

Parish News • February 12, 2021

Ely United Methodist Church Members/Friends,

Greetings from Pastor Craig! The temperature in Ely is minus 35 degrees as I write these words on Thursday morning. The stubborn cold weather is taking its good old time in moving through our area and looks as though it will be around until this time next week. But, hey, think how pleasant 20 degrees above zero will feel when the warmer weather finally arrives!

I did have a few bouts of "cabin fever" early this week, but my spirits were lifted by seeing some of you during a number of Zoom meetings and also by several brief forays out of the house to run errands. This too shall pass.....

The church season of Lent begins on next Wednesday, February 17th, which means that Easter is a mere six weeks after that. So, as I've been mentioning, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Item #1: Ash Wednesday has become one of my favorite worship services of the year, just behind Christmas Eve, Easter, and Pentecost.

It's not unusual for Ash Wednesday and the church season of Lent to be seen as one big "downer" where the message is that we should feel bad about ourselves because we're not the people we know we ought to be. And we are further encouraged to give up something for Lent so we can empathize with the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

This is more a misplaced emphasis, rather than an out and out error. Yes, we are sinners; and yes, we will all die. So, the service merely affirms what we already know to be true. But on a hopeful note, in facing these two unpleasant realities, we also are offered the joyful affirmation that in Jesus Christ God has overcome both sin and death.

So although during the service I do see clearly the sober reality of how things are in my life and the world, my heart is also warmed by the more substantial recognition of God's love, grace, and mercy that overcomes all things.

Our *Facebook Live* worship service will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday,

February 17th. We encourage those who wish to attend the service in person to do so. (See Item #2 below.)

Those who choose to worship at home may pick up some ashes at the church between 2:00 and 5:00 on the 17th. Someone will be at church to assist you. Please come wearing your mask.

If you're not able to pick up ashes you can burn some plant leaves mixed with paper and add a little oil.

Item #2: In light of the low infection numbers in Ely recently, we're opening up our worship services for anyone who wishes to attend in person, whether you have Internet at home or not. We're able to safely seat up to ten worshippers upstairs in the sanctuary in addition to those leading the service and ten worshippers in the basement where we have a large, high definition television mounted on the wall.

All worshippers wear masks throughout the service and are seated at safe social distances from one another.

Call Jeanne Tomlinson at 218-235-8470 if you would like to attend.

Item #3: Please find our January Administrative Council minutes either enclosed for those receiving *Parish News* through the mail or attached for those receiving *Parish News* electronically.

Item #4: Please find this week's Prayer Wall either enclosed for those receiving *Parish News* through the mail or attached for those receiving *Parish News* electronically.

There will be no *Parish News* next week. The next edition will be Friday, February 26, 2021.

Hear now the first seven verses of Psalm 46.

¹*God is our refuge and strength, a very present^[a] help in trouble.*

²*Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; ³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. ⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵God is in the midst of the city;^[b] it shall not be*

moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. ⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ⁷The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

With my warmest regards,
Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

February 12, 2021

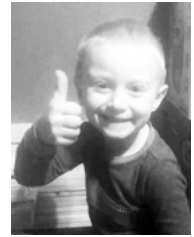
This is a guide for prayer this week. The *Prayer Wall* is a reminder of those needing prayers during devotional times. Thank you for dedicating some of your personal prayer time to lift up these requests.

James 5: 15-16

Zeke Urbas with clear scans!



“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...

- **Pastor Jim Johnson** – Pastor of the Motley UMC is suffering from high blood pressure and has a medical team working on the cause and treatment.
- **Rich Siegert** – Update: Rich is now home after receiving heart stents and is waiting for scheduled heart bypass surgery. An Anna Urbas mentor had a severe heart attack & will receive stents when stabilized
- **Dan Johnson** – Update. Dan is now home and making great improvements. Thanks for all your prayers
- **Stan & Lois Gray** – Update: Lois passed away, but Stan is doing much better and on the mend. Carol Laine asked for prayers for Stan and Lois, Carol's brother and sister-in-law, who are both in intensive care in McAllen, TX and not doing well.
- **Tracy Lundeen** – Update: Tracy is now home on oxygen and is improving each day. Anna Urbas's friend Kynze's father is now out of ICU, but believed to have COVID-19 pneumonia effecting his heart & lungs
- **Linda Fryer** – Linda Fryer, who had cervical spine surgery, is now home and able to walk with support
- **Emma Smrekar** – Carolyn Fendt's great granddaughter is receiving chemo and radiation treatments
- **Zeke Urbas** – Zeke Urbas's follow-up scans came out all clear. Praise God!
- **Diane Richards family & friends** – Pam Turnbull's friend, Diane, passed away from a heart attack
- **Chris McDermott family & friends** – Carol Linneman's step-sister passed away from COVID-19
- **Ted Schreffler** – Tricia's father-in-law and Jim's dad is not doing well. Pray for healing and comfort
- **Madison** – Angie Olson's cousin's 16 year old daughter was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Prayer for healing treatments
- **Mike and Gail Haney** – Mike is having consultations in Duluth for brain and lung cancer treatments
- **Linda Williams** – Is having health issues & is recovering in the BWCC. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **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.

