

**Eighth Sunday After Pentecost
July 19, 2026, 9:30 am**



In the Weeds

Little Prairie United Methodist Church
2980 130th ST E, P.O. Box 276, Dundas, MN 55019
507.663-6150
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

Laurie Melting Stegner

Welcome

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Centering Time

Laurie Melting Stegner

Call to Worship

Despite hardship, our ancestors dared to dream God-sized dreams.

Praise God for hope-filled dreams.

Do it again, Lord. Dream big dreams through us today!

Praise God for new dreams for our generation.

Invisible God, be visible through our faith today.

Praise God who empowers us with faith to see what others miss.

Will we stop building a better future because of evil?

We will forge on and build communities of love.

Will we concede our neighborhoods because evil walks the streets?

We will walk together and love our neighbors as ourselves in the name of Jesus who shows us the Way. Come now, Lord, and fulfill your dreams in us today! Amen.

Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty UMH #139

All

Opening Prayer

Creator God, Holy Gardener who sustains and nurtures all life, open us today to your life-giving grace and transformative love.

As we notice our internal struggles, empower us to greet the wheat and the weeds in our own hearts with care and compassion.

As we recognize the challenges and suffering in our community, inspire us to meet the weeds and the wheat in our neighbors with acceptance and hope.

We know that you alone have the final say, and so we give ourselves over to you as instruments of hospitality and grace that we would tend our neighbors even as we are tended by you. Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Children's Moment

THE WORD

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

The Inescapable God

To the leader. Of David. A Psalm.

- ¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,”
¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
²⁴ See if there is any wicked^[a] way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.^[b]

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

- ²⁴ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came

up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears^[a] listen!

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

Message

In the Weeds

Pastor Penny Bonsell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn

We’ve a Story to Tell the Nations *UMH* #569

All

Joys and Concerns/Prayers of the People

Merciful God,

You plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be.

When we deprive others of that same opportunity,
forgive us.

When we want to uproot those whom we believe
do not belong in our part of the field,
forgive us.

When we label others as good or bad
rather than accept them for who they are,
forgive us.

When we are reluctant to acknowledge
that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat,
forgive us.

When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives
to see what is growing there,
forgive us.

O God, you know us inside and out, through and through.

You search us out and lay your hand upon us.

You know what we are going to say even before we speak.

**So we pray that you will help us to reach out to the uprooted and rejected,
the lonely and the outcast, and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in others,
and in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Offering

Laurie Melting Stegner

Doxology

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

All

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, we are living in days of division and polarization, and we regretfully confess that your church is not exempt from that statement. Regardless of where we stand, it is far too easy to look at those who see things differently and see them as weeds, stunting the good fruit we could bear.

As we bring our offerings to you, the temptation to focus on our own agenda is strong. Help us to give generously without judging. Give us the faith to put them to your use, and humility to know that only you can see clearly what is wheat and what is weed. We pray in the name of Christ who knows all hearts. Amen.

And the prayer in which Jesus unites us...

The Lord's Prayer

All

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

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light UMH #206

All

Sending

May you go forth filled with God's grace that overflows in hospitality and care for your neighbors as we work with God to bring about a new, life-giving reality for all creation. God sends you. The Spirit fills you. Christ goes with you and you with Christ, always and everywhere. God Bless! **Amen.**

God Bless! Go in hope, love, joy, and peace. Shalom. Amen.

Postlude

Laurie Melting Stegner

INFORMATION

See our website for more details at www.littleprairieumc.org.