

Connec

A Publication of Mediapolis and Sperry Global Methodist Churches



August 2025

Sperry

**11756 Sperry Road
Sperry, IA 52650**

**9:00 AM Sunday Worship
10:15 AM Adult Small Group**

Mediapolis

**601 North Street
Mediapolis, IA 52637**

**9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Sunday Worship**

Mailing Address

**PO Box 38
Mediapolis, IA 52637**

Office Telephone

**319.394.3131
After hours emergency
phone number: 319.768.8593**

Office Hours

**Tuesday—Friday
9:00 AM—12:00 PM
1:30 PM—4:00 PM
Closed Mondays**

E-mail

**Office
mepomethch@mepotelco.net
Pastor Bruce Smith
pastorbrucesmith@gmail.com
Deacon Tracey Burgus
traceyburgus@gmail.com**

Web Site

www.mepochurch.com

Facebook

**www.facebook.com/mepochurch
www.facebook.com/sperrychurch**

We've had a pretty wet July, which has left this guy with some serious crabgrass in his garden. I've pulled this stuff by the bucketful over the past month, and it just keeps coming back. Growing up, I never really knew why they called it crabgrass. Now I do, but I also think part of the reason is because we can get pretty crabby the more we have to pull it! I'm going to keep pulling it, though, no matter how much it grows, no matter how hot the days get, and no matter how hard it is on my hands. I've worked this process into a form of spiritual discipline as I consider the analogy of how we continue to grow in Christ. When Jesus shared the Parable of the Sower, sometimes we stop the idea that it's a one-time event. That seed planted either takes root right away, or it gets choked out by weeds right away, or birds eat it right away... You get the idea. What if it's more than that? What if our life in Christ is planted and rooted well, but we still face seasons where weeds attempt to choke out our ability to produce Spiritual fruit? Even though we may be well rooted and grounded in our faith, weeds can still cause damage. They may not choke out the seed entirely like they would with a young plant in the Parable

of the Sower, but weeds can still inhibit a harvest. In a garden, weeds steal nutrients, they hog moisture, some weeds invite pests that wouldn't be there otherwise, and some can even overshadow the plant so it doesn't get the sunlight it needs. Imagine this kind of damage on a Spiritual level. Pulling weeds that harm our spiritual growth is hard work, too. We can't seem to get them all on our own. When I consider the deeper matters of how I need God's grace in my life to tend this garden of my heart and remove the weeds that can harm my ability to produce Spiritual fruit, well, I don't get so crabby when I'm pulling that crabgrass after all. It's a simple application, but anything that keeps our focus on growing in Christ is worth the time and effort. So the next time you're face to face with the weeds in your garden, or in the Church yard, or the weeds in your life, pull what you can and perhaps consider this same kind of Spiritual discipline. As you consider some of these same thoughts, turn quickly to our Heavenly Father and trust that He can tend the garden of our hearts much better than we can do on our own.

In Christ,

Pastor Bruce Smith



Ten years ago, our churches began participating in something known at that time as the Bishop's Initiative on Poverty/Change a Child's Story. The initiative lasted two years. During the next eight years we ventured out on our own and continued giving books away. In the course of eight years we have placed over 17,450 books in the hands of young readers. A preschool aged child when this initiative began as a fifth grade student would have received over 25 books. Statistics show that more than 61% of children in poverty in America don't have access to children's books in their homes (The Campaign for Grade Level Reading.) Because they are unable to practice the skills that they have learned in their coursework at school, this puts them at a disadvantage for being able to read on grade level with their peers by the time they are in third grade (actually reading 2 to 2 ½ years below their peers.) Statistics show that children who are not reading at grade level by third grade are 13 times more likely to drop out of school (The Campaign for Grade Level Reading.) We have been able to impact these statistics in a positive way by putting books into the hands of children in our school district. We will continue to participate in giving away books to students in preschool through fifth grade during the 2025-2026 school year. Sadly, as inflation has continued to hit our nation hard, the cost of

books has increased dramatically. In the past we were able to give 4 books to each child. In the 2024-2025 school year we were able to give 3 books to preschool through third grade students and 2 books to fourth and fifth grade students (these are still awesome numbers.) Your generosity in making these past 10 years of giving books possible has been overwhelming! We have been blessed to receive grant money each year from the Burlington Kiwanis who have partnered with us to help make this giveaway happen! I pray that we again will be able to reach out with God's love to bless the children/families in our community. *Please remember to take time in the midst of these busy summer weeks to keep in contact with friends, members of our church family, and others who are homebound, in assisted living, and care centers in the area. A call or a note from you could brighten the day of someone who might be feeling isolated or depressed!

Blessings,
Tracey



NEED PRAYER OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?

Organized prayer teams are available to minister to your needs. Please contact the church office with your prayer requests.

MEAL MINISTRY

The purpose of our Meal Ministry is to provide meals for families in our congregation who are recovering from an illness, surgery or childbirth. If you are aware of anyone who may need meals, please contact the church office.

Please call the church office if you or a family member will be admitted into the hospital.

Thank You!

Sunday Worship

IN PERSON

9:00AM @ Sperry
10:00AM @ Mediapolis

ONLINE

10:00AM

[www.mepochurch.com/
sermons.html](http://www.mepochurch.com/sermons.html)

www.facebook.com/mepochurch

PARKING LOT

10:00AM

Mediapolis Methodist Church
(live only) over 87.9 FM

AUGUST DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

One of the best ways to know God is to become acquainted with the full counsel of His written Word.
This reading plan will guide you through all 66 books of the Bible in the coming year

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Isaiah 60 – 63	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Jeremiah 25 – 27	<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Jeremiah 51 – 52
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Isaiah 64 – 66	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Jeremiah 28 – 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Lamentations 1 – 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Jeremiah 1 – 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Jeremiah 31 – 32	<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Lamentations 3 – 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Jeremiah 4 – 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Jeremiah 33 – 36	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Ezekiel 1 – 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Jeremiah 6 – 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Jeremiah 37 – 39	<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Ezekiel 5 – 8
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Jeremiah 9 – 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Jeremiah 40 – 43	<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Ezekiel 9 – 12
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Jeremiah 12 – 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Jeremiah 44 – 46	<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Ezekiel 13 – 15
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Jeremiah 15 – 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Jeremiah 47 – 48	<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Ezekiel 16 – 17
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Jeremiah 18 – 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Jeremiah 49	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Ezekiel 18 – 20
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Jeremiah 22 – 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Jeremiah 50	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Ezekiel 21 – 22
				<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Ezekiel 23 – 24



8/04 Terry Hicks
Jan Strassheim
8/05 Randy Hollingsworth
8/08 Erika Thie
8/10 Bryana Klenk
8/12 Lishay Allen
8/14 Pam Honson
Becky Mellinger
Alice Thie
Lynette Wagg
Colby Whitaker
8/16 Roy Delzell
8/17 Tony Patterson
8/19 Melodee Kennedy
8/20 Adam Moehle
8/24 Jill Klenk
8/25 Wanda Cover
Micah Smith
8/26 Rita Cortum
8/27 Cheryl Lieurance
8/29 Dave Bruegger



8/07 Gary & Colleen Earnest
8/08 Brady & Claire Schmidt
8/10 Chris & Christa Parry
8/14 Kevin & Erin Bush
8/20 Jacob & Cara Schnedler
8/22 Kevin & Terri Johnson

This Month...

Communion will be celebrated
on Sunday, August 3rd

Prayer Group @ Mediapolis
Tuesday, August 5 & 26—6:30
pm

2nd Sunday Social @ Sperry
Sunday, August 10 Following the
service

Prayer Group @ Sperry
Thursday, August 14 & 28—6:15
pm

Mepo Ad Council
Tuesday, August 19—7:30 PM

Ice Cream Social @ Sperry
Wednesday, August 20—4:30
pm—7:30 pm

**T&C Days Ecumenical
Service @ Cartwright Park**
Sunday, August 24—10:30 am