

2024



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)

Last Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, and that means we have entered the season of Lent, which takes us all the way to Holy Week and Easter. Lent is not everyone's favorite season. Lent's focus on self-reflection and repentance makes it difficult for some to get enthused about it.

And Lent can be a challenge. Maybe you have in the past decided to give something up for Lent. Giving things up is not a favorite pastime for most of us, so if Lent is trying to win a popularity contest among seasons in the church, it will be up against tough competition from Christmas and Easter.

Still, God does call us to repentance, and to be very good at that, we will have to take a serious look at who we are and how we might change things in order to follow Jesus more closely. And so I encourage you to do this. I encourage you to gather with us on Sunday mornings for worship, as Lent is meant to be a season of preparation for Easter.

But if Lent gets you down, because it seems like it emphasizes all the things about yourself that you would rather not emphasize, maybe you can console yourself with the words from the 145th Psalm. Here we find reason to trust our God, even with the truth about ourselves. Remember that God is good to all. Remember that God's love does not depend on you being perfect—or even good. Remember that God has compassion for all that God has made. And that means you.

Blessings,

Brian Jones

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

- * the 2023 Church Statistical Report submitted to the General Assembly;
- * the transfer of Rod and Nancy Gjerde to The Open Door Christian Church;
- * a monetary collection by the Christian Education, Youth and Families Committee to make feminine care packages;
- * the use of the "Food Truck Party" curriculum for VBS Family Fun Nights; and
- * recognizing Jerry Bents upon his retirement as the church treasurer during coffee hour.
- * Appointed Wally Titus as co-head offering counter replacing Kristene Foreman;
- * Appointed Sarah Sampson as the church's Wedding Coordinator.
- * Heard a proposal from a construction firm to purchase the abandoned road near the River of Hope Youth Center and adjacent property of approximately one-half acre or less.
- * Directed the Property Committee to look at the exterior lighting around the church property and develop a maintenance inventory for the church.

Communion servers for March 3rd are: Steve Barney, Greg Mulder, Alisa Taatjes, Dee Schurman and Liz Windingstad.

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FINANCE REPORT

	Year to Date	Year to Date
	January	01/31/2024
		Monthly Average
Income	\$17,982.19	\$17,982.19
Expenses	\$23,286.45	\$23,286.45
Net Profit (Loss)	(\$5,304.26)	(\$5,304.26)
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses		\$26,118.65
Per Capita Assessment for 2024		\$7,425.00
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 01/31/2024		\$1,053.48

Kristene Foreman, Treasurer

March Recipient of the Month

For the month of March, our CARE Pantry was again selected as the recipient of the month at Bargains & Blessings Thrift Store in Willmar! We will receive a donation of the profits they make! But, they also need our help throughout the month. They have many jobs we can do as stocking shelves, sorting, pricing, taking laundry home to wash, testing electronics and repairing broken items. Many of these duties can be done at home. They are open for volunteers 10 am to 5 pm Monday thru Friday. They also have “Quick” test take home boxes for volunteers to pick up. You take it home, test and clean the items, then bring them back. A quick training will happen at first pick up. We will also have information about our CARE Pantry and pamphlets available for their customers, as we will partner between our ministry and Bargains & Blessings’ ministry.

Celebrate the Gifts of Women—Sunday, March 10th

HPW Birthday Offering

Each year, the Birthday Offering awards grants to up to five programs. Primarily making possible capital improvement projects, the Birthday Offering supports domestic and international ministries, focusing on areas such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence or women’s concerns. Your gift to the Birthday Offering helps fund real solutions in the areas of health, education, economic development and the needs of women and children.

Special offering envelopes will be in the pews.

One Great Hour of Sharing—Sunday, March 31st

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. This year we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of this Offering, which started with a radio show in 1949. Typically received on Easter Sunday, which this year falls on March 31st, the annual Offering supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People. All three programs work to serve individuals and communities in need to provide people with safety, sustenance and hope.

Special offering envelopes will be in the pews.

Christian Education Youth and Families

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9



The youth of our church made these tie quilts in memory of Harrison (age 11) and William Dahl (age 15) who passed away as a result of a tragic accident. Four of the quilts will be given to the Dahl family and two of the quilts will be donated to Children’s Hospital in Minneapolis in memory of Harrison and William. We continue to keep this family in our prayers.

