

COMMUNITY CALL

Pastor: Rev. Catherine Bishop; **Ministers:** The People of God
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ADVENT PROGRAMS

Come! Join us in celebrating our Savior's birth! Here are just a few of the opportunities to worship and glorify Jesus' name this December:

First, there are carols to sing. Everyone is welcome to join in the chorus of Noel Chanters who will sing to memory care units at Evergreens on December 2nd and at Bethany Homes on December 13th (more details on page 6).

On Sunday, December 11, during worship, the Sunday School will present its Christmas pageant. Baked goods will be sold by Soul Train before and after the service in the church narthex.

December 18, the Christmas cantata will be performed during the normal worship service. You won't want to miss this retelling of the Christmas story. A potluck meal will follow in the fellowship hall.

Finally, you'll want to join us for the candlelight Christmas eve service on Saturday, December 24, at 6:30 p.m. and the Christmas service on Sunday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m.

Watch for more ways that you can celebrate Christ's birth in this newsletter.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please note: There will be NO Sunday School on December 25th or January 1. Sunday School classes will resume January 8, 2017.



PONDERINGS

FROM PASTOR CATHIE



Greetings and welcome to the time of year where we prepare and wait. The season of Advent began on Sunday, November 27. As Christians, the Advent season is the beginning of our church year; it is a time of expectation, a time of spiritual renewal, a time of longing, and a time of looking forward to the arrival of the one who has already come. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we celebrate God's answer, remembering the birth of Jesus. Through the season of Advent into Christmas, we open our hearts and ourselves for Jesus to be born again in our lives, and in the lives of those around the world. In our anxiousness, we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus." – the words that are also found at the end of the Book of Revelation.

Our Gospel reading for the first Sunday in Advent is Matthew 24:36-44. In

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the opening sentence, we hear the words: "But about that day and hour no one knows...." We believe and celebrate the birth of Jesus, knowing that he is the Son of God, and the Son of Man; and will return. In the meantime, we prepare and wait. While we are waiting, I encourage you to use the time to refresh your spiritual practices and prayerfully reflect upon your preparations and how they feed you as a Christian. We all have times of darkness and light in our lives; use this time of preparation in prayer and study to determine where and what God is calling you to in this season of your life.

Remembering the seasons of the church year turns our whole life into an "advent" as we continually prepare and wait throughout our lives. We are assured that throughout the process, God is with us, every step of the way.

Please read through the whole newsletter as there are lots of things going on in December and January. Join with the whole congregation in worship and praise on Sunday mornings, especially during the Children's Program, the Choir Cantata, and on Christmas Eve. Christmas Day is on a Sunday this year...and we will be here in the sanctuary, ready to worship and share in the Lord's Supper together.

We are bringing you something new this year, a Blue Christmas: Service of Hope and Healing. It will be held on Wednesday, December 14, at 7:00 p.m. at CPC. Christmas can be a very difficult time for us as we struggle with losses of many kinds. This service is an opportunity to come together with friends and family. There is no age limit as we are aware of the losses of family and friends this past spring for our high school students, as well as the death more recently of a principal. We will have some refreshments in the narthex after the service with time to visit.



Just around the corner, we come to the end of our calendar year and begin the new year of 2017. It is a time of reflection and preparation for the future. Sometimes there is waiting within our secular lives as well as our lives as a Christian. As I am writing to you, I remember that last year at this time I was serving a church in Sioux City because their pastor had just retired. I was privileged to be with them through the season of Advent and Christmas. Here it is a year later; you called me to be your pastor and we have moved from Sioux City, IA to West Fargo, ND. We are filled with gratitude to be with you and that Paul has the opportunity to serve First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead.

As you reflect on your past year, you will find there were times of joy and celebration. In addition, you will find there were times of sadness, times of frustration, and times of waiting. Whether we talk about the seasons of the church year or the seasons of the worldly year, what we notice is that through everything, God has walked with us and we were not alone.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Cathie

ANGEL TREE

Our church is engaging in a new ministry. Angel Tree, a program of Prison Fellowship, reaches out to the children of inmates and their families with the love of Christ. 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.

Sign up to purchase or deliver gifts on the bulletin board in the narthex.

