, several vacancies remain to be filled), selection of a new Ad Council Chairperson (Melody Amonson to succeed Joel Stein --- many thanks to both!!), formation of an “Expense/Investment” Task Force, formation of a “Re-Entry/Re-Opening” task force, and the resumption of church newsletters (beginning with this one). Their recommendations are to be considered at subsequent Ad Council Meetings (second Wednesdays at 6:30pm).

Combatting Covid --- Early on we used Salutes and Elbow Bumps (in place of hugs and handshakes), then we canceled of church activities March 15 and 22 (as directed by Bishop Laurie Haller). Thereafter we conducted Drive-In Parking Lot Sunday Services (following the guidelines from the Conference Center and Wright County Health Department). Other response measures: An Easter Vehicles Parade (following the Drive-In Service). First Sundays’ Holy Communion via Bring Your Own Bread/Juice (in vehicles or at home when “live-streamed”). Communications via a Phone Calling Tree, Mass E-Mails, and Midweek News/Message “Bulletins” posted to the Website. Midweek Lord’s Prayer (noon Wednesdays through the ringing of The Troy Church Bell through April). 24-Hour Prayer Vigil on Good Friday (April 10). Creation of a “virtual church tour” (via photos with devotional music posted on social media). Dialing Down Thermostats and Shutting off Refrigerators/Freezers. Several Sets of Message Manuscripts Delivered to Staff at Rotary Senior Living (for ALL residents). Formation of Special Task Force Groups (to adapt/adopt Conference Center guidelines). District-by-District Formation of “Circuit Chaplains” (as pastoral support networks) and Conference Center Worship Resources (for May 24 Sunday Service).

Iowa Area UMC “Annual Conference” News --- Following the lead of the global UMC church’s “General Conference” (rescheduled from May 2020 to later in 2021), the IA-UMC “Annual Conference” will not take place as originally planned (June 5-7, 2020 at Des Moines). Instead, some portions will take place via virtual meetings (eg, Zoom), and other elements (including the Ordination Events) will take place regionally in smaller gatherings. Further details are posted at the conference website (iaumc.org).

Prayer Corner --- Georgianna B Derricklee H Kris P Kayne C Cory J Don R Mark T
Carol W Todd W Jim S Denny T Families and friends of Judy Flatebo and Lois Gearhart
COVID Virus Crisis Pandemic (all issues/concerns) EG-UMC Ad Council, Committees, and Task Forces
Pastoral Changes throughout Iowa Graduates (high school, trade school, college, university, grad school, etc..)
“Family of George Floyd with Peace and Justice throughout our nation”

Prayer List Policy: To add someone (or concern/issue) to the prayer list, you may make an announcement at the Sunday Service, send an e-mail to the church or call the church office, provided that you have obtained permission from the affected persons. Also, please keep the church office informed of status updates so that the prayer list is kept current.

Pastoral Change News --- In a letter dated May 18, 2020, the Iowa Area UMC Bishop and Cabinet announced that Alaire Willits has been appointed as pastor of the Eagle Grove UMC church, effective July 1, 2020. Please provide her a warm welcome. Pastor Alaire Willits lives in Stratford on the family farm. She is a graduate of Morningside College and spent much of her career as an educator and Director of Christian Education for Sioux City, Grace UMC. It was there she raised her three children. After returning to central Iowa, God called Alaire into a new kind of leadership in the church as a pastor. She has led three appointments within the North Central District. Alaire currently fills the pulpit at the Dows UMC & Presbyterian churches. Her strength for ministry includes education, mission, finance and worship. She will lead the church part-time with an eye for its renewal. Pastor Jim Roth will continue as the EG-UMC pastor until his moving day (June 26). With the challenge of COVID, it is important to give time and attention to bid the Roth household a respectful farewell while also preparing to receive your new pastor. Please pray for a smooth transition here, for the churches in Dows, and a hopeful future at both settings.

