

## **Parish News • Friday, October 16, 2020**

Ely United Methodist Church Members/Friends,

Greetings from Pastor Craig! We are now halfway through the month of October and what a gorgeous fall we are having. It rained all day yesterday, but we need the moisture, too, as river and lake levels are really low.

This morning the weather is cool and brisk and there is (gulp!) snow in the forecast for tomorrow. We know, of course, these wide swings in weather conditions go with the territory of living in such a beautiful corner of our state.

**Item #1:** Last Saturday I sent you a message mentioning that despite very careful due diligence on my part I had been exposed to the Coronavirus. Yesterday my Covid-19 test came back positive.

This is deeply disappointing because I have been so careful to stay infection-free, because it is introducing some uncertainty into my personal plans, and it is delaying our return to our sanctuary for in-person worship. I'm sorry for any hardship this is causing our congregation.

On a positive note, it appears as though, so far, I have a mild case. My highest temperature has been 99.0 and most readings are in the 96 and 97-degree range.

I haven't had any chills, loss of taste/smell, or other symptoms on the list, save a mild, but troubling, headache and some fatigue.

I continue to work from home about half days, using the rest of the time to do what I can to promote a full recovery. My biggest challenge seems to be staying positive emotionally and I find myself experiencing minor mood swings. I am working on this. Thank you for all your prayers, expressions of support, and offers to run errands or do some shopping for me. I'm grateful.

I will continue to follow CDC guidelines regarding quarantine and monitoring of symptoms before venturing out publicly and returning to work.

**Item #2:** There will be no worship services at our church this Sunday, October 18th. I have recorded a sermon that you can find online at <http://www.elyumc.org/sermons.shtml>.

Our Administrative Council will have a virtual meeting this coming Wednesday (October 21st) to consider how and when to safely return to in-person worship in our church sanctuary. We will keep you updated each step of the way through our Parish News messages, which come out each Friday that I am in town.

**Item #3:** Please find attached this week's edition of Home Touch, the devotional resource forwarded by

Judy Lightower, the North Star District Parish Nurse.

**Item #4:** Please find attached the Prayer Wall for this Sunday.

**Item #5:** I have attached a written copy of my sermon for this Sunday in two formats and am including it as hard copy for those of you who receive Parish News by U.S. mail. I just finished transcribing the sermon from the audio recording I made on Wednesday, but I don't have the mental acuity right now, because of my Covid-19 symptoms, to proofread, so you'll have to pardon any errors. Thank you!

Thank you also to Dan and Bev Johnson for printing this edition of Parish News for those who receive it through the mail, for assembling the sheets, folding them, putting them into envelopes, addressing the envelopes, and delivering them to the Post Office. Again, I am grateful.

Hear now this traditional benediction from the Book of Numbers.

“The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and grant you peace, from this time forth and forevermore.”

Pastor Craig