

# ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"The Little Church With the Big Heart"*

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**Parish News**

**December 9, 2022**

## A Note from Pastor Craig

### Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Services

Christmas Eve: Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 5:30 on December 24, Christmas Eve.

It will be simple service of Scripture readings, Christmas Carols, a short message, and the Lighting of Advent Candles during the singing of Silent Night.

We welcome you to join us on this holy night.

Christmas Day: Christmas Day is a Sunday this year, so we'll have hold our typical Sunday service, complete with Scripture readings and hymns of the Christmas season.

Greetings as we approach the Second Sunday of Advent! I'm writing these words at 7:41 on Tuesday morning, which is the moment of sunrise according to the weather app on my phone. I don't see any glimpse of the sun however, since it's completely overcast and gray again this morning. But I know the sun is out there somewhere behind the clouds, because the darkness has slowly ebbed during the last hour.

The temperature will only climb to 14 degrees today and the sun will set at 4:15, so we'll only have 8 hours and 34 minutes of daylight today. It's winter in Northern Minnesota.

Donald Hall and Jane Kenyon were a married couple, both poets, who lived very happily in his ancestral New England Cape Cod farmhouse in rural Wilmot, New Hampshire. This idyllic time continued for 19 years before her tragic and premature death from leukemia in 1995 at the age of 47.

Temperamentally alike in most ways, they shared one striking difference. She loved and luxuriated in the light of summer and he contentedly hunkered down during the long hours of winter darkness.

Donald described Jane as an "amorist of light," which means "one who loves and writes about light." She would crane her face to the light while working in her garden and send a card of commiseration to fellow light-lover each June 22 as the hours of daylight began to wane. In winter, Donald would burrow into his armchair, books in hand, while the wood stove threw off heat nearby. During a heavy snowstorm he would rise at two or three in the morning and keep track of the storm's progress while walking from room to room and looking out windows.

Most of us probably prefer the warmth and long hours of daylight in summer to the cold, darkness, and ice of winter.

But, seeing that Christmas arrives just four days after the shortest day of the year, this is an opportunity to ponder the wonder John shares with us in his Gospel: "The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."

Although the darkness of winter remains, the coming of Jesus into the world has banished the powers of darkness forever.

Pastor Craig

## The Ely United Methodist Church

# Prayer Wall

December 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.

### 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...

- **Lisa Porthan's family** – Lisa's mother has been diagnosed with cancer and her sister has been diagnosed with Crone's disease. Her father continues to struggle with Parkinson's disease and with the loss of his two sisters within the past 6 months. Pray for Lisa & her family for strength & comfort as they deal with all these issues.
- **Vicki Podominick** – Vicki is having knee surgery this Friday. Please keep her in your prayers for the procedure and subsequent healing and rehab.
- **Stacy Rowan** – Stacy is a friend of Amy (Richter) McDonald. Stacy lost her two eldest children, Aubrey & Kaden Tuura, in an auto accident. Their little brother, Anthony, is friends with Atticus. Pray for comfort & peace.
- **Reese Scufsa** – Reese was transported to Children's Hospital in Fargo, ND, for an illness caused by either a virus or genetic condition. He was put on the heart transplant list. They found a heart for him and the transplant surgery took place on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Reese's grandparents live in Winton and his mother, Denise, is friends with Angie Olson.
- **Toni Dauwalter** – Toni, who works at the hospital, broke her wrist. Pray for healing and patience.
- **Sydney** – Anna Urbas's roommate, Sydney, tore her ACL in her first season basketball game & needs surgery.
- **Marja Viikinsalo family & friends** – Marja passed away. Pray for comfort and peace for family and friends.
- **Ropey** – Margie Olson's brother, Ropey, is on hospice care and is in the hospital. Pray for comfort.
- **Sheryl Jarrs** – Linda Hane's friend, Sheryl, fell and broke 3 ribs. Pray for quick healing.
- **Delene & family & friends** – Judy Bonderson's sister-in-law, Delene, just lost her eldest son. Pray for comfort and peace.
- **Steve & Glenda Harbaugh** – Glenda's husband, Steve, is battling an unusually fast stage 4 prostate cancer which has already spread to bone and lymph nodes. He has a port inserted for chemo treatments. Pray for effective treatments.
- **Peggy Koshak** – Paula Mattila's sister, Peggy, fell and hurt her shoulder and is still having trouble breathing.
- **Isaac** – **Update: Isaac is now hospitalized for additional psychiatric help.** Pray for Isaac and his mom and dad. Isaac is 16 and struggling with everyday life. He is receiving psychiatric help. Isaac's parents are close friends of Dale & Connie Peterson.
- **Red Nied** – **Update: Nancy Markwardt's brother is not doing well & the next step is hospice care.** Pray for comfort & peace.
- **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.

