



The Salt Shaker

March 2017

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEAR ELY
11100 Spanish Road, Ely, Iowa 52227
www.elypres.org and on Facebook
319-848-6424 office@elypres.org

FROM THE PASTOR

As we begin the journey through Lent together, we stop on the first day—Ash Wednesday—to prepare. The Imposition of Ashes are a reminder. They are sobering: “from dust you came.” They are reassuring: “to dust you shall return.” The circle of life continues.

I think the most important thing to remember on Ash Wednesday is that God makes truly beautiful things out of dust. Dust mixed with water mixed with oxygen mixed with sunlight produces a universe of beauty.

Some folks don't like Ash Wednesday services because they are “depressing” “dark” “too serious” and “tiring.” Certainly, the dark side is represented in the ashes, but, also there is a light. The light of God that throws away any darkness in our lives. Again, God makes true beauty possible and present by God's light and love.

Yes, there is a lump in my throat as I mark each person who comes forward with a small cross of ashes on the forehead, but, the lump is only there because of the power of God's love.

In Christ,

Pastor Julie



WORSHIP SCHEDULE & LEADERSHIP

Wednesday, March 1, 7:00 p.m.: Imposition of Ashes. Matthew 5:38-6:4. Chancel Choir.

Usher: Bonnie Fencil

Greeter: Karen Zacek

Sunday, March 5, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Communion. Study of the Lord's Prayer. Chancel Choir.

Usher: Carl & Barb Zahradnik

Greeter: Janelle Benish

Liturgist: Norm Zahradnik

Sunday, March 12, 9:30 a.m.: Girl Scouts' Sunday. Study of Lord's Prayer, part 2.

Ushers: Dave Mortensen

Greeter: Troy Bressler family

Liturgist: Jim Serbousek

Sunday, March 19, 9:30 a.m.: Study of Lord's Prayer, part 3. Chancel Choir.

Usher: Terry & Diane Smith

Greeter: Bob & Jean Kolek

Liturgist: Matt Zacek

Sunday, March 26, 9:30 a.m.: Study of the Lord's Prayer, part 4. Kids' Choir and Chancel Bells.

Ushers: Kevin & Shirley Bailey

Greeters: Ted & Becky Grenis

Liturgist: Gary Kilberger

Sunday, April 2, 9:30 a.m.: Study of the Lord's Prayer, part 5. Chancel Choir

Ushers: Larry Harder family

Greeters: Brad & Cheri Buresh

Liturgist: Jodie Chadima

MISSION

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Since 1949, One Great Hour of Sharing is a long-standing effort aimed at raising the funds necessary to provide relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of disaster.

What started as an hour-long radio appeal has evolved over the years, varying from 8 to 29 participating denominations, and has become the most participated-in offering in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are underway in more than 100 countries.

Three ways to give:

1. Through the congregational offering during Lent designated on check memo line or placed in special offering envelopes in sanctuary.
2. Text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10
3. presbyterianmission.org/give/oghs

LINN COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

The first Sunday of each month is Food Pantry Sunday when you are invited to bring perishable goods to worship for donation to the Linn Community Food Bank. This is a list of food staples the Food Bank can always use: Canned corn, green beans, peas, fruit, applesauce, pork & beans, soup, tuna, meat, creamy peanut butter, instant mashed potatoes, instant pudding, pasta, pasta sauce, macaroni and cheese, saltine crackers, cereal, corn muffin mix, pancake mix and toilet paper. Thank you for supporting this vital local mission!

PER CAPITA

The Westminster Confession of Faith says, "All believers are, therefore, under obligation to sustain the ordinances of the Christian religion where they are already established, and to contribute by their prayers, gifts, and personal efforts to the extension of the Kingdom of Christ throughout the whole earth" (The Book of Confessions, 6.058).

Per capita is a fundamental way in which the 11,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are connected and participate in the work of the wider church. (From the Presbyterian Church USA website: <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/departments/per-capita>)

Per capita is the per member share for Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly administrative expenses. For 2017, the amount is \$36 per member of the congregation.

FELLOWSHIP

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Women of the church are invited to Ladies' Night Out on Monday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Olive Garden on Collins Road, Cedar Rapids. Contact Jennie Netolicky for details.

MEN'S NIGHT OUT

Men of the church are invited to Men's Night Out on Tuesday, March 28. Location to be determined. Contact Matt Zacek for details.

EDUCATION

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children grades 5 and below are invited to attend Sunday school each week in March at 10:45, starting in the sanctuary. Classes will be studying stories of Jesus including: Nicodemus' visit to Jesus in John 3:1-21; the Roman Centurion faith in Matthew 8:5-13; the rich young man's reaction to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 19:16-30.

MARCH 5 begins Lent and the children will have a special Sunday School of making the traditional PRETZELS in the kitchen.



