

COMMUNITY CALL

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FALL BACK

On Sunday, November 3rd, at 2:00 a.m., Daylight Saving Time Ends. Please remember to turn your clocks back one hour.

SECOND ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER



CPC'S Second Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Thursday, November 28, 2019, at Community Presbyterian Church (CPC) in the fellowship hall with the meal starting around 12:30. You and anyone you would like to bring are invited to spend Thanksgiving dinner together with friends and family of CPC. It will be a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings. Come early to visit with one another and stay after for some board games or cards.

Laurie and Brian Elhard along with Pastor Cathie and Paul Campbell will be hosting and preparing the main food for the meal. We have both experienced the joy of cooking for our friends at church, rather than just cooking for ourselves. It is much more fun to come together with friends than eat at home by ourselves.

All we ask is for you to sign up that you will be attending along with how many people will be joining you. If you would like to bring a dish to share, just let us know. In addition, there will be a basket for a free-will offering to help cover the costs. Extras will be donated to the Emergency Food Pantry.



PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR CATHIE

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

2nd Thessalonians 1:2

Welcome to November 2019! In the secular world we often think of the images of elections, Thanksgiving dinner, and Black Friday for the month of November. Have you ever noticed that our images of the seasons tend to be from the secular world?

Even though it is November, I am in the planning mode for December and January. Recently someone asked if we can sing more Christmas songs during Advent. It is interesting to note that people don't ask to sing Easter hymns during Lent. What is it about Christmas songs that is so attractive?

In my pondering, it seems that we are all enticed by the commercial, secular

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world we live in when we are asking to sing Christmas songs before Christmas. When does Christmas begin? For the commercial, secular world, Christmas begins on Black Friday. For the church season, Christmas begins on Christmas Day (Nativity of the Lord) and continues for 12 days through the Epiphany of the Lord. The colors of Christmas are white and gold.

Advent begins four Sundays and weeks before Christmas Day. It is intended to be a time of reflection and preparation as we wait for God's son, Jesus, to be born. Advent ends on Christmas Eve, with people generally singing Christmas songs on Christmas Eve. Colors for Advent are purple or blue.

Recently I was reading an article about the two seasons of Advent and of Christmas. The author suggested we need two "play lists" – one for Advent and one for Christmas. In our hymnals, we have the play lists already set up for us. Advent hymns are found on pages 152-177 and Christmas hymns are on pages 178-228. "But mom...I want to sing Christmas songs!" As children, my sisters and I always pestered my parents to let us open at least one gift before Christmas. And, we usually won and got to open one gift earlier. I remember one year when we pushed to open two gifts, and that request got vetoed!

At Community Presbyterian Church, we will get to listen to Christmas songs at the Cantata and the Children's Program, even though it is the season of Advent.

When we prepare worship services during Advent, we will primarily use hymns from the Advent playlist. During Christmas, we will primarily use hymns from the Christmas playlist.

The season of Thanksgiving often gets shortened by Black Friday as well. Tech-

nically Thanksgiving is a secular holiday although it was originally set aside for the early settlers to give thanks to God. On this Thanksgiving Day, remember the gifts you have received from God in your life. Count your blessings, rejoice, and include your prayers on Thanksgiving. We don't have to wait for Thanks-

giving to be grateful. One of my favorite things to do is make sure I take time to have "gratitude" moments every day.

We are excited to serve a real Thanksgiving dinner at Community Presbyterian Church on Thanksgiving Day. This will be our sec-

ond CPC Thanksgiving Dinner. See the article in this newsletter with additional information <page 1>. If you would like to join us for dinner and need a ride, please contact the office, and we will arrange for someone to pick you up.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Cathie

MARY DE JONG SHARES HER STORY

Mary DeJong is an author!! She wrote a book called *Through A Daughter's Eyes*. It is a raw and honest account of her family's struggle with cancer. She will be holding two book talks in West Fargo to share her journey of writing and publishing this book.

