



January 2021

# The Tumbleweed



Eden Prairie UMC 15050 Scenic Heights Road Eden Prairie, MN 55344 952-937-8781 prairiechurch.org



BIG ENOUGH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE.

## ANNUAL MEETING

January 24, 2021 at 11 a.m. on Zoom  
*for the purpose of...*

- ) Membership changes
- ) Leadership elections
- ) Budget adoption
- ) Introduction of the Pandemic Response Team and its role
- ) Vision setting for 2021

Everyone is welcome. Members are eligible to vote.



EPUMC Women's Retreat details on page 5.



## Vision

It had been 10 years since I had been to the eye doctor, since there had been no indications that anything was wrong. I could see like I always did. That was until the day I was driving out to see a church family. I knew I needed to take a right. I knew the name of the road. I had even surmised that I was looking for a green street sign. But as each green street sign came near, I had to slow way down, nearly coming to a stop at the base of the sign to be able to read it. That was when I decided it was time to go to the eye doctor.

It took me another 10 months before I showed up in the doctor's office. Sure enough, I needed a slight correction. "You'll need glasses to drive," the doctor said. Believing him, I made a quick choice of glasses and went on my way.

**Vision**, *continued on the next page*

### January 17 Drive-Through Collection for Simpson Shelter guests

Share the warmth

- Mittens**
- Thermal Underwear**
- Warm Winter Gloves**
- Winter Hats**
- Hand Warmers**

Find the details on page 6.

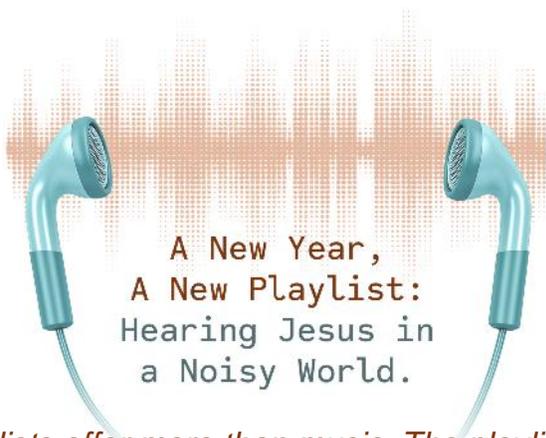


# BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH WORSHIP

January 3, 2021 - Epiphany Sunday

“A New Way Home” based on Matthew 2:1-12  
(The Message)

Have bread and juice (whatever you have on hand)  
available for communion. *Anthem by the Bell Choir*



A New Year,  
A New Playlist:  
Hearing Jesus in  
a Noisy World.

*Playlists offer more than music. The playlists of our culture make us distracted, anxious, and overloaded. They tell us “You have to do everything. You have to be all places. You have to make everyone happy.” Jesus has a new playlist for you! Jesus has a song that goes straight to the heart. It can’t be downloaded on iTunes. It tells you the truth. It’s about doing less and being more.*

## LISTEN UP!

January 10

### **One Voice**

Matthew 6:24; Joshua 24:14-15

Our hearts are distracted by so many competing voices, listening to playlists that are not the Word of God. When you listen to Jesus’ playlist, your heart will be pulled out of distraction.

January 17

### **No Fear**

Matthew 6:25-33

Our culture’s playlist sings out “be afraid.” Some fears are founded. Some are not. The culture’s playlist makes us fearful that we will not have enough, do enough or be enough. The people of God have a different playlist – “Do Not Be Afraid.” If you listen to Jesus’ playlist, you will have enough, do enough and be enough.

Semi-Live Worship with Communion at 10 a.m.

Have a piece of bread and a cup of juice (whatever you have on hand) available for communion, and join us on Zoom.

January 24

### **One Focus**

Matthew 7:1-5

Our culture’s playlist encourages us to compare and judge our neighbor, to critic and condemn their life and life choices. Jesus’ playlist invites us to look within, get a clear picture of our own life first, and attend to the parts of our lives that need critical attention.

