

Parish News • Friday, November 20, 2020

Ely United Methodist Church Members/Friends,

Greetings! Yesterday was unseasonably warm, but for the next several days the forecast is back weather typical of late November. Wednesday the NBA draft brought a pleasant surprise; Ricky Rubio is returning to the Minnesota Timberwolves. I've always been a Ricky Rubio fan!

Also on Wednesday, in response to record Covid-19 infections and deaths in Minnesota, Governor Tim Walz, announced a four-week shutdown of a selected group of businesses, ordered a pause to youth sports, and placed a limit on social gatherings to single households.

So now we are back to where we were last spring when Minnesota was shut down for 51 days. All this is happening as winter approaches and when we are irresistibly drawn to gather with the people we love for Thanksgiving. I think many of us are feeling sadness and apprehension during what is typically a delightful and festive time of year.

On a brighter note, there was the announcement of a second safe vaccine, which reportedly is 95% effective and is more easily stored. This is the bright light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, yet I recognize our far away it all seems.

Item #1: Last week we moved the laptop computer we are using to broadcast our Facebook Live service to the front of the church, which seemed to be an improvement. We also tried to make it feel as though more people were in the sanctuary by passing along the real-time

greetings that you included in the comments section.

A number of people commented that my voice was muffled and hard to understand. When our camera is finally delivered there will be a direct wire connection from our sound system to the camera so the sound will be much clearer. In the meantime our Administrative Council has suggested I wear a face shield rather than a mask. This should improve the clarity of my voice and allow you to see my facial expressions while still providing “virus safety” for all people in the sanctuary.

Thank you for tuning in and for you comments. Please continue to give us your feedback!

Note: Yesterday Bishop Bruce Ough moved our “re-gathering meter” **to red**, which places further limitations on our church activities, including worship services. Our Administrative Council will meet again tonight to make any necessary adjustments. We’ll pass along an update next week. **The worship service will still be streamed on Facebook Live.**

Item #2: Part of our Administrative Council discussion on Wednesday dealt with plans for Christmas 2020 at our church.

- We will have poinsettias again this year and are offering you a chance to purchase one in memory of a loved one(s). Each plant costs \$14.00. You can mail or drop off payment at the church with a note indicating whom you want the poinsettia to be in memory of. As with previous years you may take the poinsettia home after Christmas. The deadline for ordering is December 1.

- Our Facebook Live Christmas Eve Service will be December 24th at 5:30 p.m. You may, of course, tune in at your convenience on Facebook Live anytime after that.
- The Minnesota Annual Conference is producing a worship service for Sunday, December 27th and making the service available to all churches in our Annual Conference. We decided not to hold our own service on the 27th and to invite people to stream this service led by Bishop Bruce Ough and other Annual Conference leadership. Watch for a link to the service as December 27th approaches.

Item #3: Please find attached minutes of a special Administrative Council meeting on November 4, 2020. We will pass along the Administrative Council meeting minutes from our November 18, 2020 in a future edition of Parish News.

Item #4: 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.

Covid-19 is keeping our Nominating Committee from meeting this fall. Our response is to keep current church officers and committee members in their present positions for another year. We recognize not everyone will be able to serve for another year in his or her current capacity for any number of reasons. If this is the case for you, please call Pastor Craig at the church (365-3355) or parsonage (365-3716) leaving a message if necessary.

Item #5: This week's Prayer Wall is attached.

Last week I announced that there would be no Parish News on November 27th. My plans have changed and I will not be traveling out of town for Thanksgiving, so there will be Parish News a week from today.

I will also bring Thanksgiving Greetings and a brief word, next Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, via Facebook Live.

Hear now these words from Hebrews 13:20-21. "Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen."

With my appreciation,

Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

November 20, 2020

This is a guide for prayer this week. The *Prayer Wall* is a reminder of those needing prayers during devotional times. Thank you for dedicating some of your personal prayer time to lift up these requests.

James 5: 15-16



“And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him (or her) up....The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.”

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Mike Haney** – Gail’s husband is in the hospital having some tests done. Pray for a good outcome.
- **Abbey** – Linda Gass’s 8 yr old granddaughter is having brain surgery on December 14 to reduce seizures
- **Don Markwardt** – The second procedure in St. Luke’s went well and Don is much improved
- **Steve White** – Charlie Berglund’s nephew is battling colon & liver cancer and after his bout with COVID-19 is now having surgery to remove half his liver. Pray for successful surgery and healing.
- **Gary & Dayle Felder, family and friends** – Gary’s father, James at 96, passed away last Saturday
- **Andy Baker** – Will be moving back to Ohio to be closer to his son and his beloved Ohio State Buckeyes
- **Motley Free UMC** – Pastor Jim Johnson & wife Sheri & many church members have COVID-19
- **Ina Happala** – Irene Hatfield’s Sister, Ina, had a TIA, a type of stroke, pray for healing & recovery
- **Emma Smrekar** – Carolyn Fendt’s great granddaughter receiving chemo treatment for stomach cancer
- **Bob Niewierowski** – Toni Floyd asked for prayers for Bob and his wife, Barb a member of the H-2-H Quilting Group, Bob was diagnosed with CIDP: Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy; a rare nervous system disorder where the immune system does not recognize parts of the nerves and attacks them, similar to Guillain-Barre Syndrome, except chronic.
- **Diane Rench family & friends** – Butch and Lucy’s long time friends. Diane’s husband, Allen, passed away suddenly from a pulmonary embolism
- **Eileen Springer family & friends** – Eileen’s husband, Bob, passed away while in hospice at home
- **Health care workers and residents of Ely Carefree Living** – Those who have tested + for COVID-19
- **Those who have contracted the COVID-19 Virus and Family Members**
- **All essential health care workers exposed to the COVID-19 virus**

We include all the United Methodist Churches and Pastors, both active and retired, in our MN UMC Annual Conference as we work in extraordinary ways to keep our congregations and communities free from infection by the COVID-19 virus.

Prayer requests are compiled from our church prayer chain, from our Sunday morning church congregation using the prayer request forms located in the pew welcome pads, and the North Star District Prayer List. Prayer requests will remain on the Prayer Wall through four weeks unless removed earlier because the prayer is known to be no longer necessary. People may ask that prayers be renewed on the list for subsequent 4-week periods. The Prayer Wall is finalized each Thursday for the Sunday morning service.