

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God

702 Sheyenne St., West Fargo, ND 58078; 701-282-4135; E-mail: office@cpcwf.org; Web: www.cpcwf.org



ADVENT PROGRAMS

Come! Join us in the celebration of our Savior's birth!

Here are a few of the opportunities to worship and glorify Jesus' name in December:

Sunday, December 17, the Adult Choir and Sunday School students will perform CPC's Christmas program during the worship service. It will be followed by a Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser benefitting the West Fargo High School Cross-Country Team. You won't want to miss this musical retelling of the Christmas story and the fellowship to follow. [See page 6.]

The following weekend, on Sunday, Christmas Eve, you'll want to join us for morning worship at 10:00 a.m. when we'll celebrate a Contemporary Christmas with Communion. Again, that evening, at 6:30 p.m. we will worship during a traditional Candle-light Christmas Eve Service.

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTER/ READERS NEEDED



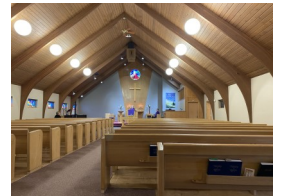
Please sign up in the narthex to light the candles and read the Advent scriptures during December.

PULPIT SUPPLY

CPC has been blessed by an active and devoted group of preachers. Worship and Pulpit Supply committees have been working to provide messages for Sunday worship. 2023's calendar is complete with 2024's calendar in planning stages.

The following are scheduled to preach in the upcoming weeks:

Dec 3	Rev. Donna Monteith with Communion
Dec 10	Rev. Deanna Reikow
Dec 17	Bob Kozojed & Christmas Program
Dec 24-10 a.m.	Jim Wilson
Dec 24-6:30 p.m.	Kevin Galt
Dec 31	Andrew Thostenson



SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR



There will be NO Sunday School on December 24th or 31st. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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NOVEMBER CLERKS CORNER



The regular meeting of the Session was held on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. Elders present were Melissa Engebretson, Kevin Galt, Yvonne Hummel, Dave Ruhnke, and Gayle Thostenson. Acting Moderator – Rev. Sarah Bigwood and Clerk of Session - Becky DeJong were present. Bob Kozojed and Carrie Leopold were absent.

The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Becky DeJong.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of the minutes of Monday, October 9, 2023
- b. Annual meeting date – January 21, 2024 with a storm date of January 28, 2024
- c. Clerk's report -
 - ◇ 48 people were served communion on Sunday, November 5, 2023.
 - ◇ Committee summaries are due in December.
 - ◇ Paul Campbell has transferred his membership to First Presbyterian Church of Fargo.

Discussion was held regarding the meeting time of Session. Session will meet on Monday, December 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. and Monday, January 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

The elders to help serve communion on December 3, 2023 will be Kevin Galt, Yvonne Hummel, and Dave Ruhnke.

The financial report was read, discussed, and received.

Welcome!! Duane and Emma Broe and Chris and Becky Mace have expressed interest in becoming members of CPC.

Committee reports:

Building and Grounds Trustees: The church is ready for winter! The exterior light timer has been reset, the fire

emergency light system was checked, the flat roof drainage was checked and the two circulation pumps are back in proper working order for the heating season. We removed an old dry erase white board and installed a new one in the basement. The new one is smaller, so we will be painting the area inside the wood frame. We started the bug removal in lights and will continue through the entry area. We have started a list of improvement items for the church.

- Bob Kozojed

Christian Education Committee: The committee met on Wednesday, November 8, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Kevin Galt, Emma Broe, Melanie Hansen, and Gayle Thostenson.

Discussion was held on the upcoming Sunday School Christmas program and "Hanging of the Greens" (Decorations for Advent). The Sunday School program will be held in conjunction with the Choir Cantata on December 17th. A new backdrop of the stable scene may be purchased for the program. The committee decided to do the Advent decorating after worship on November 26th with help from Worship/Service and Fellowship Committee. The Christian Education committee will ask the congregation to bring their favorite Xmas treats and Christian Education will provide additional treats and music.

- Kevin Galt

Deacons: Renovations to the Deacons care cupboard are complete and items to share with those in immediate need have been stocked inside it. You can find the cupboard in the narthex. Special thanks to Dawn Larson and Mary Jo Moorhead for their work in updating this piece of furniture. Work is continuing in forming a resource folder detailing help available from groups and entities in the FM area who benefit those in need.

Over the next several weeks, the Dea-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

cons will be preparing a gift of Christmas cheer for our CPC Deacon's friends.

Please let the Deacons know if someone would like communion shared with them in their home or elsewhere and if someone would like to be visited.

- Gayle Thostenson

Nominating Committee: The committee has started to fill the vacant spots on Session, Deacons, and Building and Grounds Trustees for 2024. If you are interested in serving, please contact a Nominating Committee member.

