

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

February 2 , 2024

Two 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.

A Note from Pastor Craig

February has arrived! This means different things to different people. Some people will go into a mini-depression when the Super Bowl concludes on February 11. Others, some married to those just described, will burst out in song. Some people have big plans for Valentines Day; for others not so much. The Ely Winter Festival and Film Festival arrive. Major League Baseball's Spring Training Begins. (Yeah!!)

This year, February means an extra day for all of us. Yes, it's a Leap Year.

February is also Black History Month. Race and the reality of slavery going back before the United States was a country is a flashpoint today that embroils our politics and educational institutions. While those are important conversations, they are not the purpose of Black History Month.

The purpose of Black History Month is simply this: *"Black History Month was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today."* (National Geographic for Kids. March 6, 2023.)

Opportunities abound to learn more about the legacy of Black individuals and culture in the United States and beyond. There are spell-binding documentaries on nearly all streaming services. Network news will be airing features. Online news outlets will feature content.

Last summer at the seminar I attended at Ring Lake Ranch I learned how much of the early cuisine of the colonies (including the political classes) was brought from Africa by enslaved people. I have a number of biographies of notable Black Americans that I won't have time to read until after I'm retired. One tells the story of Phyllis Wheatley, sold into slavery as a child, who became a widely-recognized teenage poet. Another details how enslaved people expanded American Ideals in surprising ways, driving the development of America.

We won't have any events at our church directly dealing with Black History Month. I may make mention of Black history or individuals in sermons if it deals directly with the Scripture and theme for the day. Black spirituals and other music has been a backbone of their faith and is one of their contributions to the American Church. Accordingly, the choir will sing a couple spirituals and we'll sing Black hymns during the month.

We here in Ely are proud of our Finnish and Eastern European heritage and for good reason! February is a good time to learn more about Black heritage and to celebrate what they have added to our country. Pastor Craig

Lent and Ash Wednesday

The church season of Lent is forty days in length, not counting Sundays. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Easter Sunday. The forty days recalls the forty years the children of Israel spent wandering in the wilderness and the forty days Jesus was in the wilderness being tempted by the devil.

Lent continues the progression in the church year, which began during the season of Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas. The church year reaches climax at Pentecost, when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the gathered community of Jesus' followers.

During Advent, we wait in anticipation the coming of Christ into the world. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of the Christ child with unrestrained joy, singing of "Joy to the World the Lord is Come, let Earth Receive Her King!"

The season of Epiphany explores who Jesus Christ is by focusing upon the various aspects of who Jesus Christ is revealed to be. The season of Epiphany ends with Jesus' transfiguration on a mountain top. Here once again a voice from heaven announces "This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him." Shortly after Jesus, Peter, James, and John descend the mountain, Jesus tells the disciples he must be suffer, be put death but then rise again on the third day.

The season of Lent, then, looks closely at the implications of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection, in light of what this means for us, and all people of all times and places.

Our Ash Wednesday service will be Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00. Next week in Parish News I'll make mention of the importance of Lent in more detail.

Ordering Easter Lilies

It seems as though we've barely put our Christmas decorations away and it's time to order Easter Lilies. What gives? Well, I suppose, partly it's because time passes more quickly as we get older. But partly it's because Easter is March 31, which extremely early.

Easter Lilies are \$15.99 this year. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, February 28th. Watch for a sign-up sheet at the rear of the church beginning this Sunday, February 4th. The sign-up process will be the same as in previous at Christmas and Easter.

Rule of Christ follow-up

The Rule of Christ workshops our church hosted Sunday, January 21st, were a huge success. John Mueller Nowell presented two workshops, which thirty people attended. Much of the time he stuck to the outline listed in the handouts he provided, but several times went "off script." He also put those attending to work, splitting us up to discuss questions he posed.

Watch for further information from the Pastor Parish Relations Committee in weeks/months to come. Thank you to all who attended! And to Jay Tomlinson for making soup and Sheri Rue/Cathy Aldrich for organizing the many details, printing off materials, and setting up beforehand!

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

February 2, 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.

