

**Seventh Sunday After Pentecost
July 12, 2026, 9:30 am**



Seeds of Promise

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

Nan Winsell

Welcome

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Centering Time

Nan Winsell

Call to Worship

Come, let us worship God!

Come, let us worship our Creator!

God is the great Sower, scattering seeds of life and abundance across the earth.

We are the soil the Sower plants, created to nurture and sustain the seeds of God's life-giving love.

God is the great Gardener, tilling and cultivating our soil with love and grace.

We notice the rocks and thorns in our soil and call on the Gardener's love and grace to transform us into good soil.

God is the great Life-giver, sowing seeds and tending the soil to produce the fruit of abundant life.

May we nurture and grow God's new reality, bearing the fruit of flourishing and abundance for all God's creation. Amen.

Hymn

Thy Word UMH #601

All

Opening Prayer

Dear God, breathe on us loving Spirit; let us take in the glorious sights of creation all around us.

Open our hearts, so we may be joined in the heart of Christ. Guide us to good soil for our seeds of faith.

Let compassion and love grow in us like the summer gardens.

Forgive us when we are lost, or on rocky ground.

Nurture us when we become strangled by unhealthy distractions.

Let your word be a lamp on our path. We give thanks. Guide us with your love to comfort those who are in need and suffer. In Christ, Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Children's Moment

THE WORD

Psalm 119:105-112

- ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
- ¹⁰⁶ I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.
- ¹⁰⁷ I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O Lord, according to your word.
- ¹⁰⁸ Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord,
and teach me your ordinances.
- ¹⁰⁹ I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.
- ¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.
- ¹¹¹ Your decrees are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.
- ¹¹² I incline my heart to perform your statutes
forever, to the end.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears^[a] listen!”

The Parable of the Sower Explained

¹⁸ “Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word,

that person immediately falls away.^[a] ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

Message

Seeds of Promise

Pastor Penny Bonsell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn

Hymn of Promise UMH #707

All

Joys and Concerns/Prayers of the People

Dear God, Creator, we give thanks for the beauty of earth, as we see it grow in these summer months. Keep us grounded and in good fertile soil.

Guide us to do what is right and help those in need.

We pray for our church, our communities, and our local and world governments; May your creative love and compassion grow in them.

Give those with power wisdom to lead with justice and kindness.

Comfort those who have lost loved ones and are mourning. Comfort those who suffer.

We give thanks for this beautiful lush creation, we call Planet Earth. Help us to be the best stewards we can possibly be. We ask this all in the name of Christ. Amen.

Offering

Nan Winsell

Doxology

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

All

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Creator God from whom all blessings grow: as we dedicate our tithes and offerings, we acknowledge that you have blessed us to be the fertile soil from which the good news of your kingdom will spring forth.

Move us, we pray, beyond seeing our role as passive or powerless, depending totally on the quality of the seed and the expertise of the planter.

Remind us that you are counting on us for fruitfulness, demonstrating for the world your love, grace, and power

as we bear fruit that eases the suffering sick, feeds the hungry, brings justice to the oppressed and love and compassion to those who feel disconnected or forgotten. In Christ, 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

Bring Forth the Kingdom

TFWS #2190

All

Sending

Beloved, remember: you are like the dirt of the earth. May you go forth and receive the Gardener's tending so that we may all become good soil ready to receive, nurture, and grow the seed of the gospel wherever we go. **Amen.**

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

Postlude

Nan Winsell

INFORMATION

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