



The Salt Shaker

August 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

In the past few months, I have seen some funny comics about COVID-19. After a chuckle or a smile, I have then found myself thinking that they are not funny at all.

Perhaps this indicates the emotions of these times—deep concern coupled with a slight irreverence. Our congregation hasn't had the numbers of deaths that other church families have experienced, yet, I have presided over seven memorial services of community members since April. Half were confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19.

I have seen faith and fear, hope, and despair. I have seen great generosity and great stinginess. I have seen solemnity and silliness. I have sworn that if I say "This is the new normal" to myself one more time, I'm going to scream. I have seen selfless responsibility and childish selfishness.

And now as we face the fifth month of the pandemic in Iowa, I take heart, we are doing it—getting through.

Words in Ephesians remind us to see God working in the world, to rely on prayer and discipleship, and to center the church vision Christ. Our faith continues through prayer, scripture, encouraging one another, and a deep commitment to discipleship.

"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to

maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:1-5)

Blessings to you in Christ,
Pastor Julie

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

August is a month containing five Sundays this year. That's GREAT news because our congregation has five opportunities to donate school supplies to children in need.

Please bring your school supply donation to church during the month of August and place in the School Supply collection box located just inside the church North door.

Thank you for brightening the day of a child.

Phillippians 4:9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

School Supplies Needed

pencil box
glue sticks
No. 2 pencils
crayons
colored pencils
3 x 3 Post-it Notes
Kleenex
2-Pocket folders
3 x 5 note cards
pink block erasers
scissors

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

STATEMENT CONCERNING COVID-19

... While some restrictions are being lifted in some places and for some people, the ongoing threat of the

Covid-19 global pandemic will require that we return to church in a way that is measured and mindful of the needs of the most vulnerable among us. While some may begin to attend public worship in person, we know that some will need to continue to worship at home for some time.

We give thanks, then, for the promise of our faith—that the Lord God will bless and keep us, the risen Christ is with us, and the Holy Spirit connects us with believers near and far. We take comfort and inspiration from the example of the earliest believers, who “spent much time together in the temple” and “broke bread at home ... with glad and generous hearts” (Acts 2:46). As we anxiously track the news in these times—with numbers of new cases, numbers of persons who have died, and numbers of those who are recovering—we remember the good news of the gospel: “And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47).

As congregations begins to resume public activities, please know that they will do so through a careful process of discussion and discernment, with an abundance of caution and concern for those who are most vulnerable, upon consideration of the best scientific knowledge at our disposal, in the spirit of constant prayer, and with full trust in the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

We may make mistakes along the way. There will surely be awkward moments as we adjust to new protocols and practices. There will be times of frustration, disappointment, and grief. We will have countless opportunities to exercise the spiritual gifts of patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control.

But there will also be blessings. There will be wonderful surprises, great celebrations, and

moments of deep satisfaction. We will get to see glimpses of the new thing God is doing, even now. We will have opportunities to savor the spiritual gifts of love, joy, peace, generosity, and faithfulness.

Let us be faithful, then—to God and to one another—as we receive the gifts and work through the challenges of this time in the life of our congregations and world. Let us be guided by the Word, responsive to the Spirit, and open to the grace of God. Let us remember that nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus.

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 2: Matthew 14:13-21: Lunch Box Miracles

August 9: Matthew 14:22-33: Take Heart

August 16: Matthew 15:21-28, Jesus Talks Toilets

August 23: Matthew 16:13-20, The Right Words in the Right Moment, Backpack Dedication

August 30: Matthew 16:21-28, Follow Directions, Noisy Can Sunday

Sunday Morning Fellowship Today, join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 681 162 913 Password: 309550

Dial by phone: (312)626-6799. Meeting ID: 681

162 913 Password: 309550

SPECIAL SUMMER MUSIC

We thank all who have enhanced our services with special music. Look forward to vocal music by Stephanie Buonadonna and piano pieces by Lily and Ashton Wendt and our wonderful pianist/organist, Sharon Furler. Please consider contacting Joanne Chadima or Sharon to schedule more special music.

