October 2026

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Thank you in advance to everyone who will pitch in to make the Soup and Kolach Fundraiser at church a success October 9-10. It has taken many months to plan, resource, and make soup, fillings, kolaches, and arrangements. A special thank you to the leadership team.

Thank you to everyone who will volunteer the weekend for the event.

Thank you to everyone who will donate to the fundraiser.

May this special weekend in the life of the church be a blessing to you.

In Christ,
Pastor Julie

A REPORT FOLLOWING THE INSTALLATION OF THE LABYRINTH
By Daniel Schuett

Thank you to everyone who was involved with the installation of the prayer labyrinth at church. 77 total people were involved with the planning, fundraising, and execution of the project, totaling 655.5 hours worked. The planning started in the fall of 2024, with work starting in January 2026. Three main workdays were conducted on May 2nd and 16th, and June 6th, 2026. Fundraising involved individual donations from church members, two pickleball tournaments, and a $250 grant from the Presbytery of East Iowa Peacemaking Committee. This raised a total of $4,870, with $4,823.24 spent on the project.

A labyrinth is a complex path starting from a specific point and ending in the middle. It is a spiritual path, a time to reflect and connect with God. The labyrinth is made of 207 planter stones all six inches by six inches, and varying from one to three feet long. Stones are at ground level, providing a barrier for the two-foot-wide grass path. The entrance of the labyrinth is located about 20 feet from the north entrance to the church, and its design replicates the stained-glass window shape in the sanctuary.

This labyrinth is open and accessible to anyone who is looking for a safe space to walk and find peace. A person walking the labyrinth will begin their journey at the garden arbor (archway). They will take a prayer card out of the box on the arbor, which will include a brief description on how to walk the labyrinth, as well as a prompt to think about (a Bible verse, prayer, question, or idea). They will walk the path to the center, where there is a bench facing the creek and woods. Here, they can stay for as long as they would like, and then either exit the labyrinth or walk the path back to the beginning. My hope is that this will positively impact the community by providing a peaceful, tranquil place to reflect.

Thank you.
Daniel Schuett

The labyrinth

Congregation members attend the dedication of the labyrinth.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday morning Bible study is working through the Gospel of John. Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

All children are invited downstairs after the children's time during worship to participate in hands-on Sunday School learning. Sunday School will meet every Sunday in October and culminate in the Costume Party on October 25.

WORSHIP & PROGRAM

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

FYI: The church shares worship services on YouTube on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@elypresbyterian4852

Or you can search "First Presbyterian Church near Ely, IA" to find the channel.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session is calling a CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on October 25 following worship for the election of officers and a brief review of 2026 General Budget.

WORSHIP ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

October 4
Liturgist: Janet Holland
Ushers: Nora Fetter
Greeters: Amber Martinson

October 11
Liturgist: Blake Kilberger
Ushers: Fred & Sarah Harris
Greeters: Sam, Madison and Noa Ziebol

October 18
Liturgist: Diane Reist
Ushers: Phil & Misti Huedepohl
Greeters: Les & Sue Feyerabend

October 25
Liturgist: Janet Holland
Ushers: Larry & Becky Modracek
Greeters: Eleanor Burke

MUSIC MINISTRY

Interested in participating in our MUSIC MINISTRY program?

Rehearsals will begin after the Soup Supper event. We are discussing moving some Chancel Choir rehearsals to Sunday after worship. Would that schedule work better for you? Let Stephanie or Sharon know if you're interested.

Handbell rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

CHURCH BUSINESS

WASHING THE CHURCH

Thank you to everyone who donated for the church siding washing project totalling $824. It makes a big difference to be able to balance the donations of the congregation with the long-term Maintenance Account.

FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR AUGUST

The General Fund account remains in the positive. The August LIFE Center income was $255. The total through August LIFE Center expense is $1,924 and the income is $8,410.
The overall income is ahead for this time of year at 76% of the budget while expenses are on track.

