



The Salt Shaker

January 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

As the Old Year Passes by David MacGregor

As the old year passes
we look back, reflect:
times of joy and promise,
times we'd best forget.
God of the ages,
help us walk your way.
Help us greet your future,
Seize tomorrow's day.

As the old year passes
sorrow wells within:
loved ones no more 'round us,
all that could have been.
God of compassion,
heal each ailing heart.
Guide us to your future
where new life may start.

As the old year passes
we cry for our struggling world.
Climate ever-changing,
fighting too often heard.
Jesus, you call us
to cherish all you give.
Call us to your future
where all in peace might live.

As the new year dawns now
we would give you praise.
Faithful God, come lead us
onward in new ways.
We'll love and serve you
in the faith of Christ,
in your Spirit's future:
people of new life.

May God continue to bless you in 2024.

In Christ, Pastor Julie

THANK YOU'S

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

It is a joy to share Christmas with you. I appreciate your faith, your perseverance, your creativity, and your joy in this Christmas season. **Thank you** for the Christmas financial gift symbolizing your love and your spirit. God bless us all as we begin 2024 together.

In Christ, Pastor Julie

Thank you to the Buresh/Reist families for providing St. Mikuláš traditional gifts of oranges and peanuts as well as modern gifts of pencils and candy in the Christmas stockings. We appreciate this tribute and tradition. It certainly is exciting for the children. God bless you.

Thank you to all who donated through the Giving Tree in the church basement. Items and efforts going to missions outside and the daily needs of the church inside are particularly meaningful at Christmastime. Thank you!

Thank you to all who helped decorate and make our Christmas Eve service so beautiful and meaningful. There are so many to thank! It was a memorable time with family, friends, and neighbors. Joanne Chadima, Worship and Program



Candle light is passed during the Christmas Eve candlelight service.



DEDICATION OF CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

*Jodie Chadima in Memory of Betty
Dorsey*

*George & Joanne Chadima in Memory of
Lillian & Milton Chadima*

*George & Joanne Chadima in Memory of
Joe & Esther Cerveny*

*George & Joanne Chadima in Memory of Tim
McCallum*

*Dorothy Ditch in Memory of Stanley Ditch
Todd, Alyson, Morgan & Makenna Eadie in
Memory of Trent Eadie*

*Bob Zvacek, Todd, Alyson, Morgan & Makenna
Eadie in Memory of
Marilyn Zvacek*

*Dave and Chris Faltis in Honor of Our 55th
Wedding Anniversary on Dec. 23*

*Jan & Sharon Furler & Family in Memory of
Lumir & Lenore Biderman*

*Ted and Becky Grenis in Memory of Emily Grenis
Ted and Becky Grenis in Memory of Marvin and
Esther Larimer*

*Ted and Becky Grenis in Honor of Linda Spence
Ted and Becky Grenis in Honor of Quinn &
Sawyer Rouse*

*Ted and Becky Grenis in Honor of Brinson &
Kenlyn Grenis*

*Larry & Theresa Harder in Memory of Karren
Harder*

*Larry & Theresa Harder in Memory of Janice
Hootman*

*Bob & Jean Kolek in Memory of Jim Knudsen
Glenn Modracek in Memory of Sharon Modracek
Glenn Modracek in Memory of Leo and Irma
Modracek*

*Larry & Becky Modracek in Memory of Esther
Finn*

*Larry & Becky Modracek in Memory of Irma &
Leo Modracek*

Marjorie NejdI in Memory of Ed NejdI

Sharon Novak in Memory of Donald Novak

Sharon Novak in Memory of Sierra Mitchell

*Jeff & Diane Reist, Lauren & Ryan, Hailee &
Chance in Memory of Edwin & Martha Buresh*

*Jeff & Diane Reist, Lauren & Ryan, Hailee &
Chance in Memory of Charles & Emily Reist*

*Jeff & Diane Reist, Lauren & Ryan, Hailee &
Chance in Memory of Richard, Eutona, Scott,*

Dale & Dennis 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 Justus & Mabel Simon

*Marjorie Thirkettle & Joan Peck in Memory of
Leonard & Mildred Peck*

*Marjorie Thirkettle & Joan Peck in Memory of
William & Ruth Thirkettle*

*Vavra Family in Memory of Ed & Olga Vavra and
Emma Biderman*

Vavra Family in Memory of Tom Vavra

*Everett & Linda Williams in Memory of Galen &
Esther Buterbaugh, Ralph & Elizabeth Williams
and Joyce Williams*

Karen Zacek in Memory of Parents & Siblings

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 Waldeck

*Bret & Mindy Zvacek in Memory of Marilyn
Zvacek*

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 7: Epiphany, Holy Communion, Star Sunday

Liturgist: Barb Horak

Ushers: Bob & Jean Kolek

Greeters: Bill & Penny Serbousek

January 14:

Liturgist: Diane Reist

Ushers: Jeff & Diane Reist

Greeters: Karen Zacek

January 21:

Liturgist: Jim Serbousek

Ushers: Theresa & Jim Grieder

Greeters: Dick & Zelda Sherman

January 28: After worship, Annual Congregational Meeting after worship. Potluck TBD

Liturgist: Misti Huedepohl

Ushers: Fred & Sarah Harris

Greeters: Ehle Family

February 4: Installation of new officers and Souper Bowl of Caring

Liturgist: Youth

Greeters: Youth

Ushers: Youth



A flute choir performs during fellowship.



