



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

BUILDING EXPANSION UPDATE

After missing the fundraising target for signing with Point Builders Construction on May 1, 2023, the Session regrouped and downsized the scope of the project in order to fulfil the mission purpose of recreational ministries. The all-in budget has been scaled back to \$900,000 (from an ever-inflating proposed \$1,400,000.) The second major change is the reduction of square footage from 5,888 to 4,992. The third major change is to separate the facility from the current church building. Placement will be between the driveway and the solar panels. Darin Foreman with Foreman Construction presented to Session in July a plan which includes cost of \$180 per square foot with a total square feet footprint of 4992 9 (3840 feet 80x48 for multipurpose space with 22 ft ceiling and 1152 feet 24x48 for entry area with 12 ft ceiling.) In that entry area these will be the approximate dimensions: 3 single-person bathrooms, 8x6, 8x6, 8x10 (handicap accessible). Storage 12x18. Gathering/meeting area 12x18. Kitchenette 8x10. Utility room 8x10.

Contract includes architectural, structural, and civil services required to obtain a building permit, working with STS Civil (current Civil Engineering Company)

- Sealed concrete in event room
- Earthwork
- Paving and sidewalks
- Utilities and electrical service relocation
- Roofing to be provided by T&K Roofing
- Acoustical ceiling provided by Harger's

Acoustics

Funding in hand: \$598,824.98 (\$552,000 in investments and \$46,824.98 in bank account)
Other: Matching \$100,000 in Vavra estate gift, usage approved by Session April 27, 2023.

Designated \$16,400 Modracek estate gift for designated handicap parking.

\$80,000 in current pledges. Remaining: \$92,000

Plan to \$92,000

- Final pledge and donation raising by mid-year 2024.
- Application for grant through Presbytery (up to \$20,000)
- Reapplication for Linn County Bioretention project (granted in 2019 for \$9,000, rescinded in 2023)

So, what's next?

- Planning groundbreaking in early 2024
- Beginning preliminary groundwork
- Finishing construction fundraising
- Applying for last round of grants
- For church opening—late summer 2024
- For community opening—fall 2024

The holding place name of the new facility is the L.I.F.E. Center, an acronym of Living in Faith Everyday Center at First Presbyterian Church near Ely, IA.

Finally, from much prayer, discussion, and effort, we are at this watershed moment to progress. We give thanks to those who have come before launching us forward. We give thanks to those around us who have donated and worked so hard. We give thanks for those in the days ahead who will step up with time, skills, and other gifts as we work toward opening the doors to a new chapter in the L.I.F.E. of our church.



CHURCH BUSINESS

SESSION NOTES FROM JUNE 15, 2023

1. Attendance in May 2023 (in person/live streaming): May 7: 53/7 May 14: 48/6 May 21: 51/5 May 28: 59/3, 56 served communion.
2. Church membership as of May 31: 177
3. Scholarship Committee Recommendations were presented and approved.
4. Funds Treasurer Phil Huedepohl presented mid-year reports with consideration of upcoming CD maturities to be decided in July. Central State Bank will no longer be offering interest earning accounts, so that account will transfer into a Platinum Money Market account. Also, the Central State Bank will not be mailing paper statements.
5. Elevator Report received with balance of \$10,888.91. Final payments of bills tbd.

ELEVATOR ATTENDANT TRAINING

Beginning Sunday, September 10, we will have volunteers fill the role of Elevator Attendant. There is currently a sign-up sheet being circulated during worship to sign up to serve as attendant for the upcoming worship services. You can also email office@elypres.org to sign up for an open spot.

In preparation, Carl Zahradnik will be leading a training session on Sunday, September 3 following worship. Please attend if you plan to serve as an Elevator Attendant.



The Riverbottom Ramblers perform during worship August 20th.

NEW DONATION PROCESS

There is a new method to make a financial gift to First Presbyterian Church near Ely. This method for donation may offer tax advantages; everyone's tax situation is unique please consult with your tax advisor.

Stocks may be donated from a non-retirement account to the Church and 100% of the donation goes to the church (e.g. no fees are withheld). It allows a full donation amount to be transferred into the Church's bank account via Vanguard. This method requires donors to 1) choose the General Fund or 2) Building Expansion Fund, or 3) both funds, including the amount of the gift.