**Ely United Methodist Church
Sunday, February 14, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

**Welcome
Prelude**

Pastor Craig
Susan Germek

Opening Hymn #144 This is My Father's World
Opening Prayer

Children's Time

Old Testament Reading II Kings 2:1-12
Gospel Reading Mark 9:2-9

Hymn #172 My Jesus, I Love Thee

Sermon

Pastor Craig

Hymn #408 The Gift of Love

**Prayer Wall
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer**

**Offertory
Doxology**

Closing Song #258 O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair
**Ringing of the Bell
Benediction
Postlude**

Leading worship: Pastor Craig Haberman
Accompanist: Susan Germek
Song Leader: Bev Johnson
Liturgist: Jan Rue

This Is My Father's World

1. This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-tening ears all
 2. This is my Fa-ther's world, the birds their car-ols raise, the
 3. This is my Fa-ther's world. O let me ne'er for - get that

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world: I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world: he shines in all that's fair; in the
 This is my Fa-ther's world: why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
 rust - ling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev - ery - where.
 Lord is King; let the heav - ens ring! God reigns; let the earth be glad!

The Gift of Love

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
 2. Though I may give all I pos - sess,
 3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol,

for
and
I'll

and have the gift to all in - spire,
 and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
 our spir - its long to be made whole.

My
I'll

and have not love, my words are vain,
 but not be given by love with - in,
 Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;

and

as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

WORDS: Hal Hopson, 1972 (1 Cor. 13:1-3)
 MUSIC: Trad. English melody; adapt. by Hal Hopson, 1972

GIFT OF LOVE
LM

© 1972 Hope Publishing Co.

MUSIC: Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876

GORDON

The Gift of Love

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
 2. Though I may give all I pos - sess,
 3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol,

and have the gift to all in - spire,
 and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
 our spir - its long to be made whole.

and have not love, my words are vain,
 but not be given by love with - in,
 Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;

as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

258 O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair

1. O won - drous sight! O vi - sion fair
 2. From age to age the tale de - clares
 3. The law and proph - ets there have place,
 4. With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray,
 5. And faith - ful hearts are raised on high

of glo - ry that the church shall share,
 how with the three dis - ci - ples there
 two cho - sen wit - ness - es of grace;
 Christ deigns to man - i - fest that day
 by this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y;

which Christ up - on the moun - tain shows,
 where Mo - ses and E - li - jah meet,
 the Fa - ther's voice from out the cloud
 what glo - ry shall be theirs a - bove
 for which in joy - ful strains we raise

where bright - er than the sun he glows!
 the Lord holds con - verse high and sweet.
 pro - claims his on - ly Son a - loud.
 who joy in God with per - fect love.
 the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

WORDS: *Sarum Breviary*, 1495; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1851
 (Mt. 17:1-8; Mk. 9:2-8; Lk. 9:28-36)

MUSIC: William Knapp, 1738; harm. from *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875

WAREHAM
 LM

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 - Virtual meeting via Zoom

Call To Order: Chair Dan Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

Attendees (9): Lucy Diesslin, Craig Haberman, Dan Johnson, Margie & Mark Olson, Donna & Norman Rusco, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson.

