

# ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"The Little Church With the Big Heart"*

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## Parish News

July 1, 2022

### A Note from Pastor Craig

#### Trustee Projects Update

Our Board of Trustees continues to work on a number of projects with our church building and the parsonage were Pastor Craig lives.

We removed the lower branches from half a dozen trees at the parsonage and carried them away.

The basement floor project has hit yet another bump in the road. The concrete slab under the tile is so uneven that the new flooring won't sit flat, so the installers had to spread a "slurry" undercoating first. This will add extra cost. Floor to Ceiling has been great to work with the pricing on this.

The wheelchair ramp on the west side of the building and rear steps on the east side have been stained.

We are planning on re-surfacing the front steps this summer, but are waiting on material and labor.

Greetings on this Fourth of July weekend! What a wonderful event, both for the celebrations in Ely and for the opportunity to think back on our nation's origins and to reflect upon our identity as a people.

Our origins begin with words that ever since they were first penned have defined what we have stood for at our best: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."* <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>. (Note: the language comes from the 18th century.)

There is no question we haven't always been at our best. By one count 41 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence owned slaves. Women weren't given the vote until the 19th Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920, only 102 years ago.

But the Declaration of Independence is a vision of who we aspire to be and what the structure of our Constitution gives us the opportunity to be. These words inspire me and are capable of inspiring us as a people to move incrementally toward this vision.

One frustration among others that seems to be ever increasing in volume nowadays is that we're a divided nation. I read a column this week with the title "America is Growing Apart, Possibly for Good." The "P" word today when referring to our country isn't "Promise" or "Potential," but "Polarization."

Our beloved nation has always included people who hold very different perceptions of what's going on and the best way to solve our problems. One commentator I trust suggests that what makes today different is that there is a growing trend to view people who disagree with us as less than human, as people not possessing dignity.

How else do we overcome this than by getting to know people who are different than us, by growing to respect people who believe very different things than we do?

I read a fascinating book last year - *"American Harvest: God, Country, and Farming in the Heartland"* written by Marie Mutsuki Mockett. She is multi-ethnic and has lived most of her life on either the East or West Coast, but her family owns a farm in Nebraska.

In the book she spends a season with a custom combining crew traveling from Texas to Idaho. She is immersed 24/7 in a sea of differing beliefs and lifestyles and comes to know a wide variety of people over an extended period of time. This is a transforming experience for her. Perhaps one reason we're polarized is we've retreated into interacting only with people who are just like us. Pastor Craig

## **Two Upcoming 70th Wedding Anniversary Celebrations**

Two couples in our congregation are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversaries in the next two weeks. Their families invite you to celebrate with them.

Norm and Donna Rusco's family will provide cake and coffee following worship on Sunday, July 3rd at our church to honor them.

Bob and Pat Olson's family are having a celebration at Semer's Park on Saturday, July 9th from 1:00 to 5:00 to honor them. There is an invitation for Bob and Pat's celebration on the bulletin board at the rear of the church.

## **Pastor Craig Office Hours**

My typical office hours at the church are from 9:00 to Noon on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Also from 10:00 to Noon on Wednesday. Occasionally meetings or other appointments take me away from the church during office hours. Feel free to drop in to visit. If I'm not there for some reason and you'd like to see me leave a message on the answering machine at church (365-3355) or parsonage (365-3716).

I am also available to meet with you (whether at church or somewhere else) at a time that works better for you. Please contact me and we'll find a time and location that works.

Pastor Craig

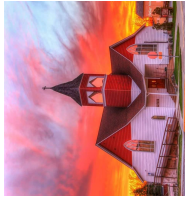
## **YouTube Worship Service Live-Stream Update**

Our transition from streaming our Worship Services on Facebook Live to the YouTube platform has gone well on the "production" end. It's less complicated to maintain our streaming connection, to operate the camera, and to manage our library of previous worship service recordings.

There are several advantages on the viewing end as well - you don't need a Facebook account to watch and the services are more easily accessed, whether live or later in the week.

