

Sunday After Pentecost
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
September 20, 2026, 9:30 a.m.



One Spirit, Striving Side by Side

2980 130th ST E, 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

Call to Worship

In times of busyness and stress when we feel surrounded by challenges on all sides...

We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

In times of joy and rest when we feel the goodness of God's provision and abundance deep in our bones...

We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

In times of conflict and distress when we feel just how hard it is to live in unity together...

We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Disciples of Christ, come, let us worship God who empowers us to press on...

As we learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2026.

Hymn: *Immortal Invisible God Only Wise (UMH # 103)*

All

Opening Prayer

Mighty God, we enter your presence with thanksgiving and hope. You have formed us as your people.

You join us on the journey of life through valleys, upon mountains, and on the plains.

We set our attention and seek your wisdom, encouragement, and grace.

Reveal your will and display your glory among your people as we worship your holy name. Amen.

Written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl Lindsay and posted on the Worship Ways website of the United Church of Christ at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-17a-september-24/>.

Sharing the Peace

Children's Moment

THE WORD

Scriptures:

Psalm 100

All Lands Summoned to Praise God

A Psalm of thanksgiving.

¹ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

² Serve the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

³ Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;^[a]
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him; bless his name.

⁵ For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Footnotes

- a. [100.3](#) Or *and not we ourselves*

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

[Read full chapter](#)

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

Message

One Spirit, Striving Side by Side

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing (UMH #519)

All

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Joys and Concern/Prayers of the People

We continue to believe that we must earn our way into God's heart. But God's grace is given to each of us, for all of us, freely, unconditionally, always. Let us open our lives to this mercy as we pray, saying,

It seems we cannot decide, Cloud of Glory. We say we will live to serve others, but end up meeting only our needs. We claim to live in a way that honors Christ, but we do not take him to work, school, home. We believe that the gospel can transform lives, (at least, for those who need it - not us). Forgive us, Presence of Peace. Instead of grumblers, may we be ambassadors of grace. Instead of continual complaining, may we carry compassion to the hurting. Instead of whiners, may we be workers with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to reach out and bring the kingdom of God to everyone we meet.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news: there is no ranking in God's kingdom. God graces everyone with the same gifts: mercy, (compassion) restoration, new life.

God has kept the covenant. We have been forgiven, we have been made new people.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Written by Thom Shuman, from Lectionary Liturgies. Reposted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/prayer-of-confession-september-18-2011.html>.

Offering

Debbie Richman

Doxology

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

All

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Steadfast God, for us is to live is Christ. In every season, you hold us, and in every struggle, you knit us together as one body. Receive these gifts as signs that we choose to stand firm, striving side by side, living as citizens of your kingdom, your community, your kin-dom.

Use what we offer to encourage the weary, strengthen your church, and bear witness that love is stronger than fear. Shape our common life to be worthy of the gospel, until our unity itself proclaims your grace. Amen.

(Philippians 1:21-30)

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

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me (TFWS # 2153)

All

Sending

As you go from this place, may God bless you with wisdom, courage, and perseverance to live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ as you work, rest, play, and strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel. 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

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 James Gang coffee shop with Pastor Penny

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

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

Wed. Sept 23, 5-6 pm New Member Meeting

6-7:30 pm Fall Book Study Philippians Sept.16-Nov. 9

Sun Sept 27, 9:30 am Cowboy Church and New Member Sunday

Fri. Oct 30, 6-7 pm Little PrairieTrunk-or-Treat in Dundas

Fri. Oct 16, 6:30 pm Youth Parent Meeting

Sat. Oct 17, 10 am Little Hands Ring and Sing

Sun. Oct. 18, 2:00 pm Movie Matinee *Mary Poppins*

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

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

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



Website



Online Giving