

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

January 5, 2024

Rule of Christ Workshop Details

The Rule of Christ workshop our church is holding will be on Sunday, January 28th following worship.

We've mentioned these details already, but will continue to do so in a variety of ways to encourage your attendance and to eliminate any possible confusion.

The worship service will end about 10:45 or so. We will assemble for a Light Luncheon in the church basement at 11:00.

The first session from 11:30 to 1:00 will be an overview of the Rule of Christ. The entire congregation is invited to attend.

The Rule of Christ presents a helpful way to communicate during peaceful and difficult times. It's applicable anywhere we interact with other people - church, community, family, and so on.

The second session from 1:30 to 3:00 is geared specifically toward the PPRC and Ad Council, but the entire congregation is invited to attend.

Please RSVP Sheri Rue for lunch at the contact information at the bottom of the next page. Thank you!

A Note from Pastor Craig

I spent some time talking about "contingency" last week during the sermon portion of our "Watch Night" service. Contingency refers to the unpredictable nature of being human; that no matter how well we plan and organize our life, things don't have to turn out the way that they do, either in ways we interpret as positive or negative.

Following the terminology of James K.A. Smith, I mentioned that we have a "temporal halo;" that we "wear time" almost as another layer of skin.

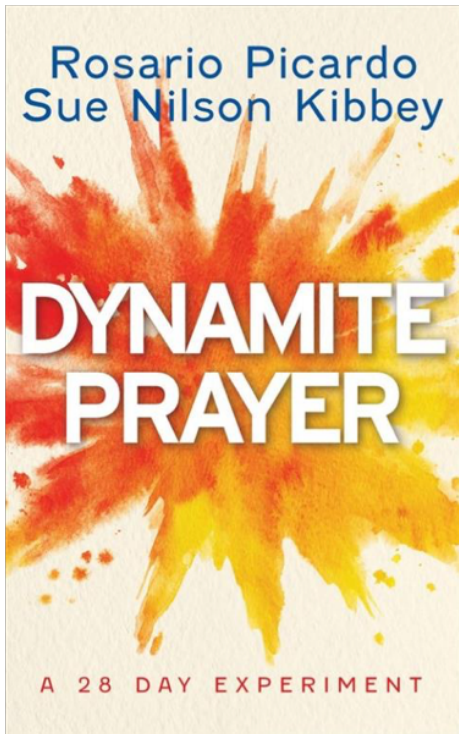
Our our best efforts in education, medicine, science, engineering, government, social planning, and so on do, in fact, contribute to human flourishing, but they can't remove contingency from our lives.

The insurance industry knows this. Their purpose is to limit the hard landings of catastrophic events as much as possible - by spreading risk, charging premiums for our portion of the risk, and making payments if the unforeseen and unpleasant events occur. Their actuaries are incredibly accurate at quantifying risk, but that can't eliminate it entirely.

I suggested this is where the Gospel of Jesus Christ touches our lives, in fact surrounds us, and carries us through and even "above" any contingency. God's inexplicable love which James Mays says "has no basis beyond its own existence" has entered our world in the person of Jesus Christ. (In other words, God's love for us is God's idea alone!)

This Providence is the umbrella over the temporal halo we all wear. It's what we celebrate at Christmas, gaze upon during Epiphany looking for greater understanding, see in its fullest expression during Lent as Jesus moves toward Jerusalem and his death, and then celebrate once again when the one Jesus called "his Heavenly Father" raises him from the dead on the third day.

Or as I Peter says: "By God's great mercy we are born anew to a living hope," and to "an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading." Never forget during 2024 and beyond that you are surrounded by God's Providence which will carry you above and through all contingency. Pastor Craig



**Dynamite Prayer Initiative
January 14 – February 10.**

We invite you to join us for a breakthrough prayer movement across the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area from January 14 - February 10.

Dynamite Prayer is a 28-day devotional guidebook by Rev. Dr. Rosario Picardo and Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey. The book will help you incorporate a surrendered prayer practice into your daily life following Christ, and help you cultivate your capacity to discern, to notice, to respond to God's guidance, and to live by the power of the Holy Spirit.

"All around us, we see and experience division, anger, violence, and polarization," said Rev. Dan Bader, superintendent for the Dakotas Conference's Southwest District. "If we are going to respond with the heart of Jesus, a heart of grace and love, in ways that address the needs, the hurt, the

brokenness, then we need to lean deeply into the heart of God. That is done as we commit ourselves to prayer."

"This is an important moment for us in the Dakotas-Minnesota Area to do something that's grounded in our deeply shared connection and beliefs," said Rev. Michelle Hargrave. "Doing a prayer initiative together can connect us across theological differences, urban and rural settings—all the things that might still divide us."

We, the Ely United Methodist Church, is taking part in this exciting initiative. We invite our entire church family to participate. The Dynamite Prayer book will be handed out to everyone in our congregation prior to January 14. If you live outside the Ely area, you will be receiving your book in the mail! If you are not a member and would like to receive a copy, please let us know by contacting Sheri Rue, sherirue007@gmail.com, or text 507-456-2499.

