

Parish News • September 24, 2021

Members and Friends of Ely United Methodist Church,

Greetings from Pastor Craig! Once again, we had gorgeous autumn weather this week, with temperatures dropping near freezing several nights. A number of you have had broad grins on your face recently when I've seen you, saying: "This is my favorite time of year."

Last Sunday evening through Tuesday noon I attended the Iron Range United Methodist Clergy retreat at Northern Pines church camp outside Park Rapids. The time was well-spent: worship, prayer, conversation, and reviewing how we and our respective congregations are weathering the pandemic. We also discussed hopes for the 2021-2022 school year.

Between Walker and Hill City on the way home I drove through the most brilliant fall color I have seen yet this year; it was breathtaking.

Item #1: Here is a brief update on our congregation's present response to Covid-19. Our church leaders continue to follow CDC and Minnesota Department of Health statistics regarding Covid-19 infections, hospitalizations, etc..... We also monitor the latest scientific findings about the dangers of the virus and vaccine effectiveness.

The wearing of masks at worship and other Ely UMC gatherings remains at the individual's discretion. We are passing the offering plates again, people are coming forward for communion, and children sit in a front pew during the children's time during. We are not having coffee fellowship time following the worship service however, nor do we have a time of moving about the sanctuary at the beginning of the service to greet one another.

Item #2: We began Sunday School last week and will continue during the worship service throughout the school year so we invite our families with children to join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00.

Confirmation students and their parents will have a meeting on Wednesday evening at 7:00 at the church.

Item #3: Please find attached the minutes from our most recent United Methodist Women and Administrative Council meetings. These minutes include additional details about our pasty making this year.

Item #4: Earlier this summer we announced new program of sending birthday cards to church members and their families. A number of you responded with you/your family's birthdays and we are now sending them out monthly. Here is the announcement we ran then with the invitation for those of you who are interested, but have not yet joined to contact us now.

We Need You! The Little Church with a Big Heart is starting a birthday club. The purpose of the club is to strengthen the bond that our church community already has, by recognizing individuals in writing on their birthdays. In order to do that, we need to know your birth dates (month and day only—year if you wish. The information will be stored in our Directory Roster spreadsheet. Rest assured that steps have been taken to protect the information from computer hackers. Please e-mail your birth date, and with their consent, those of your family members, to elyumc.elymn@gmail.com. If you do not use e-mail, you can mail the information to the church at 305 East Camp Street, or you may drop it in the collection plate. Once our Birthday Club is running smoothly, we may expand it to recognize anniversaries, so if you are married, please include the date of your wedding, too—again, month and day, year if you wish.

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

Hear now these inspiring words from Paul's letter to the **Ephesians 3:14-21**.

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [[a](#)] ¹⁵ from whom every family [[b](#)] in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and

height and depth,¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (NRSV)

God's blessings be with you and your family,

Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

September 24, 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.

Mark 11: 24



"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Dale** – Jer Niskala's friend who contracted Covid last year and still has symptoms including requiring oxygen
- **Zeke Urbas** – Zeke is going in for another cancer 'recheck' scan, prayers for a clean scan
- **John & Karen Trimble** – John had a heart valve replacement a few years ago, his heart stopped and is headed to Mayo. **Update:** John is doing well and he and his wife appreciate your prayers.
- **Bruce Wishcop** – Bruce, friend of Bob & Pat Olson, had a heart attack and had to have bypass surgery. **Update:** Surgery went well and he and his wife, June, appreciate your prayers.
- **Marj Markwardt** – Marj broke her other leg (femur bone) this past week
- **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 and the Delta variant**

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at Ely United Methodist Church

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

Attendees (6): Lucy Diesslin, Craig Haberman, Dan Johnson, Margie & Mark Olson, Jeanne Tomlinson.

Opening: Pastor Craig briefly compared Psalm 23 from a Scottish Psalter with *The Message* and talked about the importance of balancing tradition with new ways of thinking. He then opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes: The May 19 and 26, 2021 Ad Council minutes, as previously distributed to Ad Council members and via *Parish News*, were approved. Motion to approve by Margie Olson; second by Lucy Diesslin.

Treasurer's Report: Mark Olson presented the May, June, July and August 2021 Treasurer's reports. The current account balances are: General Fund \$32,819.52; Memorial Fund \$10,073.53; Building Fund \$5,706.53. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we accept the Treasurer's reports as submitted, second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

• **Trustees:** Margie Olson reported the following:

- a) Dave Starkman sealed the parking lot blacktop and repainted the lines.
- b) Margie Olson has been trying to contact Steve Anderson to put up some gutters at the back of the church.
- c) BJ has done measurements but has not yet done the needed sewer work.
- d) The bathroom switch at the parsonage has been repaired by Cunningham Electric.
- e) A motion-sensor light is needed over the garage for the parsonage since the city has removed the nearby streetlight.
- f) Mark Luthens repainted the handicap ramp.
- g) The committee cleaned out the garage and Mark Luthens took all discarded items to the dump.
- h) The basement door needs to be replaced. They'll be getting one for about \$500 from Menards and Larry Urbas will install it.
- i) Gary Felder and Ger Niskala have been mowing the lawn; Dan Johnson and Liddy Sheppard have been taking care of the other landscaping needs.
- j) The next Trustees meeting will be on October 6 at 7 PM.

