

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

April 22,

A Note from Pastor Craig

I'll Push You - Video Series at Ely United Methodist

The "I'll Push You" video will be shown each of the next two Sundays at our church - April 24 and May 1 - immediately following worship. A light lunch will be provided beforehand both Sundays.

A group discussion led by Keith and Sheri Rue will be held the Monday evening following each showing at 6:00.

There is a sign-up sheet at the rear of the church to help estimate the amount of food we need to prepare.

We aren't publicizing this event outside our church, but encourage you to invite family members and friends.

Once again snow today, Monday the day after Easter. Then a relatively nice day on Tuesday - 42 degrees and sun. Then 3" of snow forecast for Wednesday. And on and on it goes.

I read in the Sunday paper that Lake Minnetonka is ice-free. Apparently this is one of the unofficial markers of Spring in the Twin Cities. But here in Ely it seems as though Winter will not release us from its grip and Spring will not come!

Spring has not yet come, this year, anyhow, but God comes. God routinely shows up. It's coming we can count on; God coming on God's own initiative.

Abram and Sarai weren't looking for anything more than a new homeland when God came to them with the additional promise: "I will make of you a great nation."

The shepherd boy David wasn't looking to be king when God chose him ahead of his seven brothers to be the king of the twelve tribes of Israel.

A teenaged woman named Mary wasn't looking to be the mother of Jesus, the Messiah, when God said: "Greetings, favored one! You will conceive in your womb and bear a son."

God comes to us to further God's purpose - our salvation and the salvation of the world. It's not something we have to figure out, or discover, rather it's something we join in on. We say "yes" to God who has already found us in Christ.

Will Willimon in his memoir "Accidental Preacher" suggests this is also how we find the direction for our life. That rather than asking the popular question: "What do I want to do with my life" we ask "Which God am I worshipping and how is that God having his way with me?"

In other words, it's impossible for us to choose our way into a good life,

but it is possible to discern the good life God has chosen for us.

Glad that God comes, Pastor Craig

A Chance to Get to Know One Another by Sharing Anecdotes

My brother and I once got into a fight in church! This is a true account. Who does it belong to? Does it sound like anyone you know? It was someone from our church family. Are you curious? Next week I'll send out a series of stories like this and invite you to submit your guesses as to who wrote them.

Rich Floyd, on behalf of the Visioning Committee

National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer has been observed in the United States since 1962 when it was signed into law by the United States Congress. This tradition of prayer goes all the way back to John Adams, our second president, who established days of fasting and prayer back in 1798.

The National Day of Prayer organization nationwide has established five categories for citizens to pray for: Family, Church, Business, Education, Military, Government, and Arts/Entertainment, and Media.

A National Day of Prayer committee here in Ely, including Patty Rusco from our congregation, is organizing a gathering at the Ely Senior Center on Thursday, May 5th from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. (The Ely Senior Center is at 27 S. 1st Avenue West.) The committee encourages you to make a commitment to attend and to invite one or two others to make the same commitment.

You can find more information and resources at <https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/>

New Floor in the Basement and Fundraiser

Our Administrative Council has approved a project to replace the floor in all of the church basement except the nursery area. The new floor, which is vinyl "planking," will float over the existing floor. We are purchasing it from Floor to Ceiling in Virginia and hope to be on their installation schedule for early summer.

The cost of material and installation is right around \$25,000. We have some funds on hand and will do a fundraiser for the remaining \$15,000. Make out checks for any donations to "Ely United Methodist Church" with "Building Fund" in the memo line. Watch for a thermometer in the rear of the sanctuary to measure our progress.

Short Survey from Northwoods Partners

Nearly all of you are aware of Northwoods Partners and a number of you have served on their board. Northwoods Partners is a non-profit organization in Ely with the following mission: "The mission of Northwoods Partners is to provide resources that promote independence and healthy aging."

They have recently received a substantial grant from the Northland Foundation to facilitate coordination between community agencies here in the Ely area. And to make this information more accessible to area residents.

A short survey that can be completed in a few minutes is an important part of this effort. Surveys will be available in the rear of the church beginning Sunday, April 24. The surveys are designed for people over 50 years of age and should be returned before the middle of May. A copy of the survey is attached to Parish News so you can get a feel for the questions it is asking. And for how quickly it can be completed.