Are you ready to see what God can do when we come together in prayer and ask God's Spirit to unleash in us? Join us and let's find out!

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

January 5, 2024

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...

- **Phil** – Carol Linneman asked for prayers of comfort and peace for her Tucson neighbor, Phil, whose wife passed away after being on hospice with a brain tumor.
- **Darren Masier – Update: Darren is awake, eating and talking to family. Still weak, but accepting liver medication.** Kathy Brandau's cousin, Darren, is in critical condition with leukemia. He had a bone marrow transplant recently, but has developed liver and kidney failure issues.
- **Will** – Pastor Craig asked for prayers for his niece's husband, Will, who had a heart attack. Pray for recovery.
- **Linda Keck – Update: Margie Olson reported Linda had surgery to reroute her carotid artery. Pray for recovery.** Margie Olson asked for prayers for her friend, Linda Keck, who suffered a stroke.
- **Carolynn** – Don Ingerson's ex-wife, Carolynn, is in the hospital after having a heart attack. Pray for recovery.
- **Jody & his son, John** – Jer Niskala asked to keep Jody in your prayers who is dealing with cancer and his son, John, who is in later stages of MS.
- **Eleanor** – Eleanor, a 6 year old, is diagnosed with a brain tumor on her pituitary. Surgery relieved pressure and provided a biopsy. Pray the biopsy is not cancer or spreading. Pray also for Eleanor's mother & father and siblings, Jolene, Scott, Finley & Rhett. Eleanor's family is friends with the Devon Luthens family.
- **Wes Weisinger family & friends – Update: Wes passed away.** Pray for comfort and peace for his family and friends, especially his mother Barb and his aunt Vicki Wagner.
- **Mary Ellen Skeesick** – Linda Hane asked for prayers for her sister, Mary Ellen, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer.
- **Steff Hyink** – Lucy Diesslin asked for prayers for her friend, Steff Hyink, in the loss of her sister, Barb.
- **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's family & friends – Update: Lucy Diesslin's brother, Loren, has passed away.**
- **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 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES

Thursday, November 21, 2023 at Ely United Methodist Church

Call To Order: Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

Attendees (10): Cathy Aldrich, Craig Haberman, Rich Floyd, Don Ingerson, Margie & Mark Olson, Sheri Rue, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson and Pam Turnbull.

Opening: Pastor Craig shared some thoughts from I Corinthians 12 & 13 about spiritual gifts, and how love is the most important. He then opened our meeting with prayer.

Minutes: The November 18, 2023 Ad Council minutes were approved as distributed in the *Parish News*. Motion to approve by Margie Olson, second Mark Olson. Motion passed. Margie asked if the minutes could be sent out to Ad Council members just prior to the meeting to refresh everyone's memory. Jeanne Tomlinson agreed to do that.

Treasurer's Report: The November 2023 Treasurer's report was presented by Mark Olson. Current balances are \$53,225.90 in the General Fund, \$13,374.30 in the Building Fund and \$15,640.50 in the Memorial Fund. Motion to accept by Rich Floyd; second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. Trustees:** Margie Olson reported that the Trustees are still working on the update of the Building Use Policy and are working on the Church Insurance issue (see New Business) and have completed a parsonage inspection. They will do a second inspection later to address any work that might be needed to prepare for a new pastor. Bryan Rusco will be taking over as chair in 2024.
- 2. Pastor-Parish Relations:** Sheri Rue reported Cathy Aldrich will be the new chair and that the committee is just waiting to hear about a new pastor.
- 3. Worship:** No report.
- 4. Connections:** Rich Floyd reported that the committee is still working on details for possibly holding weekly dinners, starting with holding them for church attenders and then possibly opening it up to the community based on participation numbers. He then distributed a document that the committee had worked on as a proposal for how our current rapidly-growing Benevolence Fund could be managed. After a lengthy discussion covering several issues, it was decided that there should be a special Connections meeting with interested members of the Ad Council to discuss the issues that had been brought up. The meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2024 at 5 PM.
- 5. Education:** No report
- 6. Parish Care:** No report
- 7. Memorial Fund Task Force:** No report
- 8. UMW:** Margie Olson & Jeanne Tomlinson reported that the December 6 UMW Christmas Luncheon went very well with about 22 women attending.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Directory Update:** Jeanne & Jay Tomlinson reported that we had just received our directory Proof and were in the process of checking it. Members are asked to review their personal entries in the directory and ok it or notify us of any corrections that need to be made.
- 2. Rule of Christ Training:** Sheri Rue reported that she'd received a nice bio from John Nowell to use for his introduction at the start of the training on January 28. Jay Tomlinson will be making a beef-barley soup for the lunch to be served with rolls. Sheri would like to send a postcard to all congregation members about the training. Margie Olson moved that we cover the of this mailing cost (no estimated cost was stipulated); second by Rich Floyd. Motion passed. Jeanne

Tomlinson will send an Excel file to Sheri with the names & addresses for her to generate the postcard labels.