Also on March 5, parents are invited to a parents' meeting with Christal Bressler, Christian Education chair at 10:45 a.m. that morning focusing on topics of summer programming, Camp Wyoming, Vacation Bible School, and evaluating current Sunday School's effectiveness for children and their families.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

In the 9-part study of Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes by Judy Yates, we will explore a variety of answers through the theological lenses of Mark, Matthew, Luke, John, Paul, Hebrews, the non-canonical gospels, the Abrahamic Faiths, and contemporary cultural interpretations. The author notes that each of us who reads the New Testament is an interpreter of the text, and that how we interpret depends in part on who we are. Class meets at 11:00 a.m. Sundays in church living room.

March 5: No Adult SS; parent meeting.

March 12: Hebrews

March 19: Non-canonical Gospels

March 26: Other Abrahamic Faiths

April 2: Contemporary Cultural Interpretations

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

In March, the Wednesday morning Bible study will continue its new study of the Gospel according to John. The group meets at the manse at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and treats.



FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Hello from the Youth Group!

Recently I read an interesting article from theGospelCoalition.org about the ranking of 100 cities in the nation on how many people read the Bible at least once a week. I was disturbed and disappointed to find out that Cedar Rapids has ranked in the bottom five for the past five years. Sad. Really Sad. In response, I would like to challenge YOUTH and our congregation to bring your favorite Bible to Sunday church service, Sunday School, and Youth Group. When your Bible is close by, we are more likely to look inside; please find your Bible and bring it to church each Sunday in March! (in addition, the Youth will be learning/reviewing the Books of the Bible!)

Also in March, we will be celebrating Girl Scout Sunday – a celebration of Girl Scout's Birthday. Faith's troop is planning a special Children's sermon, and they would like to invite all past and current Girl Scouts to bring or wear their uniforms on Sunday, March 12th. Please contact Angie if you are a past or present Girl Scout and would like to join us that day!

In mid-March, the Youth Group will begin gathering orders for Easter Lilies. There will be an order form printed in the weekly bulletins, on the Youth board downstairs, and in the April newsletter. Cost of an Easter Lily will be \$15, and they may be taken home after church services on

Easter morning or donated to a homebound member.

In February, and with the support of our congregation, Youth collected \$298.87 for the Linn Community Food Bank on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday! Thank you to all who participated in this important local effort to fight hunger!

Thank you to all who joined us for Mardi Gras Sunday Pancake Breakfast on February 26! Also in February, the youth continued two studies: in Sunday School, we dove into God's Mission, and at Youth Group, we discussed and studied what God says about temptation and sin. We continue these studies in March!

As always, if there are any questions or comments about the Youth programs, please feel free to contact me at church.

Blessings, Angie

YOUTH SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 5th: 10:45 a.m. Sunday School;
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, March 12th: Girl Scout Sunday: 10:45
a.m. Sunday School; 6:00 p.m. Second
Sunday Supper; 6:30 Youth Group

Sunday, March 19th: 10:45 a.m. Sunday School;
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, March 26th:
10:45 a.m. Sunday
School; 6:30 p.m.
Youth Group



NOTES FROM THE SESSION, January 19

1. January worship attendance average: 85
2. New member: Brian Wright, January 22, 2017
3. Church membership on January 31: 216
4. Joint meeting of Elders and Deacons at 6:30 p.m.
5. Treasurer's Report: 2016 ended with higher donations and lower expenses in the general budget, resulting in ending balance on December 31, 2016 of \$7,168.72 from \$11,606.52 starting balance at January 1, 2016.
6. Misti Huedepohl resigned the church secretary's position as of January 29th. She has taken a new traveling position with Amana. We thank her for her dedicated and thorough service to the church.
7. A stove and fridge were donated to the church kitchen by Jim and Theresa Grieder. Thank you!
8. Motion approved to seek contract for upgrade electrical work.
9. Youth Group summer mission trip arranged for Puerto Rico, July 22-29.
10. Youth Group Memorial donation of \$700 received from family of Bob Moore (July 26, 1948-December 27, 2016). Bob was the father of Dawn Zacek. Obituary at: <http://www.thomasfh.com/obituaries/Robert-Bob-Moore-2/#!/Obituary>
11. Motion approved to reappoint Tom Vavra as church Funds Treasurer.
12. Full minutes can be reviewed by any church member by asking Clerk of Session Alyson Eadie.

THANK YOU'S

TO ALL...Thank you to everyone who sent get well cards after my knee replacement surgery. They certainly help cheer you up. Also, thank you to the ladies and gentlemen in the kolach bake for the Kolach Kare. I knew we sent kolach kare when we bake but didn't realize how it does cheer you up. The kolaches were wonderful ladies. Again, a big thank you to you all. Dorothy



A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with hosting the Red Cedar Chamber Quartet and providing refreshments after the concert.



Looking ahead to Holy Week

Sunday, April 9, Palm Sunday

Monday – Friday, April 10-14 Holy

Week Early Morning Devotionals

Thursday, March 13 Maundy Thursday: Supper at 6:00 p.m., Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 14 Good Friday ecumenical service at St. John Lutheran Church. Supper at 6:00 p.m., Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 16, Easter Sunrise at 7:30 a.m.; Breakfast 8-9:00 a.m.; Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.



