



The Salt Shaker

April 2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEAR ELY
11100 Spanish Road, Ely, Iowa 52227
www.elypres.org and on Facebook
319-848-4624 office@elypres.org

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

This Holy Week and Easter will be radically different at church—or not at church—as it is.

No brass. No palms or lilies. No Easter breakfast or egg hunt. No hugs. No seeing relatives and neighbors who join in for the special Sunday of Easter.

What we do get, though, counts for a lot. As best as possible with the technology that we can use, we can connect with one another to say “Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!”

Whether by phone or tablet or computer, let us do our best to celebrate the joy of Easter. For we are Easter people. We are the family of God near and far.

In the gospel account of Matthew, Mary and the other Mary went to the tomb on Easter morning and they were shocked. What they had expected to see was not there. Instead, “Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.” (Matthew 28:9) Instead of us gathering in person at the church on Easter, I pray that what happened to the Marys will happen to you. I pray that suddenly Jesus comes to you and says “Hey! Peace!” Then, with overwhelming joy, you run to Jesus with hope and faith. You bow to your Savior and worship him. Even if you are still in your jammies. I have a hunch that Jesus is more interested in the state of your heart than in what you are wearing.

Easter joy. Not just for Easter. No just for when we are doing well and have joy all around us. Easter joy is even more bright in dark times.

You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Blessings to you in Christ,
Pastor Julie

WORSHIPPING Opportunities

We will continue Facebook live streaming on the church’s Facebook page until further notice. The video link will also be on the church’s webpage (elypres.org) later on Sunday.

Worship schedule/Bible passages

April 5, 9:30 a.m., Palm Sunday: Matthew 21:1-11. Facebook Live streaming

April 9, 7:00 p.m., Maundy Thursday: Matthew 26:17-56, Facebook Live streaming

April 10, 3:00 p.m. Good Friday, Matthew 27:15-61, Facebook Live streaming

April 12 7:30 a.m., Easter Sunrise, Matthew 28:1-10, Facebook Live streaming

April 12 9:30 a.m., Easter service, Matthew 28, Facebook Live streaming

And continuing the following Sundays until further notice.

Pastor Julie can also send out manuscripts of the worship services to anyone who would like them.

CONNECTING Opportunities

Please consider the following opportunities to check in with one another through online fellowship through ZOOM meeting platform. Copy the link into your web browser and then add meeting ID and password information as asked. You will need to have Zoom software installed which is free.

Sunday Morning Fellowship

April 5, 2020 10:00 a.m. and following Sundays

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/681162913?pwd=UXNYZFdxXVXMytVTjBqeG9DUFUrQT09>

Meeting ID: 681 162 913

Password: 309550

Sunday School Children Check in

April 5, 2020 11:00 a.m. and following Sundays

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/617726179?pwd=aEcwQVZGeVc3azF6VDIGVkfFmcGljQT09>

Meeting ID: 617 726 179

Password: 605616

Wednesday morning Coffee Chat

April 8, 10:00 a.m. and following

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/250060150?pwd=MHVKMU4rRWhoOVJlbHdZcElGVHpJUT09>

Meeting ID: 250 060 150

Password: 386508

Wednesday morning Sunday School student check in

April Wednesday mornings at 10:45 a.m., April 8 and following

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/251508243?pwd=WFZTSVh2QWV4L3QvYkg3b2pmeGkwZz09>

Meeting ID: 251 508 243

Password: 772232

EDUCATIONAL/INSPIRATIONAL Opportunities

Daily Emails to anyone who wants to be included. Contact Stephanie B. if you are not on the list and would like to be included.

Daily Facebook posts on the church Facebook page

STEWARDSHIP Update

Almost everyone has had a financial shock in recent days. So too at church. The Session is conscientiously working through financials at church with the determination to be good stewards and to stay on top of our church bills.

If your financial situation allows you to continue your giving to church, thank you!

If your financial situation has changed, adjustments need to be made. Thank you for remembering the ministries and mission of your church.

The church family has continued for 162 years with sound financial practices and we will make it through this year too.

We will have online giving opportunities through the church website and the Presbyterian Foundation available soon.

MISSION

So much about our routines has been disrupted - we are all feeling the impacts of the pandemic. For those who do not have the comfort of food in their cupboard, these moments are even more worrisome. First Presbyterian Church near Ely has a strong history of providing monthly donations to the Linn Community Food Bank through our first Sunday of the month donation program called Food Pantry Sunday. We wish to continue to support our community by maintaining our Food Pantry Sunday only instead of us bringing our food donations to the church, with the help of eager Youth Group members, we will pick up your nonperishable food donations at your front door on the first Sunday of the month. Just tell us you want to take part. We will need your name, address and phone number.