January 31

### **One Rule**

Matthew 7:9-12, Luke 10:30-35; Matthew 22:37-40

Our culture’s playlist has a huge collection of rules that are daunting for rule followers and rule breakers alike. Jesus gives us a playlist with one rule that has the capacity to change the world.



BIG ENOUGH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE.

Join us on Zoom each Sunday for ...

**8:15 AM – Bible Study**

**9:30 AM – Fellowship Time** in small group format followed by community prayers

**Recorded Worship & Children’s Message**

**ALWAYS available on our website**

[www.prairiechurch.org](http://www.prairiechurch.org)

Zoom ID # 445 569 4215

## Can you help us curate the playlist?

*Each week we encourage you to share a song, a podcast, a TED Talk, a YouTube video or some other piece that reflects Jesus’ playlist. Share your ideas on our webpage when you register your attendance or email your resource link to Becky Coleman ([office@prairiechurch.org](mailto:office@prairiechurch.org)), and she will add it to our curated playlist, available on our website.*

# GROW THROUGH COMMUNITY

## Sign Up Now for EPUMC Women's Virtual Retreat! Jan 30, 2021 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sign up by Jan. 15 for the Women's Virtual Retreat! Pastor Becky Jo and other wonderful women of the church will lead us through scripture reflection, discussions, hands-on activities, small groups, worship and FUN as we explore the theme:



***“PRAYING THROUGH THE DISHES... AND OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT WITH GOD AT HOME.”***

We will explore various practices and techniques to bring mindfulness, meaning and connection with God into your everyday life! Cost is \$20 for supplies; you can pay online at <https://www.prairiechurch.org/online-giving.html> or mail in a check. Then, the week before the retreat, pick up your packet of supplies and goodies at church (we will deliver if necessary). We will email registrants with updates and details. **Last day to sign up is January 15.** Our planning team loves early registrants.

**SIGN UP NOW and pay here so that you don't miss out!**

<https://www.prairiechurch.org/womens-retreat.html>

The format will be different this year, given that it is virtual. The Retreat is loosely scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (expect more details soon). Rest assured, it will be a great spiritual experience! There will be a long lunch and ample breaks throughout the day. After dinner, pour yourself a beverage and come back for a little social time, online games, and crafts with your church friends. Even if you think you can only attend parts of the retreat, we would love to have you sign up and do what you can. It's gonna be a great one! Looking forward to seeing you there!

## Children's Ministries, By Rachel Casper, Director

### Story time with Ms. Kay

Jan. 17 at 6:30 p.m. Ms Kay will share the story of *Old Turtle and the Broken Truth*. This is a beautiful story by the creator of Old Turtle, Douglas Wood. We hope you will join us for this touching story of learning about love, acceptance, and the nature of truth. Contact Rachel if you need the link.

### Sunday school

We have been having so much fun in Sunday school on Facebook. Kay and I enjoy bringing the bible stories to the children that Pastor Becky Jo preaches about. We will continue to bring the stories to the kids in this way. If you are not part of the Facebook group but you would like to be, please contact me at [rachelc@prairiechurch.org](mailto:rachelc@prairiechurch.org).

### Zoom Sunday school

We are still having Zoom Sunday school; it is wonderful to see the kids engaged in the bible lessons. This is a time for the kids to come together and see each other, engage in the stories in real time and share in joys and concerns.

This month we will have the Preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> graders join us on Zoom Jan. 10 at 11:30 a.m. I will send a Zoom Invite and a supply list a few days before so that we can all be ready for our activity. The 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders will meet Jan. 24 at 11:30 a.m. on Zoom.

## Children's Ministries, *continued*

### Rooted and Holy Club – Wednesday Night Children's Activities

Wednesday nights are so much fun. The kids are engaged and having a wonderful time. They enjoyed learning more about PROP food shelf and other services in December. We had an activity as well as a guest speaker to introduce PROP.

