

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

May 13, 2022

Annual Conference Meeting - 2022

The Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is being held in-person in St. Cloud on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 24 and 25.

Jay Tomlinson is our lay delegate and will be attending. Prominent legislative items will deal with our Annual Conference's commitment to inclusiveness in all aspects of church life. Also with figuring out an amicable pathway for churches who have fundamental disagreements with these new developments to leave the denomination.

I (Pastor Craig) am unable to attend, but will attend the virtual clergy session that is scheduled for Thursday, May 19th. I've also visited with Jay concerning the legislative items he will be voting on.

A Note from Pastor Craig

I was awakened while it was still dark on Thursday morning this week by rain softly falling on the roof of the parsonage. Violent storms had moved through the Twin Cities the night before, but this was the kind of gentle rain that sounds like a lullaby.

The effect the rain had on me brought to mind some words written by John Muir 150 years ago where he said.

"I used to envy the father of our race, dwelling as he did in contact with the new-made fields and plants of Eden: but I do so no more, because I have discovered that I also live in 'creation's dawn.' The morning stars still sing together, and the world, not yet half made, becomes more beautiful every day." "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves." (The Wilderness World of John Muir. Edited by Edwin Way Teale. p. 311.)

I think we all recognize how fortunate we are to live in Ely surrounded by so much natural beauty - lakes, streams, trees, rocks, wildlife, and the beauty of the heavens. We do experience God and in some ways God is made known to us through Creation. And for this I am grateful.

There is necessarily more, however, to knowing God. God is also made known to us through Jesus Christ as he is revealed in Scripture through gift of the Holy Spirit. Christ is a primary touchstone with God.

And we experience God in worship, study, and the community of the Church.

Creation, Christ, and Church: Each is God's gift to us - multiple ways to learn about, experience, and be ever more deeply drawn into knowing God, the one in whom we "live and move and have our being."

I hope you have a blessed opening of fishing weekend, whether you are one who fishes or not.

Pastor Craig

“Father Stu” - Movie Showing at the Ely State Theater

Several evenings ago two members of the congregation and I attended “Father Stu,” a movie showing at the Ely State Theater. I was quickly drawn into the story and inspired by the movie. If you have an evening free between now and Thursday, May 19th I would encourage you to attend as well. There are also matinees on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

“Father Stu” is based upon a true story that depicts a one-time boxer who becomes a priest following a horrific motorcycle accident. While he is in the final stages of preparation for the priesthood, he is diagnosed with a rare muscular disease similar to Lou Gehrig’s disease. Father Stu continues his ministry despite his debilitation, touching the lives of many before his death at the age of 50.

Actor Mark Wahlberg plays Father Stu. Mel Gibson and Jacki Weaver play his estranged parents. You can purchase tickets online or at the door. To view movie show times and purchase tickets visit the theater website at <https://movies.elystatetheater.org/>

View the movie trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHREzAdyCPs>

Scripture Readings for Sunday

We often see Jesus’ followers acting confused by the things he says and does. And at first glance we may wonder at the depth of their initial misunderstanding and just how long it takes for all this to dawn upon them. How could they possibly be so slow to believe?

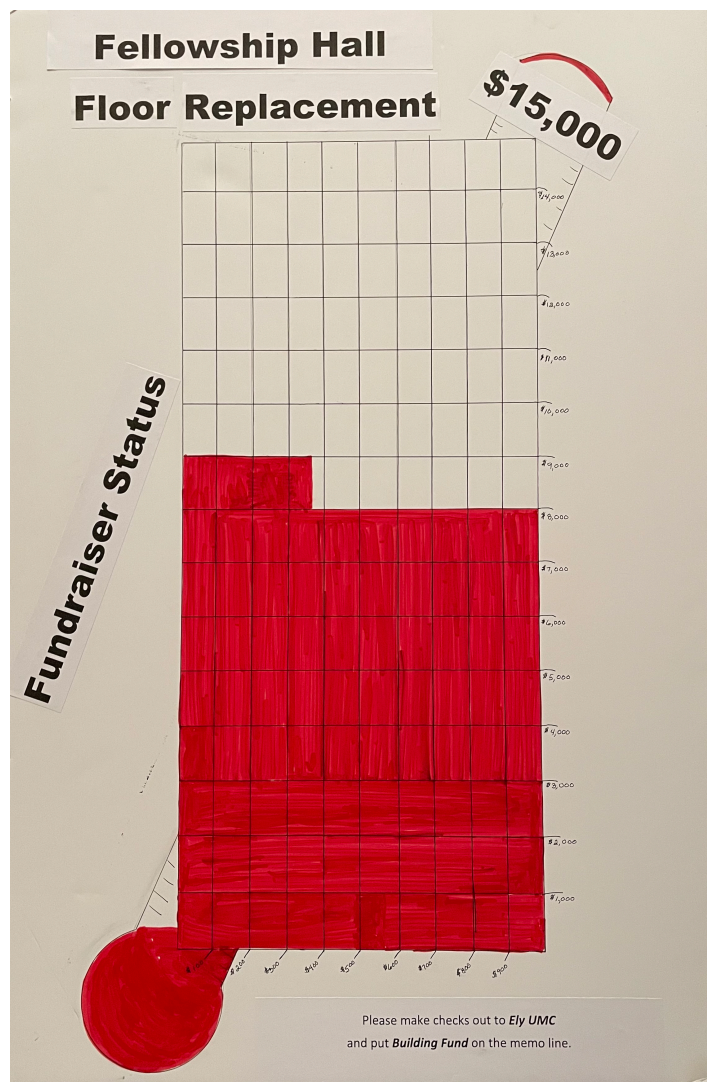
Yet, after further investigation, the depth of the disciples’ faith becomes apparent, as does their openness to what Jesus was saying. Why? Because Jesus vision for the kingdom of God was radically different from that which the Jews believed at the time. As was all that God was seeking to accomplish in and through Jesus. I marvel at how God was using the disciples.