We do realize you no longer have the ability to comment back and forth and send greetings to one another during the service. This is a loss for all of us and I'm sorry we're no longer able to do this.

Some of you have reported interruptions or poor signals when you are watching a worship service live. We've checked our YouTube worship service recordings and haven't noticed any problems. It could be your internet signal. It could also be a problem we have with our broadcast signal while the worship service is in progress. Please continue to report any difficulties you are having to us. We'll try to get things sorted out because it's important to us that those who choose to worship online are able to receive a strong signal.



# July 2022

**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

|   |           |           |  |  |           |           |          |
|---|-----------|-----------|--|--|-----------|-----------|----------|
| <b>July 31</b><br>10:00 AM<br>Worship Service   |           |           |  |  |           | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b> |
| <b>3</b><br>9:30 AM<br>Choir Practice<br>10:00 AM<br>Worship Service<br><i>Holy Communion</i> | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br>2:00 PM<br>Zoom Bible Study  | <b>7</b><br>NO<br>Choir Practice       | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b>  |          |
| <b>10</b><br>10:00 AM<br>Worship Service  | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b><br>2:00 PM<br>Zoom Bible Study | <b>14</b><br>6:00 PM<br>Choir Practice | <b>15</b> | <b>16</b> |          |
| <b>17</b><br>9:30 AM<br>Choir Practice<br>10:00 AM<br>Worship Service                         | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b><br>2:00 PM<br>Zoom Bible Study | <b>21</b><br>6:00 PM<br>Choir Practice | <b>22</b> | <b>23</b> |          |
| <b>24</b><br>10:00 AM<br>Worship Service  | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b><br>2:00 PM<br>Zoom Bible Study | <b>28</b><br>6:00 PM<br>Choir Practice | <b>29</b> | <b>30</b> |          |

# The Ely United Methodist Church

## *Prayer Wall*

July 1, 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 62: 8 (NIV)



*“Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.”*

### We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Evelyn** – Linda Frisell asked for prayers for her mother-in-law, Evelyn, who is now on hospice.
- **Carol Laine** – Carol had another surgery on her ankle. Pray that this surgery resolves the issues she has been having.
- **Glenda Harbough** – Glenda received injuries in a fall and is now recovering back at home in Milwaukee.
- **Sheila Shultz** – **Update:** Sheila is feeling much better as she is recovering from COVID. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Ken Nicholls & Wife, Jane Ann** – Heather & Marshall Monthei’s neighbor, Ken, has an immunity issue with a blood disorder & has Covid which is attacking his heart.
- **Jack & his family** – Newly awarded Eagle Scout, Jack, whose father died in the BWCA in his sleep from a heart attack during a scout canoe trip. Please pray for Jack and his family as they deal with this sudden loss.
- **Bobbi Gruwell** – Our summer choir member, Bobbi, broke her arm and will require 12 weeks recovery. Pray for healing.
- **Jim & Karen Eilrich** – Tomlinson’s neighbors. Jim is struggling with serious health issues. Pray for comfort and healing.
- **Paul Ivancich** – **Update:** He is still battling cancer, but is now back home and the infection has cleared up.
- **Duane** – Bob Olson’s friend, Duane, who just returned from being hospitalized for treatment of bleeding ulcers..
- **Nick Mattila** – Nick has diabetic neuropathy and a lot of pain in his arm. He will get an MRI to determine the cause of pain.
- **Brandau’s newest granddaughter Ruby Marie** – Born 4 weeks early but is home now but is on oxygen to help her breathing.
- **Patty Niskala** – Continued prayers for Patty as she works with the doctors on the next course of treatments.
- **Vicki Podomonick** – Vicki is struggling with some health issues. Pray for comfort and healing.
- **Jerilyn Montgomery** – She had a kidney transplant earlier but has developed an infection. Pray for effective treatment.
- **Ropey** – Marg Olson’s brother, Ropey, is not doing well. Pray for healing, comfort and peace.
- **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.*