



The Salt Shaker

March 2021

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

(Rewritten from sermon excerpt, February 7, 2021)

There were times when Jesus was in public and times when he was in private—when he was visible and when he was invisible to others, times of openness and hiddenness, times to teach and time to pray in private. And the early believers followed his lead—sometimes they worshipped in private, sometimes they taught and healed in public—proclaiming at the door of synagogues and sometimes praying behind closed doors.

To a large degree, the secrecy part of the church's history has been for survival reasons, both for the survival of individual Christians and for the survival of the faith itself. We are Christians today not only because someone openly proclaimed the faith to us, but also because the faith was kept alive through worship in quiet places like the catacombs, in secret meetings in private homes, in low-profile gatherings in hidden groves and subterranean cave meeting places. Through openness when possible and secrecy when necessary, the faith was kept vital so that it could be passed on.

In the past months, we have been living through a time restricting our gathering, restricting our travel, restricting our lives for the safe of protecting one another. Our inventiveness has expanded in communicating the gospel. One of my greatest concerns for the life of the church family in these pandemic days—is that we become so accustomed to things the way they have been, that as we are able to meet again in person, we actually do so.

We may be assuming that everyone is doing alright—or as alright as possible these days. But are

they? Does the internet make it easier to share with one another, or more complicated, or both? How are the visible church and the invisible parts of church life and personal discipleship going these days?

In Mark 1: 35, Jesus went out before dawn “to a deserted place” (v. 35). The author uses the same Greek word to refer both to “the wilderness” (vv. 4, 12-13) where Jesus was baptized and spent the following 40 days and to this “deserted” place. Jesus returns to the “wilderness” as a traditional place to both encounter God and find God's direction. Just as his first visits to the “wilderness” had confirmed Jesus' call and prepared him for his ministry, so this visit renews him both personally and in his understanding of the course his ministry should continue. It feels like we have been in the wilderness too long. Have we utilized this time for prayer, study, and renewal? Someday soon, we will out of our cave and back to it, and both now and when we are back, in both times and places, we live faithfully and work at being disciples of Christ.

Sing the song—even when alone!

Pray the prayer—even when surrounded by noise!

Stand up for righteous truth—even if discouraged!

Comfort the afflicted—even when overwhelmed!

Heal with words and with silence—even yourself as well as other!

Love—even when it is easier to hate!

In Christ, Pastor Julie

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

THE WALK. Back to basics of walking with Christ.: \$

March 7: Serve: Here I Am, Lord, Send Me

March 14: Give: Where Your Treasure Is...

March 21: Share: Going Fishing, Reflecting Light

March 28: Five practices from the Cross

Maundy Thursday, April 1: Worship at 7:00 p.m.

CONNECTING OPPORTUNITIES

Please consider the following opportunities to check in with one another through online fellowship through ZOOM meeting platform. Copy the link into your web browser and then add meeting ID and password information as asked. You will need to have Zoom software installed which is free.

Sunday Morning Worship/Fellowship/Sunday School

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84712137959?pwd=KzNHWjhINERGRkFnbnNkS0ErOXEwZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 1213 7959 Passcode: 562572

THANKS

A note of thanks for your nice comments about the music. If you have any in particular that you like, please let me know. That is something I like to keep notes on. Phone: 319-360-1981

Sharon

CHURCH REOPENING

The session voted to reopen the church for worship beginning Sunday, February 28. Masks, social distancing, and other preventative measures will continue to be observed. Live streaming and FM broadcast will still be provided.

COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



Lent special offering

Together we are the household of God. Let us welcome those without shelter, those without enough to eat, those who thirst.