Reading Week “MLS-8A” (Ministry Lesson Set 8A)

*Blessed are those who persecuted
because of their righteousness,
for theirs (yours) is the Kingdom of Heaven.*
— drawn from Matthew 5:10

MONDAY (June 1, 2020)

Psalm 64 Luke 14:34-35 Eph 4:1-10 Ps 119:65-72

TUESDAY (June 2, 2020)

Psalm 65 Titus 3:1-2 Luke 12:35-59 Ps 119:73-80

WEDNESDAY (June 3, 2020)

Psalm 66 Proverbs 6:20-22 Micah 7(all) Ps 119:81-88

THURSDAY (June 4, 2020)

Psalm 67 1 Peter 2:18-20 Col 3:1-17 Ps 119:89-96

FRIDAY (June 5, 2020)

Psalm 68 2 Cor 5:11-13 Luke 8:1-15 Ps 119:97-104

SATURDAY (June 6, 2020)

Psalm 69 Galatians 1:11-12 James 5:1-11 Ps 119:105-112

SUNDAY (June 7, 2020)

Jesus' Resurrection Sunday 9 (Year "A") JR-9A

The Sunday of the Holy Trinity (TS-A)

Readings Selected for Devotions (or for Sunday Worship):

Reading Week “DLS-26A” (Daily Lectionary Set 26A)

*They will spend their days in prosperity,
and their descendants will inherit the land.*

– drawn from Psalm 25:13

MONDAY (June 8, 2020)

Ps 119:137-144 Exodus 20:1-21 James 1:2-8 Psalm 32

TUESDAY (June 9, 2020)

Ps 119:145-152 Dt 23:21—24:4,10-15 James 2:1-13 Ps 33

WEDNESDAY (June 10, 2020)

Ps 119:153-160 Prov 2:1-15 Matthew 19:1-12 Psalm 34

THURSDAY (June 11, 2020)

Ps 119:161-168 Ex 22:21-27 1 Cor 10:23—11:1 Psalm 35

FRIDAY (June 12, 2020)

Ps 119:169-176 Leviticus 6:1-7 Galatians 5:2-6 Psalm 36

SATURDAY (June 13, 2020)

Psalm 120 Leviticus 24:10-23 Matthew 7:1-12 Ps 37:1-24

SUNDAY (June 14, 2020)

Sunday 28 Before Christ’s Incarnation (Year “A”) 28A-BCI

Sunday of Shared Lectionary 7A (Week “DLS-13A”)

Readings Selected for Devotions (or for Sunday Worship):

28A-BCI: Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18 Psalm 119:33-40
1 Cor 3:10-11,16-23 Matthew 5:38-48

Reading Week “DLS-27A” (Daily Lectionary Set 27A)

*The LORD confides in those who fear (revere) Him;
He makes His covenant known to them.
– drawn from Psalm 25:14*

MONDAY (June 15, 2020)

Psalm 121 Proverbs 25:11-22 Romans 12:9-21 Ps 37:25-40

TUESDAY (June 16, 2020)

Psalm 122 Genesis 31:1-3,17-50 Heb 12:14-16 Psalm 38

WEDNESDAY (June 17, 2020)

Psalm 123 Proverbs 3:27-35 Luke 18:18-30 Psalm 39

THURSDAY (June 18, 2020)

Psalm 124 Proverbs 12:22-28 Phil 2:19-24 Psalm 40

FRIDAY (June 19, 2020)

Psalm 125 Isaiah 26:1-6 Phil 2:25-30 Psalm 41

SATURDAY (June 20, 2020)

Psalm 126 Isaiah 31:1-9 Luke 11:14-23 Psalm 42

SUNDAY (June 21, 2020)

Sunday 27 Before Christ’s Incarnation (Year “A”) 27A-BCI
Sunday of Shared Lectionary 8A (Week “DLS-14A”)

Readings Selected for Devotions (or for Sunday Worship):

27A-BCI: Isaiah 49:8-16a Ps 131 1 Cor 4:1-5 Matthew 6:24-34

Reading Week “BPU-A1” (Bible Plan Unit A1)

Disciples: Know that you belong to God, that
God has claim on you.

