

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

February 25,

A Note from Pastor Craig

My Heartfelt Appreciation to Each of You

The Apostle Paul referred to the Church as the Body of Christ where "the Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all."

Each one of us, young and old, long-time members and those newer to our church, those who participate visibly or steadfastly support behind the scenes matter ever so much to Ely UMC and the mission of Jesus Christ in Ely.

Patti Rusco, Jay Tomlinson, and Cathy Aldrich led worship in my absence. Blake Hegfors ran the camera. Susan Germek, the choir, and each of you provided music. Barb Hegfors was available for emergencies. Nick Wognum shoveled snow and Phil Hegfors and Sons, and Blake kept our parking lot plowed. Thank you!

Life has a way of surprising us when things don't work out the way we thought. Or as the saying goes: "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry."

My long-awaited and once-postponed-already trip to see my twin brother Mark in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho was scheduled to begin with a flight leaving Duluth on Wednesday morning, February 16th.

Tuesday evening my bags were packed, boarding passes printed, and other preparations completed. I was relaxing when my phone dinged with a warning that severe weather moving through the Rocky Mountains might impact my flight. The timing of the snowstorm could keep me grounded in Chicago, a lovely thought.

I was on the phone early the next morning with United Airlines to see if I could move my flight out a day when I noticed Mark (my twin) was calling. He was experiencing intense "flu-like" symptoms in a way he hadn't for the last twenty years. Since the spring of 2020 we all know what this could mean - a possible Covid-19 infection.

So I emailed my son and daughter-in-law in Sioux Falls to see if they would put up with me for a week. They were as happy for the surprise visit as I was to see them. Truly my cup runneth over.

My change in plans means I arrived back in Ely eight hours earlier than I would have otherwise. This gave me an unexpected window of time to draft this edition of Parish News with a twofold purpose. First, to thank all who kept the home fires burning in my absence, especially Jay Tomlinson who preached on Sunday. And second, to give my strongest encouragement for attending our Ash Wednesday service, either in-person or on Facebook Live. (See the note at the bottom of the next page for more information, including that our confirmation students and teachers will be leading the service.)

Happy to be back in Ely - Pastor Craig

Scripture Readings for Sunday

We humans have a built-in hunger for God. As Augustine of Hippo said back in the fourth century: “Our hearts are restless O God, until they find their rest in you.” Sometimes this hunger goes unrecognized because we transfer it to possessions, people, or experiences. But the hunger remains so we continue to search in other places or keep reaching for more.

But how, then, to truly know God, when God is unseen? And when God and God’s ways remain in some ways always beyond our ability to know?

As the church season of Advent moves into Christmas and then into Epiphany we are drawn ever deeper into the holy mystery of who Jesus Christ is. For it is in Jesus that we see who God is, we come to know the ways of God and God’s kingdom, and we also find our rest in God.

Sunday is Transfiguration Sunday, when we see that God’s glory, previously veiled from human sight, is fully revealed in Jesus. As Jesus climbs a mountain with Peter, James, and John the appearance of his face is changed and his clothes become dazzling white. As we meet God, personally present in Jesus Christ, our faces shine with the brightness of his face.

The reading from 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 is found here.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+3%03A12-4%03A2&version=MSG>

And Luke 9:28-43 is found here.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+9%03A28-43&version=NRSV>

Ash Wednesday Service

Some of you may have grown up in churches that held Ash Wednesday services, but they are relatively new to the United Methodist Church. You may remember me repeating over the past several years that I cherish Ash Wednesday ahead of all special times in the church year besides Christmas Eve, Holy Week, and Easter. What makes Ash Wednesday such a big deal?

Quite simply we're reminded of two things that humankind in all our intellectual brilliance, creativity, and persistence will never be able to overcome. First, our mortality - we will all die. And second our inability to fulfill the Great Commandment Jesus gave us - to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

History is littered with examples of what happens when we are unable to accept the limitations of being human. Ash crosses traced on our foreheads are a visible reminder of this.

The confirmation class, students Wyatt Tedrick, Blake Hegfors, Jayden Zemke, and Drew Johnson will be leading the Ash Wednesday service this year, along with teachers Keith and Sheri Rue. They have worked hard to polish what they're going to read.

The service is Wednesday evening, March 2, at 7:00. I invite you to attend in-person or online, both to support our confirmation students and to experience for yourself the power of the service.

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

February 25, 2022

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 (NIV)



“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...

