COMMUNITY CALL

Pastor: Rev. Catherine B. Bishop; Office Administrator: Mary Jean Gross; Ministers: The People of God 702 Sheyenne St., West Fargo, ND 58078; 701-282-4135; Pastor cell: 712-490-8333; E-mail: office@cpcwf.org; Web: www.cpcwf.org



ADVENT PROGRAMS

Come! Join us in celebrating our Savior's birth! Here are just a few options for wor-

shipping and glorifying Jesus' name:

Wednesday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m., Pastor Cathie will conduct a Blue Christmas service, focusing on God's hope and comfort.

Sunday, December 13, the Christmas Cantata will be performed during worship. You won't want to miss hearing these Christmas favorites.

Sunday, December 20, during worship, the Sunday School will present a virtual Christmas drama.

Finally, you'll want to join us for the Candlelight Christmas Eve service on Thursday, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. and the Christmas Service on Friday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m.

Look for more regarding these events and other ways to honor Christ's birth elsewhere in this newsletter and upcoming announcements.

2020-2021 SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR



While services are online, there will be no in-person Sunday School. Watch for new opportunities in January.

Parents, don't forget to go to www.cpcwf.org to download Sunday's order of worship and get a copy of the children's bulletin. Children's Time continues to be a part of each Sunday's service. Additionally, children's sermons are posted weekly at CPC's Facebook page.

PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR CATHIE

"To those who received a faith equal to ours through the justice of our God and savior Jesus Christ: May you have more and more

grace and peace through the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord." (2 Peter 1:1b-2 CEB)

The statement at the beginning of 2 Peter struck me as a wonderful way to begin Advent. Read it again: "May you have more and more grace and peace through the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord." Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of our recognition of the birth of Jesus. Truly this preparation time that God has given us includes grace and peace as we remember and learn more about the Son of God and Son of Man.

This Advent and Christmas season is different from any we have experi-

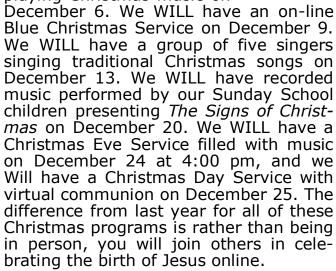
(Continued on page 2)

In this issue 7,8 10,11 3 6 9 5 m 13 **Advent Events** Calendars Clerks Corner Dates to Remember Deacons Financial Report Focus on Mission Preauthorized Debit Form Puzzles, Snowmen, & More 5 Sabbatical with Presbytery Scriptures for Worship Worship Help

(Continued from page 1)

enced. Everything we do has to be thought through. We need to make sure that we keep people as healthy as we can and not make things worse for those who are vulnerable. We are grateful for the gift of technology and people who know who to use it!

Reality is that it is not looking like we will have traditional in-sanctuary services in December. However, we WILL have worship on the first Sunday of Advent on November 29 with Mitzi singing. We WILL have virtual communion and bells playing Christmas music on



Yes, the first Sunday of Advent is November 29, 2020! In a way it feels like this year has been longer than usual, and then, Advent is here and then Christmas, followed by January, 2021! But now it is time to allow ourselves to ponder Advent, preparing ourselves for the Messiah. Read the words by Anne Russ, "An Advent Call to Worship."

An Advent Call to Worship

We enter Advent ready to receive Your Word, for this season does not call for speaking or shouting or singing. It is a season of listening. Word of God, speak. Speak to our grief, our loneliness, and our uncertainty. Speak to us of the hope and peace that are in short supply. Speak to us of the love and faith that will sustain us in the weeks and months to come. We stand ready to hear. Instead of seeking to be heard, Word of God, speak.

Written by Anne Russ

Perhaps this time of Advent and Christmas is really giving us time to be with God rather than all the hustle and bustle of preparing for guests, decorating, and buying gifts. To me, if feels like we have been given a wonderful gift to refocus on what it means to be a Christian.

If you will have more time alone than you usually do, rather than being irritated and sad, consider that it may be a sign that God has opened up space for you to be with God. Let the silence be; listen to the quiet, and just maybe, you will find God talking with you because you are listening.

Grace and Peace this Season, Pastor Cathie

HAVING PROBLEMS WATCHING WORSHIP ONLINE? WE HAVE OPTIONS FOR YOU

Here is a link to the CPC Zoom worship service,

click on it when worship begins on Sundays, and you should be able to watch the service.

https://us02web.zoom.us/ i/88112680043?

pwd=YmxXdU5KdmZZSUpQbWljVVNnb WIDdz09

You can also watch the service by clicking on the YouTube button at cpcwf.org.

