January 2023

The Salt Shaker

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

The blizzard of a generation passed through before Christmas to shock our plans and thoughts and hopes for Christmas. As we have many times in winters gone by, we find that we can cope, regroup, and adjust our expectations. We live in hope that God will provide just as we have found so many years in our past.

I am honored to share the joy of fourteen Christmases with you—including 2020 (the most peculiar Christmas Eve service of my lifetime.) I appreciate your faith, your perseverance, your creativity, and your spirit singing this Christmas season. Thank you for the Christmas financial gift symbolizing your love and your spirit.

May God continue to bless you in 2023.

In Christ,
Pastor Julie

THANK YOU, MUSICIANS

Thank you to the musicians and singers who made the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons so wonderful!

MANY ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS THANK YOUS!

To Misti Huedepohl for decorating our Advent candle and mantle displays.

To our Advent candle lighters and readers: Sarah & Fred Harris, Ben & Rachelle Mineck, Rob, Blake, & Madison Kilberger, Sarah, Lily, & Ashton Wendt, Chadima/Maddaford families.

To our Christmas decoration bunch: Sarah & Fred Harris, Dan, Rachel, & Jacob Manders, Eleanor Burke, Sharon Furler, and Sarah Chadima. Also, all who helped get the decorations out of the attic. Also, Bob Zvacek for crafting the Advent candle holder and the pew candle holders.

To the Kolach Baking Bunch who baked enough to serve for December coffee hours.

To ALL the musicians: the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir members directed by Stephanie Buonadonna, Sharon Furler especially for arranging The Sounds of Christmas: Bell Choir, Jesse Thoreson, Ashton Wendt, Daniel Schuett, Misti Huedepohl, Julie Schuett, Joanne Chadima, Morgan Eadie, & Shermans "The Do's and the Don'ts". Music from the Chadima/Maddaford families.

To Bonnie Fencl for arranging Coffee Hour Fellowship treats.

To Pastor Julie for her wonderful Christmas messages and Christmas Eve open house at the Manse.

So many contribute in small and large ways – food for our bodies and good cheer and caring for our souls.

Thanks to all!!!! Joanne K. Chadima – Worship and Program.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School and Adult Sunday School Forum will meet in the new year beginning January 8!

The choir performs during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 1: Start the new year with a new determination to recognize God in your life. From 9:00-9:20 a.m.: Nespresso cappuccino and double shots of expresso available, handmade by Pastor Julie just for you!

Liturgist: Barb Horak
Ushers: Kevin & Shirley Bailey
Greeters: BIll & Penny Serbousek

January 8: Epiphany, Star Sunday, Holy Communion
Sermon: Matthew 2:1-12

Liturgist: Diane Reist
Ushers: Gary & Pat Kilberger
Greeters: Karen Zacek

January 15: Ordained and Installation of New Officers
Sermon: Psalm 23 Series

Liturgist: Jim Serbousek
Ushers: Theresa & Jim Grieder
Greeters: Dick & Zelda Sherman

January 22: Psalm 23 Series

Liturgist: Misti Huedepohl
Ushers: Fred & Sarah Harris
Greeters: Ehle Family

January 29: Psalm 23 Series
After worship, Annual Congregational Meeting. Potluck TBD

Liturgist: Brian Thompson
Ushers: Dan Chadima Family
Greeters: Lindemann Family

2023 WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

Please get your availability and preferences to Stephanie for worship assignments. The final list will be published with the annual report on January 29.

Morgan Eadie plays trumpet during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

Presbyterian Missions for 2023

(Article provided by Presbyterian Mission Agency of the PCUSA https://www.presbyterianmission.org/who-we-are/gifts-financial-support/types-of-giving/)

Presbyterian mission giving changes lives. While our church's mission is diverse, it is unified in its allegiance to a holistic witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many ways are available to support mission through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Shared Mission Support is also known as General Mission Support or Unified Giving in our denomination. Generally, such funds originate as undesignated gifts to congregations by members and friends as part of the regular offering. Each congregation's session, through its annual budget, decides what percentage of these dollars will go to the work of the presbytery, the synod, and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. At the presbytery level, a decision is made as to what percentage will remain in the presbytery and how much will go to support the work of its synod and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The PMA uses these unrestricted funds to meet a variety of urgent mission needs.

Directed Mission Support are designated funds given to a specific ministry, mission, project, or program of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. They are used exclusively for the purpose for which they are designated. Congregations make these gifts over and above Shared Mission Support gifts.

