



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

75
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
 SPECIAL OFFERINGS
 HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

We Are There

In Isaiah 58, we are called to be repairers of the breach. Showing our love and sharing our love are how we repair the breach in many of our interactions in this world. Throughout the Lenten season, we have been inspired by the stories of women who are answering Jesus' call to love one another, and to put that love into life-changing action.

In every time and in every place, women have played this role — diligently, persistently, if often quietly — *lovingly*. Stop for a moment and think about the women we know — those in our communities and right here in our own church. Let's pause to honor and remember the many faithful women in our lives.

We are there with Lyndsay and the Alliance for Community Services in Chicago, who work for civil and human rights for people with disabilities, low-income families and front-line service workers to, as they say, put the "human" back in human rights. They are supported by the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People — another way that the love we share through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing is making a difference.

With our gifts, we are part of Lyndsay's village.

We are there to empower women like Nathana and Talavi, who are working with Tewa Women United in New Mexico to strengthen leadership for Native women and girls, to advocate for civil rights and to help reclaim the Indigenous people's agricultural legacy. As a partner of the

Presbyterian Hunger Program, Tewa Women United receives support through gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing from people just like us and congregations just like ours.

With our gifts, we are part of Nathana and Talavi's village.

We are there with Juneli Nepal — a small nonprofit run primarily by women high in the mountains where hundreds of remote villages dot the landscape. These women are working to provide safe, clean drinking water to many families following a devastating earthquake. Their president, Anjila Khadka, said that thanks to a grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, supported by our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, life for the villagers has steadily begun to improve.

With our gifts, we are part of Anjila's village.

We are there. For over 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has been a catalyst for love. Your gifts bring a beacon of love and hope in our world and put the power of healing into the hands of those who need it most.

Please give what you can to One Great Hour of Sharing. For as we always say ... when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 9. Move your clocks ahead one hour.

CONCERNING IMPERSONATION SCAMS

Recently, another round of impersonation text scams has attempted to steal gift card numbers.

Over the last couple of years, you may have received what looked like a text message from me seeking gift card numbers. Always check the phone number if it is coming as a text message. Always check the email address if by email. They even use pictures easily found online. Eventually, they will create impersonation scams with A.I. voice duplication.

Scammers have also used a spoofed version of my email address to request recipients purchase gift cards. This is a fraud, too! Please beware of emails coming from pastorjulie.elypres@gmail.com or another email other than the real address that the church has for Pastor Julie: pastorjulie@elypres.org and real phone number is the same that she has always had here at Ely: 319-329-2083. and notify the church office if you receive any of these emails. The real office email is: office@elypres.org.

Outside of reporting this to authorities, there isn't much we can do as an organization. *You can do the most—be careful!*

Pastor Julie

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

MULTI-GENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Come one, come all, come join in the fun and learning. Our multi-generational learning events for this year will continue in the Fellowship Hall after worship around 10:45 with:

March 2: Masopust Sunday

March 16: "Tending to God's Garden" - Do you have any of your garden plants started yet? Get your hands dirty and get some seeds started during this time while we learn more about stewardship and growing our faith.

April 13: "Lenten Pretzel Making" - Do you know why Pretzels have a special meaning during Lent? Come join in the fun of making and eating fresh baked pretzels and learn why we associate pretzels with Lent.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Bible Study continues at 9:30 a.m. with refreshments, coffee and discussion. Upcoming topical Bible studies will conclude James and then study Jude together.

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE



March 2, Luke 6:17-26, Strength in Vulnerability

Liturgist: Jeff Reist

Ushers: Manders Family

Greeters: Nora Fetter

March 5, Ash Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Ushers: Fred & Sarah Harris

Greeters: Eleanor Burke

March 9, 1st Lent, Luke 6:27-38

Liturgist: Janet Holland

Ushers: Larry & Deb Krohn

Greeters: Jeff & Diane Reist

March 16, 2nd Lent, Luke 7:1-10

Liturgist: Jim Serbousek

Ushers: Ted & Becky Grenis

Greeters: Larry & Deb Krohn

March 23, 3rd Lent, Luke 7:11-17

Liturgist: Theresa Harder

Ushers: Nora Fetter

Greeters: Bob & Carol Andrie

March 30, 4th Lent, Luke 7:36-8:3

All Worship Assignments: Scouts

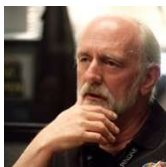
You are invited to a Mardi Gras Worship Celebration, March 2

**At First Presbyterian Church near Ely
(11100 Spanish Road, Ely)**

Pancake Breakfast, 8:00-9:30 a.m.
9:30 Worship with guest musicians
Mike Maas and Carlis Faurot
King Cake after worship

Wear purple, gold, and green.

Mike Maas is from Cedar Rapids, graduated from Washington High School. He describes his music as “jazz, swing, Irish, a little country, my stuff and, of course, lots of Blues.”



Mike introduces Carlis, “What can I say about my friend and great musician Carlis. We have been playing together for over 40 years. We have traveled the

world together. Performed for crowds large and small. Hopefully we will play music together forever.”

WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

Be sure to sign up for worship assignments on the clipboard being circulated in church or through the link located at elypres.org.

SCOUT SUNDAY

Join us on Sunday, March 30 for Scout Sunday. Boy and Girl Scouts will join us for worship and fellowship.

CHURCH BUSINESS

CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Did you know you can make donations to the church online through Give+? Use the QR code or click on the “Give Now” button at elypres.org.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of 31-Jan-2025 (8% of the way through the year).

-The General Fund balance started January at \$1,820 and ended at \$4,523. The increase was due to designated donations that occurred in 2024 that were intended to be applied to the 2025 budget.

Our church has 183 members

Account	Comments (as of 12-Jan-2025)
1105 · General Fund	ending month balance of \$4,522.93
4110 · Regular Offering - Pledged	11.7% of budget (YTD actuals of \$10,204.61 on a budget of \$87,380.00)
4116 · Regular Offering - Non-Pledged	5.5% of budget (YTD actuals of \$4,198.81 on a budget of \$76,509.00)
Total Income	7.9% of budget (YTD actuals of \$16,201.84 on a budget of \$205,836.00)
Total Expense	6.7% of budget (YTD actuals of \$13,867.87 on a budget of \$205,836.00)

SALT SHAKER UPDATE

The monthly Salt Shaker is now digital! The monthly newsletter is now distributed by email and available on the church website. Paper copies are available at church. If you need to continue receiving the Salt Shaker by mail, please contact the church office.



NOTES FROM SESSION MEETING

JANUARY 18, 2024



1. Joint Session and Deacon meeting devoted time to praying for the church and learning about the ins and outs of the church building and ministries.
2. Eagle Scout Presentation: Daniel Schuett spoke to Session about a potential Eagle project at church to build a labyrinth on the church property. Consensus given to continue discussion at a later date.
3. Clerk's Report December attendance at worship (in person/live streaming): December 1:56/4; December 8: 48/7; December 15: Weather cancellation. December 22:51/8; December 24: 131/10; December 29: 50/9. Average Sunday Attendance: 58.
4. December 1 Communion: 56; December 24 Communion:121
5. Membership as of November 30:183. Changes in membership: -1 Janice Horak transferred with letter received on December 29, 2024. Membership as of December 30: 182
6. Treasurer's Report: 2025 Total estimated income / expenses for 2025 are \$205,836.00.
7. Fund's Report:
8. Standing Rules of the Church Funds (Revised January 2025): Motion carried to present revised Standing Rules at Annual Congregation Meeting.
9. Cemetery concern: a tree portion downed by wind.
10. Christian Education: Multigenerational Sunday School February's theme is "God's Love is Like a Box of Chocolates." March theme is, "Tending to God's Garden." Lenten pretzel making in April.
11. Fellowship switching LMNOP (Ladies and Men's Night Out for Presbyterians) to the fourth Tuesday of the month. Potluck following the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26.
12. L.I.F.E Center: Flooring arrived and will be install in February; concrete entry will be sealed; and, acoustic ceiling panels will be installed. Next tasks: rental agreements, reservation system, furnishings, dedication Sunday on April 6, 2025.
13. Mission: May through August, there will be one day per month for the church to help serve meals with Green Square Park meal outreach.
14. Property: The boiler was inspected, and three-year maintenance checkup from Colony. Chlorinator replaced. The water softener is working. The parking lot hard surface is being estimated.
15. Welcome and Outreach: L.I.F.E. Center dedicated on April 6. Potential for open house and inviting "neighbors" to the dedication.
16. Worship: Communion dates approved for 2025 - Feb 2, March 9, April 17, April 20, June 8, July 27, Sept 7, Oct 5, Nov 30, Dec 24, Jan 4, 2026.
17. Pastor's Report: Sabbatical plans include time frame: May 1-mid August. Rev. Melody Oltmann, Ruling Elder (Lay Pastor) Paul Penn, and Rev. Dr. Howard Chapman will be substituting. The grant from the Lily Foundation includes coverage for pastoral leadership.

LIFE CENTER DEDICATION

Join us on Sunday, April 6 at 11:00 a.m. for the LIFE Center dedication. A short celebration is planned for afterward. Look for more info in following Salt Shakers.

FELLOWSHIP

LMNOP (LADIES' AND MEN'S NIGHT OUT for PRESBYTERIANS)

Our March LMNOP will be held Tuesday, March 25 at 6:00 at Copper Boar, 575 Cameron Way, North Liberty. As the time gets closer, you can let Dawn Zacek know if you're able to attend. See you there!

COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

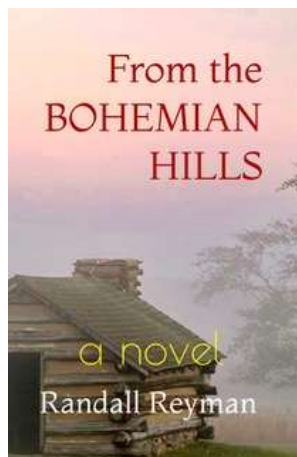
FEBRUARY BOOK EXCHANGE

Thank you to everyone for a short but successful "Book" exchange. \$69 will be designated by Misti for Mission.

