

## A Note from Pastor Craig

Once again, I wish you a very Happy New Year! I enjoy writing these newsletter pastor pages each month. They are a chance for me to touch base with you and pass along items that are on my heart and mind. In deciding what to write about I generally follow where my energy and focus is at any given moment, which means I cycle through a number of different themes. Generally speaking my goals are to:

- Communicate my enthusiasm for a particular aspect of Christian faith and life.
- Provide encouragement for each of us to grow in faith, hope, and love.
- Bring to your attention something happening in our church where I want to add a personal comment or emphasis.

This month I want to turn our gaze to the United Methodist Church as a denomination and the upcoming Special General Conference to be held in St. Louis from February 23 – 26. All Christian denominations in the United States are responding in one way or another to the reality of same-sex marriage, and the inclusion of gay and lesbian persons in our congregations as members and as clergy.

The rest of this note is an update of where the United Methodist Church is at presently and an invitation for all of us to pray for the upcoming General Conference.

Last fall we included an article in the September edition of *The Fish* detailing how the United Methodist Church had formed a “Commission on the Way Forward” to bring several proposals to a specially called General

Conference in February of 2019. The commission forwarded three proposals to the United Methodist Council of Bishops for their consideration with the recommendation that a “middle way” proposal be forwarded to the General Conference for adoption. The September article also provided a number of links to online resources detailing specifics for the respective proposals. On September 25 a carload from our church traveled to the Coppertop Church in Duluth to hear a presentation.

Would you pray that the Holy Spirit would move within and among the delegates, within all United Methodist Churches, and all United Methodist members of all ages as well, that God’s hopes and desires would be realized in the actions of the General Conference? The bottom line is that we want to be a vital witness to Jesus Christ in our communities and the world.

Meanwhile – my continued prayers and best wishes for each of you in 2019. I pray you stay warm, that your health is stable, and that you and your families would grow in love for God and for one another.

Pastor Craig

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### Contact Information and Office Hours for February 2019

Church Office: (218) 365-3355

Parsonage: (218) 365-3716

Email: [elymethodist@elyumc.org](mailto: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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**ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK**  
**Sunday February 3, 2018**  
**immediately following the Worship Service.**

It's that time for our first quarterly all-church potluck in 2019!! Join us for some wonderful fellowship and great food following the worship service. Bring a food item to share if you can – or just come and share in the food and fellowship. There's always plenty of both.

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**Ely UMC Church Conference – 2018**  
**December 19, 2018**  
***State of the Church***

At the end of five months as your pastor I offer these observations as to the state of Ely United Methodist Church.

Our congregation does many things well, with individuals and groups offering their talents, experience, vision, and energy to its ministries to individuals, families, and the community. The Ely UMC congregation:

- Has highly capable leaders in the areas of worship/music, finance, administration, and programs (Sunday School, Bible Studies, and Mission Outreach).
- Is responsible caring for its property and finances an efficient and transparent manner.
- Takes seriously its connection to the Minnesota Annual Conference, even though it is at the end of the road, and participates in its mission and program.
- Responds energetically to local mission opportunities, within its ability.

- Understands itself and the Ely community.
- Is open to visitors and newcomers.
- Is committed both to existing traditions and to opportunities to change and grow.

I am especially grateful for the way the congregation and its members have welcomed me as their new pastor, have stepped forward during the interim time to pick up responsibilities, and are interested in working with me to shape the next chapter of our life together. Thank you.

So what is ahead for us in 2019? I venture the following thoughts as to areas of focus:

- To continue our traditions in worship/music, education, mission/outreach.
- To maintain the momentum of the Visioning Committee in sensing how the Holy Spirit is moving among us.
- To reconsider the mission/vision of our Nurture and Membership Care, Worship, and Education committees, and to do this in intentional ways and in bite-sized pieces.

With appreciation and anticipation,

*Pastor Craig Haberman, December 19, 2018*

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**ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE – MINUTES**  
**December 19, 2018**

**Call To Order:** Pastor Craig Haberman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Attendees (13):** Butch & Lucy Diesslin, Rich Floyd, Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Dan & Bev Johnson, Mark & Marge Olson, Norm & Donna Rusco, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

**Devotional:** Pastor Craig provided an opening thought with a devotion based on I Peter 2:9-10 about blessings and responsibility.

**State of the Church:** Pastor Craig referred us to the distributed 2018 Annual Church Conference booklet containing a brief statement about the state of the church from his observations over his first five months as our pastor. In summary, our church does many things well and is still financially sound. He expressed his gratitude for the way the congregation welcomed him and stepped in during the transition time to cover needed tasks.

