



The Salt Shaker

September 2020

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

from August 16, 2020 Sermon

Matthew 7:24-27

Jesus said, "Anyone who listens to my teaching and obeys me is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse, because it is built on rock. But anyone who hears my teachings and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and winds beat against that house, it will fall with a mighty crash."

...in the past week we have experienced a Derecho with uprooted trees, tipped over RV's, holes in roofs, garage doors blown in, flattened fields, battered barns, tired spirits, destroyed homes.

Usually, we look to nature to see the glory of God and the goodness of creation, but this week we mourn the loss of beloved trees and livelihoods lying flat in the field, of opportunities lost, and hope blown asunder.

We are saddened because we are still amid a pandemic and all we want to do is to hug one another for comfort and support.

We are shocked by our dependency on electricity and gasoline, on wi-fi and air conditioning.

We are overwhelmed by tearing down the remains of decades old bins, outbuildings, windbreaks, and watering livestock, and remembering planting trees with grandparent or child and now seeing them in ruin.

And, we wonder: If God is punishing us? And, how much more can we take?

We are being tested. Tested by our circumstances, by the rough elements of life—wind, rain, destruction. God, as our teacher, creator, source, and guide, as a parent --is cheering us on. Willing us to succeed. Our source of stability and eternity.

Today, we look hard at our lives and ask ourselves, have we built our life upon the metaphorical rock, or has it been built on the sand?

What Jesus is talking about in his comparison here—building on sand or on rock was more than figurative. In Palestine, summer shows calm sandy places sheltered by nearby hills. But in the winter—the rainy season—they can become mad rushes of water and the rain from the hills fills the dry beds and becomes a danger. It is when the rains come that it is dangerous when the house is built on the wrong place, and the house is not built correctly with strong foundations anchored deep enough. Tragedy. As Tom Silva from "This Old House" has said, "Without a good foundation, you're sunk."

We not only have to build our lives in a good, healthy, carefully chosen location, we also, have to build our lives with deeply and spiritually grounded foundations.

Poured, block, crawl, slab, steel-reinforced walls and footings—there are all types of foundations, those are choices, and Jesus reminds us to be sure to build our lives on him as the cornerstone, the chief foundation stone.. As Paul says in Ephesians 2:20: "Together we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone in Christ Jesus himself."

Some might say that we had a "Come to Jesus" moment this week.

And in that moment, what did you discover?
What is important to you? And where are your
footings? What is the steel that reinforces you?

Know that as clear as the sky is when the
electricity is off, we can see beyond our
momentary affliction to a greater and bigger
universe.

Know that memory and experience of God's
mercy can buoy you on the day of rough times.

Know that the presence of neighbor, friend,
family member shows the grace of God when we
need it the most.

Know that Spirit of God who hovered over the
chaotic waters of creation abides with you.

Know that you are loved and live in the
protection, direction, and eternal rescue of our
Lord Jesus the Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Julie

THANK YOUS

Many trees, limbs and debris were cleaned up at
the cemetery after the storm. Please thank:

Steve & Daniel Schuett, George Chadima ("the
claw"), Dan, Jack, & Jake Manders and cousin -
Jason, Judy Serbousek, Rene & Noah Tedrow,
Joanne Chadima, Donna Reihman, Hailey &
Hannah Zacek, and Karen Zacek for providing a
delicious lunch.

Also, Dan Manders tackled researching and
repairing the 4 tomb stones that were damaged.

What a bunch of great workers!

So many have been putting in extra hours to help
at the church and manse, and then cleaning up
their own homes, and helping friends and
neighbors. It is a wonder to watch love and
caring in action.

THANK YOU

Dear First Presbyterian Church family,

I want to thank you for writing so many cards and
sending pictures. I feel all of the prayers of healing
helping me.

Diane and I are so proud of Julie as your pastor, and
wish you well.

It is such a beautiful country church.

Thank you.

Gene Anderson



WORSHIP & PROGRAM

WORSHIP UPDATE

As our attention turns to fall, we want to get back
into the sanctuary for worship and start up our
beloved ministries again.

