



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

Pastor Alaire Willits ~alairew@gmail.com~ 712-212-5333

June 2023



Why I am United Methodist: Because we see flowers where others see weeds.

It's all about grace and seeing people as children of God; it's not about "us" and "them", and a God that needs defending, but a world that needs to be loved.

It is about open hearts, open minds, and open doors, and though we are not perfect we are on that road to perfection.

We hold as our mentors Good Samaritans and Prodigal sons, faithful prostitutes and generous widows, unclean lepers and thieves on a cross. We realize we are all that strange mixture of Saint and sinner.

It's never about being right but always about doing right. Our mission is not to defend the church but simply to do all the good we can, to all the people we can, in all the ways we can, as long as we can.

We see flowers where others see weeds, because we figured out long ago that we were weeds that someone watered with grace and love.

In a world that sees only weeds to be pulled, I am thankful for a church filled with God's grace that sees things in a different light.

--Blake Lasater of Eureka Springs, Arkansas





The Iowa Annual Conference is meeting June 2-4, at the Recplex in West Des Moines. The theme for this 180th session will focus on Matthew 16: 13-18. Bishop Kennetha asks us to reflect on our identity as United Methodists as we gather together.

Please go to iaumc.org and there on the homepage you will see the logo – click and watch a great video about the UMC, told by our Bishop, conference lay leadership and some Iowa clergy. It is well-worth the time.

"This is the church Wesley envisioned when he said, *'Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike.'* Wesley said we may not be of the same opinion, but can't we be of the same heart? Can't we have hearts centered in love?" asked Bishop Kennetha during her installation service.

Remembering who we are is also knowing that United Methodists are people who center grace.

"We are a people immersed in grace, washed in grace, upheld by grace, embraced by the grace of God, and called to be extenders of that grace to the world," said Bishop Kennetha.

Pastor Alaire will be attending; Boyd Crees is the delegate from Goldfield UMC. You'll undoubtedly hear about the conference in the upcoming weeks, as they report back to you.

Dial a Devotion for May 2023

June 6—Sharon Seibert

June 13—Melody Amonson

June 20—Sharon Seibert

June 27—Sharon Seibert

Friendly reminder that if you would like to help with the Dial a Devotion, please contact Amy at the office or Sharon Seibert. We could really use more volunteers.

Thank you!

Eagle Grove UMC
egumc@goldfieldaccess.net
515-448-4701

Goldfield UMC
goldumc@goldfieldaccess.net
515-825-3754

A note from Pastor Alaire:

I am finishing up my Christmas vacation (thanks to the snow storm!) with most of my family in Virginia May 24-31. We've got a Master's degree (daughter Kristine) to celebrate, and the return of the grandkids living in Texas back to Virginia! The overseas crew is coming to Iowa in August!

While I am gone, pastoral care coverage is lined. Sunday, May 28, Boyd Crees will be leading worship in Eagle Grove at 9:30am, and at Goldfield at 11. On Sunday, June 4, Paul Van Gorkum of GoServe in Eagle Grove will share his story of his most recent mission trip with each congregation at their regular worship times.

Our personal schedules may shift in the summer months – the worship times will remain the same, and we'll be live on FB from each congregation as we have been. June 11 will be Communion Sunday, and kick off a summer sermon series about...well, you'll have to come, or watch on FB to find out!

June 18, we are planning the baptism of Bodie Grandgeorge. Several others have been thinking about a baptism and/or making an official membership connection. Let me know and we'll make plans.

The summer is a fantastic time to take that hour on Sunday and pause and give thanks for all the wonders surrounding us, and ponder how we're living God's love with others. Coming together for singing and prayers is always good, and it's a great time to bring your extended family and neighbors along. Facebook and the weekly email can keep you updated...but surprises may come along! God works in new, exciting ways!

--Pastor Alaire

Good news! Mission updates:

The Closet has helped 35 kids get new summer clothes – amazing how fast they grow! Thanks to UWF for their gift.

EGUMC Lenten offerings were \$640 for Heifer International. That buys a heifer, a pig, and a flock of chicks! Our gift will go “undesignated” so their staff can direct it to the most immediate needed.

Goldfield UMC keeps their quarter tube out all the time – it's been filled at least 2x this spring (about \$100 each time! Those quarters really add up! The Goldfield Gals are going to take lunch to Lotus Community Project for their June meeting – and their Lenten offering AND an Ingathering Hunger Grant they received...all total about \$700! Making a difference locally.

And then there are those cool sleeping mats! Each congregation has their own loom, and

is weaving away. Together there are a dozen completed – and bags and bags ready to weave more! Watch for an announcement as we deliver them to ?????? Wait and see!

There's been some conversation about a road trip to Jefferson. We'll keep you posted.



Prayers for the families and friends of Carol Smith and Connie Krause, who both passed away recently.

Also, prayers to all of those coping with health issues.

Pastor Alaire will be on vacation in Virginia from June 24th—31st. Coverage for her is arranged. If you need anything you will need to contact Amy.

—We would like to say a big thank you to Eagle Grove Greenhouse for doing our lawn care.

—VBS will be happening soon. Will give you dates once we have them.

—Services at Rotary Ann are starting again. They will be the third Thursday of every month. More details coming soon.

- UWF meeting June 1 @ 9:30 am in Fireside room
- Methodist Men meet June 17 @ 7am at Family Table
- Admin. Council meeting June 27 @ 5:30pm

