

ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Little Church With the Big Heart"

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Parish News

May 3, 2024

In this Edition

City-Wide Garage Sale:

Detailed information on our church garage sale is on page two of this newsletter.

Senior Sunday March 19:

We will celebrate Senior Sunday during our 10:00 worship service on March 19th.

Matthew Johnson, son of Derek and Tammy Johnson, and brother of Drew, is our lone Memorial High School graduate this year.

We will serve cake, coffee, and juice following worship to honor Matthew.

A Note from Pastor Craig

As I look at the calendar, I'm probably down to about a half-dozen newsletters before retiring and moving to Sioux Falls in the middle of June. I'm planning on devoting at least a portion of these reflections to what it's meant to me to be a pastor for forty-plus years, how it seems to me God moves in our lives as we seek to find our path in the adult world, and (finally) the immense privilege it is to be a pastor.

Employment is a necessity for adults; both for making a living and for the satisfaction of accomplishment, of playing our part in helping society run in a productive manner. Both our pocketbooks and our soul are filled by work.

Sometimes we're fortunate enough to find that our work also becomes a vocation. Our job/career takes on deeper meaning in our life, almost as if "this is what God made me to do." Frederick Buechner has famously put it this way: "Vocation is the place where our deep gladness meets the world's deep need." Or as someone else has said: "If you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life."

If this doesn't happen for us however, we can still have the same feeling God is using us for something we're uniquely equipped for. The sense that we are part of Something far bigger than we are.

This has been the life path of a whole host of people. For instance, one of my now-retired brothers was very good at his job, but I don't think he considered it a vocation. However he also coached youth soccer and skiing, led mission trips, and did a lot of "heavy lifting" in a variety of important roles in a large church. While he made a significant difference in the business world, he also experienced the additional dimension of touching lives above and beyond his "day job." Of contributing to "the world's deep need."

It's all a matter, I suppose, of feeling that God is using our hours, days, and years for God's glory, the good of God's sons and daughters, and the deepening and expanding of the Kingdom of God.

Not that this means we find each day to be all sunshine and deep clover. No job, no matter how satisfying, is all smiles. But our employment still matters. As seminary teacher Fred Craddock prayed every morning: "I thank you God that the work you call me to is more important than how I may feel about it on any given day."

May it be so for all of us. God's blessings to you/your family at work, worship, and play. Pastor Craig

Ely UMC sponsoring a garage sale as part of City-Wide Garage Sale

The UMW is participating in the Ely City-wide Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 18th from 8am-4pm at the parsonage garage – 1006 S. 2nd Ave. E.

This sale will be a fundraiser for the Building Fund. We would like to ask anyone in the congregation who would like to donate gently used or new items. We are asking for the following items: Household goods, kitchen items, dishes, linens, pictures/wall hangings, small furniture. **NO CLOTHING!!**

Do not bring your stuff to the church. All donations can be brought to the parsonage garage on Thursday May 16th and Friday May 17th between 10am-5pm.

Any questions contact:

- Pam Turnbull: 218-969-8913
- Margie Olson: 218-235-0220
- Patty Rusco: 218-349-0145
- Linda Hane: 218-343-5022



May 2024



Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

			1	2 <small>5:00 PM - Pastor Craig's Retirement Planning Meeting 6:00 PM Choir Practice</small>	3	4
The United Methodist Church General Conference runs from April 23 rd through May 3 rd and is held in the Charlotte North Carolina Convention Center						
5 <small>9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School Holy Communion</small>	6	7 <small>9:00 AM Memorial Committee Meeting</small>	8 <small>11:00 AM Ely Ministerial Association</small>	9 <small>6:00 PM Choir Practice</small>	10	11
12 <small>10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School</small>	13 <small>Pastor Craig's Luncheon with Bishop Lanette Plambeck & Cabinet Members and other Retirees in Eden Prairie</small>	14 <small>5:00 PM Connections Committee Meeting 6:30 - 8:00 PM MN UMC Annual Conference Pre-Conference Webinar</small>	15 <small>6:00 PM Ad Council Meeting</small>	16 <small>6:00 PM Choir Practice</small>	17	18 <small>8 AM - 4 PM Ely Methodist Church Rummage Sale at the Parsonage. The Congregation is Invited to Contribute Items for Sale. (NO CLOTHES!)</small>
19 <small>9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School Senior Recognition Sunday</small>	20	21	22 <small>12:00 Noon United Methodist Women Friendship Luncheon at the Ely Grand Lodge</small>	23 <small>6:00 PM Choir Practice</small>	24	25
26 <small>10:00 AM Worship Service and Sunday School</small>	27	28	29	30 <small>6:00 PM Choir Practice</small>	31	
The MN UMC Annual Conference runs from May 28 through May 30 at the Hilton Double Tree Convention Center in Bloomington, Minnesota.						

