



The Tumbleweed



Eden Prairie UMC 15050 Scenic Heights Road Eden Prairie, MN



Join us live or online at 10 a.m. Sundays (or as you are able) for the “Greater Than” worship series through Nov. 14 as we consider all that God has shared with us and what it means to live a life that is Greater Than...together. You will hear about emerging ministries and exciting opportunities that lie ahead for us together.

Nov. 7 we will celebrate that our serving together is greater than our serving alone. Nov. 14 we celebrate that our giving together is greater than our giving alone. On each of those Sundays, we will make known our commitments during worship. Sunday, Nov. 14, we will also accept both commitment cards during a “Drive Through” beginning at 11 a.m.

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Official Notice

Charge Conference announced

On **Monday, November 22, 2021 at 7 p.m.** Eden Prairie UMC will have a Charge Conference **on Zoom** for the purpose of voting to approve the pastoral compensation package. This action is required by the United Methodist Book of Discipline. Members and friends of the church are welcome to attend and speak; only members may vote. The link to the Zoom is <http://bit.ly/BeckyJomtg> If you have any questions, please contact the office; Becky Coleman will direct your question to the person who can answer it.

‘for they know not what they do’

Nov. 14, Eden Prairie UMC will host a showing of “For They Know Not What They Do,” a film by the director of “For the Bible Tells Me So.” The new movie explores the intersection of religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity in America through the stories of four families of faith, interwoven with unique perspectives from religious leaders.

Through love, reconciliation and acceptance, this film takes us on a journey of understanding what connects us all and gives us the courage to embrace each other. Invite your family and friends to join us at 3 p.m. Nov. 14 to explore this important issue within our denomination and country. A 30-minute discussion will follow the 90-minute film. A schedule of all showings is available at Minnesota Reconciling Congregations, mnrccumc.org.



Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 7 at 2 a.m.

Set your clocks BACK one hour before bed Saturday, Nov. 6.

FROM THE PASTOR

A Pandemic of Gratitude

Diana Butler Bass, in her book *Grateful* cites a Pew study that found that 78% of Americans responded that they felt “strongly thankful” in the previous week. This study wasn’t done during the holiday that we designate for our time of giving thanks, between the turkey and the football game or the turkey and the Christmas shopping. On any given day, 78% of Americans felt “strongly thankful.” Mind you, the study was done prior to our experience of a global pandemic. Nonetheless, we say we are a people of deep gratitude.

I wonder, though, if we are people of deep gratitude, do we stop to give thanks, to notice, to actually be grateful in a way that changes us and changes the world around us?

Every birthday and Christmas, along with the unwrapping of delightful gifts from relatives, came a habit my mother instilled in me. I was expected to write a note of thanks to everyone for every gift I received. My mother expected me to be genuinely grateful and to express my gratitude to the person who had given me the gift. It is a habit I passed on to my children and which I try to keep up myself. I want people to know that I am grateful for the ways they blessed my life.

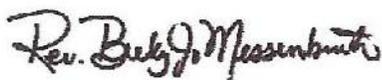
Bass writes that “*Gratitude is bound up with giving and receiving gifts. Gifts are the nature of the universe itself, those things we have received from God or the natural order or what-have-you.*” We don’t always take time to notice the gifts we have received from the universe that are not neatly wrapped with a bow on top. What about the gorgeous sunsets this fall? What about the clarity of the sky that reveals the stars above? What about the unexpected time between things where I can just be? What of the smile from the cashier at the grocery store? What about those amazing heated car seats on a cool and damp day? What about the chiropractor I paid to align my spine once again? What about the childcare provider who took time to listen to my child’s anxiety? What about the comfort given by those fuzzy slippers?

In this season where at least our nation has designated a focus on gratitude, maybe we can take it one step further. I challenge you to a daily habit of offering gratitude. The daily habit involves one simple step: awareness. I invite you to use the following questions at the end of your day to raise your awareness of that for which you are thankful:

-) What made you feel grateful today?
-) Did you say “thank you” to someone today?
-) What felt like a gift today in your life? From where did that gift come?
-) Did you give a gift today? What did you feel when you gave it? How did the recipient respond?
-) What in the news you heard or read today gives you cause to be grateful?
-) What are you grateful for in this moment?
-) Is there anyone to whom you need to write a thank you note? Do it!

