

2023



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hope Scope

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NRSV)

The commandment above is what Jesus calls the first and greatest commandment, and it is very similar to the first of the Ten Commandments given in Exodus 20. It would be hard to deny that understanding God to be God alone, worthy of our love and obedience is—and must be—at the top of the list for faithful people. And I doubt that many of us would disagree with that.

But God also calls us to a particular life together. And the life we are called to has us worshipping together (Hebrews 10). More and more, Christians seem to feel that worship together is optional. I am a great advocate of the use of technology to enhance all that we do as faithful Christians. And the fact that people can watch and listen to our service online is a true benefit to the church. I make use of our online service myself when I am away. And if a person cannot be together with the church physically, I think our online service is the next best thing.

But next best is not the same as best. And so, I am afraid that we are perhaps too ready to substitute worshipping together with watching worship from home, or elsewhere. They are not the same. “Liturgy” which is just the form our worship takes, means “the work of the people.” Worship is what we do when we come together on Sunday morning, and it is meant to be an event that commands all our attention, and has us all taking part.

Physical presence is always important to Christians and Christian communities. Perhaps the greatest gift of our faith is that Jesus is the physical presence of God with us. We are meant to be together. And this means at least two things for us. First, those who cannot be with us physically are not to be forgotten or ignored, but visited and made to feel a part of the community. And second, we should be together, physically, when that is possible.

So, if you have not been with us recently on Sunday mornings, I have given you some theological reasons why it might be a good idea to change that habit. But here’s a non-theological one: Our time together, limited as it is, is great. Sometimes I look around at how the people of this church greet each other, treat each other, and look after each other. It is a marvel. So, if you have not been attending regularly (or at all) please come. It is a joy for us all to be together, and that joy would only be increased by your presence with us.

Blessings,

Brian Jones

The following were approved by the Session at its February 6th meeting:

- * The 2022 Church Statistical Report submitted to the General Assembly;
- * Moving two members to Other Participant;
- * Placing funds received from a member's estate into a 12-month Certificate of Deposit at United Prairie Bank;
- * Holding a chili cookoff on Sunday, February 19, following worship and that a free-will donation be taken;
- * Paying \$15 per youth to attend the Presbytery-wide Youth Retreat;
- * Allowing youth to have a movie night in the River of Hope Youth Center;
- * Holding a Fat Tuesday meal on February 21 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.; and
- * Holding an Ash Wednesday service on February 22, 2023 and Lenten services with a soup and bread meal each Wednesday from March 1 through April 6, 2023;.

Communion servers on Sunday, March 5, 2023: Steve Barney, Allie Johnson, Kristine Foreman, Dee Schurman and Liz Windingstad

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FINANCE REPORT

		Year to Date	Year to Date
	January	01/31/2023	Monthly Average
Income	\$21,795.41	\$21,795.41	\$21,795.41
Expenses	\$25,581.25	\$25,581.25	\$25,581.25
Net Profit (Loss)	(\$3,726.44)	(\$3,726.44)	
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses			\$24,895.98
Per Capita Assessment for 2023 (\$44.24 per member)			\$8,494.08
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 1/31/2023			\$738.00

Jerry Bents, Treasurer

HOPE'S HAPPENINGS!

****Soup & Bread suppers** will start on March 1st at 5:45 pm with Group 1 in the kitchen, March 8th Group 2, March 15th Group 3, March 22nd Group 4 and March 29th Hope's Youth. Please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall to bring a crockpot of soup. Bread and crackers are provided.

****HPW** will be having a Table Setting fundraiser event on Saturday, April 15th in the Fellowship Hall. This event will be replacing the Rummage Sale this year, so the money raised will be used for mission projects. Volunteers are needed to provide dishes, silverware and napkins for 8 place settings, plus a centerpiece. White lace tablecloths are available for the round tables. You may team up with a friend or relative and sign up in the Fellowship Hall. The goal is to have 8-10 tables. Group 4 is responsible for the kitchen and all service groups will assist with donations for food. Please be thinking about this event—a sign up sheet will be available later this month.