Matthew 21: 22 (NIV)



(Jesus said), "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer ."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Lily Tedrick** – Deanie Kuehl reported that Lily fell and is currently on crutches. Pray for her quick recovery.
- **Lisa Porthan's father & mother** – Lisa's mom & dad are struggling with the progression of his Parkinson's.
- **Shakopee community and families of the car accidents** – Two horrendous car accidents left a daughter dead and the second accident left a son, Evan, in critical condition. Pray for the families, community and for Evan to heal and recover.
- **LaVerne Lindholm** – **Update: LaVerne is doing well after hip surgery and will rehab in Duluth.** 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.** Pray for Jeep LaTourell who is hospitalized with health issues.
- **Keith Rue** – Keith is having problems with his Achilles tendon.
- **Bernie Barich** – **Update: Patty reported that Bernie is much better and getting stronger every day.** 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** – **Update: Lee had his surgery and is doing well.** Kathy Nelson's cousin, Lee, who lives in Florida is having serious stomach issues requiring surgery.
- **Judy Long's family and friends** – **Update: Cheryl Nelson's mother, Judy Long, passed away.** Cheryl Nelson's mother, Judy Long, 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.
- **Terry** – **Update: Terry is back home recovering from diagnosed COVID complications rather than a stroke.** 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.
- **The Russia / Ukraine conflict • Political Unrest in Africa • The Military, Humanitarian & Political Crisis in the Middle East** – 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

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at Ely United Methodist Church

Call To Order: Chair Sheri Rue called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Attendees (14): Cathy Aldrich, Marge Forsberg, Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Don Ingerson, Mark & Margie Olson, Sheri Rue, Bryan & Patty Rusco, Jay (via Zoom) & Jeanne Tomlinson, Pam Turnbull and Tiffany Zemke

Opening: Patty Rusco shared some thoughts about “dunamis” as described in *Dynamite Prayer* as well as sharing some excerpts from the book and another book, *Holiness Day by Day* and then read the “breakthrough prayer” from *Dynamite Prayer*. Sheri Rue announced she’ll be asking Ad Council members to do the Opening devotion and prayer at future meetings. Pam Turnbull will take care of our next meeting.

Minutes: Margie Olson pointed out that our December meeting minutes had the wrong date. It had incorrectly specified “November 21”. Mark Olson moved that we approve the corrected December 21, 2023 minutes; second by Margie Olson. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: The December 2024 Treasurer’s report, which is also a Year-End report, was presented by Mark Olson. Current balances are \$53,025.49 in the General Fund, \$13,391.34 in the Building Fund and \$21,375.81 in the Memorial Fund. Motion to accept by Jeanne Tomlinson; second by Pam Turnbull. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sheri prefaced the reports with a talk about our responsibilities as church leaders and pointed out the 2019 copy of the *EUMC Handbook of Responsibilities* as a starting guide and to help determine what needs to be updated in it. She asked Jeanne to send her an electronic copy for distribution to the Ad Council members.

1. **Trustees:** Bryan Rusco reported that the committee will be meeting quarterly in January, April, July and October on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 PM. At the first meeting this year they had discussed some plumbing issues as well as preparing a fairly lengthy list of work to be done on the parsonage after an inspection. Some of the work will need to be done before the new minister arrives; others would be nice if we can. The other two discussion items were:

- **Church Insurance:** Our current insurance company is discontinuing our coverage as of the end of January. Pastor Craig, Mark and Margie had researched possible companies and recommended “Church Mutual” which several other Ely churches use. The price quoted for coverage of our church and parsonage for a year is \$5134.11. They also offer Workman’s Compensation for \$450 which we would pay for separately. Bryan moved that we go with “Church Mutual”; second by Jay Tomlinson. Motion passed.

- **Remodel Project:** Prior to the meeting Ad Council members had received a copy of a Trustees Project Proposal detailing some remodeling of the current storage/choir room into a kitchenette/serving room as well as making various changes to the overflow area to encourage fellowship following the worship service. (Refer to the Project Proposal document for more details). Pam Turnbull is planning to ask the Memorial Committee to allocate funds given in Rod Loe’s memory to help cover the initial cost of this project. After some discussion, Bryan moved that we proceed with the project as described with Pam Turnbull as Project Manager; second by Cathy Aldrich. Motion passed.

2. **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Cathy Aldrich shared some information she’d received from some parishioners. Some questioned why we are still using a camera to film the worship service and some stated they don’t want to be filmed as part of the service. Even though some of our “watchers” enjoy seeing who is in church, it was agreed that we should probably not be doing

it without participant permission. Jay will let Liddy Sheppard and Devon Luthens know that they should stop scanning the congregation. Scott Meland has offered to help look into our current camera capabilities and will meet with Sheri, Craig, and Jay to determine what needs to happen to improve our ability to remotely broadcast our worship service and other events.

3. **Worship:** Linda Hane reported that the committee will be meeting on January 22 to plan for Lent and Easter. She also relayed some comments from some members of the congregation who would like more of the “familiar” hymns. Cathy Aldrich asked that we put the hymnal page number for the Doxology in the worship bulletins.