There are seven questions, one for each day of the week. Cycle through them habitually during November. See what gratitude rises within you and how that gratitude changes you and changes the world around you. And if you have a story to tell, send it to me to share with others or post it on our Facebook page. Perhaps we can create a pandemic of gratitude!

Grateful for you!



Pastor Becky Jo

GROWING COMMUNITY THROUGH WORSHIP

GIVING TOGETHER IS

GREATER

THAN

GIVING ALONE

November Worship Information

November 7

Abundance > Comfort

Scripture: Malachi 3:10 (Common English Version)

When we recognize all we have as a gift from God, we can give out of our abundance, rather than trying to keep ourselves comfortable.

All Saints Sunday

Communion Sunday

Commitment to Serve forms given as an act of worship

November 14

Possibility > Status Quo

Scripture: John 14:11-14 (The Message, adapted)

Whether or not we like the way things are, we tend to default to the status quo. Leaning on Christ, we have the power to discover endless possibilities.

Commitment to Give forms given as an act of worship

Greater Than Celebration at the end of worship

Greater Than Drive-through Celebration for online worshippers

November 21

We welcome Rev. Jennifer Hill-Anderson, guest preacher this Sunday. She is a graduate of Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and was ordained an elder in the Minnesota Annual Conference in 2007. She served Cross Winds UMC from 2003—2006 and became a U.S. Navy Staff Chaplain in 2008.



November 28

First Sunday of Advent: #morehope

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

Have you ever had a moment in your life after which you knew nothing would ever be the same? In the midst of great change, hope is always a welcome thing. God makes us ready for whatever unknown may come our way and calls us to be messengers of #morehope in an ever-changing world.

Our Advent theme, "Angels among Us," will have interactive features. Watch the weekly emails for details.

MUSIC MINISTRY

by Megan Peterson, Director

Handbell Ensemble rehearsals start November 4

Handbell rehearsals will start November 4 from 7-8 p.m. All 12 and older are welcome to come ring with us. If you would like to receive communication about bells, please contact me and I will add you to our email list. The bell ensemble will be learning music for Advent, so this is a great time to join the bells and try something new!

UPDATE: No Children's Music in November

We have decided to hold off on starting our Wednesday evening children's music for now. We are hopeful that we will be able to offer music for Grades 3rd-6th on Wednesday evenings later in the winter or early spring. Watch future newsletters for more information!

Chancel Choir Rehearsing for the Cantata

The Chancel Choir has been busy learning this year's cantata, "Angels of Christmas." The group is excited to present the cantata as the message at worship December 12. This is a great service to invite family and friends to kick off the Christmas season!

If you have questions or are interested in joining a group, please send me an email (meganp@prairiechurch.org).

Make your plans for Christmas Eve Worship NOW!

We cannot wait to sing carols and worship with you on Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24. To provide for safety and for varying levels of comfort with in-person gatherings, we are planning early and taking necessary precautions. Each service will be 30 minutes long so that we can safely sing together.

At least one worship service will be livestreamed so you may worship with the EPUMC faith community from wherever you find your pew. That service will be available as recording, to accommodate a later time of worship according to your schedule. Remember to have a candle on hand to light as we sing a traditional candlelight carol.

Current plans are for three in-person worship services. Masks will be required, and reservations requested for all in-person worship, so that we can provide safe space for everyone. There will be 100 reservations for each service, with seating for large family groups who come together. Doors will open 30 minutes in advance of the worship service. Folks will be seated as they arrive in available seats, with overflow seating in the fellowship hall, regardless of reservations.

All Christmas Eve worship will include candlelight and carols:

3:30 p.m. Family Friendly Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship with Communion

9:00 p.m. Late-night Candlelight Worship

As soon as you are able, please make your reservations for worship by following this link: <https://rsvp.church/r/sfB35KDH> Please make reservations for everyone you expect from your family to attend, so that we can plan for enough safe space for everyone. If you need to reserve more than 12 spots, please make more than one reservation.

Thank you for making your reservations and helping us plan! **EPUMC Worship Team**



Watching Livestream Worship

Worship is livestreamed every Sunday at 10 a.m. If you wish to participate in worship at the same time people are worshipping in the sanctuary, you can find our livestream on Eden Prairie United Methodist Church's Facebook Page. The livestream is also available through the Eden Prairie UMC website if you don't have a Facebook account.