A REPORT ON OUR VALENTINE BAKE & KOLACH KAMP

What a wonderful day of baking at our church on February 11!! 25 people came to help, 17 batches of dough were provided which came out to about 110 dozen, and we hosted 15 Kolach Kampers. Lots of tasting going on, but we had enough for everyone--Kampers, Kolach Kare, and Kava (Coffee) Hour on Sunday!! Not a hitch and we all had fun. Thanks to EVERYONE for the excellent effort!!!

Joanne Chadima



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 21, 2017 will be the church's annual

Chicken Noodle Soup & Kolach Supper, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

2017 LEADERSHIP

PASTOR Rev. Dr. Julie A. Schuett

CHURCH STAFF

Choir Director, Stephanie Buonadonna
Custodian, Betty Buresh
Youth Director, Angie Ehle
Organist, Sharon Furler

ELDERS

Christal Bressler, Christian Education
Alyson Eadie, Clerk of Session
Morgan Eadie, Youth Elder
Theresa Harder, Worship
Rachel Manders, Welcome/Outreach
Casey Holst, Property
Rachelle Mineck, Stewardship
David Mortensen, Personnel
Brian Thompson, Mission
Matt Zacek, Fellowship

DEACONS' FAMILY CARE LIST

Marlene Tiernan: Andrie—DeMean
Bob & Marilyn Zvacek: Ditch—Harder
Carl & Barb Zahradnik: Hebdon—Mineck
Bob & Jean Kolek: Miner—Schuett
Bonnie Fencil: Serbousek—Whittom
Bryan & Elaine Bailey: Wieneke—Zvacek

APPOINTED PERSONNEL

Cemetery Sexton, Gary Kilberger
Children's Choir Director, Dawn Zacek
Church Treasurer, Dan Chadima
Recording Treasurer, Judy Serbousek
Funds Treasurer, Tom Vavra

CORPORATE OFFICERS

President, Tom Vavra
Vice President, Diane Reist
Secretary/Treasurer, David Faltis

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Jodie Chadima, Phil Huedepohl, Rene Tedrow

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Alyson Eadie, Pat Kilberger, Penny Serbousek, Tom Vavra

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 02 Ashlyn Kilberger
March 03 Gerald Shepherd
March 04 Matthew Bailey
March 04 Ruth Wilson
March 06 Moriah Tedrow
March 12 Scott Tedrow
March 16 Rene Tedrow
March 16 Tessa Hebdon
March 19 Autumn Arnold
March 21 Dakota Derkus
March 21 Diane Reist
March 22 Betty Buresh
March 22 Jim Serbousek
March 23 Barbara Zahradnik
March 26 Jonathan Williams-Serbousek
March 27 Jan Furler
March 28 Dick Sherman
March 29 Brenda Lindemann
March 30 Joseph Hebdon
March 30 Larry Krohn
March 31 Austin Hamilton
March 31 Robert Andrie



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 07 Todd & Stephanie Parker
March 16 Kevin & Shirley Bailey
March 17 Jim & Theresa Grieder
March 27 Steve & Rev. Julie Schuett
March 30 Jeff & Diane Reist

Don't see your birthday or anniversary listed? Send an email to office@elypres.org to add your special day.



Winter weather concerns? Check KCRG and church website / facebook pages.

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar, March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 Bible Study @manse 7:00 Ash Wed. Worship	2 9— Noon Office Hours	3 9—Noon Office Hours	4
5 Holy Communion Food Pantry Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:45 Coffee Hour, Sunday School 10:45 Parent Meeting 6:30 Youth Group	6	7 9—Noon Office Hours	8 9:30 Bible Study @manse 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	9 9—Noon Office Hours	10 9—Noon Office Hours	11
12 Daylight Saving Time Begins  9:30 Worship 10:45 Coffee Hour, Sunday School 6:30 Youth Group	13	14 9—Noon Office Hours	15 9:30 Bible Study @Manse 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	16 9—Noon Office Hours 6:30 Session	17 9—Noon Office Hours	18
19 9:30 Worship 10:45 Coffee Hour, Sunday School 6:30 Youth Group	20 Newsletter deadline	21 9—Noon Office Hours	22 9:30 Bible study @manse 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	23 9—Noon Office Hours	24 9—Noon Office Hours	25
26 9:30 Worship 10:45 Coffee Hour, Sunday School 6:30 Youth Group	27 6:30 Ladies Night Out	28 9—Noon Office Hours 6:30 Men's Night Out	29 9:30 Bible Study @manse 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	30 9—Noon Office Hours	Upcoming: April 9, Palm Sunday April 16, Easter	



11100 Spanish Road

Ely, Iowa 52227

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

Red Cedar Chamber Music Quartet, February 24, thanks to a generous memorial donation by Richard and Janice Horak in honor of their son Dan.

Four professional string musicians including Philip Wharton (composer) lead as first violin with "Hussite Fantasy," a work for string quartet commissioned in 2008 by the Vavra family in memory of Frank, Lumir, Arnold, Olga, and Edwin Vavra to celebrate the church's 150th Anniversary. Other musicians included: Miera Kim, Carey Bostian, & Karin Addis.