Opening: Pastor Craig talked briefly about how his mother would have had her 90th birthday this year but she died 3 years ago which got him thinking about birth & death. Babies cry when they are born and frequently people when dying seem to reach out to something. Perhaps it is because there is a place of comfort that babies are coming from and people who die are going to. He then opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes: The December 16, 2020 Annual Church Conference and Ad Council minutes, as previously distributed to Ad Council members, were approved. Motion to approve by Jay Tomlinson; second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Mark Olson had previously sent out a copy of an amended copy of the November 2020 and the December 2020 Treasurer's reports. The November 2020 report ending balance information had been corrected in the amended version. The account balances as of the end of December 2020 – which are also our year-end balances – are General Fund \$31,184.24; Memorial Fund \$9,912.57; Building Fund \$4,373.97. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we accept the Treasurer's reports as submitted, second by Jay Tomlinson. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Trustees:** Margie Olson reported that she and Pam Turnbull and Susan Germek had cleaned out the storage room in the back of the sanctuary. Some items were discarded, others were moved to the library or the garage. They are planning to approach Marshall Monthei to make a table that would be in the storage room to hold the choir "cubbies" so that they wouldn't be cluttering up the front of the sanctuary. Craig is working on cleaning out the church office. There were some UMW financial documents that need to be checked out to determine if they need to be kept. Lucy Diesslin will check them out.
- **Worship:** Pastor Craig reported that the Worship Committee will meet on February 1 to discuss Ash Wednesday (Feb 17) and Holy Week (Mar 28-Apr 4) services.
- **Outreach:** Jay Tomlinson reported that the 2 apartment trees were taken down in early January.
- **Visioning:** Pastor Craig reported that the committee had attempted to meet on Jan 14 but had some technical difficulties with the virtual meeting and so postponed the meeting until February.
- **Parish Care:** Donna Rusco reported that she gave out two prayer shawls and continues to make care calls. Norman Rusco provided transportation to & from the clinic for one of our parishioners. She also commented that Margie Olson has been very active in Parish Care. She did quite a bit for Andy Baker before he moved to Ohio.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Ongoing assessment of live streaming our Sunday service:** Jay commented that he now has Zach Rue and Lily Tedrick trained on the camera to serve in his absence. The general consensus is that we've worked through a number of issues and it is finally going smoothly.
2. **Choir use of building for practice** (topic tabled from Dec 16 meeting): Jeanne moved that the choir be allowed to have practice in the sanctuary whenever they are ready to resume, as long as they wear their special singing masks and practice additional social distancing. Second by Margie Olson. Motion passed.
3. **Use of Hymnals:** Pastor Craig recommended that we allow in-house worshippers to use the hymnals and just rotate the supply so that each hymnal would probably only be used once a

month, which from all reports on the coronavirus, would make them quite safe. This will save a lot on paper and ink. He is also recommended we return to our usual bulletin format for the in-house worshippers. The Worship Committee will decide on the details. Margie Olson moved that we accept Pastor Craig's recommendation. Second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Phased opening of sanctuary for worship** (see Addendum below): Pastor Craig briefly summarized his recommendations about gradually opening our church to more attendees. All present agreed with his recommendations.
2. **Church computer:** Pastor Craig reported that the desktop computer in the church office is no longer working and recommended it be replaced. It was felt that we should have a small ad-hoc committee to check into what would meet our church needs and report back. Pastor Craig will put a notice in the *Parish News* to ask for volunteers. Bev Johnson volunteered (via Dan Johnson) to be a member of the committee.
3. **TBD leadership vacancies from annual conference nominations:** After our annual conference, the following were still unfilled positions: Lay Member to the Annual Conference and Alternate, Finance Committee Chair and a 3rd member for the Annual Audit Committee. We decided the Audit Committee probably doesn't need to have 3 people and won't be meeting for awhile anyway because of COVID-19. Jay Tomlinson offered to serve as the Lay Member to the Annual Conference and will talk to Sheri & Keith Rue about possibly serving as Alternates. Mark Olson agreed to serve as Finance Committee Chair.

Items of Information

1. **Next Ad Council meeting:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 7 PM.
2. **Front steps tape:** Mark Olson reported that he had taped off the west side steps at the front of the church because they keep icing over, even with salt being applied. Since there aren't that many people using them, it's safer to just not use them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM with Pastor Craig leading a recitation of the *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

ADDENDUM

Ely United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Meeting
January 27, 2021

Thoughts on Expanding Sunday Morning
Worship Numbers

In light of the following factors we're now at a point of reconsidering the number of worshippers attending Sunday morning worship in person.

- Our camera is up and running and we've ironed out most of the wrinkles of our Facebook Live worship service.
- The number of Covid-19 infections in Ely has been going down recently.
- The number of people in our community and congregation who have been vaccinated is slowly growing.
- We've figured out the safe number of worshippers we can have in our sanctuary and basement, where to seat worshippers, and how to safely conduct a worship service.
- We've prioritized those without Internet access at home as the first to attend worship in person in our building.
- After a ten month absence even people in our congregation who have Internet access desire to attend worship services in our church building.

Here is our new worship attendance policy effective February 1, 2021.

- Presently our upstairs "carrying capacity" is 10 people, plus the six or seven people assisting in leading the worship service.
- Our basement "carrying capacity" is 10 people.
- All church members, regardless of their access to Internet, are welcome to attend worship services in person by expressing their interest to Jeanne Tomlinson.
- We will decide week by week which people will be attending church upstairs or downstairs.
- People who have not yet attended in the sanctuary will be first invited to attend upstairs.
- People without Internet access at home will occasionally be invited to attend worship services in the basement as necessary to accommodate people upstairs that have not yet worshiped in the sanctuary in person.
- People who have been vaccinated (and present a card saying so) and who chose to identify as such will be seated upstairs and not included in the carrying capacity count.
- All people except Pastor Craig and other worship leaders will wear masks for the entire worship service. Worship leaders will take off their masks when they are on the altar platform.