**Budget 2019:** The proposed budget for 2019, totaling \$106,819.75 was submitted with a motion to approve by the Financial Committee. Second by Jay Tomlinson. Motion passed unanimously.

**Nominations Report:** The nominations for the 2021 classes of the following committees were:

**Board of Trustees:** Marge Olson, Pam Turnbull, Jim Peterson

**Pastor-Parish Relations:** Linda Hane, Sara Archambault, Gerald Niskala. Sue Peterson was nominated for the 2019 class to replace a member who had resigned.

**Nominations & Personnel:** LaVerne Lindholm, Pat Olson  
Pastor Craig asked for any additional nominations. There were none. Pastor Craig, representing the Nominating Committee, moved to accept the nominations as submitted ; second by Lucy Diesslin. Motion approved unanimously.

**Ad Council Nominations:** Pastor Craig noted that some positions for the Administrative Council were not yet filled: Lay Member to Annual Conference, Lay Member Alternate, and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees since that person is elected by the Trustees at their first meeting. He also noted that some Worship Committee positions were not filled and are currently under review. Rich Floyd questioned the combination of the Visioning/Outreach Programs in the booklet since that had not yet been officially decided by the Ad Council. So those programs were split out leaving no Outreach Program chair. Motion to approve by Rich Floyd; second by Butch Diesslin. Motion passed. Approved for the Ad Council were the following:

**Chairperson:** Jay Tomlinson

**Vice Chairperson:** Keith Rue

**Recording Secretary:** Jeanne Tomlinson

**Lay Leader:** Patty Rusco

**Finance and Stewardship Chairperson:** Bev Johnson

**Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson:** Jeanne Tomlinson

**Church Treasurer:** Mark Olson

**Program Chairpersons**

**Worship:** Linda Hane

**Nurture and Membership Care:** Bonnie Bergland

**Superintendent of Sunday School:** Chris Urbas

**President UMW:** Bonnie Bergland

**Parish Nurse:** Donna Rusco

**Visioning:** Rich Floyd

**Membership Status:** Pastor Craig referred us to the distributed booklet containing the detail statistics for our membership. It was noted that the number listed for the Preparatory Members (Baptisms) should be 4 and not 3. With 3 Professions of Faith in 2018 our Full Membership Roll went from 184 to 187.

The was no other business required.

Motion to adjourn by Lucy Diessler; second by Marge Olson.  
The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

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## Ely United Methodist Church Nominated Church Leadership 2019

### Administrative Council

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Chairperson:</b>                           | <b>Jay Tomlinson</b>          |
| <b>Vice Chairperson:</b>                      | <b>Keith Rue</b>              |
| <b>Recording Secretary:</b>                   | <b>Jeanne Tomlinson</b>       |
| <b>Lay Member to Annual Conference:</b>       | <i>To be named</i>            |
| <b>Alternate:</b>                             | <i>To be named</i>            |
| <b>Lay Leader:</b>                            | <b>Patty Rusco</b>            |
| <b>Chairperson – Finance and Stewardship:</b> | <b>Bev Johnson</b>            |
| <b>Chairperson – Pastor Parish Relations:</b> | <b>Jeanne Tomlinson</b>       |
| <b>Chairperson – Board of Trustees:</b>       | <i>To be named - Trustees</i> |
| <b>Church Treasurer:</b>                      | <b>Mark Olson</b>             |

### Program Chairpersons

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| <b>Worship:</b>                         | <b>Linda Hane</b>      |
| <b>Nurture and Membership Care:</b>     | <b>Bonnie Bergland</b> |
| <b>Superintendent of Sunday School:</b> | <b>Chris Urbas</b>     |
| <b>President UMW:</b>                   | <b>Bonnie Bergland</b> |
| <b>Parish Nurse:</b>                    | <b>Donna Rusco</b>     |
| <b>Visioning:</b>                       | <b>Rich Floyd</b>      |
| <b>Outreach:</b>                        | <i>To be named</i>     |

### Board of Trustees

| <u>Class of 2019</u> | <u>Class of 2020</u> | <u>Class of 2021</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Norm Rusco           | Phil Hegfors         | Margie Olson         |
| Brett Porthan        | Bryan Rusco          | Pam Turnbull         |
| Frank Udovich        | Zach Rue             | Jim Peterson         |

### Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Chairperson – Jeanne Tomlinson

| <u>Class of 2019</u> | <u>Class of 2020</u> | <u>Class of 2021</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|                     |                         |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Dan Johnson</b>  | <b>Jeanne Tomlinson</b> | <b>Linda Hane</b>       |
| <b>Sheri Rue</b>    | <b>Bob Olson</b>        | <b>Sara Archambault</b> |
| <b>Sue Peterson</b> | <b>Lee Tessier</b>      | <b>Gerald Niskala</b>   |