Account Comments
1105 · General Fund ending month balance of $13,061.16
4110 · Regular Offering - Pledged 66.2% of budget (YTD actuals of $70,003.19 on a budget of $105,795)
4116 · Regular Offering - Non-Pledged 75.7% of budget (YTD actuals of $46,049.70 on a budget of $60,855)
Total Income 75.6% of budget (YTD actuals of $159,662.63 on a budget of $211,055)
Total Expense 68.7% of budget (YTD actuals of $144,895.06 on a budget of $211,055)

FELLOWSHIP & CHURCH COMMUNITY

TRUNK-AND-TREAT

If you don't have trick-or-treaters at your house, this is an excellent opportunity to decorate a display and bring treats for the children.

IT'S SOUP SUPPER TIME!

It's time for the Soup Supper! The Soup Supper Committee includes Becky Andrle, Craig Andrle, Monica Bailey, Stephanie Buonadonna, and Jodie Chadima (with some extra helpers!) Please reach out to any of us with questions.

ABOUT THE EVENT

Soup and kolach pick-up will happen Friday, October 9, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Preorder prices:

$18/dozen for kolaches
$9/quart for soup

The sit down dinner will be held on Saturday, October 10, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the LIFE Center.

Tickets are $12 for adults and $8 for kids with additional kolaches available for $2/each.

The accordion band will be playing in the sanctuary during the dinner.

ORDERING

Both dine in tickets and soup and kolach preorders can be purchased through the links on our website, elypres.org.

Orders are first come first serve with a kolach order cut off on October 2.

Additionally, tickets have been printed to sell. If you are needed printed tickets, contact Craig Andrle.

KOLACH FLAVORS FOR THIS YEAR:

Apricot	Cherry
Poppy Seed	Prune
Strawberry	

SOUP PREP DATES

There will be one more session for preorder soup cooking on October 3 at 8:00 a.m.

There will be a weekday veggie prep session for the dinner during the week before October 10.

The sit down soup cooking will occur on Saturday, October 10 beginning at 12:00 p.m. once kolach cooking is complete.

KOLACH BAKING

We are asking for donations of kolach dough and fillings as well as salted butter. We're hoping to make 300 dozen kolaches (200 dozen for pick-up, 100 dozen for the dinner), but that is above what we have made in the past so it is contingent on the amount of donations received and manpower available. We need 50 batches of dough.

Kolach baking will happen on Friday, October 9 and Saturday, October 10.

DINNER INFO

Dinner will be served cafeteria style.

Each diner will receive a bowl of soup, 2 kolaches, a salad, and a drink (water, lemonade, or coffee). Bread, crackers, and butter will also be available.

Meals will be served on trays.

DINNER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to serve soup and drinks as well as other things.

Volunteers will be needed to assist guests who need additional help getting to their tables.

Volunteers will be needed to bus tables and wash silverware and trays. We will be using disposable plates, cups and bowls.

COUNTRY STORE

The Country Store will be held in the basement, and Pat Kilberger is leading. Please start bringing in your donations for the store with prices on them. It will be open both during pick up and during the dinner.

VOLUNTEER LINK

Volunteer sign up link:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4BAFAE22AA8-65362853-chicken#/

OCTOBER HYMN NOTES

A World Communion Sunday Collection

As we celebrate World Communion Sunday in October, this month's featured hymns offer a small glimpse of the worldwide church, with musical and textual roots reaching from Sweden and Ireland to Wales and the United States. Together, they remind us that Christians across many cultures and generations join their voices in worship of one God.

HOW GREAT THOU ART

"How Great Thou Art" began not in England or America, but in Sweden. In 1885, Swedish preacher and poet Carl Boberg wrote a poem titled O Store Gud, meaning "O Great God." The often-told story is that Boberg had experienced a dramatic thunderstorm followed by calm skies, birdsong, and church bells—an experience that turned his thoughts toward the majesty of God revealed in creation. His nine-stanza poem was published the following year.

The hymn then took quite a journey. Boberg's Swedish text was translated and adapted in several languages before British missionary Stuart K. Hine created the English version that became familiar to us. In the 1950s, George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows introduced it during Billy Graham's crusades, helping make "How Great Thou Art" one of the best-known Christian hymns of the twentieth century.

