



July 2020

The Tumbleweed

EDEN PRAIRIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BIG ENOUGH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE.

BIG
ENOUGH TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE
SMALL
ENOUGH TO
CARE



Drive-Thru to Bless Our Eden Prairie Neighbors
Sunday, July 12, in the EPUMC parking lot
10:30 a.m. – Noon

Let's bless our Eden Prairie neighbors with food!



As a Reconciling
Congregation, we accept
and respond to Jesus'
challenge to love all of our
neighbors.

Eden Prairie UMC
15050 Scenic Heights Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Tel: 952-937-8781
www.prairiechurch.org
office@prairiechurch.org

We loved seeing you last time. Let's do it again! This time, let's be "Big Enough to Make A Difference" while we are being "Small Enough to Care." Gather up some of the most needed food items listed below, place them in the trunk / back end of your vehicle, and we will receive them from you and deliver them to PROP. You can make an online donation to PROP on our website / Give+ App if you prefer.

Most Needed Items:

- Canned Fruit**
- Peanut Butter**
- Jelly / Jam**
- Mac-N-Cheese**

Guidelines for the Drive-Thru:

Pack your donations in your vehicle trunk / back end
(Staff will remove donated items from the trunk / back end of your vehicle so you don't have to leave your vehicle)
Stay in your vehicle while you are at the church
Staff will wear a mask and stay 6 feet away to keep everyone safe

We can't wait to see you and to join you in blessing Eden Prairie!
Pastor Becky Jo and the Staff of EPUMC

From the Pastor

Friends,

It's been a year since I arrived among you to serve as your pastor. I am incredibly grateful to you for so many reasons. Here are a few of the things that make me grateful to be your pastor.

I'm grateful for the leadership that goes before me. Pastor Dan, Don and Deb, along with other pastors and staff members have created a community that is vibrant, forward-thinking, and deeply faithful. Those who have led you from their staff positions have created a community of people who love to be together and are in ministry together. Your past leaders have shaped a church I am grateful to inherit.

I'm grateful for your loving hearts! Your fervent desire is to make the world around you a better place, to bring about the beloved community, the kingdom of God that Jesus continually calls us to in the Gospels. You do that in practical ways, like feeding your neighbors through our garden and our PROP food donations. Your loving hearts show in your patience with returning to in-person worship, being most concerned about our vulnerable members. Your loving hearts show in your current discontent with a world so full of insidious racism that you are anxious for a way to respond. I am proud to lead a people with such loving hearts who daily expand the breadth of my own loving response.

I'm grateful for your faithful generosity. You are generous with your resources that support the ministries of the church and the missions with whom we partner. You are generous with your time given to our children and youth so that they may come to know the power of a life-giving relationship with Jesus. You are generous with your forgiveness and grace, especially when I or others charged with leading need it. I'm grateful for the ways you are faithfully generous out of your love for God.

I'm grateful for your fun-loving expression of faith. I appreciate that you don't take yourselves so seriously that we can't have fun and joy together. You make space for pure joy to be a part of the expressions of faith at EPUMC. You genuinely enjoy being together and have graciously welcomed me to be a part of that community. I am grateful!

And I'm grateful for your trust of my leadership and your willingness to walk beside me on the journey! You have partnered with me in ministry and you continue to do that in innumerable ways. You lead various ministries in the church with passion and excellence. You are proud to be called by God to lead and willing to lead alongside of me, trusting that we have the best intentions for the church together. Our collective ministry is so much more effective in doing what God has called us to do when we partner together to lead. Thank you!

A year ago we had no idea that there would be a sped up need to build relationship and trust together brought on by a global pandemic. But you opened your hearts so quickly to me, Megan and Rachel as we came among you as new staff. Your willingness to not only give us a try, but also to trust us and to love us, has made this most-unusual first year of ministry fruitful, despite the challenges. *I am grateful!*

Blessings,



Pastor Becky Jo Messenbrink

July Worship

We continue our series of messages on simple stories Jesus told that help us get a glimpse of the Kingdom of God and encourage our participation in bringing in the kingdom “on earth as it is in heaven.”