3. **Remote Video Streaming:** Nothing new to report.
4. **Pastor Craig's retirement party:** Nothing new to report.
5. **Ely All-Class Reunion:** Nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS –

1. **Church Insurance Policy:** Our current insurers for our church & parsonage are dropping our current policy because our church is deemed to be too old. Pastor Craig and Margie Olson have been working on gathering the information about the church and the parsonage that is needed to get quotes from other insurers. We have until February 1 to line up other coverage.
2. **Dynamite Prayer:** Sheri brought up a project that she would like to do to encourage our congregation to pray for our churches and church conference. The conference has recommended the book, *Dynamite Prayer*, as a good inspirational book to do that. Sheri would like to get a copy of the book to everyone in our congregation by January 14 for use during the next two weeks – a period designated by the conference. She has a couple helpers who are willing to hand-deliver the books to those who live near here and send the books to those who are not. The books cost \$7.95 each. We roughly calculated the total cost for this project to be about \$1500. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we allocate \$500 that is currently still available in our 2023 budget for Outreach & Nurture/Membership towards this project; second by Margie Olson. Motion passed. Margie will approach the Memorial Committee and the UMW to cover any costs beyond that.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Mark Olson reported that he had received a thank-you from Young Life for our \$500 donation.

Items of Information

1. On behalf of the Council, Pastor Craig thanked Jay for his leadership of the Ad Council over the last number of years.
2. **Next Ad Council meeting:** Thursday, January 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM with a group recitation of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE – MINUTES December 21, 2023 at the Ely United Methodist Church

Call To Order: Pastor Craig Haberman called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and gave a short devotion about how the church is the Body, or Rock, of Christ. He then opened with a prayer. He briefly explained to the attending confirmands what the meeting was all about. Attendees received a packet of information that included four items that needed to be reviewed and voted on: the Nominations Report, Pastor Compensation, 2024 Budget and Membership Report.

Attendees (15): Cathy Aldrich, Craig Haberman, Lucy & Butch Diesslin, Rich Floyd, Bev & Dan Johnson, Linda Hane, Don Ingerson, Margie & Mark Olson, Sheri Rue, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson and Pam Turnbull.

Nominations Leadership 2024: Pastor Craig explained some organizational changes reflected in the report. One was the combining of the former Visioning, Outreach and Nurture & Membership committees into one called “Connections”. The second was a rework of the Finance Committee to have the Ad Council chair serve as the Finance Committee Chair, have one Financial Secretary and three “Offering Money Counters”.

The following persons were nominated for the 2024 Administrative Council:

Chairperson: Sheri Rue

Vice Chairperson: Pam Turnbull

Recording Secretary: Jeanne Tomlinson

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Jay Tomlinson

Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference: TBD

Lay Leader: Patty Rusco

Chairperson – Board of Trustees: Bryan Rusco

Chairperson – Pastor Parish Relations: Cathy Aldrich

Church Treasurer: Mark Olson

Program Chairpersons

Worship: Linda Hane

Superintendent of Sunday School: Chris Urbas

President UMW: Margie Olson

Parish Nurse/Care Persons: Tiffany Zemke & Devon Luthens

Connections: Jay Tomlinson

Memorial: Marge Forsberg

Please refer to the full Nominations Report for more details.

Jay Tomlinson moved that we approve the submitted nominations; second by Margie Olson.

Motion approved.

Pastor Craig had also pointed out that the Nominations Committee has five empty positions. He opened the floor for nominations. Rich Floyd, Mark Olson and Steve Nelson were nominated. The Nominations Committee will approach these individuals to see if they are willing. Sheri Rue moved that the current Nominations Committee bring additional names to the Ad Council for approval; second by Cathy Aldrich. Motion approved.

Pastoral Compensation: Pastor Craig briefly discussed some of the figures in the document to explain where some of the figures come from since some are not decided by our church, Sheri Rue reported that Pastor Craig’s new salary represents a 5% raise since he had been without one for several years. This will probably be the minimum discussed in our new pastor salary negotiations regardless of experience since it is close to the current starting salary. Margie Olson moved that we approve the Pastoral Compensation; second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion approved.

2024 Budget: The details of the 2024 Budget document were briefly discussed. It was pointed out that subsequent to the approval of all but the pastoral compensation budget items by the Ad Council at the November 18 meeting, our current insurance company (for the church building and the parsonage) will be dropping our coverage because the buildings are too old, so the figure listed will probably not be enough. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we approve the 2024 Budget of \$115,069 with that understanding; second by Cathy Aldrich. Motion approved.

Membership Report: Pastor Craig reviewed the report with us. We had 4 confirmands who

became members (Profession of Faith) and 6 recorded deaths. Our current Full Membership total is now 195. Lucy Diesslin moved that we approve the report; second by Margie Olson. Motion approved.

State of the Church: Pastor Craig then referred us to the handout at the back of the packet containing a brief statement about the state of the church from his observations.

There was no other business required.

Motion to adjourn by Jay Tomlinson. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary