A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA.

ORGANIZED APRIL 1, 1928

COMMUNITY CALL

Pastor: Rev. Catherine Bishop; Office Administrator: Cheryl Montgomery; 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



SPRING FORWARD

On Sunday, March 12th, at 2:00 a.m., Daylight Saving Time begins. Please remember to turn your clocks forward one hour.

ALL CHURCH FAMILY GAME NIGHT SET FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29



The Christian Education members would like to invite you to "Our Church Family" activity night.

We are planning a fun-filled night for all members and friends of CPC on Wednesday, March 29th, starting at <u>5:30 p.m.</u> and lasting until around 7:30 p.m. All ages, from preschool and beyond, along with friends, are invited to attend and participate. We will start with a supper from 5:30-6:00 and then a rousing game(s) of Trivial Pursuit for all from 6:00-7:30 p.m. (which allows our young ones to get home for bedtime). Questions will from biblical questions, sport questions, historical questions, and who knows what else. Prizes will be awarded to all our winners.

We would like to make this a monthly event with different activities each month. Some could include movie night, maybe a group bowling night, maybe summer games outdoors when it warms up, whatever we as a congregation think would be a fun, fellow-

(Continued on page 6)

PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR CATHIE

promised this

good news about his Son ahead of time through his prophets in the holy scriptures. This Son is Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received God's grace and our appointment to be apostles. To those who are dearly loved by God were called to be God's people. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

God

Romans 1:2-7 (CEB-2013)

It is spring. Well, maybe not quite yet. It has been a long winter and of course we are experienced enough to know that there is more winter yet to come. We can be irritable, or we can seek life each day. That does not mean everything is wonderful. But we can look for those bright spots. When we wake up in the morning, we can praise God, thanking God that we are

(Continued on page 2)

In this issue Page Calendar Clerks Corner Dates to Remember Mission of the Month PM Rummage Sale Pre-authorized Debit Form Presbyterian Squares Scriptures for Worship Walking the Labyrinth Year-to-date Giving Page Page

(Continued from page 1)

alive. Look out the window and see the beauty of the snow and the rising sun. In the evening we can reach out to God to appreciate the life we had that day. Along with remembering to spend time with Jesus, you can count your blessings as you go to sleep.

Your Worship Committee apologizes to you for our assuming that we would all remember how to have communion passed to us rather than walking to the front of the church. We have spent time after the chaos to provide our team a little 'update' so things will be smoother in March when we have communion.

Lent in March is for you! It began with Ash Wednesday, which was in February, this year. There are 40 days in Lent. For us, it is a time to focus on our hearts and our minds during Lent. It is also a time to reflect on what it means when we think about Jesus' life, sacrifice, death, and resurrection. It is an opportunity for all of us to strengthen our spiritual discipline.

Perhaps you are reading daily devotions already. You might consider reading something different than you usually do or begin a practice during these 40 days of Lent. There is no requirement or particular readings you must do. The primary purpose is to connect with Jesus and find ways that help you grow as a child of God. Need some help? Look for daily devotions on the table in the narthex or ask a friend or connect with your pastor for ideas (I have some devotions in my office that I will share with you, just ask me).

We also have something new and different this year. We have a large labyrinth on the floor in the lower level for you to walk and bring a friend! Following the Ash Wednesday Service, you are invited to stop in and look at the labyrinth and

even walk it. We will have someone there to guide you and give you directions.

We will have people to guide you and answer questions on Sundays from February 26 through March 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We are also providing greeters for children and adults who

on Wednesdays from March 1 to March 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Questions? Please contact our Worship Team or you can also call the office for either Sunday or Wednesday questions.

would like to walk the labyrinth

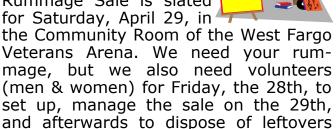
In April be ready for Palm Sunday (4/2), Maundy Thursday (4/6 with service at 7:00 p.m.), Good Friday (4/7 with service at 7:00 p.m.), and Easter Sunday (4/9). There are many events to be part of during Lent, come and join us!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Cathie

BRING OUT YOUR RUMMAGE

The Presbyterian Men's Rummage Sale is slated for Saturday April 20 in

and return tables to the church.



More details will be in the April Community Call. If you have rummage or have questions, contact Andrew Thostenson (atgtet@far.midco.net, H: 492-0630; C: 793-2883). Contact him as soon as possible regarding computer equipment donations, so the items can be properly reconditioned in time for the sale. All proceeds will go to support the mission of the church.

FEBRUARY CLERK'S CORNER

The regular meeting of Session was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 7:00

p.m. in the narthex. Elders present were Laurie Elhard, Melissa Engebretson, Kevin Galt, Yvonne Hummel, Bob Kozojed, Carrie Leopold, Boots Montgomery, and Cheryl Montgomery. Gayle Thostenson was present via Zoom. Moderator - Cathie Bishop and Treasurer - Carolyn Meester were present. Clerk of Session - Becky DeJong was absent.

The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Kevin Galt.

Consent Agenda:

- a. approval of the minutes of January 11, 2023 and special Session minutes of January 18, 2023.
- b. next Session meeting Wednesday, March 15, 2023
- c. Evan Thostenson requested to be removed from active membership.
- d. Carolyn Meester has resigned her position as Treasurer effective February 28, 2023.
- e. Moderator's report:
- January 15: Attended and participated in the Annual Meeting.
- January 16: Participated in Bell Choir practice.
- January 17: visited with members upon request.
- January 19: completed newsletter items for Gayle Thostenson.
- January 22: Prepared (and missed laying of hands) for the Ordination and Installation of new officers.
- January 22, 23, 24, 25: Visited Carolyn Koerselman at Sheyenne Crossing. I was able to pray with her family when she died.
- January 26: Met with Deacons at 6 p.m.
- January 27: Visited Louise Johnson and her daughter Nancy Jordheim. Prepared for the funeral of Carolyn Koerselman.
- January 28: Officiated the funeral for Carolyn Koerselman.

- January 30: Louise Johnson died Sunday, January 29, 2023. I visited with Nancy Jordheim via phone regarding the plan for Louise's summer service.
- January 31: Visited with Jane Leben, bringing her a flower arrangement.
- February 1: Visited with Irene Martin and brought her a flower arrangement.
- February 2: Participated in Worship Committee and discussed Ash Wednesday and Lent services.
- February 5: Attended the Q & A Meeting.
- February 6: Participated in Bell Choir practice.
- February 14: Provided church service for Touchmark.
- Prepared for worship services on January 22, 29 and February 5, 12.

Clerk's report -

- 48 served communion on February 5, 2023.
- Patty Smith and Lise Alves were installed as Deacons; Boots Montgomery was ordained as an elder; Carrie Leopold was installed as an elder, and Melanie Hansen and Troy Montgomery were installed as Trustees on January 22, 2023. Melissa Engebretson was installed as an elder on February 5, 2023. These are all threevear terms.
- Carolyn Koerselman died on January 25, 2023. Her funeral was on January 28, 2023 at West Funeral Home.
- Louise Johnson died on January 29, 2023. A celebration of life service will be planned for the summer.

The elders to help serve communion on March 5, 2023 will be Kevin Galt, Bob Kozojed, Cheryl Montgomery, and Yvonne Hummel

The financial report was read, discussed, and received.

West Fargo has an app to track water usage. Discussion on replacing the auto toilet mechanism with flush handles to stop the continuous running of water.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Kevin Galt and Larry Peihl will be adding a heavy-duty power supply to the front door. This will fix the issues in the winter of the door not opening when using the key fob.

Church wish list – Discussion on doing an uplift to the Senior High room downstairs.

Committee Assignments:

Kevin Galt – Personnel, Melissa Engebretson – Nominating, Cheryl Montgomery – Service & Fellowship, Boots Montgomery – Christian Ed, Yvonne Hummel – Stewardship, Gayle Thostenson – Deacons, Bob Kozojed – Trustees, Laurie Elhard – Worship, Carrie Leopold – Mission/Outreach & Evangelism.

Discussion was held on Session members being involved in multiple committees. Goal for 2023 – grow membership for each committee. Experienced members will mentor new members. Eventually Session members will serve on only one committee.

Discussion on church goals for 2023. Each committee will set goals and report back at the March meeting. Session will work towards showing more transparency, providing healing for the congregation, generating youth programming, and preparing for the creation of a Pastor Nominating Committee and its needs. Part of working toward this will likely include more congregational forums, keeping the congregation up to date, and a congregational survey.

Discussion was held on the follow-up meeting after the annual meeting.

