

## A Note from Pastor Craig

*“Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.  
Praise the Lord!”  
Psalm 150*

April can be a maddening mix of weather. There are glorious moments of warmth, sunshine, and the appearance of wildlife that can gladden our hearts and announce the upcoming arrival of Spring after a “long and lonely Winter.” And then the next moment dark clouds come scudding across the sky bringing with them a late, wet spring snowstorm that leaves behind mud and broken branches littering the ground.

But we know it is only a matter of time before flowers, green grass, longer days, blueberries, loons, and our summer friends will be a part of our life again. And in-between the heralds of Spring we see glimpse now and then and the arrival of summer? Ah --- it’s the celebration of Easter with those words, which never cease to take our breath away: “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, he is risen!”

This is the Good News that permeates the cosmos and gives life to our innermost being. As captured by our hymn writers, some in older traditional language, some in contemporary:

- “Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of Glory, Lord of Love. Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.”

- “What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry everything to him in prayer.”
- “Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living, sanctuary for you.”
- “This is my Father’s world, why should my heart be sad, the Lord is king, let the heavens ring. God reigns let the earth be glad.”
- “I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down at your feet. And anytime I don’t know, what to do. I will cast all my cares upon you.”

God loves the world. Jesus loves you and me. Christ is risen. God gives us God’s own peace. And so deeper is the reality of Christ in us, the hope of glory. No wonder, we gladly say along with the Psalmist: “Let everything that breathes, praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!”

I hope you and your family have a joyous Easter and a blessed April!

Pastor Craig

**Contact Information and Office Hours  
for April 2019**

Church Office: (218) 365-3355  
Parsonage: (218) 365-3716  
Email: elymethodist@elyumc.org

Pastor Craig is planning to be in the church office from 9 AM to 11 AM on Tuesdays through Saturdays.

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### More Worship Service Helpers Needed

There are a lot of blanks on the 2019 sign-up posters on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary. When we look at previous year's sign-ups, it seems like the same small group of people have had to cover these worship service opportunities for many Sundays throughout the year. We have been hearing a few grumblings from some of the folks in that "same small group" about that fact. If you are a church member and never served during the worship service, or if you just haven't signed up yet for this year, **please consider signing up for one or two dates** for one or more of these important roles. Let's all pitch in and fill up those posters!!!

- **Ushers:** It's helpful if two people sign up together for this task, so if you don't have a ready-made partner, just ask around and pair up with someone. Our Head Usher, Dan Johnson, will be more than happy to walk you through the tasks involved and will probably be around when you serve if you have any last-minute questions or concerns.
- **Liturgist:** This task involves as much as you choose – from just reading the scriptures to

helping lead other parts of the worship service – you get to work this out with Pastor Craig ahead of time.

- **Refreshments:** Our "post-worship" Fellowship Time is a very important part of strengthening our church – it's a time to continue to welcome any newcomers as well as to catch up with other congregants on the latest news. But if there aren't any refreshments – a lot of people just leave! (Some do anyway – but it does help to have coffee & a few goodies set out to help entice folks to stick around.) You don't have to bake up a storm – or set up a fancy refreshment table display – just bringing a few store-bought goodies and making the coffee works just fine. It's also a perfect way to celebrate a special date (birthday/anniversary/etc.) with other church folks – so please look through the dates on the sign-up sheet and pick a Sunday or two that work for you.

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### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday has long been observed by Roman Catholics and some Protestant denominations. It is only recently, however, that United Methodist churches have discovered and are embracing this precious gem of head and heart.

On Ash Wednesday we squarely face two defining realities of life, our mortality and our fallibility: We will all die and during our life we will distance ourselves from God, hurting and harming ourselves and those we love

along the way. Yet we also recognize that in Christ, God has embraced both sin and death, and has opened to us pathway through the midst of them.

As the church season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, we are soberly reminded “that we are dust and to dust we shall return,” and “we are sinners.” On Easter Sunday, six weeks later, we will lift our voices singing “Christ is risen,” giving thanks that God has overcome death and has broken the power of sin.

