

2026



# Hope Scope

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

*Isaiah 60:1-3 (NRSV)*

As I write this (on Christmas Eve) a lot of things are about to happen. Christians always seem to find some way to celebrate - or at least acknowledge - Christmas, it being one of the most important days of the year for us. But as you read this, maybe the decorations are down and the tree has been disassembled, and you are wondering, perhaps with a bit of disappointment, what comes next.

Well, what comes next for us is that we do not forget what a gift we have received in God's coming to us as one of us. The coming year will certainly include some important blessings, and it will also provide its share of challenges. The passage from Isaiah is one that reminds us all year that the blessings we receive at Christmas really should stick with us all year. Because in Jesus' birth, something important has happened, and it matters all year long.

At Christmas we celebrate that the light of God has come to us. But for the rest of the year, with that assurance in hand, we have the chance to reflect that light on a world that is in desperate need of such a thing.

And maybe that is the best way we could start a new year. Maybe we should spend some time in January reflecting on our blessings, and then finding ways to shine the light that we know, onto those who maybe do not know it.

Happy New Year!

~ Blessings, Brian Jones

At its meeting on December 22nd, the Session approved:

- Responses relative to the new Minnesota Paid Leave law;
- Moving the following members from active to other participants (inactive): Heather Hiltner, Erica Hippen, Amber Knopps, Don Knopps, Ida Knopps, Joy Oman, Kris Oman, Pete Schandorff, and Deb Steele;
- Moving the choir robes to where the piano is located in the Fellowship Hall once the piano is relocated



## Congregational Meeting



**Sunday, January 25th after worship,  
Potluck to follow meeting, so bring  
something yummy to share!**

If you have a committee report to write for the annual report, please have those to Steph by the end of day Thursday, January 15th. The Annual Report will be out by Sunday, January 18th for you to take home and review for the meeting. Thank you!

## FINANCE REPORT

	Month of Nov 2025	Year to Date Monthly Avg.	Year to Date Jan - Nov 2025	Prior Year to Date Jan - Nov 2024
Income	\$19,024.76	\$20,877.80	\$229,655.77	\$243,097.14
Expenses	\$20,189.58	\$22,676.02	\$249,436.21	\$253,369.81
Net Profit	(\$1,164.82)		(\$19,780.44)	(\$10,272.67)
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses				\$26,748.96
Per Capita Assessment for 2025				\$7,500.00
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 011/30/2025				\$4,672.00

Report prepared by Kristene King, Treasurer

**In 2026, Per Capita has increased to \$47.00 per active member.**

# January's CARE Pantry Challenge products are..... Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and mouthwash!

Please place your donations on the table in front of  
the mailboxes or in the CARE Pantry box by the  
mailboxes. Thank you!



## Used (or New) Bibles

The Mission Committee is looking for Bibles to give away to the CARE Pantry clients. If you have extra Bibles sitting at home that you don't use, aren't sentimental to you, and are still in fairly good condition, please bring them to the church and put in the CARE Pantry box by the mailboxes or give to Karen Bents. Thank you!



We want to thank the congregation at Hope Presbyterian Church for your concern and many prayers the past several months. We appreciated the cards, phone calls, visits, prepared food, and the gift cards from the Deacons. We are thankful for the many blessings we have received from God and our Hope Church family.

~ John & Conny Williamson

Dear Hope Presbyterian Church family,

Warm greetings from Guatemala! We want to express our endless thankfulness for your partnership and for joining us to fight against poverty. Thank you so much for your annual donation and for trusting in us throughout this year! We are expectant of what God will do next year! Thank you for giving hope to our Treasures and helping us transform their lives. Wishing you a happy holiday season. May God bless you even more this month!

*"You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance."*  
~ Psalms 65:11

~ Itzy Bran, Potter's House

# Christian Education Youth & Families

Respectfully submitted by Tyann Jones

*"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 worshipped 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.

**Epiphany** isn't a day we celebrate with a lot of fanfare, no special meal, no programs, no parties, no lengthy time of reflection or anticipation. It is easy to overlook this day because we have just finished with the huge celebration of Christmas. But January 6 (the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas) is a day to celebrate because it commemorates the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus, which is seen as evidence that Christ, the Jewish Messiah, also is the savior of the Gentiles - US! It is never too late to read the story in Matthew 2 and be grateful for the roles of the Magi in God's great plan for us.



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**Thank you** for joining the Christian Education Youth and Families Committee in our "Sock Ministry" for our Care Pantry clients!!