****The Fall Festival** will be held on Saturday, October 14th! Plenty of time to go through your jewelry and donate items for the Accessory Sisters' booth.

****Volunteers needed to knit prayer shawls!**

The Deacons are looking for people who would like to knit prayer shawls! Our dedicated knitter, Darlene Thompson, is retiring from her services, so we need someone to continue this important job. Please connect with Deb Steele and you can also visit with Darlene to receive instructions on making them.

****March is Food Shelf Month**, so our March challenge for the CARE Pantry is to bring food for the Food Shelf at The Link. Please place your items on the table by the mailboxes in church.

Christian Education Youth and Families

“Tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25: 40

When Did I See You?

This Matthew text and title were the theme of the Presbytery-wide Youth Retreat held on February 10-11. We sent 5 students and 1 guest from our church. It was a great time. We learned some things, and had some fun, and met some new friends, and connected with old friends. There is a full report I am including in this Hope Scope. We learned about the importance of KNOWING that our God really sees and knows us and the importance of really seeing and knowing others, including what we would consider the “least” of our community and culture.

Presbytery-wide Youth Retreat





Youth Retreat Report-taken from Feb. 15 Valley Bridge Newsletter

It's official. The Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys has just concluded its first ever, one-of-a-kind youth retreat this past weekend, February 10 & 11 at the First Presbyterian Church of Willmar! If you read the Valley Bridge, you have seen our event evolve in so many ways. From leaders to times, to how it would look, and everything in between.

All Presbytery youth, grades 6-12 were invited to spend the weekend at this event planned around the Matthew 25 theme "When Did We See You?". Activities included large and small group fun, meaningful worship services, with communion on Saturday, great food and lots of wonderful fellowship together. Friday's activities centered around the idea of "See and Be Seen" while on Saturday we learned what it means to "Know and Be Known." These are wonderful resources for every church. If you would like more information on how and where to find these, please contact any one of us.

Back in October we learned of an event support grant of \$1,000 being offered by the Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT)/Presbytery Mission Agencies to groups who would be open to hosting an event using PYT connect resources they provided. The grant money awarded to each recipient would come from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Pentecost offering funds.

Kali Luther, our Presbytery Youth Coordinator at the time, applied for and received this grant, which ultimately was used to purchase baby items and household goods to be distributed to a fellowship of single women from South-Sudan and Ethiopia who live in the St. Cloud, Minnesota area who practice their prayers of faith at the First Presbyterian Church of St. Cloud. We were extremely happy to welcome the Rev. Elizabeth Tot and Nyanwa, one of her mothers, who joined us on Saturday to talk about the challenges these women face living in the United States, while trying to make a living for themselves and their children. The youth packaged up all of the items in boxes and sent them with Elizabeth and Nyanwa to bring back to St. Cloud and their community of single mothers.

A special thanks of gratitude to the Presbytery for sponsoring this event, to the Willmar church for hosting it, to Kali for envisioning it, to the 14 youth and 7 adults who attended it, including our new Clearwater Forest Camp Executive Director Erin Anderson and Assistant Camp Program Director Garrett Colten, and to the Agencies for the event support grant, their creative resources and gift bag swag! All were necessary to make this event successful – and we think it scored a 10 out of 10!

Paul Snyder

Tyann Jones

Jill Boeyink

Respectfully Submitted by Tyann Jones

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE BULLETIN BOARDS AT THE END OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. THERE ARE LOTS OF GREAT PICTURES!

Rockin' Wednesday!

On January 25th we went to Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center. There were 13 students and many adults that attended. It was a great night of team building and climbing the rock wall.



Fridge Bridge

There is a soup and bread meal served at 5:45 every Wednesday in March. Following the meal Pastor Brian will have a worship service in the sanctuary at 6:15. Everyone is welcome!

March 1 First Soup and Bread meal at 5:45 – Everyone is welcome. This is in lieu of our monthly CE family meal.

