

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

September 1, 2023

September Meetings

Several committees and groups resume their fall meeting schedule with the arrival of September.

Our **United Methodist Women (UMW)** meet on Wednesday, September 20th at 10:00.

The **Ad Council** meets on Thursday, September 21st at 5:00.

The **Nominating Committee** meets on Thursday, September 28th at 4:30.

Watch for more information in two weeks regarding the **Spiritual Inspiration: Journey with The Messiah** study, which will begin Tuesday, September 26th at 6:00 p.m. and run for six weeks.

A Note from Pastor Craig

Last week here I mentioned I was going to pass along a few thoughts on how technology not only enhances our life, but also alters the way we perceive and experience life. (These thoughts come from a recent issue of *Modern Reformation Magazine*.)

For instance, I'm writing these words on my Apple notebook computer and sending them out to most of you electronically. This is vastly more efficient than forty years ago when I typed them up on a mimeograph stencil, ran them off on a mimeograph machine, assembled them for mailing, and mailed them.

At the same time *my experience* is also different. While typing, I'm tempted to jump off and browse through Facebook or several magazines and newspapers I receive online. I'm spending less time on the newsletter itself, but I'm also living more in the virtual world, rather than the material world. Your experience of reading the newsletter is different as well. Most of you quickly surf through the newsletter online rather than going to the mailbox, retrieving it, carrying it inside, and then slowly reading it with a cup of coffee.

Christian faith is based firmly in the material world. We're told "In the beginning" God created all things, looked upon them as they related to each other according to God's purposes, and "saw that it was very good." Jesus Christ, was and is fully God, yet also became fully human, one of us.

Technology allows us to be in constant contact, should we choose, with the news and one another around the world, instantaneously and twenty-four hours a day, which is far different from a century or two ago. But how well are we anchored right where we

live - the place and the people? We may have 1000 Facebook friends, but how many close or best friends that we spend time with face to face?

In matters of faith, we are able to stream worship services from multiple churches and listen to a whole host of podcasts. *This is* a blessing for the isolated and homebound. For the fully mobile, it broadens our experiences, introducing us to a wonderful variety of inspirational people and ideas. You know what I mean! An unintended consequence, however, is it also may disengage us from the churches and small groups we are a part of and pull us into a privatized world of faith.

The churches the Apostle Paul wrote letters to (occasionally when he was in prison) brought inspiration, hope, encouragement, and wisdom to those he was separated from by distance and circumstance. Yet over and over in these letters he mentions how he "longs to see you that I may be filled with joy." Nothing can replace face to face contact.

How can we make this a win/win situation - "using" technology to expand and revitalize our faith, even while immersing ourselves face to face in the here and now, anchoring our faith more fully in Jesus Christ, and reviving our fellowship with one another? God's amazing grace and deep peace are with you as September begins. Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

September 1, 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.

Psalm 5: 3 (NIV)

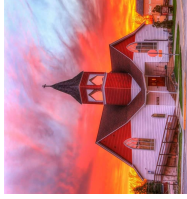


"In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice, in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Wes Weisinger** – Vicki Wagner asked for prayers for her nephew, Wes Weisinger, who is having surgery soon but is having pre-surgery complications.
 - **Jan Burley** – Cathy Aldrich asked for prayers for Jan Burley who has been diagnosed with cancer and is scheduled to have surgery on September 8th.
 - **Bob Oliva family & friends & Scout family** – Bob passed away from an auto accident on the Fernberg.
 - **Wanda Ladwig** – Linda Hane asked for prayers for her sister-in-law, Wanda Ladwig, who is hospitalized for pneumonia and is very weak, but slowly gaining strength. She is Bill Hane's eldest sister.
 - **Joe Oxley** – Shelly Oxley asked for prayers for her husband, Joe, as he undergoes more medical testing.
 - **Lauren Olson** – **Update: Lauren is out of the hospital and back in school feeling much better.** Margie Olson asked for prayers for their granddaughter, Lauren Olson, who has been hospitalized with severe tonsillitis.
 - **Donna Rusco** – Donna fell last week and is dealing with some pain. Please pray for healing.
 - **Newt Nickerson** – **Update: Newt is home doing well.** Newt had back surgery on Friday, August 11th. Pray for his full recovery.
 - **Judy Bonderson** – Judy fell and was taken to the ER. Please pray for her well being.
 - **Keith Trembath** – **Update: Keith is doing well after his surgery.** Linda Hane has asked for prayers for her friend Keith who had triple bypass heart surgery on Monday, August 7th at St. Mary's.
 - **Kelsie & Jake Luangrath's family & friends** – Heidi Hansen requested prayers for her significant other's daughter who lost her baby, Jaymeson Jacob Luangrath, two weeks before he should have been born. He passed away in her womb. Pray for his parents Kelsie & Jake & his two siblings Chayce and Blayke & family.
 - **Patty Niskala** – **Update: Jer thanked all for their prayers for his wife, Patty, who is now at home, but still needs prayers for continued recovery.** Patty received a liver transplant and was in the hospital for three weeks before moving to an apartment close to the hospital for a month of monitoring & recovery.
 - **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. 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.



September 2023

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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| | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| <p>3</p> <p>9:30 AM Choir Practice</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship Service</p> <p><i>Holy Communion</i></p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> <p>6:00 PM Choir Practice</p> | <p>8</p> | <p>9</p> | <p>16</p> |
| <p>10</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> <p>9:00 AM Ely Ministerial Association</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> <p>5:00 PM · Visioning Committee Meeting</p> <p>6:00 PM Choir Practice</p> | <p>15</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>30</p> |
| <p>17</p> <p>9:30 AM Choir Practice</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School</p> | <p>18</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> <p>10:00 AM United Methodist Women</p> | <p>21</p> <p>5:00 PM Ad Council Meeting</p> <p>6:00 PM Choir Practice</p> | <p>22</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> |
| <p>24</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> <p>6:00 PM Spiritual Inspiration <i>Journey with The Messiah</i></p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> <p>4:30 PM · Nominating Committee Meeting</p> <p>6:00 PM Choir Practice</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>30</p> |

September 4 – 6 • Pastor Craig will
be on at St. John's Abbey on a Spiritual Retreat