

Parish News • October 1, 2021

Members and Friends of Ely United Methodist Church,

Greetings from Pastor Craig!

A year ago, Marshall and Heather Monthei and I portaged into Slim Lake to view some gorgeous autumn scenery. The day included a hike from the southern end of the lake to climb Mount Baldy, which gave us a glimpse of the North Arm of Burntside Lake. It was a perfect and memorable day.

Doesn't it seem to you our color season came earlier this year in Ely than it typically does? Some people were forecasting a less brilliant season than normal, but I've sure enjoyed the colors. And it seems to be hanging on longer than I might have expected.

Up until about a dozen years ago, I prized the red and orange color season as to be far more beautiful than the thicker groves of yellow leaves that come later. No longer; the color of the birch and aspen leaves is more subdued than the maples surely, but equally breathtaking and especially on a day of brilliant sunshine.

Even a soggy and gray day backdrop like this morning brings exquisite views. I've attached several views out my kitchen window this morning.

And speaking of preferences this time of year, both my twin brother and I treasure the term "autumn" ahead of "fall. My mother did as well while she was living

"Fall" to me, refers to the many enjoyable events that occur during the months of September, October, and November; events that brighten our lives as we brace ourselves for the cold, ice, and darkness that winter will bring along with it.

"Autumn" on the other hand conjures up for me deeper associations that extend beyond these events far into our distant past. One writer says: "There are moments of insight when ancient truths do stand out more vividly, and one senses anew their relationship to the earth and to all of life. Such moments are worth waiting for, and when they come in some unheralded instant of knowing, they are of purest gold."

Autumn sights, smells, tastes, and sounds do this to me. A field of dry corn stalks snapping in the breeze brings up stories I've heard from my Dad and other old-timers recalling threshing bees and harvest seasons long ago. The sights and sounds of geese migrating south bring forth a shiver that reminds me that we humans in our climate-controlled cities and appliance-laden homes are still a part of seasonal rhythms. The various hunting seasons press upon me the recognition that not that long ago in the big picture hunting was a necessary part of survival. I haven't hunted partridge for twenty years, but the memory of the smell of gunpowder following a shot transports me back to when my younger son was in high school.

Spring brings exuberant anticipation for summer that awaits. My pulse quickens as I buy plants, bring summer equipment out of storage, and plan outings. Autumn brings a moment's hesitation, which is, then, for me, an invitation, to sit still and ponder.....

Item #1: We had interruptions to last Sunday's Facebook Live broadcast, both camera and laptop versions. Good news; while the laptop interruptions remain a mystery, we have resolved the camera issue. What we learned is we have to "renew" the connection between our camera and our Facebook account every 60 days. The process isn't all that difficult, but there is one necessary step in the process that took us a while relearn.

We've made detailed notes of the process, so we hope it doesn't happen again.

Thank you to Jay Tomlinson for his time, effort, and research into unraveling this once again.

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, parents, and leaders had a productive meeting this past Wednesday. Future confirmation meetings in 2021 are scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, November 10, December 8, and December 22, all at 7:00 p.m.

Item #3: This week's Prayer Wall is attached.

Here are some words from Anne Morrow Lindberg that were part of my Morning Devotions on Wednesday.

IN THE PRESENT MOMENT

Hurry is an unpleasant thing in itself, but also very unpleasant for whoever is around it. Some people came into my room and rushed in and rushed out and even when they were there they were not there – they were in the moment ahead or the moment behind. Some people who came in just for a moment were all there, completely in that moment.

Live from day to day, just from day to day. If you do so, you worry less and live more richly. If you let yourself be absorbed completely, if you surrender completely to the moments as they pass, you live more richly those moments.

I do not think it is lack of time that keeps me from doing things, it is that I do not want enough to do them.

*Anne Morrow Lindberg
Bring Me a Unicorn*

From: *Celtic Daily Prayer: Prayers and Readings from the Northumbria Community*

God's blessings be with you and your family,

Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

October 1, 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.

1 John 5: 14-15



"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – we know that we have what we asked of him."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Linda Williams** – Linda is starting a new experimental drug treatment since her current liver/kidney cancer treatments are not working. Pray for effectiveness and no side effects.
- **Patty Niskala** – Patty is having her scans this week, pray for clean scans.
- **Duane Johnson** – Dan's youngest brother is having quadruple bypass surgery this week.
- **Dale** – Jer Niskala's friend who contracted Covid last year and still has symptoms including requiring Oxygen.
- **Zeke Urbas** – **Update:** Zeke's cancer 'recheck' scan result was 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). Pray for comfort and healing.
- **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.