

Pastor Craig Haberman
Biography
April 2021



Greetings from Pastor Craig! I've been the pastor of Ely United Methodist Church since August of 2018, when I arrived to fill the footsteps of Rev. Dana Thompson who had ably served as pastor here for thirty-one years.

I come from a family of pastors; both my father Dwight and his sister, my Aunt Joyce, served as United Methodist pastors in Minnesota. My twin brother, Mark, is a deacon in the United Methodist Church and my son, Christopher, is a priest in the Anglican Church of North America.

Although I was born in New Jersey, when my father was attending seminary, I am a lifelong Minnesotan and have spent most of my years in the 218 - area code, so "Up North" is what I call home.

My undergraduate degree from Bemidji State University was in Mathematics and Physics. I first heard an internal call from God to be a pastor when I was a freshman in college, but it was another seven years before I finally said "yes" and moved with my family to Dayton, Ohio to attend United Theological Seminary. Between college and seminary I taught high school and coached basketball and track at Littlefork-Big Falls for a year and wrote software at Honeywell for another two years.

My deepest joys as a pastor are twofold:

1. Being able each Sunday during the worship service to connect the world of Scripture to the lives we live in Ely - in song, sermon, and prayer.
2. Getting to know people of all ages who've had a wide variety of experiences and, then, walking together through all the ups and downs of life.

I've been single since 2015. I have two grown sons, Kirk and Christopher, daughters-in-law, Kim and Meg, and six grandchildren ranging in age from thirteen years old to five years old. Kirk, Kim, Bryden, Simon, George, and Daphne live in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. Christopher, Meg, Jordan, and Isaac live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

I enjoy reading, hiking, canoeing, riding my bicycle, walking around Ely, spending time with my family, just plain being outdoors in the diverse grandeur of creation, and visiting with people I meet in Ely and wherever I go.

Listed below are churches I've served along with the dates served.

- Community United Methodist Church (student pastor). 1982 – 1985
- Verndale/Central United Methodist Churches. 1985-1992
- Kabetogama United Methodist Church, Crane Lake Chapel and Mobile Ministry pastor. 1992 – 2001
- Moorhead United Methodist Church. 2001-2010
- Tracy United Methodist Church. 2010 – 2016
- Alexandria United Methodist Church (Interim Pastor). 2016 – 2018
- Ely United Methodist Church. 2018 – present

I am thoroughly enjoying my time in Ely and am delighted to be the pastor of Ely United Methodist Church, a strong congregation made up of friendly, capable, committed, and interesting people.