We will proceed under the guidance of the State
of Iowa, CDC, and Presbyterian Church (USA)
guidelines and procedures.

So, for the near future, we will keep worshipping
outdoors and reduce building usage to
necessities.

In the further future, we will return to worship
indoors with continued online live streaming.
Guidelines will be updated as needed. Likely
guidelines will include social distancing, mask
wearing, additional cleaning practices, self
monitoring health checks, etc.

Worship will also more likely resemble outdoor
worship than our usual worship order with
reduction of singing, passing plates, ushers, etc.

We will continue to work for the glory of God and
the spiritual health of all.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship by Facebook live streaming, f.m. radio frequency in church parking, in person on lawn chairs in church grove:

September 6: Labor Day weekend: Matthew 18:15-20: The Keys

September 13: Holy Communion

September 20: Matthew 20:1-16: God will be God

September 27: Matthew 21:23-32: Looking for a Win/Win

Zoom at home fellowship: Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/681162913?pwd=UXNYZFdxXVVMYtVTjBqeG9DUFUrQT09>

Meeting ID: 681 162 913 Passcode: 309550

Wednesday Bible Study will continue by Facebook live streaming in September. Coffee Chat will be by zoom around 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/250060150?pwd=MHVKMU4rRWhoOVJlbHdZcEIGVHpJUT09>

Meeting ID: 250 060 150 Passcode: 386508

EXPANDED HANDBELL PROGRAM

Group singing is currently discouraged in worship as it appears to provide an ideal setting for the spread of Covid-19. Precautions can be taken to increase the safety, but they unfortunately dramatically reduce the ability to rehearse and perform as a group. In light of this, we've decided to suspend the choir program until it safe to sing again and expand the Handbell program. We will be forming three groups: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. This means that regardless of experience, anyone is welcome to join. So if you have ever had any interest in participating in handbells, now is your time! We will be taking many safety precautions. Masks will be required, we will social distance, and wipe down all bells, cases and tables before and after each rehearsal. We'll begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 9 as follows: beginner at 6:00, intermediate at 7:00, and advanced at 8:00. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at office@elypres.org or 319-389-6765.

SPECIAL MUSIC

We thank all those who have enhanced our services with special music throughout the summer. Special music this fall will look a bit different as group singing is still highly discouraged. We will continue to ask for volunteers to provide special music this fall. Please let Joanne, Sharon or Stephanie know if you would like to provide music during a service this fall.

CHURCH BUSINESS

CHURCH CUSTODIAN OPENING

Dawn Zacek has filled the open position. We are so grateful for her willingness to serve!

Rachelle Mineck
Personnel Committee

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.



Clean up volunteers take a break to enjoy lunch

SESSION NOTES

JULY 16, 2020 Zoom

SESSION MEETING



Session met via video conferencing. Worship has begun outside with FM broadcasting and on lawn chairs. Attendance: July 5: 65 in person and 27 log in on Facebook live streaming. July 12: 45 in person and 19 log on Facebook live streaming. Membership remains at 196.

Treasurer's Report – financial info through June 30, 2020. (6 months into the year/50% of the way through).

General Fund	ending month balance of \$25,377.65
Per Capita	43.1% of budget (YTD actual \$1,097.00 on budget of \$2,546.00)
Reg offering-pledged	43.9% of budget (YTD actual \$45,683.40 on budget of \$104,164.00)
Reg offering-Non-pledged	22.5% of budget (YTD actual \$10,556.87 on budget of \$46,851.00)

Dan also included an accounting of how the PPP loan money (\$21,170.00) was used. (the numbers were based on 2019 information). Next step is to submit loan forgiveness paperwork.

Virtual VBS is in the month of July with two sessions-- morning and night. First Wednesday 8 students, second Wednesday: 15.

One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be dedicated July 26. A school supply drive will be in late July-early August.

Motion approved to send \$250.00 to the Solon Food Pantry.

The first Sunday of July saw good donations for the food pantry.