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### **The Vine & Branches Bible Study**

Did you notice the plain brown vine in the sanctuary grow to one with beautifully colored leaves and fruit? This was a collaborative effort of our Vine & Branch Bible Study, our congregation, and our Children’s Sunday School.

The Vine & Branches Digging Deeper Bible Study was held February 10 – March 18 on Sunday afternoons and Monday evenings. A total of 27 people participated. The study dealt with Contemplative Prayer as a way to read scripture slowly, meditatively, and allow God to speak to our hearts. We focused on John 15: 1-17.

Each week had a different theme and practice including Abide in Jesus, Discover Joy and Express Gratitude, and Love Deeply. The groups enjoyed learning the different practices of Breath Prayer, Daily Examen, and Lectio Devina.

This bible study provided a path for us to abide deeper in Jesus and for each of us to discover our own “Why do I follow Jesus” story.

If you would like more information on this study visit the Minnesota United Methodist website <https://www.minnesotaucmc.org/vine-branches-digging-deeper>.

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### **The Lydia Project**

Last year, the Minnesota Conference put out a plea to all of the Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota Methodist churches to commit to knitting purple scarves for each of the participants in the 2020 United Methodist General Conference which will be held in Minneapolis. About 10,000 scarves need to be completed by June 2019 so that our Conference Lay Representative, Jay Tomlinson, can take them to the Minnesota Conference.

Our UMW group committed to providing a minimum of 100 scarves and are well on our way to reaching – and possibly surpassing – that goal.

If you are a knitter and would like to participate in this project, you can purchase the purple yarn at *The Spinning Wheel* in town - Mary Harri stocked up on the appropriate purple yarn (acrylic & solid purple) and help you get the right amount. The scarves need to be at least 6 feet in length and 6-7 inches wide but may be of any pattern you choose.

If you are one of the knitters already working on this, be sure to contact Mary Wognum at (218) 343-5626 to arrange for dropping off the completed scarf (or scarves). Mary will take care of tagging and bagging each scarf.

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**Future Dates to Remember**

(Check this month's calendar for April events.)

- May 12 – Memorial Sunday & Mother's Day
- May 22 – Women's Friendship Dinner
- May 26 – Love Offering

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**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES**

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**UMW Minutes**

Wednesday January 23, 2019 1-3 PM

The meeting was officially convened at 1:05 pm by Vice President Lucy Diesslin with Marge Forsberg, Linda Hane, Beverly Johnson, Tootsie Loe, Sharon Luthens, Janice Tessier and Jeanne Tomlinson also in attendance. Lucy opened with a prayer and we did a unison reading of the UMW Pledge.

The minutes from our January 23, 2019 meeting were read and approved as read. Motion by Bev Johnson; second by Linda Hane.

Sharon Luthens presented the Treasurer's Report indicating the only activity has been pasties and the purchase of some cleaning supplies. The February pasty expenses are yet to be paid. The checking account balance as \$4,135.33, savings is \$6,040.23 and the CD is \$10,000.

**Old Business**

- **Lydia Project:** Lucy asked Bev to once again include a reminder in one of the March bulletins about turning the scarves in to Mary Wognum as they are completed. Jeanne will put in a short article about that for the April *FISH*.
- **Church "Spring" Cleaning:** Jeanne reported on behalf of Margie Olson that she'd asked Brascko's and learned they are no longer doing floor wax stripping/re-waxing so we'll have to find another way of getting that done.

**New Business**

- **Friendship Dinner:** Linda Hane suggested we talk about this since it would be coming up in May. We decided to set a date and selected Wednesday, May 22, at 5:30 PM which is the day for a UMW meeting so we'll just have the dinner instead of the usual 1 PM meeting. Jeanne will check with Northland Market before the March 27 meeting and get it to someone so the menu choices can be made then.

We adjourned the business meeting portion at 1:26 pm.

