



The Salt Shaker

February 2023

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

Many of our cultural holidays are based on holy days centuries ago. As Protestants, sometimes we do not participate in such notices, but other times, the tradition is too large to overlook.

Saint Valentine's Day is one of those. It is named for a particular person who lived in a particular time and culture. He was authentically living in faith, even if all of the details cannot be historically referenced or double referenced.

According to the Britannica online Encyclopedia, there is some evidence that Valentine was a Roman priest and doctor who followed the teachings of Christ and was martyred for his faith under Emperor Claudius II Gothicus on February 14 around year 270. One of his reported miracles was when he healed his jailer's daughter from her blindness and signed a letter to her "from your Valentine." It was also attributed to him the practice of secretly marrying couples so the husband would be ineligible to be drafted as a soldier.

When we sign "from your Valentine" how differently we think of it!

But we can look at the Bible and see many places where God has signed it "love from your God" which has so much meaning, weight, and grace.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:9-10)

May you experience overwhelming God's love.

May you be lightened and enlightened by this love.

May each day bring you a wisdom and a clarity of eternal love through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Julie

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Please plan to attend our special services during February:

Sunday, 12th – Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, 19th – Jazz Sunday, Scout Sunday, Pancake Breakfast

Wednesday, 22nd – Ash Wednesday

Sunday, 26th - First Sunday in Lent and Holy Communion

BOOK EVENT!!!

This is your opportunity to bring all those books piled up in your home to our church.

Then what happens? The books will be on display January 29th through February 26th. You are welcome to bring items any time during those dates. You may "shop" to take home anything you wish, offer a donation, or just exchange.

What to bring? Children's books, puzzles, games, recipe books, general reading.

On February 26th, it will all disappear. Do you have ideas of places to take the left-over items? Let me know? The books are taken to Half Price Books and all money received goes to Mission.

Joanne Chadima

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 5: Psalm 23: Home

Liturgist: Darla Meyer

Ushers: Fred & Sarah Harris

Greeters: Rachelle Mineck

February 12: Souper Bowl of Caring. Matthew

5:21-37: Get it together

Liturgist: Angie Ehle

Ushers: Youth

Greeters: Youth

February 19: Jazz Sunday, Scout Sunday, Pancake breakfast. Liturgist: Matthew 17:1-9

Liturgist: Scouts

Ushers: Scouts

Greeters: Scouts

Ash Wednesday, February 22: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21: The impression of Lent

Ushers: Ted & Becky Grenis

Greeters: Pat & Gary Kilberger

If you would like to receive ashes earlier in the day, please contact Pastor Julie to arrange.

February 26, First Sunday of Lent: Holy Communion: Matthew 4:1-11: Temptation

Liturgist: Rachel Manders

Ushers: Bob & Carol Andrle

Greeters: Darrell & Janet Benish



The church illuminated on Christmas Eve.

COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

GREETINGS FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Dear friends,

Some years are harder than others. From its first days until the very last.

Our thoughts have been with all the Ukrainians who keep suffering under Russian occupation. Our thoughts have been with all the Americans who lost their loved ones during the terrible blizzard last week.

When bad things happen, the true question is not which evil is worse? The true question is, "What can I do?" And the responses to the question of – "how can I help?" – vary a lot. That is the beauty of human diversity and creativity.

Anna and I have been feeling much sympathy for the suffering of the Ukrainian people. That is why we founded a non-profit called, "Camino." This non-profit supports Ukrainian orphanages, food distributors, lunch kitchens, and shelters, a number of grass root organizations which keep providing humanitarian aid throughout Ukraine. In our free time, we keep traveling to Ukraine and visiting them, and we keep organizing collections in their support.

Are we suggesting that you do the same? No. We would not dare to. The needs around each of us are so diverse. How can we know, which one speaks to you?

We just want to encourage each one of us wherever we are, Let's not fall into the trap of thinking that nothing can be done. It's the opposite. Each one of us can make a little difference. And that little means a lot. Maybe this is our current mission. Maybe that little grain is the reason why we are here now.

We wish you joy in life.

