

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost
July 26, 2026, 9:30 am



The Kingdom of Heaven

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

Laura Melting Stegner

Welcome

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Centering Time

Laura Melting Stegner

Call to Worship

O God, we come together seeking you first, for you are righteous.

Bring us into your Kingdom. Come Holy Spirit, fill us.

We know all we need to do is knock and the door will be open unto you.

Prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Alleluia.

Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

UMH #92

All

Opening Prayer

Dear God, guide us to see the welcome sign on your door. We know you are continuously waiting for us to knock, as you are forever inviting us into your Kingdom.

Give us courage and strength, and comfort and calm, to seek you first.

Your righteousness awaits us, and all we need to do is ask.

Open our hearts with your loving Spirit, so that our tiny seeds of faith will bloom and grow. Forgive us when we turn away in fear. Nurture us with your love and guide us to comfort those who are in need or suffer. In Christ, Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Children's Moment

THE WORD

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b Scriptures: Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b

God's Faithfulness to Israel

¹ O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

² Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

⁴ Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.

⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,

⁶ O offspring of his servant Abraham,^[a]
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
⁷ He is the Lord our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.
⁸ He is mindful of his covenant forever,
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
⁹ the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac,
¹⁰ which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
¹¹ saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance.”

⁴⁵ that they might keep his statutes
and observe his laws.
Praise the Lord!

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

The Parable of the Yeast

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with^[d] three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

The Use of Parables

³⁴ Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. ³⁵ This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:^[e]

“I will open my mouth to speak in parables;
I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.”^[f]

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

Message

The Kingdom of Heaven

Pastor Penny Bonsell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord UMH #540

All

Joys and Concerns/Prayers of the People

Holy God, remind us that we are loved when we find ourselves unlovable.

Remind us that there is hope when all we see around us makes us despair.

Remind us that you sent the Prince of Peace when war and violence overwhelm.

Remind us that you are the merciful judge when injustice seems to prevail.

Remind us that you give us all we need to do your work in the world.

Remind us that you give us grace so that we can be your people. We confess our doubt, and trust in your love. Amen.

Offering

Laurie Melting Stegner

Doxology

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

All

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all blessings, Jesus inspired us through his teaching to see your kingdom as a place where small things can have a mighty impact: a tiny mustard seed planted, or a bit of yeast mixed into the flour.

We ask you this day to bless the gifts we offer, so that they may have a powerful impact when used according to your purposes. Bless us that we might see glimpses of your kingdom through our giving and grow in generosity in the process. In name of Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray. 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

Forward Through the Ages

UMH # 555

All

Sending

Go forth today ready to catch glimpses of God's never-ending, unstoppable, and always-present love at work in the world. And when that love feels hidden and distant, breathe deep and remember: unrevealed does not mean inactive. God sends you, the Spirit fills you, Christ goes with you and you with Christ always and everywhere. **Amen.**

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

Postlude

Laurie Melting Stegner

INFORMATION

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