WORSHIP UPDATE FROM SESSION

On July 16, 2020 Session met by video conference and renewed their commitment to provide worship, education, fellowship, and ministry through the standing decision of the church building usage until further notice:

1. Sunday worship by Facebook live streaming
2. And, F.M. radio broadcasting at church.
Check on the frequency number in the morning.
3. And, Lawn chairs under the oaks respecting social distancing.

Let's pray for cooperative weather.

Youth programming will continue by video conferencing and outdoor activities.

WORSHIP SURVEY

Thank you for the terrific response to the survey. The Session and Worship and Program Planning Committee are using the information to move forward more confidently with our worship services and program planning.

CHURCH BUSINESS

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

DIGITAL ways to donate to church:

1. Through church website.
2. Smart phone and tablet app:
GivePlusChurch
3. QR Code



Thank you for your continued generosity in these last months. The program, worship, mission, and fellowship of the church continue by your participation and commitment. God has been praised at our church for 160+ years. We have roots in the past, life in the present, and continued hope in the future of our faith family together. God bless you in these trying days.

SESSION NOTES

JUNE 19, 2020 Zoom SESSION MEETING



1. 2020-2021 scholarship recommendations approved for Pokorny, Wilhemina Anna Skalsky Carson, and Motycka awards.
2. Motion approved to authorize Phil Huedepohl and Dan Manders to Presbyterian Foundation church accounts.
3. Motion approved to combine Zahradnik, Hynek, Modracek, Skripsky, and Waters Estate Funds.
4. Reopening Plan. Worship Survey Results – 51 responses came in on On-line survey
43 said “Yes” to Church access
23 said “Yes” that outdoor service would be the next best type of service
28 said “Yes” to Communion online
54% said worshipping together in the same room was important to them

Three options discussed for church worship services:

- At home with Facebook
- Come to Church-stay in your car & listen on the radio
- Come to Church-stay in your car or outside your car on a blanket

Motion approved to start outside worship the first Sunday in July with the inclement weather plan of F.M. radio transmission and at-home live streaming.
Building open for restroom use only.

5. Donations are keeping up with expenditures.
6. Motion approved to proceed with planning for the Soup and Kolach supper on October 3, 2020 with a vastly different model to meet the health and safety guidelines at that time. Discussion items: smaller scale, prepacked and presold kolach baking, preorder frozen soup, drive through or delivery, online auction instead of country store.
7. Tractor Ride officially cancelled for 2020.
8. PowerPoint presentation of newest version of expansion project available.
9. Resignation of Betty Buresh as custodian received.
10. Youth Montreat Conference in July has been cancelled.

CHURCH CUSTODIAN OPENING

We have an opening for a church custodian(s) as a part time employee of the church. (Approximately 8-9 hours/week). Please reach out to Rachelle Mineck, Personnel Chair for a job description or any question.

COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

TRACTOR RIDE AND KOLACH BAKING

Our Tractor Ride has been cancelled this year, consequently, there will be no kolach baking.

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP AND KOLACH SUPPER UPDATE

YES, still OCTOBER 3, 2020

We are planning for online orders and drive through pickups for both soup and kolaches. We're in need of a tech savvy volunteer to help us setup a website (or link to elypres.org) to accept online orders and payments. Please contact Joanne Chadima if you're able to help.

FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM UPDATE

Facebook livestreaming has given our congregation an opportunity to reach out to our friends and neighbors. We recently began tracking the number of people reached per post and the number of engagements, when people takes an action on a post. We wanted to share some interesting metrics:

April 12, 2020, Easter: 1,462 people reached, 155 engagements

April 19, 2020: 581 engagements

May 24, 2020: 2,216 people reached



Youth Group members enjoy a socially distanced hike



Sharon Furler plays during Drive In Worship on July 26



FAITH DEVELOPMENT

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The days of summer are counting down for summer BINGO. If you have a BINGO or more than one, let Pastor Julie or Diane Reist know for a fun prize.