Discussion on creating a task force to start the work on behalf of Session to prepare the way for the Pastor Nominating Committee. Need 5 to 7 people for the committee. Things needed will be Mission Study, Congregational Survey, Stats – financial, members, youth.

Distribution of the Elements (Communion) – we will be going back to the pre-Covid way of passing the elements for communion.

Vitality Committee – a meeting of all the committees and leaders together to discuss vitality of the church. Some great ideas have come from the committee (spaghetti feed, bringing back the bazaar, adding the vendor show). Would like to have meetings quarterly. Cheryl Montgomery will lead the next meeting.

Treasurer position – this is a member volunteer position. The church will be looking to hire an office manager. Cheryl Montgomery has volunteered to take the Treasurer position.

Committee reports:

Deacons: The Deacons welcomed new member Patty Smith to the group and adjusted care list assignments. Flowers donated by the Koerselman family were shared with Deacons' friends. One communion visit was made.

Gayle Thostenson

Stewardship: Stewardship Committee Minutes – February 9, 2023

Meeting opened in prayer.

The Audit is currently being worked on. We will have an audit report to present to the Session in March 2023.

Goals for 2023 were discussed. Our primary goal is to find a renter for the vacated preschool space. We will contact a couple of real estate agents who specialize in commercial properties for advice.

Reviewed the monthly financials. January doesn't look too bad, but our February expenses will be significantly higher. The City of West Fargo bill and the heating bill are quite a bit higher, and we have not received a bill from the snow removal company all season yet.

Discussed the Treasurer position. We may need to hire and start paying an Office Administrator again. This was not in our 2023 budget, but we need to plan for an additional approximately \$16,000 in annual expense.

Committee assignments were discussed. We feel an individual should be welcome (Continued to page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

to serve on committee or committees that they wish to, that they feel passionate about, and that they have time to devote their time and efforts to.

Meeting closed in prayer.

-Yvonne Hummel

Service & Fellowship: The Service and Fellowship Committee looked at our list of head ushers for 2023 and we almost are full. Please let someone on the committee know if you have any interest in being a head usher or joining our sub list. We also looked at this year as a whole and are making some plans for the upcoming months. We decided to make ourselves a few goals we thought would be attainable for 2023:

- ⇒ Have Vitality Committee meetings throughout the year with more participation and collaboration from our Session and congregation.
- ⇒ Hold a few events in 2023 to bring community to our church.
- ⇒ Bring back the Spring Ladies Brunch
- ⇒ Coordinate a day to hold a sports outing
- ⇒ Hold and improve our 2nd Vendor Show and Fall Bazaar
- ⇒ Hold a Craft N' Creation Event to make items to sell at the Bazaar
- ⇒ Grow our committee by 2-3 people -Melissa Engebretson

Christian Education: The committee sent emails to all the middle school and high school parents asking if they would provide transportation for monthly group activities. No responses.

March 29th will be "Our Church Family Activity Night". All are welcome to join – parents, children, grandparents, friends, family, etc. There will be a light meal and Trivia for all ages.

-Kevin Galt

Worship: Starting Ash Wednesday, February 22, until Sunday, March 26, the labyrinth that is set up in the fellowship hall downstairs will be available. Sundays from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00

p.m. The Worship Committee is looking for volunteers to help when the church will be open to walk the labyrinth.

-Laurie Elhard

Mission: Our Great Hour of Sharing is the March mission. Starting March 1st, will be fundraising for the earthquake in Turkey and Syria with a goal of \$1,500.00 to be raised.

-Carrie Leopold

No reports: Nominating, Personnel, Trustees

Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Cathie at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Meester on behalf of Becky DeJong

MISSION FOCUS

Thank you to everyone who has donated items to the YWCA in February. You are changing a lot of lives for the better through your gifts. We plan to load the items after worship on February 26 for delivery to the shelter that week.

Our March focus will be One Great Hour of Sharing. For more than 70 years, OGHS has provided the opportunity for Presbyterians to help those in need around the world. The funds nationally are split between three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA); the Presbyterian Hunger Program; and Self-Development of People. Last year, since Russia had just invaded Ukraine, we designated our entire offering to be used by PDA in support of Ukraine. This year, because of the recent earthquake destroying large portions of Turkey and Syria, we will be designating our offering to PDA for use in the earthquake relief efforts. We have set our goal for the offering at \$1,500. Can we top our goal again this year? Offering envelopes will be provided in the pews. Please give as God leads you. Thank you.

