

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

March 24, 2023

Events Coming Up at Ely United Methodist Church

Easter Lily Order - we put in our Easter Lily order today with Ely Flower and Seed. The Easter Lilies will arrive the Friday before Easter and will beautify our sanctuary for our Easter Worship Service, April 9th.

Please check the Easter Lily list included with Parish News to ensure we have the information correct concerning the people you want them to be in memory of; and contact us if you notice any errors.

We will have removed the stamens of the Lilies so there will be no odor in the sanctuary.

Palm Sunday - We will have palm branches to distribute on Palm Sunday to commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding on a colt.

There will be a potluck following worship. There is a sign-up list in the rear of the church where you may list what you plan to bring. Table service will be provided.

A Note from Pastor Craig

Spring arrived on the calendar on March 20, this past Monday. Also known as "astronomical spring," this occurs during the vernal equinox, when there is the same amount of sunlight and darkness at the equator.

"Meteorological spring," however, arrived March 1st. I'd never heard of such a thing until the past several years. Did they just make this up recently or have I had my head in the sand?

But the spring that truly matters is when it actually arrives, isn't it? It's called "Spring Up North," and it begins sometime in late April, if we're lucky - when the signs of spring show up in our area. When most of the snow is melted, except for deep in the woods, and for a flurry here and there. When the ice goes out on Burntside Lake. With the opening of fishing.

The date of Easter Sunday is one thing we do know for certain each year. Easter Sunday is the first Sunday, following the first full moon, following the spring (vernal) equinox. Every year. So this year, the first full moon following March 20 is April 5th; and the first Sunday following April 5th is April 9th, when we'll rejoice and sing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today."

I'm presently reading slowly through "The Hopetomlinson.jay@gmail.com of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross," a short devotional book written by the Pulitzer Prize winning novelist Jon Meacham.

In a section devoted to how the theme of forgiveness is especially prevalent in the Gospel of Luke, Meacham suggests that Luke was especially skilled at portraying Jesus' life in a manner that draws people to faith in Jesus Christ.

As an example, he tells a story of great classical scholar, who was a poet and translator of Greek texts, including the New Testament. This man attended church regularly, but he never took communion, nor was he baptized.

Despite his love for the New Testament, this learned man was skeptical of Christianity itself. Until one day when it all changed. He came forward and asked to be baptized. His pastor, who had surmised all along that he was a skeptic, asked the scholar when his doubts went away.

The scholar replied: "Somewhere in St. Luke." This is the power of Scripture to draw us to Jesus Christ. This is the life-changing, life-transforming nature of the Gospel to give us an ever-growing desire to know God and to grow in faith, hope, and love.

May it be so for each one of us, this Easter and beyond. Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

March 24, 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.

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...

- **Sheri Ann Tessier and Michelle** – Janice Tessier asked for prayers for her sister-in-law, Sheri Ann Tessier, who fell and is being evaluated for a possible broken neck. Prayers also for Janice's daughter, Michelle, who is helping Sheri Ann through this medical issue.
- **Cathy & Dave Zurowski** – Friends of Cathy Aldrich, Dave had kidney transplant surgery on Tuesday and his wife, Cathy, was his donor. Pray for healing and successful recoveries.
- **Laura Larson** – Jaelyn Weidemann's sister, Laura, is struggling with some issues and would appreciate prayers of encouragement and support.
- **Peyton Tyndall Erzar** – Harlee Myers' friend, Peyton, is having some difficulties and would appreciate prayers of support.
- **Steve Urman's family and friends** – Nikki Collins (she is our church custodian) dad, Steve Urman, passed away on Tuesday March 14th. Please for comfort and peace for the Urman family.
- **Mark Olson** – Mark tore his Achilles tendon and had surgery this past Wednesday. Pray for healing and quick recovery.
- **Karen Bialek's family and friends** – Karen passed away. Please pray for comfort and peace for the Bialek family and friends.
- **John Baur's family & friends** – John passed away on March 2nd. Pray for comfort and peace for his wife, Robin, and his family and friends.
- **Nancy Starzecki** – Butch Diesslin's sister, Nan, fell and broke her femur requiring surgery. This was shortly after returning home from the hospital for shoulder replacement surgery.
- **Ted John** – Janice Tessier's daughter, Christie, reported that Ted John is having a biopsy for cancer.
- **Missy Ciriacy Roberts family & friends** – Pam Turnbull reported that Missy passed away.
- **Cole Martin** – **Update: Cole is seeing a neurologist regarding his headaches and arterial stenosis.** Paula and Nick Mattila's grandson, Cole ho is a college student, is having migraines. He was diagnosed with arterial stenoses (narrowing of the arteries) and is receiving high blood pressure treatments.
- **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.