Extra Commitment Opportunities, like Directed Mission Support, provide ways to designate funds to a particular purpose. They are also gifts that are made over and above Shared Mission Support. The PMA has created Extra Commitment Opportunity accounts to enable Presbyterians to give to their particular passions. Individuals who make designated gifts to the PMA ordinarily give through an ECO account.

Special Offerings are four opportunities each year for us to give together as a church so that we can have a larger, deeper impact on the world. The Special Offerings are One Great Hour of Sharing, the Pentecost Offering, the Peace and Global Witness Offering and the Christmas Joy Offering.

Per Capita Giving supports the work of the General Assembly (the meeting that occurs every two years), the work of the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) and permanent and special GA committees and commissions. It is a per member apportionment that each congregation pays. Less than 3 percent of per capita goes to the PMA to fund the mission of the church. Presbyteries and synods also set per capita apportionments to support their work.

We deeply appreciate the generous congregations across the country that support the PMA's work.

At First Presbyterian Church near Ely, our General Budget has within our mission giving:

- ✓ *Shared Mission*
- ✓ *Directed Mission*
- ✓ *two Special Offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent and Christmas Joy during Advent)*
- ✓ *Per Capita giving sent to Presbytery/Synod/General Assembly.*

We also support several local missions and projects.

GIVING THANK YOU

Thank you to the Fairfax State Savings Bank for the "Spirit of Giving Program" which matches donations for charitable contributions by bank customers which resulted in a matching donation of $275 to the church. Thank you!

A view of the sanctuary during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday morning bible study is working on The Letter to the Romans at 9:30 a.m. in the church lower level. In January we will be in chapters 9+. Come and join in!

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.

ANNUAL MEETING INFO

It's that time of year again! The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 29. Please have all reports to Stephanie no later than January 15. Also, please provide contact information updates for the church database to Stephanie by that date as well.

ELEVATOR UPDATE

$40,000 of the projected $45,000 cost to fully install the elevator lift has been donated. Thank you very much! The new unit has been ordered and hopefully by February will be scheduled to be installed. Thank you to the busy team of volunteers who have worked to remove electrical, motor, structural, and carriage materials from the current shaft and will prepare with a new cement base.

SESSION NOTES FROM NOVEMBER 17, 2022

1. Church membership: 176
2. Clerk's Report – Worship attendance in October 2022 (in person/live streaming): October 2: 36/11 October 9: 48/9 October 16: 41/8 October 23: 75/9 October 30: 59/7
3. Treasurer's Report – Motion approved authorizing Dan Chadima to write remaining General Fund mission checks (CR Soup Kitchen, Linn Community Food Bank, Youth Mission Experience, & Solon Food Pantry) and authorizing Phil Huedepohl to transfer $3,232 Endowment funds and $5,500 Soup Supper funds to the General Fund.
4. 2023 draft General Fund budget discussed at length.
5. Elevator situation-Joanne and George Chadima and Carl Zahradnik made a field trip to visit a church in Van Horne that has a lift-elevator like what we are looking at. They took some pictures and asked some questions. Motion approved bid from AEL for a lift elevator to replace our current unusable elevator and present at a called congregational meeting for funding on December 4, 2022.

DEDICATION OF 2022 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

George & Joanne Chadima In Memory of: Lillian & Milton Chadima

George & Joanne Chadima In Memory of: Joseph & Esther Cerveny

Dorothy Ditch In Memory of: Stan Ditch

Todd, Alyson, Morgan & Makenna Eadie In Memory of: Trent Eadie

Todd, Alyson, Morgan & Makenna Eadie In Memory of: Marilyn Zvacek

The Floyd Family In Memory of: Mom & Dad, Sandy & Don Gail, and Sherry Winters

Jan & Sharon Furler & Family In Memory of: Lumir & Lenore Biderman

Larry & Theresa Harder In Honor of: Karren Harder

Larry & Theresa Harder In Memory of: Dean Winterowd

Amber, Ross, Ashley, Autumn, & Kyle Ingwersen In Memory of: Nana & Papa Leo Modracek

Julie & Rob Kilberger In Memory of: Deanna Doehrmann

Larry & Becky Modracek and Ryan & Family and Timon In Memory of: Esther Finn

Larry & Becky Modracek and Ryan & Family and Timon In Memory of: Irma & Leo Modracek

Marjorie Nejdl In Memory of: Charlie & Helen Kopecek

Sharon Novak In Memory of: Donald Novak

Sharon Novak In Memory of: Sierra Mitchell

Jeff & Diane Reist, Lauren & Ryan, and Hailee & Chance In Memory of: Edwin & Martha Buresh