Love2Hope

On January 17 our church hosted Sean and Kay Levesque from Parent Life, Willmar. They gave a program on human trafficking, a very real and troubling topic. Their presentation was inspiring and empowering. You can find out more on their website: Love2Hope.



REGISTRATION for summer camp is now OPEN!!

Summer Camp - Clearwater Forest Camp & Retreat Center

[Check out all the retreats!!](#)

- [1. Women’s Chrysalis Was held on February 23-25, 2024](#)
- [2. Couples Retreat March 1-3, 2024](#)
- [3. Seeds of Service April 19-21, 2024](#)
- [4. Fall Youth Retreat October 24-27, 2024](#)

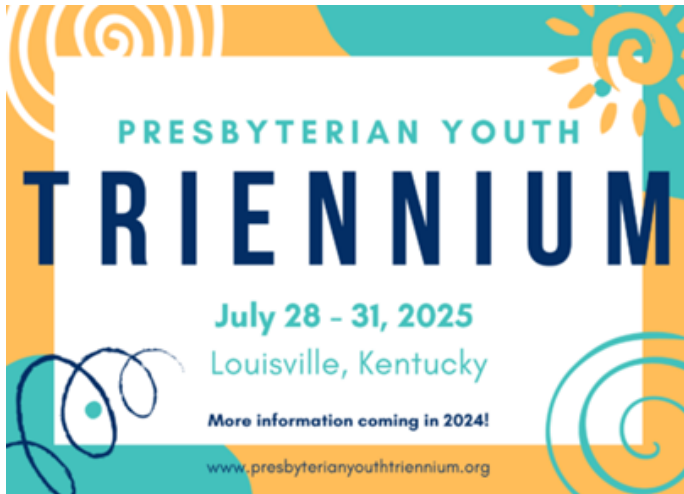


The youth of our church had a Fun Day on February 4th at the River of Hope Youth Center. We played games, ate sandwiches and s'mores, and had a GREAT time together!



Hope Presbyterian Church Polar Plunge Team
Guided by our fearless leader, Eli Twernbold

Thank You for your donations and support for Special Olympics!



One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks have been distributed to our students. They **should be brought** back to church on **Palm Sunday which is March 24.**

The money is collected globally and used for 3 Presbyterian Projects:

1. **Self-Development of People**
2. Presbyterian **Hunger Fund**
3. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (**Emergencies**)

Remember the word, "**SHE**"

Fridge Bridge

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|----------|---|
| March 6 | NO Family Meal – It's a soup and bread night. |
| March 20 | NO Wednesday night classes – spring break |
| March 20 | All Christian Ed. classes are encouraged to help host the last soup and bread meal. |
| March 24 | Palm Sunday – students will march into church waving palm branches
Fish Banks are due!
WOW students will sing during church |
| March 31 | Easter – He is risen, He is risen Indeed! |
| April 13 | CEYF Committee retreat at ROHYC 8:30-10:30 a.m. |

Respectfully Submitted by Tyann Jones

Easter Flowers



Members of the congregation are invited to contribute to the purchase of Easter flowers that will be used to decorate the sanctuary at Easter. The cost will be \$17 for each flower.

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(s) 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 _____

Total amount of money enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____

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

Name: _____

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

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 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. We would like this form returned by March 17th.

These slips will also be available in Sunday bulletins March 3rd and March 10th.

Lay Readers:

March 3: Jonelle Foreman

March 10: Jonelle Foreman

March 17: Sue Block

March 24: Open

March 31: Open

Deacons of the Month:

**Lisa Thorson
&
Greg Swenson**

March CARE Pantry

Challenge is.....

