

## Parish News • October 8, 2021

Members and Friends of Ely United Methodist Church,

Greetings from Pastor Craig! The unseasonably warm autumn weather continues. I just looked it up – our average high for October 8<sup>th</sup> is 55 degrees and the low is 32 degrees. It's been warm with lots of sun, but now soggy weather moves in, which is a good thing, but also means to keep the raincoat handy.

I'll be attending a funeral tomorrow (Saturday) in Fargo. Duane Heideman, a 64-year-old friend of mine, died in a single vehicle accident on Monday. That makes three funerals in a month after only attending two in three years, both being my parents.

The United Methodist graveside service begins with the words: "In the midst of life we are in death; from whom can we seek help?" The answer is in the next sentence: "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

Life is indeed a miracle. Merely the fact that you and I are here on this astonishing planet as living, breathing, thinking beings capable of movement, communication, learning, artistic expression, and the giving and receiving of love should cause awe to swell up within us each and every day.

Yet, our world sags also under the weight of disheartening individual and social problems; of disease, hunger, war, oppression, addiction, poverty, and environmental degradation. In the face of this, we humans strive to bring healing to that which is broken and we trust that God is at work as well.

Centuries ago, the Apostle Paul said: "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." (Romans 14:8) This seems to me to be a pretty good philosophy of life in good times and in bad.

As I drive to Fargo and back home again, I'll be thinking of the way that Duane touched my life – his laugh, his powerful singing voice, his faith in Christ, his exuberance, his vast technical knowledge, his willingness to help – as well as personal struggles that often hamstrunged him and caused his spirits to sag. I'll be noticing the variety of beautiful scenery as I begin my travels on Canadian Shield here in Ely and end in the Red River Valley in Fargo, traveling through all kinds of terrain in between. I'll be reflecting on the strengths and struggles of the Minnesota towns I drive through.

Life is a miracle. It's a journey. It's a mystery. And a whole lot else. I'm grateful to be living in Ely and to be sharing all of this with you.

**Item #1:** Several of our committees have been or will begin meeting in advance of our annual meeting, our Church Conference that will be held Wednesday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m.

The Nominating Committee will meet Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup> following worship in the upstairs lounge. Nominating Committee members are Linda Hane, Patty Rusco, Tricia Scheffler, Laverne Lindholm, Pat Olson, Tootsie Loe, Donna Rusco, Cathy Aldrich, and Paula Mattila.

**Item #2:** The UMW (United Methodist Women) will be meeting Wednesday, October 20 at 10 AM. Join us for coffee and a short business meeting, devotions and fellowship.

**Item #3:** Thank you to Jer Niskala and Gary Felder, our faithful lawn mowing crew this summer. Scott Meland volunteered to be a sub if need be.

Dan Johnson watered the flowers and front lawn and worked to restore our lawn. Liddy Sheppard and Sandra Lee worked in the flower beds.

Dan Johnson and Jay Tomlinson cleaned up and hauled off downed branches in our lower parking lot after a summer storm. Norm Rusco distributed a load of topsoil, seeded, and worked to repair places our lawn had eroded, both at church and the parsonage.

As we prepare for winter, contact Marge Olson if you're able to sign up for one or more months of shoveling snow.

**Item #4:** There is an usher sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the rear of the sanctuary. The November/December issue of the Upper Room arrived this week and is available for you to pick up at church.

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

God's blessings be with you and your family,

Pastor Craig

# The Ely United Methodist Church

## *Prayer Wall*

October 8, 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.

### Philippians 4: 6



*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”*

### We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Mike Haney** – After shrinking, his brain tumor is now growing again. Pray for new successful treatments.
- **Linda Gass’s mother, Pat** – Fell and broke her hip & is having surgery. Pray for comfort and healing healing.
- **Bob & Vicki Beech** – Prayers to not be overwhelmed by the many changes in their lives during the past few years.
- **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. **Update:** Duane’s bypass surgery went well , he receiving 5 bypasses. Pray for comfort and healing.
- **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.
- **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.*