FROM THE BOHEMIAN HILLS

Randy Reyman has written a novel with our church as the setting.

Author Randall Reyman's new historical fiction novel *FROM THE BOHEMIAN HILLS* offers a fresh take on early Czech immigration, depicting the journey of two desperate families seeking a better life as they settle near Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



FROM THE BOHEMIAN HILLS will be released for purchase on March 1st and be available from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and other retailers including your local bookstore.

The book launch event for *FROM THE BOHEMIAN HILLS* will offer an opportunity to meet the author and hear him speak about his book. A book signing opportunity will follow. This will all take place on Saturday, May 10th at 1:00 p.m. in the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, 1400 Inspiration Place SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Check elypres.org for the full press release.



Hello from Youth Group!

We pray your winter has been cozy, lovely and tolerable, despite the severe swings in temperatures. We are thankful that Spring is approaching, bringing time in the lent season for reflection, new growth in nature, and celebration of forgiveness through Christ's ultimate sacrifice at EASTER!!

In February, Youth and all congregation members were invited to create homemade **Valentines for Veterans**. All together, we made **40 Valentines to be distributed to military veterans at the VA Hospital!**

Also in February was **Souper Bowl Sunday!** Youth encouraged the congregation to share cans of food and cash donations for those in need of food. Both food and donations went to the Linn Community Food Bank. In Total, our small church supported this effort with **26 cans of food and \$424.79!**

Looking towards March and coming this weekend is the **Jazz Sunday Pancake Breakfast!** Youth will be flipping pancakes for you and serving up some delicious breakfast food. Invite a friend to church and to enjoy some yummy breakfast! Please plan to join us on **March 2nd at 8am!**

Also, March 9th, Youth will have **lunch and go bowling** together after worship and Sunday School! Youth are encouraged to bring a friend to all youth events!

April brings Easter, and youth will be taking orders for **Easter Lilies** to decorate our sanctuary for Easter Sunday! Please see the enclosed order form or any bulletin for more details and to place your order. The cost for each Easter Lily plant is \$20, and each plant can be dedicated "in Honor of" or "in Memory of" someone special. These plants can be taken home after the 9:30 Easter Service, or Deacons will help deliver your lily plant to a church friend in need of cheer! **Orders are due April 6th!**

Coming soon: the revival of the **Helping Hands Projects**. Youth are pursuing community service/mission projects for Spring and Summer; perhaps we can help you, our church friends, with a

chore or project that you need a little help completing? Start thinking about projects for our youth group to assist with - More on this initiative next month!

Thanks to all who donate the redeemable cans and bottles to Youth Group! We will continue to collect these throughout the year. So far in 2025, we have collected and redeemed \$90.75, including some donations from a couple local businesses that now save cans for us! Donations can be brought to church and left in the Youth Room, or call Angie for pick up or delivery.

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

Blessings~

Angie Zahradnik Ehle

Youth Schedule: March 2025

Sunday, March 2nd: **Jazz Sunday Pancake Breakfast**
6:30 a.m. Youth arrive at church to cook pancakes, eggs, sausage, etc.

8:00 a.m. Pancakes are served!

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Youth Group

Sunday, March 9th:

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Youth Group

11:30 a.m. Youth Group Lunch and Bowling

Sunday, March 16th:

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Sunday, March 23rd:

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Sunday, March 30th:

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Youth Group

Sunday, April 6th: EASTER LILY ORDERS DUE!

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar, March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Mardi Gras Sunday Food Pantry Sunday 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 King Cake 10:30 Youth Group SS 10:45 Multi-Generational Sunday School	3 10:00 Chair Yoga	4 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	5 11:30 Chair Yoga 7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship	6 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	7 World Day of Prayer 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	8
9 1st Sunday of Lent DST Begins 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Youth Group SS 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 YG Lunch, Bowling	10 10:00 Chair Yoga	11 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	12 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 5:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	13 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:30 Session Meeting	14 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	15
16 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Youth Group SS 10:45 Multi-Generational Sunday School	17 St. Patrick's Day 10:00 Chair Yoga	18 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	19 St. Joseph's Day 11:30 Chair Yoga 5:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	20 Newsletter Deadline First Day of Spring Mr. Rogers Day 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	21 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	22 5:30 Potluck & Card Cub
23 3rd Sunday of Lent 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Youth Group SS 10:45 Sunday School	24 10:00 Chair Yoga	25 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:00 LMNOP	26 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 5:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	27 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	28 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	29
30 4th Sunday of Lent Scout Sunday Noisy Can Sunday 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Youth Group SS 10:45 Sunday School	31 10:00 Chair Yoga		April 6: LIFE Center ribbon cutting, Easter Lily Orders Due			

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

How do you show love?

One way Presbyterians show love is One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Received during the season of Lent (February 26 – April 12), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Fish banks will be shared with children (of all ages) to collect coins for One Great Hour of Sharing. The coins collected will show our love and support through disaster response and hope to people in need.

Again this year, we will see just **how big our fish can grow**. What will be the weight of the heaviest fish? And for anyone feeling creative, **decorate your fish in a joyful way**.



11100 Spanish Road
Ely, Iowa 52227