

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

February 10, 2023

A Note from Pastor Craig

Registration for Minnesota United Methodist Camps is Open and Brochures are Available

Church camp is a wonderful experience for boys and girls.

It is an opportunity to make new friends and grow in faith in a relaxed setting.

Campers engage in activities to make new skills, share Christ in song and worship, and build a faith foundation - all in a carefully supervised environment.

I missed out going to church camp as a kid but led camps for over 20 years. The boys and girls from the churches I served enjoyed it so much they returned year after year.

Brochures are available at the back of the church or check at www.campminnesota.org.

Our church will financially assist any campers to ensure boys and girls are able to attend.

Question? Talk to Pastor Craig

Greetings! This week we had one day of spring (Wednesday), two days later (Friday) winter returned, but only for a day before something resembling spring is supposed to come again for a while. At least that's what the forecast says. In other words, par for the course for us who live in Minnesota.

Last week I mentioned three characteristics of thriving churches I'd read somewhere - being comfortable with mystery, being a church where love prevails, and being a church actively seeking true communion with God.

These do matter deeply. The first characteristic recognizes that our knowledge is imperfect, that while we are still living, we "see in a mirror dimly." The second two characteristics put into words two of the deepest hungers of the human heart. I mentioned I believe all three characteristics are present in our church, something for which I'm grateful.

I also mentioned there is another vital side to churches, which is the importance of carefully discerning truths about God that have been revealed to us in Scripture and through Jesus Christ. This is equally important. Why? Because they limit, guide, and clarify the "territory" of our life together.

We only have to look back about ninety years to see when the Christian church in Europe made a horrible error in Germany when it threw its support behind Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich, even though this meant severing ties with our Jewish roots and the Jewish people in Germany.

There were some dissenters, most notably, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. And a few other theological leaders who fled the country, but an overwhelming majority of the brightest and best stayed and threw their enthusiastic support behind Hitler. This included the influential German philosopher Martin Heidegger.

His biographer, Charles Marsh, writes: *"To refuse the purposes of theological understanding, and its attendant mandate of self-examination, was not merely to neglect the distinctive claims of the faith and tradition but to turn one's back on revelation itself."* *The true Christian was obliged to possess a reasoned understanding of the faith, and to express it in a manner honoring the mystery of the triune God; this was incumbent upon every person who assents to the truth of the gospel, and never more so than in such a moment of crisis.* ("Strange Glory: A Life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer." pp. 170-171).

The truth of Jesus Christ matters, but so does his love. Both are his gifts to us. God's truth and love be with you. Pastor Craig.

Coffee Fellowship Invitation

Coffee fellowship following Sunday morning worship services has gone through a number of starts, stops, and changes across the years. The Covid-19 wave during 2020 and 2021 brought with it the most recent halt, but even before this, there were ebbs and flows to its rhythm.

There seem to be two constants: First, about two-thirds of Sunday morning worshippers enjoy staying for Coffee Fellowship. It's an opportunity to get to know one another and to visit. Second, what generally happens is a limited number of individuals sign up to serve, which over time wears them out.

Following our meeting this week the Worship Committee offers the following twofold invitation.

First, we invite all interested worship attendees to stay following worship for Coffee Fellowship. Not everyone is interested, of course, and for a number of reasons.

Second, we encourage those who are interested in staying for Coffee Fellowship also to serve, by signing up on the sign-up list, which is posted on the bulletin board at the rear of the church.

Serving Coffee Fellowship can be as simple as making coffee. In addition you may choose, to serve cookies, bars, or donuts purchased from a store. Or bring in some baked goods from home, if you're feeling ambitious, have a little extra time, and have talents in the kitchen. It's as simple as that. The church has the coffee pot, cups, serving utensils, and the coffee.

If you have questions about how to serve coffee, where to find what's necessary to make coffee, or if you would like assistance, please talk to Linda Hane.

We're looking forward to having Coffee Fellowship on a more regular basis!

Getting to Know Our New Bishop

Reverend Lanette Plambech, our new bishop, arrived in Minnesota January 1st. She will live in the Episcopal Residence in Eden Prairie, MN, but will also serve as the bishop for the Dakota's Annual Conference.

You can find a brief written biography of Bishop Plambech here.

<https://www.minnesotauc.org/meet-the-bishop>. She introduces herself in a ten minute, nineteen second video, immediately below the written biography on the same page.

We will have the opportunity to meet her in person at the Copper-top Church in Duluth. The date/time is Saturday, February 25, 2023 from 2:00 to 4:00.

Register to either attend in-person or to live-stream at the following link. <https://mnumc-reg.brapp.com/BishopsGatherings>

Questions? Talk to Jay Tomlinson or Pastor Craig.

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

February 10, 2023

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 11: 28 (NIV)



(Jesus said) "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Steve Piragis** – Steve had a stroke while in Costa Rica. He is expected to make a full recovery.
- **Pat Olson** – Pat injured her knee.
- **Red Nied's family & Friends** – Nancy Markwardt's brother, Red, succumbed this past week after a long battle with prostate cancer.
- **Kris Wittenbe4rg** – Lisa Porthan's mother, Kris, had successful breast cancer surgery this week. Pray for her healing and for Lisa's dad who still needs your prayers as he struggles with Parkinson's.
- **Jason King** – Jason, Lucy Diesslin's cousin who had suffered a brain aneurysm, has finally been released from the hospital after 150 days. He'll be continuing his rehab from home. Pray for his continued recovery.
- **Linda Williams family & friends** – **Update: Linda passed away on Monday, January 30th.** Linda has been at the Boundary Waters Care Center for the last few years & she has weakened significantly in the last few weeks.
- **Delores Hujanen** – Delores fell attending her husband's funeral breaking her ankle requiring surgery to implant a steel plate and pins to help with her healing.
- **Pastor Jim Johnson** – Pastor Jim Johnson of the Motley United Methodist Church is suffering from vertigo.
- **Cindy Hagen (Coombes) family & Friends** – Cindy passed away unexpectedly. She was Mark Olson's classmate.
- **Logan Monk** – **Update: Sadly, Logan passed away from his injuries. Pray for peace and comfort for his family & friends.** Anna Urbas's friend, Jordan Huntbatch, asked for prayers for her cousin, Logan, who is 17 and was in a head on car accident with a school bus. He has very bad head trauma with multiple broken bones.
- **Don & Marge Markwardt** – **Update: Don is back home and is recovering. Marge has back fracture(s) and has great pain. Pray for their quick healing and recovery.** Don has had a pacemaker inserted and Marge is having back issues.
- **Laureen Shypulsky's family and friends**– **Update: Laureen has passed away.** Kathy & Steve Nelson's son-in-law's (Rob) aunt, Laureen, had cancerous brain tumor surgery.
- **Ropey** – **Update: Ropey's health is weakening.** Ropey is now in Aurora and in fragile health. Margie Olson's brother, Ropey, is on hospice care and is in the hospital. Pray for comfort.
- **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**