Jeff & Diane Reist, Lauren & Ryan, and Hailee & Chance In Memory of: Charles & Emily Reist

Jeff & Diane Reist, Lauren & Ryan, and Hailee & Chance In Memory of: Richard, Eutona, Dennis, and Dale Buresh

The Schuetts In Memory of: Gene Anderson

Shirley & Kevin Bailey & Family, Jim & Judy Serbousek & Family, Bill & Penny Serbousek & Family In Memory of: Wes & Lillian Serbousek

Bill & Penny Serbousek & family In Memory of: Curly & Lillian Ware

Joe Simon In Memory of: Mabel Simon

Joe Simon In Memory of: Justus Simon

Marjorie Thirkettle & Joan Peck In Memory of: Leonard & Mildred Peck

Marjorie Thirkettle & Joan Peck In Memory of: William & Ruth Thirkettle

Ed Vavra & Amy (Vavra) Miner In Memory of: Ed & Olga Vavra and Emma Biderman

Ed Vavra & Amy (Vavra) Miner In Memory of: Tom Vavra

Everett & Linda Williams In Memory of: Ralph & Elizabeth Williams and Joyce Williams

Everett & Linda Williams In Memory of: Galen & Esther Butterbaugh

Karen Zacek In Memory of: Tony Zacek

Karen Zacek In Memory of: Parents, Charles J. & Adeline Koss

Karen Zacek In Memory of: Brothers, Charles W. Koss and Wayne J. Koss

Carl Zahradnik In Memory of: Barb Zahradnik

Norm & Terry Zahradnik In Memory of: All of Our Loved Ones

Norm & Terry Zahradnik In Honor of: Our Lord Jesus Christ

Norm & Terry Zahradnik In Honor of: My Brother, Galen Ludvicek

Rae Ellen Zahradnik In Memory of: Jerry Zahradnik

Rae Ellen Zahradnik In Memory of: Frank & Jessie Zahradnik

Rae Ellen Zahradnik In Memory of: Frank Waldeck

Bob Zvacek In Memory of: Marilyn Zvacek

Bob Zvacek In Memory of: Verne Svec

In Memory of: Kay Erenberger and Irene Vavra

Happy New Year 2023 from Youth Group!

We are THANKFUL for all of the opportunities that youth had to participate in music and worship in December. Also, **THANK YOU** to all who ordered poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas Eve! There were many poinsettias donated to share with a homebound member or others needing some cheer - feel free to help us deliver a smile to someone!

On Sunday, January 8th, YOUTH Sunday School will be restarting and we will be studying the book of Esther and learning the books of the Bible. We will meet in the Youth room at 10:45 a.m. and will meet until 11:30 a.m. Also on January 22nd, Youth will be going Ice Skating; we will share a lunch together and travel to the Cedar Rapids Ice Arena for an afternoon skate. More information will be coming to parents by email. Do you enjoy Ice Skating? Please plan to join us!

Youth Group works on Operation Christmas Child (OCC) 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. **In December, donations totaled $25.35!** 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 – December 2022

Sunday, January 1st:
9:30 a.m. Worship
No SS or evening YG

Sunday, January 8th:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School BEGINS again
6:00 p.m. YG at church

Sunday, January 15th:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Youth Group Movie night!

Sunday, January 22nd:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
12:00 p.m. lunch together
1:00 p.m. Ice Skating at CR Ice Arena
No Evening YG

Sunday, January 29th:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School / Congregational meeting
No Sunday School or YG

Sunday, February 5th:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. YG at church

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar
January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day **1st Sunday of Christmas** **Food Pantry Sunday** 9:30 Worship with Livestream 10:45 Coffee Hour	**2**	**3** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**4**	**5** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**6 Epiphany** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**7**
8 Star Sunday 9:30 Worship with Livestream 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 Youth Group	**9**	**10** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**11** 9:30 Bible Study 6:15 Handbell Practice	**12** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**13** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**14**
15 2nd Sunday After Epiphany 9:30 Worship with Livestream 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 YG Movie Night	**16 MLK, Jr. Day**	**17** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**18** 9:30 Bible Study 6:15 Handbell Practice	**19** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:30 Session Meeting	**20** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**21**
22 3rd Sunday After Epiphany 9:30 Worship with Livestream 10:45 Coffee Hour 10:45 Sunday School 12:00 YG Lunch/Icesktg	**23**	**24** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**25** 9:30 Bible Study 6:15 Handbell Practice	**26** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**27** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**28**
29 4th Sunday After Epiphany, Noisy Can 9:30 Worship with Livestream 10:45 Annual Meeting 12:00 Potluck	**30**	**31** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours				

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