

Human Relations Day

Little Prairie United Methodist Church

January 18, 2026, 9:30 a.m.



Light, the way

2980 130th ST E, Dundas, MN 55019

507.663-6150

www.littleprairieumc.org

Our vision: : Creating a welcoming community that worships well, discipiles well, and serves well; transforming the world for Jesus Christ.

WELCOME AND GATHERING

Gathering Music

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Tune: *Faithfulness* arr. J.B. Taylor
Luann Alderks

Welcome Centering Time

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Call to Worship

Children of God, who has God called you to be?

A light to all the nations!

When confusion and disunity threaten to undo us, who are you called to be?

A light to all the nations!

When wars and rumors of wars in our communities and around the world overwhelm us, who are you called to be?

A light to all the nations!

When the vulnerable are left without care or hope for flourishing, who are you called to be?

A light to all the nations!

Come! Let us worship God, who gives us as a light of good news to all the nations!

We come to worship God, who calls us and equips us to reflect God's glory and abundant life into all the world. Amen.

Hymn:

Great is Thy Faithfulness (UMH # 140)

All

Opening Prayer:

Guide our feet, Lord. Show us the light of grace when we would judge others too harshly.

Warm our hearts with the glow of your love when we would spew icy words of spite.

Illumine our souls with joyful delight when sadness tries to take over the day.

Shine brightly on us today, Lord, until we reflect your glory as a witness to this world. Amen.

Written by Kwasi Kena, The Africana Worship Book Year A (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006), 84.

Sharing the Peace

Children's Moment

THE WORD

Scriptures:

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

John 1:29-42

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Light, the Way

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Hymn:

Here I Am, Lord (UMH #593)

All

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Joys and Concern

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of the People

And so we live our lives imperfectly, for we are flawed. But we are also loved by the God in whose image we were created. Let us remake ourselves toward that image as we make our confession before God and each other, first in silent prayer.

Silent confession

Gracious and loving God, hear our prayer. We know we do not always live as we ought: We turn away from you, from our neighbor, and from our true selves. We know we dim your light within us, With our pride, our self-righteousness, and our need for control
We know that you love us, that you do not abandon us, and that again and again you call us back to you, back to love, back to grace, back to your light. Forgive us, we pray, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear the good news: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Let us proclaim the good news: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**
Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What Is Good." Used with permission. Posted at <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession>.

Offering *"The Summons" Music: Traditional Scottish Words: John Bell*
FWS #2130 Sung by The Little Prairie Choir vs. 1-4 Congregation join on vs. 5

Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (UMH # 95)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

And the prayer which unites us...

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.

Hymn *Christ for the World We Sing* *(UMH #568)*

All

SENDING

As we leave this place, remember: God, who chose you before your birth, who calls you and knows you by name, now sends you out into the world—to bring light to those in darkness, comfort to those who grieve, hope to those who despair. And may the blessing of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit be among you and within you as you seek to do God's will.

Posted on the re:Worship blog at https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/01/benediction-isaiah-49-1-7_4.html.

May the love of Christ be fully present in you, so that a stranger will see in you a friend and neighbor. God sends you. The Spirit fills you. Christ goes with you and you with Christ, always and everywhere. God Bless! **Go in hope, peace, joy and love. Shalom.**

Amen.

Postlude *"The Light of the World Is Jesus"* Tune: *Light of the World*"

by Philip P. Bliss arr. Mark Hayes

Luann Alderks

INFORMATION

Pastor: Penny Bonsell, Administrator: Sara French, Music Director and pianist: Luann Alderks, Certified Lay Minister and Youth Director: Theresa Siemers, assistants Maddy Heinz-Kline and Kory Larson, Technology Administrator: Jesse Steed, Admin Council Chair: Kevin Larson, Admin Secretary: Sue Rollins, SPRC Chair: Deb Little, Treasurer: Lori Noreen, Finance Committee Co-Chairs: Kevin Larson and Mel Henrichs, Trustees Chair: Tom Stowe, Missions and Lay Servant: Karen Nelson, Soundboard Technician: Tom Hollenhorst

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays, Worship at 9:30 am

Tuesdays, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, at L&M

Wednesdays, 9-10:30 am: Pastor Penny at James Gang coffee shop

Saturdays 9-11 am Soul Sisters (see Theresa for details)

Tues, Jan. 20, 1pm: Admin Committee Meeting

Fri, Jan 23, 5:30-8pm: Youth group

Sat, Feb. 7, 4-6 pm: "For the Love of God" gathering



Website

Online Giving

We are providing an on-going donation bin for CAC and Wallflower House in our entrance way. See our website for more details at www.littleprairieumc.org

