

Parish News • Friday, November 6, 2020

Ely United Methodist Church Members/Friends,

Greetings! Wow, the weather has been unseasonably warm lately. Earlier this week Benson, in the western part of Minnesota, had a high of eighty-two degrees. It was close to seventy degrees here in Ely.

This late burst of summer has been delightful after the cold and snow of mid-October. I am planning on having a fire in the parsonage driveway tonight in my portable fire-pit. But we do need cooler weather for deer hunting and it's that time of year anyway.

Item #1: We took a big step forward yesterday in understanding how to utilize the technology upgrade our church has added. Two items stand out here: First, we are now able to project sound and video from upstairs into our church basement, thanks to the installation of an HDMI cable. Second, we have learned how to stream worship services on Facebook Live.

Beginning this Sunday, November 8th, we will live-stream our worship service beginning a few minutes before 10:00. If you have a Facebook account, go to the Ely United Methodist Church, Ely, MN page and click on the video post there. Note: If you have previously "followed" our FB page, you will receive a notification of the service as it begins. Click on the

notification.

If you are not presently following us and would like to, go to our page and locate three dots (...) at the extreme right side of a horizontal “list” or “line” of options, which begins with Home, About, Photos, etc..... Click on the three dots and then select “follow” from the drop-down menu that appears.

If you don't have a Facebook account, enter the following URL into a web browser window.

<http://www.facebook.com/elyunitedmethodistchurch/live>.

Please contact Pastor Craig or someone on our Administrative Council if you are having any difficulties. We are aware there will be bugs to work out with live streaming during the first month or so, just as there was with our summer outdoor service.

Note: The music for the hymns for this Sunday is attached to this message in case you wish to follow along.

Item #2: Our original plan was to return to our church sanctuary with in-person worship services this Sunday, November 8th,. However with the sharp spike in the spread of Covid-19 infections in Minnesota, the Minnesota Annual Conference has moved the needle to “orange,” which means we can have no more than ten people in our building at one

time.

<https://www.minnesotauc.org/regatheringplan>.

Last night our Administrative Council decided the following:

- We can safely have twenty people in our building at any given time, ten upstairs and ten downstairs. People attending upstairs will enter through the front door and remain in the sanctuary for the entire service, wearing masks, using hand sanitizer provided, and keeping safe social distance. People attending downstairs will enter through the basement door and remain downstairs for the entire service, again wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, and keeping safe social distance. There will be an usher to assist you in each location.
- It will require approximately 5 people to “run” our worship service, leaving room for 15 people or so to attend in person.
- For the first several weeks we will not have any additional attendees in the building while we work out all the wrinkles with this new endeavor.
- If you have Wi-Fi, in order to accommodate members of our congregation without Internet access to attend in person, we are asking you remain at home and participate by viewing the service on Facebook live.

- Between now and Thanksgiving we will reach out by phone to people we know do not have Wi-Fi, in order to see if they are interested in attending worship in person. Please give the church or Pastor Craig a call if you have not heard from us by then, leaving a message if necessary.

Item #3: Yearly, the Minnesota Annual Conference collects a Love Offering from United Methodist Churches in Minnesota in conjunction with our Annual Conference gathering. Each spring in the past, we have invited you to contribute to this offering, which always goes to mission projects. Our lay delegate then brings our contribution to Annual Conference.

Annual Conference didn't meet this year, so we are offering this opportunity as Thanksgiving approaches. You may make contributions between now and the end of November by making out a check to Ely United Methodist Church and writing "Love Offering" in the memo line.

The following link describes the four mission projects that will receive the proceeds of the offering.

<https://www.minnesotauc.org/loveoffering>.

Thank you!

Item #4: We received the following thank you note from Lisa Porthan and Northwood Partners this week: Pastor Craig/the Ely United Methodist Church

congregation.

Thank you for your generous gift of \$200 to Northwoods Partners. We are thrilled to have your support. Because of your donation we will be able to continue our work towards the goal of creating a community where people are able to age with dignity. Thank you!

Thank you so much for your generous support during these challenging times. We are very grateful for your donation. It will make a difference! God Bless You! Lisa

Item #5: Please find attached the minutes from the Ely United Methodist Church Zoom meeting of October 21, 2020.

Item #6: Our annual Church Conference will be held Wednesday, December 16th at 6:30 p.m. We won't know until the time gets closer if it will be Zoom only or if this will be a hybrid event, with some people in the building and others at home. For now, mark it on your calendars.

Item #7: Please find attached the Prayer Wall for this Sunday.

Hear now these words from Psalm 121.

“The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep

your life. The Lord will keep you going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore.”

With my appreciation,
Pastor Craig