



The Salt Shaker

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEAR ELY
 11100 Spanish Road, Ely, Iowa 52227
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FROM THE PASTOR

In 2023, the Session approved an application for a grant from the Lilly Foundation Clergy Renewal Program. In August 2024 I was thrilled to announce that the application was accepted.

After twenty-seven years of ordained pastoral ministry, I am taking a sabbatical. I will miss you dearly, but will be working on some faith-improvement and self-improvement projects as well as attending to some family business and priorities long neglected.

I will be away from the church May 1 – August 15 and back in the pulpit on August 17.

You will be in capable pastoral hands—far better than mine.

1. Rev. Dr. Howard Chapman is an honorably retired pastor with over 35 years of experience in church work. He will be filling the pulpit in early May and early August. Howard has been part of our church family for many years.
2. Rev. Brian Middleswarth has been part of the community for years at St. John Lutheran. He will be assisting with pastoral needs and concerns, especially in the case of emergency and funeral times.
3. Rev. Meldoy Oltmann is also honorably retired and has been part of our region in Iowa for decades. She will be leading worship, Bible studies on Wednesdays, the scheduled Session meeting on June 1, as well as other church business and committee work.

4. Ruling Elder Paul Penn has served several churches in the Sioux Falls area after his retirement from the Air Force. He is a trained and thoughtful lay pastor living in Iowa City. His home church is St Andrew Presbyterian.

The purpose of this sabbatical is for the congregation to renew its determination to share the good news of Jesus Christ. When I return, it will be as Pastor Julie 2.0. It will be a second chapter of our work and ministry together. I expect that you will change and grow through the power of the Holy Spirit, I expect that of myself as well.

God's blessings to you.

In Christ,
 Pastor Julie

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.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

MULTI-GENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us after worship on Sunday, May 18 for a Multigenerational Sunday School Ice cream Social!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Bible Study will be meeting periodically during Pastor Julie's sabbatical. Bible Study will be held at 9:30 a.m. on May 21 and 28 with Rev. Melody Oltmann.

SABBATICAL COVERAGE

Sabbatical 2025	Notes
May 4	Rev. Dr. Howard Chapman, Monica Bailey presentation after worship, 10:45 No Wednesday Bible study May 4-17: On call for visitation/funerals: Rev. Brian Middleswarth
May 11, Mothers' Day	Rev. Dr. Howard Chapman. Randy Rehman, book reading after worship, 10:45 No Wednesday Bible study May 16: wedding rehearsal and meal May 17: wedding: Gabbie and Marquis (Julie officiant)
May 18	Rev. Melody Oltmann May 21: Bible study: Melody Office/visit: May 18-June 7: Pastor Melody
May 25, Memorial Day weekend	Rev. Melody Oltmann May 28: Bible study: Pastor Melody

HOLY WEEK THANK YOU'S

Many thank yous to those who made Holy Week so meaningful:

- Palm Sunday – to the Kevin Bailey family for providing palms to wave for the Palm Sunday celebration
- Maundy Thursday – to all who baked and shared unleavened bread for our meal and Communion – to the Session members for serving the meal and Communion for the Last Supper remembrance – for special music provided by Sharon and the choir
- Easter Sunrise – to those who celebrated the Risen Christ early in the day - to the bell choir for providing music - the

breakfast casseroles provided between services

- Easter Service with Communion – those who celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus Christ – to Sharon and the chancel choir for joyful music
- To Pastor Julie for her inspiring messages throughout Lent and Holy Week

CPR/AED THANK YOU'S

Thank you to everyone who attended the CPR/AED class: Jodie Chadima, Larry Harder, Theresa Harder, Fred Harris, Sarah Harris, Deb Krohn, Larry Krohn, Diane Reist, Julie Schuett.

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 4, Rev. Dr. Howard Chapman

Liturgist: Sarah Harris

Ushers: Markam & Karasel Harris

Greeters: Janelle Benish

May 11, Mother's Day, Rev. Dr. Howard Chapman

Liturgist: Barb Horak

Ushers: Ted & Becky Grenis

Greeters: Darla & Alivia Meyer

May 18, Rev. Melody Oltmann

Liturgist: Judy Serbousek

Ushers: Karen Zacek

Greeters: Jodie & Dan Chadima

May 25, Memorial Day Weekend, Rev. Melody Oltmann

Liturgist: Craig Andrie

Ushers: Bob & Jean Kolek

Greeters: Janet Holland



Bakers prepare kolaches for the building dedication.