We give our gifts to help those in need. One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Each gift helps to improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS



CHURCH BUSINESS

SESSION NOTES

JANUARY 21, 2021



1. Church membership as of December 31, 2020: 180
2. General budget 2020 ended in the black \$27,533.43 due to lowered expenses, steady donations, and PPP grant. Motion approved to label \$27,000 as Contingency.
3. Motion not approved (3/4/1) to reopen church building for in-person worship February 1, 2021.
4. Building Expansion Committee presented STS Civil work and application for Linn County erosion mitigation and soil conversation grant. Motion approved to complete preliminary application for grant.
5. Property concern about snow removal solved by Carl Zahradnik volunteering.
6. Removal of west fence line at fence will be addressed in the spring.
7. Motion approved to submit for congregational approval 2020 Endowment Fund interest for 2021 General Fund budget.
8. Chicken Noodle Soup and Kolach Event will be planned for October 1-2 based on congregational approval at annual meeting.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

DIGITAL ways to donate to church:

1. Through church website.
2. Smart phone and tablet app:

GivePlusChurch

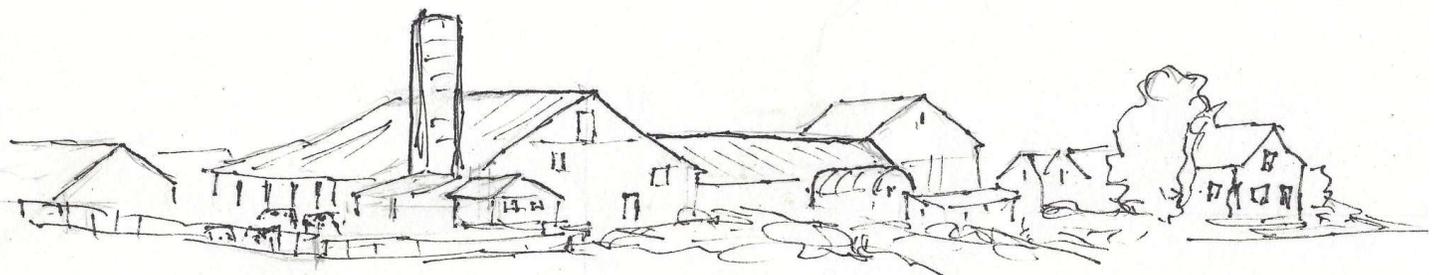
3. QR Code



Thank you for your continued generosity in these last months. The program, worship, mission, and fellowship of the church continue by your participation and commitment. God has been praised at our church for 160+ years. We have roots in the past, life in the present, and continued hope in the future of our faith family together. God bless you in these trying days.

HYMNALS

Sharon and I have been cleaning our choir room! We have discovered all the old hymnals we have stored at the church. We will be saving a number of the books in better condition, but we will be discarding the worn books. Before that happens, those hymnals will be placed on a table in the basement. If you wish to keep one of the books, please help yourselves. They will disappear the week before Palm Sunday. There are the brown hymnals (The Service Hymnal, 1941), the red hymnals (The Hymnbook – 1955), and dark green Czech hymnals (Evanjelický zpěvník – 1927). The History Committee will make sure we keep a copy of each in our collection. Joanne



The farm of Pastor Julie's childhood sketched by Howard Chapman

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School will meet by Zoom video conference and have lessons and activities on

“The Walk” curriculum. Watch for a special Sunday of pretzel making at home! (March 21)

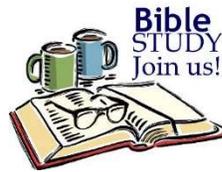
Date	Topic	Items needed from packet
3/7	The Walk: Kindness and Service: Luke 10:25-37 The Good Samaritan Parable	Gratitude Journal Good Samaritan Craft
3/14	The Walk: Generosity, Luke 21: 1-4, Widow's Mite Spring Break Party with Bible Bingo, Trinity lesson based on St. Patrick Clover	Gratitude Journal Bible Bino card; Clover St. Patrick Trinity craft, Word search worksheet
3/21	The Walk: Witness, Matthew 5:13-15, Salt and Light	Gratitude Journal Pretzel Recipe, Yeast packet
3/28	Palm Sunday The Walk: Follow Jesus, Jesus on the cross	Gratitude Journal Paper Palm Branches/Placemat
4/4	Easter Celebration and party	Handprint Easter craft

Zoom details for Sunday School (same as from previously):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84712137959?pwd=KzNHWjhNERGRkFnbNkS0ErOXEwZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 1213 7959 Passcode: 562572

Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 US
Meeting ID: 847 1213 7959 Passcode: 562572



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday bible study continues at 9:30 a.m. on Facebook live streaming, video conference, and telephone log in.