On Friday before Sunday worship, a notice about the livestream event is posted to Facebook. If you click "interested" or "going," you will get reminders about the service. At 10 a.m. Sunday, the livestream will start and will be found on the Facebook Page. Again, if you don't have a Facebook account, you find this livestream by going to our website home page and clicking the "Watch Live" tab.

Participating in livestream worship at 10 a.m. Sunday will allow you to engage with a live chat host (a volunteer from our congregation!) and submit prayer requests to be shared during live worship. It will further the connection between our in-person and online community and help you know better others who are also worshipping.

If you miss the livestream at 10, don't worry! The recording will be uploaded to our website as well YouTube sometime later that day for viewing at your convenience.

To find the 'Connect Card' on the website

To register your attendance each week, use the "Connect Card" on the new Eden Prairie UMC website. It is the last menu item in the top right. The red arrow in the graphic at left points to it.

When you click on "Connect Card," you'll be taken to a form where you can enter your information, including when and how you are part of Sunday worship. You'll also be able to choose the "I'm Stepping Up" action(s) for the week and learn about the "Top Things to Know This Week." This helps you stay up-to-date whether you worship in person or online.

Stay connected through Social Media Ministry

As we continue to expand and grow our online presence, we encourage you to engage in one (or more!) of our many social media ministry opportunities. Utilizing social media for ministry allows us to worship and build community every day of the week. It allows us to reach more people, making *connections* and having *conversations*. All day, every day.

Check out all the places we engage online below. Help spread the word of all we do by "Liking"/"Following"/"Inviting." Even better, comment on a post or share it to your page. By engaging with our content, you encourage others to join this wonderful community of faith.

Facebook Page:

Eden Prairie United Methodist Church

Instagram Page: Eden Prairie UMC

Facebook Groups:

Eden Prairie United Methodist Church Online Community

Youth Ministry of EPUMC

Children's Ministry of EPUMC

Prop Garden of EPUMC

Family Ministry of EPUMC



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Sunday School

The kids have been enjoying the lessons based on Pastor Becky Jo's current sermon series, The Prodigal Son. We continue to meet and enjoy lessons in fun ways. The kids will be outside as much as possible. The final decision is made Sunday mornings, so please dress your children accordingly.

We continue to offer online Sunday school. This is a wonderful way to participate in the lessons of faith that we are also learning in person. Through our Facebook group, we offer videos, stories, worksheets and crafts. If you are not part of the FB group but would like to be, please contact rachelc@prairiechurch.org.

Volunteer Opportunity!!!

If you are interested in helping with Sunday school once a month or so, please contact me at rachelc@prairiechurch.org.

Holy Club and Rooted

Wednesday Night Live has been such a fun experience for the kids, fourth and fifth graders in Holy Club and third graders in Rooted. They have done lessons, played games and made 150 sandwiches for the Dignity Center. This is an amazing group of kids who have so much love in their hearts.

Early in November, we will partner with Spirit Lake Ministry Center, Sheyenne, N.D. and put together presents for kids on Native reservations who would not otherwise receive anything for Christmas. Gifts go the Crow Creek and Pine Ridge Reservations in South Dakota, to the Spirit Lake Nation and the Turtle Mountain reservations in North Dakota and in Minnesota, the Red Lake Reservation. We are glad to join this United Methodist ministry. Our young people will learn about the importance of giving.

We'll also make time to play a few games.

**No Wednesday Night Live Nov. 24
(the day before Thanksgiving.)**

Family Fun

Join us December 5 for our Advent Festival. There will be something for all kids from preschool to 5th grade. Experience Advent in a new way. Join us for an interactive drive through event Dec. 5 from 5 to 6 p.m.



Youth Ministry @ EPUMC



For youth in Grades 6-8
Wednesdays
@ 6:30 PM
Growing a community of middle school youth and adults who care about them

November 3rd
Mission Night

Shoebox Christmas for children on a reservation
See handout or email the office for what you might donate to this effort

November 10th
Group Night

What does it mean to be a thankful person?
Why are we thanking God?

November 17th
Games Night

Card games, board games, bring your favorite to play!

November 24th
NO Wednesday Night Live Activities
Thanksgiving Break



For youth in Grades 9-12
Sundays @ 4 PM
Relevant Faith
Meaningful Service
Deep Connections

November 7th
Group Night

Searching for lost things and learning how God is always searching for a deeper relationship with us

November 14th
Special Time: 3—5 PM in the Sanctuary
Movie: “For They Know Not What They Do”
A powerful exploration of the intersection of religion, sexual orientation and gender identity in America.