Northwoods Partners website is at: <http://www.northwoodspartners.org/>

Scripture Readings for Sunday

For those who follow Jesus Easter isn't only a single day, it's a church season, fifty days and seven Sundays in length. Someone has written: "During the season of Easter, we are invited to reflect on the impact of Jesus' death and resurrection. We're also able to get a renewed sense of how Easter relates to the church's mission, impelling the church to faithful witness as it moves out into the world. (Preaching through the Christian Year, Year C. p. 232.)

The worship service on Sunday will open with a Call to Worship from Psalm 150 where we hear the celebratory instruction: "Let everything that breathes, praise the Lord."

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+150&version=NRSV>

The Epistle Reading comes from the first chapter of the Revelation of John. In these five short verses John communicates a "feeling of triumph and confident hope" to a church that is experiencing oppression and uncertainty. (Ibid. p. 235.)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+1%3A4b-8&version=NRSV>

The Gospel Reading from John is the memorable account of Jesus' appearing to his disciples the first Easter night. Thomas is not with them. When they report to Thomas that they have seen the Lord, Thomas replies: "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Jesus appears to the disciples again a week later with a surprising outcome.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+20%3A19-31&version=NRSV>

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

April 22, 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.

John 15: 7 (NIV)



Jesus said, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Mike Haney's family & friends.** – Mike passed away Easter morning. Pray for comfort and peace for family & friends.
- **Bob & LaVerne Lindholm** – LaVerne is moving to the Ely Carefree Living from Babbit. Pray that Bob handles her move well and that he can join her in Ely very soon..
- **Carol Przybylsky's family & friends.** – Linda Frissell's mother, Carol, passed away. Pray for comfort and peace.
- **Zeke Urbas** – Zeke is having his follow-up Cancer scan for the spot found on the previous scan. Pray for a clear scan.
- **Tammy** – Angela Olson's cousin, Tammy, had a massive stroke and is now in rehab. Pray for healing and comfort.
- **Chelsea's & Kelli's family & friends; Sarah Mancino & another, college dormmates:** – Chelsea & Kelli both died in an auto accident. Pray for comfort, peace & healing for the families & dormmates. Sarah is Jeanne Tomlinson's niece.
- **Dave Aldrich** – Lucy Luthens grandfather had shoulder surgery and asked for prayers of comfort, healing and recovery.
- **David Richter** – Amy Fitzsimmons asked for prayers for David who had prostate cancer surgery. Pray for comfort & healing.
- **Lee Bailey** – Erin Moravitz co-worker's husband, Lee Bailey, has bladder cancer and requires chemo treatments and will eventually have to have his bladder removed..
- **Dee** – Linda Hane's friend, Dee, had stem cell transplant surgery 4 months ago and is doing well. However, she has contracted pneumonia and on antibiotics and in low spirits.
- **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.
- **The Russia / Ukraine conflict** – Pray for a world-wide lasting resolution, safety of the people, and peace.
- **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.

Community Needs Survey

Could you, or someone you are responsible for, benefit from assistance in any of these areas?

- Bathing
- Dressing
- Grooming
- Toileting
- Walking
- Friendly Visitor
- Managing Medications
- Meal Preparation
- Paying Bills
- Reminders
- Shopping
- Walking Companion
- Home Cleaning
- Outdoor Chore Assistance
- Respite Care
- Transportation to
 - Community or Social Events
 - Medical Appointments

Are you able and willing to pay for in-home services?

- Yes No

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If you are interested in:

- Teaching or Leading a Class
- Getting Further Information
- Getting Connected with Existing Services

Please provide your

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank You for completing our survey!*



## Adding Life to your Years...Survey

How satisfied are you with the amount of socialization you have in your life?

- Very Satisfied    Somewhat Satisfied    Dissatisfied
- 

What activities interest you?

- Book Clubs                       Card Groups  
 Coffee Groups                       Concerts  
 Cooking Classes                       Crafts  
 Dances                       Dining Events  
 Exercise Classes                       Gardening  
 Sewing/Quilting                       Walking Club  
 Speakers: Topic \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in Teaching/Leading a Class?

- Yes                       No

Would like to have intergenerational activity opportunities with our local youth?

- Yes                       No

Would you attend events at the Senior Center?

- Yes                       No

Would you need transportation to Events?

- Yes                       No

Would you participate in the Winter Months?

- Yes                       No

Does the COVID-19 pandemic effect your choice in participating in an activity?

- Yes                       No

Where would be the best place to advertise, so you would see what activities are going on?

- Ely Echo                       Ely Shopper  
 Facebook                       Flyer  
 Timberjay                       Website  
 WELY Public Announcements  
 Hand-out Monthly in Shopper