

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

July 15, 2022

Sunday Morning Hymns

Our church loves to sing, something I'm grateful for every Sunday morning. Not all congregations "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" as enthusiastically as we do.

We are also fortunate for a church our size to have a talented organist to play our pipe organ and two spirited piano players.

Typically, I choose hymns so they both fit the worship theme for the day and are songs we enjoy singing. I try to select a variety of hymns: golden oldies and more contemporary songs; songs that are familiar and a few that are new.

We've recently purchased a license that allows us to print the lyrics to hymns that are not in our hymnal and to live-stream these songs on our YouTube platform.

Are there songs you'd love to sing on Sunday morning, whether they are in our hymnal or not? Please contact me and we'll work them into an upcoming service. If they're not in the hymnal, we'll do our best to see if we can round up the music.

A Note from Pastor Craig

Greetings on another gorgeous day! We've had "pop-pop" thunderstorms off and on for a couple weeks, but all in all the weather has been enjoyable in July, especially when we consider the heat domes and severe weather visiting much of the United States. My heart goes out to those who have had major disruptions to their lives.

The pews have been full the last two Sundays in worship at our church with enthusiastic singing and participation. I enjoy the mix of year-round residents, summer residents, and those who are in town for several Sundays. Renewing acquaintances with multiple generations of summer folks whose parents and grandparents spent all or part of a summer here are joy-filled and bring back many memories.

Speaking of worship, occasionally I make references to social or political events in sermons and prayers. Some churches and clergy feel it's important to speak often about what's happening in our country and in the world. And to make specific statements about what Christians should think about these issues and events.

I am not one of those pastors and I don't think this is a value our congregation holds either. In my view speaking in forceful ways about issues from a particular perspective doesn't acknowledge that most issues are complex and they don't yield to simple, easily enacted decisions. If they did, we would have solved them years ago.

There are a smaller number of congregations and clergy who believe no mention should be made of the "outside world" at all in worship, because to do so is to taint our faith with the brokenness we experience outside the church doors. This view also falls short in my opinion. Why? "Outside" is where we spend most of our life and Jesus tells us to let our light shine and to love our neighbor, whoever they are.

I believe the purpose of churches and our faith is to worship God, to hear his Word as it comes to us through Scripture, hymns, preaching, and prayers, to grow in our love for God and one another (we call this Christian fellowship), *and* to learn to think about our lives in light of our faith - all of it, which means politics and social issues.

I am in middle of the road theologically and politically, not because it's expedient as a pastor to "be all things to all people," but because I believe that both conservative and liberal views have an element of truth as well as blind spots.

When I do mention things happening in our country my goal not to make political judgments or advance policy solutions, but to place events of today in what I believe is their larger historical, and specifically Christian context. Pastor Craig

Bible Discovery 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.

Two Sisters, Mary and Martha, and Jesus

This Sunday, for the second week in a row, we'll hear a story you've probably heard many times before. Last week it was the Parable of the Good Samaritan. This week it's the account of Jesus visiting the home of Mary and Martha.

Our reading from the Gospel of Luke isn't the only reference to Mary and Martha in the New Testament. John's Gospel tells us Mary, Martha, and their brother Lazarus are good friends of Jesus. The tradition is Jesus would often stop by their home for rest, peace, and the gift of understanding. In other words, they knew each other well.

In the reading for Sunday Mary sits at the feet of Jesus to listen and learn from him, while Martha busies herself serving them, and presumably the serving other people who may have been there.

Martha protests to Jesus that Mary has left her to do all the work by herself. Jesus memorable reply to Martha is "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken from her."

The obvious takeaway is that while there is a time to work, when Jesus is nearby the priority is to sit at his feet and listen. While this is not untrue, there's so much more in this reading to inspire and teach us all these years later.

Mary and Martha owned a home, something unusual for women of that day. Jesus visits their home. Mary sits at his feet to hear him teach. These are also unusual. Are there other wonders for us to discover in these words? Tune in Sunday. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A38-42&version=NRSVUE>

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 15, 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...

- **Friend of Vicki Podomonick** – Vicki asked for prayers for her friend who is diagnosed with Bell’s Palsy and shingles.
- **Dick Taylor** – Mary asked for prayers for Dick who is having a cardiac ablation this week.
- **Deb** – Suzette Tedrick’s friend, Deb, was badly burned at work. Pray for comfort and healing.
- **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.
- **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:** Paul is back at Mayo for pain treatments. He is still battling cancer and is having a lot of pain.
- **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.
- **Ropey** – **Update:** Ropey broke his hip, opted not to have surgery, and is now in hospice care. 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.



Basement Floor Update

Good News! We're finally making progress on the replacement of our basement floor. The new floor has been laid in the entire basement, including the kitchen and bathroom, which means Floor to Ceiling has completed their work.

The new floor looks spectacular, but a number of tasks remain for us to tackle before the entire project is complete.

The old baseboards/trim was discarded so we need to figure out what to replace them with and then install the new ones. There are some ceiling tiles to be replaced. The two poles and radiators should be painted.

We also need volunteers to clean the basement (walls, window wells, etc..) before we put things back in place. Dishes will need to be washed.

The Board of Trustees will meet in the family room following worship on Sunday to address these list of tasks.

The amount we've raised has inched up to \$14,230, so we're almost to our \$15,000 goal. We've had additional costs from our original estimate, so we'll be taking a look at that as well.

As always, we'll keep you up to date with any additional news.