Come and listen:

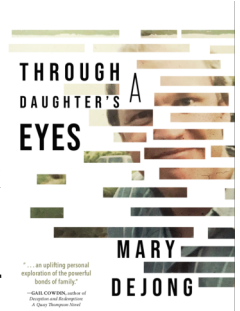
Tuesday, November 12
at 7:00 p.m.

at Community Presbyterian
Church of West Fargo

Wednesday, November 13
from 5:00 p.m.

at the West Fargo Library

Visit Mary's website at marydejong.com.
for more information on the book.



OCTOBER CLERK'S CORNER

The regular meeting of Session was held on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room.



Elders present were Lise Alves, Laurie Elhard, Melanie Hansen, Bob Kozojed, Mike Misheski, Adam Montgomery, and Mary Jo Moorhead. Moderator - Cathie Bishop, Clerk of Session - Becky DeJong, and Treasurer - Carolyn Meester were present. Lee Dobrinz and Chad Nelson were absent.

The meeting was opened with devotions by Mike Misheski.

Consent Agenda:

- approval of the minutes of September 18, 2019 as amended.
- next Session meeting - Wednesday, November 20, 2019
- Erica (Bahls) Truhlicka has requested to have her daughter, Layne, baptized on Sunday, October 27, 2019. Lise Alves and Pastor Cathie will meet with the family on Thursday, October 17.

Moderator's report -

- Submitted articles for CPC newsletter, Community Call.
- Attended Clergy Training - Military Wounds of War, held at West Fargo VFW.
- ZOOM refresher on Conflict Mediation with Marji Ackerman.
- West Fest helper
- Visioning via ZOOM with Marji Ackerman
- ZOOM meeting with Care of Congregations Pod
- Visitations with Bev Montgomery at Sanford.
- Attended several Bell Choir practices
- Attended Deacons meeting
- Served dinner and cleaned up at Salvation Army
- Participated in the CPC Blood Drive
- Attended Cantata Choir practice
- Met with DMin committee at CPCWF
- Met with Nancy Kassman and Carol Sterup regarding serving communion with gluten-free bread.

- Delivered Crop Walk contributions from CPCWF to Moorhead UCC church, coordinators of Crop Walk.
- Took Communion to Louise Johnson with Dixon Moorhead.
- Moderated Session at Mendenhall Presbyterian Church in East Grand Forks
- Day of vacation on Tuesday, October 8
- Met with brainstorming committee
- FaceTime meeting with Claire and Zach regarding their upcoming wedding in February.
- Met with Generosity group
- Text Study at noon; met with Christian Education Committee, and moderated Session
- Prepared worship and preached: September 22 and 29; October 6 (World Communion) and 13th.

Clerk's report -

- 80 served communion on Sunday, October 6, 2019.
- Reviewed membership list - it will be discussed at the November meeting.

Elders to serve communion on Sunday, November 3, 2019 will be Laurie Elhard, Melanie Hansen, Bob Kozojed, and Adam Montgomery.

The financial report was read, discussed, and received.

Two delegates and an alternate are needed to represent CPC at the Presbyterian meetings. There are two meetings each year, one in October and one in April. If you would like to represent CPC please let the Nominating Committee know.

Christian Education Committee: There will be a combined group Sunday School class on Sunday, October 20, NDEA weekend. The committee is looking for a Sunday School Christmas program director - is that you? Let them know if you are interested.

Mission Committee: The New Life Center will be the mission focus for November and December. The Salvation Army bell ringing will be December 7 at two loca-

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tions – Cashwise and Hornbachers – both in West Fargo. Sign up for your two-hour time slot.

Trustees: Discussion was held regarding the Sheyenne development project. Outdoor cameras were discussed.

Stewardship Committee: The second brainstorming session to retire the mortgage will be Wednesday, October 30, at 7:00 p.m.

