September 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

Fall is the season when gardens and fields start dying down. It is a time for harvesting and preparations for the long dark winter. But fall is also the season of new beginnings—new school years start, new programs, the rituals of September – May kick in again.

This is so true at church. We turn the page of summer and start working on the Soup and Kolach Event, Sunday School programming, etc.

But some folks can't make it to church due to location, ability, restrictions, and health situations. What then?

We reach out to one another through old means of visits and phone calls and new means of text or IM messaging. There is a resurge of snail mail these days too. Isn't it nice to get a piece of "real" mail? Something handwritten by someone who cares enough to take the time to considerately write their thoughts, hopes, and concerns to you. Whether it is in an envelope or on the back of a picture card, it is affirming.

Paul wrote letters, so did James, John, and Peter. Those are wonderful letters to read too. They affirm our faith, God's goodness, and the wonder of life. They confront issues of their day for new believers in their societies and cultures, and by doing so, invite us to consider our own ways of living in our times.

John's letters are a good place to start. They are quite short. Tough ones are James and Hebrews. When you are ready, go for it!

And maybe consider dropping a thoughtful note to someone, too.

In Christ,
Pastor Julie

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

September 20, 11:00 a.m.: "Labyrinths around the World and Outside the Door" in the church living room and then outside.

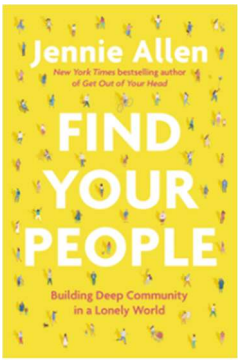
### WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Morning Bible study continues in the Gospel of John. This month we will work through John 3-4. John 3 is one of the best known, least understood portions of Jesus' ministry as he confronts Pharisee Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. Bible study starts at 9:30 in the church lower level with refreshments and conversation before turning to the lesson of the day. We are using the *NIV Serendipity Bible for Study Groups.*

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School begins on September 13 in the church lower level at 10:45 a.m.

## FIND YOUR PEOPLE BIBLE STUDY




Join us for a light meal in Fellowship Hall with the youth at 6:30 p.m. and stay for Bible study in the Living Room for our last two Wednesdays. Our study focuses on our relationship with God and His plan for us to thrive as a community. You do not need to have read the book "Find Your People" to participate in the Bible study. If you are unable to attend on Wednesday evenings but would like to complete the Bible study, please pick up a workbook in the Living Room.

Session 6- September 2
Session 7- September 16

# WORSHIP & PROGRAM

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 6, Labor Day: Putting on the Work Clothes of Christ, Romans 13:8-14
Liturgist: Sarah Harris
Ushers: Markham & Karasel Harris & family
Greeters: Dave & Chris Faltis

September 13, Homecoming Sunday with Holy Communion: How Many Times? Matthew 18:21-35
Liturgist: Dawn Zacek
Ushers: Larry & Theresa Harder
Greeters: Blake, Victoria & Talia Kilberger

September 20: No Thank You, Matthew 20:1-16
Liturgist: Ava Andrle
Ushers: Ted & Becky Grenis
Greeters: Rachelle Mineck

September 27: Chutes and Ladders, Philippians 2:1-13
Liturgist: Diane Reist
Ushers: Fred & Sarah Harris
Greeters: Karen Zacek

October 4: Worldwide Communion Sunday
Liturgist: Volunteer Needed
Ushers: Nora Fetter
Greeters: Volunteer Needed

## 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.

## SOUP SUPPER VOLUNTEER INFO

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 will be the same as last year.

$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. 200 "tickets" will be sold.

Tickets will be $12 with additional kolaches available for $2/each.

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

ON-LINE ORDERING

All orders will be submitted on-line. There will be an order link on our website. *Stephanie is planning to be in the basement with my laptop to help those that aren't comfortable doing it online most Sundays until ordering closes.*

Confirmations will be sent and the ordering form will instruct purchasers to contact the church office if they do not receive a confirmation.

Reminders will be sent via email or text before the event.

Orders will open on September 6 and will be first come first serve. Once we've sold all 200 sit down tickets and all pre-ordered kolaches and quarts of soup, ordering will close and the ordering site will read "Sold Out."

SOUP PREP

We will be doing all the soup preparations and cooking at the church. All the needed supplies will be pre-purchased by the Soup Supper committee. Please reach out to a member of the committee if you have already purchased supplies.

The soup will consist of:

Rotisserie chicken
Bullion paste
Cut up carrots and celery
Spices

Everyone cleaning or prepping food will wear hairnets and gloves.

We are planning to make enough soup for 400 quarts.

We will be doing food prep on Saturday, August 29 and Saturday, September 5 at 8:00 a.m.

