



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 Session is hosting a congregation(al) information Q&A for June 11 after worship in the sanctuary for the purpose of discussing the building project. Below are details leading to the calling of this meeting and the Session Resolution.

The overall balance as of April 16, 2023 for the building project was \$579,875.44. \$532,000 is invested and the remaining \$47,875.44 is in the Funds bank account. January – April 16, 2023 donations received totaled: \$24,065.80. Earnings/Interest: \$1,376.49. Paid expenses: \$26,949.22

Donations prior to May 2021 totaled \$45,498.00. May 2021 to December 2021: \$325,538.66. January 2022 to December 2022: \$161,822.55. January to April 16, 2023: \$24,065.80. Total donations: \$556,925.01.

Total Pledges not received: \$35,558.72. Pledges expected in 2022 but not received: \$24,558.72. Expected in 2023 or later \$11,000.00. New pledge made for 2023: \$80,000.

31 church member units have contributed; some of these have given multiple times and continue giving. 1 youth member contributed. 1 anonymous donor initiated a match (\$100,000.) 38 non-member units have contributed.

Conclusion: May 1, 2023 contract deadline with Point Builders passed without down payment of \$850,000 (which was needed but not raised).

As of April 19, 2023, \$580,000 donations were in hand and \$80,000 in pledge by signing of contract totaling \$660,000, which was \$220,000 below \$850,000 estimate for May 1 weatherproof shell contract. At donation rate of \$150,000 per year (averaging 2020-2023 donations of \$450,000 from May 2020-April 2023) the \$220,000 would take one and a half years

(November 2024) to reach \$850,000 and break ground without considering grants or overage costs. After reaching \$850,000 by November 2024 to finish building (\$550,000) would take three and 2/3 years (July 2028 at current rate of \$150,000 donations per year.)

Alternatively, based on a \$100,000 annual donation projection, we would be ready to sign and then break ground at \$850,000 in July 2025 and reach our \$1,400,000 goal by January 2031. And a third alternative based on a \$75,000 annual goal, we would be ready to sign and then construct at \$850,000 in May 2026 and reach our \$1,400,000 goal by September 2033.

SESSION RESOLUTION

1. Thank you to the Expansion Committee that has worked extremely conscientiously and faithfully to accomplish all of the requests, comments, and ideas of the church members. Their task of presenting a proposal and raising donations was done with dignity and enthusiasm in the midst of strenuous economic circumstances.
2. Thank you to Point Builders for their work.
3. Propose a downsized building in line with the available and pledged donations by scaling back the facility plan, re-group, and continuing forward focusing on the mission outreach to engage community in recreational ministries.
4. Match funds with challenge from Vavra Estate up to \$100,000, details and timing to be worked out.

Again, the Session is hosting a congregation information Q&A for June 11 after worship in the sanctuary for the purpose of discussing the building project.



THE REV. MIROSLAV PFANN VISIT: CONNECTING WITH OUR CZECH ROOTS

For many years Rev. Pfann has been planning a trip to the United States on a sabbatical to study the development of the Czech Brethren Evangelical Churches and the lives of the immigrant descendants. Our church was the first established Czech Protestant Church west of the Mississippi, and we were honored to be included in his research.

God blessed May 10 with perfect spring weather for the tour. We began with the history of our church building and a greeting from Pastor Julie. We shared the church's part in the community's march from our church to Banner Valley Church, commemorating the death of President Lincoln. We viewed locations of the Banner Valley and Rogers Grove Churches and walked through the Rogers Grove Cemetery, observing all the familiar Czech surnames. We drove past farmsteads of pioneer members and then visited our church cemetery. Rev. Pfann was especially interested in the resting places of Rev. Kun and Rev. Pokorny. Rev. Kun founded many Czech churches in many Midwest states, and Rev. Pfann has visited many of those locations. We drove past the West Church location on the Chadimas' property and took a brief tour of the 1890 home and farm. We enjoyed lunch at the Kava House in Swisher, owned by the Vondraceks. Karen Vondracek is related to Rev. Kun. We then returned to the church where many historical documents were on display. Rev. Pfann especially appreciated Book 1 of records of the first members. He recognized many surnames. At 4:00 p.m. descendants of our early church were invited to share memories and ask questions. It was fortunate for us that Rev. Pfann spoke English quite well. Some of our members could speak Czech with him – we even sang a few Czech songs!

Many thank yous need to be listed: Ed Vavra for keeping in contact with Rev. Pfann during the pandemic years and inviting him to come, and

then taking time off work to be our expert tour guide; Barb Horak for meticulously planning our day of touring and historical offerings and making an informative thumb drive for Rev. Pfann to take with him; Karen Zacek for baking - and I quote, "the best kolaches they had on their visit"; Joanne Chadima for organizing, providing the van, and baking rhubarb crisp; Pastor Julie for offering a greeting; for all those who came to spend the time visiting with Rev. Pfann; and to Andy Hasley and Janice Horak for hosting Rev. Pfann.

