

Little Prairie United Methodist Church
Oct 11, 2026, 9:30 a.m.



Finding Joy

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

Dan Dauner

Welcome

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Centering Time

Dan Dauner

Call to Worship

Beloved, God's never-ending love spills out all around us, drawing us together in beloved community with God, neighbor, and all creation.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

God's always-present grace surrounds us, enlivening us to love ourselves and our neighbors just as Christ loves us.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

God's persistent peace sweeps through us, guarding our hearts and empowering us to live as agents of God's mercy and justice wherever we go.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

May our rejoicing overflow into our families, neighborhoods, and the whole earth that through our living, working, resting, and playing, God may be glorified.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

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

Hymn: *In Christ There is No East or West* (UMH #548)

All

Opening Prayer

Holy God, you are light, and in you there is no darkness at all.

Shift my focus today from whatever is false to that which is true;

from whatever is vulgar to that which is honorable;

from whatever is corrupt to that which is just;

from whatever is inauthentic to that which is pure;

from whatever is detestable to that which is pleasing;

from whatever is insignificant to that which is commendable;

that I may live in the light. Through Christ Jesus I pray. Amen.

Long, Kim. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A - Two-Volume Set: Liturgies for Year A (pp. 537-538). (Function). Kindle Edition.

Sharing the Peace

Children's Moment

THE WORD

Scriptures:

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

A Confession of Israel's Sins

¹ Praise the Lord!

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

² Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord
or declare all his praise?

³ Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.

⁴ Remember us,^[a] O Lord, when you show favor to your people;
help us^[b] when you deliver them,

⁵ that we may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that we may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that we may glory in your heritage.

⁶ Both we and our ancestors have sinned;
we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.

[106.4](#) Heb mss Gk: MT *me*

a. [106.4](#) Heb mss Gk: MT *me*

¹⁹ They made a calf at Horeb
and worshiped a cast image.

²⁰ They exchanged the glory of God^[a]
for the image of an ox that eats grass.

²¹ They forgot God, their Savior,
who had done great things in Egypt,

²² wondrous works in the land of Ham,
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.^[b]

²³ Therefore he said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the breach before him,
to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

[Read full chapter](#)

a. [106.20](#) Compare Gk mss: Heb *exchanged their glory*

b. [106.22](#) Or *Sea of Reeds*

Philippians 4:1-7

4 ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Exhortations

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion,^[a] help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice^[b] in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.^[c] ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

[Read full chapter](#)

- a. [4.3](#) Or *loyal Syzygus*
- b. [4.4](#) Or *Farewell*
- c. [4.4](#) Or *Farewell*

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

Message

Finding Joy

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Hymn

It is Well with My Soul

(UMH #377)

All

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Joys and Concern/Prayers of the People

God, we come into your presence with praise and thanksgiving for your faithful love.

Your love never fails—not even when we turn away from you: when we ignore your invitation, or desert you for gods of our own making.

Even then, you do not abandon us, but reach out—again and again—inviting us back into relationship once more.

As you welcome us, so you welcome our prayers. We bring them to you with confidence, knowing that you will hear and answer.

We pray for the world you created and the people who share it with us:- for countries caught up in war or violent conflict,

For those whose homes and lives are threatened by natural disaster; for these and all the other areas in our world where there is need and despair, Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our country and for its people:- for our government leaders, federal and local,- for our judicial system, police forces, and military,- for our cities, towns, and rural communities- for employers and employees, for young and old,

For all who are part of this great country, Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our local community—the people of Dundas, Faribault, Northfield and surrounding communities,

For those who are unemployed,- for those in prison - for those who are hungry- for those who are alone and afraid, for all our neighbors, both known and unknown to us, Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation—our siblings in Christ,- for those who are ill or whose loved ones are ill,- for those who are anxious about the future,

Lord, hear our prayer. Pour out your Spirit on us! Fix our hearts and minds on what is true and honourable and right. Give us the joy and peace that comes from knowing and doing your will. Keep us faithful to the call we have received in Christ Jesus, our Lord, extending your loving invitation to the world around us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Adapted from Christine Longhurst, posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/prayers-of-people-october-9-2011.html>.

Offering

Dan Dauner

Doxology

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

All

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Steadfast Joy, when “always” feels larger than our capacity, you remain near. In gratitude, we bring these gifts, signs of love learned from you.

Quiet our anxious hearts and turn our attention toward what is true, honorable, and worthy of praise.

Shape us into a people whose generosity is gentleness made visible, whose offerings declare we are on the side of our neighbors.

Receive what we place in your hands and let it become courage, welcome, and hope. Guard us with your peace as we press on in Christ. Amen. (Philippians 4:1-9)

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 Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (UMH #206)*
All

Sending

Beloved, as you go from this place, may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding surround you, centering your minds on whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise and empowering you to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. 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

Dan Dauner

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 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*

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.

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