2025 EASTER LILIES



The Youth Group would like to thank you for honoring and remembering loved ones through Easter lilies. The lily is a beautiful trumpet-like symbol of purity, hope, and life.

George & Joanne Chadima in Memory of Lillian & Milton Chadima

George & Joanne Chadima in Memory of Joe & Esther Cervený

Joan M Cross in Memory of James Cross

Chris and Dave Faltis in Memory of Bill & Helen Faltis and Warren & Virginia Cutbirth

Sue Feyerabend in Honor of Our Lord

Sue Feyerabend in Memory of Sandy Gail, Sherry Winters, and Shelly Huffer

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

Ted & Becky Grenis in Memory of Emily Grenis

Ted & Becky Grenis in Memory of Marvin & Esther Larimer

Ted & Becky Grenis in Memory of Viola Zahradník

Ted & Becky Grenis in Memory of William Rockafellow

Larry & Theresa Harder in Memory of Karren Harder

Larry & Theresa Harder in Memory of Wally & Janice Hootman

Julie Kilberger in Memory of Deanna Doehrmann

Sharon Novak in Memory of Donald Novak

Sharon Novak in Memory of Sierra Mitchell

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

Jeff, Diane, Lauren, Hailee Reist in Memory of Charles & Emily Reist and Steve Reist

Jeff, Diane, Lauren, Hailee Reist in Memory of Richard, Eutona, Scott, Dale and Dennis Buresh

The Schuetts in Memory of Gene Anderson

Shirley & Kevin Bailey & Family, Jim & Judy Serbousek & Family, Bill & Penny Serbousek & Family in Memory of Wesley & Lillian Serbousek

Bill & Penny Serbousek & family in Memory of Curly & Lillian Ware

Joe and Becky Simon in Memory of Justus and Mabel Simon

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

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

Norm & Terry Zahradník in Memory of Loved Ones Who Have Passed

Norm & Terry Zahradník in Honor of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Karen Zacek in Memory of Chas & Adeline Koss, Chuck Koss, Wayne Koss, and Tony Zacek

Bob Zvacek and Family in Memory of Marilyn Zvacek

SALT SHAKER UPDATE

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

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 31-Mar-2025 (25% of the way through the year)

After the first quarter, the expenses have exceeded the income. The General Fund Account is about \$3,000 short of being balanced. The pledged offering is on track at 29% of the budget. Session has not yet transferred any budgeted income from any of the endowment funds to the General Fund Account. The electrical utility for the new LIFE Center continues to be a concern.

Account Comments

1105 · General Fund ending month balance of negative \$2,705.80.

4110 · Regular Offering - Pledged 28.6% of budget (YTD actuals of \$25,021.03 on a budget of \$87,380.00)

4116 · Regular Offering - Non-Pledged 17.2% of budget (YTD actuals of \$13,148.17 on a budget of \$76,509.00)

Total Income 20.8% of budget (YTD actuals of \$42,739.31 on a budget of \$205,836.00)

Total Expense 23% of budget (YTD actuals of \$47,265.15 on a budget of \$205,836.00)

SPRING CLEANUP

Thank you for a successful and productive spring clean up!



Workers remove stumps on the church grounds.

FELLOWSHIP

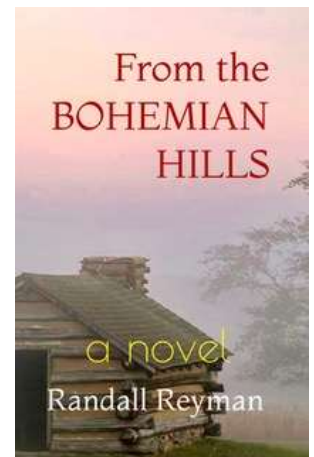
LMNOP (LADIES' AND MEN'S NIGHT OUT for PRESBYTERIANS)

Our May LMNOP will be held Tuesday, May 27 at 6:00 at Barrel House, 295 Tower Terrace Rd. in Cedar Rapids. As the time gets closer, you can let Dawn Zacek know if you're able to attend. See you there!

COMMUNITY & OUTREACH 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.

Randy will be doing a reading at First Presbyterian Church following worship on Sunday, May 11.

Check elypres.org for the full press release.