### Teachers and shepherds

Although we are not meeting in a classroom, we still need teachers and shepherds for our programs. Our Safe Sanctuary program means that we need two adults on Zoom gatherings. Please contact me at [rachelc@prairiechurch.org](mailto:rachelc@prairiechurch.org) if you are interested in teaching or shepherding on Wednesday nights or Sunday school .

## Youth Ministry By Terri Myers, Director

*"This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change."* – Taylor Swift

As we look forward to a new year, we look forward to change. I feel like we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel but still have a way to go. Youth will continue to meet virtually via Zoom each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 6 as part of our Youth Speaker Series, our speaker from The Emily Program will discuss issues with disordered eating. Because disordered eating affects 9% (or almost 1 in 10) of the world population, chances are we know someone who has an eating disorder; I invite anyone who is interested to join. Feel free to invite family and friends to this special event. Limit 100 people, for more information and to reserve your place, please contact [terrim@prairiechurch.org](mailto:terrim@prairiechurch.org)

Special events this month include:

2020 Confirmation Class – Zoom meet-up – Jan. 10 at 11a.m.

Pre-confirmation 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders – Zoom check-in – Jan. 10 at 12 p.m. (noon)

Class of 2021 – Zoom update! – Jan. 10 at 7 p.m.

## United Methodist Women



Patty Wetterling

Patty Wetterling will be the guest speaker at the Jan. 23, 2021, meeting of the Twin Cities District United Methodist Women (UMW). Wetterling's topic is "Believe"; she is a national child safety advocate, visionary and educator. There is no cost to attend the gathering, and everyone is welcome to attend.

The event begins with worship at 10 a.m. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/TCGather>. The event ends at noon; training of UMW officers is offered in the afternoon.

## Ongoing GROW groups at Eden Prairie UMC

### Women's Evening Book Group

We meet every other month to discuss fiction and nonfiction selections that expand viewpoints on social and ethical issues. We meet on Zoom and will discuss *The Rent Collector* by Cameron Wright Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Deb Wagner at [deb@drwhome.com](mailto:deb@drwhome.com).

## Ongoing GROW groups at Eden Prairie UMC, *continued*

### **Men's Discussion Group**

We are Zooming every Wednesday at 9 a.m. Contact Steve Sopoci, [stsopoci@comcast.net](mailto:stsopoci@comcast.net)

### **Prayer Network**

Praying for the church family's concerns and joys on a daily basis. Please contact the office at [office@prairiechurch.org](mailto:office@prairiechurch.org) or 952-937-8781 to be included in the Network or if you have a prayer request.

**Women's FaithShare** meets Thursdays from 10–11:30 a.m. on Zoom.

### **Inter-Knits Prayer Shawl Ministry**

We continue to knit and crochet at home. The shawls are given to members who have need of healing. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Sherry Harms at 952-658-6868. Please contact the church office if you know someone who needs a prayer shawl.

## ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY

### **Share the Warmth**

Winter brings many challenges for those who are homeless, and staying warm is a big one. Eden Prairie UMC will host a drive through Sunday, Jan. 17, from 11 a.m. to noon to “Share the Warmth” with the homeless guests of Simpson Shelter by collecting NEW thermal underwear (both men's and women's) as well as heavy-duty winter gloves, hats and hand warmers. The Shelter cannot accept coats (no room to store them) nor hand-knit nor crocheted items.

If you wish, you may drop off items at church before Jan. 17 when the church office is open — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

### **Thank You from PROP**

Thank you for your tremendous generosity. Your recent gifts of \$1,240 for our general fund, 188 pounds of food, \$1,240 to support the Holiday Gift program, as well as 58 Holiday Gift cards totaling \$1,740, will help us support those in need in so many ways. You have made a real difference in the lives of the people in our community, especially during this unprecedented time.