Soup cooking for the frozen pre-ordered soup will occur September 12, 19, 26 and October 3 with a morning shift from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and an afternoon shift from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. each day.

There will be a weekday veggie prep session 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.

Supplies needed:

Hair Nets (being donated by Becky Grenis)
Gloves
Gallon zip lock bags

KOLACH PREP

Flavors for this year:

| | |
|---|---|
| Apricot | Cherry |
| Poppy Seed | Prune |
| Strawberry | |

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 FORMAT

We will sell 200 tickets, but dining will not be timed.

If we are at capacity when diners arrive, they will be instructed to wait in the sanctuary where the accordion band is playing, or peruse the Country Store in the basement.

We will have a list of everyone who has purchased tickets so we can check them in as they arrive. Volunteers will be needed to check in and retrieve diners from the sanctuary.

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. 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.

MARKETING

Yard signs are ready and can be picked up at church. Please sign them out on the form in the basement.

Flyers are also available. Please take some and post throughout the community.

There are three Facebook events to be shared.
Orders open:
https://www.facebook.com/share/19NB9CAdGX/
Order pick-up:
https://www.facebook.com/share/14oVhftRuN8/
Dine-in:
https://www.facebook.com/share/1Hb5UPwP7w/

**PLEASE NOTE:** There is an error with the QR code included on everything that was distributed before August 30. Correct QR code stickers for the signs will be available on August 30 that you can take if you have already picked up a sign. Any signs checked out August 30 or later have been corrected. Simply place the new QR code sticker over the old QR code on each side of the sign. Discard any posters you still have and pick up new printed posters on August 30.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer sign up link:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4BAFAE22AA8-65362853-chicken#/

**Soup Component Prep – 2 Saturdays**
8/30 Prepping chicken 8:00 a.m.
9/5 Prepping components 8:00 a.m.

**Soup Making – 4 Saturdays**
9/12 Prepping Soup 8-12 (8), 12-4 (8)
9/19 Prepping Soup 8-12 (8), 12-4 (8)
9/26 Prepping Soup 8-12 (8), 12-4 (8)
10/3 Prepping Soup 8-12 (8), 12-4 (8)

**Baking Kolaches – 10/9 Friday AM**

| | |
|---|---|
| Bringing Dough Cutting (3) | Rolling (3) |
| Filling (6) | Basting (2) |
| Proofer (1) | Baking (2) |
| Taking off pans (2) | Basting baked (1) |
| Washing Dishes Packaging (2) | |

**Friday Pickup – 10/9 Friday PM**
Volunteers 3:30-End (8)
Country Store 3:30-End (2)

**Baking Kolachs – 10/10 Saturday AM**

| | |
|---|---|
| Bringing Dough Cutting (3) | Rolling (3) |
| Filling (6) | Basting (2) |
| Proofer (1) | Baking (2) |
| Taking off pans (2) | Basting baked (1) |
| Washing Dishes | Packaging (2) |

**Saturday Soup Prep – 10/10 Saturday PM**
Combine and cook soup components 12:00

**Saturday Dinner – 10/10 Saturday PM**
Country Store 3:30-End (2)
Setup 12:00 (6)
Parking 3:30-End (2)
Take tickets 3:30-End (2)
Runner/filling items 3:30-End (4)
Plating kolaches 3:30-End (1)
Drink Station 3:30-End (2)
Dishwasher - silverware 3:30-End (2)
Busing tables 3:30-End (2)
Guest assistance 3:30-End (2)
Final cleanup 6:00 (6)

DONATED SUPPLIES NEEDED
Gloves
Gallon zip lock bags
Kolach dough
Kolach fillings
Salted Butter (not margarine)
Styrofoam cups

# FELLOWSHIP & CHURCH COMMUNITY

## PICKLE BALL

September 27: Open Pickleball in the gym at the LIFE Center, 11:00-12:30

## CHURCH COOKBOOK POTLUCK

We will have a church potluck in connection with Grandparent Sunday on Sept. 13th. Please provide a dish that is included in one of the church cookbooks. Maybe you can even make it with your grandparent? Grandchild? Enjoy!

# CHURCH BUSINESS

## WASHING THE CHURCH

It has been a couple years since the church has been washed, and it is now time to get it done. Donations will be appreciated for this so we won't be draining the maintenance account. Washing is scheduled for some time late September and will cost about $1,700.00. Only the church building will be washed, not the Manse or LIFE Center. The best way to donate is through the offering envelope in the pews and mark it as church washing.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR JULY

The General Fund account remains in the positive for July.

The July LIFE Center income was $375.

The overall expenses are on track for the year at 59% of budget.

