

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

elyumc.elymn@gmail.com

218-365-3355

www.elyumc.org

Parish News

September 9, 2022

A Note from Pastor Craig

A Few Miscellaneous Announcements

Sunday school: I announced earlier that Sunday school would start this Sunday, September 11th. My mind was on autopilot when I wrote that; we won't be able to hold Sunday school until the basement is more put back together.

Our updated plans are to start Sunday school on September 25th or when things are put together enough in the basement to begin, whichever comes later.

Parents and/or grandparents of Sunday school boys and girls will meet at the church Wednesday, September 28th at 5:00 to discuss the year ahead.

Parish News: There will be no Parish News next week. The next Parish News will be Friday, September 23.

Greetings! It's raining today (Friday), but there will be really nice autumn weather on Saturday and Sunday for Harvest Moon festival. And into next week as well. Now begins the transition of leaving behind the unrestrained joys of summer and embracing the more subdued contentments of autumn.

Speaking of autumn, I want to take a few moments to mention something I reread recently from the novel *Jewelweed*, a vibrant book with an autumn theme and an autumn-like painting on the cover.

Jewelweed is the second of two novels set in the wild and rugged Driftless area that covers portions of Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Minnesota. The first novel, *Driftless*, and *Jewelweed* follow a set of sturdy characters seeking to expand themselves to fully fill their own lives, relationship networks, and the small rural community where they live. A third book, *Painting Beyond Walls*, that follows the same characters will be released this coming Tuesday.

Near the end of *Jewelweed*, Blake and Dart, separated by sudden and unfortunate circumstances a decade earlier, but who still care about each other, are poised to possibly be reunited. Dart goes to a person she trusts and says: "*And do you think that people can ever be forgiven for what they don't know about themselves, for paying too much attention to what frightens them and too little to what makes them happy?*" (*Jewelweed*, p. 417.)

A central tenant of our faith is "yes, we can be forgiven" - whether for what we know or don't know about ourselves. The Apostle Paul comes to mind immediately in this regard. He says in one reading for this Sunday: "But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief." (I Timothy 1:14)

The novel *Jewelweed* isn't explicitly religious, but each character in the book is carried by their openness to grace and to each other to a more vibrant and joyful place than they were when the story began. They find a way to pay more attention to what makes them joyful and less to what they're afraid of.

It seems as though there's a fair amount of fear floating around in many places today. Fear of the future, fear of each other, fear for our loved ones, fear that our institutions are failing, fear that the challenges we face are larger than our ability to solve them; well, the list goes on and on.

Paying attention to what we love brings risk along with it. On the other hand, it is a better way. And as John, the one of the Twelve Disciples, says in his first letter: "Perfect love casts out all fear."

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 Readings for Sunday from I Timothy and Luke

Jesus' death and resurrection happened around 30 A.D. While alive, Jesus preached a message of good news, which included salvation beyond death through faith in Jesus Christ, the arrival of the kingdom of God in our midst now, and the eventual completion of all things with his Coming Again at some time in the future.

His earliest followers focused their efforts on preaching the Good News, caring for the poor and widows in their midst, and inviting others, Jew and Gentile alike, to have faith in Jesus Christ. They felt urgency, because the message had life and death implications and they had expectations that Jesus would return in their lifetime. The gospel accounts of Jesus' life and the letters of Paul reflect these concerns.

Three New Testament letters (I Timothy, II Timothy, and Titus) were written much later, around 90 A.D, and have a different focus. They provide instructions regarding false teaching and church leadership. The writers want to ensure the stability of churches and know that churches cannot thrive without strong leadership and sound teaching. In fact, without both churches may even face challenges to survive. For this reason these letters are known the Pastoral Epistles - they give advice to churches for the long haul.

Our Church Committees Get Busy Again in September

Our Administrative Council, United Methodist Women (UMW), and other committees take a well-deserved rest during the summer. We meet regularly and work diligently throughout the school year, but during the summer, well, like all of us, our committee members are enjoying community events, their families, and the great outdoors.

All our committees and the United Methodist Women will meet in the next month or two. Much of our business are routine matters that are necessary for a church to function well - evaluating the pastor, tracking the finances of the church, keeping our buildings in good shape, planning worship services, and listening to where the Spirit may be leading us into the future. Our UMW will be bringing a recommendation to the Ad Council about pasty-making during the 2022-2023 school year.

The meetings of our Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) are typically closed meetings due to the confidential nature of some of our conversations, but all our other meetings are open meetings and we encourage church members to attend. Also please bring any questions or concerns to committee members.

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

September 9, 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.

James 5: 15-16 (NIV)



“And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him (or her) up.... The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.”

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Lisa Portan’s parents** – Lisa’s dad is struggling with his Parkinson’s disease & is falling frequently & depressed. Her mom is exhausted trying to care for him at home. It’s heartbreaking watching them struggling.
- **Gordon Tomlinson** – Jay’s brother, Gordon, broke his knee & tibia and is dealing with swelling and pain & requires surgical repairs. Pray for healing and full recovery.
- **Larry Rom family & friends** – Larry Passed away. Pray for peace and comfort for his family & friends.
- **Adam** – Sheila’s son, Adam with some co-worker friends, are traveling to Ireland, Pray for safe travels.
- **Ella Rue** – Ella is having asthma difficulties.
- **Alex Katsis** – Angela Campbell’s twin sister, Alex, had a heart attack. She heart is too weak for stents so she is in Palliative Care in Tower/Soudan Senior Living Center..
- **Jeff & Mary MnNiff** – Friends of Heather & Marshall Monthei, Jeff, who is immune-compromised due to a heart transplant, has contracted COVID.
- **Keith Vandervort family & friends** – Keith, *Timberjay* reporter, passed away unexpectedly Friday, Aug 26th. Please pray for comfort and peace for his wife, Kay, family members, friends and our community who will be feeling his loss.
- **Marla Tezak** – Linda Hane’s sister-in-law, Marla, had shoulder surgery in Duluth is past week.
- **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** – Update: Jason is out of the ICU & gaining abilities, but long recuperation ahead. 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 Sticke=s hockey team with us. Pray for comfort for the family in their loss.
- **John Launderville 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.
- **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.