Perhaps part of its lasting power is the movement of the hymn itself. We begin by looking outward at the wonders of creation, move inward as we consider Christ's sacrifice, and finally look ahead to Christ's return. Each time, the response is the same: wonder becomes worship.

BE THOU MY VISION

When we sing "Be Thou My Vision," we are reaching back many centuries into the Christian tradition of Ireland. The hymn is based on an ancient Irish prayer that may date from as early as the eighth century. Irish scholar Mary Elizabeth Byrne translated the old Irish text into English prose in 1905, and Eleanor Hull later shaped that translation into verse, publishing it in 1912.

The familiar melody, SLANE, is also Irish. Its name recalls the Hill of Slane, associated with the story of St. Patrick lighting an Easter fire there in defiance of a royal order. The connection between that story and the hymn's ancient text is traditional rather than something historians can establish with certainty, but the name SLANE permanently joined the Irish melody with the hymn we know today.

What makes this hymn especially beautiful is that it is essentially a prayer. We ask God to be our vision, wisdom, treasure, and guiding presence. More than a thousand years after the earliest form of the text was written, Christians are still singing that same prayer: whatever else may compete for our attention, may God remain first in our hearts.

SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS

Compared with many hymns in our hymnal, "Spirit of Gentleness" is a youngster. James K. Manley, an ordained United Church of Christ minister, wrote it in 1975 while on sabbatical and completing work on his Doctor of Ministry thesis. Manley later explained that the song grew out of his efforts to understand more deeply his own

experience of faith and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

The hymn follows the Spirit through the biblical story: moving over creation, speaking through prophets, appearing in the life and ministry of Jesus, and continuing to call and move God's people today. Even the refrain contains an interesting contrast. The Spirit is one of gentleness, yet also of restlessness, stirring God's people rather than allowing them to remain comfortably still.

The imagery of wind is especially appropriate. Both the Hebrew ruach and Greek pneuma, words used in Scripture for "spirit," can also mean breath or wind. We cannot see the wind itself, but we recognize it by what it moves. "Spirit of Gentleness" invites us to watch for the movement of God's Spirit in much the same way.

LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING

"Let All Things Now Living" has a surprising connection to another familiar piece of music. Its author, Katherine Kennicott Davis, is also associated with the Christmas favorite "The Little Drummer Boy." Davis wrote hundreds of compositions during her lifetime and sometimes published under pseudonyms.

Davis wrote "Let All Things Now Living" to fit the traditional Welsh tune THE ASH GROVE, probably during the 1920s. She later published it as an anthem in 1939 under the name John Cowley, one of her pseudonyms. The Welsh melody itself is much older and appeared in print by the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The hymn draws heavily on Old Testament images of creation and God's guidance. It begins with all living things joining in thanksgiving and expands until the whole universe seems to be participating in praise. That makes it particularly fitting for seasons of thanksgiving, but its message is larger than any one holiday. Creation itself becomes the choir, and we simply add our voices to the song.

COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

CROP WALK

CROP Walk, October 18 at 1:00 at the Ely Park, on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.
Plan to walk.
Plan to donate.

From the CROP Walk website: "No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a yearly gathering. It's a movement that's 56 years strong, made up of compassionate people in more than 500 communities across the U.S.

The steps we take - and the funds we raise together - will provide life-saving support including emergency food and resources, along with the seeds, tools and programs that will help families feed themselves in the future."

ELY FALL FEST

By the time you are reading this article, we have had a successful day at Ely Fall Fest sharing information about our church, our L.I.F.E. Center, our upcoming Chicken Noodle Soup & Kolach Supper, and the newest addition - the labyrinth. A big thanks to Ava Andrle for donning the chicken suit for promotion!!

Quite a few fun activities are coming up this month and the remainder of the year - feel free to invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

YOUTH GROUP

Hello from Youth Group!

We will have a very busy month this month! For this reason, Midweek Mash will take a break in October. Youth Sunday School will still meet weekly in the Youth room.