For more information about Angel Tree, go to:

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



NOVEMBER CLERK'S CORNER



The regular meeting of Session was held on November 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. Elders present were Lise Alves, Cathy Birrenkott, Linda Bishop, Lee Dobrinz (via phone), Terry Meester, Bruce Steele, and Andrew Thostenson. Moderator Cathie Bishop, Clerk Becky DeJong, and Treasurer Carolyn Meester were present. Sue Hanna and Dawn Larson were absent.

The meeting was opened with prayer and devotions by Lise Alves.

Consent Agenda:

- a. approval of the minutes of October 19, 2016
- b. next Session meeting - Wednesday, December 21, 2016
- c. annual meeting date - January 22, 2017 with a storm date of January 29, 2017

Moderator's report -

- Wrote and submitted "Ponderings by Pastor Cathie" article for November 2016 newsletter.
- Wedding rehearsal 10/20; 10/21 officiated at wedding of Amy Matzke & Tucker Bucholz.
- Met with confirmation mentors. Added Becky DeJong as mentor with Lisa Steffen for the Corneliusen girls, Angela and Andrea.
- Boots Misheski and I are writing a draft of funeral guidelines.
- Helped Lise Alves distribute fall baskets for Deacons 10/26.
- Led PW Cluster meeting opening worship at Casselton 10/29.
- Visited Pat Langfitt at Manor Care 10/27; funeral 11/1 at CPC.
- Taught confirmation class on "How to Spell Presbyterian" - church history and polity, 11/2. All students, along with their parent, and all but one mentor (who was out of town) were present.
- Had several home visits, hospital visits and delivered and home commun-

ion.

- Attended monthly Sunday evening prayer service with Jail Chaplains of Fargo-Moorhead on 11/6.
- Met with Rev. Sara McManus of Flame of Faith United Methodist Church 11/8; she will be joining me in leading the Blue Christmas Service at CPC on December 14.
- Met with Rachele Berge-Buss, Grief Counselor at West Funeral Home about their Holiday Remembrance that will be held November 16th and established relationship; we will send her information about our Blue Christmas service in December so she can share it with the funeral directors and family members.
- Served meal at Churches United with CPCWF members, 11/9.
- Met with Trustees, 11/9.
- Attended Sanford Faith Community Advisory Group, 11/10.
- COM conference call, 11/15.

Clerk's report:

- i. 87 served communion on Sunday, November 6.
- ii. Committee summaries are due in December.

The financial report was discussed. Per capita is due! If you haven't paid yours, please do it!

With CPC's permission, NDSU will archive several of our old directories to preserve them as part of ND history.

The youth mission trip was discussed. The Personnel Committee will meet with Samantha Herman to discuss the trip and then along with the Christian Education Committee a proposal will be presented to Session for approval.

Amanda and Kirby Keller would like to have their son, Rylan Keller, baptized on Sunday, December 4, with Brent Montgomery (grandpa) being the presenting elder. Elders, Bruce Steele and Cathy Birrenkott, and Pastor Cathie will meet with the parents to discuss baptism responsibilities.

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David Teets, from Minot, ND, would like to become a member of CPC.

A 60 month contract was approved for a new printer/copier machine for the office.

Christian Education Committee: Bibles will be gifted to three third grade and one fourth grade Sunday School students on Sunday, November 20. The children's Christmas program is on December 11, complete with a bag of sweets after the service!

Deacons: If you know of someone that needs company and turkey on Thanksgiving – please let the deacons know!

Mission Committee: The New Life Center needs gently used coats, hats and mittens.

Nominating: Committee slots are being filled. If you interested in serving on a committee – please contact Terry Meester.

Personnel: The church office will be closed on December 26 for the Christmas holiday.

Stewardship Committee: Stewardship Sunday on November 20 will include a Moment for Stewardship during worship and a financial overview in the fellowship hall following worship. Committee budget requests for 2017 are due by December 1.

Trustees: No doors have been reported unlocked – thank you! The automatic front door is being fixed.

No reports: Service and Fellowship and Worship committees.

Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Cathie at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky DeJong, Clerk of Session

PRESBYTERY NEWS

A copy of Presbytery of the Northern Plains' monthly newsletter is on the narthex bulletin board. You can access your own copy of *Lights of the Northern Plains* under Publications on its website, : <http://www.northernplainspresbytery.com/>

**BLUE CHRISTMAS:
A SERVICE
OF HOPE AND HEALING**

I have two questions for you: Have you experienced a loss in your life? Do you know someone else who has experienced a loss in their life? If you answered "YES" because you or a person close to you have lost a loved one, had major changes in your work life, moved, gotten married, been divorced, had a family member or friend move from the area, or have been feeling sad because of the state of our world...then the Blue Christmas Service is for you.

The public perception of the holiday season is that everyone is happy and filled with excitement. In truth, those who have been through a loss are not feeling the way the commercials and others portray. A Blue Christmas Service acknowledges that not everyone feels joy during this season. We gather together in worship to seek God's comfort, courage, and peace. In gathering, we discover that we are not alone.

We are holding a "Blue Christmas: Service of Hope and Healing" at Community Presbyterian Church this year. The service will be on Wednesday, December 14, at 7:00 p.m. After the service, we will have refreshments in the narthex so there is time for conversation with others.

Come, bring your family and friends.

Pastor Cathie

**PRAYER CHAIN**

Sharing our needs and concerns in prayer with our church family brings us closer to one another and lightens our load. If you have a prayer concern, please contact Gayle Thostenson (atgtet@far.midco.net or 492-0630). Also, it's never too late to join the prayer chain. To become a member, just let Gayle know.



GIVING TREE

The 2016 Giving Tree is ready for gifts. Items collected will be going to the YWCA Unique Boutique event. This event is for the families using the services of the YWCA and is a time when families can shop for Christmas presents for their loved ones at no cost to them.

Please take a tag or two off the Giving Tree and buy specified item(s). Drop the items off by Thursday, December 1st. The YWCA would prefer the items not to be wrapped. Any extra toys, especially dolls of any kind, along with scotch tape for wrapping presents are also welcome, just place them under the Giving Tree.

For more details see the "Youth Corner" bulletin board outside the church office or Samantha or Amanda Herman or any of the youth with questions. Thanks for your donations!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Bell ringing for Salvation Army will be Saturday, December 3rd, at Cash Wise in West Fargo and Family Fare in West Fargo. These are all inside locations.

Grab a friend and sign up to help ring bells. If you have any questions, contact Carolyn Meester at 793-3245 or cjmeester@msn.com



GIFTS FOR THE COLD

"...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

This December the Mission Committee is asking our congregation to donate Christmas gifts for the men at the New Life Center. Ideas for gifts are: gloves, socks, t-shirts, long underwear, caps, or sweatshirts. Gently used coats, hats and mittens are also welcome.

For more information about the New Life Center, go to their website at:

<http://www.fargonlc.org/>

ADVENT EVENT SCHEDULE



December 2

6:30
& 6:55 p.m.

Noel Chanters

December 3

Salvation Army
Bell Ringing

December 4

5:30 p.m. -
8:00 p.m.

7th Annual Ladies
Fa-La-La Festivities

December 11

9:30 & 11 a.m.
10:00 a.m.

Soul Train Bake Sale
SS Christmas Program
during worship service

December 13

6:30
& 6:55 p.m.

Noel Chanters

December 14

7:00 p.m.

Blue Christmas service

December 18

10:00 a.m.

Cantata Worship Serv.
Potluck afterwards
Raffle Quilt Drawing

December 24

Morning-Noon

6:30 p.m.

Salvation Army
Christmas Luncheon
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

December 25

10:00 a.m.

Christmas Service



LADIES 7TH ANNUAL FA-LA-LA FESTIVITIES

When: December 4th

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 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, age 14 and up. There will be a Christmas gift exchange with a \$5.00 limit. Feel free to wear your favorite holiday attire!!

RINGING IN OUR THANKS

Thanks to all the volunteers who will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Saturdays, November 19 and December 3rd. We rang or will be ringing bells in the FM area for a total of 40 hours, the equivalent of 1 person for 1 week!



CONFIRMATION

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Our confirmation class has been busy getting to know one another and learning new things. As a class, we have met together: in November we talked about what it means to be a Presbyterian. In December, we will be learning about our Presbyterian Confessions and beginning work on writing their own statement of faith. Each confirmand is paired with a mentor. The confirmands and their mentors have been meeting together. Parents, Mentors, and Confirmands have been signing up for volunteer discipleship time, and participating in our worship services.

