



The Salt Shaker

February 2024

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



Retired Protestant pastor and Czech Republic citizen, Rev. Jan Dus will be in Cedar Rapids on Monday, February 12. He will share his experiences of bringing

humanitarian aid to Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic and to Ukrainian citizens remaining in their own war-torn country.

You are invited to meet Rev. Dus and participate in his presentation at the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (1400 15th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids) on February 12, 2024, 5-7 p.m. His presentation is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. in the library. The presentation will be about 45 minutes. The rest of the time is for fellowship.

Rev. Dus founded the NGO named Camino in 2022 to provide food and basic living supplies to the elderly and children suffering from the Ukrainian War.

In his other retirement job, he is a Genealogist and tour guide who has reconnected families at First Presbyterian Ely with sites and people in their Czech homeland. Talk to the Serbouseks or the Chadimas about their recent experiences.

Earlier in his life Rev. Dus attended Dubuque Seminary and interned at First Presbyterian Ely.

Thank you to the Chadimas for hosting him on his stop here in humble Iowa.

Thank you to all who have supported Camino as they bring comfort to those devastated by the Ukrainian War.

In Christ,
Pastor Julie

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

LENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 4: Mark 1:21-45, Compassion
Liturgist: Bill Serbousek
Ushers: Bressler Family
Greeters: Rachelle Mineck

February 11, Souper Bowl: Mark 2:13-28, Righteousness. Ordination and installation of new officers
Liturgist: Angie Ehle
Ushers: Youth
Greeters: Youth

February 14, Ash Wednesday: Mark 1:12-13, 2:1-12, Forgiveness
Ushers: Larry & Theresa Harder
Greeters: Jeff & Diane Reist

February 18: Mark 3:1-19, Leadership
Liturgist: Rachel Manders
Ushers: M Harris Family
Greeters: Darrell & Janet Benish

February 25, Scout Sunday: Mark 3:20-35, Conviction
Liturgist: Sarah Harris
Ushers: Scouts
Greeters: Scouts

JAZZ SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Join us for a pancake breakfast before worship on Sunday, February 11 in celebration of Jazz Sunday. Breakfast will be prepared and served by youth group members and their families.

CHURCH BUSINESS

NOTES FROM SESSION

December 14, 2023



1. Clerk's Report:
Attendance (in person/living streaming)
November 5: 49/4 Nov. 12: 70/9 Nov. 19:
108/13 (9:30: 68/9, 7:00 p.m.: 40/4) Nov.
26: 42/6. Membership as of November 30,
2023: 177
2. Treasurer's Report—11/30/2023 General
Fund balance of \$8,134.37
3. Motion approved 2024 General Fund
budget as presented.
4. Mission Winter Project in early January to
Valentine's Day for local ministry Family
Helping Family which serves foster and
adopt children in the area.
5. Motion approved to schedule the 2023
Annual Congregational meeting January
28, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.
6. Motion approved to purchase new
computer for Pastor Julie from Memorial
Funds.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

BEAR CREEK CAMP

Discount pricing for summer camp is 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, get camp on your calendar early means you get your first choices!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

As we move into the new year we will continue with our model of meeting once monthly for Sunday School with a special event that will combine learning the lessons Jesus would have us share as well as making a multigenerational time to share a fun special event.

February 4, 2024, Valentine's event – Love One Another

This multigenerational Sunday school and Event will help to spread the love of Jesus by teaching the participants to learn how to identify, how to interact with and the reasons why our loved ones or those we meet in the community who are living with Dementia act.

Diane Reist has been certified as a Dementia Friends Champion by the Dementia Friendly Iowa Chapter of Dementia Friendly USA and will share information on how to best understand and support those living with dementia and their caregivers. Participants will become certified "Dementia Friends".



[Dementia Friendly America \(DFA\)](#) is a national network of communities, organizations and individuals seeking to ensure that communities across the U.S. are equipped to support people living with dementia and their caregivers. Dementia Friendly Iowa is the initiative at the state level helping launch individual dementia friendly communities across the state. A dementia friendly community is a village, town, city or county that is informed, safe and respectful of individuals with the disease, their families and caregivers and provides supportive

options that foster quality of life. Becoming a recognized Dementia Friendly Community means a community is engaging in a process to become more dementia friendly.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

February 2024 continues with the Bible study of the Gospel of John focuses on the “Words in Red.” Throughout the twentieth century and even today, English Bibles have been printed with the recorded words of Jesus in red type print. We will be in chapters 15+ in February.

COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH

MARJ NEJDL: MASTER FOLK ARTIST

at The National Czech and Slovak Museum

January 27 – April 21, 2024



Marj NejdI learned to decorate eggs in the traditional Czech style at an early age. Continuing the tradition was important because NejdI knew egg decorating was a skill that had been passed down for more than 2,000 years. NejdI was also a natural-born artist. She studied commercial art in Chicago before beginning her family. Beyond her work with egg decorating, she has kept busy over the years with various art forms including painting folk scenes on a variety of media including wood, ceramics, and stationery. She also illustrated many books published by the Museum Guild of the National Czech & Slovak

Museum & Library, and designs an annual Christmas ornament for the Museum Store.

The exhibit features examples of NejdI’s folk art including decorated eggs, a quirky birdhouse, aprons, book illustrations, paintings and Christmas ornaments.



Decorated ornaments by Marj NejdI.

BOOK EXCHANGE

We are having the Book Event again starting February 4. Bring a book, exchange a book, give a donation for a book. Proceeds to the General Fund this year. CDs, puzzles, and magazines can also be donated. Books will be taken away on February 25.