In addition, you can listen to the service via phone by dialing 1 312 626 6799. When prompted, dial in meeting number 881 1268 0043.

If you still need assistance, please contact Gayle Thostenson.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL CPCWF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 8, 2020 AT 11:05 A.M.



A special meeting of Community Presbyterian Church was held November 8, 2020 at 11:05 a.m. The meeting was opened in prayer by Moderator Rev. Cathie Bishop. Carolyn Meester, filling in for the Clerk, verified there was a quorum present with 19 people in attendance.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Gayle Thostenson was nominated for the position of elder to fulfill the remaining term of the vacant position which ends January of 2022.

The moderator called for nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

Gayle Thostenson was elected to serve as elder for the remaining term of the vacant position which ends 2022. The motion was unanimously carried.

Dixon Moorhead made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carrie Leopold seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously carried.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Moderator Bishop at 11:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER CLERK'S CORNER

The regular meeting of Session was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 7:00



The meeting was opened with devotions by Melanie Hansen.

Consent Agenda:

a. approval of the minutes of October

- 21, 2020
- b. next Session meeting Wednesday, December 16, 2020
- c. Annual meeting date January 17, 2021 with a storm date of January 24, 2021

Moderator's report:

- Newsletter articles for November were submitted by October 23, 2020.
- Saturday, October 24, 2020, attended the October Presbytery Meeting via Zoom.
- I accepted additional responsibility in the Care for Congregations Pod as the Moderators Task Leader for the Presbytery.
- Met with the Elhard family on Friday, October 23, regarding the funeral for Brian's mother, Clara Elhard. The funeral was held at West Funeral Home on Tuesday, October 27. Clara was buried at Riverside Cemetery, Fargo, ND.
- Wednesday, October 28, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., met with the joint Session meeting with Hunter and Grandin at Hunter. Mary Holtey moderates the Hunter Session, and I moderate the Grandin Session.
- Thursday, October 29, 2020, at 5:30 p.m., met with Presbyterian Pastors in the FM area at Fargo church.
- Monday, November 2, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., moderated Mendenhall Session via Zoom.
- Wednesday, November 4, 2020, Zoom Clergy Study with local pastors from 11:30a.m.-12:30 pm.
- Wednesday, November 4, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., attended Christian Education Committee meeting.
- Sunday, November 8, 2020, moderated Special Congregational Meeting, for the sole purpose of filling the vacant spot on Session via Zoom with technical help from Lee Dobrinz, Andrew Thostenson, and Kevin Galt.
- Wednesday, November 11, 2020, attended Worship Committee meeting via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. and Deacons at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

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Thursday, November 12, 2020, provided worship for Park View Place residents at 9:00 a.m.; met with Christian Education team at 6:30 p.m.

 Monday, November 16, 2020, will participate in the Care for Congrega-

tions at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.

 Wednesday, November 18, 2020, will attend Zoom Clergy Study with local pastors from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Will moderate CPC Session meeting at 7:00 p.m.

 On Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., attended Bell Practice on October 27, November 3, November 10, and November 15. Bells were our Special Music on Sunday, November 15, 2020.

 Prepared and led worship including sermon for October 25, November 1 with Communion, November 8, and

November 15.

Clerk's report -

i. Committee summaries are due in December.

Elder to serve communion on Sunday, December 6, 2020, will be Bob Kozojed.

The financial report was read, discussed, and received.

With permission and regret, Claire Pfau was removed from the roles.

A sign advertising our December services will be placed in the parking lot.

Gayle Thostenson was presented to the Session for examination for the office of ruling elder. Gayle will fill the remaining 13-month term of the open Session position. She will act as the Deacon liaison. Welcome Gayle! Her Service of Ordination will be Sunday, November 22, 2020.