For our devotional study, we read Chapter 1 of our study book, *Attitude is Your Paint Brush - It Colors Every Situation*. The chapter was about having an “Attitude of Gratitude” and focused on being grateful for our church, our faith and the Gospel.

We then enjoyed a delicious banana-nut cake roll supplied by Bev Johnson.

Our next meeting will be March 27 at 1 pm with Janice Tessier as hostess.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson,  
Secretary

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES**  
**March 20, 2019**  
**Ely United Methodist Church**

**Call To Order:** Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 6:57 PM.

**Attendees (10):** Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Dan & Bev Johnson, Margie & Mark Olson, Keith Rue, Donna Rusco, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

**Opening:** Pastor Craig provided the “Opening Thought” with thoughts from *Wind River Winter* by Virginia Stem Owens about “passive diminishing”: as we experience suffering and/or diminished physical capacity, we frequently learn what really matters. The concept of when “we are weakest, God can be strongest”.

**Minutes:** The February 20, 2019 Ad Council minutes were approved as printed in the February *FISH* with one correction

on the previous year’s pasties information – it should have been “February”, not “January”. Motion by Bev Johnson; second by Linda Hane. Motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Mark Olson presented the February 2019 Treasurer’s Report. Receipts & disbursements were \$9,746.69 & \$8,817.98, respectively. End of month balances: Undesignated Funds \$12,969.59; Building Fund \$9,461.02; Memorial Fund \$10,627.94; Parish Health Ministries \$400; R3 Project \$112.25; Gift of Giving Project \$15.16, Landscape Project \$218.78. Motion to accept by Jeanne Tomlinson, second by Bev Johnson. Motion approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Board of Trustees:** Margie Olson reported the outdoor parking lot lights replacements (now LED) were covered by a donation. Their next meeting will be on April 1 at 7 PM.
- **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported the committee met on March 13 and had a brief discussion about how the first year of our “transition” is going. So far, all positive comments. Pastor Craig shared his current “time away” plans for the rest of the year. He’ll be gone 4 Sundays and all those have pulpit substitutes arranged. The committee will meet next on Wednesday, May 1 at 5:30 PM.
- **Worship:** Linda Hane reported the Ash Wednesday service on March 6 was very well received with 52 participants. The committee will meet on April 2 to discuss the Holy Week services. Palm branches have already been ordered for Palm Sunday. There will be a Thursday service on April 18 at 7 PM that will be a

combined Last Supper (communion) and Good Friday service.

- **Parish Health Ministry:** Donna Rusco commented that we need more prayer shawls. She'll write an article for the May *FISH* to describe the wide variety of shawls (knitted, crocheted, quilted, fleece, etc.) that are acceptable.
- **Visioning:** Committee Chair Rich Floyd provided a written report to the Ad Council outlining the status of the committee's initiatives from their March 14 meeting:
  - **Gift of Giving:** The committee evaluated the feedback from the congregation and decided to do this project again. It will be turned over to the Outreach Committee to handle.
  - **Vine & Branches Bible Study:** This has been a very successful 6 week study. There will be an article in the April *FISH* about it.
  - **Prayer Wall:** The committee has worked out the logistics for an insert in the Sunday bulletin listing prayer requests received through the prayer chain and worship service submittals through the use of the prayer request form in the pew welcome pads. Pastor Craig will announce the program during the Sunday worship service on March 24 and an article about the *Prayer Wall* will appear in the April *FISH*.
  - **Bible Study:** There were only 4 responses to the survey indicating interest in a week day Bible Study and none of the available times coincided, so at this time there won't be an additional

weekly Bible Study to the Sunday morning 8:45 M weekly Bible Study.