We have a NEW Sunday Zoom Schedule for July

8:15 a.m. – **Bible Study** on the scripture for worship

9:30 a.m. – **Fellowship Time** in small group format followed by community prayers

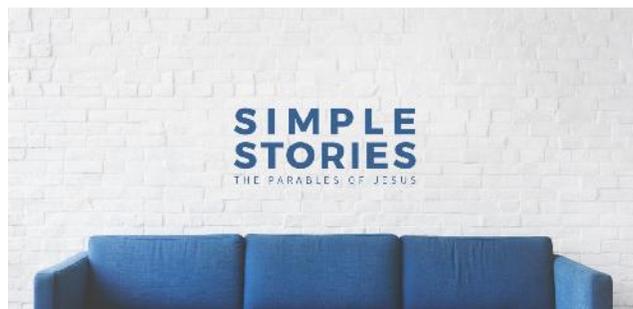
July is a typically a time for family vacations and my conversations prove that this is going to be true even during this pandemic. The difference this year is that you and your family can worship anytime, from anywhere you have internet access. When you gather your family for worship, register your attendance on our website so we can celebrate your presence.

John 4:24 seems to speak into this season of the church when the Gospel writer said, *“But the time is coming—it has, in fact, come—when what you’re called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter.”* It doesn’t matter where you go to worship, but just that you do set aside some time for you and your family to worship God “in spirit and in truth.”

We have a blessed opportunity to have a few guest preachers over the summer. You’ll note our Resident Bishop, Bruce Ough, as well as the River Valley District Superintendent, Rev. Cynthia Williams, will bring us special messages during worship this month. They are both excellent preachers and you won’t want to miss them!

EPUMC Worship on YouTube

You can find archived worship videos on the EPUMC YouTube channel. When you look at the top of the EPUMC website, find the icon that is fourth from left. Click there and you’ll find worship from previous Sundays.



July 5

Guest Preacher:
Bishop Bruce Ough,
Resident Bishop of
the Dakotas and
Minnesota Annual
Conference

Sermon: **“The Home of God”**
Scripture: Revelation 21:1-6 (CEB)

July 12

Simple Jesus Stories: The Good Samaritan
Sermon: **“Eyes Too Busy to See”**
Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

July 19

Simple Jesus Stories: The Least of These
Sermon: **“Do Everything as If You Were Doing It for Jesus”**
Scripture: Matthew 25:31-40



July 26

Guest Preacher:
Rev. Cynthia Williams
River Valley District
Superintendent

Sermon: **“A Reason to Hope”**
Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Music Director's Notes

One Year Anniversary

As I was looking back through my previous newsletter articles, I realized this newsletter marks my one year anniversary at the church! And what a year it has been. Though making music in worship and using music to enhance worship has changed drastically in the last few months, my purpose and mission remain the same: To utilize the talents of the congregation to enhance and enrich our worship service. I have been so grateful for all of the support, not just from the musicians but the entire congregation. Thank you.

Over the last year, I have worked with the Chancel Choir and Handbell Ensemble. I have been blessed with a fabulous and creative accompanist. With the enthusiasm and talents of our Sunday School music team and Rachel, we have incorporated music into PreK-5th Grade Sunday School. I know the highlight of my Sunday is whenever the children sing.

And in the last few months, I have utilized technology to bring the Chancel Choir, Praise Band and Sunday School Singers into our online worship services.

I truly don't know what the next year will bring. But I do know that I will continue to work with this amazing staff and devoted congregation to use music to praise God.

Music Happenings

I hope you have enjoyed the many faces you have seen in our online worship services. I have enjoyed putting together virtual choirs with the adult and children singers and creating the "Clap Your Hands" graduation video.

A special thank you to Natalie Foster who led hymns in June and Jean Ann Kretschmar who recorded the guitar accompaniments for the children's virtual choir. If you are interested in being included in our next virtual choir or activity, please let me know. It is a joy for the congregation to see your face!

Contact me:

Megan Peterson, Director of Music
meganp@prairiechurch.org.

Continue to help EPUMC 'Make a Difference' this summer

MAKE A DIFFERENCE "LETTERS"

People in congregate living situations such as nursing homes and assisted living apartments are literally living a shut-in life. Most cannot be visited by families and some have no family nearby. We can **make a difference**!

Here's what you can do to **make a difference**:

-] Write an uplifting note or have your kids draw a cheery picture.
-] Send it to the church.
-] EPUMC will deliver them to a care facility.

Your efforts will **make a difference** to someone who needs it.

PS: Studies have discovered that this is also good for your mental health and attitude! You can give and get in the same action!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE GIVING

Sometimes the biggest impact can be to **make a difference** through our money.

This summer we will collectively send our money to **make a difference** in supporting the Summer Food for Kids through PROP.

We are partnering with the United Methodist Church in Arizona and New Mexico to buy tennis shoes and sandals for Navajo and Apache children and adults in need.

