

## JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2023

Dear members and friends of Hope Community Presbyterian Church,

The new year of 2023 is here, along with new desires and aspirations. Everyone looks forward to a fresh start as a way to move on from the past and look to the future. Allow me to offer five things the Bible says about new beginnings that I found in a Devotional Blog from the Billy Graham Library.

1. **New beginnings happen in season.** Life can be so wonderfully measured by seasons and stages. Fall begins with the shedding of colorful leaves; winter begins with a cold bed of snow; spring begins with the sprouting of new life; and summer begins with warm sunny days. Ecclesiastes 3: 1-5 says: “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born and a time to die; A time to plant and a time to pluck what is planted; A time to kill and a time to heal; A time to break down and a time to build up; A time to weep and a time to laugh; A time to mourn and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing.” There’s a time for everything in life. How great a confidence this brings us to know that we can expect a warmer season after a colder one.

2. **The end is more important than the beginning.** Often times, the end of a thing is more valuable than the beginning of it. Ecclesiastes 7:8 says, “The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride.”

3. **The former things pass away and all things are made new.** God doesn’t remember our past; He gives us a fresh start over and over again. Isaiah 43: 18-19 says, “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

4. **Perseverance is the pathway to a new start because a new beginning often requires patience.** James 5:11 says, “As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the LORD finally brought about. The LORD is full of compassion and mercy.”

5. **A new beginning can start right where you are.** A new beginning awaits anyone who is willing and wanting to make Jesus Christ the Lord of life. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

Happy New Year! Peace and blessings to you all in 2023,

Rev. Wendy

### Sunday Lectionary Readings for January 2023

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
01/01/23	Isaiah 63: 7-0	Psalm 148	Hebrews 2: 10-18	Matthew 2: 13-20
01/08/23	Isaiah 42: 1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10: 34-43	Matthew 3: 13-17
01/15/23	Isaiah 49: 1-7	Psalm 40: 1-11	1 Cor. 1: 1-9	John 1: 29-42
01/22/23	Isaiah 9: 1-4	Psalm 27: 1 & 4-9	1 Cor 1: 10-18	Matthew 4: 12-23
01/29/23	Micah 6: 1-8	Psalm 15	1 Cor.1: 18-31	Matthew 5: 1-12

## Happy January Birthdays

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2- Katie Hadrava   | 8- Shirley Korpela   |
| 3- Bill Ewens      | 12- Georgia Day      |
| 4- Gordy Hoelscher | 20- Ruth Saranen     |
| 5- Julia DeVries   | 29- Togboh Schandorf |
| 6- Henry Pecchia   |                      |

## Session Highlights

- Church staff will get a 7% cost of living pay increase.
- Rev. Wendy will be gone on vacation Jan. 3 – Mar. 19. The following pulpit supply has been lined up during her absence.

## Preaching Schedule

- Jan. 8 – Rev. Doug Workman  
Jan. 15 – Sue Stevens  
Jan. 22 – Rev. Kate Stangl  
Jan. 29 – Judy Erickson  
Feb. 5 – Rev. Frank Davis, Communion  
Feb. 12 – Pastor Ellen Taube  
Feb. 19 – Sue Stevens, Jazz Sunday  
Feb. 26 – Pastor Ellen Taube  
Mar. 5 – Rev. Frank Davis, Communion  
Mar. 12 – Pastor Ellen Taube  
Mar. 19 – Rev. Doug Workman  
Mar. 26 – Rev. Wendy Christianson returns

## Class of 2025 Elders/Deacons

Welcome to the following Elders and Deacons who were elected at the Dec. 11 congregational meeting and were ordained and installed on Dec. 18.

### Elders

Angie Cantlon  
Judy Erickson  
Dawn Trexel

### Deacons

Jackie Anderson  
Kay Hoelscher  
Mason Kroll

## 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.

## Per Capita

Per capita will be \$33 per person in 2023. This is the amount the church pays per member. Half of it is allocated to our local Presbytery of Northern Waters, some goes to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and some goes to the PC(USA) General Assembly. If you would like to make a contribution to cover your per capita, you may make the check out to the church (HCPC) with per capita in the memo, or you may use one of the per capita envelopes at the church.

## Christmas Joy Offering

\$195 was raised for the Christmas Joy special offering in December.

