

# ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"The Little Church With the Big Heart"*

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**Parish News**

**January 12, 2024**

## A Note from Pastor Craig

We are witnessing conflicting images and emotion-laden words pass through the airwaves, printed in newspapers, and flooding screens of our devices as the Presidential Primary season moves to Iowa, New Hampshire, and then on to seven states who will hold their primaries on Super Tuesday, March 9th.

There are two vastly different pictures being drawn of where our country is right now and the direction we ought to choose for the future. Proponents of both views are sounding ominous warnings that democracy "hangs in the balance" with this election.

Unfortunately these differing views of reality have strong emotions attached to them that filter down into communities, local governments, school boards, and even into families. These sorts of disagreements have been around since our country was founded, but they are dividing people today more starkly than ever before.

There are many factors, which not everyone agrees upon, but there is no disagreement about what it's doing to us as a nation. For the first time in memory people view those who disagree with them as simply bad people, as less than human and not deserving of respect. Finally it seems as though people on both sides of these divisive issues are hunkering down in emotional enclaves with like-thinking people and choosing to avoid those others who "just don't get it."

What are we supposed to do; as citizens and even more so, as Christians? There are different ways to become involved in the political process at the state and national level. Certainly getting out to vote is a huge privilege and responsibility for all of us. Beyond that, quite frankly, our impact is somewhat limited. But there are several ways that make a huge difference locally in building healthy families, local schools, churches, and communities. I'll mention two.

1. *The Rule of Christ*. Our church has earnestly been publicizing this event we are hosting Sunday, January 28 following worship. I won't add any additional information here except to say (again) this gives a better way to communicate with anyone we meet, which improves our life.
2. *Braver Angels*. I've mentioned this in passing once before and an article in the December 30, 2023 edition of the Ely Echo. This is a national program, which brings together people of differing viewpoints to have constructive conversations with each other. [www.braverangels.org](http://www.braverangels.org). The local "chapter" meets the third Thursday of each month at the Senior Center at 6:30. There is also a Facebook page: "Ely Alliance Braver Angels."

I'll add more information in following weeks. We are one human family, all God's sons and daughters. We can't solve all problems, but each of us can treat others we meet with dignity and respect. Pastor Craig

## 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.

RSVP Sheri Rue for the luncheon: Text her at 707.456-2499 or email at [sherirue007@gmail.com](mailto:sherirue007@gmail.com) Thank you!

## Several Brief Announcements

**Change in meeting time/date for Administrative Council:** The Administrative Council is shifting its meeting date and time to the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

**Connections Committee meeting:** Our Visioning, Outreach, and Nurture and Membership Care Committees were merged at our Church Conference on December 21, 2023. This was at the recommendation of our Nominating Committee and included in their 2024 Nominating report approved at the Church Conference. This upcoming change had been earlier reported in the November 16, 2023 minutes of the Ad Council that were distributed in the December 1, 2023 edition of Parish News. The Connections Committee will continue to meet at 5:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month.

**Church Conference report available:** Printed or electronic versions of our complete 2023 Church Conference report are available by calling the church office (218-365-3355 leaving a message if necessary), online by sending an email message to [elyumc.elymn@gmail.com](mailto:elyumc.elymn@gmail.com) or in person.

**Final call for church directory information:** This is the final opportunity for you to check the spelling of your name and accuracy of your address in the church directory. There is a draft copy of the directory on the table in the rear of the church and sheet of paper on a clipboard where you can either record the information is correct or make corrections. Out of town? Call Jeanne Tomlinson at 218-235-8470.

**Transportation survey:** The community care team is requesting each of us fill out a transportation needs survey during the month of January. They are available in the rear of the church or online here.

**Pasty rollers:** We are trying out a pasty-rolling machine that looks as though it will significantly increase our efficiency, but pasty rollers will still be necessary to do the final finishing on the pasty shells. So come and join us on Tuesday morning, January 16.

## The Ely United Methodist Church

# Prayer Wall

January 12, 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...

- **Nancy** – Carol Linneman asked for prayers for her friend Nancy who fell on the ice breaking her wrist, knee and leg. She is in St. Luke's and hopes to be in rehab soon, but it will be a while before she can return home.
- **Leonard Cersine** – Bob Olson asked for prayers for Leonard Cersine who is having health issues.
- **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.
- **Mary Ellen Skeesick** – **Update: Mary Ellen will start radiation treatments in 3 weeks.** 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.
- **Loren's family & friends** – **Update: Lucy Diesslin's brother, Loren, has passed away.**
- **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 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 Friday Parish News and Sunday morning service.*