



# One Page Sermon

## By Pastor Robb McCoy

### April 14, 2024

## Native American Ministries Sunday

Recap of service from April 14, 2024  
At Camp Milan Retreat Center

Nearly 100 people came to Camp Milan Retreat Center for a wonderful morning of worship and fellowship. Pastor Lisa Wiedman, Robb McCoy, and Rev. Dan Lybarger shared the leadership of the service that combined three churches to celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday.

Two Rivers, Green River (Colona), and Trinity (Milan) came together to share a service that blended the Gospel of Christ with Native American spirituality. Pastor Lisa began the service with a prayer to the Four Winds. She also closed the service with a Communion liturgy that was written by a Native American leader. The elements for Communion were homemade fried bread and cherry juice, which are more indigenous to America than grapes.

Pastor Robb shared a land acknowledgment and a moment of silence for the peoples that occupied this land before white settlers. He also shared a short reflection on this visit to the Meskwaki lands in Tama, Iowa. The Meskwaki are very proud to live on a settlement that they own as a people. They are not on a reservation. The story of how that came to be was an inspiring story of allyship and friendship between the Meskwaki and their European neighbors. He also led the people in a prayer of confession for misusing the land.

Augustana Professor of History Dr. Jane Simonsen shared about the local history of Black Hawk, the Sauk and Fox tribes. The village of Saukenuk was near today's Black Hawk park. At one time it was a population of nearly 6,000. White settlers moved into Saukenuk while the people were on one of their extended hunting trips. When Black Hawk and his people returned, they were justifiably upset. The resulting violence, pursuit, and massacre of the people became known as the Black Hawk War. It ended in 1832, finally expelling the people to the western side of the Mississippi River. First Methodist Episcopal Church was chartered in 1833. This is not a coincidence. This history is something we need to acknowledge.

Even as we are proud of being the first church in Rock Island County, we can acknowledge the problematic parts of our past as well. Rev. Lybarger made sure to explain that the pain



of the past is real. The scars are present. Telling the stories of our past is an important part of our ability to heal.

He told stories of Native American resilience, survival, and healing. He shared a dream shared ministry, of respecting native culture, and learning from the expertise and values of indigenous people. Indigenous wisdom hold important keys to our survival as a people. It is not too late to heal, learn, and work together with a renewed sense of hope and community.

Two different TV news crews were on hand.

There was a particularly nice piece shared by KWQC. The Worship at Home video of the service is also online, and well worth checking out if you can.



**Next Week: Part 1 of 4 "The Women of Acts"  
Sapphira, Acts 5:1-11**