

# ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"The Little Church With the Big Heart"*

[elyumc.elymn@gmail.com](mailto:elyumc.elymn@gmail.com)

218-365-3355

[www.elyumc.org](http://www.elyumc.org)

**Parish News**

**September 22, 2023**

## Final Photo Directory News

Thank you to all those of you who had your picture taken for our new Church

Directory. We're grateful for your participation.

A number of you have either posted your pictures on Facebook or showed them to others in-person. They are lovely pictures and you've mentioned how pleased you are with them.

A lot of work is now going on behind the scenes to get the directory into its final format; far more effort than I realized was necessary.

Your pictures are something you can display at home and pass along to your families. Choosing to include your picture in the directory is also important, so other individuals, perhaps new to the congregation, will be able to identify who you are. We'd love to see your picture included in the directory, along with the rest of the congregation!

## A Note from Pastor Craig

We rely each moment on a whole host of physical things: the hearts beating within our chests, the air we breathe, food we eat, the roofs over our heads, loved ones, and so many more. Life is not possible without these realities, which often go unnoticed in our lives.

One of the convictions we hold dear is that faith itself is as necessary for life as the items listed above. Faith undergirds our very being, bolstering us inwardly when harsh, cold winds of illness, death, and other setbacks visit our door. Faith also fills us with hope, which then allows us to venture forth each day with serenity and joy.

This bedrock of faith is "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen," as we are reminded in Hebrews 11:1. The Message translates the same verse this as: "The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see."

There's no debating how important faith is, but faith is also elusive; difficult to comprehend, and even more so to embrace in our hearts. Sometimes faith seems to slip frustratingly through our fingers or to reside just outside our awareness. We can't acquire faith and make it a part of our life in the same manner as going to the grocery store to buy bread or to a dresser drawer to retrieve a pair of socks.

We encounter faith at the spiritual "border" where we humans meet God. Faith is primarily a gift from God, yet also something we participate in receiving. Simply put, God offers and we receive. But it's a bit more involved than this as well.

During the next five Sunday mornings we'll be looking at the wilderness travels of the Hebrew people recorded in the book of Exodus. Our ancestors in faith had endured centuries of bondage in Egypt, but in their memory at least their slavery had been secure. Now in an uncertain and unforgiving environment they are forced to rely on God. They aren't happy and repeatedly complain to Moses.

It's a severe test, but one where they meet the God who gives what is necessary for life. During 40 years they learn about God and themselves; all preparation for their entry into the promised land.

I look forward to walking with you during the next weeks as we come face to face with this same God in these readings. Pastor Craig

# JOURNEYS WITH THE MESSIAH FELLOWSHIP FILM SERIES

**Begins Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 6 pm**

at the Ely United Methodist Church - Downstairs

Using his unique storytelling skills, award winning fashion photographer Michael Belk invites us on an exciting journey to see and explore the timeless messages of Jesus.

Produced in the ancient city of Matera, Italy, this on-of-a-kind magnificently beautiful collection of photographs and films provides a fresh and inviting perspective of Jesus.

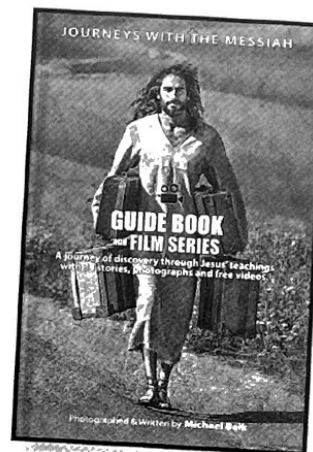
Join us, won't you? Refreshments included!

***Of course, everyone is welcome!***

As always, there is a sign-up sheet provided at the back of the church if you are planning to attend.

Signing up is not necessary, but we'd like to have an idea of how many will attend.

**(Questions?) Call or text  
Patty (218) 349-0145**



# The Ely United Methodist Church

## *Prayer Wall*

*September 22, 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...**

- **Laurie Vaurent** – Kellie Viikansalo asked for prayers for her friend, Laurie Vaurent, who is dealing with kidney issues and may need a transplant.
- **Loren Barnes** – Lucy Diesslin asked for prayers for her brother, Loren Barnes, who is transferring from the hospital to a nursing home for rehab as he is treated for blood flow issues to his leg.
- **Tony John** – Janice Tessier asked for prayers for former son-in-law, Tony John, whose pancreatic cancer has returned.
- **Political unrest in Africa** – Pastor Craig asked for prayers for resolution of all the political unrest in Africa.
- **Terry & Joni Bosch** – Paula Mattila has asked for prayers for their neighbor, Terry Bosch, and his wife Joni. Terry has been sent home on hospice.
- **Sheila Shultz** – **Update: Sheila's surgery went well and she will be recovering at her granddaughter's, Harlee Myers, home. Please keep her in your prayers as she will be having a second similar surgery later.** Sheila is in Duluth having 'carotid endarterectomy' surgery.
- **Wes Weisinger** – **Update: Wes has been diagnosed with liver cancer and is struggling with recovering from surgery. Please keep him in your prayers.** Vicki Wagner asked for prayers for her nephew, Wes Weisinger, who is having surgery soon.
- **Jan Burley** – **Update: Cathy Aldrich updated Jan Burley's surgery stating that the surgery was a success and the initial report is that all the cancer was removed. Her recovery time period is about 6 weeks. Please keep Jan in your prayers. Jan is thankful for the prayers.** 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.
- **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.*