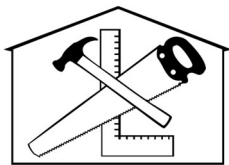
Here is the process for making a stock donation.

- 1) The donor contacts Judy Serbousek via email (mrsjserbsr@yahoo.com) or phone (319-310-6504) regarding the stock donation including the donor's choice of which fund will receive the gift (General Fund, Building Expansion Fund, or both funds, including the amount of the gift.
- 2) Judy provides the donor with the Church's Vanguard account name, account number and Vanguard's DTC number.
- 3) The donor provides to their stock broker the Church's Vanguard account name, account number and Vanguard's DTC number to transfer the donation. The donor should notify Judy when the transfer has been completed.
- 4) Judy will confirm the amount received with the donor and update their Church donation statement.

Please note: This process doesn't require the donor to have a Vanguard account to make a donation. It will allow donors the ability to donate directly from other Broker's accounts (e.g., Fidelity, Charles Schwab, etc.).

PROPERTY UPDATE

As in the past, the elevator has been an ongoing issue, and seems to still have one



outstanding issue that AEL is still working on. Although the elevator/lift works fine, a gasket is still on order to better seal the outside door from the winter weather. AEL is working on this as it needs to fit just right. We are not the only customers that have complained about this issue. As usual, do not pull on any of the doors as they open and close automatically; and also turn the key to ON when entering the elevator and make sure you turn the key to OFF when exiting the elevator.

The church's 23-year-old air conditioner quit working a month or so back and has been replaced. It is working fine now, and the entire west side of the church is cooler again for all involved.

New ideas for the building expansion are coming soon also.

Larry Krohn

CHURCH FALL WORKDAY



If you take a walk around the church grounds, you always see some tree debris on the ground; feel

free to come out anytime and clean up so the people mowing do not always have to do it. Saturday, September 30 is scheduled as a cleanup day to spruce things up a bit. Two larger projects are to bury three down spout drains at the manse; and bring in some dirt to build up around the basement wall exterior for water drainage.

Another big job coming up is to cut down two dead trees at the church and at least one more at the cemetery. Also see what can be done to clean sides of the church - maybe just wipe down walls with a broom.

Larry Krohn

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 3: Labor Day Weekend, Outdoor Worship near playground. Romans 12:9-21: The Race You Can't Lose

Liturgist: Rachel Manders

Ushers: Jeff & Diane Reist

Greeters: Dick & Zelda Sherman

September 10: Holy Communion. Matthew 26:14-27:66: Betrayal in Blood

Liturgist: Theresa Harder

Ushers: George & Joanne Chadima

Greeters: Janelle Benish

September 17: Guest worship leader Rev. Dr. Seth A. Normington, Transitional Executive Presbyter

Liturgist: Diane Reist

Ushers: Manders Family

Greeters: Bob & Jean Kolek

September 24: Amazing Grace: David

Liturgist: Rene Tedrow

Ushers: Bill & Penny Serbousek

Greeters: Matt Zacek Family

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plan to attend additional special worship services and events for September and October:



VBS rescheduled - September 23, 6:00 p.m. through the following morning.

October 1, 9:30 a.m., World Wide Communion, 250th anniversary of the song, Amazing Grace, 12:00 Picnic at Ely Park, 1:00 CROP Walk

October 8, 9:30 a.m., Czech Choir sings during worship

JOIN CHOIR AND HANDBELLS

Did you know we have a third octave of handbells? With two to three more ringers we could expand our offerings to include 3 octave arrangements, which would dramatically increase the library of music available to us.

Additionally, the choir is always in need of more voices. We would love to have you join us this fall.

Rehearsals start Wednesday, September 13, Handbells at 6:15 p.m. and Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CAMPOUT

Family Camp Out with VBS programming Saturday evening-Sunday morning, September 23-24.



Families are invited to a camp out at church at 6:00 p.m.

campfire with hot dogs (bring a side to share) - August 27 for pancake breakfast. THEME: Jesus in the Wilderness. What skills do we have for the wilderness experiences of our lives? VBS fun and games on Saturday evening. Smores around 8:30 p.m. Camping in any form--tents, RV, pop ups, etc. Can you help in any of these ways? set up fire, organize hot dog roasting, smores leadership, game leader, pancake flipper, campfire song singer?

Please invite a neighbor, family or friend to come along for the fun.

If you don't want to camp out, come for Saturday evening. 6:00 p.m.



