



The Salt Shaker

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEAR ELY

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FROM THE PASTOR

What is the Date of Easter this Year?

The dating of Easter is unlike Christmas as a church holy day (holiday) because Christmas always falls on December 25. Easter's dating is more confusing and has always been so. This year, the eastern Christian Church (Orthodox) celebrates Easter on April 16 and we [the western church (Roman Catholic, Protestants, etc.)] celebrate Easter on April 9.

The New Testament gospels say that Jesus was in Jerusalem for the celebration of the Passover. Passover is the Jewish festival marking the liberation of the Israelites from the Egyptians when they were in slavery as Moses called the Pharaoh to release the people. When the Pharaoh did not let his people go, God put upon the Egyptians ten plagues. The last, most violent plague was the death of first-born sons in the land who had not placed a lamb's blood marker over their household entryways so that the angel of death would pass over that home. The Jewish faith continues to set aside time for celebration of God's release of their ancestors. The Jewish calendar is lunar, and the Passover is celebrated on the first full moon after the Spring Equinox.

Jesus celebrated Passover and sat with his disciples in sharing a meal which he redefined as marking his body and blood broken and sacrificed as a holy offering to God for us. He defined a new way of living in faith through discipleship and in the new freedom to bring about the kingdom of God on earth.

Historically, early Christians did not celebrate Easter as we do. Only in 325 A.D., when the Council of Nicaea got together, they decided on a certain

formula that Easter would be on the first Sunday that followed the first full moon that falls on or after the Spring Equinox. That's why Easter and Passover these days are often very close together.

Regardless of the scheduling, mathematics, and history, this year we will celebrate Easter on April 9 after a full calendar of Holy Week worship and activities. May the closed tombs of our hearts be open to the new life as God rolls away the stones that have us sealed, sorrowful, and dead.

In Christ,
Pastor Julie

THANK YOU

The Rev. Dr. Howard Chapman for filling our pulpit on March 12 and 19. It is a pleasure to have him and his wife with us. The sermons were enlightening.

Anita Mickelson for playing organ and piano on February 26 and March 5.

Theresa and Jim Grieder for bringing so much food to our church after Sunday services and Bible Study. It is appreciated.

Larry Krohn and elevator workers for their skillful work on the elevator project.

Diane Reist for providing fun with pretzel making March 19.

Rachel Manders for working the video recording for March 12 and 19.

Angie Ehle, Misti Huedepohl, Joanne Chadima, Darla Meyer, Sarah Harris, and Dawn Zacek for printing and distributing the Salt Shaker and bulletins while Stephanie was down south.



Scouts present during Scout Sunday

YOU ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US DURING HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Worship Service, April 2, 9:30 a.m.

Wave the Palms and shout Hosannas as we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, Meal at 6 p.m. and Holy Communion at 7 p.m.

Bring beef stew to share as we join in a Common Meal served by the Session. Share in the Last Supper when Jesus consecrated Bread and Wine as a Remembrance of His life given for us. The meal will be in the fellowship hall, and then we will follow Jesus to the Communion Service held in the sanctuary.

Easter Sunrise Service, April 9, 7:30 a.m.

Celebrate the Risen Christ early in the morning. Breakfast casseroles and coffee to follow.

Easter Worship Service with Holy Communion, April 9. 9:30 a.m.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday Worship

Liturgist: Jeff Reist

Ushers: Kevin & Shirley Bailey

Greeters: Larry & Deb Krohn

Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday, personal reflection

Sunday, April 9 – Easter, Sunrise Service

Ushers: Fred & Sarah Harris

Greeters: Bell Ringers

Easter Worship Service and Holy Communion

Liturgist: Glenn Modracek

Ushers: Bonnie Fencil & Betty Buresh

Greeters: Jim & Judy Serbousek

Sunday, April 16 – Holy Humor Sunday

Liturgist: Stephanie Buonadonna

Ushers: Jim & Judy Serbousek

Greeters: Bob & Carol Andrie

Sunday, April 23

Liturgist: Joanne Chadima

Ushers: Marlene Tiernan & Jennie

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Greeters: Harder Family

Sunday, April 30

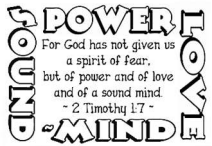
Liturgist: Barb Horak

Ushers: Buonadonna Family

Greeters: Becky & Ted Grenis

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Wednesday morning Bible study starting April 12: First and Second Timothy. 9:30 a.m. Come and join in the discussion!

CAMP WYOMING



Family discounts of \$25 are available at Camp

Wyoming for multiple children. Also, bring three friends who have never attended before and receive 50% discount. Finally, the church offers partial scholarships for students. Summer may seem a long way off, but getting camp on your calendar early means you get your first choices!

FELLOWSHIP

CHAIR YOGA

Starting Wednesday, April 19th, 11:30-12:30 PM, Julie Ellen, a certified chair yoga instructor, will lead us in a one-hour class. Why should you invest your time in chair yoga? It is a safe way to improve your health. Anyone can participate in chair yoga, even if they feel unsteady, don't feel flexible, or haven't done exercises in a long time. While the chair is for balance, if you need to sit, chair yoga can be done while seated.