A note from JoAn Ferguson, Rev. Pfann's chauffeur while in the US: "Can't begin to thank you for the wonderful day you organized for Mirek Pfann's trip to Ely. The day is filled with warm memories of good food, friendly faces, and a wealth of information for him to take home to the Czech Republic. Bless you for all you did to make a day at the Ely Church Possible."

PHOTOS FROM REV. PFANN VISIT





Pictured: JoAn Ferguson from Elkhorn, NE, Karen Z., George C., Bob Z., Pastor Julie, Rev. Mireck Pfann, Terry Z., Ed Vavra, Norm Z., Carl Z., Diane R., seated - Joanne C., Dorothy D., Marj Nejd, Marilyn and David Popelka, Joan Peck

HISTORY COMMITTEE

The History Committee will be meeting throughout the summer – meeting dates to be determined. Keep an eye on the announcements for more information.

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

SUMMER MUSICIANS WANTED!

We would love to fill the sanctuary with music and other special offerings throughout the summer months. Please let Stephanie or Sharon know if you would like to offer your talents this summer.

JOIN CHOIR AND HANDBELLS

Did you know we have a third octave of handbells? With two to three more ringers we could expand our offerings to include 3 octave arrangements, which would dramatically increase the library of music available to us.

The choir is always in need of more voices. We would love to have you join us this fall.

Keep an eye on future Salt Shakers for information about the fall start date.

A HUGE THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to all the musicians who helped enrich worship over the past several months.

Choir participants included Joanne Chadima, Chris Faltis, Barb Horak, Glenn Modracek, Rick Sherman, Zeldia Sherman, Marjorie Thirkettle, Marlene Tiernan, Dawn Zacek, and Bob Zvacek.

Handbell participants included Joanne Chadima, Angie Ehle, Sarah Harris, Daniel Schuett, Pastor Julie Schuett, Marjorie Thirkettle, and Dawn Zacek.

Thank you to Morgan Eadie and all the other instrumentalists who contributed throughout the year. And a **HUGE** thank you to Sharon Furler who is the back bone of the music program.



Bell ringers gathered to celebrate music appreciation Sunday.



The choir performing for Pentecost.

SHARE FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

There are so many beautiful flowers blooming most of the year – please feel free to bring a bouquet for our altar. It can be one special blossom or a mixed bouquet. It's fun to share the beauty. Joanne



The choir performs during Mother's Day worship.



Barb Horak donated lilacs for Mother's Day worship.

JUNE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 4: Opening of Series on Genesis and Jesus' take of the Genesis Stories

Liturgist: Norm Zahradnik

Ushers: Hentges family

Greeters: Gary & Pat Kilberger

June 11: Jesus' Genesis Stories, 2

Liturgist: Jim Serbousek

Ushers: Dave & Chris Faltis

Greeters: Matt Zacek Family

June 18, Father's Day: Giants and Underdogs, 1 Samuel 17

Liturgist: Jodie Chadima

Ushers: Bob & Jean Kolek

Greeters: Dorothy Ditch

June 25, Outdoor worship on north side of church. Jesus' Genesis Stories, 3

Liturgist: Angie Ehle

Ushers: Bill & Penny Serbousek

Greeters: Virginia Svec

FELLOWSHIP

CHAIR YOGA

The chair yoga program is off to a beautiful start. We meet each Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Julie Ellen, RYT-500, teaches the class. She's registered with the Yoga Alliance, a governing professional group for Yoga instructors, and she's achieved the highest certification the Yoga Alliance offers. In addition to her Yoga certification, Julie is a licensed massage therapist. She's well equipped and trained to provide a broad range of exercises for the varying needs of each participant.

Each class begins with basic breathing exercises. Using a mantra helps participants focus on one's self while letting go of intrusive thoughts and outside distractions. While continuing to practice breathing, Julie demonstrates yoga poses, isolating different areas of the body or muscle groups for stretching, firming, and developing more substantial muscles. Near the end of class, while sitting, attention is focused on a mindful meditation while continuing the breathing exercise. Each session is closed with a ritual of thankfulness to classmates and oneself.

Participants have commented on their experience: Wow! I feel so much better; she's having us do exercises my physical therapist does with me; I feel like I stand taller now that I'm attending the class.

For those of you who are hesitant to attend the class out of embarrassment or feeling out-of-shape, please remember we're all friends coming to help ourselves. We're all so focused on ourselves, breathing, and doing the poses; nobody is watching how others may be doing the exercises. Everyone does the activities according to their physical ability and not somebody else's. This class is for you, your health, and your well-being.