- **The Russia / Ukraine conflict** – Pray for a world-wide lasting resolution, safety of the people, and peace.
- **Megan** – Cathy Aldrich’s friend, Megan, is losing her vision. Please pray for courage and strength.
- **Duane** – Bob Olson’s friend is having some health issues. Pray for healing and comfort.
- **Chase Lee Anderson** – Linda Hane’s nephew, Chase, is having surgery. Pray for success and full recovery.
- **Erin** – Devon Luthens’s good friend, Erin, is having double breast mastectomy on February 22. Prayers for a safe surgery, quick healing and success in being cancer free.
- **Sandy Barich Thompson** – Glenda Harbough’s good friend, Sandy, is having double breast mastectomy on February 22. Prayers for a safe surgery, quick healing and success in being cancer free.
- **Phyllis Olson** – Bob Olson’s sister-in-law, Phyllis, is dealing with end-of-life issues. Please pray for comfort.
- **Lydia** – Sheila Shultz’s granddaughter, Lydia, is recovering from elbow surgery. Pray for healing.
- **Pastor Ebert from Ledgerrock** – Pastor Ebert has COVID. Please pray for healing and full recovery.
- **Marcia** – Pat Stock’s sister, Marcia, is in the Abbot Northwestern hospital and on a ventilator fighting COVID. Please pray for comfort, healing and full recovery.
- **Nancy Markwardt’s brother Joe** – **Update:** Joe completed his 65th pancreatic cancer treatment and is still in remission.
- **Nicole Udovich’s cousin Maranda** – Maranda has been diagnosed with breast Cancer. Pray for successful treatments.
- **John Franklin** – Paula Mattila’s brother-in-law, John, is in hospice end-of-life care for Alzheimer’s. Pray him & his wife Jeannie
- **Bob & Lavern Lindholm** – Bob & Lavern are moved to the Babbitt Carefree Living facility. Bob is in the memory care unit & Lavern is in assisted living. Visitors & phone calls are welcome. Their home phone # is transferred to Lavern’s mobile phone.
- **Gary Tedrick** – Gary had back surgery this week and is in a lot of pain. Pray for comfort and healing.
- **Mike and Gail Haney family** – Mike is facing end of life struggles.
- **All essential health care workers exposed to the COVID-19 virus and the Delta & Omicron variants**

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 Thursday, February 8 at Ely United Methodist Church

Call To Order: Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 5 PM.

Attendees (13): Lucy Diesslin, Rich Floyd, Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Don Ingerson, Dan Johnson, Margie & Mark Olson, Keith Rue, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson, Chris Urbas, Tiffany Zemke.

Opening: Pastor Craig spoke briefly about seasons – our earthly seasons and our church seasons. He then opened with prayer.

Minutes: The January 19, 2022 Ad Council minutes, as previously distributed via *Parish News*, were approved. Motion to approve by Margie Olson; second by Mark Olson.

Treasurer's Report: Mark Olson presented the January 2022 Treasurer's report. Receipts were \$8,199; disbursements were \$11,504.37 which included our annual insurance, a fuel delivery, the bulk printing of bulletin "blanks" and the poinsettia bill which was not received until January. The current account balances are: General Fund \$40,693.78; Memorial Fund \$18,250.34; Building Fund \$7,335.86. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we accept the Treasurer's reports as submitted, second by Rich Floyd. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Trustees:** Margie Olson reported that they have selected one of two types of flooring for the basement and are awaiting an expert to come and examine the existing floor to get recommendations before proceeding. Vicki Podominick has been coming in regular to do some extra cleaning. She has polished all the pews, vacuumed the pew pads and dusted the speakers and other items that needed it. Nick Wognum and Jer Niskala have been shoveling; we still don't have anyone signed up for March.
- **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Keith Rue conveyed a message from Sheri that the committee will be meeting on March 9.
- **Worship:** Linda Hane reported that the worship committee met and reviewed Christmas items in progress (see New Business) as well as plans for Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter. The confirmation class with Keith and Sheri Rue will be leading the Lenten Service on Ash Wednesday, March 2. Linda is taking care of ordering the palm branches for Palm Sunday. We'll be having lilies for Easter and a sign-up sheet will be needed for that.
- **Visioning:** Rich Floyd reported on the Zoom Fellowship activity held on Monday, February 7. There were only 8 participants, primarily folks from the weekly Zoom Bible study but it was declared to be a fun activity. Rich is going to try to set up another one within a couple weeks. The *I'll Push You* movie/study event is still tentatively planned for March 27/28 and repeated on April 3/4.
- **Education:** Chris Urbas reported that there will be two Sundays coming up when she will be out of town. She'll talk to Devon Luthens to see if she would be able to do Sunday School on those days.
- **Parish Care:** Tiffany Zemke asked for guidelines for her new role. Margie mentioned the medical devices in the church that would need to be monitored. Donna Rusco will be continuing to do shut-in phone calls and visits.
- **UMW:** Lucy Diesslin reported that the February pasty making had been cancelled with April currently still planned. We'll be discussing more details for the May Friendship Dinner at our next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Oil Candles for the Altar:** Jay reported that Margie Olson had determined that the current altar candle holders are not memorial items so Cathy Aldrich has purchased the oil candles.
2. **Technical Committee:** Jay Tomlinson reported that Mauro from Custom Theater installed a replacement for the Fellowship Hall TV and added a high quality surge protector. Mauro would like to meet with the Technical Committee to discuss sound system options. A date for that meeting has not yet been set.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **New Christmas Trees and Decorations:** Dan Johnson reported that a Giving Tree has been purchased that is much narrower. Gold garland & red ball ornaments have also been purchased. Jay Tomlinson mentioned that with the new Giving Tree and another donated Christmas tree we now have 8 Christmas trees in storage. We'll need to go through those and get rid of some. We also need to replace the cardboard storage boxes for the decorations with "mouse-proof" containers.
2. **Property sale next to the church on Camp St:** Margie Olson reported that the owner of the property next door had approached Pastor Craig to see if the church would be interested in buying it. There had been a fire and the house will need to be demolished. The property is a 51'x157' lot and has a current value for tax assessment of \$9,600. The Trustees feel it would be a good idea to purchase this property and use the land for extended parking if we can get it for \$12,000 or less. It isn't known what the owner will be asking. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we pursue the possibility of purchasing it. Second by Rich Floyd. Motion passed. Jay Tomlinson offered to meet with the owner and discuss the possibility.
3. **All-Nite Grad Party:** Mark Olson had received the request from the All-Nite Grad Party Committee requesting a donation. Margie Olson moved that we donate the usual \$50. Second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Thank you letter from *Young Life* for our \$500 donation.