Kolache Kamp participants pose with their completed kolaches.

LIFE! Living In Faith Everyday

L.I.F.E. (Living in Faith Everyday) Opportunities

Sunday School for children: Children's Sunday School is moving.

All children grade 5 and younger are invited downstairs after the children's time during worship to participate in hands-on Sunday School learning. The nursery will be open with supervision too. Ask Diane Reist for details. Sunday School begins September 10.

ADULT EDUCATION

Sundays: A new study will begin soon at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays in the church living room.

Wednesdays in September at 9:30 a.m. in the church basement a study of the "Words in Red" looking at Jesus'



recorded words in the Gospel of John. It opens the discussion with the beauty of Jesus' expressions and teachings. John 6 and following. You do not need a Bible that shows Jesus' words in red, we start with a printout of the verses for the day, afterward we open our own Bible versions for a deeper contextual conversation.

FELLOWSHIP

WEDDING!

September 23/24: Big Weekend!

Madison and Sam's wedding on Saturday afternoon, September 23 with rehearsal on Friday, September 24.

SNACKS FOR FELLOWSHIP

Please consider donating snacks for fellowship time. Donations can be made in bulk and frozen for use throughout the year. Contact Bonnie Fencil with any questions.

CHAIR YOGA

The church chair yoga program is a significant experience of opening oneself to the gifts of renewed and expanded growth of our mind, body, and spirit. Julie Ellen, the instructor, does a remarkable job of helping us filter out distractions upon arrival and moves us into a space of personal and private inner awareness of ourselves. Julie asks what we want from the class. She invites us to receive the benefits of what we will do. She comments that the church provides a beautiful sacredness for gathering. We gather in a place we trust and can be open to receiving.

Julie's focus for each class has been on breathing, strengthening our bodies, and working on yoga techniques of stretching and bending, especially the joints with synovial fluid. Remember, the synovial fluid reduces friction in joints such as the knee. When we perform exercises for the knees, we oil the knees and create more lubricant! Each person is encouraged to complete the techniques at their own pace and level of comfort.

The benefits of attending class are many. I'm aware that I can walk and generally move with greater ease, I can lift myself out of the pew without using my hands to pull myself up, I can almost touch the basement ceiling without shoes, I feel like I stand and walk taller, and when I leave our sacred space, I feel calm and at ease. The challenge is to take that calmness and relaxation and share it with others and our community.

Please join us on Monday's at 10 A.M. and Wednesday's at 11:30 A.M. The cost is a donation of \$0-\$5.00.



COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH

PAST & PRESENT COLLIDES FOR UKRAINE

by Misti Huedepohl



The lines of 164 years of Czech history at First Presbyterian Church near Ely, Iowa blurred with current day war torn Ukraine and the result was unexpectedly amazing.

How did such a thing happen at a small, country church where traditional mission activities have included monthly collections for the food pantry; "Tractorcade," an annual group tractor ride across Iowa's countryside; and instructional "Kolach Kamps" where the kitchen becomes the classroom and bakers learn to craft the perfect kolach?

The person who linked this rural Iowa church to an active Ukrainian warzone is retired Presbyterian minister, Rev. Jan Dus. Although he works as a professional genealogist and lives in Czechia, Rev. Dus studied in Dubuque, and has helped families at First Presbyterian Church near Ely and beyond with genealogical research and has even visited the historic church located in rural Iowa.

In recent years Rev. Dus helped form a humanitarian non-government organization called Camino and he serves as CEO. Camino volunteers regularly visit Ukraine to survey the needs of the people living in the war torn nation using an app to receive live alerts signaling bombing to safely navigate the violence. With most Ukrainian men fighting on the battlefield, volunteers find that many women and children



are left to live in desperate conditions and elderly living in bombed care centers.

Rev. Dus contacted friends around the world seeking financial support for Camino. As a friend of the church, the Session considered its 2023 mission plans and decided to pivot by looking beyond the local neighborhood to neighbors around the world. A collection to benefit Camino was taken over a few months. On Mother's Day, the final collection was totaled and then electronically transferred to Camino as traditional mail service to Ukraine remains unreliable.

A few days later, Camino confirmed receipt of the funds and Rev. Dus reported that baby formula was purchased and distributed to women and children in Ukraine.

This mission effort is one way an Iowa church bridged international borders to serve the greater world, caring for people in need.