What do you need to do? **Make a difference** by giving online at www.prairiechurch.org, through the Give+ app on your mobile device, or mail your gift to the church (15050 Scenic Heights Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344); mark it as **MAKE A DIFFERENCE GIVING**, and the church will distribute the gifts to the organizations.

EPUMC MOMS to meet

Moms, come join us for a socially-distanced get together at a local park! (Location to be determined), Saturday July 18, 10-11:30 a.m.

This is for Moms ONLY! Moms of children of any age are welcome. Bring a lawn chair to relax in and your mask, please! We will be sure to have our chairs appropriately distanced.

Looking forward to seeing and catching up with everyone! Contact Jody Veatch at jodyv@prairiechurch.org with any questions.

Virtual session of Minnesota Annual Conference

The Minnesota Annual Conference session will be Saturday, Aug. 29. Session One will be from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Session Two will be from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The Annual Conference Session will open with worship, remembering of the saints, and the episcopal address. The morning session will also include a time of looking at where we are headed as an annual conference and celebrating our people, including those who are to be licensed for ministry, those graduating from Course of Study, those being commissioned as lay ministers, deaconesses, and home missionaries, and ELI Project interns.

The focus of our afternoon session will be legislation, and we will conclude the day with a worship service honoring our retiring clergy. The event will be livestreamed on Facebook, with clergy and lay delegates participating on Zoom.

This year's Love Offering is focused on helping the most vulnerable among us through Emma Norton Services, Simpson Housing Services, Joyce Uptown Foodshelf, and the Minnesota Conference Committee on Native American Ministry's diaper drive.

To be rescheduled**Creation Care study**

Cole Nelson is still planning a creation care study for adults using Fletcher Harper's book *Greenfaith*. If you are interested in being part of the group when it starts, please email Cole Nelson nelson.cole810@gmail.com for details.

Youth Ministry
Terri Myers

It is July already. The seventh month in the year, meaning we are half way through 2020, the year that challenges our perception of the world.



During July, I would like to take a break from our Zoom meetings on Wednesday nights. This does not mean that I am taking a break from you! I will send your weekly email and connect with youth in other ways. Except for a couple days, I am available via email, text or phone call. I am just taking a little break from connecting with you over a screen.

I am hopeful that before the end of July, I will be able to meet with you in-person while social distancing. Please feel free to reach out to me at terrim@prairiechurch.org

The Upper Room for July/August

Contact the church office (952-937-8781 or office@prairiechurch.org) to have a copy of the devotional mailed to you. Specify regular or large print edition.

Children's Ministries

By Rachel Casper, Director

Sunday School

In June we have had so much fun learning about the extended family of Jacob. We have talked about Jacob wrestling with God and asking for a blessing for his family all the way down to Joseph, son of Jacob, helping his brothers during the famine in Egypt.

During July, Kay, Jody and I will be doing activities to teach the kids about the 10 Commandments.

Make at Home Mask Project

Sunday, Aug. 2, our project will be making no sew facial masks with the kids. I will deliver kits to the kids, and we will have a Zoom event to make the masks together. I hope to make a mask with every child. I will send an email to families closer to the date. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to help lead the project.

Rooted for Grades 3-4

Rooted will take a summer break in July. We will be meeting again in August.

It has been so wonderful seeing the kids via Zoom every week. I will contact parents when we resume regular meetings.

Story Time with Rachel

On July 8 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom I will be have a virtual story time. The book is *Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story about Racial Injustice*.

This book is written by three child psychologists to help answer questions about such traumatic events and help children identify and counter racial injustice in their own lives. This book is appropriate for children ages Pre-school through Grade Three.



Summer Game

Paper Airplane Contest

All kids 12 and under are asked to participate in our virtual paper airplane contest.

Families can choose to work together or each person can enter their own airplane.



We will have winners in four different categories. Prizes will be awarded and delivered to your home by Rachel, Jody, or Kay.

Categories include:

-) Most colorful
-) Most creative
-) Flew furthest
-) Flew highest

You can use one piece of paper. No tape. Decorative stickers only. Color and designs encouraged.

Pictures and videos of airplanes need to be submitted on the Sunday School Facebook page, the Moms Group Facebook page or email to rachelc@prairiechurch.org by **July 12**.

Winners will be announced July 19. I can hardly wait to see to all of the amazing designs that you all come up with. — Rachel Casper

Flat Jesus on the move



This summer, families are encouraged to take Flat Jesus with them as they go to the lake, on a car ride, to visit relatives or wherever they go.

At left, Flat Jesus has own seat belt! Safety first.