Want to donate to Food Pantry Sunday? Call Misti Huedepohl at 319-594-2982 or mlhuedepohl@yahoo.com between now and 9:30 AM on Sunday, April 5.

Food donations will be picked up 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 5. Leave your food items in a grocery bag at your front door. Our church helpers will ensure social distancing measures are practiced and donations will be delivered to the Linn Community Food Bank.

We will give this a try. We can show our love and compassion for our community in one of the best ways we know - through food and nourishment.

Thank you and bless you,
Misti Huedepohl
Elder, Mission

60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Dick and Zelda Sherman are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Thursday April 2.

THANK YOU

Personal losses and events of the past several months have at times left me dazed and confused. During this time, relatives and friends sought to console me through acts of kindness and generosity. I have tried to recognize these acts personally and, to the best of my ability, acknowledge their sincerity in a timely fashion. Several fruit baskets were received during this time, and I refrigerated them, consuming and enjoying them over the weeks since. One, which was left on a knee wall at our back door in my absence, appeared not to have a card identifying its source. I didn't know who had sent it until I opened a jar of peaches inside last week, and found that the card was "cleverly concealed" between the jar and the cellophane wrap in the basket. I want to thank those members of my church family who took the time to think of me and prepare that great variety of fruit and nuts which I thoroughly enjoyed. Also, to all of those who during my Mayo Clinic treatments sent cards and notes of encouragement, prayed for me, called me or stopped by to wish me well, your thoughts and prayers were greatly appreciated. From my heart to the best church family ever, Glenn Modracek

LET'S CELEBRATE PASTOR JULIE! – DATE TBD

May 2, 2020 marks ten years since Rev. Dr. Julie Schuett was ordained as pastor of First Presbyterian Church near Ely. Pastor Julie, Steve and Daniel are a blessing to our church and its people. The Session would like to celebrate this milestone in Pastor Julie's pastorate.

On a future Sunday in (hopefully) May, a SPECIAL RECOGNITION will be planned including a POTLUCK dinner. Please prepare a recipe from one of the three church cookbooks. We will place a card by your dish indicating whose recipe it is.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship forms are available for members of the congregation seeking to continue their education. We have three scholarship funds: Pokorny Scholarship Fund, Motycka Scholarship Fund, and Wilhemina Anna Skalsky Carson Scholarship Fund. Each scholarship fund has separate guidelines and application forms. All applications are due June 1st whether for the fall semester 2020, spring semester 2021 or summer 2021.

Scholarship applications are available from Pat Kilberger at pat.kilberger@gmail.com or 319-846-2418. Mail completed copies to the church to Phil Huedepohl's attention. You may email completed copies to Pat.

WILMA CARSON SCHOLARSHIP

Wilhemina Anna Skalsky Carson was a life-long member of Rogers Grove and First Presbyterian Church near Ely. She graduated from Ely High School and Coe College. She taught at Rogers Grove Elementary School until she married. Her family has created this scholarship in her memory. Any member of the congregation who has graduated from high school and is a full time student in a university, college or vocational technical school may apply for this scholarship. Only one scholarship will be awarded each year. Applicants may receive this scholarship more than once. 100% of the previous year's interest will be available for the scholarship. If there are no applications all interest will be added to the principal. Applicants are required to submit an essay on an assigned topic with each application.

SPRING CLEAN UP

Spring cleaning is postponed until the church has the all clear to congregate again. Look for an update via email and facebook in the coming weeks.





The choir performs during worship

LINN COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

The Linn Community Food Bank continues to serve the community! We are giving away a 3-day supply of food (pre-packed in a paper grocery bag) to individuals from 1:00-3:15, Monday through Friday, in the parking lot of First Presbyterian Church. The church is located across from Green Square Park, 310 5th St. SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Donations are needed more than ever right now! We can especially use protein items: soup, stew, pork & beans, tuna, canned chicken, canned salmon & peanut butter. We can also use canned fruit & vegetables and mac & cheese. Call us at 319-364-3543 to arrange a time to receive donations.

VBS 2020

Wednesday nights **6:00-8:00**
p.m. **July 8, 15, 22, and 29.**



VBS leader planning meeting to be scheduled soon. Are you interested in helping with activities, food, lessons, games?