Jan and Anna
Rev. Jan's Genealogical and Travel Services
Policka, Czech Republic

KINDNESS IS OUR NORMAL

Last year I stumbled upon Random Acts of Kindness Day (randomactsofkindness.org) celebrated each year on February 17th. A day dedicated to opening your heart and your mind to do a kind act for another person without expecting anything in return. I thought that was a cool idea. One year later, I have explored the topic a little deeper and I've learned that this small nonprofit invests time, expertise and resources into its mission to, "Make Kindness the Norm." It offers free online curriculums for kindness at school, kindness at work, and kindness at home, plus a wealth of other nifty things like the science of kindness.

I'm probably biased about this, but I think kindness and our church go hand in hand. We are a group of imperfect people brought together through our desire to know and grow closer to God. And while we collectively travel this journey of faith, our congregation exudes kindness in the process. It just happens here. I think kindness is the norm at First Presbyterian Church near Ely. So it could seem a little silly that there are people out there who go to all the effort to organize a non-profit, and develop lessons to advise people on how to be kind.

Actually, I don't think it's silly. The world needs reminders about kindness because it doesn't just naturally happen in other environments, or even other churches, like it does in our church community. I hope you will agree we are so very blessed at First Presbyterian Church near Ely in countless ways. Thank you for the kindness you show to each other and to our community all year through. It really is cool.

Random Kind Acts

- Cook a meal for someone going through a hard time

- Take someone to a special place
- Befriend the new person in your community
- Share your favorite recipe
- Make a handmade card
- Text someone good morning and good night
- Pick up trash
- Be polite on the road
- Donate used towels or blankets to a shelter
- Leave a surprise note in a library book
- Praise a local business online
- Share a favorite song
- Play a game with a senior

Thanks, Misti Huedepohl, Mission Elder

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Wednesday Bible study continues in the Letter to Romans. The group should be in chapter 13 by early February. 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Morning Adult Study begins with travelogues in early February and then as Lent begins, focuses on common elements which can help us to understand the season of Lent.



Children's Sunday School celebration for families meets on February 12. Focus: the love of God.

CAMP WYOMING



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ELEVATOR UPDATE



The bid with Access Elevator Lift Company of \$45,000 has been fully donated! Additional costs will include cement work, door work, and plans to add an outside awning. If you were considering donating and were happy to see that it has been fully funded—there is still opportunity with these addition costs. Thank you very much! Thank you to the busy team of volunteers who have worked to remove electrical, motor, structural, and carriage materials from current shaft and will prepare with new cement base.



Joanne C. and Sharon F. perform during Star Sunday



Tamara and Miles Maddoford perform during New Year's Day worship.

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DRINK A GLASS OF WATER.



DONATE BLOOD.



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READ WITH A CHILD.



COMPLIMENT WITH RECKLESS ABANDON.



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SUPPORT LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESSES.



OPEN DOORS FOR OTHERS.

SMILE.



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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH



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TEXT SOMEONE A POSITIVE MESSAGE.



PLACE ENCOURAGING STICKY NOTES IN PUBLIC AREAS.



LEAVE AN EXTRA BIG TIP.



ENCOURAGE A FRIEND.



GIVE AN UNEXPECTED GIFT.

GO FOR A LONG WALK.



PUT AWAY YOUR PHONE AND LISTEN WITH YOUR HEART



SEND A THANK YOU NOTE



MAKE KINDNESS THE NORM!



CELEBRATE SOMEONE ELSE'S ACCOMPLISHMENT.

LAUGH UNTIL YOUR BELLY HURTS.



LOVE WHO YOU ARE.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
FOUNDATION