Christian Education: We met in November and have begun work on the Christmas program. For now, unless things change, we will be doing a virtual program. The families will video the children and email it in. Then, with the help of Amy Grossman-Tomsich we will be putting them together and showing it

where the sermon usually is on December 20th. This way, more children will be able to participate especially if families are uncomfortable in person. - Melanie Hansen

Stewardship: Stewardship has submitted the required documentation to the state of North Dakota for the forgiveness of money remitted to the church for the upgrades to promote less germ prone church facilities. In addition, we are in the process of developing the communication for friends and members of the church that are interested in the financial challenges of the church during the COVID-19 era and future plans to enhance the church's financial wellbeing. – Mike Misheski

Trustees: The church received an Economic Resiliency Grant through which contractors will install new touchless fixtures in our restrooms and two electrostatic cleaning machines were purchased. A training session will be scheduled on how to properly use these machines to help disinfect our church. With the COVID pandemic, wall repair in the basement SE classroom and fellowship hall have been put on hold. This project will now take place in January. We continue to have church lights left on at various places in our church. Please turn off all lights when you leave the church. - Bob Kozojed

Worship: At our meeting we had a focus on prepping for the Advent season. We checked on the progress of the Advent Devotional and had some discussions on the distribution of the booklet. As a committee we also started working through the details of each of the events/services we have scheduled during the Advent season. - Melissa Engebretson

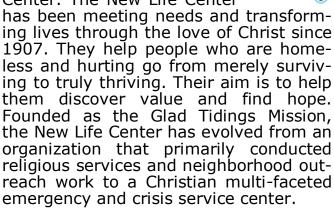
No reports: Deacons, Mission, Nominating, Personnel, Service & Fellowship

Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Cathie at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Becky DeJong

MISSION FOCUS

The mission focus for Community Presbyterian Church in December is The New Life Center. The New Life 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, winter coats, white t-shirts, gloves, socks, and underwear. In addition, gift cards from Walmart, Target, Amazon, Sam's Club, or something similar can be donated, so when the men have a need that arises, they can go to the store to pick up supplies. To deliver gifts, one can contact any Missions Committee member (see newsletter cover sheet), or they can be dropped off at CPC during office hours on Mondays. Tuesdays, or Wednesdays.

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

TAKE A PUZZLE, LEAVE A PUZZLE

The Service and Fellowship Committee is launching a new program to help

pass time this winter: Take a Puzzle, Leave a Puzzle.

This new program is just like it sounds. If you have an extra puzzle you have already mastered, you can place it on the bookshelf in the narthex for someone else to take home to put together. It is that simple. We hope that puzzles with be coming and going all winter long.



VIRTUAL ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS SCAVENGER HUNT

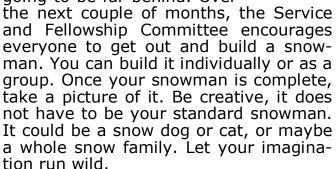
Join the Service and Fellowship Committee

on Sunday, December 6th, at 7:00 p.m. for a virtual scavenger hunt. This holiday hunt will be an online competition where players race to complete challenges or find items before the time limit ends. We encourage everyone to join us for this fun holiday game and who knows maybe there even be a prize at the end for the winner.

To register, please email Laurie Elhard at laurie lehard@yahoo.com by noon on December 6th. A Zoom meeting invite will be emailed to you with a link to this fun adventure.

WANT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN?

As the weather begins to get colder, we know snow is not going to be far behind. Over



At the end of January, we will be asking for everyone who built a snowman to submit the photos for the first ever Community Presbyterian Church Snowman Building Contest. Each photo received will be posted on the CPC Facebook page for people to vote on their favorite.

CALLING ALL LITURGISTS

Having another voice read the liturgy enhances everyone's worship experience. Please

prayerfully consider assisting in worship as liturgist.

DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 12-3 Mike Misheski
- 12-5 Terry Meester
- 12-10 Brady Bahls
- 12-20 Brian Elhard
- 12-23 Erin Thostenson
- 12-26 Boots Montgomery
- 12-27 Ty Arvidson
- 12-31 Sophia Dobrinz

ANNIVERSARIES

12-1-18 Adam and Courtney

Montgomery

12-12-70 - Jack and Dixie Smith

12-18-82 – Andrew and Gayle Thostenson

JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 1-5 Evan Thostenson
- 1-6 Emmalee Lynn Babb
- 1-7 Mitzi Hager
- 1-8 Ross Montgomery Zachary Strand
- 1-10 Elizabeth Strand
- 1-12 Gabriel Gross
- Isaac Leopold 1-13 Cathie Bishop
- 1-16 Kay Munsch Doris Randle
- 1-18 Grace Chandler
- 1-21 Laurie Elhard
- 1-22 Derek Leopold
- 1-23 Austin Montgomery
- 1-26 Gail Matzke

ANNIVERSARIES

1-9-82 – Brent and Boots Montgomery

SNOWBIRD REMINDER

Are you ready to fly off to warmer climates? If so, don't forget to take CPC

with you.