Worship Committee: The committee is looking for new members. If you are interested and want to have an input in our worship please contact the committee.

No reports: Deacons, Nominating, Personnel, Service and Fellowship committees.

Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Cathie at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky DeJong

**CHRISTMAS
IS COMING
SOON**



Well maybe it isn't around the corner, but it will be here soon enough. This is why the Christian Education Committee is looking for a Sunday School Christmas Program director now. Could they be looking for you?

The Sunday School Christmas Program is slated to occur during worship on Sunday, December 15. The children are energetic with parents who will support them and the director in learning new songs and acting roles. We have some very talented middle school and high school youth who one may utilize in the program. The Christian Education Committee members are ready to support and assist a new director as requested.

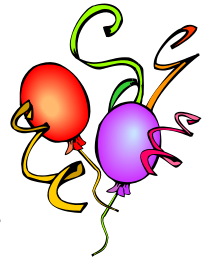
Everything is set to put together a wonderful program -except for a director. Are you that piece of the puzzle? Pray about it.

If you are interested in any way, contact Melanie Hansen at 701-526-6213.

**NOVEMBER DATES
TO REMEMBER**

BIRTHDAYS

- 11-3 Dave Ruhnke
Mary Bastle
- 11-5 Jarrett Meester
- 11-6 Amy Grossman-Tomsich
- 11-8 Adam Montgomery
Joy Taffe
- 11-9 Charlie Elhard
Jackie Petik
Adynn Tomsich
- 11-10 Jim Martin
Susan McIntyre
Vicki Peihl
- 11-13 Sean Alves
Carrie Leopold
- 11-15 Heidi Babb
- 11-18 Brianne Hass
- 11-19 Kayla Hauge
- 11-21 Brent Montgomery
- 11-24 Bob Gross
- 11-25 Erika Matzke
- 11-27 Jacob Witt



**DON'T FORGET
TO SIGN UP
TO TEACH**

Teach a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6

What better way to do this than to join our Sunday School team as a teacher? Share your love of Christ with CPC children or youth. No experience is necessary, curriculum is provided.

Sign-up sheets are on the narthex bulletin board. Teachers for the second-fifth grade classes are especially needed, but substitutes are welcome at all levels. Address questions to Melanie Hansen at mlH060673@yahoo.com or 701-526-6213.

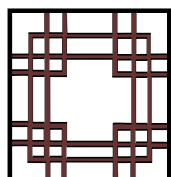
THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who contributed in donations of time, food, or money at the Per Capita Picnic. Through your efforts, we were able to raise \$1,313.00!



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to join us Wednesdays at 10 a.m. as Bonnie Thompson leads a study on Jesus' sermon on the mount. Known as one of His best sermons and set in the beginning of His public ministry, it is Jesus' description of what He wants His followers to be and do.



PRESBYTERIAN SQUARES BIBLE STUDY

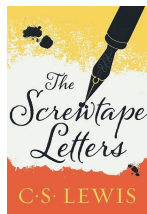
Are you having trouble when you pray – feel like you keep saying the same words over and over? Or you just can't get motivated to pray? Our Bible lesson on praying this month gives us some tips how to refresh our prayers. We will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday, November 6, at the church. Bring a dish to share as we enjoy fellowship and food before our lesson. Feel free to join us any month you can.

LADIES CIRCLE

Ladies, join us every second Tuesday for Afternoon Ladies Circle in the narthex. If you like, bring a sack lunch and have fellowship at 12:30 p.m. Otherwise, come ready to begin Bible study at 1:00 p.m. Coffee and treats will be shared later.



The study this year is *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* by Eugenia Ann Gamble.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Meet with us at 9 a.m. Sundays to study C.S. Lewis' book, *The Screwtape Letters*. We will spend the first 10-15 minutes of class watching a video lecture discussing the letter of the day. Then, we will spend the next 30 minutes of class discussing the main themes of that letter.