To learn more about PDA efforts in Turkey and Syria, go to: https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/turkey-syria-earthquake/



ALL CHURCH FAMILY GAME NIGHT SET FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

(Continued from page 1)

ship event. Our hope is to include every age from our congregation.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex for a count of all who are ready for a night of fun and fellowship with our CPC members and friends.

Thank you, and we look forward for a great response.

The Christian Education Committee

MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 3-3 Karen Steele
- 3-8 Troy Montgomery
- 3-9 Amy Bucholz
- 3-10 Zoe Elhard
- 3-15 Irene Martin
- 3-16 Declan Bucholz
- 3-19 Lydia Leopold
- 3-21 Melissa Engebretson
- 3-22 Bonnie Thompson
- 3-24 Dawn Larson
- 3-30 Stacy Leopold

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3-1-14 Kirby and Amanda Keller
- 3-4-78 Bruce and Vicki Riedinger
- 3-14-64 Chuck and Bonnie Thompson

PRESBYTERIAN SQUARES BIBLE STUDY

We will plan to meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, at the church, to learn about Nine Powerful Gifts of the Spirit. This lesson talks about the Gifts that are listed in the Bible. Please eat before you come instead of bringing a dish to share. I will send out an email to cancel if the weather is bad or if other issues arise.

IS WALKING A LABYRINTH FOR YOU?



The Worship Commit-

tee invites you to walk a labyrinth this Lenten season (2/22 to 3/26). It will be available for anyone to walk Sundays from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 pm. A large labyrinth has been set up in the fellowship hall downstairs for you to use for meditation, reflection, problem solving, comfort, and prayer.

Here are some tips on walking a labyrinth (taken from <u>Labyrinths: Ancient Aids for Modern Stresses (webmd.com)</u>:

- * Before entering. Consider a contemplative question, prayer, or favorite image to hold in your mind before you step into the labyrinth and begin walking.
- While walking. Just follow the path.
 As you concentrate on your steps, everything else can melt away.
- * Upon reaching the center. Sit or stand with your eyes closed or looking downward. Take three deep breaths, and in silence ask yourself: What am I feeling right now?
- Walking back. Bring to mind again the contemplative question, prayer, or favorite image you began with.
- * After walking. Try journaling about your labyrinth experience. What did you discover? What changed from the time you entered to the time you exited the labyrinth?

If you would like more information about walking a labyrinth, please feel free to contact Pastor Cathie. We encourage everyone to try to find time this Lenten season to reflect and develop a stronger spiritual connection to our Lord.

(Continued on page 7)



IS WALKING A LABYRINTH FOR YOU?

(Continued from page 6)

In addition, if you are willing to volunteer to host a labyrinth session, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. It is approximately a two-hour commitment. You will be responsible to greet visitors and provide them with instructions (which will be provided for you).

MARCH SCRIPTURES FOR WORSHIP

Mar 5: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

Mar 12: Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

Mar 19: Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Mar 26: Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45



Churches United for the Homeless is once again open for volunteers to serve meals. That's right, **SWOM**ies, CPC volun-

teers who serve meals at Churches United for the Homeless every **S**econd **W**ednesday **O**dd **M**onths, are needed Wednesday, March 8. Start at 5:00 p.m., go home by 7:00 p.m.

If you served before, welcome back; we're happy to work by your side once more. If you haven't had the pleasure of serving, you're in for a treat. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board.

PRAYER TIME

for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me—will turn out for my deliverance.

Philippians 4:19

Join us for a half hour of prayer at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 1, as we worship, praise, and lay our petitions before our Lord and God.

YEAR-TO-DATE GIVING UPDATE

1/31/2023

General Operating budget 2023: \$138,671.00 Monthly needed to meet budget: \$11,556.00

Total Giving January \$ 8,890.80 Total Expenses January \$ 10,017.22

Per Capita amount for 2023 is \$50.00 for each confirmed member. Please mark on your check or envelope as contributing to Per Capita. Total assessment for 2023 is \$6,750.00.

- ⇒ Stewardship is the path; Generosity is the adventure.
- ⇒ Generous givers make God and His purposes their highest priority.
- ⇒ Enjoy God's generosity to you ... then share it with others.