Building Manager Update
Just some 'high' lights

By Rick LaMothe

The office manager, Becky, helped me move five pews so scaffolding could be set up under a faulty light fixture in the church. My son, Ross, again assisted the church in climbing to the top of the sanctuary and repairing a bad light fixture.



Another enlightening project was placing a light at the flag pole. It involved a trench to run electricity (see left), allowing illumination on the flag at night (See photo at right).

As Kristen Duxstad said, "I am glad we are putting a 'spotlight' on our values."



Radishes, radishes ready to eat



The PROP garden is getting going! We've been harvesting radishes for about three weeks. Garden season is really getting going with the rain and warm weather we've had! Feel free to join us on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. for picking and weeding. Or, "go" to church on Sunday morning and then join us at 11 a.m. for picking only (we promise no weeding on Sundays). Please wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Because PROP has fewer volunteers now, they have asked us to wash and package our produce before we take it over to the food shelf. Later in the season we will probably need a few extra hands to help out with that. Contact Kristin Duxstad, kjduxstad@gmail.com.

Leaders elected June 2020

Eden Prairie United Methodist church, Eden Prairie MN

ELECTED LEADERS

“The basic organizational plan for the local church shall include provision for the following units: a charge conference, a church council, a committee on pastor-parish relations, a board of trustees, a committee on finance, a committee on nominations and leadership development, and such other elected leaders, commissions, councils, committees and task forces as the charge conference may determine.”

-- ¶ 244, *The 2016 United Methodist book of Discipline*

Core Team

-) *The Core Team will care for the vision and mission of Eden Prairie United Methodist Church.*
-) *The Core Team, with the help of an appointed task force, will serve as the nominations team.*

ROLE	NAME	TERM
Chair / Lay Leader	Chris Lotzow	
Chair of Grow <i>(Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries, Adult Learning, Small Groups)</i>	Cole Nelson Kathy Bowman	
Chair of Engage <i>(Missions, Social Action, Evangelism)</i>	Lois Hyde, Karen DeYoung	
Chair of Connect <i>(Hospitality, Membership Care, Memorials, Welcome)</i>	Bruce Webster Deb Soderholm	
Chair of Worship <i>(Music Ministry, Worship Design, Sanctuary Visuals and Worship AV)</i>	Karen Prestly Jim Kern	
Chair of Administration <i>(Trustees, SPRC, Financial Fitness, Nominations)</i>	Jack Elkin Eric Hyde	
At-Large Member	Eric Peterson	
Pastor (non-voting)	Becky Jo Messenbrink	

Administration

-) *Coordinate the care of all real property owned by the church*
-) *Coordinate the financial fitness, the financial messaging and year-round stewardship emphasis of the church*
-) *Coordinate the leadership development of the church, including support and supervision of the staff and appointed clergy*

ROLE	NAME	TERM
Co-Chairs	Jack Elkin Eric Hyde	
Team Members	Andrea Mardock Bob Lindberg Deb Lind Tom Reiber	
Core Team Chair / Lay Leader	Chris Lotzow	
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Beth Holland	
Pastor (Non-voting)	Becky Jo Messenbrink	

Grow

Coordinate the spiritual development of the members of the church from birth to death, placing special emphasis on ministry with children, youth and adults, as well as small group ministry.

ROLE	NAME	TERM
Co-Chairs	Cole Nelson Kathy Bowman	
Team Members	Stacey Kyei	
	Gwen Pickering	
	Sarah Bosch <i>Invitation extended</i>	
Director of Children's Ministry (pd staff)	Rachel Casper	current
Director of Youth Ministry (paid staff)	Terri Myers	current

Connect

Create an atmosphere of radical hospitality, a structure of extensive congregational care, and avenues for life-giving relationship building that demonstrate that we are "small enough to care"

ROLE	NAME	TERM
Co-Chairs	Bruce Webster Deb Soderholm	
Team Members	Glenn Pickering	
	Kathy Bollinger	
	Kathy Jarvis <i>Open</i>	
Family Engagement Specialist (paid staff)	Jody Veatch	current

Engage

Develop and support risk-taking mission, service and witness that demonstrate that we are "big enough to make a difference"

ROLE	NAME	TERM
Co-Chairs	Karen DeYoung Lois Hyde	
Team Members	Laura Mills	
	Michael Beukema	
	<i>Invitation extended</i> <i>Invitation extended</i>	

Worship

Develop passionate worship that connects people to God and to one another and changes lives