WINTER MISSION PROJECT at First Presbyterian Church

*Psalm 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

When my young family and I stepped through the

doors of First Presbyterian Church near Ely for the first time in the fall of 2000, I felt a welcoming warmth from everyone and before long we were enveloped in the comfort of a tremendous church family.

Families are formed in all sorts of ways including foster care and adoption.

Families Helping Families of Iowa

(familieshelpingfamiliesofiowa.org) is an organization that serves all 99 counties in Iowa; it aims to create positive opportunities and better overall well-being for youth who have been removed from their home. Children and youth in foster care move an average of **seven** times before the age of 18, usually abruptly leaving their home with very few personal belongings.

Families Helping Families of Iowa offers a **Clothing Closet** as a free resource to children. January 1st to February 13th, you can support our Winter Mission Project to help to support the FHF Clothing Closet serving children ages 0 to 18 by selecting a heart from the string of hearts located at church. Return your donated items to church before February 13th, then on Valentine's Day, the items will be delivered to FHF Clothing Closet.

Needed items are:

- ♥ New or gently used clothing items for ages 0 to 18 years
- ♥ New socks
- ♥ New underwear
- ♥ New or gently used bras/sports bras

- ♥ New or gently used shoes
- ♥ Quilts or blankets
- ♥ Winter caps/mittens
- ♥ Baby equipment is limited to car seats, high chairs, pack & plays, strollers only

Why Valentine's Day? In today's world, it's a day to show love for someone special to you. I think this is a great day to show love, compassion and caring for children - and through this mission project, may you renew a steadfast spirit.

Your donations are deeply appreciated. Please remember these children in your prayers. ♥

In Christ, Misti Huedepohl, Mission Elder



Hello from Youth Group!

As of the writing of this message, 2024 has been very snowy and cold! I hope everyone is keeping warm, staying healthy, and finding ways to Serve God and Love One Another each day!

In January, youth participated in the Hygge Sunday School event - Big Thanks to Diane R and Rene T for the good food and coziness provided! Sadly, our sledding event had plenty of snow but also very bitter wind chills, so sledding is rescheduled for February!

Please note that if there is no church due to weather, there will be NO YG events that day. If weather gets dicey after church and YG cancels Sunday afternoon, it will be announced on the Youth Facebook page and via youth and parent email by 4pm for a 6pm meeting.

February will be a very busy month, especially on the 11th! This is Jazz Sunday and Youth will host a Pancake Breakfast for all Church Members and Friends. **You are invited to join us at 8am for pancakes before our Worship service at 9:30am.**

Feb 11th is also Souper Bowl Sunday, and kids will have some Souper Bowl of Caring hunger facts to share during worship. Youth: please plan to wear a church shirt OR your favorite team gear! **Everyone is encouraged to bring a can of soup and/or some financial donation to put into the soup pots after worship** - Cans of soup and all Souper Bowl donations will go to the Linn Community Food Bank to fight hunger locally!

On the 18th of February, we will try again to have a **lunch and sledding event**. All Youth and families are welcome to join in the fun with a hot lunch at the church after Sunday School (11:45am), followed by sledding on Jones Park Hill!

Scout Sunday is February 25th. All **current and former Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts** (as well as adults who led them) are encouraged to wear

their uniforms and participate in worship in some way: greeting, ushering, etc. See Pastor Julie or Sarah H for how you can help on this day.

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 2024



Sunday, February 4th:

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. All Ages activity during Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Youth Group and Practice for Souper Bowl

Sunday, February 11th: Souper Bowl Sunday / Jazz Sunday / Pancake Breakfast

6:45 a.m. youth and parents meet for Pancake preparation and decorating
8:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast for all church members and friends
9:30 a.m. Share Souper Bowl during worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. No Youth Group

Sunday, February 18th:

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
12:00 p.m. Youth Lunch and sledding
6:00 p.m. NO Youth Group

Sunday February 25th: Scout Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Youth Group TBA

Sunday March 4th:

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

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	2 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	3
4 Food Bank Sunday 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:45 Multigen SS, Confirmation Class 6:00 Youth Group	5 10:00 Chair Yoga	6 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	7 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:15 Handbell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	8 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	9 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	10
11 Souper Bowl of Caring Communion Jazz Sunday 8:00 Pancake Breakfast 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:45 Adult SS, Confirmation Class	12 10:00 Chair Yoga 5:00 Jan Dus visit, Czech Museum	13 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	15 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:30 Session Meeting	16 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	17 5:30 Card Club Potluck 6:30 Card Club
18 Lent 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:45 Adult SS, Confirmation Class 12:00 Youth Lunch & Sledding	19 Presidents' Day 10:00 Chair Yoga	20 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	21 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:15 Handbell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	22 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	23 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	24
25 Lent, Scout Sunday 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Annual Meeting 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:45 Adult SS, Confirmation Class 6:00 Youth Group TBD	26 10:00 Chair Yoga	27 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:00 Ladies' Night Out	28 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga	29		



Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday • Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday • Sunday, March 31: Easter



11100 Spanish Road
Ely, Iowa 52227

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Lenten Word Search

O U G S Q N R X S O N N Y T A T I D E M G B I T J T
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|-------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Serving Others | Abstinence | Ash Wednesday | Cross |
| Crucifixion | Donate Money | Easter | Entry Into Jerusalem |
| Fasting | Fat Tuesday | Forty Days | Fourth Century |
| Give Up Something | Good Friday | Holy Season | Holy Week |
| Last Supper | Lent | Mardi Gras | Maundy Thursday |
| Meditation | Palm Sunday | Prayer | Reflection |
| Repentance | Resurrection | Reverence | Scripture |
| Sins | Volunteering | | |