

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2022

Dear members and friends of Hope Community Presbyterian Church,

December and Winter have arrived in northern Minnesota. We now have opportunities to celebrate holidays and attend holiday gatherings, shop at holiday bazaars, invite friends and family and visit friends and family in dwellings filled with Christmas decorations, shovel snow, continue to support the Minnesota Vikings, prepare, bake and eat ethnic food, ski, snow-shoe, ice fish, snow machine and much more! How blessed we are during this Season!

In the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., we celebrate Advent and Christmas in December and Winter. Advent is the first season of the Christian church year, leading up to Christmas and includes the four preceding Sundays, celebrating the first coming and second coming of Christ. On Christmas, we celebrate the birth (first coming) of our Savior, Jesus Christ who was born, lived, died and was resurrected so that we will have a meaningful life on earth and be able to spend eternity with God. We joyfully await the second coming of Jesus.

During Advent this year at Hope Community Presbyterian Church, the meditation each Sunday will feature a portion of a video series for Advent called 'Men at the Manger' that includes five, first person, dramatic presentations by Rev. James (Jim) Remer. Rev. Remer was the pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Virginia from January 1971 through September 1982. When he was serving a church in Parsons, Kansas, he developed a video series in which he provides dramatic presentation in costumes designed and created by his wife Lois, who some of you will surely remember. Each video presentation will be accompanied by an Advent Study Guide also developed by Rev. Remer. Rev. Remer and his wife Lois are now retired and live in Tucson, Arizona.

This December, I also strongly recommend that you watch a Christmas docudrama called 'Why the Nativity,' developed by Turning Point with Dr. David Jeremiah. It can be accessed at WhyTheNativity.org. This docudrama beautifully communicates the Gospel through the Christmas story, making it's preview on November 24, 2022.

Peace and blessings to you during this Advent and Christmas Season,
Rev. Wendy

Sunday Lectionary Readings for December 2022

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
12/04/22	Isaiah 1:1-10	Psalm 72: 1-7 & 18-19	Romans 15: 4-13	Matthew 1: 18-25
12/11/22	Isaiah 35: 1-10	Psalm 146: 5-10	James 5: 7-10	Matthew 1: 1-8
12/18/22	Isaiah 7: 10-16	Psalm 80: 1-7 & 17-19	Romans 1: 1-7	Luke 2: 8-20
12/24/22	Isaiah 9: 2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2: 11-14	Luke 2: 15-20
12/25/22	Isaiah 52: 7-10	Psalm 98	Titus 3: 4-7 & Hebrews 1: 1-4, 5-12	Luke 2: 1-7

Happy December Birthdays

1- Bruce Bergman	16- Greig Bergman
3- Janet Koski	19- Holly Hadrava
6- Spencer Hjelle	28- Claude Erickson
12- Ophelia Bergman	29- Diane Hakala
14- Carol Umhauer	29- Armand Rafferty
15- Tom Hewett	30- Barb Christenson

Session Highlights

- PC(USA) per capita will be \$33 per person in 2023.
- The 2023 budget will remain the same as the 2022 budget.
- Rev. Wendy will be on vacation Jan. 3 through March 19. The worship committee has lined up pulpit supply for those Sundays.

Calendar

Mondays, 1:30 p.m. – Food for Thought (new time)

Sun, 12/4, 11 a.m. – Hanging of the Greens

Tues, 12/6, 12:15 p.m. – Worship com. meeting

Sun, 12/11, 11 a.m. – Annual Congregational mtg

Thurs, 12/15, 12:30 p.m. – Support com. Meeting

Thurs, 12/15, 1 p.m. – Session meeting

Thurs, 12/15, 2:30 p.m. – Sanctuary Centennial mtg

Sun, 12/18, 10 a.m. – Installation of Elders/Deacons

Sun, 12/18, 11 a.m. – Burning of Prayers

Sat, 12/24, 4:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve service

Sun, 12/25, 10 a.m. – Christmas Sunday service

Sun, 4/23/23 – Sanctuary Centennial Celebration

Congregational Meeting

We will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Dec. 11 following worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect Class of 2025 Elders and Deacons. We are still in need of one more Elder and one Deacon.

Christmas Joy Offering

Each year we collect the PC(USA) Christmas Joy offering which goes to support church workers in financial need and students in Presbyterian-related schools. If you would like to donate to this offering, you can use one of the Christmas Joy envelopes in the sanctuary or indicate ‘Christmas Joy’ in your check memo.

Christmas Eve Offering

The offering collected at the Christmas Eve service will again be given to the Deacons to support our Little Free Pantry.

Offering Envelopes

Envelopes are available to pick up at the church. If you would like yours mailed to you, please contact the church office.

Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, the cost will be \$9. Please let the office know the names of people who the poinsettia will be in memory/honor of.

Deacons

The Deacons are again collecting donations of hats, mittens and other winter wear to hang on our Community Clothesline. Donations of food or money are also welcome to help keep our Little Free Pantry stocked. Checks can be made out to the Deacons Fund.