RANDOMACTSOFKINDNESS.ORG

SESSION NOTES FROM DECEMBER 15, 2022



1. Clerk's Report – Worship attendance November 6: 63/11; November 13: 64/9; November 20: 51/5; November 27: 54/3
2. Membership as of November 30, 2022=176
3. Motion approved to hold the annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2023 after worship with a potluck meal to follow.
4. Treasurer's Report – As of November 30: General Fund balance \$17,021.68; Per capita 57% of budget (YTD actual \$1,408.14 on budget \$2,471.95); Reg offering-pledged 94.9% of budget (YTD actual \$98,215 on budget of \$103,470); Reg offering-non-pledged 55.1% of budget (YTD actual \$28,340 on budget \$51,476.05); Church Utilities-Fuel 132.8% of budget (YTD actual \$3,187.63 on budget of \$2,400); Manse Utilities-Fuel 146.7% of budget (YTD actual \$1,100.14 on budget of \$750.) Compensation packages were discussed. Motion approved to increase non-pastoral staff by 7% and Pastor's compensational package by 9%.
5. Motion approved to move the balance of \$60.68 from the Tractorcade fund into the General Funds .
6. Motion approved 2023 budget.
7. Christian Education Committee seriously considering having Sunday School once a month as attendance has dropped off so dramatically.
8. Motion approved to have the Treasurers Dan Chadima, Phil Huedepohl and Judy Serbousek set up a PayPal, GoFundMe or VenMo account for the Expansion Building Project.
9. Motion approved to distribute the \$1,388.00 from Country Store sales as

follows: \$1,000 to the Youth Program and the remainder of \$388 to the Ely Food Pantry.

10. Discussion of proposed carbon pipeline. Church property is not directly involved but in at-risk zone.
11. Septic system control monitor alarm addressed by Schmidt Construction Repairs were done and it has passed county inspection.
12. Access Elevator Lift Company is proceeding with elevator lift ordering and installation upon initial payment. Donations total \$36,000. Tear out will begin Tuesday.
13. Two big trees damaged during the Derecho have been taken down. The bill for the gravel has been paid.
14. Motion approved to designate the Christmas Eve offering 2022 for the elevator project with additional expenses out of the Maintenance Fund.
15. Welcoming and Evangelism –1,100 household Christmas mailing has been done to two rural routes in the Ely area to announce Christmas schedule.



Youth pose behind a stack of packed Operation Christmas Child Boxes.



Quick update: in January, Youth Sunday school restarted, and we are studying the book of Esther, and learning the books of the Bible. We chose a skit for Souper Bowl of Caring, and began to practice for worship on Feb 12th. Sunday School meets in the Youth room at 10:45-11:30 am. We had a movie night in January and watched, "Heaven is for Real." On January 22nd, Youth had a Zio Johnos lunch and went Ice Skating at the CR Ice Arena.

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Next is Jazz Sunday and Scout Sunday, and Youth will host a pancake breakfast that morning. We invite all members and friends to join us for pancakes, sausage and more before worship! Also, all current and former Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms and participate in worship that day.

The last Sunday in February, youth and families will have an evening meeting to plan for the summer activities and Mission Trip. The dates for the Mission trip are June 18-24th. We are looking for male and female chaperones for this trip - Please contact Angie if you might be interested for more details.

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! Feel free to drop extra/donated boxes or wrapping paper in the youth room, and THANK YOU for helping out with OCC!

Youth group is seeking adults of all ages who are interested in sharing their interests and talents with us; *What is your passion or hobby? Could you show us / tell us about it? Can we try it out?* Please contact Angie or any Sunday School teacher to plan a date to share!

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 – February 2023

Sunday, February 5th:

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. YG at church - Souper Bowl Skit Practice!



Sunday, February 12th: Souper Bowl of Caring

8:15 a.m. meet to practice skit & Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School - Valentine Party
6:00 p.m. YG Super Bowl Party at Angie's

Friday, February 17th: Random Acts of Kindness Day

Sunday, February 19th: JAZZ SUNDAY and SCOUT SUNDAY

6:30 a.m. meet for breakfast preparation
8:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast for Jazz Sunday
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
No Evening YG

Sunday, February 26th:

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. YG Family Potluck and Parent meeting

Sunday, March 5th:

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
YG TBD

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 Bible Study 6:15 Handbell Practice	2 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	3 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	4
5 Food Pantry Sunday Book Exchange 9:30 Worship with LS 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 Youth Group	6	7 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	8 9:30 Bible Study 6:15 Handbell Practice	9 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	10 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	11
12 Souper Bowl of Caring Book Exchange 9:30 Worship with LS 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 SS Party 6:00 YG SB Party	13	14 Valentine's Day 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	15 9:30 Bible Study 6:15 Handbell Practice	16 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:30 Session Meeting	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	18
19 Jazz Sunday Scout Sunday Book Exchange 8:00 Pancake Breakfast 9:30 Worship with LS 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 Sunday School	20 President's Day	21 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	22 Ash Wednesday 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	23 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	24 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	25
26 1st Sunday of Lent Book Exchange 9:30 Worship with LS 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 YG Potluck	27	28 9:00-12:00 Office Hours				



