

Parish News • July 30, 2021

Members and Friends of Ely United Methodist Church,

Greetings! Blueberry Festival 2021 has come and gone, and what tumultuous time it was. Yet our community rose to the occasion in true Ely fashion. I saw something the vendor "Now That's Waffles" had posted on the What's Up Ely Facebook page about how we responded to the storm, which is inspiring.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/115144388951357/search/?q=waffles>

Here are a number of news items of various sorts.

Item #1: The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) here in the United States has responded to recent surges of the Covid-19 Delta variant by issuing new masking guidelines. Governor Walz and Minnesota state agencies have also made announcements that include thirteen counties in Minnesota at last count. Our understanding of how severe this variant is or isn't and how to respond continues to evolve daily.

The CDC's messaging can be confusing as they seek to respond in real time and without the typical research cycle for peer review. Our Administrative Council will continue to carefully monitor nationwide, state, and local Covid-19 infection data and CDC guidelines as we have since March 2020. The Council's stance all along has been to remain as open as possible, while protecting the health of all our church members.

This Sunday is Communion Sunday. We'll offer a Covid-safe option for people worshipping in-person to come forward to the altar-railing for communion, while continuing to serve communion in the pews for those who desire to receive it there. If you are worshipping at home you may choose to have bread and grape juice available in order to have communion with us.

Item #2: Pathways to Wellness is an Ely community service that connects individuals and families in the Ely, Babbitt, and Tower area to resources to achieve their health and wellness goals.

Its referral services are free, person-centered, and confidential. Heidi Vanderbeek is one of a number of approachable people who staff this organization.

Please call 218-365-7929 if you're interested. There are flyers available on our church bulletin board with more information.

Item #3: Heidi Hansen, who is part of our congregation, is available if your concern is addiction, substance abuse, or recovery. Heidi is an addiction and substance abuse counselor. Her email address is hhansenllc@gmail.com.

Item #4: Here are three upcoming community events, listed in chronological order.

- Ely Gospel Church is sponsoring a free concert by Derek Charles Johnson at the Whiteside Park bandshell on Sunday, August 8th at 6:00 p.m. You can find more information about Derek at www.derekcharlesjohnson.com or look up his videos on YouTube. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket. The Wood-Fired Pizza food cart will be there, beginning at 5:00, for those who wish to purchase pop or pizza.
- Northwood's Partners' 20th anniversary celebration continues with a "Roaring 20's Celebration" at 5:00 on Thursday August 19th at the Miner's Dry House. The celebration includes raffles and a silent auction. Happy hour is at 5:00, dinner at 6:00, and dancing from 7:30 to 9:00. Tickets are \$35 and are available at the NP office. Their phone number is 365-8019.
- Our church is sponsoring a free concert for the community by Jumpin' Jehosaphats at 5:00 PM on Monday evening, August 23rd. The concert, held at the bandshell at Whiteside Park will also celebrate former pastor Susanne Makes' retirement.

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

The next edition of *Parish News* will be three weeks from today, on Friday, August 20th. I'll be in Pennsylvania visiting my family 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 Soderfelt will preach in my absence on August 8th. Barb Hegfors will cover for me in event of an emergency when I'm gone. Her number is in our church directory or you can contact our Pastor Parish Relations Committee chair Jeanne Tomlinson.

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 30, 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.

Psalm 17: 6



“I call on you, O God, for you will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer.”

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Champa family & friends** – Bill Hane’s friend, Bob Champa, passed away suddenly
- **Allan Thoren** – Close friend of Paula & Nick Mattila’s, having open heart surgery to repair an aneurysm. **Update:** Aneurysm repaired, valve inserted and artery bypass done, patient doing well!
- **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 Niskala** – Having trouble breathing from all the smoke in the air from the forest fires in the area
- **Carol Laine** – 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
- **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.