Job description for the custodial position was discussed. Search open through early August.

Property – Bugs have been sprayed – in and out. Pat has been keeping up on the cleaning.

Safety and Security – Research and creation of a task force to prioritize for this year on what needs to be done and the resources needed.

Welcoming and Evangelism – Getting the word out to the community about “Drive-In” worship on Sunday mornings.

Worship – We’ve had a nice variety of music this summer. Communion scheduled for July 26. We will continue worship service as we have been doing until further notice.

Youth Report – Sunday virtual video and outside meeting Sunday and Wednesday, seems to be going well.

COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

“SOUP SUPPER” DRIVE-IN PICK-UP – 2020: October 2nd and 3rd

The dates are set, but watch for changes to a few minor details. I needed to get information in the Salt Shaker to start preparing, so keep checking the website and e-mails about our “Soup Supper” event.

Here is the plan: We will only sell quarts of frozen soup and freshly baked kolaches that have been preordered by September 27. That will help us organize orders for an efficient distribution. Our fantastic secretary, Stephanie, will be in charge of the advertising and ordering details. She is a computer whiz, so if you have sites to suggest for posting or advertising ideas – please contact her at:

office@firstpres.org.

All kolaches will be made at the church on **October 2, 6 a.m. to noon** and **October 3, 6 a.m. to noon**. We are working on a way to bake safely distanced at the church. All soup will be made ahead of time and frozen for sale.

Drive-in pick-up will be **Friday, October 2 from 3-6 p.m.** and **Saturday, October 3 from 3-6 p.m.** The pre-orders will be taken at the Ely Fall Festival on September 26, so final deadline on September 27. Kolaches \$12 per dozen and Soup \$8 per quart. Payment can be made with cash, check, or credit card.

My big mistake for the year was moving the date to October 2 & 3. It was tentatively scheduled for October 10 at the Annual Meeting. This was due to the Universities’ football scheduling. WELL, there is no football season this year!!! So, my goof works out for October 2 & 3 for most – my apologies to those who have conflicts because of my rescheduling.

What a year – it seems that everything has changed. We will not have any guests served in our church, we will not have any live music, we will not need members to make kolaches or soup at home, we will not need dish washers or table servers, or all the extra food we generously provide, and we will not have a Country Store.

What can you do? Please advertise our preorder – pick-up event!!!! Post cards available at the church

for you to send or pass out. **Volunteer** to help our soup makers (date/place TBD). **Volunteer** to come to the church to bake (will need extra packaging people) – we will follow Covid rules. Please **donate** fillings – only baking: cherry, apricot, poppy seed, a few prune, strawberry and peach (leave fillings on table in basement). Please **volunteer** to take orders out to the cars, a new job and **really need** quite a few for each night.

We can do this! **Contact Joanne Chadima** for suggestions/comments and **to volunteer**.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays continue in the study of Matthew. Join in by Facebook live streaming at 9:30 a.m. or check it out later.

Wednesday morning Coffee Chat by Zoom at 10:00 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/250060150?pwd=MHVKMU4rRWWhOoVJlbHdZcEIGVHpJUT09>

Meeting ID: 250 060 150 Password: 386508

Dial by phone: (312)626-6799

Meeting ID: 250 060 150 Password: 386508

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Outdoor/Zoom Sunday School starts September 13 after worship:

Wear your yoga pants/easy to move in clothes and bring your yoga mat/beach towel to church starting Sept. 13. Jeff Reist and Leslie Harder will be leading us in Story and Stretch outside on church grounds (weather permitting). You may attend in person or virtually via Zoom. Each lesson will have a Bible Gospel story, game, mindfulness activity, retelling the story with yoga poses, and discussion. Also, we will continue music for younger children (even without singing) with bells, boomwackers, and percussion. All items will be sanitized before and after. We will be careful about social distancing, mask wearing, and sanitizing procedures. If you have questions, please contact the church. We hope to see you there!

PEN PAL PROGRAM

Connecting student to student, or student to adult. Would you like a Pen Pal for the fall semester? Each participant will begin with a writing kit. Let Sue Feyerabend or Pastor Julie know if you would like to participate.



