

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

March 18,

A Note from Pastor Craig

Updated Ely UMC Covid-19 Protocols

The Ely UMC Administrative Council met Thursday evening to review our Covid-19 protocols. We have updated them as follows:

First, we are suspending our existing mask requirement.

Second, we will resume receiving communion at the railing as before the pandemic began, using cubes of bread and small cups of grape juice. **Third**, beginning this Sunday (March 20), we will have coffee fellowship following the service when someone has signed up to serve.

Just like that the first wave of Spring arrived! Temperatures rose so quickly on Monday that hard-packed snow on roads softened up in a matter of hours. Tuesday night the rain came, further hastening the melting process already begun; turning some city streets into a series of nearly-impassible, six inch deep ruts of slush and ice.

The warmer weather is welcome, but it arrived much too quickly. Cold and snow will return; this is Northern Minnesota after all, but we have now had the first extended taste of Spring. Our smiles that came with the warm sun will tide us through whatever weather comes between now and the opening of fishing. Winter is in retreat.

My spirits were dragging a bit as I was driving home from church Thursday. Jay Tomlinson and I had worked for several hours to solve this chapter of the camera mystery without success. Actually Jay had done the heavy lifting while I assisted and offered him suggestions. When I turned on the radio my scowl instantly became a grin. I was greeted by the voices of Cory Provis and Dan Gladden broadcasting Minnesota Twins baseball. These broadcasts will carry me until the ice on area lakes melt and I can be out in the canoe again.

The church season of Lent is like this with an important twist. Yes, the forty days in Lent, not counting Sundays, are a countdown for Easter. Yes, the six Sundays in Lent mark our journey through Lent toward our celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. More importantly, however, the spiritual themes of Lent also prepare us to joyfully celebrate God's victory over sin and death.

Advent prepares us to receive the Christ Child as he is born in a manger in Bethlehem. Lent prepares us to receive Jesus into our lives. In doing so we are given eyes to see the Risen Lord in our world and to anticipate our own resurrection from the dead in the life to come.

Some of you so enjoy winter you're not eager for it to leave, but for some of you Spring can't come soon enough. Regardless which group you are in, however, it makes sense for all of us to take baby steps through Lent in preparation for Easter. God's blessings be with you and your family! Pastor Craig

It's Time to Sign Up for Easter Lilies

We extend our annual invitation to purchase Easter Lilies in memory of your loved ones. There will be a sign-up list with a clipboard on the table in the rear of the church beginning this Sunday, March 20th, through Sunday, April 3rd. The price is \$15.00. There will be an envelope with the clipboard for you to put cash or a check with "Easter Lilies" in the memo line. You may also send a note and payment to Ely United Methodist Church at 305 East Camp Street, Ely, MN. 55731.

Name that Character

The game is all the rage! Can you guess whose story this is? Read a 2- or 3-sentence tale and try to figure out who it belongs to. In order to play, you must submit your own short stories for others to guess. They can't be fairy tales; they must be true, but you can disguise them so it's harder to guess they are from you. Send three 2- or 3-sentence accounts of somethings you experienced in your life to the game moderator, Rich Floyd, at eglsnstg@frontier.com. The more unusual, the better, but everyday stories will work well, too. Do this by Monday morning and be prepared to play at 6:00 p.m. that evening by logging in to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82475438171?pwd=amtSMTIKN25vUFYzQ2tuSForU0pKOT09>.

This is a link for video conferencing. If you do not already have the Zoom video conferencing app on your computer, tablet, or smart phone, you can download it from here

<https://zoom.us/support/download>

Scripture Readings for Sunday

Some Scripture readings are unambiguously positive; all light and no darkness. When reading them one is filled with hope and peace. For instance, the Christmas story, the Twenty-Third psalm, the account of Creation, Jesus' parable of the lost sheep, Jesus washing his disciples' feet, and so on.

Other Scripture readings sound harsh. Some warnings of the prophets are overwhelmingly negative. Think of the preaching of John the Baptist among others: "You brook of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath that is to come." Even some of the teachings of Jesus fall into this category too.

And then there are Scripture readings that appear at first glance to be negative and harsh, but on closer examination have glimpses of hope tucked into them. This is how I see both Scripture readings for Sunday - Isaiah 55:1-9 and Luke 13:1-9.

Isaiah 55:1-9 is found here: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+55%3A1-9&version=NRSV>

Luke 13:1-9 is found here: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+13%3A1-9&version=NRSV>

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

March 18, 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.

Matthew 21: 22 (NIV)



(Jesus said), "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Dylan** – Anna Urbas’s roommate’s cousin, Dylan, is diagnosed with cancer, and was in a serious snowmobile accident breaking his spine in two places, his ribs, and several other bones.
- **Marla Dusich** – Linda Hane’s sister-in-law had back surgery and is in pain in the ER. Pray for healing and comfort.
- **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 Luthen’s good friend, Erin, had a double breast mastectomy surgery on February 22. Prayers for healing comfort and being cancer free.
- **Sandy Barich Thompson** – Glenda Harbough’s friend, Sandy, had a double breast mastectomy surgery on February 22. Prayers for healing, comfort and 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.