Items of Information

1. **Next Ad Council meeting:** March 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM
2. **Audits:** The 2020 Audit was completed on February 8, 2022. The 2021 Audit will take place at a later time.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM with a group recitation of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

The UMW at Ely United Methodist Church February 16, 2022 10-11:05 AM

President Lucy Diesslin opened the meeting at 10:04 AM with a prayer. We then had a unison reading of the UMW pledge. We had 7 people attending: Lucy Diesslin, Linda Hane, Beverly Johnson, Sharon Luthens, Donna Rusco, Patty Rusco and Jeanne Tomlinson.

Minutes: The minutes from our January 19, 2022 meeting were read. Motion to approve by Beverly Johnson; second by Patty Rusco. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon Luthens reported that she had finally received a bill from BullsEye Cleaning for services from September through December for \$380. That was the only disbursement. Checking account balance is now \$2,697.43 and savings has \$16,598.06. Motion by Jeanne Tomlinson to accept the report, second by Beverly Johnson. Motion passed.

President's Remarks: Lucy commented on a couple items she had read in the North Star District *Comment* newsletter. One item was the need for district officers. If anyone is interested, please contact Lucy for more information. She then read the article about the Emma Norton House that we support. It was started in 1917 to provide housing for rural women needing to work in the city. It has evolved to serving the homeless and is currently serving as housing for homeless single-parent families.

Old Business

- **Church Supplies & Basement large closets reorganization:** Jeanne completed a supplies inventory and compiled a list of items to be ordered with the help of Margie Olson on January 22. It was decided that reorganizing the closets and storage spaces as well as working out a supplies checking/ordering process would wait until after the new floor is done. Patty suggested that we think about installing tall closets with shelving where the current counter is and make use of that space to store all the items needed for serving foods in the Fellowship Hall. It was mentioned that Margie Olson had also suggested the same thing and that the Trustees are probably looking into that.
- **Friendship Dinner:** We had learned that Zup's is continuing with catering services so we discussed possibly doing that, but we agreed that it would be nicer to have a buffet at the GEL that wouldn't require extra work on our part for setting up, decorating and taking down tables. We decided on Wednesday, May 25, for our dinner starting at 5:30 PM. Jeanne will contact the GEL to get it booked. This dinner is open to all women and girls.
- **May Elections:** It was pointed out that we should still have our usual UMW meeting on the third Wednesday, May 18, so that we don't have to conduct any business at our Friendship dinner. Beverly, Jeanne and Sharon all said they are willing to continue in their current roles as Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer so we'll just need to elect a President – or possibly Co-Presidents. Please be thinking about who we might approach for this role.

There was no New Business.

We adjourned the business meeting portion at 10:35 AM.

For our devotional study, we read Chapter 10 of our study book, *Attitude is Your Paint Brush - It Colors Every Situation*. This chapter was about having an "Attitude of Trust" about us being an instrument for God and allowing God to play "songs" of Forgiveness, Confidence and Victory in us.

Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Tomlinson Secretary