First, inform our church office administrator, Mary Gross (office@cpcwf.org or 282-4135), regarding your temporary address(es) and the time you will be away from home so you won't miss any CPC mailings. Then, don't forget to catch the sermons you'll miss on site by visiting the web at cpcwf.org

JOIN PRESBYTERY IN A TWO MONTH SABBATICAL



FROM: Presbytery of Northern Plains recent email 11/5/20

At the last Presbytery Meeting, we approved taking a 2-month sabbatical for the Presbytery. For the rest of the year, our PODS are taking a break from all business that can be postponed. We will be focusing on fellowship and spiritual growth. We have a few different opportunities. Take a look!

Psalms Reading

Journey through the book of Psalms with us on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/

i/88583523513?

pwd=Y2RLRjY5Y01Zd09nOVIUZzExK1F2

<u>UT09</u>

Meeting ID: 885 8352 3513

Passcode: 924057

Coffee Hour

Join us on Monday, November 9, at 9:00 a.m. for fellowship. Meet and make some new friends throughout the Presbytery. Bring a cup of coffee or tea or whatever you like in the mornings!

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/

i/84866751693?

<u>pwd=L2dQdTRvNEkyb1d6eCtPamUrL1JI</u> Zz09

Meeting ID: 848 6675 1693

Passcode: 324322

Happy Hour

Join us Friday, November 13 at 6:30 for a Presbytery Happy Hour! Get your favorite drink and have a good time visiting with folks across the Presbytery!

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/

j/84630000750?

pwd=eXRqR0dCMXlCSDh4UytITXJXQVR

PUT09

Meeting ID: 846 3000 0750

Passcode: 707579



DECEMBER IS HERE!

Don't miss out on all the activities in this

busy month! Watch for details and more activities in upcoming church announcements.

Saturday, December 5

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Sunday, December 6

Virtual Scavenger Hunt

Wednesday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m.

Blue Christmas Service

Saturday, December 12, afternoon

Angel Tree Deliveries

Sunday, December 13, 10:00 a.m.

Choir Cantata during worship Sunday, December 20, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Tuesday, December 24

Salvation Army Christmas Meal

Tuesday, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service Wednesday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Day worship service

CANTATA TO BE PERFORMED SUNDAY, **DECEMBER** 13



On Sunday, December 13th, a small group of singers will be socially distancing to perform a short cantata. Join the online service to hear the medley of traditional Christmas hymns.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TO BE **PRESENTED**

You've seen the signs: candles, candy canes, wreaths, trees, and more, but why do people display them every year? Are they more than just decoration? To find out, watch the Sunday School children and youth will perform Signs of Christmas on Sunday, December 20, at 10 a.m. during worship.

Please join us for this special virtual performance as we gather together, whether online or in person, to focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

BLUE CHRISTMAS: A SERVICE OF HOPE AND COMFORT ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9 AT 7:00 P.M.

Are you dealing with loss and grief? Are you overwhelmed with change that is happening in your life? Are you struggling to find joy this year? You are not alone. The Blue Christmas Service is for individuals and families who are carrying pain or loss during this time of year. All are welcome.



SALVATION ARMY **CHRISTMAS** LUNCHEON

Once again Community Presbyterian Church will he and servina

Christmas Eve meal at the Salvation Army. CPC families have made this mission a cornerstone of their Christmas experience, and you are invited to join.

As with most things this year, the meal delivery will be different. Instead of providing a sit-down meal, lunch bags will be provided through the building's front window. Five or six volunteers will be needed to arrive by 10:30 a.m. to complete this task.

Contact Dave Ruhnke or Dixon Moorhead if you are able to lend a hand. Thank you for helping us continue this important work.

BELL RINGING FOR SALVATION ARMY

Bell ringing for the Salvation Army will be Saturday, December 5th, in the entry of Hornbachers in West Fargo (2050 Sheyenne St.) from 12:30 p.m. to 7:30 pm.



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Check your emails! The 2020 Advent Devotional

booklets are ready to go. If you would like a hard copy, stop by the church to pick one up, or contact the church office to ask them to post you a copy.

WICKED WOMEN IN THE BIBLE-AN EMAIL BIBLE STUDY

Are you tired of hearing about COVID? Why not take a few minutes and read about our Wicked Women in the Bible? Twice a month an email will be sent out talking about one of these women, and not all were really wicked. God used them for doing good too. Our November studies were on Sapphira and Delilah. If you would like to be added to our email list, let Gayle or myself know (<u>vrpeihl@gmail.com</u>).

