

**22st Sunday After Pentecost
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
Oct 25, 2026, 9:30 a.m.**



Loving Our Neighbor (testing, testing, 1,2,3)

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

Debbie Richman

Welcome

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Centering Time

Debbie Richman

Call to Worship

As we gather to worship today, turn to a neighbor and say to each other, “Welcome! I am glad you are here!”

Welcome! I am glad you are here!

Now, turn to another neighbor and say to each other, “You are loved by God and by me!”

You are loved by God and by me!

Beloved children of God, how can we love each other today?

By meeting and listening and caring for one another face-to-face.

Beloved children of God, how can we love God today?

By practicing our love for one another and God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Let us worship God together today!

We come to worship God by living our love for God and neighbor face-to-face.

Amen.

Hymn: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God, Almighty* (UMH #64) *All*

Opening Prayer

Happy are we, O God, when our hearts are full, our ways are yours, our spirits enlivened by your call.

Happy are we, O God, when our lives are guided by delight.

We gather here today for just that, holy God.

We gather to draw on all you would give us to be more fully yours. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Written by Rev. Kaji S. Douša and posted on the Worship Ways website of the United Church of Christ at https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/pentecost_21_october_25/.

Sharing the Peace

Children’s Moment

THE WORD

Scriptures:

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Ritual and Moral Holiness

19 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²“Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

¹⁵“You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood^[a] of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord.

¹⁷“You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

[Read full chapter](#)

- a. [19.16](#) Heb *stand against the blood*

Psalm 1

The Two Ways

¹ Happy are those
 who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread
 or sit in the seat of scoffers,
² but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
 and on his law they meditate day and night.
³ They are like trees
 planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
 and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
⁴ The wicked are not so
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,
⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

Matthew 22: 34-46

The Greatest Commandment

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

The Question about David’s Son

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² “What do you think of the Messiah?^[a] Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit^[b] calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ ‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet” ’?

⁴⁵ “If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

[Read full chapter](#)

- a. [22.42](#) Or *Christ*
- b. [22.43](#) Gk *in spirit*

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

Message *Loving Our Neighbor (Testing, testing 1,2,3)* *Pastor Penny Bonsell*

Hymn *Healer of Our Every Ill* *(TFWS #2213)* *All*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Joys and Concern/Prayers of the People

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you; you call, but we have not listened.

We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns.

We have gone along with evil, with pride, quarreling, and divisiveness.

Holy God, help us to face up to ourselves, so that, as you move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Words of Assurance and a moment of silence prayer

Receive this good news: God, who tests our hearts, gives us abundant grace to turn from sin and back to God again and again and again. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

Adapted from a prayer of confession posted on the PCUSA website, <http://www.pcusa.org/>.

Re-posted on the re: Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/09/prayer-of-confession-as-you-have-loved.html>.

Offering

Debbie Richman

Doxology

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

All

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, you call us not only to believe the gospel, but to live it. You test our hearts not with trials meant to break us, but through the daily invitation to serve, to love, and to share our lives with one another.

Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our willingness to embody the good news of Christ. Use what we offer to nurture communities of compassion, where faith is lived gently, courageously, and with humility. May our witness—like Paul’s—be rooted not in pride or gain, but in love that gives itself freely for others. Amen.

(1 Thessalonians 2:1–8)

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

When Charity and Love Prevail (U #549)

All

Sending

May God bless you with the courage and the wisdom to respond to division, confusion, injustice, and hardship as imitators of Christ and agents of divine love as we work for the well-being and flourishing of all God's creation today and every day. 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

Debbie Richman

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 and Karen Matthies

Little Prairie UMC UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays, Worship at 9:30 am

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

Wednesdays, 6-7:30 pm Fall Book Study Philippians thru Nov.18

9-10:30 am James Gang coffee shop with Pastor Penny

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

Fri. Oct 30, 6-7 pm Little Prairie is at Trunk-or-Treat in Dundas

Sun. Nov. 1, after worship- LP Endowment and Legacy Planning Workshop

Sat. Nov. 21, 3-7 pm Ham Dinner Supporting CAC local food shelves

Sun. Nov. 29, 9:30 am Hanging of the Greens service Advent begins

7:00 pm Cluster Charge Conference at Little Prairie

Thurs. Dec 24, 4:00 pm Candle light Christmas Eve Service

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



[Website](#)



[Online Giving](#)