4. **Connections:** Jay Tomlinson reported that the committee met on January 10 with members of the Ad Council in a special meeting to address the Benevolence Fund Directives document presented at the December 21 Ad Council meeting. The discussion included a review of how the directives were developed by the Visioning Committee followed by various suggestions and concerns. The outcome of the meeting was that more work needs to be done to refine the directives and our policy of benevolence giving. Jay moved that the Benevolence Fund Directives document be a working draft of the procedure for benevolence fund distributions with an ad hoc committee and a designated chair to be appointed by the Ad Council to further refine the draft to its final form. Second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion passed. The Ad Council appointed Pam Turnbull, Don Ingerson and Jay Tomlinson to the Ad Hoc Committee and will approach 3 others to determine their interest and willingness to service on the Ad Hoc committee.

5. **Education:** A suggestion has been made that there be back-up Sunday School curriculums available to help any parents who might want to step in to handle Sunday School when Chris Urbas is not available. Pastor Craig reported that Chris Urbas has some ideas for that and that she’s also been working with the parents of the kids to get additional activity ideas, one of which was having the kids & parents set up the Pioneer Apartment Christmas trees with a follow-up pizza & ice cream lunch. Sheri and Craig will meet with Chris Urbas and Devon Luthens to examine some other curriculum possibilities.

6. **Parish Care:** Tiffany Zemke announced that she’ll continue providing “health tips” in *Parish News* and is planning to check the current first aid kits to ensure that they are complete, possibly getting the hospital to donate any needed supplies. She’s also planning to do a hands-on training in CPR and AED in April and asked for a time recommendation. Sunday afternoon was suggested. Later in the meeting, Sheri brought up the idea of possibly making this position a “Church Resource” as opposed to a committee position since their responsibilities don’t really require monthly reporting. After some discussion, Pam Turnbull moved that **Parish Care** be designated as a Church Resource and no longer listed as a committee position in the Ad Council. Second by Linda Hane. Motion passed. Sheri will talk with Devon and Tiffany to ensure the change of the committee format works for them.

7. **Memorial Fund:** Marge Forsberg reported that they will be meeting quarterly in February, May, August and November on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9 AM. She also requested that the committee needs to be approached with a request for funds instead of people deciding that memorial funds will be used.

8. **UMW:** Margie Olson & Jeanne Tomlinson reported that the UMW had met earlier in the day and talked about the success of the dough rolling machine for pasties and that they’d voted to purchase it for \$750. It had been suggested by LaVerne Lindholm and Julie Ericson that perhaps Bob Lindholm memorial funds could be used to cover the cost. UMW also approved covering the costs of the Rule of Christ Training lunch. Linda Hane had brought up some notecards she had just run out of and wanted to see about getting more. These were ones that had the sunrise picture of the church. Linda Hane reported that she’d gone straight to the Ely Echo after the UMW meeting and had talked with Nick Wognum about the cards – and he pulled a copy out of

their records and proceeded to make 500 copies and donated them to the church. The UMW will be discussing how to handle the donation.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Directory Update:** Jeanne will be sending in the corrections this week so we should get our new directories in 6-8 weeks. After that we should also get instructions for the directory as a telephone app.
2. **Dynamite Prayer:** Sheri reported that 260 books had arrived last week and 254 have been distributed with only 13 mailed locally and 58 mailed to those who live elsewhere. Many of the Sunday's congregation had helped by volunteering to take books to persons who hadn't come to church. Those receiving the books were appreciative.
3. **Rule of Christ Training:** Sheri Rue reported that the post cards had been sent and we all should have received one.
4. **Remote Video Streaming:** Jay reported that Mauro from Custom Theater had determined that our camera cannot be set up to be used remotely.
5. **Pastor Craig's retirement party:** Tabled.
6. **Ely All-Class Reunion:** Tabled.

NEW BUSINESS –

1. **Church Policies:** Margie Olson reported that the Trustees are still working on the Building Use policy. She has stated that there are numerous policies that need to be documented. One such policy is how much to pay substitute ministers and piano/organ players. Pastor Craig reported that he's putting a notebook together where these could be store for reference.
2. **Church Mission, Vision, Values:** Sheri had distributed a copy of the MN Annual Conference Mission, Vision and Values and that we should review those and think about developing them for our church.
3. **Church Goals for 2024:** Sheri suggested we develop some goals for this year. Pastor Craig cautioned us on making too many since the new minister will want to be a part of that development. Sheri suggested a goal of improving our post-worship Fellowship time and that we should be good models by volunteering to sign up for it. Jay suggested a goal of increasing our average worship attendance by 5%.
4. **Church Conference Minutes procedures:** Pam Turnbull had noticed that the copy of the Annual Church Conference minutes had been distributed with the *Parish News* but there had been no formal approval of the minutes. Apparently there has never been a procedure to do that so that needs to be addressed.
5. **Annual Conference:** Sheri reported that she and Cathy Aldrich would like to attend the Annual Conference. It was noted that we don't yet have an official alternate to our current delegate, Jay Tomlinson. This will be discussed further at a future meeting in addition to deciding about expense coverage.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Mark Olson reported that he had received a thank-you from Northwoods Partners for our 2023 donations.