For more information on adult Sunday School, contact Andrew Thostenson by phone at 701-492-0630 or via e-mail at atgtet@far.midco.net

NOVEMBER SERMON SCRIPTURES FOR WORSHIP



Nov 3: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 and Luke 19:1-10
 Nov 10: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 and Luke 20:27-38
 Nov 17: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 and Luke 21:5-19
 Nov 24: Colossians 1:11-20 and Luke 23:33-43

SERVANTS NEEDED



We need you to assist in the delivery and preparation of meals at Churches United for the Homeless and The Salvation Army. We help serve the meal at Churches United the second Wednesday of every odd month (Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., Nov.) at 4 p.m. and the Salvation Army every fifth Sunday (12/29/19). See Dixon Moorhead for ways you can help.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Sunday School for those aged 3 years and beyond will be meeting every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. with the following exceptions:



There will be NO Sunday School November 24, December 22, and December 29.

DEACONS



If anyone in the congregation is hospitalized or needs a visit, contact the Deacons. If anyone in the congregation would like home communion service, please contact Lise Alves.

Linda Bishop	[H] 701-282-8515
	[C] 701-200-1818
Boots Montgomery	701-281-0028
Dixon Moorhead	[H] 701-277-1414
	[C] 701-200-9709
Gayle Thostenson	[H] 701-492-0630
Vicky Whitcomb	[H] 701-282-9292
	[C] 701-809-2483
Lise Alves, Session Liaison	
	701-412-8689

HAVE YOU NOTICED?

Have you noticed the youth in our church? Some of them play the piano before Sunday School or occasionally as part of the pianist rotation. Some offer special music from time to time or sing in the choir. Many assist in the lighting of the candles at the beginning of the worship service. Some play sports or cheer for local school teams. Some may have been seen tending the church's garden. Many attend Sunday School and worship regularly. Most enjoy the treats after worship.

All of them need a new youth director.

The new youth director doesn't need special skills. Christian Education can help with programs and schedules. BUT the new director does need to meet each of our youth and to take the time to connect and listen to what is important to them.

Do you enjoy youth and getting to know them? Perhaps this position is for you.

Please pray about it, and if God leads you, call Melanie Hansen at 701-526-6213.



THANK YOU!

This year's Presbyterian Women's Bazaar raised a net total of \$1,253.27. Presbyterian Women have a long-standing tradition in using the Bazaar to raise funds for the church and its ministries. This past year they have donated \$500 to One Great Hour of Sharing and \$2,000 towards CPC's per capita obligations.

Thanks to all who helped make the PW Bazaar a success! Whether you worked at the Bazaar, donated food or supplies for the lunch meal, donated crafts and goodies to be sold, helped clean up on Sunday, bought lunch or crafts, or gave money to the cause, your contribution made a difference. We couldn't have done it without you. You are very much appreciated!



MISSION FOCUS



Community Presbyterian Church's mission focus for November and December is The New Life Center. The New Life Center has been meeting needs and transforming lives through the love of Christ since 1907. They help people who are homeless and hurting go from merely surviving to truly thriving. Their aim is to help them discover value and find hope. Founded as the Glad Tidings Mission, the New Life Center has evolved from an organization that primarily conducted religious services and neighborhood outreach work to a Christian multi-faceted emergency and crisis service center.

This December, the Mission Committee is asking our congregation to donate Christmas gifts for the men at the New Life Center. Suggested gifts are: MAT bus passes, white t-shirts, and men's jeans, work boots, socks, and underwear. Gloria Ruhnke, CPC's New Life Center representative, will pick up and deliver your donations on Friday, December 13.

For more information about the New Life Center or how you can help, go to their website at: <http://www.fargonlc.org/>



NEW LIFE CENTER INVITATION

EVENT: Meal at the Mission

DATE: November 21

TIME: 11:45 a.m.
to 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: New Life Center
1902 3rd Ave N,
Fargo, ND

Come tour our newly renovated Mission, enjoy a meal, and learn about our programs and facility updates that are helping rescue and restore lives.



