

# ELY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"The Little Church With the Big Heart"*

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**Parish News**

**May 10, 2024**

## In this Edition

### 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.

### Video Camera Update:

We are in the middle of upgrading equipment to livestream our worship services. Our old setup consisted of a camera mounted on a tripod in the rear of the sanctuary and accessed by a four-stool.

It was unyielding and quite frankly a little unsafe.

Our new camera is mounted on the back wall of the sanctuary and operated remotely. It's a huge improvement.

Our livestream broadcasts may be interrupted for a week or two while we work out some bugs in the system.

## A Note from Pastor Craig

We are well into the month of May and steaming ahead toward summer. May is my favorite month of the year, both in its own right and as a prelude to June, July, August, and September.

Summer in Ely is simply breathtaking in every way, black flies notwithstanding.

Most of us are here because we love the natural beauty of the area - the lakes, streams, woods, rocky ledges, northern lights, sunrises, sunsets, and the wildlife. A common theme voiced by retirees moving to the area is they first traveled here decades ago before life took them in other directions and to other locales. Now they and other new arrivals are responding to an inward, siren call to return to Ely.

Only a few people moving to Ely choose to be part of a church. They are part of the soon to be largest religious group in the United States - the "Nones," meaning they identify with no organized religion. One reason, front and center for Nones in Ely is they experience God most clearly in nature.

Former pastor and theologian Tony Jones has recently written a compelling and moving book with the title "The God of Wild Places" that his publisher describes this way: *"In this compelling, raw narrative, Tony Jones leads readers on a meditative journey past the loss of faith and to a new identity in the wilderness."*

This theme is similar to the raptures one reads in the Biblical books of Job and the Psalms. This is indeed the experience of multitudes of people across the centuries; perhaps the most familiar to us is St. Francis of Assisi.

But doesn't this describe you as well? Isn't it what you feel looking at the northern lights, a full moon shining on a lake, a golden grove of Tamaracks in the fall, or the soft breeze blowing through a stand of Norway Pines? It's hard for me to find words for the joy the simple descending two note (fee-be) call of chickadee this time of year, one of 16 different calls their species makes.

So then, what about the Church? Where does participation in a local church fit into our life of faith? Do churches justify the time, effort, and expense necessary to keep in operation?

I tend to be a both/and person in nearly all things, believing either/or thinking misses the point entirely. Why? It flattens our experience of whatever issue/concept we seek to understand by reducing it to categories that are easier for us to understand and in doing so leaves so much good on the table, unused. (All this assumes both items being considered are wholesome in and of themselves.)

I'll mention more next week here on how I see our deep immersion in nature and active participation in the Church enhancing and complementing each other. Meanwhile, get outside and enjoy this stupendous time of year! Pastor Craig

## The Ely United Methodist Church

# Prayer Wall

May 10, 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.

### Psalm 61: 1 (NIV)



*Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.*

### We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Lennie Cersine** – Please pray for Lennie Cersine who is having multiple health issues.
- **Bobbi Gruwell** – Bobbi fell and broke her arm and will not be able to come to Ely until mid-August.
- **Tony Santaferarro** – Nancy Markwardt asked for prayers for Tony Santaferarro, her brother-in-law, who had heart surgery on May 6th.
- **Duane Beiber** – Duane has pneumonia and was intubated and moved to Duluth. He has been placed in an induced coma and has also been diagnosed with Covid.
- **Bob Hinman** – Kevin Laine, Carol Laine's son, 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.
- **Bob Sandilla** – **Update: Bob is now at the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab in Chicago. He has a long road ahead for recovery Please keep him in your prayers.** 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. Bob is married with 3 children.

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.



# May 2024

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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

## **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.