DEACONS

If anyone in the congregation is hospitalized or needs a visit, please contact the Deacons. If

anyone in the congregation would like home communion, please contact Gayle Thostenson.

Lise Alves	[C] 701-412-8689
Linda Bishop	[C] 701-200-1818
Jenni Hummel	[C] 701-371-7640
Dawn Larson	[C] 701-261-9609
Dixon Moorhead	[H] 701-277-1414
	[C] 701-200-9709
Patty Smith	[H] 701-540-6658
•	[C] 970-209-3517

Gayle Thostenson, Session Liaison

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

April's Community Call deadline will be Thursday, March 23



Pre-authorized debits customer authorization form

	<u>Community Presbyterian Church</u> and the s, (and if necessary, credit entries and a				
	[] checking account []	savings account for \$			
	(Changes can b	et until I have cancelled it in writing.) e easily made) ng options to make contributions:			
	MONTHLY 1 st OR 16 th	TWICE A MONTH 1st AND 16th			
Please prin	nt the following:				
Name			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Financial In	estitution:	Branch:			
Signature: _		Date:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Bank Routing Number (9 digits):		Please return to: Office Community Presbyterian Church			
Account Number:		702 Sheyenne St. West Fargo, ND 58078 (A confirmation will be sent to you)			

Forms accepted at any time

	Approximate Weekly Commitment							
	Proportionate to Income							
Annual								
Income	15%	10%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	
100,000	288.00	192.00	135.00	115.00	96.00	77.00	58.00	
75,000	216.00	144.00	100.00	87.00	72.00	58.00	43.00	
60,000	173.00	153.00	80.00	69.00	58.00	46.00	35.00	
50,000	144.00	96.00	67.00	58.00	48.00	38.00	29.00	
45,000	130.00	87.00	61.00	52.00	43.00	35.00	26.00	
40,000	115.00	77.00	54.00	46.00	38.00	31.00	23.00	
35,000	101.00	67.00	47.00	40.00	34.00	27.00	20.00	
30,000	87.00	58.00	40.00	35.00	29.00	23.00	17.00	
25,000	72.00	48.00	34.00	29.00	24.00	19.00	14.00	
20,000	58.00	38.00	27.00	23.00	19.00	15.00	12.00	
15,000	43.00	29.00	20.00	17.00	14.00	12.00	9.00	



MARCH 2023

Community Presbyterian Church 702 Sheyenne St West Fargo, ND 58078

701.282.4135 www.cpcwf.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Community Presbyterian Church Committees

Building & Grounds Trustees

Bob Kozojed, Liaison

Lee Dobrinz **Brent Montgomery** Melanie Hansen Troy Montgomery Lynn Hummel

Christian Education

Boots Montgomery, Liaison Emma Broe Gayle Thostenson Melanie Hansen

Deacons

Gayle Thostenson, Liaison Lise Alves Dawn Larson Dixon Moorhead Linda Bishop Jenni Hummel Patricia Smith

Mission & Outreach

Carrie Leopold, Liaison Lee Dobrinz Mary Jo Moorhead Dave Ruhnke Kevin Galt Boots Misheski Bonnie Thompson

Rev. Donna Monteith

Nominating

Melissa Engebretson, Liaison Joan Hall **Adam Montgomery Cheryl Montgomery** Dawn Larson

Personnel

Kevin Galt, Liaison Lia Dobrinz Andrew Thostenson Carolyn Meester

Presbytery Delegates

Lise Alves Andrew Thostenson Dixon Moorhead

Lee Dobrinz--Alternate

Service & Fellowship

Cheryl Montgomery, Liaison Linda Bishop Carolyn Meester

Stewardship

Yvonne Hummel, Liaison Kevin Galt Andrew Thostenson Carolyn Meester

Worship

TBD, Liaison

Emma Broe Mary Jo Moorhead Dawn Larson Patricia Smith



Sunday **Worship Hours** 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service

The Session of **Community Presbyterian** Church of West Fargo

Clerk of Session: Becky DeJong Moderator: Rev. Catherine B. Bishop Treasurer: Cheryl Montgomery

> Melissa Engebretson Kevin Galt Yvonne Hummel **Bob Kozoied** Carrie Leopold **Boots Montgomery** Cheryl Montgomery Gayle Thostenson

OUR MISSION IS TO KNOW GOD; TO BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT; TO SHARE CHRIST.