Items of Information

1. **Next Ad Council meeting:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM.
The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM with a group recitation of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

The UMW at Ely United Methodist Church
Wednesday, January 17, 2024 10-11:30 AM

President Margie Olson opened the meeting at 10:06 AM with a unison reading of the UMW pledge and Jeanne Tomlinson said a short prayer. Eight UMW members were present: Marge Forsberg, Linda Hane, Gail Haney, Sharon Luthens, Margie Olson, Donna Rusco, Patty Rusco, Jeanne Tomlinson. Pastor Craig also attended.

Minutes: The minutes from the November 15, 2023 meeting were read and approved as read. Motion to approve by Gail Haney; second by Marge Forsberg. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon Luthens reported that the Highland Bank issue has finally been resolved. Expenses since our November meeting were \$300 to Emma Norton Services, \$100 to Northwoods Partners, \$293.73 for cleaning and \$294 for pasty bags. We received a nice thank you note from the Emma Norton Services. Current account balances \$5,375.24 for checking, \$1,639.83 for savings. The \$10,000 CD will mature on April 24 this year. Gail Haney moved we accept the Treasurer's Report; second by Marge Forsberg. Motion passed.

Old Business

- **Mission for knitted/crocheted baby hats:** This will be removed from Old Business until we hear from Susan Laine.

- **Pasty Dough Rolling Machine:** Pastor Craig had taken the dough balls down to the Alexandria United Methodist Church in November as planned and it was determined that it looked like it could work for us. Arlana Langner brought the machine up earlier this month. Bryan Rusco helped set it up and worked out the settings & process on pasty day. All agreed that it helps immensely. Pastor Craig said that the cost would be \$750. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we purchase the machine. Second by Gail Haney. Motion passed. Margie Olson reported that LaVerne Lindholm and her daughter Julie Ericson had suggested that Memorial Funds that had been made in memory of Bob Lindholm be used for the purchase. She'll talk with the Memorial Committee about this.

- **Advent Study:** Margie reported that the study went well. Sharon has received the receipt for the Advent Study luncheon expenses and will pay Sheri Rue.

- **Christmas Luncheon:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported that we had 21 attending the luncheon on December 6 and those attending said it was very nice.

- **Lap Quilts:** Gail Haney reported that Paula Mattila delivered about 20 lap quilts to Carefree Living before Christmas. We received a very nice thank you note from LaVerne Lindholm.

New Business

- **Trustee Projects:** Margie Olson reported that the Trustees have a coming project involving the back storage/choir room and the overflow area. She also read through a list of possible projects that the Trustees are looking at for the parsonage, some of which will need to be completed before the new pastor arrives, such as a hole in the kitchen screen, broken bathroom door knob and better lighting over the stair to the basement, and others that are more "wish" items, such replacing the old curtains with drapes and replacing the basement and bedroom carpets. She also reminded us that we'll need to help with parsonage prep in May and June before the new minister arrives.

- **United Women in Faith mailing:** Margie Olson reported that she had received a mailing from the Minnesota United Women in Faith (MN UWF) board with a directory of the officials in the organization and a request for feedback of what UWF actions/projects we would be doing. We decided that our group is busy enough with what we are currently

doing and don't want to add more projects.

- **Pasties:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported that we made 820 pasties – 800 baked and 20 unbaked with a total income of \$6641. We had a number of new workers – some invited by Pam Turnbull and some pasty customers who had heard we could use more help.

- **Church notecards:** Linda Hane asked if anyone knew where she could get more notecards that had a bright sunrise picture of the church on the front since she had just used the last one she had. After some discussion, it was decided that Margie Olson will give Linda a sample of the notecards she has been using for church notes that have a line drawing of the church and Linda will check with the Ely Echo about possibly scanning a copy of the sunrise picture taken by Lexie Worth and using it to print note cards.

- **Rule of Christ luncheon expenses:** Jeanne Tomlinson asked if the UMW would be willing to reimburse the luncheon expenses for the Rule of Christ training on January 28. Linda Hane moved that we do that; second by Marge Forsberg. Motion passed.

Due to the length of our business meeting it was decided to forgo our devotional reading. We said the Lord's Prayer together and the meeting adjourned at 11:25 PM.

Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Tomlinson, Secretary