November 21st
Games Night
Card games, board games, bring your favorite to play!

November 28th
Group Night
Learning about Advent. Bring your phone for a Kahoot!



Youth experimented with building a house of cards to learn the importance of a strong, firm foundation for faith (above). At right, a fun trip to Sever’s to experience a corn maze and other fun activities.



GROW THROUGH COMMUNITY

Fellowship Time reimagined

Though we currently are unable to serve coffee and treats after worship, the Connect Team still wants to offer you ways to connect with others in a fun way. We have various short activities planned after worship service. Engage with others and put a smile on your face (behind your mask). There will be different activities after worship each week. We'll resume our fellowship fun later in November, because of other events happening:

November 7 — Complete UMCOR Cleaning Kits

November 14 — Drive Through to drop off Commitment to Serve and Commitment to Give forms.



Visit to All Square Restaurant

By Connie Hauswirth and Deb Lind

Remember when we heard about All Square restaurant in a Lenten sermon several months ago at Eden Prairie UMC? We had saved an article about this restaurant (that is also a nonprofit criminal justice reform program) when it was published back in August 2019. We had always planned to go. So Oct. 15, 2021, we finally made it. We invited Dick and Ruth Nubson to join us.

We each enjoyed one of their eight selections of grilled cheese sandwiches along with a robust cup of tomato soup and some fries. It was well worth the visit; it actually made the Star Tribune “5 Best things We Ate Last Week” on October 18. [The 5 best things our food writers ate in the Twin Cities area this week - StarTribune.com](https://www.startribune.com/the-5-best-things-our-food-writers-ate-in-the-twin-cities-area-this-week/)

All Square is also starting a food truck whose schedule can be followed on Twitter or Instagram @allsquarempls. The restaurant is at 4047 Minnehaha Ave. S., Minneapolis, about six blocks north of Minnehaha Falls. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday. [All Square | Neon Lights & Civil Rights \(allsquarempls.com\)](https://www.allsquarempls.com/)



Sanctuary Visuals during Advent

You are invited to help decorate the sanctuary during Advent. Your contribution of \$13 helps pay for poinsettias and other visuals to enhance our experience of Advent. Your order and payment are due Sunday, Dec. 5; you may mail them or drop them in the Sunday offering plate. You may take home poinsettias after the 9 p.m. worship service Christmas Eve. Please print. Contact the church office if you

have questions.

Given by (Your Name): _____

Phone/e-mail: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of : _____

Saluting EPUMC Veterans

We want to honor veterans from Eden Prairie UMC in a special way to thank them for their service as Veterans Day approaches. Please contact the church office (office@prairiechurch.org or 952-937-8781); we don't want to overlook anyone. We'd like to borrow a photo if possible, too.

Tuesday Book Group

The group will meet in November to discuss *This Tender Land*, a novel by William Kent Krueger. The book is a heartfelt story of four orphans who travel downstream from Minnesota by canoe during the Great Depression. Meetings will be from 6 to 7 p.m. at the church. Discussions on Parts 1 and 2, Nov. 2; Parts 3 and 4, Nov. 16; and Parts 5 and 6, Nov. 30. Everyone interested is invited to attend. For more information, contact Ray Soderholm, rsoderholm@yahoo.com.

Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will meet *at church* Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall to discuss *Evidence of V* by Sheila O'Connor

Book titles for the coming year:

November: Evidence of V by Shiela O'Connor

January: Letters For Emily by Cameron Wright

March: The Lightless Sky: My Journey to Safety As a Child Refugee by Gulwalt Passarlay

ONGOING GROUPS

Men's Discussion Group

We are Zooming every Wednesday at 9 a.m. until we can safely meet in person without masks. Contact Steve Sopoci, stsopoci@comcast.net to join the discussion.

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 confidential network or if you have a prayer request.

Inter-Knits Prayer Shawl Ministry We continue to knit and crochet at home. If you have questions, please contact Sherry Harms at 952-658-6868. Contact the church office if someone needs a prayer shawl.

Cheers Too is a social gathering of women from the church at 8 a.m. Saturdays online. Send an email to Beth Holland bjwholland@gmail.com, and she will invite you.

GEMS (God's Exceptional Methodist Seniors) is finding new ways to connect via email and Zoom gatherings. Contact Deb Soderholm, 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

Women's Evening Book Group The Women's Evening Book Group meets every other month to discuss fiction and nonfiction selections that expand viewpoints on social and ethical issues.

ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY

PROP's Holiday Gift Card Program \$30 Target Gift Cards Requested

EPUMC will again partner with PROP to provide **\$30 Target gift cards** for the holidays to senior citizens and children of client families. PROP has found that gift cards give welcome choices – to use towards special gifts, or favorite foods, or however clients wish. As one family expressed, “This time of year, a gift card is, well, the perfect gift!”



Here are ways to participate: purchase \$30 Target gift cards and bring to worship service Sunday mornings or to the office during the week (note office hours); mail to the church office; donate funds for gift cards online by choosing the PROP Gift Card option. (See information on the “Give” tab at www.prairiechurch.org.) Both gift cards and monetary donations are accepted. Please indicate PROP gift card on the memo line of checks.

Thanks for sharing God’s love and caring for our neighbors. Your generosity will help bring joy and smiles to families at a time when a little financial assistance can mean a lot.
The deadline for donating gift cards or funds is Sunday, Nov. 21.



Thank you for your supplies

We appreciate each of you who took a “bucket” reminder and brought back items for the UMCOR Cleaning Kits. (We need items returned by Sunday, Oct. 31.)

We will pack the buckets after worship Sunday, Nov. 7, and we invite you to be part of the crew! It is helpful to have someone keep track of all the items that are contained in each Cleaning Kit as well as fit them all inside.

Thank you!

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your donations. Your ongoing support builds a safety net to catch those who have fallen on hard times, especially during a pandemic. Not just for today, but all year long, your support insures that when someone is in crisis, or when someone is hungry, or when someone has lost hope, they get the help they need. We could not begin to meet the need in our community without your faithful support. Thank you for giving 846 pounds of produce in August to help our neighbors in need. Gratefully, Janet Palmer, executive director



PS: Thank you for standing with PROP Food Shelf for 50 years and creating a healthy future for all.

November 2021 Calendar

Sunday Schedule

8:15 a.m. Bible Study on Zoom
10 a.m. Live worship in the sanctuary and on Facebook
10 a.m. Live Sunday School and on Facebook
4 p.m. Higher Ground Youth Group

Monday, November 1

7 p.m. Digital Discipleship on Zoom
7 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, November 2

6 p.m. Tuesday Book Group
6:30 p.m. Staff Parish Relations Team on Zoom

Wednesday, November 3

9 a.m. Men's Discussion Group (Zoom)
10 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Live: Rooted, Holy Club, Middle School Ministry
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Praying to Connect

Thursday, November 4

6:30 p.m. Memorial Garden team
6:30 p.m. Grow Team
7 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal

Sunday, November 7

All Saints Sunday, Communion
Sunday Schedule
11 a.m. Pack Cleaning Buckets
4 p.m. Higher Ground Youth Ministry

Monday, November 8

6:30 p.m. Connect Team (Zoom)
7 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, November 9

7:30 p.m. Worship Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 10

9 a.m. Men's Discussion Group (Zoom)
10 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Live: Rooted, Holy Club, Middle School Ministry
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 11

6:30 p.m. Engage Team (Zoom)
7 p.m. Handbell reshearsal

Sunday, November 14

Sunday Schedule
Greater Than Drive-through Celebration
3 p.m. Movie "For They Know Not What They Do"
(Youth invited to watch movie)

Monday, November 15

7 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, November 16

6 p.m. Tuesday Book Group
7 p.m. Women's (Home) Book Group, at church

Wednesday, November 17

9 a.m. Men's Discussion Group (Zoom)
10 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Live: Rooted, Holy Club, Middle School Ministry

Thursday, November 18

6:30 p.m. Administration Team

Friday, November 19

Deadline to submit articles for the December newsletter.

Saturday, November 20

10 a.m. MS Support Group

Sunday, November 21

Sunday Schedule
4 p.m. Higher Ground Youth Group

Monday, November 22

7 p.m. Charge Conference (Zoom)
7 p.m. Boy Scouts

Wednesday, November 24

9 a.m. Men's Discussion Group (Zoom)
9 a.m. Staff Meeting



Thursday, November 25

Thanksgiving Day/Office closed

Sunday, November 28

First Sunday of Advent
Sunday Schedule

Monday, November 29

5:30 p.m. Stewardship Team

Tuesday, November 30

6 p.m. Tuesday Book Group



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
Director of Music:	Megan Peterson	MeganP@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.

