

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

January 26, 2024

Four Items

Changes to Camera Movement during Live Streaming:

We're making a small change to the way we live-stream our worship services.

We will continue to pan the camera across the front of the sanctuary, moving from side to side and zooming in when necessary, in order to provide the best viewing experience. However, we will no longer zoom in on people while they are sitting in the pews.

Journeys with the Messiah:

Our church hosted a six week study last fall focusing on viewing scenes of Jesus in present-day settings. We'll begin our spring series of the same study Tuesday evenings at 6:00, running from February 6th through March 12th.

Ash Wednesday: We will hold an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 on Wednesday, February 14th. Watch for more details in next week in Parish News.

Easter Lilies: Easter is early this year, which means the deadline for ordering Easter Lilies is early - February 18th! More information in Parish News next week and a sign-up sheet at the rear of the church.

A Note from Pastor Craig

The people in our church love to sing hymns. We sing fervently and with conviction, which along with quiet prayerfulness, is a central part of worship. The Psalms exhort us again and again to "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord."

Hymn-singing is not only an important expression of our faith, it is also deeply personal. Singing some hymns transport us back to our earliest childhood memories. Other hymns surprise us by bringing forth tears because they were sung at a loved ones' funeral. And then there are those we all love, like "Here I Am, Lord" that we sang last week; for these hymns bring a surge of emotion, calling us to renewed and deeper faith.

Looking in the bulletin to see what hymns we were singing was one of the first things I did when entering the sanctuary the year before my family and I ventured off to seminary. I was hoping to see familiar selections I enjoyed singing and which inspired me. I suspect it's much the same with you.

This makes choosing hymns for worship services one of the more challenging tasks for any pastor. My comment last week during worship about conflict in congregations over music was completely unplanned - it surprised even me! I made the comment spontaneously because this balancing act is never far from my mind when planning worship services.

The needle I am trying to thread is to select hymns that both follow the Scripture readings, church season, and theme for the day *and* appeal to people of all ages and interests in worship styles. This is difficult because to examine closely the saying "I like the old hymns best," is to recognize the "old hymns" are the ones we grew up with. And we all grew up at different times and in families/churches where certain hymns were the most loved.

Please know I truly value your feedback and suggestions in general and regarding our worship services. My goal each Sunday is to include at least one hymn that will be appreciated by each of you, whatever your age or preferred music style. Full disclosure: My preference is for a variety of hymns, but with priority to older hymns with firm footing in historical/liturgical tradition. I also enjoy contemporary music of all kinds that is done well.

Music in our worship services is something for us followers of Christ, who both love God and each other, to work on together as we seek to "Lift every voice and sing, til' earth and heaven ring." Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

January 26, 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.

Philippians 4: 6 (NIV)



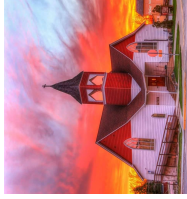
"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **LaVerne Lindholm** – LaVerne fell and broke her hip. She's in Duluth pending decisions on surgery and rehab. Please pray for successful surgery and her hip to heal quickly.
- **Jeep LaTourell's family and friends** – **Update: Jeep passed away. Please pray for peace and comfort for his family and friends** . Bob Olson asked for prayers for Jeep LaTourell who is hospitalized with health issues.
- **Keith Rue** – Keith is having problems with his Achilles tendon.
- **Bernie Barich** – Patty Rusco's Uncle Bernie Barich is having health issues.
- **Julie and Cory** – Kathy Nelson's cousins are trying to buy a home in Florida within driving distance of her parents, Lee and Doris. Please pray that they find a suitable home soon.
- **Lee** – Kathy Nelson's cousin, Lee, who lives in Florida is having serious stomach issues requiring surgery.
- **Judy Long** – Linda Hane asked for Prayers for Judy Long, Cheryl Nelson's mother, who had a serious diabetic incident and is hospitalized. Cheryl is Judy's caregiver.
- **Julie Bugner** – Please pray for Jay & Jeanne's niece, Julie, who has COVID. She's had asthma since very young and is already having trouble breathing. Last time she had COVID, it was a very difficult critical time.
- **Hayes Urbas** – Chris Urbas asked for prayers for Hayes who had his tonsils & adenoids removed this week.
- **Keith Buchwitz** – **Update: Keith is doing well with his new pacemaker.** Jade's uncle, Keith, had a pacemaker put in. Jade is Linda Hane's granddaughter.
- **Terry** – Carol Laine's daughter, Terry, is hospitalized with COVID and has had a stroke.
- **Robbie Zbacnik's family and friends** – Tom Zbacnik just lost his wife, Robbie. Pray for comfort & peace.
- **Karen** – Karen is the daughter of a friend of Cathy Aldrich and has been diagnosed with lymphoma.
- **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.
- **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.



February 2024

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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