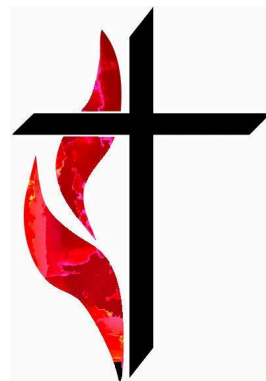


Eagle Grove United Methodist Church
PO Box 101
421 West Broadway Street
Eagle Grove, Iowa 50533
515-448-4701



May 2025 Newsletter



Church Office Hours

M - Th: 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Sundays

Worship: 9:30 A.M.

Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.

Fellowship following worship

Youth Outreach

Wednesdays - 2:00 - 4:30 P.M. (PK- 7th
Grades)

Wednesdays - 5:30 - 7:00 P.M. (8th - 12th
Grades)

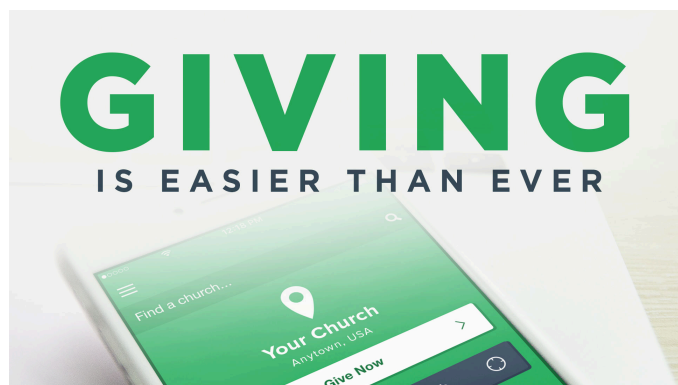
United Methodist Women

First Wednesday of Every Month:
9:30 A.M.

Rotary Ann Social: Third Thursday 2:00
P.M.

United Methodist Men

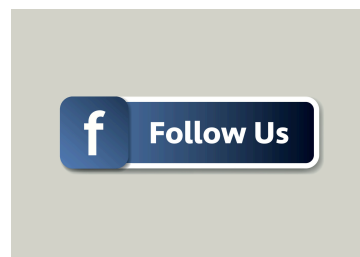
Third Saturday at Family Table
7:00 A.M.



Supporting Eagle Grove United Methodist Church
is easy through online giving!

Tithe.ly offers a way for members to give to the
church through a downloadable app or on their
website.

Visit www.tithely.com to learn or download the app
on your cell phone!



www.eaglegroveumc.com

Dial-a-Devotion: 515-448-3355
egumc@goldfiedaccess.net



May Birthdays

May 3rd - John Wesselink
 May 4th - Lionel Johnston
 May 8th - Deanna Grandgeorge
 May 9th - Zane Kiefer
 May 14th - Alana Alt
 May 16th - Kent Wesselink
 May 18th - Amanda Meyer
 May 19th - Megan Crail
 May 21st - Chad Wilde
 May 24th - Deb Thielen
 May 25th - Axyl Nicoletti - Calvert
 May 27th - Ron Bliss



May Meetings/Events

May 3rd - Senior Recognition
 May 7th - United Women of Faith - 9:30 A.M.
 May 7th - Kids' Club
 May 11th - Mother's Day
 May 14th - Worship Committee - 9:30 A.M.
 May 14th - Kids' Club
 May 14th - Baccalaureate Meal (UMW)
 May 15th - UMW at Rotary
 May 17th - UMM at Family Table - 7:00 A.M.
 May 21st - Faith Formation Committee - 4:30 P.M.
 May 21st - Kids' Club
 May 25th - Noisy Sunday
 May 28th - Admin Meeting - 5:30 P.M.

We are working on filling service
 volunteers if you or your family are
 willing and able to help fill positions.
 We are specifically in need of aco-
 lytes and appreciate any volunteers.
 Please let the office know if you
 would like to volunteer!



Dial-A-Devotion

May 6th - Joe Stein
 May 13th - Kurt Knudsen
 May 20th - Paul Wilde
 May 27th - Marilyn Sill

A Message from Pastor Laurene

Dear Beloved Eagle Grove UMC, I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we enter this beautiful Easter season, we are reminded of the incredible love and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven, showing us the way to eternal life. This time of year is special as we reflect on His journey and command to love one another.

Easter marks the beginning of a remarkable period known as "The Great Fifty Days," leading us up to Pentecost. This is a season of joy and renewal, a time to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit that was given to us. Just as the Holy Spirit came upon the first followers of Jesus, it continues to fill our hearts today, empowering us to carry out His work.

During this time, let us remember our calling to be shepherds worldwide. We are invited to care for one another, feed both body and spirit and be a shining presence of God's love. Every act of kindness, every moment of healing, and every opportunity to share God's word is a step in fulfilling this mission.

As we journey from Easter to Pentecost, let us focus on how to be Jesus's hands and feet in our communities. Let us embrace the spirit of love that He exemplified and carry it into our daily lives. Together, we can make a difference and continue the work He has entrusted to us.

May God bless you all during this season of hope and renewal. Let us walk together in faith, love, and service.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Laurene Banza



Summer 2025 camp registration is open! If you would like to see a schedule of camp opportunities, visit

<https://www.iaumc.org/camps>.