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Thursday, November 17, 2022 at Ely United Methodist Church

**Call To Order:** Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 5 PM.

**Attendees (6):** Craig Haberman, Don Ingerson, Margie & Mark Olson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson **Opening:** Pastor Craig commented that he had just had a conference trustee meeting earlier in the day and it had struck him that with both our Minnesota-Dakota Conference and our own church, there are always the more “visible” participants, but, like an iceberg has only 30% visible, there is a figurative 70% that people don’t see or notice that are key components of the keeping the church going. He then opened with prayer.

**Minutes:** The October 20, 2022 Ad Council minutes were approved as distributed in the *Parish News*. Motion by Mark Olson; second by Margie Olson.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Mark Olson presented the October 2022 Treasurer’s report. Receipts were \$9,915, disbursements were \$8,266.37. The current account balances are: General Fund \$48,640.54; Memorial Fund \$11,112.86; Building Fund \$8,196.20. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we accept the Treasurer’s report as submitted, second by Margie Olson. Motion passed.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Trustees:** Margie Olson reported that the new light had been installed on the garage at the parsonage and Pastor Craig had replaced the kitchen faucet. An idea had been suggested that we add some lighting to the west side of the building since it’s very dark at night for anyone parking there and walking to the front side stairs or the basement door. The Trustees will be discussing options.
2. **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Pastor Craig reported that the committee had met and is working on completing the annual evaluation form. They discussed his 2023 salary which will remain the same at his request. He also detailed for them how & where he spends his time since he has less “in-office” hours at the church than our previous pastor.
3. **Worship:** Pastor Craig reported that he had gone ahead and ordered 15 poinsettias since today was the deadline. We’ll still leave the sign-up sheet out and just purchase more directly if needed. This Sunday we’ll be decorating the church for Advent.
4. **Visioning:** Jay Tomlinson reported that the Visioning committee is working with Bonnie Berglund for a Nurture & Membership initiative of sending cards to people who are new to the Prayer Wall. It is still a work in progress.
5. **Parish Care:** Jay had not yet received any ‘health tip’ from Tiffany Zemke for inclusion in the *Parish News*. Jay will touch base with Devon Luthens.
6. **Memorial Committee:** Carol Linneman had sent a note that Recognition Sunday on November 6 went well. They haven’t scheduled a date yet for the next meeting.
7. **UMW:** Margie Olson reported all the supplies reorganization has been completed. Pasties went well. They discussed how we need to recruit some folks to be part of a “pasties clean-up crew” so that it’s not left to just the few people that are left. The annual UMW Christmas Luncheon will be on December 7 at the Grand Ely Lodge starting at 12 Noon. There will be a sign-up sheet at the church starting this Sunday in order to get a count the GEL ahead of time.

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## OLD BUSINESS

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**1. Church Directory Project:** Jeanne Tomlinson had attempted to contact Lifetouch, the company we'd been using for our directories, and learned they're not doing church directories anymore. A company called Color Craft had absorbed the church directory part of the business but we are considered "out of their service area" and could only offer the service of putting the directory together with pictures and people information provided by the church at a cost of \$25 per directory with a minimum order of 50. Jay said that he was going to talk to Nick Wognum about the costs of the Ely Echo doing the printing and if it's not too unreasonable, Jay could take family pictures as well as doing the layout.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. 2023 Ely UMC Annual Budget:** Mark Olson distributed copies of the proposed 2023 Annual Budget and pointed out some of the details of the few changes in amounts from 2022. The result was only a \$234 increase in the total. Margie moved that we approve the submitted budget; second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion passed. The budget will be presented at the December 14 Church Conference for final approval.
- 2. Request for Church use for open men's group:** Pastor Craig had been approached by Ryan Stewart from the ECR to see if our church could be used for weekly meetings of a men's group that was being formed by a friend of Ryan's. We discussed the issues involved in making the church available on a weekly basis to a group that didn't have a church member involved since that has been our policy to date. Without more information on what the group would all be about, and in view of our current policy, we felt we needed to decline. Jay will forward the information he'd received so that we could learn more about what the group might be about and Pastor Craig will talk to Ryan.
- 3. Our church share of Semer's Park Ecumenical Service is \$60:** Jeanne moved that we pay this; second by Margie; motion passed.
- 4. Insurance Exclusion of Cyber-attacks:** Mark had received a notice from our insurance company that cyber attacks are specifically excluded from our policy. It would cost more to include that. We agreed that we are probably at minimum risk.

