

November 24, 2020 Daily Church Email

Letter sent out over the weekend to the newsletter mailing list:

November 21, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church near Ely,

It was with a heavy heart and a solemn mind that the church Session met last night, November 19, to discuss the open status of the church building at this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic. After a long discussion and a split vote, the Session decided to close the building to in-person, in-the-sanctuary worship beginning November 29.

Starting November 29, worship will continue online through Facebook live streaming and Zoom meeting format as well as F.M. broadcast outside the church building through the end of the year. This will include Christmas Eve with plans to have an outside candle-lighting service on Christmas Eve (weather permitting) in addition to a live stream service/ F.M. broadcast in the parking lot.

To ensure easier access for view worship services, each recorded service will be uploaded to the church website (elypres.org) by Sunday afternoon.

Here are some 2020 ways to embrace the spirit of Advent and Christmas:

1. Votive candle holders and materials are available in kits on the lower level at church so your household can light the Advent candles at home each Sunday. If you have time to pick up a kit, please do so this week. If you would like one dropped off at your home, let the church office or Joanne Chadima know. Information sheets can be sent directly to you if you already have an Advent candle set. The first Sunday of Advent is November 29.
2. Advent devotional booklets are also available for kids, teens, and adults. They are located on the same table on the lower level at church. "The Way in a Manger" for our youngest - a poster of Bethlehem, stickers, and booklet highlighting "Away in a Manger". "Make Way for Advent" for our older students. And "Prepare, Ye!" for adults giving background to our beloved Advent and Christmas hymns. If you would like one mailed, just call Joanne Chadima – 846-2572.
3. A recorded Christmas program is being put together virtually. If you or your student would like to participate, please let Dawn Zacek know. You do not have to live in the church neighborhood. It will be all virtual and recorded in early December.

Finally, I want to thank the Session and the church staff for all the extra creative work this year. No one will forget 2020. May God be blessed through our efforts and devotion.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Julie A. Schuett

First Presbyterian Church near Ely

11100 Spanish Road
Ely, Iowa 52227
(319) 848-4624

office@elypres.org