We start October with **Bring Your Bible to School Day, a Day not only for Youth but EVERYONE**! All are encouraged to participate by bringing their personal Bibles to school, work, meetings, practice, and family events. Ways to Participate:

1. **Hand Out Verses:** Distribute small cards with your favorite Bible verses to interested classmates.
2. **Host a Discussion:** Gather with Christian friends during lunch to share impactful scripture passages.
3. **Wear Faith Shirts:** Wear a T-shirt featuring a positive, faith-based message or verse.
4. **Offer Support:** Let your peers know you are available to listen, pray, or talk about faith with kindness and respect.

Next, Youth are encouraged to help with Soup and kolach-making activities for our Soup Supper. We hope everyone can attend and **participate in Soup Supper on October 9th and 10th** - be sure to sign up in the church basement to volunteer!

Later in October, we will celebrate Autumn, Halloween style with "kids of all ages" at the **Trunk-or-treat and Holiday Party!** There will be games and food, and everyone is invited to bring friends and dress up for the event!

Finally, ALL Senior members of our church are invited to join the youth for a Thanksgiving Meal! Please note that the **Senior Thanksgiving meal will be EARLY this year, on Saturday, November 7th.** Please watch email announcements and church bulletins for RSVP's and all the details.

Thank you to all who continue to support YG with redeemable cans and bottles! Remember, water and Gatorade bottles and anything without carbonation cannot be redeemed; these items can go into your own recycling at home!

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: OCTOBER 2026

Thursday, October 1: BRING YOUR BIBLE TO SCHOOL DAY!

Sunday, Oct 4:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School - Prepare for Soup Supper

Friday October 9:
3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper Pick Up

Saturday October 10:
Morning Kolach Baking
3:30 – 7:00 p.m. Soup Supper

Sunday, Oct 11:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School

Sunday, October 18:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School
1:00 p.m. CROP Walk

Sunday, Oct 25:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Youth and Children Trunk or Treat and Fall Party

Sunday, Nov 1:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School

Friday, Nov 6:
5:00 p.m. Baking for Senior Thanksgiving Meal

Saturday, Nov 7:
8:30 a.m. Prep for Senior Thanksgiving Meal

First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar, October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**2** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**3** 8:00 Soup Cooking
4 World Communion Food Pantry Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School	**5** 10:00 Chair Yoga	**6** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**7** 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:30 YG MW Mash 6:30 Bible Study	**8** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**9** 8:00 Kolach Baking 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 4:00 Soup & Kolach Pick Up	**10** 8:00 Kolach Baking 4:00 Soup & Kolach Dinner
11 9:30 Worship 10:30 Potluck 10:45 Sunday School	**12** 10:00 Chair Yoga	**13** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**14** 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:30 YG MW Mash	**15** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:30 Session Meeting	**16** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**17** 5:30 Potluck 6:00 Card Club
18 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 1:00 CROP Walk	**19** 10:00 Chair Yoga	**20 Newsletter deadline** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**21** 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:30 YG MW Mash	**22** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**23** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**24**
25 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 11:00 Fall Party and Trunk And Treat	**26** 10:00 Chair Yoga	**27** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours 6:00 LMNOP	**28** 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Chair Yoga 6:30 YG MW Mash	**29** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**30** 9:00-12:00 Office Hours	**31**

Saturday, November 7: Senior Meal

Sunday, November 14: Presbytery of East Iowa State Meeting Worship

ORDERING NOW OPEN!

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP & KOLACH SUPPER

First Presbyterian Church Near Ely

11100 Spanish Road
Ely, Iowa

OCT 9th & 10th, 2026
4:00 - 7:00 pm

Two Days. Two Ways.

1. **Friday, Oct 9th**
   Carry-out ONLY
   Preorders required

2. **Saturday, Oct 10th**
   Dine-in ONLY
   This is a ticketed event. Advance ticket purchase required. Spots are limited.

Order tickets at Elypres.org. While supplies last.

First Presbyterian Church Near Ely

11100 Spanish Road
Ely, Iowa 52227