- **Movie:** There will be a movie shown at the church on Sunday, April 7 at 2 PM with an Easter theme. They are currently assessing showing either *Son of Man* or *Pieces of Easter*. Dan Johnson requested we looked into enhancing the sound more since the top volume from the computer is not adequate. Keith & Mark will check out the use of speakers they have for their computers.
- **Radio Promotions:** Craig had received a marketing call from WELY indicating we could get 3 spots per day for 3 days per week for a month for \$71. We might consider doing this to promote a future special event.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. **Progress on Ad Hoc Committee for Church Handbook:** Jeanne Tomlinson distributed an organizational chart documenting the committees and roles that are currently listed in the Church Handbook and including some additional information that should be included. We'll be using this as a basis for discussion of possible changes.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. **Love Offering:** Pastor Craig asked how we normally handle the Love Offering and distributed copies of the flier he'd received about where the Love Offering funds will be distributed this year. Linda Hane moved that we guarantee a minimum of \$100 for the offering if the special free-will

offering does not generate that amount. Jeanne Tomlinson seconded the motion. Motion passed. It was decided the special offering would be taken on Sunday, May 27. There will be an article in the May *FISH* to let people know more about it.

2. **Confirming Nominations – Annual Conference**

**Layperson:** Pastor Craig reported that Jay Tomlinson had volunteered to serve as the Lay Person Annual Conference delegate this year. He submitted his name for the nomination. Second by Marge Olson. Nomination confirmed.

3. **Direct Deposit Offerings:** Jay Tomlinson reported that this has been suggested as something we might look into since many “younger generation” folks prefer this way of making payments to the church. We discussed it briefly but need more information as to costs and logistics before taking any action.

4. **Jumpin’ Jeohosaphats:** Pastor Craig reported he’d been contacted by this Gospel/Country Music group to see if our church would be willing to sponsor them to come to Ely for a show. We have done this in the past. Sponsorship would cost \$200 as well as arranging the venue (Whitehall Park bandshell?), sound system and probably providing refreshments of some sort. Bev Johnson moved we do this; second by Linda Hane. During the discussion it was decided we should take an offering during the event to cover any costs and any money beyond that would then go to the band. Motion passed.

5. **Blessings of the Fleet & Pot Luck:** Pastor Craig reported on a former annual event that was restarted last year by the Ministerial Association that takes place soon after the

meeting the outfitters have with the Forest Service at the beginning of the season, usually late April. Outfitters bring canoes/kayaks to Semer’s Park for a blessing and then there’ll be a pot luck picnic following. Our commitment would be to help with the food but there would be no direct cost. Linda Hane moved we do this; second by Keith Rue. Motion passed.

6. **All Night Grad Party:** Mark Olson had received a letter from the All Night Grad Party requesting donations. Marge Olson moved we donate \$50 as we have in the past; second by Bev Johnson. Motion passed.

7. **Easter Lilies:** Pastor Craig had received a mailing from Ely Flower & Seed asking about whether we’ll do Easter lilies again this year and that the order would need to be placed by April 5. Marge Olson moved that we do them again; second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion passed. Pastor Craig will take care of getting a sign-up sheet put together to be available at the March 24 & 31 Sunday services and will take care of ordering the lilies.

**Correspondence** – None

**Items of Information.**

1. **Lenten Supper:** Jay reminded everyone we’ll be hosting our Lenten Supper on March 21. Pasty maker helpers need to arrive by 3 PM.

2. **New District Superintendent:** Pastor Craig announced that our new DS will be Laurie Kantonen who was formerly the pastor of the Hubbard UMC. She’s planning to make rounds through the district over the next few months to meet with each church.

3. **March Pasties Report:** Pasties made: 623; Sales \$3758; Cost: \$1,130.65; Net Income: \$2,637.35. Last March we made 683.
4. **April Pasties:** Jay Tomlinson reminded everyone that he & Jeanne will not be here for the April 15-16 pasties. Jeanne will handle orders as usual. Jay will order product for 850 with adjustments to be made once all the orders are tallied. Dan Johnson will coordinate production; Marge Olson will be handling the sales. Start time on April 16 will likely be 6 AM instead of the usual 7.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary