

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

July 21, 2023

Pastor Craig Traveling Plans

Pastor Craig will embark from Ely following worship Sunday, July 30, driving out to Seattle for a family wedding. On his way home he will spend a week at Ring Lake Ranch, where his Dad spent a week each summer for the last 25 years of his life.

<https://ringlake.org/>

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee will oversee the worship service on August 6th. Dana Thompson will lead worship and preach on August 13th and August 20th.

A Note from Pastor Craig

Watching weather forecasts recently, I've felt compassion for people affected by the extreme heat, especially those in the desert southwest. I've also been a bit astonished by our unseasonably cool weather. On some days our high temperature is 55 degrees less than that of Phoenix. It's hard to comprehend this.

While the cool and damp weather has lessened the threat of wildfire in our region, it's also dampened vacation hopes of some people I'm sure, as well as slowed the number of people passing through area businesses.

Last week I wrote the following paragraph in my weekly note: "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)"

This week I'm going to mention some additional words that Marilynne Robinson writes, which logically follow what she writes above and are equally important for us to remember every day.

Because you and I are persons of absolute dignity (being that we are created in the image of God), this means that every other person is as well. From the greatest to the least of all. Robinson writes: "The concept of the soul is the profoundest possible bond among us, an unshakable basis for compassion, recognition, and love, which, acknowledged, would enable us to love enemies, welcome strangers and all the rest." (What Are We Doing Here? Essays p. 205)

God's steadfast love for us irresistibly draws us to love others. It also serves as a caution against mistreating others, for as Jesus tells his followers - when we do not welcome the stranger, do not clothe the naked, do not visit the sick, and do not visit those in prison, "when you haven't done it to the least of these you did not do it unto me."

So what does it all mean? All God's sons and daughters are God's beloved. You and I can live joyfully, filled with the deepest peace, knowing God loves us. We can marvel at each of the other images of God who are placed in our midst, loving them with the same love with which God loves us.

Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

July 21, 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...

- **Markus Allen** – Marge Forsberg's cousin, Markus Allen, has been waiting for a heart transplant. Sadly, he has developed pneumonia and is no longer strong enough. He has been placed on hospice..
- **Al Soderfelt's family & friends** – Al passed away. Please pray for comfort and peace for his daughter, Heidi, and his family and friends.
- **Helen Huovinen family & friends** – Vicki Podominick's godmother, 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.
- **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.

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.

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.