Thank you,
Marjorie



Chair yoga participants pose.



Chair yoga participants pose.

HANNAH ZACEK'S GRADUATION PARTY

Join us to celebrate Hannah Zacek's Graduation on Sunday, June 4th at 11:30 a.m. The party will be held at Z's Catering and BBQ, 760 Nathan Ave Unit 9, North Liberty.

SNACKS FOR FELLOWSHIP

Please consider donating snacks for fellowship time. Donations can be made in bulk and frozen for use throughout the year. Contact Bonnie Fencil with any questions.



COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH

SUMMERTIME MISSION FOR HUNGRY KIDS



Although kids are excited for the summer break from school, the break can strain family meal budgets. The Linn Community Food Bank is seeking the following items this summer:

Peanut Butter
Jelly
Ketchup
Mustard
Mac and Cheese

In June, a focused food drive for these five items will take place at our church. Please consider adding these items to your shopping cart, then leave them in the mission collection box anytime in June. One jar of PB can equal many meals for a family, so your contribution will make an impact in our local community.

Thank you,
Misti Huedepohl, Mission Elder



Go shopping and help a great cause! Echo Hill and Calvin-Sinclair Presbyterian Churches, located at 715 38th St. SE in Cedar Rapids, are hosting Pickin' for a Mission on Thursday, June 15 and Friday, June 16, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Dig through the treasures and set your own price! All proceeds will go to Olivet Neighborhood Mission. Cash sales only. Free coffee will be available.

CHURCH BUSINESS

ELEVATOR



It's been a long time coming, or at least it seems like it, but there's finally light at the end of the tunnel. Thanks to Carl Zahradnik, Ted Grenis, and Larry Modracek for all the demolition, electrical installation, drywall installation, and mudding/painting to get the elevator shaft ready for the new unit which has been installed and is ready for inspection on Wednesday, May 24. The cement pad outside the door, railing, and awning are yet to be installed, but are scheduled to be done soon. Once the inspection has been done, and the cement pad is complete, we will finally be able to use the elevator. So many people are ready for it!!

SOLAR

The new solar array has been installed and has been operating for a few months now, and we are starting to see the savings in our electricity costs. We'll be able to better compare once we have a full year to review, but so far we are observing a considerable savings each month. As we move into summer, we will see higher amounts of electricity used due to air conditioning, etc., but it is also the time when there are more hours of sunshine, and the solar array is absorbing more sun per day. Thanks to Bob and Marilyn Zvacek for the gift that keeps on giving.

MOWING OF CHURCH AND CEMETERY

The job of mowing grass on the church grounds and manse has been absorbed by volunteers Marjorie Thirkettle, Fred Harris, and Judy Serbousek. There was great communication between the three to get everything done in a timely manner. The cemetery is being groomed by James Serbousek and his son, Kamren. Church members have been removing damaged trees at the cemetery and cleaning up all debris. Both the church and cemetery are looking great.

Many thanks to everyone! Larry Krohn

SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Just a few reminders about safety and security at church:

1. Fire extinguishers are located by the boiler room, in the balcony, in the coat room, next to the choir door to the sanctuary, and in the elevator.
2. The AED machine is located by the boiler room.
3. First-aid kits are in the Sunday School classrooms, by the choir door to the sanctuary, in the storage room, by the boiler room, and in the kitchen.
4. Trauma kits are in the Sunday School classrooms, by the choir door to the sanctuary, in the storage room, and by the boiler room.
5. In case of a tornado: go to the lower level of the church, especially the family bathroom and the hallway nearby.
6. In case of a fire: the meeting spot is the basketball hoop on the west side of the church.

SESSION NOTES from April 27, 2023



1. Worship attendance in April 2023 (in person/live streaming) April 2: 62/9; April 9 early: 26/3; April 9, 9:30 a.m.: 89/6; April 16: 48/8; April 23: 64/9; April 30: 61/6
2. Membership as of April 30: 177
3. Discussion with Bill Vavra via Zoom Conferencing to discuss Tom Vavra's estate gift.
4. Cemetery report – a couple of trees need to be taken care of. James and Kamren Serbousek will be mowing this summer.
5. Expansion motion approved due to May 1, 2023 contract deadline passed without down payment of \$850,000 raised. In hand and pledged amount currently totals \$660,000.

