

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

elyumc.elymn@gmail.com

218-365-3355

www.elyumc.org

Parish News

December 15, 2023

The Joy and Possibility of Advent

In our day we are being given the opportunity to see the unfolding drama of the cosmos with our own eyes. Telescopes reveal the existence and formation of stars, planets, solar systems, and even entire galaxies. Electron microscopes and other technology allow us to witness the wonder of genes, molecular structures, cellular processes, and other phenomena. John F. Haught, a theologian at Georgetown University, calls this the "outside story of the universe."

But he goes on to say there is an "inside story of the universe" as well that has to do with the rise of human consciousness. This is the "heat of inner experience" of human beings - our feverish interior dimension of living, thinking, learning, and worshiping.

This is the inner drama that burns within each human heart as the Spirit awakens us to God present in the risen Christ within each of us. We are then propelled to interact with one another in our families, churches, communities, and among all the peoples of the human family spread throughout the world.

Put the outer and inner stories of the universe together Haught says and we have a full understanding of the "big and epic" story of our unfolding and awakening universe.

You and I are part of this drama, this story, each and every day of our lives. This often goes unnoticed, however, because of the long list of responsibilities that make up our days - our unrelenting schedule of work, home, families, community events, and things as mundane as the leaky faucet and emails to read, answer, or unsubscribe from!

But the central drama of the universe remains there nonetheless for us to absorb as the "outer story" is narrated in the discoveries of science we see in documentaries, online articles, and science magazines. And the "inner story" is available for our study and spiritual growth in the Bible and in 3000+ years of inspired devotional and theological writing. We have no lack of food for the head and heart.

This is the joy and possibility we proclaim and celebrate during Advent, because the Church Year begins by telling the inner story of the universe with the Coming of God as it reaches its fullest expression for followers of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem. This Coming of God began far earlier in time, however, in the first moments of Creation, continued in the covenants we see in the Old Testament, and with the coming of Christ is now extended in a tangible manner to all the peoples of the earth (Jew and Gentile alike).

This is the Joy and Possibility we proclaim and celebrate each Advent and Christmas! Join us for worship Christmas Eve at 5:30. And Sundays (December 17, 24, and 31) at 10:00! Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

December 15, 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 55: 1-2 (NIV)



Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea; hear me and answer me.

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Jeff** – Sheri Rue asked for prayers for her brother, Jeff, who is now going through a divorce.
- **Emma** – Trish Sheffler asked for prayer of healing for Emma who just had back surgery.
- **Dave** – Lisa Porthan asked for prayers for her father, Dave, whose Parkinson's is advancing and her mother who is handling Dave's care.
- **Loren** – Lucy Diesslin's brother, Loren, has been placed on hospice comfort care. Pray for his comfort.
- **Shane** – Pray for successful treatments for Zach & Jacob Rue's friend who has begun chemo for his cancer.
- **Rod Loe's family and friends** – Rod passed away on the morning of Tuesday, December 5. Services will be held at Ely UMC on December 15 at 11:00 AM.
- **The families of four** – Heather and Marshall Monthei are asking for prayers for the families of several University of Iowa students who were killed in a fiery auto accident. One was our grandson's roommate and another a good friend. Their names are Carter and Casey. Two others were killed in the other car.
- **Jim Gift – Update: His surgery went well and he is back home.** Lucy Diesslin asked for prayers for their nephew, Jim Gift, who has been diagnosed with sarcoma carcinoma on the roof of his mouth.
- **Rachael** – Rachel, daughter of a dear friend of Heather & Marshall Monthei's, is in psychiatric care for serious depression and her new treatments are not working. Please keep Rachael in your prayers.
- **Lindsay and Crystal's friend Greg** – Crystal Nickerson asked for prayers for her niece, Lindsay, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer & for her friend, Greg, who had heart surgery and now has complications.
- **Nathan Jann** – Erin Moravitz asked for prayers for her cousin, Nathan, who broken his tibia in 5 or 6 places and his fibula in 2 places while ice skating. He will require several surgeries and long-term physical therapy to recover fully from this very serious break.
- **Wes Weisinger** – Vicki Wagner asked to have her nephew, Wes, back on the Prayer Wall as he has been placed on hospice. He has been struggling with liver cancer and surgery.
- **The Russia / Ukraine conflict • Political Unrest in Africa • The People of Israel & Those Involved in the Current 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.



Minnesota Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church
North Star District

Our Mission
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision
Grow in Love of God and Neighbor
Reach New People
Heal a Broken World

Expression of Our Vision as Lived Out Values
Rooted in Jesus
Grounded in Wesleyan Theology
Inclusive of All Persons
Engaged in the Work of Justice and Reconciliation

Date of Authorization: November 22, 2023

RE: AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT A CHURCH CONFERENCE

This letter will authorize the Elder named below to preside at a Church Conference at **Ely United Methodist Church**. This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the 2016 "The Book of Discipline" paragraphs 246 and 247.

Date of Conference: December 21, 2023

Time of Meeting: 7:00 pm

Presiding Elder: Rev. Craig Haberman

Agenda: 1) Elect church leadership
2) Approve pastoral compensation
3) Receive additional reports

This conference must conform to "The Book of Discipline" and be announced in advance dependent on the church's incorporation (15 days for 315 unless sale of property is involved when it then is 30 days, two weeks for 317, or in accordance with other applicable state laws). The conference also must be announced in at least two of the following methods: from the pulpit of the church, in its weekly bulletin, in a local church publication, or by mail.

Please send a copy of the minutes from this meeting to the District Office. This can be done using the *Church/Charge Conference Minutes* link on the People Portal.

Thank you for your careful attention to this expression of ministry.

May God's Spirit guide and bless the decisions you make, which can help your congregation live out our Gospel Imperatives: to *Reach New People and Cultivate Spiritual Vitality...in our United Methodist churches*.

Your Servant in Christ,

Laurie Kantonen
North Star District Superintendent

Lanette Plambeck, **Resident Bishop** • Laurie Kantonen, **District Superintendent**
www.minnesotaumc.org/northstar

122 W. Franklin Avenue, Suite 400 • Minneapolis, MN 55404 • 612-230-6144

Ely United Methodist Church
Poinsettia List - 2023

Person	In Loving Memory of
Jay and Jeanne Tomlinson	Our Parents
Norm and Donna Rusco	Our Parents and Grandson
Butch and Lucy Diesslin	Our Parents
Bryan and Patty Rusco	Our Parents, John and Bonnie, and sister Debbie
Nick and Paula Mattila	Grandson Noah
Vicki Wagner	Elmer and Inga Knudtson
Vicki Wagner	Richard and Laurette Reinhardt
Craig Haberman	My Parents – Dwight and Barbara Haberman
Bob and Pat Olson	Son David
Bob and Pat Olson	Grandson Cody
Frank and Nicole Udovich	Dale McDougall – Best Father-in-law ever
Frank and Nicole Udovich	Mother Mary Ann Udovich
Don Ingerson	Anne
Keith and Sheri Rue	Violet and Bernard Rue, Karen and Terry Close Lee Hotaling
Mike and Kathy Brandau	Lloyd and Marilyn Brandau – Parents of Mike Brandau
Mike and Kathy Brandau	John Leonas – Father of Kathy Brandau
Mike and Kathy Brandau	Derek Dean – Nephew of Mike and Kathy Brandau
Janice Tessier	Husband – Lee Tessier