Morgan Eadie plays familiar hymns during Christmas Eve Worship.

CHURCH BUSINESS

ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSIONS

Please have all annual report submissions to Stephanie B. no later than Sunday, January 14 so she can have completed reports available on Sunday, January 21 ahead of the January 28 Annual Meeting.

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!

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

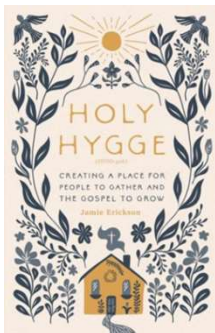
Wednesday morning bible study is working on the Gospel of John at 9:30 a.m. in the church lower level. In January we will be in chapters between the Last Supper and the cross. Come and join in!

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.

January 21, 2024, Epiphany celebrated with the Danish tradition of **Holy Hygge**

We will share the instruction of Jamie Erickson from her book *Holy Hygge: Creating a Place for People to Gather and the Gospel to Grow*.



A cozy fire, candles, fresh flowers---all evoke the Danish sense of *Hygge* that engenders hospitality, relationship, well-being, atmosphere, comfort, contentment, and rest.

Erickson unites this popular practice with the Gospel message, sharing how to create a holy lifestyle for welcoming people to faith in Christ.

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.



Ladies of the church enjoy a Christmas tea on Dec. 20.

COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH



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



The Serbouseks light the advent wreath on Christmas Eve.



The Serbouseks share a reading on Christmas Eve.



Hello from Youth Group!

Rejoice - Jesus is Born!! Happy New Year 2024!!

Youth enjoyed the Advent festival and served at candle lighters, readers and ushers during Advent! **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who ordered a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas - they all looked so beautiful for Christmas Eve!

If anyone knows someone who would enjoy a poinsettia, there are a few extra; please grab one after church to deliver to someone needing some cheer! If it is cold, the protective papers are in the hallway behind the sanctuary!

Also, thank you to everyone who brings redeemable cans and bottles for the youth group! We are grateful for all the support you provide in so many ways.

In January, we will begin Sunday School again, and have a Youth Group event EVERY SUNDAY, including sledding, all ages Sunday School Activity, Potluck after Annual Meeting, and Game Night coming soon! Hope to see you all in the new year - Please check the schedule so you don't miss any important dates.

Please note that if weather cancels Youth Group, it will be announced on the Youth Facebook page and via youth and parent email by 4pm for a 6pm meeting. Of course if there is no church, there is also no Youth Group that day.

Youth Group Parents: be sure to reply to your email from Pastor Julie about Confirmation for your student!

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: January 2024

Sunday, January 7th:

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

Sunday, January 14th:

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
12:00 p.m. Noon - Youth Lunch and sledding

Sunday, January 21st:

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. All Ages activity during Sunday School
6:00 p.m. NO evening Youth Group

Sunday January 28th:

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 Annual Meeting and Potluck
6:00 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday February 4th:

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



Congregation Members pass peace during December 24 morning service.

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 31 New Year's Eve 9:30 Worship with LS, Cantata presented 10:30 Coffee Hour	1 New Year's Day NO Chair Yoga	2 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	3 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga	4 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	5 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	6
7 Epiphany, Communion Food Bank Sunday 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:45 Adult SS 6:00 Youth Group	8 10:00 Chair Yoga	9 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	10 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:15 Handbell Choir	11 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	12 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	13
14 Annual Report Deadline 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:45 Adult SS 12:00 YG Lunch/Sledding	15 MLK Day 10:00 Chair Yoga	16 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	17 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:15 Handbell Choir	18 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:30 Session Meeting	19 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	20 Newsletter Deadline 5:30 Card Club
21 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:45 Multi-Generational Sunday School	22 10:00 Chair Yoga	23 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:00 Ladies' Night Out	24 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:15 Handbell Choir	25 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	26 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	27
28 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Annual Meeting 12:00 Potluck 6:00 Youth Group	29 10:00 Chair Yoga	30 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	31 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga			



Sunday, February 11: Jazz Sunday
 Wednesday, February 14: Ash Wednesday
 Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday
 Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday
 Sunday, March 31: Easter

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY
new year
 2024



11100 Spanish Road
Ely, Iowa 52227

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



The choir performs during Christmas Eve Worship.



Sophia C. sings "Mary Did You Know?"



As we prepare for the Annual Meeting on January 28, please update the church office with changes in address, marital status, phone numbers, or any other personal information.