March 11 Christian Education Youth and Families Retreat 8:00-10:00 am
at the River of Hope Youth Center

March 16 Family Movie Night - 6:00-8:00 pm - River of Hope Youth Center

March 22 NO Wednesday night classes – spring break

March 28 Christian Education Youth & Families Committee meeting , 6:30 pm

March 29 All Christian Ed classes will host the last soup and bread meal

April 2 Palm Sunday
Return fish banks
Students will march into church waving palm branches
WOW students will sing during church

April 9 Easter – He is risen, He is risen Indeed!

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One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks have been distributed to our students. They **should be brought** back to church on **Palm Sunday- April 2nd**.

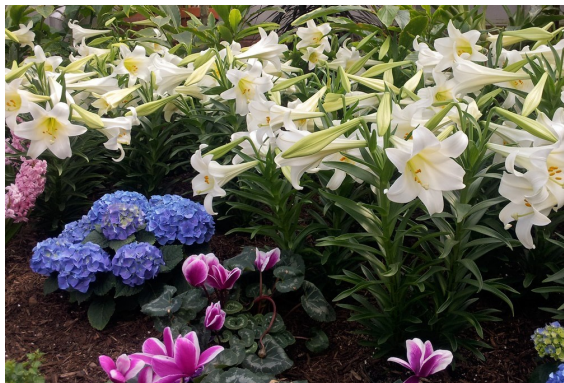
The money is collected globally and used for 3 Presbyterian Projects

1. **S**elf-Development of People
2. Presbyterian **H**unger Fund
3. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (**E**mergencies)

Remember the word “**SHE**”.



Easter Flowers/Sun Catchers



Members of the congregation are invited to contribute to the purchase of Easter flowers that will be used to decorate the sanctuary at Easter or purchase a sun catcher for a keepsake of your loved one. The cost will be \$17 for a flower or sun catcher.

Please complete this form and fill in names of those “In Honor Of” or “In Memory Of” for which you have purchased. Names will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. Please pick up your flower or sun catcher after the service. Flowers not taken home after the service will be delivered to the ill or shut-ins by the Deacons.

Please indicate the number of:

Flowers _____

Sun Catchers _____

Total amount of money enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Mark (X) “In Honor Of” _____ or “In Memory Of” _____

Contributed by: _____

Please make checks payable to Hope Presbyterian Church and make a notation on your check “Easter Floral/Sun Catcher Fund.” Please return this form to the church office, place in Sunday’s offering plate or mail this form to church:
7730 North Shore Drive, Spicer, MN 56288

These slips will also be available in Sunday bulletins the end of March.



February 2023 Updates

Volunteer Opportunities: If you or someone you know would like to be a part of The Link's mission and volunteer at the **Community Revival Boutique and Thrift**, we are looking for extra help on-call and on a consistent basis (mostly Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays). Our store hours are 10-3 Wednesday-Friday and 10-2 Saturdays. Our current volunteers are amazing and have a great time together building friendships. If you'd like to join the fun, call Shawna at 320-347-1047 or Ashley at 320-354-5465.

In January, The Link was able to serve 8 families with common household needs with our **Household Exchange Program**. The Household Exchange program takes in donations such as smaller furniture, bedding, towels, kitchen utensils, pots and pans etc. to provide families when they are getting back on their feet.

The Food Pantry served 75 households in January (including: 124 adults, 72 children and 25 seniors) and distributed a total of 3,858.5 pounds of food. The need of food has increased significantly the past couple months, requiring The Link to increase their food budget to meet the needs of the people served.

The Wildcat Backpack Program is currently serving 86 children. Each week, students from the NL-S High School pack bags including: 2 juices, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 snacks, 1 fruit and 1 treat, and deliver them to each school to ensure our students nutritional needs are met on the week-ends when they are not in school. If you know a family that could benefit from this program, please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555 or Vicki Mickelson at NLS schools at 320-354-2252 ext. 2607.

The Link's **Client Outreach** program served 10 families in February by helping with medical bills, utility bills and rental payments. This program also connected families with financial resources outside of The Link to help with bigger bills and necessities, including housing for homeless families.