The overall income is slightly ahead at 69% of the budget. Note that the non-pledged is exceeding the budget while the pledged is on-track.

| Account | Comments |
|---|---|
| 1105 · General Fund | Ending month balance of $18,805.46 |
| 4110 · Regular Offering - Pledged | 58.5% of budget (YTD actuals of $61,843.19 on a budget of $105,795.00) |
| 4116 · Regular Offering - Non-Pledged | 70.1% of budget (YTD actuals of $42,681.70 on a budget of $60,855.00) |
| Total Income | 69.4% of budget (YTD actuals of $146,394.63 on a budget of $211,055.00) |
| Total Expense | 59.5% of budget (YTD actuals of $125,481.46 on a budget of $211,055.00) |

# HYMN REFLECTIONS

## WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE?

Sometimes Scripture asks a question that seems complicated and then gives us a remarkably simple answer. *What does the Lord require?*

Hymn writer Albert F. Bayly turned to the prophet Micah for the answer when he wrote this hymn in 1949. **Micah 6:8 calls God's people to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.** Bayly's hymn reminds us that worship is more than what happens inside the church. Our praise and offerings mean little if our faith does not accompany us when we walk back out the door.

Bayly was ahead of his time. His hymns brought contemporary concerns and everyday Christian responsibility into congregational singing before the great flowering of new British hymn writing in the 1960s and 1970s. This particular hymn asks us to consider not simply what we believe, but how that belief changes the way we treat others.

Perhaps that is why Micah's ancient question remains such a good one for us today. **What does God ask of us? Not grand gestures or impressive displays of faith, but lives marked by justice, mercy, and humility.**

Simple words. A lifetime of learning how to live them.

## FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION

September in Iowa makes it difficult to miss the changing season. Fields begin turning from green to gold, gardens offer their last abundance, and harvest draws near. "For the Fruit of All Creation" seems right at home here.

Fred Pratt Green wrote the hymn in 1970 after being asked to provide new words for an existing hymn tune, preferably on the theme of harvest. But Green gave us much more than a traditional harvest hymn.

Certainly, there is gratitude for the gifts of creation and for the work that produces a harvest. But the hymn also asks what we do with that abundance. Thanksgiving is incomplete if we enjoy God's gifts without remembering those who hunger, those in need, and those whose labor contributes to what we receive.

The melody many of us know is the traditional Welsh tune AR HYD Y NOS, also familiar as "All Through the Night." Its gentle melody carries a message that becomes more challenging as the hymn unfolds: God's gifts are not simply ours to enjoy. They are entrusted to us to share.

So as combines begin moving through Iowa fields this fall, **this hymn offers a fitting prayer of gratitude, but also a reminder. The harvest is both a gift and a responsibility.**

For all that God provides, thanks be to God.

## I COME WITH JOY

There is a quiet transformation hidden inside "I Come with Joy."

Brian Wren wrote this Communion hymn in England in 1968 following a series of sermons about the meaning of the Lord's Supper. He wanted to express something easily forgotten when we come forward to receive Communion: although each of us comes to the table individually, Communion is never simply an individual act.

**The hymn begins with "I."** But as it unfolds, the language changes. **We share the bread. We discover a community**. Strangers become friends. And finally, we leave the table together as God's people, carrying what we have experienced into the world.

That movement from "**I: to "we:** was intentional.

It is a beautiful picture of Communion. We arrive with our own prayers, worries, gratitude, questions, and needs. Yet around Christ's table, we discover that we belong to something larger than ourselves. The bread we share reminds us not only of Christ's love for us, but of the love that binds us to one another.

And Communion does not end when the bread and cup are cleared away. We leave the table to live as Christ's people in the world.

**We come individually.**
**We leave together.**
**And we do it with joy.**

# COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

## CROP WALK

The annual CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 11 at 1:00 p.m. at the Ely Park Trail next to the pond. Packets will be available for donations and walkers are encouraged to sign up in advance downstairs at church. Bring a friend!

## THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous donations of school supplies and snacks for back to school. Your gifts will help the students at Polk Alternative Education Center in Cedar Rapids. Look for upcoming opportunities to help the students at Polk throughout the school year.

## ELY FALL FEST

Saturday, September 26th is Ely's Fall Fest and First Presbyterian Church near Ely has a "vendor" booth on Dows Street! We will be advertising our Chicken Noodle Soup & Kolach event as well as having flyers about our church (who we are, etc.) and our L.I.F.E. Center. Bonus points: how many remember what L.I.F.E. stands for?

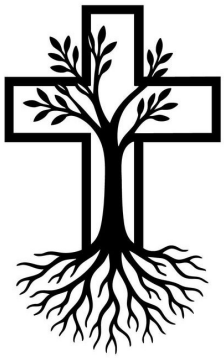
Fall Fest is 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., so I plan on setting up at 8:30 a.m. Rumor has it we have a volunteer wearing the chicken suit at Fall Fest! It's NOT me…

I would love to have you stop by and help answer any questions the public may have or tell people about our events and/or facilities.