Louisiana Mission Trip

The Presbytery of Northern Waters has planned a mission trip to help with disaster recovery in Louisiana Feb. 11-19, 2023. If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office. You must register by Dec. 31.

Christmas Concerts

Choralaires – Fri. 12/2, 7pm Gethsemane, Virginia

– Sun, 12/4, 2pm Our Saviors, Virginia

Range of Voices

– Fri. 12/9, 7pm - Chisholm Baptist Church

– Sun. 12/11, 2pm – Gethsemane, Virginia

Merry Tuba Christmas

– Sat. 12/10, 1pm – Goodman Audit., Virginia

Mesabi Community Band

– Thurs. 12/15, 7pm Eveleth Auditorium

Voices of Reason

– Sun. 12/18, 3pm Our Saviors, Virginia

*Merry
Christmas!*

Merry Christmas

Christian Education



DECEMBER 2022

Advent Season

December 4 - Peace
Second Sunday of Lent
Matthew 3:1-12

- Baptism and repentance are how we prepare the way, making room for Christ in our lives.
- Jesus is more than just a holy man and prophet like John, but has divine authority.

December 11 - Joy
Third Sunday of Lent
Matthew 11: 2-11

- What we say should match what we do, just as Jesus showed us who He is by matching his actions to what the Prophets foretold.
- John didn't see himself as worthy next to Christ, but Jesus does see John's greatness, and praises those who are humble - he sees John's greatness just as Jesus can see the true worth of people when others do not.

December 18 - Love
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Matthew 1: 18-25

- Like Joseph, we should try to do the right thing without exposing others to harm
- By being attentive to what God is doing, we can be comforted in trusting His plans, as Joseph did upon hearing from the angel.

December 24 - Christ
Christmas Eve - Saturday
Candlelight Service

- In Jesus, there is a union of things heavenly and earthly, as the humble manger bed and lowly shepherds witnessed choirs of angels and the glory of the Lord.
- God expresses His love for us by choosing to live with us as one of us, joining Himself to us in the person of Jesus.

December 25 (Sunday)
Christmas Day
Luke 2: 1-20; John 1: 1-14
Blessings of the Christ Child



Agnes 71

December 10, 2022 - Matthew 1:18-25

The Birth of Jesus

Mary was a young woman. God chose her for a special honor. What was it?

Write the word to fit each definition.
Transfer the letters to the boxes below by matching their numbers.



they twinkle in the sky	19	10	18	24
opposite of false	5	26	4	
glow, sparkle	24	15	21	
it lights the night sky	8	14	20	
Mary's husband	22	2	12	6
pure, sacred, sinless	11	9		
female spouse	17	16	23	
a barn for animals	16	1	3	7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26



Hope Community Presbyterian Church
212 So. 5th Ave. Norfolk, VA 23502
www.hopc.org

Enter your SECRET CODE to unlock games @
games.childrensbulletins.com

SECRET CODE!
FXMX70

We are in Advent season and remember advent means coming or arrival. Who is coming? We watch with hope, peace, joy, and love at the arrival of Jesus, the Christ child. Think of ways you can share your deepest gifts: hope and faith, peace, love, and joy with those around you.

Peace and Blessings



Celebration is coming
April 23, 2023
Mark your calendars
Our church is having birthdays



Birthday Corner
Hollie Hadrava December 19

Christian Education

Sunday Dec. 4	Sunday Dec. 11	Sunday Dec. 18	Saturday Dec. 24	Sunday Dec. 25
<p>Matthew 3: 1-12 Communion Peace Hanging of the Greens and pizza</p>	<p>Matthew 11: 2-11 Joy</p>	<p>Matthew 1: 18-25 Love</p>	<p>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Christ</p>	<p>Christmas Luke 2: 1-20; John 1: 1-14</p>

advent CALENDAR

Perform a random act of kindness



two
Donate food to a local food bank



four
Buy socks for a homeless shelter



5
Watch a favorite holiday movie



Make or buy a new Christmas ornament



Let someone go in front of you in line
seven



Build a snowman out of cotton balls



Take cupcakes to your local fire department
10



Decorate a gingerbread house

eleven

Help wrap a Christmas present



thirteen
Leave a happy note for someone to find



Have a game night in your PJs

14



Make paper snowflakes
15

Drink hot cocoa



17
Make Christmas cards

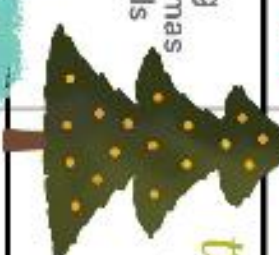


Bake Christmas cookies



Sing Christmas carols

19



Take a family photo in front of the Christmas tree
twenty

Read your favorite Christmas story

21

Take a car tour of your local light displays

22

Deliver Christmas cards to your neighbors



Watch or attend a Christmas Eve service
twenty-four

25



Read the Nativity story

25