We would like to find a volunteer project either within the church or in the community that we could do together as a confirmation class after the first of the year. We are asking that you help us by letting us know about current projects or projects that need to be done.

Thanks!

NOEL CHANTERS



The Noel Chanters are folks that get together during the busy Christmas season and sing Christmas songs with people at local nursing homes. This year, we will be going to Bethany Homes in Fargo and Evergreens in Moorhead. At these memory care units, the residents thoroughly enjoy our visits. If you can find a few hours available during the busy holiday season, we would enjoy your company, whether you have a beautiful singing voice or not.

The schedule this year is:

- Friday, Dec. 2, at 6:30 and 6:55 p.m. at Evergreens Memory Care and Assisted Living, (502 3rd Ave S, Moorhead, MN)
- Tues., Dec. 13, at 6:30 and 6:55 p.m. at Bethany Homes Memory Care (201 University Dr. S., Fargo)

Contact Samantha or Nancy Herman with any questions.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS EVE LUNCHEON



Once again Community Presbyterian Church will be preparing and serving the annual Christmas meal at the Salvation Army. This will be our 22nd year! CPC families have made this mission a cornerstone of their Christmas experience, and you are invited to join us.

The sit down meal will be served at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, December 24th. We generally serve 200 plus meals to our patrons. Our kitchen and decoration people should arrive at 7:30 a.m.; the steam table people by 10:15 a.m., and our servers at 10:30 a.m. Everyone will need to stay afterwards for the clean-up, so that we can be out the door by 2:00 p.m. We'll have plenty of time to ready ourselves for Christmas Eve worship at 6:30 p.m.

Invite your family and friends to help us and sign up your numbers on the sheet in the narthex. We will have eternally significant jobs for all age groups.

Kindest Regards, Dixon



SERVANTS NEEDED

We need you to assist in the delivery and preparation of meals at Churches United for the homeless and Salvation Army. We help serve the meal at Churches United the second Wednesday of every odd month (January, March, May, July, September, November) at 4:00 p.m. See Dixon Moorhead for details of how you can help.

YOUTH BAKE SALE

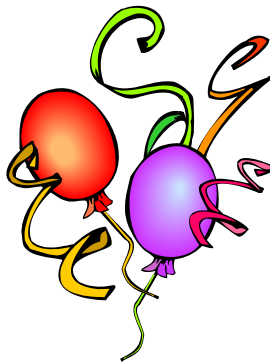
The Annual Youth Group Bake Sale is just around the corner! Bring goodies to be sold and buy goodies to eat! Both middle school and high school youth will be working together and selling baked goodies in the narthex on Sunday, December 11th, before and after church.



DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

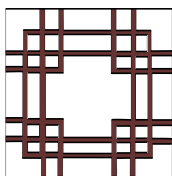
BIRTHDAYS

- 12-5 Terry Meester
 12-6 Jessica Nelson
 Kailyn Ohm
 12-8 Casey Larson
 12-10 Brady Bahls
 12-19 Nich Leopold
 12-23 Erin Thostenson
 12-25 Ray Christopherson
 12-26 Boots Montgomery
 12-28 Chad Nelson
 12-31 Sophia Dobrinz



ANNIVERSARIES

- 12-2-77 – Bill and Nancy Herman
 12-12-70 – Jack and Dixie Smith
 12-18-82 – Andrew and Gayle Thostenson
 12-27-?? - Randy and Joyce Ackerman



PRESBYTERIAN SQUARES- DISCIPLES BIBLE STUDY

May God bless you during Advent. We won't meet in December so please take a few minutes to read about Elizabeth and Mary and the births of their sons John and Jesus. We give thanks for the gift of Jesus!

Our next meeting will be January 11 at 6:05 p.m. As always we will enjoy a light supper and time of fellowship. There are still 10 disciples to study - which one will it be? Even if you haven't come before, you are welcome to join us! Happy 2017!

CHILDREN'S TIME VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED



We are looking for additional people who would like to present Children's Time during the worship service. Individuals or teams would use Sunday's scripture to present the children's sermon no more than once a month.

