

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

OCTOBER 2021

My morning reading lately have been from a favorite author, Diana Butler Bass. A favorite is [Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks](#). She writes:

Gratitude is resilience of sorts, the defiance of kindness in the face of anger, of connection in the face of division, and of hope in the face of fear. . . Gratitude empowers us. It makes joy and love possible. It rearranges the way we see and experience what is all around us.

Gratitude makes all things new. It transforms how we understand what is broken and gives us the ability to act more joyfully and with hope. That is why gratitude is central to all the world’s religions. As a practice, it embodies the wisdom of humanity’s greatest spiritual teachers: the love of neighbor.

Gratitude takes us from abstract belief to living compassion in the world. Gratitude is strongest, clearest, most robust, and radical when things are really hard. Really hard. All-is-lost hard.

In a podcast with Bass and writer and friend Anne Lamont, Lamont says Gratitude is easy when you get what you want. Gratitude is easy looking at beautiful flowers. It’s easy when you open a letter from the IRS, and it’s just a form letter about a flier you may want to look at.

And even holding that letter, when you don’t know what’s inside, you know you have family and friends to help you cope, and you can feel gratitude. They will be with you; you’re not alone.

Sometimes gratitude is a bit more elusive. When you’re waiting to get results from a doctor. Lots of feelings and emotions, but again, I can be grateful I have friends to help me...and most of all I’ve got Jesus. There will be comfort, even if....

Gratefulness isn’t easy and isn’t all hearts-and-flowers. It can be tough in tough times. But a dogged commitment to the giftedness of life can deepen our spiritual capacity to make it through circumstances that threaten to overwhelm us.

Being grateful doesn’t end the pandemic; it isn’t an escape hatch. Rather, it can lower my fear, and enable me to get through it...sometimes even with laughter.

You may be like me, and need to be reminded of all this today. Someone you know might benefit from a kind word of appreciation or the encouragement of “thank you.” And so, take time to count your blessings, thank someone, and pay it forward.

A great idea came across on Facebook the other day that you might want to try. Every night in October, add a few items to your pumpkin – you’ll have a glorious Thanksgiving decoration, for sure! God bless you all.

–Pastor Alaire



Pastor: Alaire Willits

Office Secretary: Amy Hunt

Financial Secretary: Denise Helmick

Treasurer: Tracy Crail

Organist: Ann Shriver

Custodian: Amy Hunt

Ministers: ALL MEMBERS

United Women of Faith Luncheon and Guest Speaker

An exciting opportunity for fellowship and learning is coming to the Eagle Grove faith community! The United Women of Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) will be hosting a noon luncheon with guest speaker Jennifer Dukes Lee. Jennifer is an Iowa native and is the author of Growing Slow: Lessons on Unhurrying Your Heart From an Accidental Farm Girl.

This fantastic event will be:

Monday, **September 27th**

Eagle Grove United Methodist Church.

A delicious meal will be served at **11:30 - 12:15**

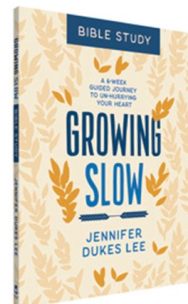
Jennifer's presentation to follow at **12:30**.

The tickets for meal and speaker - **\$20.00**.

Reservations for the meal are requested, you may come to just the speaker for \$10.00

United Methodist Church office, 448-4701,

Melody Amonson 851-0317,



Book Study Opportunity

A 6 week study of this book will continue at the church Tuesday mornings, beginning October 5. Books and study guide will be needed and will be available for purchase at the luncheon, as well as online. For more information and/or to sign up for the study, contact facilitator, Melody Amonson 515-851-0317.

These shirts are for sale to support the United Women of Faith. \$12.00 - Sizes are generous- pictured is a large. If you would like to order, please contact Peg @ 293-1016.



Methodist Men meet each 3rd Saturday, 7-8 am at Family Table. All guys are welcome. Jerry Becker has more info.

Keys, keys, keys. Many of you have keys to the building, and that's fine. However, if you're not using yours now, on a regular basis, would you consider returning it, please. We have some folks who need one, and we'd rather not make new ones. Thanks. The trustees.

Dial-a-Devotion

Tuesdays

October 5—Kurt Knudsen

October 12—Marilyn Helmick

October 19—Melody Amonson

October 26—Maggie Wright

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.



Personal Dignity kits will be assembled in late October. Items needed are a handtowel and washcloth, toothbrush, bar of soap, 2oz or larger deodorant, 15-18 oz shampoo, and a bar of soap, and \$2 for the comb, band-aids and toothpaste that's added separately at MMDC.

We are asked to send \$2/kit for processing each kit. We have 108 school kits, and may have 75 personal dignity kits. All your giving makes such a difference.

Baptisms...

We will celebrate the baptism of Ella Willwerth September 26, and other families are making plans for the weeks coming up. Talk to Pastor Alaire to schedule a baptism for someone in your family. Contact her at 712-212-5333



Eagle Grove UMC is the last stop on the Annual Downtown Halloween Walk, Friday, October 29. It begins at 4pm, at the library, and will circle down Broadway, back to us. Our parking lot would be a perfect location for Trunk or Treat.

Maybe you have some other ideas! Let Pastor know, and the fun planning will begin!

Plans are coming together for Wednesday Afterschool activities for K-gr 8. The start date is still uncertain, but we'll let you know on the church Facebook page.

Ground was broken for our prayer garden, and you may see work happening soon. Thanks to all who have spent much time planning - Melody, Kay, Larry and Peg, Barb, and Del. Let the community know what's happening - and it's because we know how valuable prayers are.

Remember in your prayers the family of Denny Thurmond (service here on ??????) and also Bernice Pyle. Her son Ron passed away in mid-September. Private services are being planned. Also, prayers for so many in our congregation who are grieving loss of extended family members. May God comfort you all.