ROLE	NAME	TERM
Co-Chairs	Karen Prestly Jim Kern	
Team Members	Ginger Eddy	
	Nancy Bollweg	
	Jeff Veatch <i>Invitation extended</i>	
Director of Music Ministries (paid staff)	Megan Peterson	current
Pastor (paid staff)	Becky Jo Messenbrink	current

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ACTION

Partnering with Simpson Housing Services



As a result of COVID 19 and our “safer at home” orders, volunteer activities have been temporarily cancelled at the Simpson Shelter. Simpson’s shelter was the first in the Twin Cities to extend its shelter hours to 24/7 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, they are providing 66 shelter guests a safe space and a temporary home. Since the shelter remains open, the needs for food and other items to care for this vulnerable population still exist. To help us continue to support Simpson Shelter as they feed the folks who are staying with them, please make your donation at <http://www.prairichurch.org/online-giving> or the Give+ App (choosing “Simpson Shelter”), or mail a donation to the church indicating the gift is for Simpson Shelter. Our next scheduled serving date is Sept. 1, and we hope to either serve the meal or fully fund its purchase. It costs about \$400 to do this. Thanks for your ongoing attention to be a church that is “big enough to make a difference!”

A truck loaded with UMCOR relief supplies

Last week, the Minnesota Annual Conference collected supplies for UMCOR and the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) from five different locations in the state, including the parking lot of Eden Prairie UMC. At right, you’ll see familiar faces loading the trailer — Rev. Lyndy Zabel and Terri Myers, assisted by Pastor Becky Jo and Rev. Chad Gilbertson.



Rev. Lyndy Zabel wrote:
To all of the volunteers:
“Thank you for helping with the UMCOR drive this week. It was a success because of people like you! We collected supplies from over 30 churches. Ramon left for Illinois yesterday with six full pallets on his truck. We pray for his travel ... and for all who will receive our donated supplies.”

After the supplies were packed into the truck Ramon was driving, they traveled to the mission depot in southern Illinois, about 30 miles south of Springfield.

The next day, Chantel Corrie, executive director of MMDC, wrote:
“I want to echo the gratitude Lyndy expressed for your help with this project. The truck made it back here safe and we will begin to unload. I hope to update you early next week with specific numbers. You collected a little over 11,000 pounds. Thank You so much!! “

Adult Small Groups

All in-person gatherings at Eden Prairie UMC continue to be cancelled through Labor Day. The Church Ministry Council will evaluate when it is safe to open, with guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Annual Conference.

Men's Discussion Group meets Wednesdays from 8—9 a.m. in the Gathering Room.

Women's Evening In Home Book Group meets about every other month in a home to discuss the book we are currently reading.

Cheers (Men's Fellowship Group) meets Saturdays at 8 a.m. at Lund's/Byerly's, Eden Prairie.



Cheers Too! (Women's Fellowship Group) Meets Saturdays at 8 a.m. at Kowalski's Market, 16500 W. 78th Street.

GEMS (God's Exceptional Methodist Seniors) Breakfast Group meets for breakfast the third Wednesday each month at 9 a.m. We have now moved to Café Thyme in Chanhassen, 7850 Market Blvd., north of Highway 5 in the Market Square Shopping Center. Every senior is welcome!

3Fs Food, Fun & Fellowship is an informal gathering that meets in people's homes several times a year. If you are interested in participating in events this fall, email Kathy Jarvis and Nancy Bollweg at epumcdinner@yahoo.com,



Yoga meets Thursdays at 8:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Terri Myers leads this group, and it is free. Please check the weekly schedule for dates.

Feed My Starving Children
All packing sites are closed through July 31. If you have questions, please talk to Dave Zuelke.



Prayer Network – Praying for the church family's concerns and joys on a daily basis. Please contact the office at 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. fall through mid-May. All women are welcome. Together we read books and watch videos as springboards for discussion.

MOMS Group — This group meets regularly for fellowship and support.

United Methodist Women meets on selected dates during the month. Please contact Ginger Eddy at 952-974-2092 or vfellingner@gmail.com for more information.

Inter-Knits Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the second Monday of the month at the church at 7 p.m. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Sherry Harms at 952-658-6868. We meet in Room 6.

Tuesday Book Group — This group meets at 6 p.m. about every other Tuesday, September through May.

Block Party Quilt Group meets the first Thursday of the month. Use your time at home to make cozy crafts that will warm your family or others in this troubled time.



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



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

15050 Scenic Heights Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55344 (952) 937-8781
web: www.prairiechurch.org **Fax:** (952) 949-3426 **e-mail:** office@prairiechurch.org

Church office hours:

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



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Eden Prairie United
Methodist Church