SCHOLARSHIP FORMS

Scholarship forms are available for members of our congregation seeking to continue their education. There are three Scholarship Funds. Each fund has separate guidelines and application forms. All applications are due June 1st, whether for summer 2025 session, fall semester 2025 or spring semester 2026. Scholarship information and forms are available at church through any Scholarship Committee member (Phil Huedepohl, Pat Kilberger, Jeff Reist or Penny Serbousek) or you can email pat.kilberger@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S MISSION PROJECT

Thank you to all who have donated jewelry for the Women's Mission Project. The final day to donate items is Sunday, May 18. Thank you!



Women's Mission Project

We are collecting costume jewelry
for Iowa women's organizations
*Dress for Success & *WayPoint

Do you have a jewelry box filled with
"dusty" costume jewelry?



Give your jewelry new life!
Drop off your jewelry in the basket found in
the church basement.

Items collected will be given to Dress for Success
dedicated to supporting women's financial independence
and WayPoint to support women and families

Please place your individual jewelry item(s)
in sandwich bags to avoid tangles



Hello from Youth Group!

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen Indeed!

First, **Thank you to ALL** who ordered an Easter Lily to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Morning! The flowers were so lovely that morning, and the dedication to loved ones was so meaningful. Thank you for supporting the Youth Group in this way!!

In April, Youth participated in kolache baking for the LIFE Center Dedication and clean up day projects around the church. We celebrated the dedication of the new building and learned about Holy Week with an Easter scavenger hunt. We baked some delish lenten pretzels, and participated in the Holy Humor Sunday - telling jokes to celebrate Jesus' most powerful maneuver vs. evil.

In May, we will participate with the congregation in a local Mission Project, helping at Green Square Meals on May 1st. We will also join the Adult Sunday School for informational talks by Monica B and author Randall Reyman. Later in the month, we will participate in the Ice Cream Social to celebrate the "ALMOST End of the School Year / Start of Summer!" Hooray!

Coming in Summer: 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? See the Youth bulletin Board to register a request, and be thinking about projects that our youth group could assist you in completing.

Thanks to all who donate the redeemable cans and bottles to Youth Group! We will continue to collect these throughout the year. 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: May 2025

Thursday, May 1st:

3:50 - 5:30 p.m. Green Square Meals-LOCAL MISSION PROJECT

Sunday, May 4th: Star Wars Day

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School with Adults - Monica B trip to Czech Republic

Sunday May 11th: MOTHER'S DAY

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School with Adults - Author Randall Reyman book review

Sunday, May 18th: Ice Cream Social

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Multi-Generational Sunday School - Ice Cream Social

Sunday, May 25th: Memorial Day Weekend

9:30 a.m. Worship

No Sunday School or Youth Group

Sunday, June 1st:

9:30 a.m. Worship

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



Church members make pretzels during Sunday School.

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar, May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 National Day of Prayer 3:50 Green Square Meals Mission Project	2	3
4 Food Pantry Sunday Rev. Howard Chapman 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Monica Baily – Czech trip presentation 10:45 Sunday School	5 Cinco de Mayo 10:00 Chair Yoga	6 Holocaust Remembrance Day	7 11:30 Chair Yoga 7:00 Chancel Choir TBD	8	9	10 5:30 Potluck & Card Club
11 Mother's Day Rev. Howard Chapman 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:45 Reading by Randy Reyman 10:45 Sunday School	12 10:00 Chair Yoga	13	14 11:30 Chair Yoga 7:00 Chancel Choir	15	16 7:00 Kolach Bake	17
18 Music Recognition Rev. Melody Oltmann 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Multi-generational Ice Cream Social	19 10:00 Chair Yoga	20	21 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Office Hours 11:30 Chair Yoga 7:00 Chancel Choir	22	23	24
25 Rev. Melody Oltmann 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:45 Sunday School	26 Memorial Day 11:00 Memorial Day Service at Rogers Grove	27 6:00 LMNOP at Barrel House	28 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Office Hours 11:30 Chair Yoga	29	30	31

Mark your calendars: Sunday, June 1, Session Meeting with Rev. Oltman following worship



11100 Spanish Road
 Ely, Iowa 52227

May Flowers

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

- CHERRY BLOSSOM
- BUTTERCUP
- MARGOLD
- TULIP
- LILY
- BOUGAINVILLEA
- CARNATION
- FLOWERS
- OCHID
- ROSE
- RED HATTRS
- SWEET PEA
- VIOLET
- DAISY
- MAY