Chair yoga is not a competitive sport, but it is a beautiful, fun activity with friends while loosening and stretching muscles, reducing pain, increasing circulation, and reducing stress. Just think, spending one hour each week can help rid yourself of stress and anxiety and lower that blood pressure while protecting your joints and restoring lost balance.

Yoga is more than just a wonderful time with friends; it is a beautiful way to find peace and harmony in the mind, body, and spirit.

A donation basket will be available for donations to cover the cost of the class.

Elder Marjorie Thirkettle, Ph.D.

COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH

HANNAH ZACEK TO IOWA SHRINE BOWL

Hannah Zacek has been selected as a cheerleader for the 3rd year for the IOWA SHRINE BOWL at UNI in July. Each cheerleader must raise \$900 for the Shriner's Hospital. Please place your take and bake food order with the link below. Orders are due by April 14th and pickup is Sunday April 23rd from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

<https://forms.gle/EtmsNHha3KuVcTKk9>

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Lent Offering to be dedication April 2, Palm Sunday

Sharing resources, changing lives. Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

Where does the money go? The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while the Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receive 32 percent.

When is the offering received? Palm Sunday, April 2 we will dedicate our fish boxes and offerings during worship.





CHURCH BUSINESS

SESSION NOTES, February 23, 2023

1. Worship Attendance (on site / live streaming) January 1: 43/3
January 8: 48/6 January 15: 51/8
January 22: 55/10 January 29: 53/11
2. Membership as of January 31, 2023: 176
3. Motion passed to receive Nora Fetter into the membership of the congregation.
4. Cemetery work: Several trees were removed and trimmed, further work to be done when the weather improves.
5. Christian Education: The new monthly format for all ages Sunday School class on February 12 was successful with approximately 18 children, youth, and adults in attendance -Valentine cookie decorating, the story of St. Valentine and making of Random Acts of Kindness cookie boxes were highlighted at this event. Discussion with parents/grandparents of students yielded positive comments regarding the monthly event trial. The next Sunday School event will be March 19 for Lenten stories, Pretzel making and St. Joseph's Day discussion.
6. Motion ratified and confirmed for called Congregational Meeting on March 5 approved by email by Session members. Purpose of meeting: update on building expansion.
7. Mission: The Camino project sponsored by Rev. Jan Dus designed to raise awareness and help for the peoples of the Ukraine has gained a lot of interest by our congregation. Flyers with donation information and a donation basket offering will be available for the Mother's



- Day service on May 14, 2023. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will begin the first Sunday of Lent, February 26, 2023. Fish banks for the children and bulletin flyers will be distributed.
8. Property: Boiler passed inspection on February 23, 2023. A new carbon monoxide detector will need to be purchased and placed in the boiler room. The coffee pot water line has been repaired. Work on the elevator replacement is progressing well, expect the door to outside will be replaced sometime in March, Lift itself to be installed in April and final step of cement work outside after that. The phone line for the elevator has been installed and he recommends that the treasurer add this to the budget for 2023. Spring cleaning day for inside and outside of the church has been set for Saturday, April 1 with rain date on Saturday, April 15.
 9. Stewardship: An internal audit of working funds will be scheduled with Judy, Phil, Dan, Angie, Julie & Ben. This is a routine audit that is done periodically.
 10. Motion approved 2023 communion date. 2023 Schedule for Communion will be as follows: 2/26/23 -First Sunday of Lent; 4/6/23 -Maundy Thursday; 4/9/23 – Easter; 5/7/23; 5/28/23-Pentecost; 7/2/23; 8/6/23; 9/10/23; 10/1/23 - Worldwide Communion; 12/3/23 – First Sunday of Advent; 12/24/23 – Christmas Eve; 1/7/24 – Epiphany.

BOOK EXCHANGE SALE

Good job everyone – we did a little spring cleaning by bringing our books and magazines to church. Many were exchanged and donations totaled \$72.20. The extra was taken to Half Price Books for a bit of money. The money has been deposited in the Elevator Fund. Thanks, Phil Huedepohl, for handling the money.

ELEVATOR/LIFT UPDATE



The elevator/lift is coming along slow but sure. One main thing to do was to get the outside door revised to the proper width and height. That has been done, and now we are installing the remaining drywall with mudding, sanding, and painting is all that's left before elevator/lift installation. The elevator/lift will be built and ready for installation by mid-April and currently scheduled to be installed the week of April 24. After installation, one last thing to accomplish is to trim the doorways for a nice, finished look. Final touches include an awning to be installed above the outside door along with the new cement pad to walk on and also a railing. After that, we're in business!! Thanks for your patience and support.

Larry Krohn

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN-UP

April 1 (April 15 rain date)

Looking forward to a fine day outdoors! Hopefully, the weather cooperates. We'll plan a starting time of 9:00 a.m. The following things need attention in and around the church. This list will be posted in the church entryway and on the bulletin boards downstairs in the church. I will be there to assist in any way and organize a bit too. Bring your own gloves, tools, rakes, etc.

OUTSIDE BUILDING

pick up sticks, leaves, branches

trim any trees that need it

rework area outside elevator door for new cement pad

trim bushes and flowers outside of building and rake up dead stuff

drag some gravel into low places, especially the low spot south end of parking lot toward driveway next to the grass

remove rocks from grass around parking lot

put up flags for dust control

check out gutters that may need cleaning

clean up fire pit area and woodpile area

arrange trash bins and clean up that area

install railing outside elevator/lift if new pad is already installed

INSIDE BUILDING

vacuum carpets, pews, etc

clean light fixtures

wash windows

clean where needed as the elevator/lift created some unneeded dust

organize boiler room

refrigerators (in and out)

stoves/ovens

clean/sanitize handrails/door knobs

bookshelves in living room

coffee shelves in living room

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship forms will be available starting April 1st for members of the congregation seeking to continue their education. We have 3 scholarship funds: Pokorny Scholarship Fund, Motycka Scholarship Fund, and Wilhemina Anna Skalsky Carson Scholarship Fund. Each Fund has separate guidelines and application forms. Be sure to read each application carefully as they all have changes from past forms. All applications are due June 1st whether for the fall semester 2023, the spring semester 2024 or the summer session 2024.

Applications are available at church or through Pat Kilberger.



Hello from Youth Group!

April has some great things in store, but first, a recap of March:

- Youth met for Sunday School and Youth Group
- We observed Spring Break
- We made and ate pretzels with SS of all ages
- We had Movie night to watch the VeggieTales Easter movies
- We worked on projects from church clean up day list

In April, we will be taking orders for Easter Lilies for decorating the sanctuary on Easter Sunday! Please see the order form - **Orders Due April 2nd** and can also be sent via text to 319-899-1223 or email to angelaehle3@gmail.com.

We start into April with a service project - Feed My Starving Children, a mobile packing event in Applington. Then the Sunday after Easter, we will be going roller skating at Super Skate!

Please let us know if you have a Helping Hands project - indoors or outdoors - or if you'd like to chaperone these events in our community.

Coming in June: The dates for the Mission trip are June 18-24th.

Youth group is seeking **adults who volunteer in the community** to share with us about their experiences - what do you do, and why do you do it? How did you get involved? *Do they allow youth volunteers?* Please contact Angie to plan a date to share!

Youth Group works on Operation Christmas Child boxes year round. If you have shoe boxes or leftover Christmas wrapping paper you no longer want to keep, we can use it to wrap boxes! If you have new school supplies, toys, sunglasses, bars of soap, toothbrushes and other items (see Youth Bulletin Board for ideas) feel free to drop all of

these in the youth room, and THANK YOU for helping out with OCC!

We will continue accepting redeemable cans and bottles from our church friends willing to donate; these funds help with activity costs. Your donated cans and bottles can be set inside the youth room door anytime, or call Angie for a pick up / drop off at my home. **Thank you** to all who are helping the youth in this way and recycling!

Please let me know if there are any questions about youth programming, and thank you for your continued support!

Blessings~

Angie Zahradnik Ehle

Youth Schedule – April 2023

Saturday, April 1st:

10:30 a.m. meet at church to caravan to Applington
 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Feed My Starving Children
 5:00 p.m. Dinner together at Pizza Ranch, CR



Sunday, April 2nd: Palm Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
 6:00 p.m. TBA

Sunday, April 9th: Easter Sunday

7:30 a.m. Sunrise service
 9:30 a.m. Worship
 NO Sunday School or Youth Group

Sunday, April 16th: Holy Humor Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School and lunch together
 1:00 p.m. Roller Skating at Super Skate
 No evening Youth Group

Sunday, April 23rd:

9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
 6:00 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, April 30th:

9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
 6:00 p.m. Youth Group

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Spring Cleaning Feed My Starving Children for Youth Group
2 Food Pantry Sunday Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship with LS 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 Youth Group TBA	3	4 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	5 9:30 Bible Study 6:15 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	6 Maundy Thursday 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:00 Stew Dinner 7:00 Worship Service	7 Good Friday 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	8
9 Easter 7:30 Sunrise Service 8:00 Breakfast 9:30 Worship with LS 10:45 Coffee Hour	10	11 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	12 9:30 Bible Study 5:00 History Committee 6:15 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	13 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	14 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	15 Spring Cleaning Rain Date
16 Holy Humor Sunday 9:30 Worship with LS 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 Sunday School 1:00 YG Roller Skating	17	18 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	19 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:15 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	20 Newsletter Deadline 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:30 Session Meeting	21 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	22
23 9:30 Worship with LS 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 Youth Group	24	25 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	26 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 5:00 History Committee 6:15 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	27 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	28 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	29
30 Noisy Can Offering 9:30 Worship with LS 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 Youth Group						



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