

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

July 8, 2022

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Here are a list of upcoming events in our church and community.

First, Bob and Pat Olson are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary. Their family is hosting a celebration at Semer's Beach on Saturday, June 9th from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

Second, Northwoods Partners is sponsoring a concert of the Jumpin' Jehosaphats at Whiteside Park at 5:00 pm on Monday, July 18th. There's more information on page two of this newsletter.

Third, a Memorial Service for Glen Biebl will be held at our church on Saturday, August 13th at 11:00, with a lunch to follow.

Fourth, our church will participate in a shared worship service at Semer's Beach at 10:00 on Sunday, August 14th. This service replaces our Sunday service. A free lunch follows.

A Note from Pastor Craig

The Fourth of July has come and gone. Rain was supposed to arrive here in Ely just as the parade began, but it only amounted to a few sprinkles. Events in town were well planned and enthusiastically attended. Both my sons and their families had similar holiday weekends - a mixture of gratitude for country and time with friends.

Our nation-wide celebration was marred by a devastating mass shooting in a suburb of Chicago. Aside from horror of the shooting, "from sea to shining sea" there are individuals and groups, from across the entire political and social spectrum who are frustrated by the state of our country. In the most recent Gallup poll 87% of Americans say they are dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States.

Strikingly however, there are widely different views among our citizenry with the nature of what is wrong and even more so, with how to fix it. What is the way forward in our attempts to "form a more perfect union" seeing, as some suggest, we are on our way to becoming two nations?

As I ponder this in my head and heart I find myself going back to history, in this case to 1860 when Abraham Lincoln was elected the 16th president of the United States. Pulitzer Prize winner Doris Kearns Goodwin describes in her best selling book *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* how he appointed his three fiercest rivals for the Republican nomination to his cabinet

Goodwin writes: "These powerful competitors who originally disdained Lincoln became colleagues who helped him steer the country through its darkest days." Goodwin suggests that Lincoln's profound self-awareness and his unflagging faith in his country's cause allowed him to overcome the appalling pressures he faced day after day and be unmoved by the petty grievances, and the resentment and contention that threatened to destroy his administration. (Team of Rivals, pp. xvi-xvii.)

We do have what seems increasingly to be "two nations under one roof," yet no more so than at the time of the our Civil War one hundred sixty years ago. This was also the case in 1st century Judah, where the Judaism of Jesus' day was sharply divided into the "parties" of the Sadducees, Pharisees, Zealots, and the Sanhedrin. In the first five books of the Bible, known as the Pentateuch, we see two widely different views of life in Leviticus and Deuteronomy. We've been here before.

The near term may feel daunting, but it's in our social and religious DNA to rise above the divisiveness and forge a shared future together. Pastor Craig

Bible Learning Time for Children

Our church recently purchased "user friendly" Study Bibles for our children and youth. We have been distributing these Bibles in a one-on-one fashion rather than all at once on a Sunday morning.

Pastor Craig will be leading a four session Learning Time for boys and girls to get acquainted with the features of this particular Bible and general learning aids to make this Bible come alive in their hands. We will meet at the church from 4:00 to 5:00 on Wednesdays - July 20 and 27 and August 3 and 10.

Trustee Projects Update

Our Board of Trustees continues to work on a number of projects with our church building and the parsonage where 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.

Jumpin' Jehoshaphat Concert

The Jumpin' Jehoshaphats are once again coming to Ely with their blend of jazz and gospel music. They will be in concert at the Whiteside Park Bandshell on Monday evening, July 18th at 5:00.

The concert will be sponsored by Northwoods Partners, the non-profit organization that serves older adults in the Ely, Tower, and Babbitt area. In case of rain the concert will move indoors to our church.

The Wilderness Wildfire Pizza truck will be at the park at 4:00 for people who would like to purchase pizza for supper. Northwoods Partners will have a table with information and water provided at no cost. A free will offering will be collected to further the work of Northwoods Partners.

Susanne Mades, pastor at our church from 1984-1987, plays flute in the band. Elton Brown, retired United Methodist pastor and longtime Ely resident, plays tuba.

Bring a lawn chair and settle in for an enjoyable and relaxing evening of music in a wonderful setting on the lawn at Whiteside Park.

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

July 8, 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...

- **Carrie Foltz family & friends** – Carrie passed away. She grew up in Ely & her sister still lives here. Pray for comfort.
- **Nicole Udovich's family & friends** – Nicole's grandfather, Granda Ted, passed away the day after his/her 75th wedding anniversary. Pray for comfort for her family in their loss.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.