### Nominations and Personnel

| <u>Class of 2019</u>   | <u>Class of 2020</u>    | <u>Class of 2021</u>    |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Janice Tessier</b>  | <b>Linda Hane</b>       | <b>LaVerne Lindholm</b> |
| <b>Tiffany Niskala</b> | <b>Patty Rusco</b>      | <b>Pat Olson</b>        |
| <b>Donna Rusco</b>     | <b>Tricia Scheffler</b> | <b>Tootsie Loe</b>      |

### Finance Committee

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| <b>Chairperson:</b>                       | <b>Bev Johnson</b>     |
| <b>Pastor:</b>                            | <b>Craig Haberman</b>  |
| <b>Lay Member to Annual Conference:</b>   | <i>To be named</i>     |
| <b>Chairperson of Ad Council:</b>         | <b>Jay Tomlinson</b>   |
| <b>Chairperson of Board of Trustees:</b>  | <i>To be named</i>     |
| <b>Chair of Nurture &amp; Membership:</b> | <b>Bonnie Bergland</b> |
| <b>Lay Leader:</b>                        | <b>Patty Rusco</b>     |
| <b>Financial Secretaries:</b>             | <b>Sheila Shultz</b>   |
|   | <b>Deanie Kuehl</b>    |
|   | <b>Sue Tedrick</b>     |
|   | <b>Patty Niskala</b>   |
|   | <b>Mark Olson</b>      |
|   | <b>Margie Olson</b>    |

**Church Treasurers:**

### Annual Audit Committee

**Bev Johnson, Richard Floyd, Dave Markwardt**

### Memorial Task Force Committee

**Chairperson: Carol Linneman**

**Committee Members: Carol Linneman, Sharon Luthens, Janice Tessier, Margie Olson, Marge Forsberg, Jeri Walburn, Craig Haberman**

### Program Councils

**Worship:**

|                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Chairperson:</b>          | <b>Linda Hane</b>      |
| <b>Music Coordinator:</b>    | <i>To be named</i>     |
| <b>Choir Representative:</b> | <i>To be named</i>     |
| <b>Church Organist:</b>      | <b>Sue Germek</b>      |
| <b>Communion Stewards:</b>   | <b>Carol Laine</b>     |
|                              | <b>Nancy Markwardt</b> |

**Lay Leader:** Patty Rusco  
**Head Usher:** Dan Johnson

**Education:**  
**Sunday School Superintendent:** Chris Urbas

**Nurture and Membership Care:**  
**Chairperson:** Bonnie Bergland  
**Parish Nurse:** Donna Rusco  
**Hospitality Chairperson:** Gail Haney  
**Sunshine Person:** Patty Rusco

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES December 19, 2018**

**Call To Order:** Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:26 PM.

**Attendees (13):** Butch & Lucy Diesslin, Rich Floyd, Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Dan & Bev Johnson, Margie & Mark Olson, Norm & Donna Rusco, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

**Opening:** Pastor Craig provided the “Opening Thought” from the Christmas story use of “in those days” and the angel saying “born this day” and pointed out how Christ’s coming is all about “now”.

**Minutes:** The November 28, 2018 Ad Council minutes as printed in the January *FISH* (which had just been printed and prepared for mailing) were approved. Motion to approve by Butch Diesslin, second by Linda Hane.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Mark Olson presented the November 2018 treasurer’s report. Receipts & disbursements were \$9,432.21 & \$9,525.90, respectively. End of month balances: undesignated funds \$12,331.57; Building Fund \$8,859.76; Memorial Fund \$10,554.71; Parish Health Ministries \$400; R3 Project \$187.25; 2018 Gift of Giving Project \$1,169, Landscape Project \$199.16. Motion to accept by Linda Hane, second by Butch Diesslin. Motion approved.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Board of Trustees:** There was no formal report but the group expressed appreciation to Butch Diesslin for his work on the front & back door handles, replacing them with lever type handle.
- **Memorial Fund Task Force:** Marge Olson reported that white boards have been ordered and should arrive by December 21.
- **Finance:** Butch Diesslin will transition his position to Beverly Johnson, the new Finance Committee chair.
- **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported the Dec 9 Parsonage Open House went very well with over 50 people attending.
- **Worship:** Linda Hane reported that the children will be singing in church on December 23. There will be special music from the church choir and others for the 5:30 PM Christmas Eve service.
- **Parish Health Ministry:** Donna Rusco reported that the January *FISH* has a detailed article about this ministry. She emphasized the she and Marge Olson are available any Sunday for taking blood pressures as needed.
- **Visioning:** Rich Floyd reported on the following.
  - **Gift of Giving:** All the gifts have been purchased and prepared for distribution. The BWCC (nursing home) distribution will be Thursday, December 20 at 10:30 AM. Carefree Living (assisted living) gifts will be handed out at their Christmas party on Wednesday, December 26 at 1:30 PM.
  - **Growth Program:** This is still in the planning stage but currently it looks like Keith & Sheri Rue will conduct 6 weekly sessions at 1 PM on Sundays starting on February 3.

