

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

March 26,

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.

Greetings! I spent Tuesday through Friday with my Sioux Falls family skiing in Lutsen, which is why you are receiving this edition of Parish News later than usual. My middle brother, John, joined us on Friday.

It was a wonderful time on the slopes with family, despite extremely blustery winds that shut down the gondola on Friday. The snow conditions were less than ideal all three days, but it's a great hill and as my son Christopher remarked: "Any day skiing is a great day."

Now that we're halfway through Lent, my thoughts have tilted toward the events of Holy Week. In this regard, I may have mentioned before how compelling I find the Celtic Cross. (I've pasted an image of a Celtic Cross on the lower left of the next page.)

The Celtic Cross incorporates both the traditional cross, with its vertical and horizontal cross members, along with a circle that sort of circumscribes the upper part of the traditional cross.

The traditional cross represents God's long-suffering, self-offering, and never-ending love, which we see so clearly in Jesus' allowing himself to be crucified to overcome sin, evil, and death.

On the other hand, the circle represents another form of love: God pouring life into the universe at the first moment of Creation and God continuing to pour out his cosmic love, grace, beauty, and life into each person and into every corner of the universe.

These are the two great movements of God in the world and in our lives: First, pouring out new life in the created order and filling our hearts as we see God's glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

God's second great movement is to gather back the broken pieces of our life and the broken pieces of the world into his own gracious and merciful heart and then do the work of mending broken hearts and the fractured human family. As God's children, we're the beneficiaries of these two ways God is part of our life.

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.

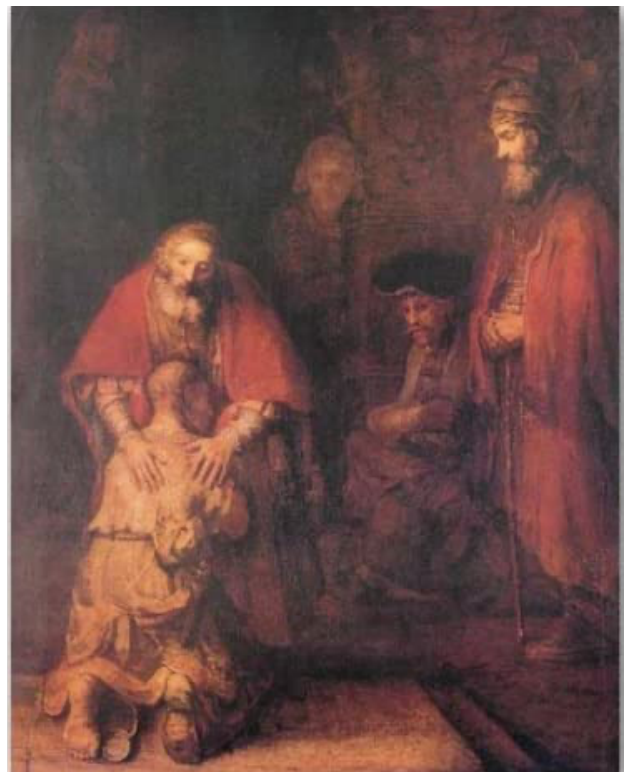
Scripture Readings for Sunday

The Scripture Reading for Sunday from Luke, often referred to as "The Parable of the Prodigal Son," is one of the most beloved passages in the entire Bible. It's a vivid picture of God's great joy when his wayward children return home after losing their way and traveling to a far land.

God loves us at all times and no matter what is happening in our life. But as we see in Scripture, God's love for those who are lost is especially visible. Here's a link to the Scripture reading for Sunday.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+15%03A1-3%02C+11-32&version=NRSV>

Pasted in on the lower right is a painting of the Prodigal Son by the Rembrandt, the great Dutch painter. You can see the father, tenderly embracing his younger son kneeling before him. The older son, filled with resentment, is off to the right in the shadows looking on the scene of reconciliation between his father and brother. I'll be referring to the painting in the sermon on Sunday.



Outreach to the Ukraine

Arresting news reports and startling images from the Ukraine have been flooding news outlets of all kinds since the Russian invasion began on February 22, 2022. The intensity of the bombardment and the tenacious resistance of the Ukrainian military and civilians remind those old enough to remember of the Battle of Britain waged by the Nazis over the skies of London.

There haven't been any requests officially come before our Administrative Council for a special collection for assistance to the Ukraine, but several individuals have approached me with ideas.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is always an excellent choice for directing relief donations because 100% of the gift is directly used for disaster relief. The financial overhead is covered by the apportionments that each United Methodist Church pays.

There's information for how to make a financial contribution through UMCOR in the blue box above. Here's a link to make a contribution online. <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450/>. (Note: Online contributions go into a global international general disaster recovery fund. Contributions directed to the Ukraine must be made by check as mentioned above in the blue box.

One of our Minnesota United Methodist pastors served for almost ten years at a campus ministry in the Ukraine.

There are also options for humanitarian aid to the Ukraine through well-established and reliable organizations. There are a list of organizations on the left that may be recognizable to you.

The Ukrainian people benefit in two ways from outside aid - the aid itself and the knowledge that they are not alone in their struggle for national autonomy and membership in the family of nations.

World Central Kitchen/ Chef Andre
providing food for refugees at the border
<https://wck.org>

Global Empowerment Mission
Medyka, Poland, using donations to buy refugees
train and plane tickets to help them reach any family or friends they may
have in Europe.
<https://www.globalempowermentmission.org>

Razom for Ukraine – working for democracy
<https://razomforukraine.org/about-us/our-story/>

Aid for refugees at Polish border
<https://fundly.com/support-ukrainian-democracy>

International Red Cross
<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/statement-icrc-president-peter-maurer-conflict-ukraine>

Save the Children
<https://www.savethechildren.org>

You can help the church in Ukraine provide for neighbors

UMCOR will provide assistance as possible to United Methodists in Ukraine by responding to the needs of internally displaced persons through its International Disaster Response and Recovery (IDR) fund. Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made in the following ways:

- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450>
- By toll-free telephone: 888-252-6174
- By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #982450-Ukraine" written on the memo line, either mailed and addressed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068 or given at or through any United Methodist church

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Razom for Ukraine – working for democracy

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The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

March 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.

Psalm 17: 6 (NIV)



“I call on you, O God, for you will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer.”

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Kevin Richards** – Kevin has been helping friends in Kuwait. He is home but plans to return. Pray for his success and safety.
- **Teri** – Carol Laine’s daughter, Teri, has been hospitalized in Grand Rapids with a very serious sepsis infection that is not improving. Carol is very close with her daughter and is hoping to have her moved to the cities for new treatments.
- **Michelle** – Janice Tessier’s daughter, Michelle, has been diagnosed with MS. Pray for effective treatment and comfort.
- **Tim Donovan’s family & friends** – Tim’s wife passed away recently. Tim is friends of the Nelson’s.
- **Dave & Kris** – Dave’s Parkinson’s Disease symptoms, Lisa Porthan’s father, are getting far worse and Lisa’s mother, Kris, is exhausted trying to care for him. She has her own health issues as well. Please keep Dave & Kris in your prayers.
- **Marilyn Brandau’s family & friends** – Mike Brandau’s mother, Marilyn, passed away after being hospitalized with pneumonia in Arizona. Please keep her family in your prayers.
- **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 – Update:** Marla still has some back pain, but is now back home from 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 Pahl – Update:** Marvel is back at home now. Linda Hane’s friend, Marvel, is in the hospital.
- **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.
- **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.