CAMINO THANK YOU

Dear members of the First Presbyterian Church, we received the donation of the First Presbyterian Church near Ely. Thank you and your congregation very much for the support of our humanitarian work in Ukraine.

Donation received: 2,300 USD

Date of receipt: July 11, 2023

I just came back from a short trip to Ukraine. We drove baby food (formula) there - together with another minister and a close friend Jan Plechacek. It was lots of driving, which means lots of hours of sharing with a good friend. But much more importantly, we supported Ukrainian needy mothers with children. These are people who lost their homes due to the war and have no place to return to. Many of these women are alone in taking care of their children, because their husbands are on the front.

Thank you very much for keeping our humanitarian work in your thoughts and prayers.

With friendship, Jan

CROP WALK

Plan to participate in the 2023 Ely CROP walk on Sunday, October 1, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. The Walk will begin at Ely City Park, 1625 Hillcrest Street. The CROP Walk tent will be located on the East side of the ball park parking lot. It is being moved from last year's location due to bicycle traffic and the picnic location.

The Walk will follow the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, going North to Ely Road and then returning to the park. A group prayer will take place at the start of the walk.

The congregations from all three churches are invited to a group picnic at 12:00 p.m. at the Ely Park Pavilion. The pavilion is reserved and offers picnic tables and access to restrooms.

IT'S SOUP SUPPER TIME!



The Annual Chicken Noodle Soup and Kolach Supper pick up will be held October 6 and 7 as a drive through.

Soup will be sold as frozen quarts and kolaches will be sold by the dozen. Soup will be \$9 per quart and kolaches will be \$16 per dozen. (This is an increase from last year of \$1 for soup and \$2 per dozen for kolaches.) Ordering will be open September 9-30.

There is a Facebook page for the ordering window. The link to the online ordering form will be line on the Facebook event and elypres.org on September 9. There will be a PDF of the paper form as well.

There will be a Country Store inside the church in the Living Room during pick-up times.

In Preparation for the Soup Supper: Be ready to sign up to help make soup at the church during designated times in September; a sign-up sheet will be ready September 3. Our goal is to make 400 quarts!!!

Also, be ready to bake with us on October 6 and 7 and to work during the pickup times.

Volunteer to help set up and donate to the Country Store; contact Rachel Manders.

Let Joanne Chadima know how you can help in any way, even preceding the event if you will be absent. Please clear your schedule to help at church. We need everyone's participation. For more information, email JoanneChadima@outlook.com.

COUNTRY STORE 2023

We are going to run the Country Store during the Chicken Noodle Soup and Kolach Supper again this year! October 6th & 7th, the Country Store will be up and running in the church living room during soup and kolach pick-up times.

A Facebook event page will be created to advertise items for sale at the Country Store. As items are donated, we will take photos and add to the event page to let people know what to expect at our store this year. Please note that we will NOT sell items through Facebook, we will only use it as a means of advertising the Country Store.

What are some ways that you can help?

1. Donate items to sell at the Country Store – and **donate at any time starting now!** The earlier you donate, the more we can advertise your items!
2. Bake items to sell at the Country Store (Yes, **we are doing the bake sale portion again!**). If you plan to donate baked goods, please let me know what you will bring so that I can advertise it.
3. Share, share, share! Once the Facebook event page is up and running, share the event to your personal Facebook pages, as well as any local group pages that you can think of (i.e., neighborhood pages, city pages, school pages).
4. Help set up the Country Store on Friday, October 6th so that it is up and running and ready to start selling at 3:00 PM.

**Please make sure to price any donated items and/or baked goods. I will add a price to anything not priced, but we run the risk of the item being undervalued.

If you are willing and able to help in any way, please reach out to Rachel Manders via email at rachelmanders345@yahoo.com, or via call or text at 319-640-7526. Thank you! Rachel Manders



Hello from Youth Group!

In July, many youth represented our Church in the Ely July 4th Parade. **BIG THANK YOU to Carl Z** for being our ride and always being generous with his tractor and wagon! Also in July, we had a YG meeting at Dan & Debbie's and enjoyed an ice cream treat. One Sunday, we had a snowball fight in the church basement. 😊 We rounded out July with a movie night and watched Veggie Tales "Esther" to compare it to our study of the Book of Esther in the Bible.

In early August, Youth celebrated Hannah's sendoff to college with Bowling and dessert! Later in the month we got ready for school to start with outdoor games, pizza and prayers for a successful, healthy and God-filled start to the school year!