Also this summer... for the first time...**GRANDPARENTS CAMP!** For children aged 3-students in Grade 10 and a grandparent (or other special adult!) Together participate in fun faith activities including a coffee break for adults and recess break for students.

Ends just in time for a special lunch out together!

No cost.

A place for memories. An opportunity for faith. A time together.

9:30-noon on a date to be determined. If you are interested in helping plan the event, please let Pastor Julie know.



Rachael Zahradnik becomes a member of the church



Sarah Harris receives recognition for her achievements in The Boy Scouts during Scout Sunday



Scout Sunday



Hello from Youth Group!

WE MISS YOU! We miss seeing your smiling faces at church and Sunday School! What a difference a month makes in these uncertain days.

Thankfully we know that GOD is in control, and we wait on His timing for a chance to meet again safely.

In early March, youth prepared and delivered 117 pizzas; thank you to each of you for your pizza orders. BIG THANK YOU to Matt and Dawn Zacek for facilitating this fundraiser, guiding the youth in making the pizzas, and allowing youth to use your space for this event! Thank you to parents for helping youth deliver these orders!

Early in March, youth also gathered after Sunday School to see a movie together: "Onward." I believe the theme and lesson of this movie rings true each day, and especially these days.

Later in March, youth began meeting via Facebook Live, similar to Pastor Julie's church service. We are studying a four week lesson called "SHOOK", and the ideas of this study center around how the death and resurrection of Jesus shook the disciples and Jewish people in that time, and also how it affects people in our time.

Also in Late March and continuing into April, youth are discussing the "question of the day" via text or with their families. In addition, youth have been encouraged to (safely via mail, phone call, or video chat) reach out to their extended families, school friends, neighbors, and our church congregation to check in and be an encouragement at this time. We are the hands and feet of the church, no matter where we are!

We have postponed our lock-in and painting projects, for now. We await the day when we can meet and serve in our church building again. In God's Time...

In April, we will meet for YG via Zoom, an online meeting app that allows us to see each other on the screen. We will continue to study SHOOK, share our roses and thorns, and move forward in our faith journeys. We hope all youth can join us on Sunday nights!

Please let me know if there are any questions about youth programming (phone 319-899-1223 or email: angelaehle3@gmail.com), and thank you for your continued support!

Blessings, Angie

YOUTH SCHEDULE APRIL 2020

Tentative based on Social Distancing requirements – April 2020

Sunday, April 5th: Palm Sunday

10:45 a.m. – Sunday School Facebook Live with Julie

6:00 p.m.: Youth Group via Zoom

Sunday April 12th: Easter Sunday

10:45 a.m. – Sunday School Facebook Live with Julie

6:00 p.m.: Youth Group via Zoom - if you can join in

Sunday, April 19th:

10:45 a.m. – Sunday School Facebook Live with Julie

6:00 p.m.: Youth Group via Zoom

Sunday, April 26th:

10:45 a.m. – Sunday School Facebook Live with Julie

6:00 p.m.: Youth Group via Zoom

Additionally, there is a daily "question of the day" sent via text to all youth to be discussed through text or during devotional time with their families.

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar, April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 11:00 Sunday School Livestream 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	6	7	8 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 10:45 Sunday School Zoom	9 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Maundy Thursday Livestream	10 Good Friday 3:00 Good Friday Livestream	11
12 Easter 7:30 Sunrise Livestream 9:30 Easter Livestream 11:00 Sunday School Livestream 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	13	14	15 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 10:45 Sunday School Zoom	16	17	18
19 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 11:00 Sunday School Livestream 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 10:45 Sunday School Zoom	23	24	25
26 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 11:00 Sunday School Livestream 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	27	28	29 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 10:45 Sunday School Zoom	30		



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Ely, Iowa 52227

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Easter Sunday Virtual Lilies



If you would like to make a loving dedication in memory of someone or in honor of someone this Easter, please submit to the church office by Friday, April 10. Your dedication will be included in the Easter announcement email in the May newsletter. No donation is necessary for your virtual Easter lily.

Memorial Example: Steve, Julie and Daniel Schuett remember with love this Easter Harry and Kay Schuett, Steve's parents.

Honorary Example: We honor members and friends of the congregation in the fields

of medical, military, civic, education, fire safety, police, and other public servants.

Easter Sunday Opportunity

The Presbyterian Church USA is preparing an Easter celebration and message of hope. The worship video will be available in English, Spanish and Korean. It will be shared on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) website (pcusa.org) and the PC(USA) Facebook page.

