

2022



December

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hope Scope

*Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.*

Psalm 85:8 (NRSV)

We find ourselves approaching the Christmas holiday, which is nothing new, since the stores were displaying Christmas merchandise and playing Christmas music before Halloween. But for Christians, it is important to remember that Christmas is not yet here. During this time of year, we recognize the season we call Advent. And if we skip over Advent and just start calling this time of year Christmas, we run the risk of forgetting about Advent, and making Christmas a lot less meaningful.

Because Advent is a time of preparing ourselves. We prepare for Jesus' return even as we prepare to celebrate the anniversary of his birth. And if we have not prepared well, then we run the risk of having another disappointing Christmas. A little let down after Christmas is normal, but if it happens that you get to January and are quite disappointed about how Christmas did not do all it was supposed to, then I will invite you to practice a more meaningful Advent.

What you do to prepare is up to you, of course. I know Tyann has a promising new idea that she is sharing on another page of the Hope Scope. Maybe you will want to be more intentional about praying or reading Scripture during these weeks. You could read the accounts of Jesus' birth in Luke (chapter 1 and the first half of chapter 2) or in Matthew (1:18-25), and compare those readings with what you find at the beginning of Mark and John. If you started reading just a few sentences each day, you would be finished by Christmas.

But if these days are generally quite busy for you, then that also means that you will want to consider doing less of some other things. Given the pace of life in our times, maybe this will be really important. And difficult.

Just please remember that, if you are seeking to create the perfect Christmas, no matter how diligent you are about cards and decorations and gifts and food, a perfect Christmas is always going to be out of our reach. And that is OK. Could you settle for a faithful Christmas, or a meaningful Christmas, or a deeply fulfilling Christmas?

Blessings,

Brian Jones

At its November 7, 2022 meeting, the Session:



- * Approved participating in the Vital Congregations Initiative;
- * Was informed that the Presbytery set Hope's 2023 per capita at \$44 per member for a total contribution of \$8,448;
- * Following notification, approved moving 29 members to Other Participant (inactive);
- * Received a first reading of proposed changes to the River of Hope Youth Center Facility Policies;
- * Approved several proposed fundraisers for the restroom remodeling project;
- * Approved purchasing 50th anniversary Christmas ornaments as a gift to members;
- * Approved the Baptism of Emma Elaine Johnson for a date to be determined; and
- * Approved holding a special congregational meeting on December 18, 2022, immediately following worship, to elect officers.

**Reminder to please use the prayer request cards on Sunday mornings. These are to be returned to an usher and they will be given to Pastor Brian to be included in our "Sharing of Joys and Concerns" in worship.

FINANCE REPORT

	Year to Date	Year to Date
	10/31/2022	Monthly Average
Income	\$216,254.39	\$21,625.44
Expenses	\$232,227.21	\$23,222.72
Net Profit (Loss)	(\$15,972.82)	
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses		\$25,277.35
Per Capita Assessment for 2022		\$8,256.00
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 10/31/2022		\$3,865.00

**If you have not done so, please pay using the blue envelopes in the pew racks.



Thank you so much for the wonderful cards and birthday wishes on my 80th birthday celebration. I am so grateful for our Hope family and the support offered in good times and not so good times.

The suspense is building because an anonymous gift of Lindt/Lindor chocolate truffles was left with the basket of cards, which happened on Elroy's 80th as well. We do so enjoy them! Perhaps "Anonymous" knows that or they really like them too. It's a mystery!

Blessings, Sharon Jones

Dear Hope,

We would like to thank you for your prayers this past year for Nathan. Joe and Helga Saetveit (members at Hope) would have been so appreciative too. It has been a difficult year. We are thankful Nathan has no pain anymore. He fought hard to get better. The Graft versus Host Disease was too much for his body to heal. Thank you again for praying for our family and for Nathan.

Jerry and Margaret Saetveit

Thank you to all of my Hope friends for your prayers, visits, phone calls and cards. It is very much appreciated! I had a Kyphoplasty procedure done, which took care of the back pain related to my most recent compression fracture.

Ruth Birkeland

To our friends at Hope,

Thanks for all the cards, thoughts, and prayers during our recent medical concerns. Daryl and I are very thankful for our Church family, and God's presence in our lives. Thanks to all of you!!

Daryl & Kathy Taatjes

Thanks from the Session to the Property Committee for replacing the ceiling tile in the Jack Anderson Fireside Room and fixing the damaged tiles in the Fellowship Hall.

*****PHOTO OP CORNERS*****

We again have two photo op corners set up in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity for you to take your family Christmas picture or just sit, relax or visit in the cozy surrounding. One is in the library area and the other by the far windows.

Just in time for Christmas.....

That's **MY** *Pan!*TM



These would make great Christmas gifts, wedding gifts, birthday gifts, etc! Place your orders now! You can go to

thatsmypan.biz/HopeChurchSpicer

to place your order, or grab an order form from the display table in the Fellowship Hall. Order deadline is **Wednesday, December 7th**.



Also be sure to order your pies for Christmas! Go to www.hopechurchspicer.org/fundraisers or visit the display table for pie order forms. Deadline to order: **Wednesday, Dec. 14th**

No-Bake Peppermint Oreo Pie - \$20

Mixed Berry Pie - \$18 for Take & Bake, \$20 for baked



Pick-up for both fundraisers will be Sunday, Dec. 18th (11:00 am – 12:00 pm), Mon-Thur (8:30 am – 5:00 pm), and Wednesday, Dec. 21st (5:30-7:30 pm). All proceeds go toward costs of the restrooms remodel. Thank you for your support!