Tuesday's Table's schedule is as follows: 1st Tuesday of the month: Our Lady of the Lakes (Spicer), 2nd Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant (New London), 3rd Tuesday: Faith Lutheran (Spicer), 4th Tuesday: Peace Lutheran (New London), 5th Tuesday: Rotating (call 320-354-5555 for more Information).

As always, a HUGE THANK YOU to those who have donated food and/or monetarily and to those who have prayed for and with us here at The Link! With the increased need for food and in client outreach, we are asking for your continued support- financially and prayerfully.

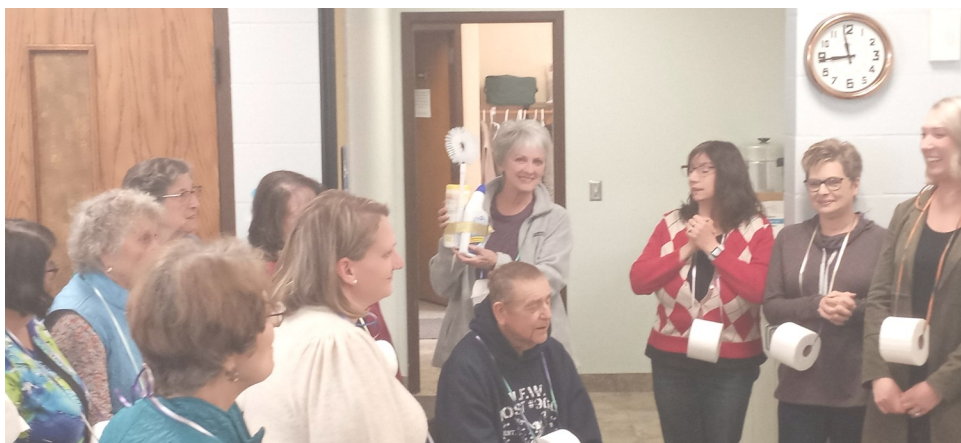
Monthly Giving Opportunities:

The Link makes monthly giving a convenient option for our donors. You can set up online giving through The Link's website at www.youarethelink.org or directly through your bank. If you would like to make a one time donation, you can send a check to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273 or via Venmo @The-Link-1. Please contact Ashley at 320-354-5555 or email her at ashley@youarethelink.org for more information.

Chili Cook-Off Sunday, February 19th



1st Place Honors to Bill Titus-Best Chili of the Day!!



Dee Schurman
2nd Place
Honors

Amanda Titus
3rd Place
Honors



Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper February 21st



Many thanks to all the men who prepared the supper, Sparboe Farms for donating the eggs and to Pat and Bob Hinderks for getting the supplies!!



Lay Readers:

March 5th **Jonelle Foreman**

March 12th **Sue Block**

March 19th **Open**

March 26th **Open**

WE 
VOLUNTEERS

HPW News

We will be having a craft night on Tuesday, March 7th at 6:30 pm. Please come and join us in making wine glass coasters!



Coffee Servers

March 5th **Karen & Jerry Bents**

March 12th **Melissa & Lyle Mangan**

March 19th **Wendy & Bob Barr**

March 26th **Sarah & Barry Sampson**



**Members with Health Concerns:**

Dick Lindahl, Sandy Ardoff, Judy Heath

Family and Friends with Health Concerns:

Kim (Friend of Sherry Bratsch) Joanna Hanson (Helmstetter's niece)
Sandy Aalderks

Grieving:

Family of Ashley Beard (Celia Evenson's granddaughter), Family of Ralph Jansen, Family of Jerry Harder

Care Facilities:

Gary Anfinson (Bethesda-Willmar), David Carlson (Bethesda North Pointe), Jeanette Gault (GlenOaks), Betty Harder (Bethesda North Pointe), 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 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

March Deacons of the Month: Joni Lamphere & Greg Swenson

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
7730 NORTH SHORE DRIVE
SPICER, MN 56288

PHONE: 320-796-2650

E-MAIL: hopepres@gmail.com

WEBSITE: <http://hopechurchspicer.org>

RADIO: KGLH 96.9 FM



2023

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 96.9 FM

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