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and hope you stay healthy. Remember the reason for the season!

ANGEL TREE

"Every child has a story. For 2.7 million children in the U.S., that story may be filled with the abandonment, lone-



liness, and shame that come from having a mom or dad in prison. For many, it may also include following their parents down the same destructive road to incarceration. Angel Tree®, a program of Prison Fellowship, reaches out to the children of prisoners and their families with the love of Christ."

Angel Tree website

CPC is engaging in another year of Angel Tree, a program of Prison Fellowship, which reaches out to the children of inmates and their families. This unique program gives our church an opportunity to share Christ's love by helping to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners. CPC will be buying gifts for children on behalf of their imprisoned parents.

Deliveries will be made Saturday, December 12. Watch for upcoming cpcnews@midco.net email announcements for information on how you can help.

For more information about Angel Tree and Prison Fellowship, go to:

https://www.prisonfellowship.org/about/ angel-tree/

DECEMBER & JANUARY SCRIPTURES FOR WORSHIP

Nov 29: 1st Sunday of Advent

Mark 13:24-37 I Corinthians 1:3-9

Dec 6: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Mark 1:1-2; Isaiah 1:1-11 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Dec 9: Blue Christmas Service Dec 13: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:46b-55

I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Dec 20: 4th Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:26-38 Romans 16:25-27

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

Dec 25: Christmas Day John 1:1-14

Isaiah 52:7-10

Dec 27: 1st Sunday of Christmas

Luke 2:22-40 Galatians 4:4-7

Jan 3: 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Ephesians 1:3-14 Jeremiah 31:7-14

Jan 10: Baptism of the Lord

Mark 1:2-11 Acts 19:1-7

Jan 17: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

John 1:43-51 I Corinthians 6:12-20

Jan 24: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Mark 1:14-20

I Corinthians 7:29-31

Jan 31: 4th Sunday after Epiphany Mark 1:21-28

I Corinthians 8:1-13

RINGING IN OUR THANKS

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to ring bells for the Salvation Army. Without your help, we would not be able to accomplish this.

IN GRATITUDE

Worship Committee would like to recognize all who contributed to CPC's 2020 Advent Devotional.

Your efforts are very much appreciated. Thank you!

YEAR-TO-DATE **GIVING UPDATE**

10-30-2020

General Operating budget 2020: \$153,000.00 Weekly funds needed to

meet budget: \$2,943.45

\$ 94,416.12 Actual giving to date Actual expenses to date **\$108,724.7**3 Net income to date \$ -14,308.61

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 2020 is \$47.00 for each confirmed member. We still owe \$4,932.50 toward our assessment for 2020. The unpaid balance at the end of the year is paid from the church general fund. Please mark on your check or envelope "Per Capita".

God wants us; He wants the givers, not just the gifts from the givers. He doesn't need our gifts, but we have a need to God wants us to honor Him through our faithful and generous giving. When we make giving a priority week after week, He is honored.



A GIFT FOR YOU FROM THE **WEST FARGO FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The West Fargo Fire Department providing 8 ½ X 5 ½inch emergency information magnets for your refrigerators.

If you would like an

Emergency Information Magnet, contact the church office or Pastor Cathie. We have some here at CPC that we can distribute if you are interested. It is a great way to have information available when you need it the most!

2021 **ANNUAL MEETING**



Annual

Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 17, 2020, in the sanctuary immediately following worship, with a storm date of January 24, 2020.

Committee chairs please have annual reports to the clerk by December 31. Everyone, please make an effort to attend this important meeting.

DEACONS



If you are aware of any of our members or friends who need extra care, please reach out to us. All requests are kept in

confidence.

Lies Alves	[6] 701 412 0600
Lise Alves	[C] 701-412-8689
Linda Bishop	[H] 701-282-8515
·	[C] 701-200-1818
Terry Meester	[C] 701-799-5102
Boots Misheski	[C] 701-388-7160
Dixon Moorhead	[H] 701-277-1414
	[C] 701-200-9709
Vicky Whitcomb	ĪНĪ 701-282-9292

Gayle Thostenson, Session Liaison

[H] 701-492-0630 [C] 701-412-6387

WE'D LOVE TO **HEAR YOU**





We are looking to add more music back into our worship service and we need your help. Even though we are not able to sing as a congregation, let's keep the music alive. Please sign up to perform some special music whether you sing or play an instrument. We would love to hear a special song or a favorite hymn.

> February's Community Call deadline is Thursday, January 21