- **Bulletin Prayer List:** The committee is discussing having a Sunday bulletin insert listing persons for whom prayers were requested
- **Weekly Bible Study:** There are still conversations about setting up a weekly Bible Study during the work week.
- **Comfort Baskets:** Two more baskets were distributed this past month.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Church Use and Equipment Use Forms:** The Equipment use forms & instructions have been set up on the door in the Fellowship Hall storage area where the garage keys are kept; Pastor Craig has the Building Use forms. There is an article in the January *FISH* informing people about their use.
2. **Ecumenical Prayer Service:** Pastor Craig reported the service will be held at our church at 7 PM on Sunday, January 20. We will need to provide ushers and fellowship coffee and refreshments.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Parking Lot Lights:** Marge Olson reported that the parking lot lights that are supposed to go on when it gets dark aren't working. The bulbs have been replaced but it appears to be a sensor issue. Bryan is going to work on it. It was suggested that we perhaps just look at putting in motion sensor lights.
2. **Bullseye Cleaners:** Marge Olson reported that she's been working with the company who provides the janitorial service to our church to correct some situations noticed by the UMW group. She met with Lori Boes and there is a new checklist for the janitor that he should be using.
3. **Christmas Poinsettias:** Pastor Craig reported that 18 have been ordered and will be delivered on Thursday, December

20. It was discussed that in the past they were delivered on Christmas Eve but it was felt that earlier meant we could enjoy them longer. Lucy Diesslin moved that in the future we order them so we can have them in the sanctuary 2 Sundays prior to Christmas; second by Donna Rusco. Motion passed.

**Correspondence**

1. Thank you from Northwoods Partners for our annual donation.
2. Christmas Cards from church members
3. Letter from our sponsored child. It was recommended the letter be put into the next *FISH*.

**Items of Information**

1. **Lenten Suppers for 2019:** Our church has been scheduled for April 11 but we are seeing if we can switch with the Presbyterian Church to host it on March 21 instead so that we can make the dough balls for it at our normal pasty dough making time (March 18).

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

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**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES  
January 16, 2019  
Ely United Methodist Church**

**Call To Order:** Chair Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**Attendees (10):** Lucy Diesslin, Craig Haberman, Linda Hane, Dan & Bev Johnson, Carol Linneman, Margie & Mark Olson, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

**Opening:** Pastor Craig provided the “Opening Thought” sharing how he had heard a comment in town about our church having “volunteers all over town” and what that says about our congregation. He also commented how there is always a need for many people to keep a community going. He then opened with prayer.

**Minutes:** The December 19, 2018 Ad Council minutes and December 19, 2018 Annual Church Conference minutes were distributed. Motion to approve both by Bev Johnson, second by Carol Linneman. Motion approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Mark Olson presented the December 2018 Treasurer’s Report. He commented that our apportionments for 2018 had all been paid, our Reach-Renew-Rejoice 2018 donation of \$1,000 had been paid, how high our December receipts were even without any pasty sales income and that our year end General Fund balance was the highest that he could remember. It was noted that it was primarily because of the one month (July) of no minister’s expenses. Receipts & disbursements were \$12,792.20 & \$10,943.08, respectively. End of month balances: Undesignated Funds \$15,209.53; Building Fund \$8,860.89; Memorial Fund \$10,909.26; Parish Health Ministries \$400; R3 Project \$112.25; 2018 Gift of Giving Project \$15.16, Landscape Project \$399.16. Motion to accept by Jeanne Tomlinson, second by Linda Hane. Motion approved.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Board of Trustees:** There was no formal report but Pastor Craig mentioned that the committee would be meeting on January 28 at 7 PM.
- **Memorial Fund Task Force:** Carol Linneman reported that they’d had an unscheduled meeting about the white boards that were purchased to replace the two

Fellowship Hall blackboards. One had arrived damaged and a replacement had been received. The next meeting will be February 5 at 9 AM.