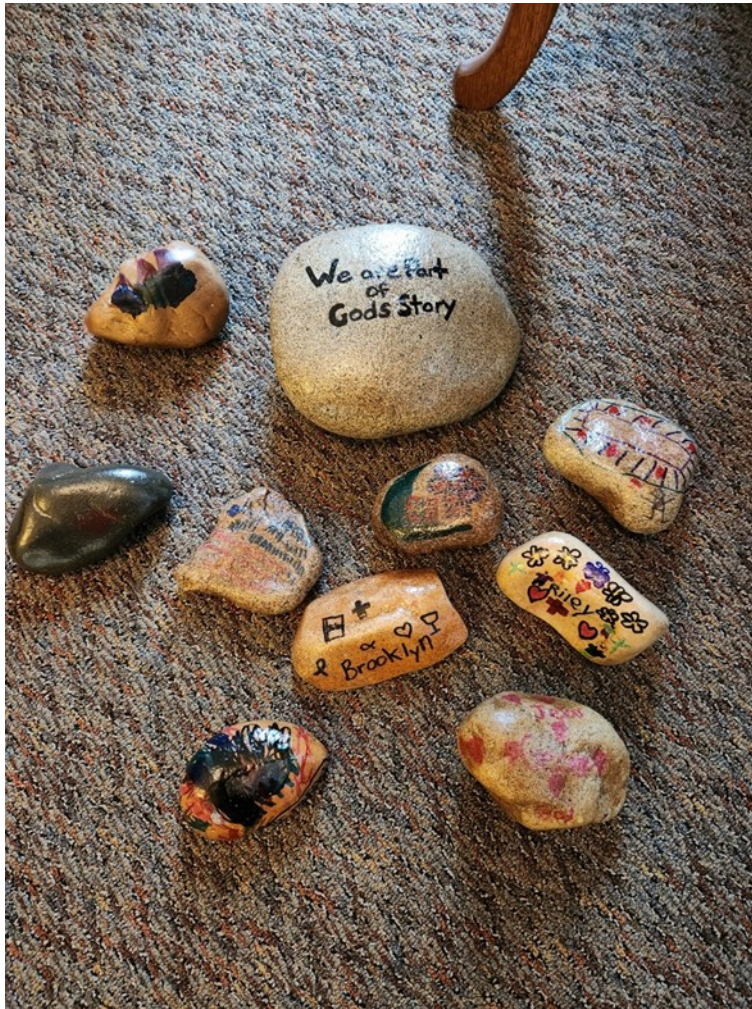
Your response was **absolutely amazing!** We had plenty of socks to distribute to families in December. The clients were grateful and enjoyed the many choices available. We had socks left over and they were donated to warm the feet of people at **Family Promise of Kandiyohi County**, a transitional homeless shelter for families; **The Well**, a Christ centered facility for women coming out of difficult circumstances; **The Fortress**, a Christian based addiction and recovery



community for men; and **The Link** where they were added to Christmas boxes for families. I love thinking about all the “toasty toes” thanks to your generosity!



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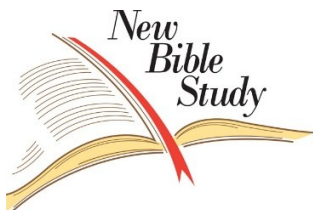


Maybe you have noticed these beautiful stones near the sanctuary? Joni had her WOW students paint these and then invited the younger class to decorate some too.

Just like the Israelites used stones to remind them of God’s help in crossing the Jordan River to the Promised Land, the children decorated the stones to remind them of God’s grace and activity in their lives.

What lovely symbols to remind us that we are all part of God’s story!

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The next adult book study group will be discussing the book titled, Making Sense of Scripture by David Lose. The book asks interesting questions about scripture. Some questions may be questions we have had but were afraid to ask. The study will start after church on **January 4<sup>th</sup> 2026**.



Our Christmas Program, The Little Star of Bethlehem, was held on December 7. We had a wonderful time with youth and adults adding their own personalities and skills to the production. The TAG students helped in important ways with ushering, candle lighting, greeting, helping the WOW students at every practice as well as the day of the program, leading the worship service, and building and making costumes.



















**THANK YOU!**

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Thank you to all who helped with our Christmas program! It takes so many willing and talented people to make it happen. Even though many of you fly under the radar, please know you are appreciated! Thank you for sharing your gifts and time, especially in this busy world we live in.



## Advent Fun Hour on December 21 was a great time!

We were all too busy having fun and did not get any pictures of the event. It is said, "A picture is worth a thousand words." For this year, it looks like, "A thousand words (or less) is going to have to be worth a picture."

Eli: "It was fun!"

Joni: "It was fun and there were yummy appetizers!"

Brooklyn: "It was fun."

Riley: "It was ok."

Allie: "It was fun to see members of all ages playing, singing, laughing, and eating together!"

Sue S.: "Joy shared is twice the joy!"



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## Fridge Bridge

Sunday, January 4	Adult book study begins after church
Wednesday, January 7	Family meal at 5:30, worship at 6:00, and regular Wednesday classes resume
Tuesday, January 13	CEYF committee meeting at 6:30pm
Wednesday, January 14	Family meal at 5:30, worship at 6:00, and regular Wednesday classes starting at 6:20
Wednesday, January 21	Family meal at 5:30, worship at 6:00, and regular Wednesday classes starting at 6:20
Wednesday, January 28	Family meal at 5:30, worship at 6:00, and regular Wednesday classes starting at 6:20
Wednesday, February 4	Congregational meal potluck starting at 5:30, worship at 6:00, and regular classes starting at 6:20.

## Office Hours

Monday thru Friday  
8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

## Sunday Schedule

9:15 A.M. Fellowship Hour  
10:00 A.M. Worship in Sanctuary  
Also on Facebook Live &  
on Radio 96.9 FM

TV - Channel 18 or Channel 181 - Sundays 2:15 pm, Tuesdays 11:30 am &  
3:00 pm, or Thursdays 8:00 am & 5:00 pm

### Members with Health Issues:

Brooke Appleby, Jerry Bents, Greg Mulder,  
John Williamson, Arlos Jones, Don Knopps

*Prayer  
Requests*



### Family and Friends with Health Issues:

Kim (Joni's sister), Karen (Joni's cousin), Wayne (Bob & Carol's friend), Annette (Sherry Bratsch's friend), Karen Christenson, Renae Illies (Eldy Williams' daughter), Stephanie (Ed & Cat Anderson's daughter)

### Grieving:

Family of Jeanette Gault

**\*\*Please Note** If you have a prayer request, please fill out a prayer request card found on the table by the mailboxes in the Fellowship Hall and return it to an usher or Pastor Brian.

**January Deacons of the Month:** Gaylord Lind & Jackie Wahl

## January Coffee Servers

January 4th: Bill & Dee Schurman

January 11th: Nancy Birkeland & Pam Sigafoos

January 18th: Harold & Jonelle Foreman

January 25th: Harold & Jonelle Foreman

