

# ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"The Little Church With the Big Heart"*

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**Parish News**

**October 7, 2022**

## A Note from Pastor Craig

### Several Meetings Unique to Autumn on the Calendar

Our Ad Council, Trustees, Worship, and Visioning Committees meet year-round.

Our Finance, Nominating, and Pastor Parish Relations Committees meet primarily in the Autumn in preparation for our December Church Conference.

Each of these committees will meet in the next six weeks.

**Nominations:** Nominating Committee will meet Sunday morning, October 23rd following worship.

**PPRC:** Pastor Parish Relations Committee will meet on Monday evening, November 7th at 6:30.

**Finance:** Finance Committee will meet either Tuesday, November 8th or Wednesday, November 9th. Watch for further details. We'll post further details when the date and time is set.

Our color peaked in and around Ely last weekend, give or take a couple days. I've seen Facebook posts with spectacular pictures, uploaded some pictures myself, and heard superlative comments from about everyone I've met since then. One person mentioned he thought the color was changing hour by hour. Another said it's the best color season he has seen in years.

Then, almost as quickly as it arrived, it all began to turn. I woke up Thursday morning to see a handful of leaves on the lawn on the north side of the parsonage. Walking to church I passed by trees with a carpet of leaves already on the ground underneath them.

Autumn scenery in northern Minnesota is brilliant and brief, unlike the extended summer in southern states or months-long white of winter. I've read several writers over the years who suggest that this is a metaphor for life; life is so wonderful, but so short. That the lesson of autumn is to enjoy what is right in front of us because it will soon be past and gone; life is soon over.

We Christians do believe in the glory of living. Marilynne Robinson puts it so well in her Pulitzer Prize winning novel *Gilead*: "*I can't believe that, when we have all been changed and put on incorruptibility, we will forget our fantastic condition of mortality and impermanence, the great bright dream of procreating and perishing that meant the whole world to us. In eternity this world will be Troy, I believe, and all that has passed here will be the epic of the universe, the ballad they sing in the streets.*" (p. 57)

And: "*The moon looks wonderful in this warm evening light, just as a candle flame looks beautiful in the light of morning. Light within light.... It seems to me to be a metaphor for the human soul, the singular light within the great general light of existence. Or it seems like poetry within language. Perhaps wisdom within experience. Or marriage within friendship and love.*" (p. 119)

But we also believe in life with the Triune God, beyond death, in eternity; what Robinson refers to as "putting on incorruptibility." So, yes, enjoy each and every day; every moment that God gives to us, because like the brilliant colors of autumn, they are here today and gone tomorrow.

But also trust in Jesus Christ and hold onto him. For by God's grace we are also carried beyond life's last fleeting breath to life eternal.

Pastor Craig

## The Ely United Methodist Church

# Prayer Wall

November 7, 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.

### Mark 11: 24 (NIV)



*“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”*

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

- **Red Neil – Update:** Nancy Markwardt’s brother is not doing well & the next step is hospice care. Pray for comfort and peace.
- **Magnolia Ray** – Linda William’s grandson, Dylan, and his wife, Mallory, welcomed their new daughter, Magnolia Ray, after a difficult birth born at 25 weeks weighing only 1 lb 12 ounces. She’ll be in the NICU for a while. Both mother and daughter are doing fine, but welcome prayers of continued good health and development.
- **Michelle Fairbanks** – Linda Hane’s friend, Michelle, is having knee surgery. Pray for healing and successful outcome.
- **Nancy** – Butch Diesslin’s sister broken her shoulder 3 months ago and it has not healed. She now needs shoulder replacement surgery. Pray for healing and a successful outcome.
- **Linda Fink** – Lucy Diesslin’s friend, Linda, is having back surgery. Pray for healing and successful outcome.
- **Jo** – Linda Hane’s sister, Jo, had cataract surgery. Pray for healing and successful outcome.
- **Newt Nickerson** – Newt had a complete knee replacement. Pray for successful rehab, healing and speedy recovery.
- **Irene Hartfield** – Irene had shoulder surgery on Thursday, Sep 22. Pray for successful rehab, healing and full recovery.
- **Nick Mattila** – Nick has contracted COVID. Pray for a speedy and complete recovery.
- **Lisa McCallum** – Lisa is having knee problems and other health issues. Pray for healing.
- **Bob Lindholm – Update:** Bob is back from the ER and recovering. Suffered a trip to the ER due to a fall hitting his head.
- **Duane Avola family & friends** – Bob Olson’s friend, Duane, has passed away. Pray for peace and comfort for his family.
- **Dave & Kris** – Lisa Porthan’s dad, Dave, is struggling with his Parkinson’s disease & is falling frequently & depressed. Her mom, Kris, is exhausted trying to care for him at home. It’s heartbreaking watching them struggling.
- **Vicki Podominick – Update:** Vicki’s surgery to remove a non-cancerous polyp from her stomach went well.
- **Jason King – Update:** Jason is improving but now needs to be in a care facility that includes a rehab center. Jason is out of the ICU & gaining abilities but faces a long recuperation ahead. Lucy Diesslin’s cousin, Jason, suffered a brain aneurysm.
- **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.*

