

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

elyumc.elymn@gmail.com

218-365-3355

www.elyumc.org

Parish News

August 26, 2022

Miscellaneous Announcements

Upper Rooms: We are nearing the end of August, which means there are only a few pages left in your July/August Upper Rooms. We invite you to pick up your September/October copy of the Upper Room devotional booklet in the rear of the church.

If the Upper Room is unfamiliar to you we invite you to pick one up and look it over. It has a short devotion for each day, complete with Scripture - food for the journey.

Sign-Up Sheets: There are also sign-up sheets for ushers, readers of Scripture, and camera operators.

None of these responsibilities are difficult and we'll be glad to provide as much or little training as you would appreciate. Additional people signing up gives a break to those who fill these shoes on a regular basis. Thank you!

A Note from Pastor Craig

I was up around 4:00 a.m. last Sunday morning in preparation for my drive from Crane Lake back to Ely. Pulling on a thin t-shirt, I walked out to the car under a clear sky blazing with stars and a crescent moon.

Shivering involuntarily in the 50 degree temperatures I thought "this feels like fall." And sure enough as I began to drive I encountered fog in the low-lying areas and "white horses" floating above Robinson Lake.

Then Sunday afternoon even though it was 75 degrees I noticed the same thing when I was bicycling on the newly-completed bike path running from Grant Macmahan Road to Eagles Nest Lake. What I noticed then was how sunlight looks different this time of year than it does during the middle of summer. It has a softer, golden appearance rather than the white glare of high summer.

I'm not giving up on summer yet, not by a long shot. I fully intend to soak in all the the remaining moments of sunshine, warm temperatures, and opportunities to spend time outdoors, all while wearing short sleeves and other summer clothing. As much as I enjoy all four seasons it does get old pulling on layers and layers of clothing and donning clunky boots.

As we put on different clothes in the fall, so too we don different routines. My older son, the teacher whose family lives in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, headed off this past Monday for teacher in-service days, in advance of students reporting Monday, August 29th. My Sioux Falls grandchildren will report shortly as well, so I'll be watching for their first day of school Facebook postings which will appear soon, along with some of yours.

Some of our summer residents will begin making preparations to return home following an unusual summer of high water, cool weather, and lots of rain. Before too-too long year round residents living on lakes will prepare to winterize boats and pull docks from the water.

Again, none of what I'm mentioning is trying to hurry summer away or be "doom and gloom;" rather it's recognizing that all of life is change. And also giving thanks for the glorious opportunity we have in Ely to experience summer in one of the most beautiful places on earth.

But then, isn't it the same with living in God's kingdom? Our life as God's sons and daughters is one of change; with joy and sorrow, distress and peace. Yet, we live every last bit of it immersed in our relationship with God and his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Pastor Craig

More Progress on our Basement Floor Project!

The progress on our basement floor project moved several steps forward this week. The new baseboards were stained and varnished on Tuesday and Wednesday. The process of installing them and re-installing trim around basement doors began Wednesday afternoon.

We have reached our \$15,000 fundraising goal. Thank you!! Any additional contributions will be added to the building fund to be used to cover remaining costs for the project.

We'll update you when it's time for volunteers to complete remaining tasks, such as washing dishes, moving items from the garage to the church, and returning them to their respective locations. The floor looks great. We'll include a full list of thank you's when the project winds up.

Scripture Reading for Sunday from the Book of Hebrews

We've been reading from the New Testament book of Hebrews on Sunday morning during the last month or so on. This week will be the final week and what a splendid reading Hebrews 13:1-16 is.

The most solid research indicates the writer of Hebrews was addressing people that were feeling beleaguered and worn out. They had been misled by some wandering teachers to believe that faith in Christ would allow them to rise above all human pain and suffering. Because they had taken these teachings to heart and this deliverance hadn't happened, they felt as though the promises of the Gospel had failed them. They felt overwhelmed by insecurity, temptation, and the powers of death all around them. In other words it was as though they were powerless in the face of malevolent cosmic powers.