Christian Education Youth and Families

“But the angel said to them, do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the city of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Luke 2: 10-12

Advent

Advent started Sunday, November 27th. “Advent” means “coming”. It is a time when we think about the coming of Christ.

There is a plethora of books and devotionals about Advent available. I looked at one called Advent in Plain Sight: A Devotional through 10 Objects by Jill J. Duffield. This author looks at Advent through plain objects and relates them to Advent with the idea that God works through the ordinary stuff of life. For example, Jill Duffield chooses “gates” as her first object. She does a wonderful job of discussing how “gates” relate to Advent through that first week. Here is just one sentence from her book page 6: “When God chooses to open the gate to our hearts, and heads, and homes, and walk through, the flood gates of Divine Blessings open too.” I like that idea. I challenge us to follow Jill Duffield’s idea, but not use 10 objects, but instead, use 4, one for each week of Advent.

Advent is such a busy time as we prepare for Christmas, that it is hard to give the season the time its importance deserves. I plan to be aware of just one object in each of the 4 weeks of Advent that draws my attention to the season of Advent. Then, I will write a few sentences of why it represents Advent for ME. I implore you to try to do the same.

I think it would be interesting and perhaps inspirational to share these ideas with each other. Look for an “Objects of Advent” bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall and add your ideas to the board. Feel free to pin up your idea on any sheet of paper but I will provide little “forms” by the bulletin board if you want to use those. The goal is to do one object per each week of advent but feel free to do fewer or more. Let's observe, document, share, and prepare for Christ's coming.



Dates to remember: aka FRIDGE BRIDGE

You can put this sheet on your refrigerator as a reminder of CEYF goings on.

Sunday, December 4 **Rehearsal** after church for the
Christmas Program
Pizza will be served for participants and families.

Wednesday, December 7 Family supper – 5:45 pm
Program **rehearsal** during evening classes - 6:15 pm

Sunday, December 11 **Christmas program** during church at 10:00 am
Advent Fun Hour after church
Which will start with a **Potluck Dinner** followed by
a game and singing. Everyone is welcome!

Wednesday, December 14 During our regularly scheduled Wednesday
night classes we will have refreshments and all work together on a mission
project- decorating cookies for our shut-ins and residents
at the nursing homes.

Wednesday, December 21 Christmas Caroling at North Point and
GlenOaks, starting at GlenOaks at 6:15 pm. This is for all Wednesday night
classes, parents, and anyone else who would like to join in!

Wednesday, December 28 No Class – Christmas break

Wednesday, January 4 Christian Education Classes Resume



Decorating Ornaments for the tree in the Fellowship Hall



Thank you, Kathryn Frazee, for all your creativity, hard work, and supplies in getting the projects ready! Thank you to Alisa, Jonelle, Joni, Wendy, and Wally for the extra help!

Respectfully submitted by Tyann Jones

Lay Readers:

**December 4th: Jonelle
Foreman**

December 11th: Program

December 18th: Sue Block

December 24th: Jeff Wersal

December 25th: Open

DECEMBER CARE PANTRY DONATION CHALLENGE!

Toilet Paper



HPW News

Our Christmas event scheduled for December 6th will be changed to be held in conjunction with the Advent Fun event on Sunday, December 11th - potluck dinner, game and songs.

Our 2023 HPW booklet will be in your church mailboxes soon. Please check your mailbox for them!

2023

Your 2023 Offering Envelopes soon will be on the table in the Narthex. Please contact Jerry of any changes or additions.

Thanks!

Coffee Servers

**December 4th: Amanda Titus, Dawn Oie
& Lisa Thorson**

**December 11th: Pat & Bob Hinderks,
Karen Hagemeyer & Jody Leason**

December 18th: Joni Lamphere & Sherry Bratsch

December 25th: Bev & Howard Jones & Tyann Jones



**Members with Health Concerns:**

Velda Jones, Arlos Jones, Bill Schurman, Audrey Dean, Shar Williams

Family and Friends with Health Concerns

Kurt Angstman (Maggie Harp's brother-in-law)

Ben Gibson (Hilda Grosklags' nephew)

Sandy Aalderks

Joanna Hanson (Helmstetter's niece)

Jerry Harder

Grieving:

Family of Fred Roguske, Family of Donna Ridl, Family of Lauran Schroeder's Mom (Daughter-in-law of Joyce & Darwin), Family of Lisa Walhof

Care Facilities:

Gary Anfinson (Bethesda-Willmar), David Carlson (Bethesda North Pointe), Jeanette Gault (GlenOaks), Ed Johnston (GlenOaks Apts.), Bob Sietsema (Bethesda North Pointe), Barb Morris (Copperleaf - Willmar), Mary Lou Swart (PCU's at GlenOaks)

Other Concerns:

For those dealing with mental health issues and who struggle with addiction

For those deeply wounded by domestic violence, violence in schools, mass shootings

For those grieving the death and injury of a loved one due to violence and war

For those affected by natural disasters, COVID-19 pandemic

For those serving in the military in Ukraine and elsewhere

Joys: Baby girl Nora, born to Jess & Ben

Grandparents Sherry & Larry Bratsch

December Deacons of the Month: Kim O'Malley & Greg Swenson

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WEBSITE: <http://hopechurchspicer.org>

RADIO: KGLH 96.9 FM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization

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Permit No. 11

Spicer, MN 56288

2022



December

Office Hours

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

***Monday thru Thursday**

SUNDAYS

9:15 A.M. Coffee

10:00 A.M. Worship

Also Facebook Live & on Radio

Also on TV - Channel 18 or Channel 181

Sundays 2:30 pm

Tuesdays 11:30 am & 8:30 pm and

Thursdays 8:00 am & 5:00 pm