Here are just a few comments PROP clients have shared from the many ways these programs have helped them.

*“When I saw how much food you had given, it made me cry. We are so grateful.”*

*“I'll be able to get Christmas gifts for the kids when I didn't have the means to do it with my income.”*

*“I'm over the moon with your program! We had such a great time eating foods we could never purchase!! Also to give us deodorant and toothpaste and detergent is so very wonderful. Thank you!!*

Donations we receive here at PROP not only help families meet their immediate basic needs, but also allow us to provide guidance and practical assistance to those in a financial crisis. With sincere thanks, **Janet Palmer, executive director**

## Thank You from *Feed My Starving Children*

You are such a blessing. Your gift of \$200 on November 16 to Feed My Starving children is providing 832 MannaPack™ meals to those around the world who need it most. Every gift matters to a hungry child. You're saving lives. You're providing hope. Thank you. – Mark

# CONNECT IN COMMUNITY



## Sign-up by Friday, January 15

We would like to invite all to join others in our congregation and to be a part of **Let's Connect!**

**Let's Connect** is a collection of small groups consisting of men and women. Their purpose is to make deep and personal connections with others at Eden Prairie United Methodist Church. These groups are a great way to get to know and build

relationships with your church family.

New **Let's Connect** groups begin in January and will meet online. If you would like to join (whether or not you were a previous participant), please click on the "Let's Connect" logo on the home page of the Eden Prairie UMC website, [www.prairiechurch.org](http://www.prairiechurch.org) and complete the survey form, so we can be sure to include you.

The form will ask for your availability (days/times) to help in coordinating dates for your group to meet. Please sign-up by Jan. 15. You will be contacted by a group facilitator to arrange your first meeting later in January. **Let's Connect!**

## Church Family

Sonya "Sunny" Lenzo died peacefully in the hospital Dec. 23, 2020. She was born Jan. 23, 1948, and had been a member of Eden Prairie UMC since 2014. She was one of the Sunday Morning Coffee Ladies who enjoyed serving coffee before worship. A memorial service will be planned when it is safe for people to gather.

