



# 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”

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January 2023

Happy 2023, everyone!

I've never really been a New Year's resolution person – it a few weeks they're forgotten, at least by me. I find some of John Wesley's ideas both more fulfilling, and challenging. He suggests we look both back and ahead at the same time! We do that, knowing we're in relationship with a God that is faithful, and will never give up on us. God keeps covenant. It's up to us to live out our faith – and at least for me, that's the future, day by day.

Think about this Covenant Prayer from *Seedbed*, based on John Wesley's teachings and sermons from the late 1700's: *I am not my own self-made, self-reliant human being. In truth, O God, I am Yours. Make me into what You will. Make me a neighbor with those whom You will. Guide me on the easy path for You. Guide me on the rocky road for You.*



*Whether I am to step up for You or step aside for You; Whether I am to be lifted high for You or brought low for You; Whether I become full or empty, with all things or with nothing; I give all that I have and all that I am for You. So be it. And may I always remember that you, O God, and I belong to each other. Amen.*

That's a hard prayer to say and mean – it covers everything. There's no exceptions! Living in our covenant, our promise, our commitment is hard. It's about doing and being, as much as believing. It is both a **surrender to**, and a **trust in**, God.

It's about relationship - 'You are mine and I am yours'.

In a relationship there ought to be both giving and receiving from each, and not just 50/50, more like 100/100 in our relationship with God! I am assured God gives grace and love, always; the question, then, is what am I giving? What am I doing as I live my calling to be a disciple, to be in covenant with my God?

Look back – who's helped you in your faith? What did they show you?

Look ahead – how can you help others as you've been helped?

We can rejoice as we give so that others can receive and grow in faith . Every day, challenge yourself to give, without expectation, just once. Then add the challenge to give to someone different every day – perhaps in a different way. You're limited only by your imagination – and God can help you there, too! Then ponder how the church, this church, can help you and help others, right here in Eagle Grove.

God is yours – and you are God's. God is ours – and we are God's. Hallelujah!

---Pastor Alaire

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Many thanks to those who are sharing a devotion on Dial A Devotion. We invite and encourage you to share a devotion with the community. Contact church office if you wish to be a part of this ministry.

Dial a Devotion December 2022

January 3—Kurt Knudsen

January 10—Marilyn Sill

January 17-- Joe Stein

January 24—Paul Wilde

January 31— Sharon Seibert

*The annual Turkey Supper has moved from January to after Easter. Please watch for more specific updates as the weeks come.*



### Family 5th Quarter

Sunday, February 5th (there is no pro football that day)

Food, Fun, and Games!

Watch Facebook and the weekly update for more specifics.

**Spirit-filled Wednesdays and Confirmation resume Wed, January 18. Friends are welcome!**

How can you in the congregation help? We can use the small, snack-size pre-wrapped treats (prefer no sweets!) Many are 18 to a box, and we're having 30-35 kids every week! That's a lot of snacks.

More than that, we are needing 2-4 additional adults on a regular basis to be in the rooms, helping the kids, from 2-5 each week. Lessons are planned; you will be extra hands to hold projects, help with games, and be encouragers. We can also use a volunteer each week, from 1:30 to 2:15 to check kids in. Talk with Nicolle or Marybeth, or Pastor if you can help out.

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### **Fellowship Coffee—**

Share your goodies after church service! Contact office 515-448-4701 or Sharon 515-293-2599



These are the list of the people who gave poinsettias for our sanctuary, in Honor of, Celebration of, or Memory of.



-In Memory of Betty Conaway and Duke Jr. Conaway  
Given by: Andy, Amy, Cadence and Brayden

-In Memory of Mike and Nellie Adams, and Cecil and Laura Wilde  
Given by: Clarence and Betty Wilde

-In Memory of Dean Rasmussen and David Soma  
Given by: Dan and Colleen Soma

-In Memory of Fred and Frances Evans  
Given by: Evans girls, Judy, Connie, and Melody

-In Honor of Yvonne Rasmussen and Jan Soma  
Given by: Dan & Colleen Soma

-In Celebration of Our Children and Grandchildren  
Given by: Kelly and Melody Amonson

-In Memory of Al and Dorothy Pollack  
Given by: Emma, Lionel, and Barb Johnston

-In Honor of Johnston Grandkids:  
Dylan, Devyn, Darla, Paige, Parker, Emma, and Grace  
Given by: Tom and Barb Johnston

-In Memory of Marge and Chuck Bartley  
Given by: Their Family

-In Memory of Marilyn Helmick, Denae and Jared Schaumburg,  
Clyde and Edna Helmick, and Cecil and Laura Wilde  
Given by: Dirk and Denise Helmick

-In Memory of Janet Kramersmeier  
Given by: Her family



As we think about how to be disciples, Jesus taught there are two important things – Love God, and Love Neighbor. That’s it! Simple, right?

That neighbor thing sometimes gets difficult! That neighbor thing is a guiding principle of our mission and outreach – to our neighbors.

We’ve come up with a way to show love to our neighbors, one we’ve done before, one that’s not terribly challenging, and yet will have a great impact.

You may have read that on Super Bowl Sunday, Americans consume more food than any other day (and most of it is just sooo healthy, tasty, but oh my!).

You may also know that more and more folks in our country, in fact, right here in our community, are struggling to keep basic meals on their tables. What was difficult to do is becoming even harder. And that’s how we can each help – in a small way.

From now through Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 12, you’re challenged to bring a can of soup – just one can each week! That’s just 5 cans, and I want to suggest you intentionally bring just one can each week.

Crazy? Really, pastor? Yup, seriously. And as you do that, spend a little time in prayer, intentional prayer, for the one person who will receive it. Spend more time than money, actually.

Like many of you, I get a little carried away with projects like this – I’ll get a whole bunch (or write a check!). So I’m going to reverse my thinking and actions too.

The one who will receive is important. I challenge all of us to look back, and look around; we have this beautiful place of worship. It needs our support. But then look out, and look around. There are ones in our community that need something so simple as a bowl of soup! Our giving over the next 6 weeks can, and maybe should be both/and. Both giving to others, our church, and receiving the joy that comes as we do so.

And just a sidenote – you may see a very interesting display of soup appear! One can per person per week.... (and you can double up if you’re gone, or if Mother Nature get’s crazy again! Just double the prayers!) – Pastor Alaire, for the Mission Team (Sue, Sheryl, and Blanche)