- Melissa Engebretson

Stewardship Committee: The proposed budget was compiled and presented.

-Yvonne Hummel

Worship/S&F Committee: Volunteers are needed to read each Sunday under the Advent Wreath. Please sign up.

- Dave Ruhnke

No reports: Mission, Personnel

Informational Meeting

December 10, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
- following worship

Your Session has been working diligently and meticulously preparing the way for a new pastor. We have chosen to look for a designated pastor and we will announce the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) members. It is our desire to keep you informed and answer all of your questions.

Mark your calendars and please plan on attending.

Meeting closed with unison prayer at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky DeJong

SNOWBIRD REMINDER

Don't forget to inform our church office (282-4135 or office@cpcwf.org), regarding your temporary address(es) and the time you will be away from home.



RINGING OUR THANKS



Thanks to all those who so graciously took the time to volunteer to ring bells for the Salvation Army. Community Presbyterian Church provides a total of 20 hours to assist in the annual campaign!

It is amazing to have so many wonderful people who are willing to help with this project.



SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Service & Fellowship groups are providing scrumptious drinks and treats following each worship service. To help us remember, group assignments will now be posted in each newsletter. Here is the schedule for the next two months:

Dec 3	Group 1
Dec 10	Group 2
Dec 17	Fundraising Dinner following Worship
Dec 24 a.m.	Group 3
Dec 31	Group 3
Jan 7	Group 4
Jan 14	Group 4
Jan 21	Group 1
Jan 28	Group 1

For more information see the narthex bulletin board. To be added to a group, see Linda Bishop or Carolyn Meester.



SERVANTS NEEDED

We need you to assist in the serving of meals. We help dish up the meal at Churches United the second Wednesday of every odd month (January, March, May, July, September, November) at 5:00 p.m. and serve the meal 4:30 P.M. at the Salvation Army every fifth Sunday. Our next service dates will be Wednesday, January 10, and Sunday, December 31.





JOIN US FOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL!

This group meets upstairs in the conference room at 9:00 a.m. In December, they expect to finish their study on Hebrews with the next topic yet to be determined. Don't hesitate to join. There is always coffee, comradery, and God's gift of the Bible.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Attention all men! You are invited to join a Men's Bible Study. They meet every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the church narthex.



The studies, led by Steve Hanna, focus on various books of the Bible. They cover a chapter each meeting with much discussion.

Questions? Please contact Dave Ruhnke.

PRESBYTERIAN SQUARES STUDY ON THE VOICE OF GOD

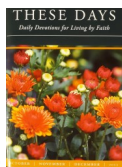
Did you know there's an International Spy Museum in Washington DC? Imagine what spies find out about people. But they cannot begin to know all that God knows about us! We will meet at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 6, to learn more about God and His powerful knowledge. Can't make it? Just let Vicki know and she will send out the lesson (vrpeihl@gmail.com). We hope you can take an hour in the busy month of December to join us for a fun, lively discussion. Merry Christmas!

Next, start the New Year off right! Join us at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 3, when we find out how God surprises us with His choice of you to fill His need. Wishing you all a blessed New Year!



DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

Our Daily Bread and



These Days are available in in differently-sized print. Feel free to take one home for daily use.

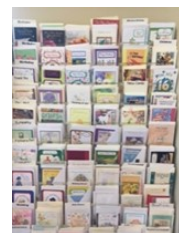
LADIES CIRCLE

Ladies, join us for Tuesday 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.



The study this year is *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts* by Olive Mahabir. It invites readers to consider Jesus, "the good shepherd" who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people. Exploring Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostle will reveal the unfolding of God's redemptive purposes in human history and present a radical, inclusive and hope-filled message.

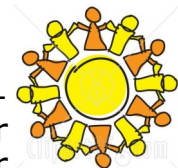
THERE IS ROOM FOR YOU



There is room at the table to join the folks making greeting cards! Our Card Makers gather on Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. for fellowship and an opportunity to recycle and create cards for sale at Community Presbyterian Church. Proceeds from the cards are used for various church projects from supporting children who attend Summer Bible Camp to purchasing items for the kitchen. Plus, they always seem to have sweet treats for a mid-afternoon break.

Interested? Just show up on Thursdays at 1 p.m. The group will welcome you and show you how to make cards!

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 (492-0630 or atgtet@far.midco.net). To have your name added to the prayer request e-list, just let Gayle know.

DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

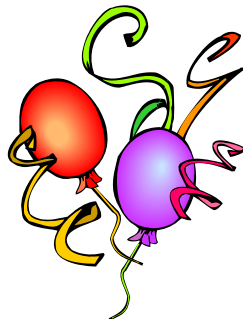
BIRTHDAYS

- 12-5 Terry Meester
- 12-10 Brady Bahls
- 12-23 Erin Thostenson
- 12-27 Ty Arvidson
- 12-31 Sophia Dobrinz

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12-12-70 Jack and Dixie Smith
- 12-18-82 Andrew and Gayle

Thostenson



JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 1-7 Mitzi Hager
- 1-8 Ross Montgomery
Zachary Strand
- 1-10 Elizabeth Strand
- 1-12 Isaac Leopold
- 1-16 Doris Randle
Kay Munsch
- 1-18 Grace Chandler
- 1-22 Derek Leopold
- 1-26 Gail Matzke

ANNIVERSARIES

No listed anniversaries in January

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

Come for a half hour of prayer in the CPC sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays, December 13 and January 3, as we worship, praise, and lay our petitions before our Lord and God.

AN INVITATION FROM

FARGO 1ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA

Featuring the
Ransom Notes Quartet

December 5, 2023 @ 1:00pm

Join us for a program with Scripture
and a special Christmas story.
Festive treats to follow!

MISSION & OUTREACH FOCUS



Thank you to everyone who has donated items for the New Life Center during November. We collected chapsticks of all kinds the weeks of November 5 and 12, and deodorant the weeks of November 19 and 26. During December, we are collecting men's boxer shorts of all sizes the weeks of December 3 and 10, and during all of both months, new or gently used winter wear, such as coats, gloves, stocking caps, etc. Or anything else you find on the website. Be creative!

In January, our focus will be on the Matthew's Voice Project, a local group that works with high school students experiencing homelessness in West Fargo, Fargo, and Moorhead. They work directly with the homeless liaison contacts in each high school to provide immediate needs. You may donate money to be used by the group to purchase what the students need, or you can donate items that will fill those needs. Items needed are toothbrushes, toothpaste (small tubes), new underwear, feminine hygiene products, pillow and pillow cases, bath towels, deodorant, warm gloves, radio alarm clocks, and gift cards for groceries and gas. The full list is at <https://matthewsvoiceproject.com/>.

While we would like to think that this is not a problem in our community, it is; and by offering a hand up now, we can help these students overcome a rocky start and become successful.

Thank you for your support.





**YEAR-TO-DATE
GIVING UPDATE**

10/31/2023

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

Total Giving October \$ 11,039.08
Total Expenses October \$ 4,254.32

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. To date, \$3,375.00 has been paid towards 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 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.

**THE DEACONS
CAN HELP YOU**

If you need immediate pastoral care, you can call 701-353-2020. A Deacon will be able to assist you.

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 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 | [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 |



**February Newsletter
deadline is
Thursday, January 18**

MONTH'S EVENTS

Watch for details of these events and more in upcoming church announcements.



- Saturday, December 2
Salvation Army Bell Ringing
- Sunday, December 10, 11:00 a.m.
CPC Informational Meeting
- Saturday, December 16, 10:00 a.m.
Christmas program dress rehearsal
- Sunday, December 17, 10:00 a.m.
Combined Choir Cantata & Sunday School Christmas program during worship
- Sunday, December 17, following worship
Benefit Spaghetti dinner prepared and served by WFHS Cross Country Team
Menu:
pasta, sauce, bread, salad, dessert
- Sunday, December 24, 10:00 a.m.
Contemporary Christmas worship
- Sunday, December 24, 6:30 p.m.
Candlelight Christmas Eve service

**Plan to attend a Sunday
full of music, food,
and fellowship!**

Sunday, December 17

**Community Presbyterian Church
702 Sheyenne St, West Fargo**

**10:00 a.m. Christmas program
performed by
CPC Choir &
Sunday School**

**11:30 a.m. Spaghetti dinner
prepared & served
by the WFHS Packer
Cross Country Team**

**Free Admission
(Free-will donation to support the
WFHS Packer Cross Country Team)**

Pre-authorized debits customer authorization form

I authorize Community Presbyterian Church and the financial institution listed below to initiate electronic debit entries, (and if necessary, credit entries and adjustments for any debit entries in error) to my:

checking account savings account for \$ _____

*(This authority will remain in effect until I have cancelled it in writing.)
(Changes can be easily made)*

*Please select from the following options to make contributions:

<u>MONTHLY</u> 1 st _____ OR 16 th _____	<u>TWICE A MONTH</u> 1 st AND 16 th _____
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Please print the following:

Name _____

Address _____

Financial Institution: _____ Branch: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bank Routing Number (9 digits):

Account Number:

Please return to:
 Office
 Community Presbyterian Church
 702 Sheyenne St.
 West Fargo, ND 58078
 (A confirmation will be sent to you)

Forms accepted at any time

Annual Income	Approximate Weekly Commitment Proportionate to 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