

# ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"The Little Church With the Big Heart"*

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## Parish News

April 14, 2023

### Ely UMC News

Our **potluck dinner** held on Palm Sunday, the first since before the pandemic, was well-attended. Conversation and laughter filled the basement as we enjoyed each other's company and an abundant variety of tasty hot dishes, salads, breads, and desserts.

We've decided to hold two regularly-scheduled potlucks each year; on Palm Sunday and the Sunday before this Thanksgiving.

There were a handful of individuals who did a tremendous job of **snow removal** at the church and parsonage this winter.

Phil Hegfors and Sons plowed snow at the church and parsonage, as well as sanding the church parking lot. Mark Olson, Jer Niskala, Hayden Wiedemeier, and someone doing community service kept our sidewalks snow and ice-free.

We had another successful pasty-making season, although had times where we were short-handed worker wise.

## A Note from Pastor Craig

Easter Sunday was less than a week ago, but somehow it seems further back to me. However, my memories remain fresh - what a morning, what a day!

Our worship service was inspiring - a large turnout of people enthusiastically sang joyful hymns celebrating Christ's resurrection and the Scripture readings for Easter Sunday are always filled with vibrant and profound hope.

The mood within the walls of our church sanctuary was strikingly different from much of what we see, read, and hear in the news media, where reporting is often negative about what's happening in the "outside world."

The events reported are alarming: more gun violence, political rancor, and a stalemate in finding solutions to vexing problems. This week we heard of a new and deadly street drug that is circulating. A number of indexes for physical health of people in our country are heading in the wrong direction.

These events are very real (even when subtracting out slanted news coverage) - but perhaps what makes them feel so overwhelming is a "crisis of meaning." It seems the bad outweighs the good and maybe life isn't worth living. Some young people fear to bring children into a world like ours and we have coined the new term "deaths of despair," to refer to suicide and chronic and fatal alcohol and drug abuse.

Alfred Delp, a Catholic priest in Germany who died a martyr's death at the hand of the Nazi's in 1944, believed that "humans have become incapable of God." What he meant is our ways of thinking, behaving, and orienting our lives have blunted our ability to picture God as part of the world and experience God as a living reality in our lives.

The New Testament records a second miracle in the aftermath of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, namely the gift of the Holy Spirit to the gathered followers of Jesus and the birth of the church.

Having experienced new life in Christ, these men and women spread the Good News "from Jerusalem and Judea to the ends of the earth." This is the joy, which echoed through our church sanctuary last Sunday.

We walk alongside these early followers during the season of Easter, a season that extends the joy of the resurrection. In doing so, we experience meaning in our lives by bringing this light to other people. May you be filled with this Easter joy and experience rich meaning for life.

Pastor Craig

## The Ely United Methodist Church

# Prayer Wall

April 14, 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.

### Philippians 4: 6 (NIV)



*"Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in everything, by prayer and  
petition, with thanksgiving, present  
your requests to God."*

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

- **Bob Lindholm's family and friends** – Bob passed away on Wednesday. Please be in prayer for Laverne and her family and friends.
- **Judy Bonderson's niece and family – Update: Judy's niece's family has great community support & are recovering.** Judy's niece's family home burned down. Everyone is safe but they lost their 5 family pets.
- **Cheryl Nelson** – Cheryl is caregiver to her mother who has dementia and her father is too frail and can't care for her alone.
- **Randy** – Patty Niskala's niece's stepfather, Randy, is fighting a serious infection.
- **Georgiann Ahlstrand** – Elyite, rescued and recovering from a fall and four days without food or water.
- **Wesley Weisinger** – Pray for encouragement, support and healing.
- **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 – Update: Dave is on recovering nicely but his wife is struggling with her recovery. Please continue prayers for them.** 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** – Jaclyn 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 14<sup>th</sup>. 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.
- **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.

PRAY FERVENTLY  
IN RIGHTEOUSNESS




AND AVAIL MUCH

JAMES 5:16B

W.M.E.W






**ROCK**

*Around The*

**CLOCK**



RAFFLES  
SILENT AUCTION  
DINNER • DANCING  
MUSIC WITH ED ELY

**THURSDAY, JUNE 22**

**5 TO 9 PM**

**MINERS DRY HOUSE**

\$45 PER TICKET

(\$5 OF YOUR TICKET PRICE IS A DONATION)

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT AREA SENIOR CITIZENS



**NORTHWOODS PARTNERS**

*- caring connections -*

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM  
NP BOARD MEMBERS AND  
AT THE NP OFFICE  
(218) 365-8019**





# *The Pipes are Calling Again!*

**Sunday, April 23, 2023**  
**3:00 P.M.**

**Hope Community Presbyterian Church  
212 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Virginia, MN**

March 23, 2023

Dear Friends,

We are writing to invite your congregation to join us on Sunday, April 23, at 3pm for an organ concert celebrating our sanctuary's centennial and our 1923 Bennett Pipe Organ.

Vicki Gornick, a world-renowned organist from Chisholm, MN, and Amy Szumal, organist for United in Christ Lutheran Church of Eveleth, will play some of their favorite organ pieces.



A free will offering will be taken to support our Little Free Food Pantry.

Please, mark your calendars now and join us for an afternoon of magnificent music!

With every good wish,

*Sue Stevens, Chair*


**HCPC Sanctuary Centennial Committee members**



# ROCK

*Around The*

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