In the first four stunning verses of the book (Hebrews 1:1-4) the writer says this isn't so. God has spoken to the world through a Son who sustains all things by his powerful word. Over the next twelve chapters the writer then carefully unpacks in great detail what this means, culminating by saying we too can run the race set before us, following Jesus, and surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (heroes and heroines of faith who have gone before.) Christian living is a pilgrimage of faith.

Hebrews 13 concludes the book with an exhortation to show hospitality to strangers, to live transformed lives, to not neglect doing good, and to "allow the God of peace to make us complete in everything good so that we may do his will." These words encouraged the first readers to "lift up drooping hands and strengthen weak knees" and will do the same for us as well.

Pastor Craig's Comings and Goings in the Next Two Months

I had a marvelous time with my family during my recent vacation as I mentioned last week in worship and earlier in this weekly newsletter. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with them, both in Ely and at Crane Lake. It's also good to be "back in the saddle" as we begin to make the slow pivot from summer to fall here in Ely - in the community and at church. Although I'll be making several trips out of town between now and Christmas, I'm fully engaged with being your pastor.

I will be out of town from September 15 - 19. My twin brother Mark and I will be making a tour of our west-central Minnesota childhood roots and reliving memories from those years. I'll also be attending Tracy United Methodist Church's 150th anniversary on Sunday, September 18th. Sheri Rue will bring a message on the 18th in my absence.

I'll be in Albuquerque for Continuing Education from Monday, October 10th through Friday, the 14th, but won't miss our worship service on October 16th.

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

August 26, 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.

Matthew 21: 22 (NIV)



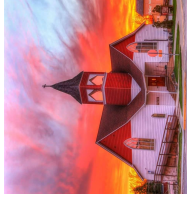
(Jesus said), "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Vicki Podominick** – Vicki is scheduled for surgery September 13th to remove a non-cancerous polyp from her stomach.
- **Ted Harbaugh** – Glenda Harbaugh asked for prayers for her son, Ted.
- **Jason King** – Lucy Diesslin's cousin, Jason, suffered a brain aneurysm this past week.
- **Joni Dahl family and friends:** Joni was killed in an auto accident. She was good friends with Anna and Chris Urbas and was a member of the Chix with Sticks hockey team with us. Pray for comfort for the family in their loss.
- **John Lauderdale family & friends:** John, stepson of Linda Hane's sister-in-law, was killed in a motorcycle accident. He has two small children. Pray for comfort for the family.
- **Red Nied** – Nancy Markwardt's brother, Red, and his family are facing increasing physical challenges.
- **Bev** – **Update:** Bev's heart surgery went well and she is on the mend. Sheila Sultz friend, Bev, is going for tests in Duluth prior to her heart surgery scheduled for Tuesday August 16th.
- **Zeke Urbas** – **Update:** Zeke's scans were clear. Zeke is having one of his periodic cancer scans later this month.
- **Jan** – Cathy Aldrich's friend, Jan, has developed an infection following a medical procedure. Pray for quick healing.
- **Thomas Hane** – Linda Hane's brother-in-law is suffering from possible agent orange exposure.
- **Bobbi Gruwell** – **Update:** Bobbi's surgery went well and she is recovering at home. Bobbi (summer choir member) is having hip replacement surgery on August 22nd.
- **Carol Laine** – Carol Laine's cast has been removed. She now has a boot, but walking is still difficult for her.
- **Friend of Vicki Podomonick** – **Update:** Vicki's friend, diagnosed with Bell's Palsy, has an abscess on her eye & needs surgery.
- **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, but doing better.
- **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.



September 2022

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

					1 6:00 PM Choir Practice	2	3
4 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship Service Holy Communion	5	6	7 2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	8 5:00 PM Visioning Committee 6:00 PM Choir Practice	9	10	
11 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School	12 2:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting	13	14 2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study 7:00 PM Administrative Council	15 6:00 PM Choir Practice September 15 – 20 • Pastor Craig will be on Vacation	16	17	
18 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School Sheri Rue leading Worship Service September 15 – 20 • Pastor Craig will be on Vacation	19	20	21 10:00 AM United Methodist Women 2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	22 6:00 PM Choir Practice	23	24	
25 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School	26	27	28 2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	29 6:00 PM Choir Practice	30		