11100 Spanish Road
Ely, Iowa 52227

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage Paid
Ely, Iowa 52227
Permit #1

Valentine's Day Word Search

C U U V A L E N T I N E S J
 F U A H U E Q J J X N Q R K P
 U T P H R Q Z P S W E T C Q
 X J W I J A U H A A W M A R V
 Q I F R D R C D E O C X J B L
 Z M D O Z R C X L A C T G Z L
 S H P Y U O H F L M R K A S C
 S K E C N W O V F O W T X D H
 Y I P H R G C P E H V V F Y U
 G S U L D Q O M U N O E E N G
 I S Q W U U L D L V M O Q J S
 F E A L Q C A N D Y W J Z E J
 T S X R F Y T V K N S J Z G B
 A O W X G N E F C Z A Y O C H
 A O J Z K Q H P D T C O R D F

- Gift
- Hugs
- Love
- Arrow
- Candy
- Cupid
- Heart
- Sweet
- Kisses
- Flowers
- Chocolate
- Valentine





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RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS DAY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH



SHARE YOUR FAVORITE SONG WITH SOMEONE.



TEXT SOMEONE A POSITIVE MESSAGE.



PLACE ENCOURAGING STICKY NOTES IN PUBLIC AREAS.



LEAVE AN EXTRA BIG TIP.



ENCOURAGE A FRIEND.



GIVE AN UNEXPECTED GIFT.

GO FOR A LONG WALK.



PUT AWAY YOUR PHONE AND LISTEN WITH YOUR HEART



SEND A THANK YOU NOTE



MAKE KINDNESS THE NORM!



CELEBRATE SOMEONE ELSE'S ACCOMPLISHMENT.

LAUGH UNTIL YOUR BELLY HURTS.



LOVE WHO YOU ARE.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
FOUNDATION

RANDOMACTSOFKINDNESS.ORG

Quick update: in January, Youth Sunday school restarted, and we are studying the book of Esther, and learning the books of the Bible. We chose a skit for Souper Bowl of Caring, and began to practice for worship on Feb 12th. Sunday School meets in the Youth room at 10:45-11:30 am. We had a movie night in January and watched, "Heaven is for Real." On January 22nd, Youth had a Zio Johnos lunch and went Ice Skating at the CR Ice Arena.

In February, Youth will be busy - on the 12th, "Souper Bowl Sunday", we will be greeters and ushers, as well as share a skit about the Souper Bowl of Caring. We encourage everyone to bring a can of soup or other food and/or a cash donation to support the Linn Community Food Bank. After worship, we are excited to join elementary SS for a Valentine's party. We will end this day with a Super Bowl party at Angie's house.

Friday, February 17th is Random Acts of Kindness Day. Play Kindness BINGO, or find something kind and unexpected to do for someone!

Next is Jazz Sunday and Scout Sunday, and Youth will host a pancake breakfast that morning. We invite all members and friends to join us for pancakes, sausage and more before worship! Also, all current and former Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms and participate in worship that day.

The last Sunday in February, youth and families will have an evening meeting to plan for the summer activities and Mission Trip. The dates for the Mission trip are June 18-24th. We are looking for male and female chaperones for this trip - Please contact Angie if you might be interested for more details.

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RANDOMACTSOFKINDNESS.ORG

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Youth pose behind a stack of packed Operation Christmas Child Boxes.



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Youth group is seeking adults of all ages who are interested in sharing their interests and talents with us; *What is your passion or hobby? Could you show us / tell us about it? Can we try it out?* Please contact Angie or any Sunday School teacher to plan a date to share!

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 – February 2023

Sunday, February 5th:

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. YG at church - Souper Bowl Skit Practice!