## **Items of Information**

- 1. Pasty report:** Made 809; Total income \$6,610; Total expense \$1,920.34; Net \$4,689.66.
- 2. Next Ad Council meeting:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 directly following our 6:00 PM

Church Conference.

The meeting adjourned at 6 PM with a group recitation of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

## The UMW at Ely United Methodist Church

Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10-11:30 AM

President Margie Olson opened the meeting at 10 AM with a unison reading of the UMW. We had 11 UMW members attending: Lucy Diesslin, Marge Forsberg, Linda Hane, Gail Haney, Sharon Luthens, Paula Mattila, , Margie Olson, Donna Rusco, Patty Rusco, Pam Turnbull and Jeanne Tomlinson.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the October 19 meeting were read. Motion to approve by Lucy Diesslin; second by Linda Hane. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sharon Luthens reported that she had paid the \$100 to Northwoods Partners, \$320 for October cleaning, And \$141.66 reimbursement to Jay Tomlinson for pasty "doggie bags". She'll be making the annual \$600+ payment to the North Star District for our UMW membership. Checking balance is currently \$4,549.65 and savings has \$11,622.91. Marge Forsberg and Gail Haney moved we accept the Treasurer's report; second by Pam Turnbull. Motion passed.

### Old Business

- **Supplies Organization:** Jeanne reported that she won't be convening a Supplies Committee meeting until sometime in January and will be taking care of checking supplies and replenishing needed items until then.
- **Pasties:** Jeanne reported we made 809 pasties and brought in over \$6600 for our November 15 sales. We had good crews for prep and production but could still use more people for the cleanup. We'll try to make a point of mentioning it for our next pasty-making. Marge mentioned that we should probably get new mops since the current ones never rinse out clean. She'll look into it. Our next pasties will January 16 & 17.

### New Business

- **Prayer Shawl Ministry Funds:** Jeanne reported that she's been handling donations and expense reimbursements for the Prayer Shawl ministry with a cash account that had been started about 15 years previously. She recommended that UMW take on this ministry so that it is no longer cash transactions. Pam Turnbull moved that we do this; second by Donna Rusco. Motion passed. Jeanne will deposit the remaining funds into the UMW account and turn over the records to Sharon Luthens. Donna Rusco talked briefly about recent and planned distributions of the current shawls. Gail Haney has been tracking who receives them. Donna mentioned that there aren't very many knitters anymore. Paula Mattila suggested that perhaps it could evolve into a "lap quilt" ministry.
- **Christmas Luncheon:** We talked about when we should have our Christmas Luncheon and decided to try for Wednesday, December 7. Jeanne will check with the GEL to see if that's possible. As we did last year, we'll do an "order off the menu" arrangement and ask for round tables to be set up.

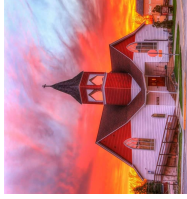
- **Northwoods Partners Appreciation Reception:** Our UMW chapter received an invitation to the reception being held at the GEL on November 30 from 6:30-8 PM. Anyone who is interested in attending needs to RSVP to Northwoods Partners (218-365-8019). Lucy reported that Northwoods Partners is short on decorated wreaths for the *Festival of Trees*. If anyone is willing to do one, they should call Northwoods Partners directly.
- **Adding lighting to the west side of the building:** Paula Mattila asked if it was possible to add night-time lighting to the west side of the church since that area is very dark now for those who park on 3rd street for evening church activities, such as choir. Margie said it's not a simple fix since they'll need to bring in an electrician to handle it. She'll bring it up with the Trustees when they meet in April.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Luncheon, hopefully on December 7, 2022.

We adjourned the business meeting at 10:45 AM. Jeanne & Lucy departed to attend a funeral.

The group continued with devotional time, reading Chapter 2 of *Rich in the Things That Count the Most*. This chapter was about being "Rich in the Soul" and the signs of a healthy spirit and church in good Connectedness, Communication and Caring.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Tomlinson Secretary



# December 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 and Sunday School <i>Holy Communion</i>	5	6	7 12:00 Noon UMW Luncheon at the GEL 2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study 7:00 PM Confirmation Class	8 6:00 PM Choir Practice 5:00 PM Visioning Zoom Committee Mtg	9	10
11 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School	12	13 9:00 AM Ely Ministerial Association	14 2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study 7:00 PM Church Conference & Confirmation Class followed by Administrative Council	15 6:00 PM Choir Practice	16	17
18 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School	19	20	21 2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	22 6:00 PM Choir Practice	23	24 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service
25 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School <b>Christmas Day</b>	26	27	28 <b>NO</b> Zoom Bible Study	29 6:00 PM Choir Practice	30	31