## Poinsettia Memorials

- \* Angie Cantlon & Bruce Pry in memory of our parents who have passed
- \* Rev. Wendy Christianson in memory of Wally & Joyce Christianson, Bruce Anderson and Susan Christianson
- \* Dwight & Georgia Day in memory of our fathers and in honor of our mothers
- \* Judy & Claude Erickson in memory of parents and other loved ones, and all the angels from Hope Community Presbyterian waiting on the shore
- \* Paj, Bob, Stephanie Falkowski – Prayers for Peace, and Love, and Tolerance in the world
- \* The Falkowskis and Johnsons in memory of all our loved ones
- \* Diane Hakala in memory of David, Audrey, Susan & parents
- \* Kay & Gordy Hoelscher for Happy Holidays!
- \* Janet & Roger Koski in memory of son-in-law Jeff
- \* Bill Lesar in memory of Maxine and Jackson Fiedler Lesar
- \* Marianne Loscheider in memory of Harry Digerness and Peter Loscheider
- \* Craig and Barb Mason in memory of loved ones
- \* Jack McKillop in memory of son John, family & friends
- \* Carolyn Olsen in memory of the Olsen and Koski families
- \* Sue & Craig Stevens in celebration of our friendships and families near and far at this very special time of year

Dear Friends of Hope Community Presbyterian Church,

2023 is the year for celebrating 130 years of being the first organized church in Virginia, MN, and the centennial year of our beautiful sanctuary. The corner stone of our church building says 1922, but it was dedicated in the year 1923. The church itself was founded on April 23, 1893.

Therefore, on Sunday, April 23, 2023, we will celebrate our roots and the sanctuary's centennial with a special worship service at 10 a.m., a catered luncheon and an afternoon organ concert. Please mark your calendar now and commence planning your attendance at our special event.

But wait...there's more!

On Sunday, February 19, 2023, we are planning a Jazz Worship Service at 10 a.m. This is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, which lends itself to a spirited, joyful celebration of life as we enter the Lenten season of reflection and the renewal of our Christian beliefs.

**If you have special memories of our church family and our beautiful sanctuary, please write or email your memories to us. We plan on preserving these for posterity – literally and digitally.** We'll fill a 3-ring binder with a paper copy of your memories and will post them on our website: [hopecommunitypc.org](http://hopecommunitypc.org).

Should you find yourself able to help us with the cost of the luncheon, the concert and the ongoing expenses of keeping our sanctuary in good working order, please consider sending a donation to the church office.

To aid in our preparations for the event, please RSVP your intentions of attending our **Sanctuary Centennial Celebration on Sunday, April 23, 2023**. We **HOPE** to have a wonderful reunion of **HOPE's** extended family!

God's continued blessings to each and every one of you,  
HOPE's Sanctuary Centennial Committee

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# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH NEWS



January 2023

## Elementary Sunday School

Here are the readings for the weeks of January.

January 1

Matthew 2: 13-23

Matthew shows us that God is keeping Jesus safe because He is sent for a reason.

January 8

Baptism of the Lord

Matthew 3: 13-17

Here learn of Jesus' baptism by John and learn that Jesus is really God own Son.

January 15

John 1: 29-42

Jesus invites us no spend time with Him and to invite others to come and see.

January 22

Matthew 4: 12-23

We see Jesus as he begins his ministry of teaching and healing and fulfilling the Old Testament's prophecies.

January 29

Matthew 5: 1-12

Blessings can be found in unexpected places and situations.

## Souper Bowl of Caring

February 12, 2023

The need to

**"TACKLE HUNGER"**

remains strong. If you would like to donate to the Souper Bowl of Caring project we would welcome donations either mailed in or dropped off at the church. All contributions are used locally.



## Darkness Turned to Light

"There will be no more gloom for those who were in darkness."

Write the name of each picture in the letters in the darker boxes and the answer.



What place will God honor?

## Birthday Corner

Henry Pecchia - January 6



Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @ [games.childrensbulletins.com](http://games.childrensbulletins.com)

**SECRET CODE**  
**Z35485**

Sunday January 1

Sunday January 8

Sunday January 15

Sunday January 22

Sunday January 29

Happy New Year



Baptism of the Lord  
Matthew 3: 13-17

John 1: 29-42  
The First Disciples

Matthew 4:12-23  
Fishers of Men

Matthew 5:1-12  
The Beatitudes