Sunday, February 12th: Souper Bowl of Caring

8:15 a.m. meet to practice skit & Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School - Valentine Party
6:00 p.m. YG Super Bowl Party at Angie's

Friday, February 17th: Random Acts of Kindness Day

Sunday, February 19th: JAZZ SUNDAY and SCOUT SUNDAY

6:30 a.m. meet for breakfast preparation
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9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
No Evening YG

Sunday, February 26th:

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. YG Family Potluck and Parent meeting

Sunday, March 5th:

9:30 a.m. Worship
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YG TBD

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 Z M D O Z R C X L A C T G Z L
 S H P Y U O H F L M R K A S C
 S K E C N W O V F O W T X D H
 Y I P H R G C P E H V V F Y U
 G S U L D Q O M U N O E E N G
 I S Q W U U L D L V M O Q J S
 F E A L Q C A N D Y W J Z E J
 T S X R F Y T V K N S J Z G B
 A O W X G N E F C Z A Y O C H
 A O J Z K Q H P D T C O R D F

- Gift
- Hugs
- Love
- Arrow
- Candy
- Cupid
- Heart
- Sweet
- Kisses
- Flowers
- Chocolate
- Valentine





The Salt Shaker

February 2023

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319-848-4624 office@elypres.org

FROM THE PASTOR

Many of our cultural holidays are based on holy days centuries ago. As Protestants, sometimes we do not participate in such notices, but other times, the tradition is too large to overlook.

Saint Valentine's Day is one of those. It is named for a particular person who lived in a particular time and culture. He was authentically living in faith, even if all of the details cannot be historically referenced or double referenced.

According to the Britannica online Encyclopedia, there is some evidence that Valentine was a Roman priest and doctor who followed the teachings of Christ and was martyred for his faith under Emperor Claudius II Gothicus on February 14 around year 270. One of his reported miracles was when he healed his jailer's daughter from her blindness and signed a letter to her "from your Valentine." It was also attributed to him the practice of secretly marrying couples so the husband would be ineligible to be drafted as a soldier.

When we sign "from your Valentine" how differently we think of it!

But we can look at the Bible and see many places where God has signed it "love from your God" which has so much meaning, weight, and grace.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:9-10)

May you experience overwhelming God's love.

May you be lightened and enlightened by this love.

May each day bring you a wisdom and a clarity of eternal love through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Julie

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Please plan to attend our special services during February:

Sunday, 12th – Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, 19th – Jazz Sunday, Scout Sunday, Pancake Breakfast

Wednesday, 22nd – Ash Wednesday

Sunday, 26th - First Sunday in Lent and Holy Communion

BOOK EVENT!!!

This is your opportunity to bring all those books piled up in your home to our church.

Then what happens? The books will be on display January 29th through February 26th. You are welcome to bring items any time during those dates. You may "shop" to take home anything you wish, offer a donation, or just exchange.

What to bring? Children's books, puzzles, games, recipe books, general reading.

On February 26th, it will all disappear. Do you have ideas of places to take the left-over items? Let me know? The books are taken to Half Price Books and all money received goes to Mission.

Joanne Chadima

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 5: Psalm 23: Home

Liturgist: Darla Meyer

Ushers: Fred & Sarah Harris

Greeters: Rachelle Mineck

February 12: Souper Bowl of Caring. Matthew

5:21-37: Get it together

Liturgist: Angie Ehle

Ushers: Youth

Greeters: Youth

February 19: Jazz Sunday, Scout Sunday, Pancake breakfast. Liturgist: Matthew 17:1-9

Liturgist: Scouts

Ushers: Scouts

Greeters: Scouts

Ash Wednesday, February 22: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21: The impression of Lent

Ushers: Ted & Becky Grenis

Greeters: Pat & Gary Kilberger

If you would like to receive ashes earlier in the day, please contact Pastor Julie to arrange.

February 26, First Sunday of Lent: Holy Communion: Matthew 4:1-11: Temptation

Liturgist: Rachel Manders

Ushers: Bob & Carol Andrie

Greeters: Darrell & Janet Benish



The church illuminated on Christmas Eve.

COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

GREETINGS FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Dear friends,

Some years are harder than others. From its first days until the very last.

Our thoughts have been with all the Ukrainians who keep suffering under Russian occupation. Our thoughts have been with all the Americans who lost their loved ones during the terrible blizzard last week.

When bad things happen, the true question is not which evil is worse? The true question is, "What can I do?" And the responses to the question of – "how can I help?" – vary a lot. That is the beauty of human diversity and creativity.