## Ongoing Connect groups

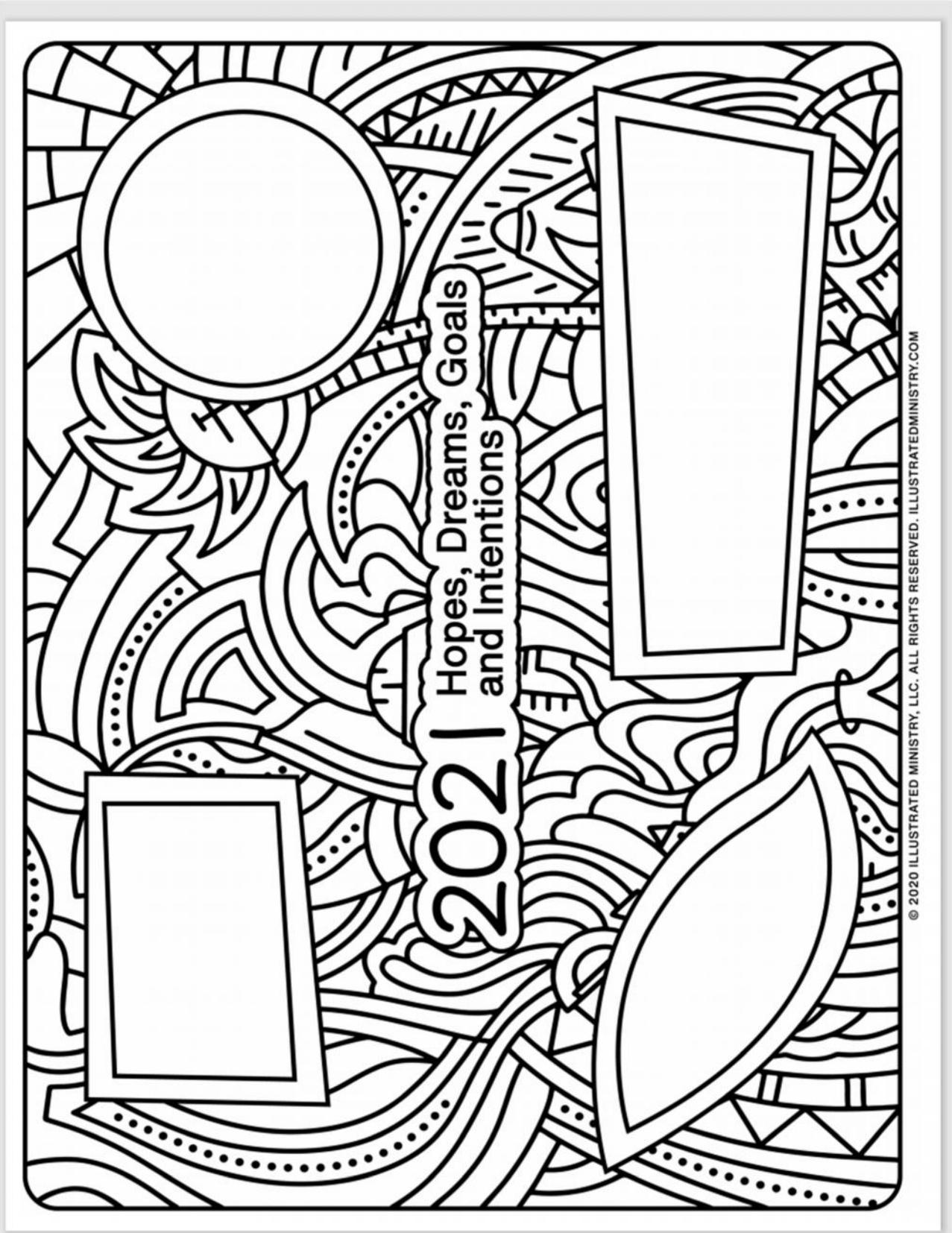
### **Book Chicks**

A group of women who are friends and booklovers coming together to talk books and enjoy one another's company. We meet every six weeks. For more information and to connect to our private Facebook group, reach out to Sarah Bosch at [smbosch77@gmail.com](mailto:smbosch77@gmail.com).

**Cheers Too** is a social gathering of women from the church. We meet at 8 a.m. on Saturdays online. Send an email to Beth Holland [bjwholland@gmail.com](mailto:bjwholland@gmail.com), and she will invite you.

**GEMS (God's Exceptional Methodist Seniors)** is finding new ways to connect by sharing stories. Contact Deb Soderholm, [debsoderholm@gmail.com](mailto:debsoderholm@gmail.com).

**Block Party Quilt Group** is working at home on projects and sharing ideas. Contact Beth Holland if you are interested in this group, [bjwholland@gmail.com](mailto:bjwholland@gmail.com)



## ADMINISTRATION

### New process for giving stocks to Eden Prairie UMC

Eden Prairie UMC can accept gifts of stock to support its ministry. If you wish to make such a gift, you will now work with the Minnesota United Methodist Foundation (MNUMF), in conjunction with Wespeth Institutional Investments, where MNUMF funds are held. Wespeth will clear the stock gifts at no charge to donors or churches. The MNUMF will then forward the proceeds to Eden Prairie UMC.

Donors can find instructions and the necessary forms at <https://www.mnumf.org/forms>. You fill out one form for MNUMF and complete the Wespeth Stock Transfer form. Diane Weller, church relations director at MNUMF, is happy to work with donors to complete the form if they have any questions, 612-230-3337.

You can also receive the forms and instructions by contacting the Eden Prairie UMC office, [office@prairiechurch.org](mailto:office@prairiechurch.org).