## The UMW at Ely United Methodist Church September 21, 2022 10-11:20 AM

President Margie Olson opened the meeting at 10:03 AM with a unison reading of the UMW pledge. We had 11 people attending: Bonnie Berglund, Lucy Diesslin, Gail Haney, Carol Linneman, Beverly Johnson, Sharon Luthens, Margie Olson, Donna Rusco, Patty Rusco, Jeanne Tomlinson and Pam Turnbull.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the May 18 meeting were read. Motion to approve by Beverly Johnson; second by Bonnie Berglund. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sharon Luthens reported that she had paid the GEL \$822.58 for the May Friendship Dinner. This was significantly higher than expected since the dinners were quoted as costing \$19.95 per person and we had 30 people attending. The bill included a significant "banquet service fee" as well as the sales tax. It was suggested that next year we have participants pay more. Sharon had also finally received a bill from Bulls Eye Cleaners covering February through June for \$712.50, which she paid. She also paid their final bill of \$125. The current balance in checking is \$553.28; savings has \$16,614.53. She asked for approval to transfer \$1500 from the savings to checking to cover expected bills over the next couple of months. Patty Rusco moved that we do that and Bev Johnson seconded the motion. During the discussion it was suggested we transfer a much higher amount to cover anticipated additional expenses for the basement work. Patty amended her motion to transfer \$5,000; Bev seconded the amendment. Motion passed.

### Old Business

- **Friendship Dinner:** Jeanne reported we had 30 participants; the costs had already been discussed. The consensus was that the dinner went well and all seemed to enjoy it.
- **Fellowship Hall floor replacement:** Margie reported that the new floor and new baseboards have been installed and the doors rehung. Margie and Lucy did some cleaning on Sunday after church; an even larger crew came in Tuesday morning and cleaned all the walls and window wells and heating registers. There is a crew coming in Thursday to move the heavy stuff back into place. As long as the dishwasher checks out for us, a number of women will come in Friday morning to wash all the dishes. Mark Olson will arrive about 7 AM to get the dish washing machine started heating; Carol Linneman will start washing at 8 AM.
- **Nursery changes:** Pam Turnbull reported that the corner cupboard in the nursery has been removed. Unfortunately, the cupboard caused the flooring to buckle but the plan is to store the empty aluminum racks along that wall and they will cover that part of the floor. We'll keep some nursery supplies in there but since it is rarely used we won't be keeping much. Jeanne requested we keep the small table since she uses it for pasties. We should probably keep some of the small chairs for times we might want special seating for a number of young children.
- **New devotional book:** Jeanne Tomlinson had looked into additional books by James W. Moore and found one that might be suitable: *Rich in the Things That Count the Most*. She ordered one copy of the book to have the group check it out. Anyone wanting their own copy can order their own from Amazon or ask Jeanne to order a copy for them. The cost is \$16.

## New Business

- **Pasties:** After some discussion, Pam Turnbull moved that we plan to do pasties 5 times this winter: November, January, February, March and April. Second by Bonnie Berglund. Motion passed. Lucy Diesslin moved that we raise the price to \$8 since the product cost is going to be significantly higher than it was last year. Second by Carol Linneman. Motion passed. Jeanne stressed that we need to keep order totals to no more than 800.
- **Closet racks:** Margie had researched a couple types of metal shelving units to put in the two closets that housed the aluminum “pasty equipment” racks. She reported the kind we currently have for the dishes costs about \$400 each. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we get the same kind since those are quite sturdy and can be adjusted to different shelving heights. Second by Bev Johnson. Motion passed. Margie will take care of ordering them. Pam offered to put them together.
- **New church cleaner:** Nikki Dreschler has been hired to take care of cleaning the church each week. We’ll be paying her \$40 per hour.
- **Supplies:** Jeanne agreed to continue taking care of ordering standard supplies and will get a committee together once things are moved into the new arrangement to develop a process to track usage.
- **Supplies organization:** We’ll work on getting existing supplies moved into the new shelving and re-organizing the closets during the month of October.
- **Ceiling tiles:** It was noted that many of the drop-ceiling tiles in the basement are in bad shape. It was agreed that should be our next project.

Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 10 AM. We adjourned the business meeting portion at 10:55 AM.

For our devotional time, we read the introduction to the new James Moore book: *Rich in the Things That Count the Most*. The group agreed that we’ll continue with this book.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Tomlinson Secretary