DECEMBER IS COMING SOON!

Mark your calendar early and don't miss out on all the activities in December! Watch for details *and* more activities in upcoming church announcements.

Saturday, December 7

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Sunday, December 8, 10:00 a.m.

Choir Cantata during worship

Sunday, December 8, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Fa-La-La Festivities

Wednesday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m.

Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 15, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Tuesday, December 24, at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve worship service

Wednesday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Day worship service

BELL RINGING FOR SALVATION ARMY



Bell ringing for the Salvation Army will be Saturday, December 7th, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Cash Wise in West Fargo and Hornbachers in West Fargo. These are all inside locations.

Grab a friend and sign up to help ring bells. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you have any questions, contact Carolyn Meester at 793-3245 or cjmeester@msn.com



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Last year, many members of our church, wrote Advent Devotionals. The Worship Committee reviewed the devotionals and wanted to share them once again with the congregation. We believe this is a gift that should be shared one more time.

You can find your copy of the devotional starting mid-November on the table in the narthex.

HANGING OF THE GREENS



Mark your calendar!

You, a member of our church family, are invited to join in preparing CPC for the Advent Season on Sunday, November 24th, after worship for the Hanging of the Greens. Please plan to join us.



CANTATA TO BE PERFORMED SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

"The night of the Father's love...the night the ancient prophecies were fulfilled; the night of the angelic announcement of the birth as the star shone brightly above, leading others to witness this incredible gift of love from God in human form--Jesus, the babe." So is set the cantata, *Night of the Father's Love*, by Pepper Choplin.

Come to worship Sunday, December 8, at 10:00 a.m. and enjoy the choir's performance of portions of this cantata along with music by Jay Althouse, Mark Hayes, and Brad Nix as we revisit that special night and celebrate the awe and mystery of God with us.

LADIES 10TH ANNUAL FA-LA-LA FESTIVITIES



When: December 8th
Time: 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Hosts Becky DeJong and Carol Sterup invite you to share in an evening of Fellowship, Food, and Fun. We request the presence of ALL the Ladies, aged 14 and up. There will be a Christmas gift exchange with a \$5.00 limit. Feel free to wear your favorite holiday attire!!

Needed: any extra glassware (cups, glasses, vases) sitting in the back of your cupboard. Dust it off, wash it out bring it to the church, and place it in the "glassware" tote in the narthex.

As always, we will share a meal together: Soups, Salads, and DESSERTS. Look for the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board.

YEAR-TO-DATE GIVING UPDATE

9-30-2019



General Operating budget

2019: \$149,928.50

Weekly funds needed to meet
budget: \$2,883.24

Actual giving to date \$ 90,897.43

Actual expenses to date \$ 99,370.42

Net income to date \$ -8,472.99

This does not include the mortgage payment of \$3,146.54. There are funds in the building fund account to cover the mortgage payment through January.

Per Capita amount for 2019 is \$46.00 for each confirmed member. The assessed amount for 2019 is \$8,326.00. So far \$5,200 has been designated to our per capita assessment. Please mark on your check or envelope funds you are contributing to Per Capita.

...each of us grows in faith by assessing the many blessings of our lives and considering our need to give as an expression of our gratitude to God.

TRYING SOMETHING NEW



The words that no church member wants to hear: "we are trying something new." Yet, the Worship Committee has chosen to move away from the registration books that are in the pews to a Guest Sign-In book in the front entryway.

Let's all be honest, how often did you actually sign the registration books? If you are like me, never. It was just another task that the ushers did after service to check each book and see if anyone signed in. It is our hope that guests will sign the new book so that we can know who has visited CPC.

Check it out and tell us what you think.

**December/January
Community Call
deadline will be
Thursday, November 21**