Financial assistance is available.

Are you a M.O.M.? This group is for you!



Moms of Ministry (M.O.M.) is a new group being created to help busy moms come together to share in spiritual fellowship. Through this group, we will strive to provide encouragement, support, and spiritual growth. Being involved in church while raising kids can be a challenging role, but also so fulfilling! For more information and to learn how to join the Facebook group, please contact Yalonda Amonson or the church office.

Every Day to Us is Easter: Experience Resurrection All Year Long

By Joe Iovino



During the Easter season, many United Methodists sing, "Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song." These words open the last verse of "Easter People Raise Your Voices" (United Methodist Hymnal #304) penned by United Methodist pastor the Rev. William M. James. The hymn reminds us that we celebrate renewal every day.

Out of oppression

In 1940, when Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia became part of the Soviet Union, there were 46 Methodist congregations in the region (we didn't become United Methodists until 1968). When Estonia gained independence in 1991, there were only 17 left. God, however, was working toward revival.

"I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart in 1991," says the Rev. Sergei Sutskov, "It was a time of great spiritual awakening in Estonia. At this time, Estonia seceded from the Soviet Union."

Three years later, Sutskov moved to nearby Kohtla-Järve to start Galvary United Methodist Church.

Sutskov, a member of the first graduating class of the Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary founded by The United Methodist Church, continues to pastor this growing congregation reaching the people of Kohtla-Järve.

In the early days of Galvary United Methodist Church, their biggest challenge was "the lack of its own building for the community," Sutskov says. In 2007, the congregation moved into a place with sufficient space for worship, Sunday school, and other activities.

Reflecting on his faith journey and the church he serves, Sutskov says, "God responded to the spiritual hunger of people." Every day can be Easter.

Out of ashes

Living Waters United Methodist Church in Centerton, Arkansas, was just getting started when fire destroyed their building in 2011.

"The fire and loss of the building just seemed like a long line of setbacks and obstacles we had to overcome," says the Rev. Blake Lasater who then pastored the congregation. "It happened at a time when I seemed to be losing everything close to me."

Lasater's wife was suffering from pancreatic cancer and would pass away just four months after the fire.

"We are called to place our absolute trust in God even when we cannot see a way forward," Lasater explains. "That's what I ultimately did. It wasn't easy."

After two years of struggle, the new building opened in 2013 with a sense of renewal. "The fire made people into a community of faith," Lasater says.

"I learned that loss can be absolutely overwhelming and leave you feeling that there is no hope, and it is in those moments we are called to trust God the most," Lasater reflects. "When we cannot see beyond the next horizon, when we can't imagine

the sun ever rising again, God is still there working," in Louisiana, Estonia, and Arkansas.

The sun will come up again. Every day can be Easter.

Out of floodwaters

In late August 2005, Hurricane Katrina and the resultant flooding displaced hundreds of thousands of people in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

The Rev. Darryl Tate was one of them.

"I had lost our church by floodwaters, and our home," Tate says. At the height of the flooding, St. Luke's United Methodist Church in New Orleans, Louisiana, had 10-12 feet of water in it.

"I lost my stuff, but the storm was not going to define Darryl Tate," he recalls, "I was going to overcome."

Bishop William W. Hutchinson soon asked Tate to organize The United Methodist Church's disaster relief ministry in Louisiana. Tate served as director of the Louisiana Conference Storm Recovery Center until 2012.

He remembers a unique request from a man whose home the Storm Recovery Center was ready to rebuild. "I want a house with only 1,000 square feet," he said.

The case manager assured him that though guidelines would not allow them to build *more* than he had before, they could rebuild the 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home the storm destroyed.

"No," the man replied. "I only want a house that is 1,000 square feet. I live alone. I don't need a home that big anymore. Give it to somebody else."

An elderly couple from a horse farm in Pecan Island were forced to live in a horse trailer when floodwaters came to their home. During the home blessing service held for the family by the Storm Recovery Center after rebuilding their home, the woman excitedly showed Tate her new refrigerator.

"I can put my glass in the door and I'll get water and ice. Isn't it amazing?" she said. "I am so blessed."

A new home, a new refrigerator, a new blessing that comes after a storm. Every day can be Easter.

We are Easter people

As Easter people, we know that even in the tragedies of life, God is at work bringing renewal.

Some of those renewals we get to experience: national revival, new church buildings and rebuilt homes. Others, like the death of a loved one, we wait to celebrate in the Kingdom of God to come.

Tate shares one more story from the Storm Recovery Center in Louisiana.

After a morning of shoveling muck, wet ceiling tiles, and other debris from a house damaged by floodwaters, a group of volunteers were approached by the neighborhood street-watcher.

She was concerned about unknown people rummaging through her neighbor's house. After showing her the paperwork authorizing them to be there, Tate explained, "These are five United Methodist bishops."

The neighbor was stunned. "Bishops?" she asked.

Later in the day, she returned to have lunch with these special volunteers. Tate remembers, "She was just blown away with the servanthood of our bishops."

As Christians, we experience resurrection every day and are called to share it in our worship and work. Every day can be Easter, all year long.



For more resources, including current news, reflections, and

podcasts, visit www.umc.org.