- a. Say “No” to continue with Point Builders.
 - b. To inform the Congregation that even though we have raised a good sum of money we fell short for the May 1, 2023 deadline.
 - c. The mission purpose of the new building remains truly our goal for commitment and cooperation with the community, yet needs to be downsized.
 - d. Propose a plan to scale back the plan, regroup and go forward.
 - e. Match funds with challenge from Vavra Estate up to \$100,000 to be worked out.
6. Motion approved to invest Tom Vavra Estate gift in CD and remainder in church funds bank account.
 7. Mission project: Mother's Day for mothers in the Ukraine.
 8. Property report – GP4 permit (Schmidt has been contacted). Clean-up has been done on multiple days. Siding on the Manse still needs repaired. Lawn mowing team: Larry Krohn, Marjorie Thirkettle, Fred Harris and Judy Serbousek. The roads are marked for dust control. The elevator is finally getting built, but there is no outside door (the one that arrived was the wrong size and is being replaced). Inspection and certification to follow. The phone for the elevator will be hooked up to a 24/7 answering service. The installation of an awning will occur after inspection and cement work.
 9. Stewardship- an Internal Audit will be conducted in May.
 10. Worship calendar-Sunday May 7 will be Graduation Recognition. Worship and Program meeting after worship on May 7. May 9-11 hosting Rev. Miroslav Pfann. May 18-Session meeting. May 28, Pentecost with Holy Communion. May 29 Memorial service at Rogers Grove Cemetery.



Hello from Youth Group!

In May, we celebrated our High School and College graduating Seniors with a Campfire Cookout. **Thank you to Karen Z.** for bringing the yummy 7-layer dessert bars!

Congratulations and Best Wishes to our High School Seniors: **Hannah Zacek, Noah Tedrow, and Will Arnold!** God Bless you on this accomplishment and may God guide you on your next adventure!

Also in May, youth assisted with some outdoor yard cleanup for a Helping Hands project requested by a church member. **BIG THANK YOU to Darla M.** for helping out and guiding the youth on this big project!

In June, Youth will be going to **Hamilton Ohio on a work Mission Trip!** We have a small group of youth and adults going this year, and we are excited to dig into what God has for us there!

Youth and families: please remember our **4th of July Parade in Ely** - we will decorate at 5:00 p.m., and the parade begins at 6:00 p.m. Youth, families and other church friends are invited and welcome to ride with us!

Youth group is seeking more **adults who volunteer in the community** to share with us about their experiences - what do you do, and why do you do it? How did you get involved? *Do they allow youth volunteers?* Please contact Angie to plan a date to share!

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! If you have new school supplies, toys, sunglasses, bars of soap, toothbrushes and other items (see Youth Bulletin Board for ideas) feel free to drop all of these in the youth room, and THANK YOU for helping out with OCC!

We will continue accepting redeemable cans and bottles from our church friends willing to donate; these funds help with activity costs. **In May, we redeemed \$33.10** in recyclables. 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, and **BIG THANK YOU to Judy S.** for finding available can donations on Facebook, and taking cans to Can Shed for Youth Group!!

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

Blessings~

Angie Zahradnik Ehle
319-899-1223
angelaehle3@gmail.com

Youth Schedule – June 2023



Sunday, June 4th:

9:30 a.m. Worship

Youth Group is attending Hannah's Grad party

Sunday, June 11th:

9:30 a.m. Worship

6:00 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday June 18th - Saturday June 24th: YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Sunday June 25th:

9:30 a.m. Worship

6:00 p.m. Youth Group TBA

Sunday, July 2nd:

9:30 a.m. Worship

6:00 p.m. Youth Group

Tuesday, July 4th:

5:00 p.m. meet to decorate for 4th of July Parade!

6:00 p.m. Parade!

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Scholarship Application Deadline 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	2 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	3
4 Trinity Sunday Food Pantry Sunday 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour	5	6 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	7 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga	8 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	9 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	10
11 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Bldg Exp. Meeting 10:45 Coffee Hour 6:00 Youth Group	12	13 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	14 Flag Day 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga	15 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:30 Session Meeting	16 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	17
18 Father's Day Outdoor Worship 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour YG Mission Trip	19 Juneteenth YG Mission Trip	20 Newsletter Deadline 9:00-12:00 Office Hours YG Mission Trip	21 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga YG Mission Trip	22 9:00-12:00 Office Hours YG Mission Trip	23 9:00-12:00 Office Hours YG Mission Trip	24 YG Mission Trip
25 9:30 Worship with LS 10:45 Coffee Hour 6:00 Youth Group TBA	26	27 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	28 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga	29 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	30 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	



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Ely, Iowa 52227

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Father's Day

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

proud	wonderful	giving	wise	understanding
trusted	unafraid	encouraging	positive	loved
super	sweet	supportive	special	smart
inspiring	kind	handy	handsome	strong
brave	great	best	protective	caring
love	dad	hilarious	funny	loving
fun	amazing	cool	helpful	