

Parish News • August 20, 2021

Members and Friends of Ely United Methodist Church,

Greetings! I'm doing final revisions to this edition of Parish News on Friday when the temperatures are forecast to top out at 88 degrees, but then wonderfully refreshing temperatures arrive Saturday and are forecast to remain for an entire week. Highs in the 70's, with lows in the upper 40's to mid 50's, all make for enjoyable days and good sleeping weather at night.

Meanwhile there's just no way around our desperate need for rain and low winds to go with the cool temperatures. The woods are tinder-dry and the Greenwood fire grows incrementally each night. A photo posted on Facebook shows just a trickle of water going through the Vermilion River Falls near Crane Lake, in place of the typical raging torrent. A number of people in town who have lived here all their lives mention they have never seen river and creek water levels so low.

So, we pray for rain. Also, our prayers for schools, businesses, each of us, and other organizations as we make decisions and navigate the surge in number of delta-variant infections of Covid-19.

A word about this. Presently our church remains open as we have since spring, with signs outside both our doors reading: "Wear a mask at your discretion."

I believe I have strong immunity to becoming infected because I've received two Pfizer vaccinations and have antibodies from being infected with Covid-19 in October and recovering fully. However, I am choosing for now to wear a mask in stores and in other community indoor settings apart from church, in order to be able to visit in close proximity with people from our congregation in a way that will set them at ease.

Meanwhile, I've enjoyed summer – a canoe trip to Basswood, time with my family in Ely and our final trip to my parent's cabin, and my recent trip to Pennsylvania to see my older son and his family. That said, September through December is my favorite time of year all the way around, so I'm looking to finish summer on a high note and make an enthusiastic leap into fall.

Item #1: Our church is looking to re-establish face-to-face gatherings so that "The Little Church with a Big Heart" has engaging ministries for those already part of our church and is an inviting community presence for people outside our doors as well.

I think we've done a marvelous job navigating the past seventeen months as a church. What comes next in my opinion is a "post-Covid" reboot.

Here are a few preliminary steps, which will necessarily be followed by more as August moves into September and beyond.

- We'll have a meeting at church on Monday, August 30th, at 7:00 for parents of children/youth and others interested in our children/youth programs here at Ely UMC. We'll start with a general discussion of what our hopes and dreams are for ways our church can start our children out on the pathway to knowing, loving, and following Jesus for the rest of their lives. Then we'll move toward more specific discussions of Sunday School and Confirmation.
- A few people have expressed interest in officially joining our church as members. Please contact me if you're interested. I'll need to request a transfer if you're presently a member of another church, so you'll have to provide me with that information. Note: All people who choose to attend worship or other programs here are an important part of our church already. Membership is an additional step in making this commitment official in an organizational way.
- Several people have asked me if we're going to resume making pasties this fall. This decision rests with our UMW (Women's Group).

Item #2: 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.

Item #3: Our church is sponsoring a free concert for the community by Jumpin' Jehosaphats at 5:00 on Monday evening, August 23rd. The concert, held at the bandshell at Whiteside Park will also celebrate former pastor Susanne Mades' retirement.

Item #4: This week's Prayer is attached or included.

Hear now a portion of the words King David sang to the Lord after God rescued him from his enemies following Absalom's rebellion. They are also replicated in

Psalm 18:1-50.

2 Samuel 22:2-5; 47-51

² David said: The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, ³ my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. ⁴ I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. ⁵ For the waves of death encompassed me, the torrents of perdition assailed me;

⁴⁷ The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation, ⁴⁸ the God who gave me vengeance and brought down peoples under me, ⁴⁹ who brought me out from my enemies; you exalted me above my adversaries, you delivered me from the violent. ⁵⁰ For this I will extol you, O Lord, among the nations, and sing praises to your name. ⁵¹ He is a tower of salvation for his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his descendants forever.

With my gratitude and appreciation,

Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

August 20, 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 5: 3

*"In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice,
in the morning I lay my requests before you
and wait in expectation."*

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Steve Matthews family & friends** – Steve passed away suddenly from a heart attack. Long time summer attendee, please be in prayer for his wife Sheila and his family & friends.
- **Matthew Wernet** – Connie Peterson requested prayers for Matthew who is in a drug induced coma due to Covid-19. He has a wife and 4 children who depend on him.
- **Jerelyn Montgomery and Brett Janeksela** – Jerelyn is having kidney transplant surgery and her cousin Brett is the donor. Pray for successful surgery and healing for both Jerelyn and Brett
- **Tyler Olson** – Bruce Olson's son is hospitalized for treatment for a blood clot in his lung
- **John Podominick** – Vicki's brother John is having serious issues with kidney stones
- **Bonnie Berglund** – Moved from the Virginia Rehab Center to her son, Kevin's, home until recovered
- **Linda Gass** – Linda had foot surgery and will require a lengthy recovery, pray for healing
- **Allysa** – Jade's friend & her mom, Kristin, were in a car accident and her mom had a back injury
- **Adean Anne Turner's family & friends** – Lucy Diesslin's aunt, Adean Anne, passed away recently
- **Loren Barnes** – Lucy Diesslin's brother & Ella's husband needs to relocate to a safer residence
- **Ella Barnes family and friends** – **Update:** Lucy Diesslin's sister-in-law passed away shortly after being moved to Chatfield Care Center and being placed on hospice.
- **Don Markwardt** – Don had hernia surgery this past week. Pray for healing
- **Dan Waters** – **Update:** Moved to Miller-Dwan to rehab from a mild stroke & may be home soon
- **Champa family & friends** – Bill Hane's friend, Bob Champa, passed away suddenly

- **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.