Thank you for your continued support & keeping our church in your prayers.

Sarah Harris, Welcoming and Outreach Elder

## A SPECIAL PRAYER



*God of the changing seasons,*
*God of bright skies, thrift and shorelines,*
*Sooth our weary hearts as we grieve a time that is gone.*
*Restore our souls as we glimpse a future of promise and potential.*
*May we learn new steps to the dance of life,*
*trusting and loving you, and one another,*
*as a skein of geese dancing with the heavens.*

— Ruth Harvey, Leader of the Iona Community

# YOUTH GROUP

Hello from Youth Group!

Back to School - Back to Youth Sunday School, too! We welcome Youth to Sunday School on **Sunday, September 13th at 10:30am** in the Youth room. We will have a lesson and snack together weekly on Sundays after worship!

On September 23rd, there is a student-led, Global Day of Prayer before school, around the flagpole. Youth and families are encouraged to speak to their school office or FCA about **See You At The Pole**.

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.

Also this Fall, we will continue Midweek Mash on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm, starting with a meal. **Midweek Mash is for all youth and YG Alumni.** Activities will include a short lesson, games, movies, crafts and playing in the life center. All are welcome and encouraged to join the fun!

**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: SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday, Sept 6th:
9:30 a.m. Worship

Wednesday, Sept 9th:
6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Midweek Mash

Sunday, Sept 13th:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30am Youth Sunday School

Wednesday, Sept 16th:
6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Midweek Mash

Sunday, Sept 20th:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30am Youth Sunday School

Wednesday, Sept 23rd:
AM before School: SEE YOU AT THE POLE
at your school
6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Midweek Mash

Sunday, Sept 27th:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30am Youth Sunday School

Wednesday, Sept 30th:
6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Midweek Mash

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

Sunday, Oct 4th:
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30am Youth Sunday School

MARK YOUR CALENDARS today:

1. Soup Supper on October 9th and 10th
2. Senior Thanksgiving Meal on Saturday, November 7th

# First Presbyterian Church near Ely Calendar, September 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **1**<br>9:00-12:00 Office Hours | **2**<br>11:30 Chair Yoga<br>6:30 YG MW Mash<br>6:30 Bible Study | **3**<br>9:00-12:00 Office Hours | **4**<br>9:00-12:00 Office Hours | **5**<br>8:00 Soup Supper Prep |
| **6 Food Pantry Sunday**<br>9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Fellowship | **7 Labor Day**<br>10:00 Chair Yoga | **8**<br>9:00-12:00 Office Hours | **9**<br>11:30 Chair Yoga<br>6:30 YG MW Mash<br>6:30 Bible Study | **10**<br>9:00-12:00 Office Hours | **11**<br>9:00-12:00 Office Hours | **12**<br>8:00 Soup Cooking<br>12:00 Soup Cooking |
| **13**<br>9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Potluck<br>10:45 Sunday School | **14**<br>10:00 Chair Yoga | **15**<br>9:00-12:00 Office Hours | **16**<br>9:30 Bible Study<br>11:30 Chair Yoga<br>6:30 YG MW Mash | **17**<br>9:00-12:00 Office Hours<br>6:30 Session Meeting | **18**<br>9:00-12:00 Office Hours | **19**<br>8:00 Soup Cooking<br>12:00 Soup Cooking<br>5:30 Potluck<br>6:00 Card Club |
| **20 Newsletter deadline**<br>9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Fellowship<br>10:45 Sunday School<br>11:00 Labyrinth Study | **21**<br>10:00 Chair Yoga | **22**<br>9:00-12:00 Office Hours<br>6:00 LMNOP | **23**<br>**See You at the Pole**<br>9:30 Bible Study<br>11:30 Chair Yoga<br>6:30 YG MW Mash | **24**<br>9:00-12:00 Office Hours | **25**<br>9:00-12:00 Office Hours | **26**<br>Ely Fall Fest<br>8:00 Soup Cooking<br>12:00 Soup Cooking |
| **27**<br>9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Fellowship<br>10:45 Sunday School<br>11:00 Pickleball | **28**<br>10:00 Chair Yoga | **29**<br>9:00-12:00 Office Hours | **30**<br>9:30 Bible Study<br>11:30 Chair Yoga<br>6:30 YG MW Mash | | | |

Thursday, October 1: Bring Your Bible to School Day
Sunday, October 4: Worldwide Communion Sunday
Sunday, October 11, 1:00 p.m.: CROP Walk

Saturday, October 3: 8:00 & 12:00 Soup Making
October 9 & 10: Kolach Baking & Soup Supper
Saturday, November 7: Senior Meal

**Save the Date!**
Ordering opens September 6

# 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