

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

July 14, 2023

A Note from Pastor Craig

Ely UMC Info

Final Semer's Beach Worship Announcement:

The joint worship service at Semer's Beach is this Sunday. We will hold the service regardless of the weather - Plan A is outside with the same setup as last year; plan B in the case of inclement weather will be inside the Semer's Beach building like we did in 2019.

Either way bring a lawn chair and a dish to share for the potluck dinner to follow. Hot dogs and beverages will be provided.

More information is on our Ely United Methodist Church Facebook page.

(Note: This service replaces our usual Sunday morning service.)

Addresses: Here is the address for Patty Niskala in the Cities.

American Cancer Society Hope Lodge C/O Patty Niskala
2500 University Ave SE, Apt. 320
Minneapolis, MN. 55414

The next several weeks I'm going to pass along some thoughts from Marilynne Robinson because it's not possible to overestimate their importance for each one of us.

Their importance directly informs the way we value ourselves, view friends and strangers alike, and for how we conduct ourselves around the rest of God's sons and daughters. This week we'll look at what her words mean for the way we value ourselves.

We've heard the following words from the biblical book of Genesis, chapter 1, verse 27 so often they can sound commonplace: *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*

But what does it mean to be created in "the image of God?" Robinson suggests the following: The fact we have a soul *"uniquely invests each individual person with an absolute dignity and significance. ... This understanding places great value in the individual and, at the same time, finds great significance in the moment-to-moment conduct of mortal life."* (What are We Doing Here, p. 212)

In other words, not only do each of us have a spark of the divine within, but also that particular reflection of God is unique. Your soul is different from anyone else who ever has been or ever will be. (This includes my identical twin brother and me!)

Jesus Christ and the Scriptures are the two main ways God chooses to be made known to us, in that order. Yet, God also chooses to be revealed to the world through us humans! Through you, uniquely, through me, and through each one of God's sons and daughters.

Would you feel differently about yourself, if you found ten minutes or so every day to consider this in silence? There is awe to this, but also humility. Awe to recognize our dignity; humility to recognize the same in others. God's peace be with you. Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

July 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.

Isaiah 40: 28 (NIV)



“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God... He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.”

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Helen Huovinen family & friends** – Vicki Podominick’s grandmother, Helen Huovinen, has passed away. Pray for comfort for the family and friends of Helen.
- **Sarah** – Nancy and Dave Markwardt’s daughter, Sarah, is having knee surgery. Pray for successful surgery and quick recovery.
- **Rose Bettcher** – Cindy Bettcher’s mom, Rose, is having health issues. Pray that her treatments are successful and for her recovery. Cindy is one of our local hairdressers.
- **Pearl’s family & Friends** – Kathy & Mike Brandau lost a close friend, Pearl. Pray for comfort and peace for Pearl’s family and friends.
- **Paul Shultz** – Sheila Shultz’s husband, Paul, had gall bladder surgery. Pray for recovery.
- **Kimberly Haberman** – **Update: Surgery was a success, but she is in a lot of pain.** Pastor Craig asked for prayers for his daughter-in-law, Kim, who was diagnosed with breast cancer and will have surgery done.
- **Ginnie Fierstine** – Ginnie (age 94) is one of our Parish News recipients. She will have a heart procedure done next week. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Joe Nied** – Nancy Markwardt’s brother, Joe, received his 84th chemo treatment fighting pancreatic cancer. He was giving 8 months to live at the initial diagnosis and that was 5 years ago.
- **Mel Shikonya’s family & friends** – Paula Mattila’s neighbor, Mel, passed away. Pray for comfort and peace for Mel’s family and friends.
- **Patty Niskala** – **Update: Patty has now moved to the apartment near the hospital and is doing well.** Patty received a liver transplant and will remain in the hospital for another three weeks and then in an apartment close to the hospital for the next month for monitoring and recovery.
- **Thomas Hane** – **Update: Thomas is still hospitalized and not doing as well as expected.** Bill Hane’s brother, Thomas, had emergency heart surgery. Pray for healing.
- **The Russia / Ukraine conflict** – Pray for a world-wide lasting resolution, safety of the people, and peace.

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. People may ask that prayers be renewed on the list for subsequent 4-week periods. The Prayer Wall is finalized each Thursday for the Sunday morning service.