September promises to be busy for Youth Group, as Sunday School begins September 10th at 10:30 in the Youth Room. September 17th, Youth will need a substitute teacher for Sunday School - Please check in with Angie if you are willing to help out the Youth in this way! On September 27th, Students are invited to their school Flagpole for a time of prayer and fellowship; from the website:

SEE YOU AT THE POLE™ IS A TIME OF PRAYER ON THE FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF SEPTEMBER WHEN STUDENTS MEET AT THEIR SCHOOL FLAGPOLE, BEFORE SCHOOL, TO LIFT UP THEIR FRIENDS, FAMILIES, TEACHERS, SCHOOL, AND NATION TO GOD. IT IS STUDENT-INITIATED, STUDENT-ORGANIZED, AND STUDENT-LED.

All Youth should check with their school office for the timing of this early AM event. Often FCA's are the organizers - and bring donuts!

Youth group is seeking more **adults who volunteer in the community** to share with us about their experiences - what do you do, and why do you do it? How did you get involved? *Do they allow youth volunteers?* Please contact Angie to plan a date to share - Maybe 9/17?

Youth Group works on **Operation Christmas Child** boxes year-round and November is getting closer and closer. If you have shoe boxes or leftover Christmas wrapping paper you no longer want to keep, we can

use it to wrap boxes! If you have new school supplies, toys, sunglasses, bars of soap, toothbrushes and other items (see Youth Bulletin Board for ideas) feel free to drop all of these in the youth room, and THANK YOU for helping out with OCC!

We will continue accepting redeemable cans and bottles from our church friends willing to donate; these funds help with activity costs. **Over the Summer, we redeemed \$34.35** - Thanks to everyone who helped in that effort! Your donated cans and bottles can be set inside the youth room door anytime, or call Angie for a pickup / drop off at my home.

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

Blessings~
Angie Zahradnik Ehle



Youth Schedule: September 2023

Sunday, September 3rd: Hope for the Hungry
9:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship
6:00 p.m. Youth Group – TBA

Sunday, September 10th:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Youth Group

Sunday, September 17th:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. NO Youth Group

Sunday, September 24th:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Youth Group

Wednesday, September 27th: See You at The Pole (at individual schools - check with the school office for details)

Sunday, October 1st: Hope for the Hungry
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
12:00 p.m. Tailgate Lunch and CROP Walk

October 5th: Bring Your Bible to School Day

October 6th and 7th: Soup Supper and Country Store

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:30 a.m. Kolach Baking	2
3 Outdoor Worship Food Pantry Sunday 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Elevator Training 6:00 Youth Group	4 10:00 Chair Yoga	5 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	6 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga	7 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	8 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	9 Ordering open for Soup Supper
10 Communion 9:30 Worship with LS 10:45 Coffee Hour 6:00 Youth Group	11 10:00 Chair Yoga	12 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	13 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:15 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	14 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	15 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	16 Parking lot in use by neighbor
17 Rev. Dr. Seth A. Normington visiting 9:30 Worship with LS 10:30 Coffee Hour 6:00 Youth Group	18 10:00 Chair Yoga	19 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	20 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:15 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	21 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:30 Session Meeting	22 9:00-12:00 Office Hours Kilberger Wedding Rehearsal	23 Ely Fall Fest Madison Kilberger Wedding 6:00 VBS Family Campout
24 9:30 Worship with LS 10:45 Coffee Hour 6:00 Youth Group	25 10:00 Chair Yoga	26 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:00 Ladies' Night Out @ Shuey's	27 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:15 Handbell Practice 7:30 Choir Practice	28 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	29 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	30 FIRM Deadline for Soup Supper Orders Church Clean Up



Sunday, October 1: 12:00 p.m. CROP Walk Picnic, 1:00 p.m. CROP Walk
 October 6 & 7: 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper Order Pick Up
 Sunday, October 8: Czech Choir performing during worship



11100 Spanish Road
Ely, Iowa 52227



Back to School

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

alphabet	Drama	History	numbers	Science
Art	elementary	homework	pencil	Social Studies
backpack	English	Language Arts	Physical Education	Spelling
books	friends	learn	reading	students
classroom	Geography	library	recess	subjects
crayons	grades	Math	school	teacher
desk	Health	Music	scissors	writing