For more information or to express interest, please contact Pastor Cathie, Carrie Leopold, or Gayle Thostenson.

JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 1-4 Wil Petik
 1-5 Joyce Ackerman
 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 Doris Randle
 1-18 Grace Moorhead
 1-19 Violet Galt
 Donna Gertz
 1-22 Derek Leopold
 1-23 Austin Montgomery
 1-26 Gail Matzke
 1-28 Brenda Bjorklund
 Brian Matzke
 1-30 Matthew Pyle
 1-31 Cooper Pederson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1-9-82 – Brent and Boots Montgomery

SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE



- Dec 4 – 4-5:30 p.m.
 Indoor Game Night
 Wear running shoes
 Dec 11 -Before and after church
 Soul Train Baked Goods Sale
 Dec 11 - 5:30-7:00 p.m.
 Christmas Party - Families invited
 Bring a snack to share

Youth and Parents, please let Samantha know your choices for Spring activities by December 25. The sign up sheet is on the Youth Corner bulletin board.

Also, please check both your e-mail and the Youth Corner for the latest and most detailed information regarding Soul Train activities.



**YEAR-TO-DATE
GIVING UPDATE**

For 11/16/2016

General Operating budget
2016: \$154,778.00/52 weeks
= \$2,976.50 per week.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Actual Giving | \$107,634.00 |
| Budgeted Expenses | \$136,919.00 |
| Budget Shortfall | \$29,285.00- |
| Actual giving | \$107,452.00 |
| Actual expenses | \$119,138.00 |
| Net income to date | \$11,686.00- |

This does not include the mortgage payment of \$3,146.54. We currently have funds in the building fund account to cover the payment for December.

Per Capita amount for 2016 is **\$43.50** for each confirmed member.

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 give. God wants us to honor Him through our faithful and generous giving. When we make giving a priority week after week, He is honored.

**STEWARDSHIP
UPDATE
NOVEMBER, 2016**



On November 20th, a stewardship update was delivered to members and friends during the fellowship hour following worship. A narrated video version of this is available on-line at:

<http://tinyurl.com/cpc-stewardship-update>

This stewardship briefing explains the church's historical giving patterns, resources, and expenses. As you pray about and consider your giving for 2017, please make use of this important resource.

The video runs about 12 minutes and can be played on connected mobile and PC devices.

**2017
ANNUAL
MEETING**



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2017, in the sanctuary immediately following worship, with a storm date of January 29, 2017.

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

Becky DeJong, Clerk of Session

40, 98, 1985

No, not football calls: they're the profits from this year's Presbyterian Women's Bazaar. We raised \$1985.57 for total of bazaar items and food, \$98 in quilt raffle chances, and \$40 in Christmas ware from upstairs--all to be used for the church and its ministries.

Thanks to everyone who contributed crafts, goodies, and produce as well as to those who helped clean and prepare potatoes, carry heavy loads, do all the dishes, and, of course shopped and joined us for a meal. We couldn't have done it without you.

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.

- Deb Matzke 701-282-9463
- Boots Misheski 701-388-7160
- Lisa Steffen 701-282-5308
- Caroline Talley 701-282-3273
- Becky DeJong 701-281-8122
- Boots Montgomery 701-281-0028
- Lise Alves, Session Liaison 701-412-8689

**February's Community Call
deadline will be
Thursday, January 19**

Financial Stewardship Commitment for 2017

Members and friends of Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo

Many great things at CPC have been accomplished this year! Your continuing contributions and support are remarkable.

Please pray on and commit to CPC sustainability through financial stewardship for 2017 by providing the following information. In addition to your pledge, you are asked to contribute a per Capita amount of **\$44.00** for each confirmed member. Per Capita supports the local, regional, and global work of the Presbytery, Synod, and PC (USA),

Prayerfully,
CPC Session

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***Grateful for God's love in Jesus Christ, I (we) make the following commitment to support the mission of the church.***

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

For **General Fund** and **Mission**:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per  Week  Month  Year

For **Building Fund**:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per  Week  Month  Year

For **Per Capita**:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per member \$44.00

***Please mail or drop your completed pledge in the offering places by the end of the year.***