

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

March 11,

A Note from Pastor Craig

Administrative Council to Revisit Covid Policies

Our Ely UMC Administrative Council meets on Thursday, March 17. One of the agenda items will be to revisit Covid-19 protocols presently in place.

Caution While Parking in our Upper Parking Lot

The snow piles on the north end of our upper parking lot are pushed back further than the pavement underneath in some places. There may be soft spots that are exposed as the snow melts, so when parking your car, exercise caution by watching for where the pavement ends.

My guess is habits are common for all living creatures. From my kitchen window I watch deer move along the well-traveled trails they make through the woods just down the hill from the parsonage. The consistent migration routes of birds between the northern and southern hemispheres are well-documented. Libby, my Mom's beloved dog, lived with me for about six weeks following Mom's death in March of 2018. Each time I would let Libby out to "do her business," she ran around the parsonage yard in Alexandra on the exact same route, checking all known ground squirrel entrances. Animals are habitual.

But so are we humans. You and I have our own personal habits and while they may become more entrenched the older we are, the young aren't immune to the lure of the familiar either. It only takes a year or two for young children to fall in love with family Christmas traditions. My elementary age grandchildren tell their parents "We've always done it this way."

There is a reason I mention this as the church season of Lent begins. One of my traditions each Lent is to read "Wind River Winter" by Virginia Stem Owens. One big draw for me is the book is set at Ring Lake Ranch, a beloved spot for the Habermans, and especially my father. Virginia and her husband spent an entire winter there - the book is her reflections. Another compelling reason is that it's the best full-length memoir-type treatment I've ever read of human diminishment and death; two topics which are front and center during Lent.

But each year I would only make it one-third of the way through the book before running out of time and energy. So, guess what?! This year I decided to break with tradition and start with the final couple chapters instead. And am I ever glad that I did! God opened my eyes and my heart because I did something different during Lent this year. I spontaneously shifted my spiritual practice. It was hardly a big change;

only reading another portion of the same book. However the change was more impactful than I could have imagined.

What slight adjustments can you make this Lent? You never know how God will work through them.
Pastor Craig

Ely UMC Confirmation for 2021 - 2023

Our confirmation program at Ely United Methodist Church is two school years in length. Our present class, which began in October 2021, includes four young men - Blake Hegfors, Drew Johnson, Wyatt Tedrick, and Jayden Zemke. Keith Rue, Sheri Rue, and Pastor Craig are teaching the class. Confirmation Sunday will be in May of 2023.

Those of you who attended Ash Wednesday services here, whether in-person or online, noticed the confirmation class led the service. Students and teachers did a wonderful job of leading this meaningful service of self-reflection. If you missed the service you can find it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/100067848403715/videos/319057966944773>

We've included a picture of the confirmation class and teachers below. Our plan is to have the class and teachers lead the Holy Week service on Thursday, April 14th at 7:00. This service commemorates both Jesus' last supper with his disciples and the events leading up to and including his crucifixion the next day. We invite you to join us for the service, in person or online.



Back Row: Sheri Rue, Keith Rue, Pastor Craig
Front Row: Blake Hegfors, Jayden Zemke, Wyatt Tedrick, Drew Johnson

Scripture Readings and Worship Notes for Sunday

Last week we looked at Jesus's time in the wilderness immediately following his baptism. Hungry and exposed to the elements for forty days and nights, he was tempted by the devil. Jesus resists the three temptations and emerges after being tested. Bolstered by the Spirit, Jesus is ready and focused for his ministry of healing and teaching about the kingdom of God.

This week we backpedal several thousand years to consider the covenant God made with Abram and Sarai to form a great nation by giving many descendants to the childless couple who are past child-bearing age. God had taken the initiative some years earlier by reaching out to Abram offering an everlasting relationship of blessing and abundance. In response Abram moved his family from Haran to Canaan, trusting that God would do as God had promised.

Now some years later, God comes once again to Abram in the reading for Sunday with the same promise. Abram inquires of God how this can be since he and his wife Sarai remain childless. We will see God offering a sign of the promise. The reading can be found here.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+15%3A1-18&version=NRSV>

In the other reading, Paul offers both encouragement and warning to the people in the church he has founded in Philippi. His words have the the feeling of "on the other hand."

His insistent and oft-repeated message to the people he introduced to Jesus Christ was "you will experience God's love, grace, and mercy by trusting in Christ and not by your behavior, your following of any rules." In other words open your hearts to God rather than seeking the kingdom by scrupulously following this or that moral code.

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

March 11, 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.

Philippians 4: 6 (NIV)



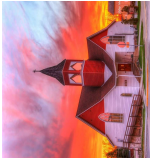
“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Tony Pecha’s family & friends** – Deven Luthens asked for prayer for Tony’s family & friends. Tony passed away.
- **Anne Swenson’s family & friends** – Nick Wognum’s mother and icon of Ely, Anne Swenson, passed away.
- **Marvel Prah** – Linda Hane’s friend, Marvel, is in the hospital and needs prayers of comfort, healing and strength.
- **Cyd Cooper** – Butch Diesslin’s sister, Cyd, fell and broke her wrist and requires surgery. Pray for comfort and healing.
- **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 also on February 22. Prayers for a safe surgery, quick healing and success in being cancer free.
- **Phyllis Olson’s family & friends** – **Update:** Bob Olson’s sister-in-law, Phyllis, passed away.
- **Marcia’s family and friends** – **Update:** Pat Stock’s sister, Marcia, passed away fighting COVID on a ventilator.
- **Nicole Udovich’s cousin Maranda** – Maranda has been diagnosed with breast Cancer. Pray for successful treatments.
- **John Franklin’s family & friends** – **Update:** Paula Mattila’s brother-in-law, John, passed away.
- **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.



March 2022



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

			1	2	3	4	5
				2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Ash Wed Service	No Choir Practice	World Day of Prayer	
6 9:15 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday school Holy Communion	7 6:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting	8 9:00 AM Pastor Craig at Ely Ministerial Association	9 2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study 6:30 PM Pastor Parish Relations Committee Mtg	10 5:00 PM Visioning Committee 6:00 PM Choir Practice	11	12	
13 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday school Daylight Savings Time Begins	14	15	16 10:00 AM United Methodist Women 2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	17 5:00 PM Administrative Council 6:00 PM Choir Practice	18	19	
20 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday school	21	22	23 2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	24 6:00 PM Choir Practice	25	26	
27 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday school	28	29	30 2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	31 6:00 PM Choir Practice			