



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

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

As we move through this season of Eastertide, we can discover ways we are, and can be Living the Resurrection. As the first disciples “saw” Jesus again, they doubted, wondered, and were amazed. And from them, the church began and grew and grew. Living the Resurrection, their faith was seen and spread throughout the world.

How are you, how are we, continuing this spread? Through our witness, others come to believe, and that’s good. That’s the goal.

We witness to John Wesley’s 3 General Rules . “Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God.” As we continue to mask, keep distance and consider being vaccinated, we are taking care of ourselves, but really, we’re considering all the others we come in contact with every day. Some are feeling comfortable coming in person on Sundays; others tune in on Facebook, or listen to Sermons by phone. Being a virtual community is new, and challenging – we will keep working at it.

During this season, we’ll celebrate some ways to do this. We will:

Gather in the gifts from Church World Service Banks. (mail or bring to the church). On **April 28**, we’ll celebrate our giving to others. I wonder how many blankets, at \$10 each, we’ll be able to provide to others around the globe.

Give thanks as we recognize those who have been members here at Eagle Grove UMC for 50 years of longer on **May 2**. Bev McVicker has been faithful for 80 years; the whole list is long indeed!

Grow. Faithful witness by many has moved 6 youth to question, learn about the church, and commit to their faith and the church. They will be confirmed on **May 9**.

Get organized or perhaps reorganized, as we move into the future. Church committees begin anew to think and plan as we go forward into this changed world.

Your dedication to this church is strong; my challenge is to guide you to live your faith and live into your faith. I pray God’s blessing on all that we will try – knowing we’ll have successes, and not-so-greats. We learn and grow and witness together. Everyone matters. God isn’t done and neither should we be!

Living the Resurrection – what a fantastic challenge! –Pastor Alaire

Pastor: Alaire Willits

Office Secretary: Amy Hunt

Financial Secretary: Denise Helmick

Treasurer: Tracy Crail

Organist: Ann Shriver

Choir Director: Cheryl Ketchem

Custodian: Amy Hunt

Ministers: ALL MEMBERS

Changes, changes, (ugh!?!?) changes

A year ago, I ran across a book, *Part-time is Perfect*, that talked about how churches that lean into less than full-time paid staffing can really thrive and grow. It gives some theological basis (everyone is called to live their discipleship), as well as several successful recent examples. Changes can be positive.

Covid forced many changes that as EGUMC moved to part-time staffing would likely have been made. Now we look forward, but also need to realize this church is not the church of 2001.

The church office continues to be open Tuesday mornings, 10-11:30am. This means Amy and I will almost always both be in-house at that time, and you are welcome to drop in. We have committed to this. We try to schedule outside appointments accordingly. For personal safety, no one works there alone, with doors unlocked. If you see our cars there, and the door is locked – call!

Amy is “working” Tuesdays, some Wednesdays, and Thursdays, sometimes in the office, sometimes at her home during the days. Much church “work” does not need to be done only from her desk. She’s been given flexibility to determine that.

If you need to meet her at church for something, just ask – an email or message on the machine at church is the best. She checks them during “regular business hours”. Evenings and weekends (Fri-Sun) are her personal time and that should be honored.

My agreement with the church is 20-25 hours/week, including Sundays, and 2-3 trips a week to Eagle Grove (trying to limit to 10/month). I will honestly tell you worship and sermon prep takes me 15+ hours most weeks. I’m in the office Tuesday mornings; other trips to Eagle Grove are for meetings or scheduled visits. The best way to contact me is by phone 712-212-5333. Just leave a message if I don’t pick up.

That being said, one of my highest priorities is pastoral care. That’s 24/7, and often can’t be scheduled. Emergencies happen! Sometimes a phone call or text or email is enough; not always.

Hopefully soon care centers and hospitals will be more open. Some of you have been asking me to stop by your homes; give me a call or text, and we can talk about safety, etc, and decide from there.

These are new, unusual times. We will work together to find workable solutions.

This is truly a new time we’re in...and we have no blueprint. As I begin a second year, because of covid restrictions, I really do NOT know so many of you. We need that to change; I want that to change.

The whole point of *Part-time is Perfect* is that when paid staff is cut back, it’s the perfect time for members to pick up the tasks that can’t get done – or let old things that really weren’t working so well change or drop by the wayside.

In fact, in churches that thrive, that’s what happens. As committees brainstorm, important questions to ask are “why are we going to do this?” and “who will do this work?” In covid, we had to temper ideas because of restrictions.

So, now what? The question now may well be what will happen if the church itself begins to go out and about in the community, beyond the doors?
if the church itself continues and increases contacts with each other, and with neighbors?
if the church itself begins to be the hands and feet of Jesus?

What will happen....what can happen...who will do this work?

A small church that is vital can really thrive with a part-time paid staff when they’ve decided to be full-time in ministry. *The church is not a building...the church is a people!*

In this all the way – with you.

Pastor Alaire

Dial-a-Devotion

Tuesdays

May 4—Marilyn Helmick

May 11—Bev McVicker

May 18—Kurt Knudsen

May 25—Melody Amonson

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.



Connecting is a strong part of discipleship. A few years ago, the beginning of a beautiful connection was set up between one of our older members, and a student going off to college. This is a letter the student sent her last week.

Thank you so much for the cards, gifts, and love you and the church have shown me. I am so grateful to be in such an awesome congregation and community. School is going well, I do not like being online but I understand the importance. Classes are beginning to get more stressful since we are only about 6 weeks away from semesters end. Next year will be my last year before receiving my degree, life is moving fast but I love being in college and meeting new people. I have also made it an initiative of mine to be more educated in political matters, social justice, and racism. Again, thank you for the check-ins, cards, and love sent over the last couple years. Stay safe and stay healthy!!

Joys and Concerns

Thanks to Blanche, we now have cards to be signed at the back of the sanctuary each Sunday. We celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, as well as our care concerns and our grief.

How can we pass this info along? Streaming on Facebook complicates that because many folks don't want everyone in the world to know. We need to error on the side of restraint and privacy.

It's further complicated by the fact that so often, the church is the last one to know at all, and we're reluctant to share second-hand information. If you have an idea how sharing this can easily happen, let us know.

If you would like prayers, or have an update on things... or have a great joy, there are several places you can leave a message. Just tell us how far you want prayers to be spread! You will get a call back if you leave a message, and follow-up.

Church 515-448-4701

Blanche 515-571-2843

prayer chain/Leola 515-448-3178 or 515-851-8149

Pastor Alaire 712-212-5333 or alairew@gmail.com

Below are the people that purchased flowers for Easter in honor of, celebration of, or memory of their loved ones:

-In Memory of Fred & Frances Evans

The Evans Girls- Judy, Connie, and Melody

-In Celebration of our children & grandchildren

Kelly & Melody Amonson

-In Memory of Janet Kramersmeier

The Del Kramersemeier Family

-In Memory of Putty Derscheid

Mary Derscheid

-In Memory of Mark Thielen

Deb & Dylan Thielen

-In Memory of Mike Calligan

Tracy Crail

-In Memory of our parents

Clarence & Betty Wilde

-In Memory of Gregg Stearns
and in honor of my grandchild

Sheryl Stearns

-In Memory of Grandma Emma Johnston

Tom & Barb Johnston

-In Memory of Al & Dorothy Pollack

Tom & Barb Johnston

