

2023



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hope Scope

*The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.*

Psalm 145:8-9 (NRSV)

A new year approaches. We have lived through so many new years that maybe the novelty has worn off. I don't know if you are one to make resolutions, but I hope you can take the words above, from the 145th Psalm, to heart.

A new year brings with it the promise of a fresh start. But too often, the new year has us living pretty much as we did before, and in that case the fresh start is not of much use to us. But what if you could remember, every single day, that your God is gracious and merciful and abounding in steadfast love? What if you just knew, every day, that the Lord is good to all and has compassion over all—and that includes you?

Tyann and I have 2 cars. Each has about 190,000 miles on it. That's 190,000 miles of dings and dents and chips and scratches and everyday wear and tear. And all that evidence of age and hard use remains. The vehicles are starting to look and act as if the damage is piling up.

And so it can seem with us. Once we have been around for a while and have racked up a few miles, things start to pile up. Our mistakes, our regrets, our failures—they all begin to add up. And they slow us down and make us less than we would otherwise be.

But you and I are not like cars, and the God we serve seeks our good and abounds in steadfast love. God is gracious and merciful and has compassion for us. We are forgiven. I am not aware of a fountain of youth that will make us appear to be younger than we are, but those dings and scratches of regret and failure are repaired, and for us, the only job is to live as if that is so.

A new year may not change much, but if it helps us to remember that by God's grace we are created anew—that our failures and losses do not follow us around the rest of our days—that we have a truly clean slate—then maybe the first day of the new year will have some real meaning for us. Maybe starting fresh will really serve a purpose for us and for God's coming kingdom.

Happy New Year!

Blessings,

Brian Jones

At its December 5th meeting, the Session approved the following:

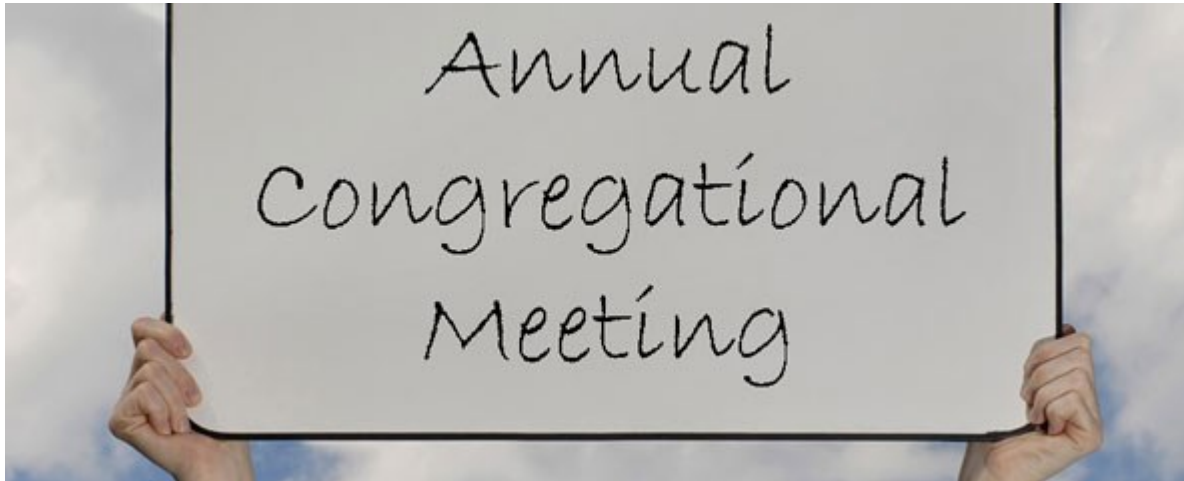
- * New members: Lisa Bowland, Tom Gjerde, Karen Hagemeyer, Dave Terpstra, Kathy Terpstra and Jason Windingstad;
- * Pastor Jones taking vacation from December 26, 2022 through January 1, 2023;
- * Moving Kyle Gjerde to Other Participant at his request;
- * Caroling at Glen Oaks and Bethesda North Pointe on December 21st;
- * WOW children participating in Rockin' Wednesday at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center on January 25th, 2023;
- * Christian Education, Youth and Families Committee holding a retreat at the River of Hope Youth Center at a date to be determined;
- * 2023 Budget, excluding the Pastoral Ministry section;
- * The purchase of a new computer to record worship services;
- * Using a combination of U.S. mail, email and church mailboxes for distribution of the Hope Scope beginning in January 2023;
- * The church's insurance coverage for 2023; and
- * Received the nominees for Ruling Elders and Deacons for 2023-2025.



****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 11/30/2022	Year to Date Monthly Average
Income	\$231,108.85	\$21,009.90
Expenses	\$255,577.80	\$23,234.35
Net Profit (Loss)	(\$24,468.95)	
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses		\$25,277.35
Per Capita Assessment for 2022		\$8,256.00
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 11/30/2022		\$3,870.00



SUNDAY, JANUARY 22ND
FOLLOWING 10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

Christian Education Youth and Families

“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”
Matthew 2: 10-11

The Magi

Epiphany is celebrated on January 6. It is when we celebrate the wisemen visiting Jesus and the significance of their visit. They came from the east representing the Gentiles (non-Jewish people) worshiping Jesus too. This Savior is for US too! The gifts have meaning also. Gold is for royalty-kings, frankincense represents God, and myrrh is an oil to anoint the bodies of the deceased, representing Jesus’ humanity.

So, there is quite a lot to celebrate about Epiphany. However, it is easy to overlook this day because we have just finished with the huge celebration of Christmas. If January 6th came and went without much fanfare, it is never too late to read the story in Matthew 2 and maybe sing the chorus of “We Three Kings” and be grateful for the roles of the Magi in God’s great plan for us.

THANK YOU!

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Thank you to all who helped with our December events!! There are many who make them happen and many who fly under the radar. You are all appreciated for your dogged determination to provide fun and meaningful events for our church family!!

Fridge Bridge

(Please tear this off and hang it on your fridge)

Wednesday, January 4th Family meal and regular Wednesday classes

Wednesday, January 25th Rockin’ Wednesday at Prairie Woods ELC
6:00-8:00 p.m. for ALL classes

Wednesday, February 1st Family meal and regular Wednesday classes





Advent Fun Hour



Decorating cookies to give away



Christmas program

Respectfully submitted by Tyann Jones



Lay Readers:

January 1: (Susan Johnson)

January 8: Sue Block

January 15: Open

January 22: Open

January 29: Open

**JANUARY
CARE PANTRY DONATION
CHALLENGE!**

**Toothpaste, Toothbrushes &
Mouth Wash**

**HPW News**

We will be meeting on Tuesday,
January 3rd at 6:30 pm for Craft
Night! Please come and join us!
Karen Hagemeyer will be our
instructor!!

**No Tuesday's Table
January 3rd!**

Coffee Servers

January 1st: Pam Sigafoos

**January 8th: Robin & Greg Mulder,
Nancy & Rod Gjerde**

January 15th: Jonelle & Harold Foreman

January 22nd: Conny & John Williamson

January 29th: Dee & Bill Schurman, Greg Swenson



**Members with Health Concerns:**

Arlos Jones, Judy Heath

Family and Friends with Health Concerns

Kim (Friend of Sherry Bratsch)

Darlene Lind

Palmer Norling

Joanna Hanson (Helmstetter's niece)

Sandy Aalderks

Jerry Harder

Grieving:

Family of Shirley Bradford (Tim's Mom), Family of Carol Ann Olsen (Erica Hippen's Mom), Family of Betty Miller

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

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RADIO: KGLH 96.9 FM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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