Hello from Youth Group!

Wow! What happened to

August? We are thankful that our family and church friends are recovering from the derecho storm! A number of youth were involved in cleaning up the church grounds / cemetery / manse and other volunteer activities in support of the recovery efforts. Thank you to all the adults who worked alongside youth and guided their efforts.

In August, youth group met on Zoom when power was available, so we missed some mid-month. In early August, we gathered at Lake McBride to try out some paddle boats and enjoy a socially-distanced picnic lunch. And just last week, we enjoyed the offerings of Dan and Debbie's in Ely. Thank you to parents and others who support these activities and bring your students to participate.

We continue to offer the opportunity for any church member or friend of Youth Group who would like to **"donate" refundable beverage cans or bottles** to text or call Angie at 319-899-1223 for pickup - we will pick up, count, and take your discards to the can shed to help fund upcoming Youth events. Or if you prefer to bring them to church on Sunday, Just let me know!

In September, we will continue Zoom Youth Group meetings on Sunday nights at 6pm, with a few exceptions. Please join us to pray for good health, safety, enthusiasm, and patience for all Learners and Teachers as they return to school in late August and September - school will be a

whole new world of virtual and hybrid learning for these students and adults.

Please let me know if there are any questions about youth programming (phone 319-899-1223 or email: angelaehle3@gmail.com), and thank you for your continued support!

Blessings,
Angie



Youth members enjoy and afternoon paddle boating

YOUTH SCHEDULE Tentative, based on Social Distancing



requirements – September 202

Wednesday, September 2nd:

6pm: Youth Group via Zoom

Sunday, September 6th:

6pm: Youth Group via Zoom

Sunday September 13th:

10:30am: outside SS - weather permitting

6pm: Youth Group via Zoom

Sunday, September 20th:

10:30am: outside SS - weather permitting

6pm: Youth Group circle the wagons at church

Sunday, September 27th:

10:30am: outside SS - weather permitting

6pm: Youth Group

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar, September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	3	4	5
6 Food Pantry 9:20 Drive In Worship 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	7 HAPPY LABOR DAY!	8	9 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Beginner HB 7:00 Intermediate HB 8:00 Advanced HB	10 6:30 Session Meeting	11	12
13 9:20 Drive In Worship 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 10:30 SS Outside/ Livestream 6:00 Youth Group Zoom	14	15	16 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Beginner HB 7:00 Intermediate HB 8:00 Advanced HB	17	18	19
20 9:20 Drive In Worship 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 10:30 SS Outside/ Livestream 6:00 Youth Group	21 International Day of Prayer Newsletter Deadline	22 	23 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Beginner HB 7:00 Intermediate HB 8:00 Advanced HB	24	25	26 Ely Fall Fest
27 9:20 Drive In Worship 9:30 Worship Livestream 10:00 Fellowship Zoom 10:30 SS Outside/ Livestream 6:00 Youth Group Deadline for Soup & Kolach Orders	28	29	30 9:30 Bible Study LS 10:00 Coffee Chat Zoom 6:00 Beginner HB 7:00 Intermediate HB 8:00 Advanced HB	 <p>Friday, October 2 – 6 a.m.-noon - bake kolaches for “Soup Supper” – public pick up 3-6 p.m.</p> <p>Saturday, October 3 – 6 a.m.-noon – bake kolaches for “Soup Supper” – public pick up 3-6 p.m.</p>		



11100 Spanish Road
Ely, Iowa 52227

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Permit #1**

No more...

When it seems like we can handle no more, and more comes our way – to whom can we turn? The One who tells the wind and the rains to stop, our Lord Jesus.

When it seems that the hope is flattened like the corn in the fields and the livestock is thirsty, to whom can we turn? The One who is the Sower, who is the Shepherd.

When it seems that we are alone and abandoned, cut off from everything—to whom can we turn? The One who is Friend and Savior, who walks the path of life with us.

--Pastor Julie