Q – Do I disobey God in anything?

MONDAY (June 22, 2020)

Psalm 8 Genesis 1—2 John 1:1-28 Proverbs 11:1

TUESDAY (June 23, 2020)

Psalm 32 Genesis 3—4 John 1:29-51 Proverbs 11:2

WEDNESDAY (June 24, 2020)

Psalm 46 Genesis 5 John 2:1-11 Proverbs 11:3

THURSDAY (June 25, 2020)

Psalm 122 Genesis 6—7 John 2:12-25 Proverbs 11:4

FRIDAY (June 26, 2020)

Ps 25:1-10 Genesis 8—9 John 3:1-21 Proverbs 11:5

SATURDAY (June 27, 2020)

Ps 25:11-22 Genesis 10—11 John 3:22-36 Proverbs 11:6

SUNDAY (June 28, 2020)

Sunday 26 Before Christ’s Incarnation (Year “A”) 26A-BCI
Sunday Designation (RCL): Proper 8A (Lect 13A)

Readings Selected for Devotions (or for Sunday Worship):

26A-BCI: Jer 28:5-9 Ps 89:1-4, 15-18 OR Gen 22:1-14 & Ps 13
Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42

JUNE 2020

Tuesday, June 2– Dial-a-Devotion –Paul Wilde

Friday, June 5– Clergy Annual Meeting via “ZOOM” @ 9:30 A.M.

Sunday, June 7- “Drive-In” Sunday Service (with Holy Communion) @ 10:00 A.M.
Attendees and Home Viewers: Furnish your own bread and juice.

Tuesday, June 9– Dial-a-Devotion –Mary Derscheid

Wednesday, June 10– Expense/Investment Task Force Meeting @ 5:45 P.M.

Wednesday, June 10- Ad. Council Meeting @ 6:30 P.M.

Sunday, June 14- “Drive-In” Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.

Tuesday, June 16– Dial-a-Devotion –Beverly McVicker

Wednesday, June 17– Re-entry/Re-Opening Task Force Meeting @ 4:30 P.M.

Wednesday, June 17– Worship Team Meeting @ 5:30 P.M.

Friday, June 19– July 2020 Newsletter Articles and Information ***DUE!!***

Sunday, June 21- “Drive-In” Sunday Service (with Holy Communion) @ 10:00 A.M. Attendees and Home Viewers: Furnish your own bread and juice

Sunday, June 21– Pastor Jim’s last Sunday. Farewell reception with refreshments after worship.

Sunday, June 21– Father’s Day

Tuesday, June 23– Dial-a-Devotion– Bev Wilde

Sunday, June 28– Melody Amonson will conduct the “Drive-In” Sunday Service @ 10:00 A.M.

Tuesday, June 30– Dial-a-Devotion- Joe Stein

Sunday, July 5- “Indoors” Sunday Service (with Holy Communion) @ 10:00 A.M.
Attendees: Furnish your own bread/juice

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Pastor Alaire lives in Stratford on the family farm. She is a graduate of Morningside College and spent much of her career as an educator and Director of Christian Education for Sioux City, Grace UMC. It was there she raised her three children.

After returning to central Iowa God called Alaire into a new kind of leadership in the church as a pastor. She has led three appointments within the North Central District. She currently fills the pulpit at the Dows UMC & Presbyterian churches. Her strength for ministry include education, mission, finance and worship. She will lead the church part-time with an eye for its renewal.

Please checkout our website www.eaglegroveumc.org or follow us on Facebook for more information about meet & greets with Alaire.

If we've missed you with our mailings or email, we apologize. We're doing our best to notify everyone during these difficult times. Please call or text (text preferred) Amy at 515-371-9471 with your current information. She is available Monday–Friday from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (please no after hours if it can wait until the given hours. Please also refrain from weekends unless it is an emergency). You can also email Amy at egumc@goldfieldaccess.com with your current information or any questions.