Shortly before he ascended into heaven Jesus told his disciples: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Those are some “marching orders!”

The reading from Acts for Sunday follows right on the heels of where Peter says in Acts chapter 10: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.”

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+11%3A1-18&version=NRSVUE>

In the reading from John we see Jesus speaking to the disciples during the Last Supper saying: “A new commandment I give you that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13%3A31-35&version=NRSVUE>



Fellowship Hall Floor Fundraiser Update

We received \$5300 in donations last week. The total amount raised for our \$15,000 fundraiser now is just under \$8400, leaving us about \$6,600 yet to raise.

Thank you to all who have donated! If you wish to make a donation, make out checks for any donations to “Ely United Methodist Church” with “Building Fund” in the memo line.

Watch the amount grow on the chart in the back of the church or here each week in Parish News.

The Anecdote Game

The Answers and Winner of Last Week's Story Game

Again this week we had two winners of last week's story game. Again this week they were Jeanne and Jay Tomlinson. And again this week, stories they had personal knowledge of were not counted in their scores.

Was there collusion? Pretty unlikely; they had different right and wrong answers. The answers to the game are in the attachment. Unfortunately, due to lack of participation, that was our last game.

Answers to Last Week's Story Game

1. The first car I bought was a beat up VW Beetle. It had been spray painted avocado green. I named it "Flower." *Jeanne Tomlinson*
2. The only bone I've ever broken is my jaw. *Craig Haberman*
3. I retired at the age of 48, and moved with my spouse to Ely. *Rich Floyd*
- 4 I built a storage shed that survived a cat-4 hurricane. *Dan Johnson*
5. My mother's father was managing partner of the Ely Finnish Stock Company. *Jim Nicholas*
6. I'm a million miler, driving over a million miles in the lower 48 and several provinces in Canada. I've also been to all 50 states. *Jay Tomlinson*
7. I worked at the Boy Scout base on Moose Lake. *Butch Diesslin*
8. When I was in junior high (grades 7,8,9), I was painfully shy at school. I decided, in 10th grade to go out for memorized humorous readings on the speech team. I won the local and district contests in my first try, went out in subsequent years, and in my senior year had the lead in the class play. *Bev Johnson*
9. I have a large collection of snowmen. *Lucy Diesslin*

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

May 13, 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...

- **Sylvia Slaughter’s & her son, Billy’s, family & friends** – Sylvia (82), a former Ely UMC attendee, and her son Billy (59) have passed away recently. Pray for peace and comfort for their family members and friends.
- **Duane Bieber** – Duane is back home, doing well and back in church. Duane had surgery in Ely, but developed complications requiring emergency surgery in Duluth.
- **Ella Rue** – Prayers for Ella who has a bad case of bronchitis.
- **Patti Niskala** – Patti is having some medical procedures done in Duluth. Pray for good results.
- **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 Babbitt. 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.
- **Tammy’ family & friends** – Tammy had another stroke and passed away. Angela Olson’s cousin, Tammy, had a massive stroke and is now in rehab. Pray for healing and comfort.
- **Teri** – Carol Laine’s daughter, Teri, remains in a nursing home in Grand Rapids for wound care and has an appointment in Minneapolis for a consult on May 4th.
- **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.

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.