- **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported the committee had met on Monday, January 7 and discussed the success of the Dec 9 Parsonage Open House and had decided that they now don’t need to meet every month as they have been through the pastoral transition. The next meeting was scheduled for March 11 at 5:30 PM. Pastor Craig has a conflict now with that date so that may be rescheduled.
- **Worship:** Linda Hane reported the committee will meet on Tuesday, February 5 at 7 PM to discuss Lent and Easter worship opportunities which will include Ash Wednesday and Maunday Thursday services.
- **Visioning:** Jay Tomlinson reported the committee would be meeting the next day, Thursday, January 17 at 7 PM and that the *Vine & Branches* Bible Study would be starting on February 3.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Parking Lot lights:** Marge Olson reported that Cunningham Electric will be replacing the lights. They will be LED lights for some electric cost savings.
2. **Bullseye Cleaners:** Marge Olson stated that the cleaning problems (or lack thereof) appear to be resolved for now. We discussed the need for an annual “Spring Cleaning” for the church which hasn’t been done for awhile. The UMW will discuss this at their next meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Reach-Renew-Rejoice:** Jay Tomlinson apologized for having not had this on the December 2018 Ad Council agenda but reported that we’d held an “email vote” in

December to approve sending \$1,000 in for our 2018 donation for this conference project and to hold the balance of \$112.25 as a startup for our final 2019 donation. Jeanne Tomlinson moved that we set our goal at \$500 for the final year; Marge Olson seconded the motion. During the discussion it was expressed that we should simply shoot for the same amount that we've given for the previous 3 years. Jeanne amended her motion to set our goal at \$1,000 and send in whatever we manage to raise, even if it is over the goal. Amendment second by Mark Olson. Motion approved. Linda Hane recommended that we make an announcement at church about it to explain what it is for. Lucy Diesslin recommended that we do that several times through the year.

2. **Unfilled positions on the 2019 Nominations report:** As mentioned in the 2018 Annual Church Conference minutes there were several positions that had not been filled, including the Lay Member to Annual Conference. Jay Tomlinson has agreed to take this position. The Board of Trustees will be voting for their Committee President when they meet on January 28. The Worship Committee and Nurturing/Membership committee chairs will be discussing a possible rework of some of the "sub-committee" positions.
3. **Review Committee Structure and Responsibility**  
**Descriptions:** As a result of some of the discussions during the nomination committee meetings and the church conference over some of the current committees, it was felt that we should review the 2006 church document which outlines the various church committee positions and responsibilities. Jeanne Tomlinson offered to chair an ad hoc committee to work on these to update the document as well as discuss and recommend possible changes.

4. **Black Chalk Boards:** We briefly discussed what to do with the blackboards that have been replaced. Since they have deteriorated to the point of no longer being very useful to anyone it was decided that Mark Olson would take them to the dump. It was mentioned that Butch Diesslin is planning to work on the damaged white board. It had been replaced but the company didn't want it returned so Butch is planning to work on it to salvage part of it for possible use.
5. **Hosting Ely-wide Prayer Service for Christian Unity on January 20:** Pastor Craig has been working with the other ministers in town to put together the program for this service which will be held this Sunday, January 20 at 7 PM. It will be a series of hymns, scripture readings and prayers. Sharon Luthens will be playing. We need to set up for refreshments in the annex. Each church is supposed to provide one pan of cookies or bars. Linda Hane offered to set up the coffee. Bev Johnson offered to bring a pan of bars, Jeanne Tomlinson will leave some packages of Girl Scout cookies in the refrigerator in case they are needed.

#### Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

#### Items of Information

1. **Lenten Suppers for 2019:** We will be hosting our Lenten Supper on March 21. This is earlier than we normally have done it but it works better for making the dough balls for the small pasties since that will be the same week as our regular pasties. We discussed how many we should make since we had difficulty in 2018 selling the extra pasties we'd made. It was noted that this would probably give us less to donate to community organizations since the sales from the extra pasties normally create the kitty for that donation. Marge Olson moved we make just 96 this year. Second by Jeanne Tomlinson. Motion passed.



2. **January Pasties Report:** Pasties made: 785; Sales \$4,729; Cost: \$1,429.24; Net Income: \$3,299.76. Last January we made 735.
3. **Confirmation:** Pastor Craig reported that we might have a fifth confirmation student. He's been having conversations with Tammy Johnson about adding Matt Johnson.
4. **Annual Audit:** Bev Johnson announced that the annual church audit was scheduled for January 23 at 7 PM. The Audit Committee consists of Richard, Floyd, Bev Johnson and Dave Markwardt.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

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### **Future Dates to Remember**

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

**Wednesday, March 6:** Ash Wednesday Service

**Thursday, March 21:** Ely UMC hosting Lenten Supper