READ TO FEED



If you are interested in helping the children's summer reading program fundraiser, they are working toward animals for Heifer Project International. The Sunday School children will decide which animals to sponsor for families in need.



STORY CLUB

New children's stories published by the Presbyterian

Publishing House will continued to be shared on Facebook at 11:00 a.m. And by Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89173720755?pwd=RW9xYkFRcmtlVjlkQWFvV01sRTNnUT09>

Meeting ID: 891 7372 0755 Password: 964475

August 5: Crocodile's Crossing

August 12: What in the World is Wrong with Gisbert?

August 19: Binkle's Time to Fly

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays continue in the study of Matthew. Join in by Facebook live streaming at 9:30 a.m. or check it out later.

Wednesday morning Coffee Chat by Zoom at 10:00 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/250060150?pwd=MHVKMU4rRWhoOVJlbHdZcEIGVHpJUT09>

Meeting ID: 250 060 150 Password: 386508

Dial by phone: (312)626-6799

Meeting ID: 250 060 150 Password: 386508



We pray your summer has been joyful so far - who can believe it's August? I'm writing this today, wearing

my Montreat shirt, because this day our group should be at Montreat Youth Conference, worshipping with other youth from around the country. We trust God's plans, and look forward to a day we can gather with other youth in this way again if it is His Will!

Youth group has been meeting on Zoom in July, with an additional outing to Palisades State Park one afternoon for a hike and picnic lunch. Our Zoom lessons have centered around Discerning God's Will. We've also been working through a Faith Challenge Bingo card, and Youth were encouraged to join VBS in July!

Each Zoom lesson includes times for "Roses and Thorns"; each youth shares the best and worst things that happened in their lives since the last meeting. These are some of the Roses: left the house for shopping, got a haircut, Driving on my own, spent time with a friend, passed my driver's permit test, tried a new recipe, spent time outside, spent time with cousins. Some of the Thorns include: loss of a family member, not seeing friends, difficulty in job hunting, cancelled practices and other events not happening, homework for summer classes, and arguing with a friend.

We continue to offer the opportunity for any church member or friend of Youth Group who would like to **"donate" refundable beverage cans or bottles** to text or call Angie at 319-899-1223 for pickup - we will pick up, count, and take your discards to the can shed to help fund upcoming Youth events. Thank you to all who have donated in this way: so far, we have collected \$19.35, helped you clean out the garage, and kept all those recyclables from going to the landfill. That is a Win-Win-Win!

In August, and until we can gather again, we will continue Zoom Youth Group meetings on Wednesday and Sunday nights at 6pm, with a few exceptions, see calendar. Youth will try a few

socially distanced activities; families, please watch for emails as this will be an effort that needs your support for driving, chaperoning, and supplies!

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

Blessings,
Angie

YOUTH SCHEDULE

Tentative, based on
Social Distancing
requirements



Sunday, August 2nd:

12 noon: Paddle boats at Lake McBride,
then picnic lunch

Wednesday, August 5th:

6pm: Youth Group via Zoom

Sunday August 9th:

6pm: Youth Group via Zoom

Wednesday, August 12th:

6pm: Youth Group at Dan and Debbie's in
Ely

Sunday, August 16th:

6pm: Youth Group via Zoom

Wednesday, August 19th:

6pm: Youth Group via Zoom

Sunday, August 23th:

6pm: Youth Group TBA - likely the day
before school starts

Wednesday, August 26th:

6pm: Youth Group via Zoom

Sunday, August 30th:

6pm: Youth Group - circle the wagons at
church

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar, August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Food Pantry 9:20 Drive In Worship 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 12:00 YG Paddle Boats	3	4	5 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	6	7	8
9 9:20 Drive In Worship 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	10	11	12 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	13	14	15
16 9:20 Drive In Worship 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	17 Newsletter Deadline	18	19 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	20 6:30 Session Meeting	21	22
23 9:20 Drive In Worship 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	24	25	26 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	27	28	29
30 Noisy Can Sunday 9:20 Drive In Worship 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 6:00 Youth Group	31 6:30 TBD Ladies' Night Out					



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