We will be in Matthew 26+ in February.

Join Zoom Video Conference Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/250060150?pwd=MHV4rRWhoOVJlbHdZcEIGVHplUT09>

Meeting ID: 250 060 150 Passcode: 386508



Hello from Youth Group!

As the days get longer and warmer, we

welcome Spring and the opportunity to be back in the church building to see each of you!

In February, Youth Group continued Zoom meetings on Sunday nights at 6pm. After studying several Psalms and making a wonderful list of names and attributes of God, Youth were challenged to write their own Psalm. On February 21st, we began the Lent lessons from the book, "The Walk", and youth were challenged to pray five times each day: as we wake up, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and bedtime. We invite all congregation members to join our challenges as we WALK with Jesus!

Also in February, Youth usually join the congregation in Souper Bowl Sunday service. Celebrating together was not an option this year, and we encourage everyone to make a donation to tackle hunger at a food bank of your choice!

In March, we will continue The Walk lessons, and will be preparing for Holy Week and Easter Celebration. These will be taught in person at church as well as over Zoom for those youth who wish to stay home but continue to join in. Youth continue to serve our congregation as Youth Elder, in Bell Choir, and with solo music offerings. We connect with each other via texts, email and Facebook group.

We are planning a summer trip to Montreat Youth Conference in North Carolina, July 10-18th. Youth are looking for at least one male chaperone to accompany us and would invite other adults interested to join us. Montreat is a very special, memorable and impactful opportunity for students entering 9th grade in the Fall of 2021. There will be a youth and parent meeting at 6pm on March 28th at church and via zoom to talk about this in detail and answer all questions about the adventure.

We continue to collect redeemable beverage containers; if you have "empties" to donate, please let Angie know, and we will arrange to get them from you; text or call Angie for more information. We average \$5-\$10/month in donations; Thank you to all who have donated these redeemable containers!

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

YOUTH SCHEDULE February 2021



Sunday, March 7th:

10:30am: SS - in youth room

6pm: Youth Group in person and (6:30 lesson via Zoom)

Sunday March 14th:

10:30am: SS - in youth room

6pm: Youth Group in person and (6:30 lesson via Zoom)

Sunday, March 21st:

10:30am: SS - in youth room

6pm: Youth Group in person and (6:30 lesson via Zoom)

Sunday, March 28th:

10:30am: SS - in youth room

6pm: Youth Group in person and (6:30 lesson via Zoom)

Sunday, April 4th: Easter Sunday

No SS

No Youth Group

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar, March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	3 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Handbells	4 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	5 World Day of Prayer 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	6
7 3rd Sunday of Lent Food Pantry Sunday 9:30 Worship in sanctuary w/ Livestream & FM 10:30 Fellowship Zoom 10:30 SS Livestream 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	8	9 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	10 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Handbells	11 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	12 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	13
14 4th Sunday of Lent End DST 9:30 Worship in sanctuary w/ Livestream & FM broadcasting 10:30 Fellowship Zoom 10:30 SS Livestream 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	15	16 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	17 St. Patrick's Day 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Handbells	18 St. Joseph's Day 6:30 Session Zoom Meeting	19 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	20 First Day of Spring Mr. Rogers Day Newsletter Deadline
21 5th Sunday of Lent 9:30 Worship in sanctuary w/ Livestream & FM 10:30 Fellowship Zoom 10:30 SS Livestream 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	22	23 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	24 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Handbells	25 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	26 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	27
28 Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship in sanctuary w/ Livestream & FM 10:30 Fellowship Zoom 10:30 SS Livestream 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	29	30 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	31 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Handbells			



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Ely, Iowa 52227

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Lenten Word Find

Y L B K T J P F S S Y I T W K X K W R J O L Y Q
 P D B D Y A H Y E N Y V P H C Z S T A T I O N S R C U O
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- Confession
- Veronica
- Forty Days
- Sacrifice
- Fasting
- Palm Sunday
- Love
- Mary
- Last Supper
- Crown of Thorns
- Jesus
- Ashes
- Divine Mercy
- Good Thief
- Catholic
- Cross
- Purple
- Lent
- Passion
- Stations
- Good Friday
- Crucifix
- Prayer
- Alms