• **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported that the committee will also meet on Wednesday, October 6 at 7 PM. Since there is no overlap in committee members this should not be a conflict with the Trustees.

- **Worship:** Linda Hane reported that the liturgist signup and piano/organ player arrangements have been going well.

- **UMW:** Lucy Diesslin reported that the UMW discussed plans to start up making pasties again, starting with November and just doing it two other months (February and April). More plan details will be in the UMW meeting minutes which will be distributed with the *Parish News*.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Ad Hoc technology commitee:** The committee has been formed with Pastor Craig, Dan Ely, and Sheri Rue to develop a job description and also to look for a couple more members.

2. **Tweaking of indoor service relative to evolving Covid-19 concerns:** Evaluation continues each week as we watch the local case numbers. We have started up in-person Sunday School for the kids and will start passing the offering plates this coming Sunday (Sept 19). After-worship fellowship/refreshments and the in-worship meet & greet is still a ways off.

3. **Outdoor/Memorial Service:** This ended up not happening because so many people prefer the in-person indoor worship to the “in-car/scattered lawn-chair” service. The Memorial Committee will need to set a date for the Memorial service. Pastor Craig suggested All-Saints Day (Nov 7) as a possible date.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Prep for Church Conference, “first look”:** Pastor Craig reported that we’ll continue with our normal schedule for our All Church Conference so it will be on December 15. The Nominating Committee will be meeting to work on nominations. He has received the various required forms from conference for our annual Church Evaluation and Pastor salaries and copies have been sent to the PPRC chair.

2. **Parish News vs The Fish:** We discussed possibly restarting *The Fish* and only using *Parish News* for information that is needed in a more timely manner. We’ll then distribute it electronically to our current email mailing list and send a paper copy to all the others we have in our newsletter label list. The first *Fish* issue would include a request for people receiving the paper copy to contact us with an email address, if willing, in order to save funds on stamps & printing. We briefly discussed changing *The Fish* format to one that most organizations use that allows the printed electronic copy to match the mailed paper copy, eliminating the need for two versions. This subject needs to be discussed with Jay Tomlinson, the current newsletter and web site coordinator, before we proceed with any changes to the current process.

3. **Confirmation:** Pastor Craig reported that he currently has two scheduled confirmands, Drew Johnson and Wyatt Tedrick, and may have a few more.

Items of Information

1. Next Ad Council meeting: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 7 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM with a group recitation of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

UMW Ad Hoc Meeting at Ely United Methodist Church September 8, 2021 11 AM-12:10 PM

Note: This meeting was called to primarily discuss the status of Pasties.

Attendees: President Lucy Diesslin, Vice-President Bev Johnson, Secretary Jeanne Tomlinson and UMW members Margie Olson and Linda Hane, and Pastor Craig Haberman.

President Lucy Diesslin opened the meeting at 11 AM to begin our discussion of when, and if, we should resume making pasties as well as other logistics. We discussed possibly discontinuing it entirely since we aren't currently having a great financial need for it, but there was concern that if we go too long without doing them, and a financial need arises, it might be much harder to get a lot of our customer base back. It was also mentioned that even though our General Fund balance is healthy, our Building Fund is inadequate for many needed maintenance/improvement projects. "Pasty Fellowship" was also mentioned as an important aspect since working together to make pasties has always been wonderful for getting to know others better as well as drawing in people who don't even attend our church. We agreed that if we resume, we should raise the price to \$7 each and that folks will need to be called prior to the pasty month to commit to orders so that we can order the right amount of product and then called again the week prior as a reminder. We also would want to limit the total to no more than 600 pasties and allow no more than 8 pasties per any one customer order.

It was also thought that just 3 times a year instead of 6 might be the way to go since we don't have an immediate financial need. We talked about when we should start up and thought we could try for this coming November after we've had a chance to see if we get any local surge of COVID cases with the kids going back to school. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we plan on doing pasties in November, February, and April. Second by Margie Olson. Motion passed. There was concern expressed about getting enough younger workers to help out. It was decided we'll need to call workers up to see about a commitment. We know there will be strong resistance if we require all workers to wear a mask and gloves at all times and it might greatly limit our worker pool if we require it rather than make it optional. Jeanne will contact any previous workers to see about their availability for working in November and their feelings about possible mask/glove requirements.

We then discussed resuming our monthly UMW meetings. We decided to change from the 4th Wednesday of each month at 1 PM to the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 10 AM and will start back up on Wednesday, October 20. If we can determine which devotional book we were reading, and if there are still sections left to read, we'll continue with that book and we will just have coffee and tea available without having an official hostess preparing goodies and fancy table set-up.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson
Secretary