

Parish News • July 23, 2021

Members and Friends of Ely United Methodist Church,

Greetings! I hope this note finds you well as the Ely Blueberry Festival 2021 weekend begins. The festival was cancelled a year ago, but here we are again being able to wander about, greet people we know, meet some new friends, and maybe get some of our Christmas shopping done. What's not to like about that?!

Two years ago, I purchased two identical large, framed magnetic maps of the United States; one for each of my sons and their families. They now have them mounted on their walls with small magnets marking past travel destinations and dreams for future trips.

Here's an experiment I'm going to try this weekend. I'm going to take some time while wandering about, to step outside my life (so to speak), thinking about the roads I've traveled across the years and especially during the past sixteen months. And then consider how I'd like to spend the next year(s).

The default human condition, it seems to me, is to run on automatic pilot, where, we move from week to week and season to season in our life with little conscious awareness of how we are answering that memorable question Mary Oliver ends one of her poems with. "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

Now it certainly is possible to over think all this – I've been there more often than I'd like to admit. Yet I think the other extreme happens more often where "being in the moment" simply becomes taking the path of least resistance, and we risk ending up spending our time and energy, our very self, not doing what truly matters most to us.

Please say "hi" if you see me wandering around town this weekend or any time, but if I look distracted, you'll know why.

The past month has been busy for me as I'm guessing summer 2021 has been for many of you.

- I made my first trip into Basswood Lake (Pipestone Bay) with my nephew, his girlfriend, and a friend of hers.
- My father's memorial service was in the Twin Cities at the end of June.
- My two sons, their wives, and my six grandchildren visited me in Ely and at the cabin for about ten days.

- Two short, but grueling trips to Crane Lake/Sand Point hauling the furniture and last items out of my parent's cabin and then saying "goodbye" after fifty-plus years.

Following worship, a week from Sunday (August 1st), I'll travel to the Cities in advance of flying out to Pittsburgh Monday to visit my family there for the first time since Thanksgiving 2019. Then I'll return and settle in for a post-Covid-fall here in Ely.

My very best wishes and God's blessings to each of you and your families as you soak up each and every moment of our all too brief summer "Up North."

And, of course, our prayers for rain to reduce fire danger, restore water levels in lakes/streams, revive plants and animals that are struggling with the drought, and stabilize our businesses that rely on the traffic moving through town. Also, our deepest gratitude to fire fighters, other emergency personnel who are protecting us and our area during from harm and loss. And to those who are supporting their efforts.

Please find the Prayer Wall, either enclosed or attached.

The fact that there isn't much church news right now means that we are in a period of relative smooth sailing after having weathered so much turbulence and change during the pandemic. I'll begin mentioning a variety of details as August draws to a close and our church pivots to our fall/school year schedule.

I may not send out an edition of Parish News a week from today (July 30th) if there isn't any pressing news. In fact, there may not be an edition of Parish News until four weeks from today. I'll be in Pennsylvania on August 6th and won't return until Wednesday evening August 11th, so may not have my feet underneath me on August 13th.

Retired pastor Alcyd Soderfeldt will preach in my absence on August 8th. Barb Hefors will cover for me in event of an emergencies when I'm gone.

Hear now these words from **Psalm 133**.

¹ How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! ² It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. ³ It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

With my gratitude,
Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

July 23, 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.

Matthew 21: 22



(Jesus said), "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Allan Thoren** – Close friend of Paula & Nick Mattila's, having open heart surgery to repair an aneurysm
- **Gary Anderson** – Bill & Linda Hane's friend who has an infection in the area of his knee replacement
- **Pam Turnbull** – Having her second carpal tunnel surgery on her other wrist
- **Patti Niskula** – Having trouble breathing from all the smoke in the air from the forest fires in the area
- **Carol Lane** – Recovering at home from her ankle replacement surgery
- **William** – Pastor Dana's week-old grand nephew is having 'dusky episodes,' periods of not breathing, and is being transferred to Children's Hospital. Pray for him and his parents Sarah (Dana's niece) and Josh.
Update: William has been home for a week with an oxygen supplement and is doing much better
- **Christina & Ryan Ackerman** – Sheri Rue's best friend's son & daughter, pray for healing
- **Bonnie Berglund** – Last Sunday, Bonnie fell receiving a back compression fracture, treated at hospital.
Update: Bonnie is in Virginia going through rehab therapy.
- **Charlie Jonas family and friends** – Charlie passed away recently
- **Robbie** – Bonnie Berglund's brother had aortic valve replacement surgery, needs prayers of healing
- **Bonnie & Jim Howe** – Carol Linneman's neighbors lost their daughter suddenly and unexpectedly
- **Mike and Lou Morrow family & Friends** – Linda Hane's cousins lost their nephew in a tragic way
- **Marsha** – Linda Williams sister, Marsha, her open heart surgery went well and is now recovering
- **All the Fire Fighters and their families fighting forest fires in Ely and elsewhere**
- **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
July 25, 2021
9th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome
Prelude

Pastor Craig
Susan Germek

***Call to Worship** #746 Responsive Psalm 14
***Hymn** #89 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Opening Prayer

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Children's Time

Old Testament Reading II Samuel 11:1-15
Gospel Reading John 6:1-21

***Hymn** #358 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Sermon Pastor Craig

***Hymn** #363 And Can It Be verses 1,3, and 4

Prayer Wall
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

Offertory
***Doxology**

***Hymn** #557 Blest Be the Tie that Binds

***Ringing of the Bell**
***Benediction**
***Choral Benediction**
Postlude

Accompanist: Susan Germek
Liturgist: Jeanne Tomlinson

II Samuel 11:1-15

11 In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. ² It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about

on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. ³ David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴ So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵ The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant." ⁶ So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. ⁸ Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰ When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" ¹¹ Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths;^[a] and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." ¹² Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, ¹³ David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. ¹⁴ In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."