Anna and I have been feeling much sympathy for the suffering of the Ukrainian people. That is why we founded a non-profit called, "Camino." This non-profit supports Ukrainian orphanages, food distributors, lunch kitchens, and shelters, a number of grass root organizations which keep providing humanitarian aid throughout Ukraine. In our free time, we keep traveling to Ukraine and visiting them, and we keep organizing collections in their support.

Are we suggesting that you do the same? No. We would not dare to. The needs around each of us are so diverse. How can we know, which one speaks to you?

We just want to encourage each one of us wherever we are, Let's not fall into the trap of thinking that nothing can be done. It's the opposite. Each one of us can make a little difference. And that little means a lot. Maybe this is our current mission. Maybe that little grain is the reason why we are here now.

We wish you joy in life.

Jan and Anna
Rev. Jan's Genealogical and Travel Services
Policka, Czech Republic

KINDNESS IS OUR NORMAL

Last year I stumbled upon Random Acts of Kindness Day (randomactsofkindness.org) celebrated each year on February 17th. A day dedicated to opening your heart and your mind to do a kind act for another person without expecting anything in return. I thought that was a cool idea. One year later, I have explored the topic a little deeper and I've learned that this small nonprofit invests time, expertise and resources into its mission to, "Make Kindness the Norm." It offers free online curriculums for kindness at school, kindness at work, and kindness at home, plus a wealth of other nifty things like the science of kindness.

I'm probably biased about this, but I think kindness and our church go hand in hand. We are a group of imperfect people brought together through our desire to know and grow closer to God. And while we collectively travel this journey of faith, our congregation exudes kindness in the process. It just happens here. I think kindness is the norm at First Presbyterian Church near Ely. So it could seem a little silly that there are people out there who go to all the effort to organize a non-profit, and develop lessons to advise people on how to be kind.

Actually, I don't think it's silly. The world needs reminders about kindness because it doesn't just naturally happen in other environments, or even other churches, like it does in our church community. I hope you will agree we are so very blessed at First Presbyterian Church near Ely in countless ways. Thank you for the kindness you show to each other and to our community all year through. It really is cool.

Random Kind Acts

- Cook a meal for someone going through a hard time

- Take someone to a special place
- Befriend the new person in your community
- Share your favorite recipe
- Make a handmade card
- Text someone good morning and good night
- Pick up trash
- Be polite on the road
- Donate used towels or blankets to a shelter
- Leave a surprise note in a library book
- Praise a local business online
- Share a favorite song
- Play a game with a senior

Thanks, Misti Huedepohl, Mission Elder

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Wednesday Bible study continues in the Letter to Romans. The group should be in chapter 13 by early February. 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Morning Adult Study begins with travelogues in early February and then as Lent begins, focuses on common elements which can help us to understand the season of Lent.



Children's Sunday School celebration for families meets on February 12. Focus: the love of God.

CAMP WYOMING



Discount pricing for summer camp is available before March 15. Also, family discount of \$25 for additional 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!

CHURCH BUSINESS

DONATING TO THE CHURCH ONLINE

Way back in 2020, the Session set up through the Presbyterian Foundation an online method of church donations for the General Fund or the Building Expansion Project for anyone to donate. There is a "GIVE NOW" button on the church's website page, www.elypres.org.

The Presbyterian Foundation charges a flat 2% fee. So, if someone donates \$100, the church receives \$98. And the donor receives a giving statement from the Presbyterian Foundation.

Donations can be one time or recurring. A donor does not need to set up an account through this service.

ELEVATOR UPDATE



The bid with Access Elevator Lift Company of \$45,000 has been fully donated! Additional costs will include cement work, door work, and plans to add an outside awning. If you were considering donating and were happy to see that it has been fully funded—there is still opportunity with these addition costs. Thank you very much! Thank you to the busy team of volunteers who have worked to remove electrical, motor, structural, and carriage materials from current shaft and will prepare with new cement base.



Joanne C. and Sharon F. perform during Star Sunday



Tamara and Miles Maddoford perform during New Year's Day worship.

SHARE A SNACK.



PICK UP LITTER.

GIVE OTHERS THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.



DRINK A GLASS OF WATER.



DONATE BLOOD.



THANK A TEACHER.

READ WITH A CHILD.



COMPLIMENT WITH RECKLESS ABANDON.



ACKNOWLEDGE SOMEONE WHO DESERVES PRAISE.