Ely UMC Mission Statement Announcement and Invitation for Feedback

During the Rule of Christ training, it was mentioned our mission statement is not easy to remember and many in attendance didn't know where to find it or what it says. The mission statement is located on our church website and in the new church directory. It says:

Our Ely UMC congregation seeks to add to and pass on the spiritual enrichment and strength for living in Christ that we have received and to share the love of Christ with others.

And as with any organization it is good to periodically review mission statements and update them as needed.

In addition to the adults, we also want our mission to be easy for the children in the congregation to be able to remember. At the last Administrative Council meeting we worked very hard as a team to revise our mission statement into a clear, concise, and easy to remember statement. After very open discussion and suggestions, it was determined:

Our mission at Ely United Methodist Church is: *"Growing in faith and sharing Christ's love with others."*

And we ask you to share your thoughts with members of the administrative council or Pastor Craig on how *Growing in faith and sharing Christ's love with others* captures what we do at Ely United Methodist Church.

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

May 3, 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.

John 5: 17 (NIV)



(Jesus said), "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."

We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Bob Hinman** – Curt Laine, who is also on our prayer wall, is asking for prayers for his neighbor, Bob Hinman, who has meningitis and has lost his vision and the use of his legs. The medical community is saying that he probably will not recover these functions.
- **Curt Nobbe** – Erin Moravitz's close family friend, Curt Nobbe, was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Curt's wife, Sally, is Erin's best friend and her brother is Bob Sandilla who has bacterial meningitis and is also on our prayer wall below. They have a lot going on in their lives right now.
- **Curt Laine** – Curt will have oral surgery on May 3 to remove 3 teeth before starting 6 weeks of radiation; his weekly chemo starts May 13. Please pray that Curt's treatments are successful.
- **Tammy Johnson's family & friends** – Tammy's brother, Jeremy (Pat Stock's son), died unexpectedly.
- **Kathy Brandau's family & friends** – Kathy's mother, Mary Leonas passed away. Mary was 100.
- **Glenn and Nancy Krause** – Glenn fell and cracked some ribs and now has pneumonia and Nancy is fighting a bad case of the flu.
- **Bill Hane & family** – Please pray for Bill Hane and his family as they deal with the loss of his son, Bill (Jr), after a long battle with pulmonary issues.
- **Bernie Mettler family** – Tiffany Zemke asked for prayers for the Bernie Mettler family.
- **Mary Ellen Skeesick** – Linda Hane's sister-in-law, Mary Ellen, is starting her radiation and chemo treatments for breast cancer. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Shane** – Continued prayers for Shane, a friend of Zach & Jacob Rue's, in his battle with cancer.
- **Bruce Olson** – **Update: Bruce's hip replacement went fine and he is doing well.** Bob Olson asked for prayers for Bruce who is had hip replacement surgery this past week.
- **Mark Luthens** – Sharon asked for prayers for Mark who will start treatments for his health issues.
- **Laurie Kantonen** – **Update: Pastor Craig reported that Laurie is recovering well after surgery and planning on attending the Annual Conference.** Please pray for our church District Superintendent, Laurie Kantonen. She will be having surgery on April 9th to repair an aortic aneurysm.
- **Bob Sandilla** – **Update: Bob has bacterial meningitis. He opened his eyes, off the ventilator, unable to speak or move his left side. He will be hospitalized another 6-8 weeks.** Erin Moravitz's best friend's brother, Bob Sandilla, has multiple myeloma blood cancer and had 2 strokes and an embolism shower at the base of his brain. His lungs have collapsed and he is intubated. His vitals are good, but no movement as yet. Bob is married with 3 children. Please pray for Bob's recovery and his family.

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.