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### January 2021 Calendar

#### Sunday Schedule

8:15 a.m. Bible Study on Zoom  
9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time on Zoom  
10 a.m. Worship on website  
10 a.m. Sunday School on Facebook

#### Friday, January 1, 2021

Church office closed.

#### Sunday, Jan. 3

Sunday Schedule  
11 a.m. 2020 Confirmation Class  
Noon PreConfirmation Class  
7 p.m. Holy Ground

#### Wednesday, Jan. 6

10am Staff Meeting  
5 p.m. Videotaping in Sanctuary  
6:30pm Children and Youth Programs Speaker Series

#### Thursday, Jan. 7

6:30 p.m. CORE Team

#### Sunday, Jan. 10

Sunday Schedule  
11 a.m. Live Sunday School on Zoom for Preschool—Grade 2

#### Monday, Jan. 11

7 p.m. Connect Team

#### Tuesday, Jan. 12

6:30 p.m. Engage Team  
7 p.m. Worship Team  
7 p.m. Women's At Home Book Group

#### Wednesday, Jan. 13

10 a.m. Staff Meeting  
6 p.m. Videotaping in Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m. Children's programming (Rooted and Holy Club)  
6:30 p.m. Youth programming (PreConfirmation and Higher Ground)

#### Thursday, Jan. 14

7 p.m. Grow Team

#### Friday, Jan. 15

Last day to sign up for Women's Retreat.  
Last day to register for January "Let's Connect" groups

#### Sunday, Jan. 17

Sunday Schedule  
11 a.m.—Noon "Share the Warmth" drive through at EPUMC  
6:30 p.m. Story time with Ms. Kay (on Zoom)

#### Monday, Jan. 18

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday  
Office closed.

#### Wednesday, Jan. 20

10 a.m. Staff Meeting  
6 p.m. Videotaping in Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m. Children's programming (Rooted and Holy Club)  
6:30 p.m. Youth programming (PreConfirmation and Higher Ground)

#### Saturday, Jan. 23

10 a.m. Twin Cities District UMW

#### Sunday, Jan. 24

Sunday Schedule  
11 a.m. Eden Prairie UMC Annual Meeting  
11 a.m. Live Sunday School for Grades 3-5

#### Saturday, Jan. 30

9 a.m. 2021 EPUMC Annual Women's Retreat

#### Sunday, Jan. 31

Sunday Schedule



Eden Prairie United Methodist Church  
15050 Scenic Heights Road  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344



Pastor:	Becky Jo Messenbrink	<a href="mailto:BeckyJoM@prairiechurch.org">BeckyJoM@prairiechurch.org</a>
Director of Children's Ministries:	Rachel Casper	<a href="mailto:RachelC@prairiechurch.org">RachelC@prairiechurch.org</a>
Young Family Engagement Specialist:	Jody Veatch	<a href="mailto:JodyV@prairiechurch.org">JodyV@prairiechurch.org</a>
Director of Music:	Megan Peterson	<a href="mailto:MeganP@prairiechurch.org">MeganP@prairiechurch.org</a>
Director of Youth Ministry:	Terri Myers	<a href="mailto:TerriM@prairiechurch.org">TerriM@prairiechurch.org</a>
Organist/Accompanist:	KT Thompson	<a href="mailto:ktt@prairiechurch.org">ktt@prairiechurch.org</a>
Office Manager:	Becky Coleman	<a href="mailto:office@prairiechurch.org">office@prairiechurch.org</a>
Accountant:	Susie Jose	<a href="mailto:book-keeping@prairiechurch.org">book-keeping@prairiechurch.org</a>
Custodian/Building Manager:	Rick LaMothe	<a href="mailto:rickl@prairiechurch.org">rickl@prairiechurch.org</a>

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**Church office hours:**

9 a.m.—1 p.m. Monday and Thursday  
9 a.m.—5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.



Don't forget to "like" our page  
Eden Prairie United  
Methodist Church