SUPPORT LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESSES.



OPEN DOORS FOR OTHERS.

SMILE.



USE A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE.



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS DAY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH



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Liturgist: Scouts

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The church illuminated on Christmas Eve.

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FOUNDATION

RANDOMACTSOFKINDNESS.ORG

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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

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10:30 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. YG at church - Souper Bowl Skit Practice!



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8:15 a.m. meet to practice skit & Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School - Valentine Party
6:00 p.m. YG Super Bowl Party at Angie's

Friday, February 17th: Random Acts of Kindness Day

Sunday, February 19th: JAZZ SUNDAY and SCOUT SUNDAY

6:30 a.m. meet for breakfast preparation
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9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
No Evening YG

Sunday, February 26th:

9:30 a.m. Worship
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YG TBD

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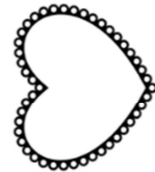
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Ely, Iowa 52227

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 Q I F R D R C D E O C X J B L
 Z M D O Z R C X L A C T G Z L
 S H P Y U O H F L M R K A S C
 S K E C N W O V F O W T X D H
 Y I P H R G C P E H V V F Y U
 G S U L D Q O M U N O E E N G
 I S Q W U U L D L V M O Q J S
 F E A L Q C A N D Y W J Z E J
 T S X R F Y T V K N S J Z G B
 A O W X G N E F C Z A Y O C H
 A O J Z K Q H P D T C O R D F

- Gift
- Hugs
- Love
- Arrow
- Candy
- Cupid
- Heart
- Sweet
- Kisses
- Flowers
- Chocolate
- Valentine





The Salt Shaker

February 2023

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

Many of our cultural holidays are based on holy days centuries ago. As Protestants, sometimes we do not participate in such notices, but other times, the tradition is too large to overlook.

Saint Valentine's Day is one of those. It is named for a particular person who lived in a particular time and culture. He was authentically living in faith, even if all of the details cannot be historically referenced or double referenced.

According to the Britannica online Encyclopedia, there is some evidence that Valentine was a Roman priest and doctor who followed the teachings of Christ and was martyred for his faith under Emperor Claudius II Gothicus on February 14 around year 270. One of his reported miracles was when he healed his jailer's daughter from her blindness and signed a letter to her "from your Valentine." It was also attributed to him the practice of secretly marrying couples so the husband would be ineligible to be drafted as a soldier.

When we sign "from your Valentine" how differently we think of it!

But we can look at the Bible and see many places where God has signed it "love from your God" which has so much meaning, weight, and grace.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:9-10)

May you experience overwhelming God's love.

May you be lightened and enlightened by this love.

May each day bring you a wisdom and a clarity of eternal love through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Julie

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Please plan to attend our special services during February:

Sunday, 12th – Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, 19th – Jazz Sunday, Scout Sunday, Pancake Breakfast

Wednesday, 22nd – Ash Wednesday

Sunday, 26th - First Sunday in Lent and Holy Communion

BOOK EVENT!!!

This is your opportunity to bring all those books piled up in your home to our church.

Then what happens? The books will be on display January 29th through February 26th. You are welcome to bring items any time during those dates. You may "shop" to take home anything you wish, offer a donation, or just exchange.

What to bring? Children's books, puzzles, games, recipe books, general reading.

On February 26th, it will all disappear. Do you have ideas of places to take the left-over items? Let me know? The books are taken to Half Price Books and all money received goes to Mission.

Joanne Chadima

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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 U T P H R Q Z P S W E T C Q
 X J W I J A U H A A W M A R V
 Q I F R D R C D E O C X J B L
 Z M D O Z R C X L A C T G Z L
 S H P Y U O H F L M R K A S C
 S K E C N W O V F O W T X D H
 Y I P H R G C P E H V V F Y U
 G S U L D Q O M U N O E E N G
 I S Q W U U L D L V M O Q J S
 F E A L Q C A N D Y W J Z E J
 T S X R F Y T V K N S J Z G B
 A O W X G N E F C Z A Y O C H
 A O J Z K Q H P D T C O R D F

- Gift
- Hugs
- Love
- Arrow
- Candy
- Cupid
- Heart
- Sweet
- Kisses
- Flowers
- Chocolate
- Valentine