**Food for the Food Shelf
at The Link**



**Please place
donated
items on the
table by the
church mail-
boxes in the
Fellowship
Hall.**

**Also, any cleaning items or per-
sonal care items are always ap-
preciated for our CARE Pantry.
Our numbers have been increas-
ing. In February we had 87 clients
that came for products. Thanks!**

Coffee Servers

March 3: Dee & Bill Schurman

March 10: Jonelle & Harold Foreman

March 17: Jonelle & Harold Foreman

March 24: Robin & Greg Mulder

March 31: Session-Easter- Muffins, Juice & Coffee





Members with Health Concerns:

Darlene Bratberg, Jeff Lamphere, Sandy Ardoff, Jo Holm, Sharon Jones, Darlene Thompson, Dick Lindahl, John Williamson, Conny Williamson, Bob Hinderks

Family and Friends with Health Concerns:

Mike (Friend of Wade Swenson)

Aaron Cameron (Schurman's brother-in-law)

Dorothy (Eldy William's sister)

Chris (Doreen Mitchell's son-in-law)

Mike Holme

Jerry Jones

Duane (Friend of Joni Lamphere)

Ruth (Friend of Carol Sampson)

Kevin Taatjes

Vicky Mattson (Friend of Sharon Jones)

David (Karen Hagemeyer's nephew)

Grieving:

Family of Steven Chapin (Karen Hagemeyer's brother), Family of Jerry Dahl, Family of George Panetti, Family of Inez Underland (Kim O'Malley's Grandmother)

Care Facilities:

Jerry Gault (Prairie Senior Cottages, 1705 19th Ave. SW-Willmar), Shar Williams (Carris Health Care Center, 1801 Willmar Ave. SW), Kathy Jansen (Bethesda Grand, 901 Willmar Ave. SE, Room 103), David Carlson (Bethesda North Pointe), Jeanette Gault (GlenOaks), Betty Harder (Bethesda North Pointe), Arlos Jones (GlenOaks Apts.), 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

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

For the unrest in Israel and Gaza

For those affected by natural disasters, COVID-19

FEBRUARY 2024 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

Ribfest 2024 planning has begun.....AND WE WOULD LOVE YOUR HELP! We are currently looking for sponsors and silent auction item donations for the event.

Please save the date.....Saturday, June 8, 2024....in the large city parking lot in New London (behind The Link).

The Food Pantry continues to see an increase in need. In January, The Link served **169 households** - distributing a total of **9,053 pounds of food**.

Wildcat Backpack and Snack Pantry. The Link is currently serving **96 children** each week from NL-S schools! This is an ability to supplement children's food for the weekend when they are not in school. The Link is also currently connecting **29 teachers** with snacks for students in their classroom.

Client Outreach. Each month, The Link is able to provide support to a number of families facing hardships, such as (but not limited to): job loss, chronic illness, unexpected change in family dynamics and increase in the cost of living. In January, your donations were able to support **19 families** by helping with medical bills, gas, utility bills and rental payments along with providing budgeting support, networking and referrals for additional basic needs. **Household Exchange.** The Household Exchange Program was able to provide **14 families** with much needed winter gear, furniture and other household necessities in January.

Tuesday's Table. A free community meal the 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).

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Pray for the Link and the community--Help us spread awareness by talking about The Link to your friends and family and sharing on social media-- Donate unexpired food items to the food pantry or organize a food drive-- Volunteer at the thrift store or in the food pantry-- Donate your gently used clothing and household goods- (all proceeds kick back into The Link's programs -- or Donate financially.

CURRENT NEEDS: Gently used winter gear and kids clothing, kid friendly food, monetary donations to support the increased need in The Food Pantry and Client Outreach.

Remember for every \$1 donated, The Link can purchase \$10 in food through Second Harvest. Donations made easy Monthly giving at The Link is convenient. You can set up online giving directly through your bank or by visiting The Link's website at www.youarethelink.org by scanning the QR code. You can also mail your donation to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273, drop off your donation in person or leave your check in the drop box outside of The Link's door at 20 Central Ave E, New London. Questions? Contact Ashley at 320-354-5555.

Thank you for your support! YOU are The Link!

Soup & Bread Suppers and Lenten Services

5:45 p.m. supper, service at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6 (Work Group 3 in Kitchen)

Wednesday, March 13 (Work Group 4 in Kitchen)

Wednesday, March 20 (All Youth & Families in Kitchen)

Maundy Thursday, March 28

7:00 p.m. Worship with Communion (in Sanctuary)

Good Friday, March 29

Online Service—more information to follow

Easter Sunday

**9:15 a.m. Coffee, Juice
& Muffins**

**10:00 a.m. Worship with
Communion**



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



2024

Office Hours

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

***Monday thru Thursday**

SUNDAYS

9:15 A.M. Coffee

10:00 A.M. Worship in Sanctuary

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