

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Little Prairie United Methodist Church**  
**June 14, 2026, 9:30 a.m.**



***The Gift of Laughter***

2980 130<sup>th</sup> ST E, Dundas, MN 55019

507.663-6150

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

**Our Vision**

Creating a welcoming community that worships well, disciples well, and serves well;  
transforming the world for Jesus Christ.

**WELCOME AND GATHERING**

**Gathering Music**

*Nan Winsell*

**Welcome**

*Pastor Penny Bonsell*

**Centering Time**

## **Call to Worship**

God meets us in surprising yet ordinary places—under a tree, in the smile of a stranger, in a refreshing breeze that comes at just the right time.

**God, open our hearts to notice your presence all around us.**

God speaks to us in surprising yet ordinary ways—in a well-placed word from a friend, in a prayer that comes at just the right time, in a song that resonates through our entire being.

**God, open our minds to recognize your voice all around us.**

God fulfills God's promises in surprising yet ordinary ways—in an unexpected act of kindness, in providing just what we need at just the right time, in sending someone to listen when we feel alone.

**God, open our hands to receive your blessings all around us.**

Beloved, in the surprising and ordinary ways that God shows up among us, may we meet God and our neighbors with open hearts, minds, and hands, ready to encounter God's miraculous work.

**God, open our lives to receive your blessings, that we may share together in the joy, wonder, and laughter of God's miraculous works all around us.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, December 2025.*

**Hymn:** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (UMH #139)*  
*All*

## **Opening Prayer**

God, as you met Abraham in an ordinary moment of hospitality, meet us today in the ordinary moments of our lives.

**Open our minds to recognize your presence among us;**

open our hearts to receive your promises;

**open our arms to embrace your miraculous works with joy, wonder, and laughter.**

**As we gather to worship, help us find the courage to hope, the wisdom to trust, and the perseverance to cooperate with you as you fulfill our promises as you work for abundant life for all creation. Amen.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, December 2025.*

**Sharing the Peace**  
**Children's Moment**

## **THE WORD**

**Scriptures:**

**Genesis 18:18 1-15, (21:1-7)**

## Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

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

**Message**

*The Gift of Laughter*

*Pastor Penny Bonsell*

**Hymn:**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (UMH #89)*

*All*

### **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

#### **Joys and Concern/Prayers of the People**

Gracious God, you reached into Abraham and Sarah's lives and asked them to dream the impossible dream—that you would transform what appears to have been a barren and lifeless situation into one overflowing with promise and hope—and, through faith in you, they believed your promises.

**Forgive us, O God, if we never get beyond thinking of your call on our lives as an impossible dream or even as an unwelcome interruption.**

Faithful God, the apostle Paul emphasises Abraham's complete trust and faith in your promises and how he grew ever stronger in faith, fully convinced of your ability to fulfil what had been promised.

**Forgive us, O God, when we find it hard even to hear your promises above commercial assurances of transformation—promises tempting us to trust the newest and trendiest product to realise our dreams.**

Merciful God, Jesus revealed the great depth of your love in his determination to defeat evil even when this meant giving up his own life.

**Forgive us, O God, when we allow the power of evil to flourish because we fear that taking up one's cross would be just too costly an exercise.**

*Silent reflection on these words*

Gracious and loving God, forgive our lack of trust in you;

**Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

Help us when we hesitate,

**and strengthen us when we are weak. Breathe your Spirit afresh into our hearts and minds—our lives—so that we have the courage to follow Jesus wherever he takes us. Amen.**

*Written by Moira Laidlaw and posted on Liturgies Online, <http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/>. Reposted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/confession-assurance-lent-2-b.html>.*

## Offering

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

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Joyful Giver of Miracles, we come to you with hearts open to the unexpected, for you are the God who surprises us with joy, even in seasons of waiting and even through our disbelief. You meet us in the ordinariness of welcome, and you plant seeds of laughter that bloom into life. As Abraham and Sarah offered their hospitality and received the promise of new life, so we offer our gifts in trust and gratitude.

**Bless these gifts, O God, that they may bear witness to your goodness and extend joy, hope, and welcome to the world you so love. May our giving be a reflection of our faith, and may our faith be full of laughter. In the name of the one who brings life out of impossibility, Amen.**

(Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7))

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**            *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms (UMH # 133)*            *All*

## Sending

Go now, in the blessing of God who meets us where we are and surprises us with new life where none seemed possible. May we be a people who embody God's miracle called laughter as we work for the flourishing of all creation as the family of God. 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

*Nan Winsell*

## **Little Prairie UMC UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sundays, Worship at 9:30 am**

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

**Wednesdays, 9-10:30 am:** Pastor Penny is off this off at James Gang coffee shop

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

**4th of July Picnic on the Prairie, 12, noon**

See our website for more details at [www.littleprairieumc.org](http://www.littleprairieumc.org).

## **INFORMATION**

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



**Website**



**Online Giving**