

## JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2023

Dear members and friends of Hope Community Presbyterian Church,

I am very grateful to be writing this to you from Isla Robinson Crusoe, Chile where I had the privilege today of doing a bit of hiking on this 20th day of a 74-day cruise which includes much of South America and Antarctica. So far, we have been in the Caribbean, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru and Chile. I have been blessed with a wonderful adventure that includes interesting activity, healthy and tasty food, lots of sunshine, unique travel companions and many opportunities for rest and rejuvenation.

Today I was reflecting in Proverbs 3: 5-6 in the Amplified version of the Bible that talks about trusting that God is sovereign over every aspect of life and that it is possible to trust God in all situations. The scripture passage says, “Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know, recognize and acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths.” Proverbs 3: 5-6 AMP

What I realized this morning is that it may be a waste of energy regretting the way things are or thinking about what might have been. I believe God wants us to start at the present moment, accepting things exactly as they are, and then, search for God’s way in the midst of our current circumstances. When we do this, God assures us that we will receive clear direction regarding making choices that are best for us and for others.

As I continue this journey through Chile and Argentina enroute to Antarctica, I pray that we all will strive to trust God in more and more areas of our lives. Remember, Philippians 4:7 says, “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Peace, love and blessings from Chile,  
Rev. Wendy



### Sunday Lectionary Readings for February 2023

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
2/5/23	Isaiah 58:1–9a	Psalm 112:1–9	1 Corinthians 2:1–12	Matthew 5:13–20
2/12/23	Deuteronomy 30:15–20	Psalm 119:1–8	1 Corinthians 3:1–9	Matthew 5:21–37
2/19/23	Exodus 24:12–18	Psalm 2 or Psalm 99	2 Peter 1:16–21	Matthew 17:1–9
2/26/23	Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12–19	Matthew 4:1–11

## Happy February Birthdays

6- Wendy Christianson	13- Craig Mason
7- Greg Chad	13- Meghan Green
8- Lana Lee	15- Paul Peterson
9- Darlene Hadrava	21- Dwight Day
10- Beth Hestetune	21- Joan Kaurala
10- Miles Koski	26- Jonathan Day
13- Tom Kesanen	26- Bev Peterson
	28- Shelley Christensen

### Session Highlights

- Rev Frank Davis is moderating Session during Rev. Wendy's absence.
- Session reapproved our monthly General Mission Pledge of \$200, which is split between the national PC(USA), Synod, and Presbytery of Northern Waters missions.
- Our church facility rental policy will be updated to communicate costs more clearly

### Preaching Schedule

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

### Annual Report

Annual reports will be available at the church by Sunday, Feb. 12. Session will review and approve the report at the Feb. 16 Session meeting. If you would like a copy of the report sent to you, please contact the church.

### Souper Bowl of Caring

We will, once again, be collecting donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Super Bowl LVII is February 12 but you may bring your donations to church any time. If you are not attending church you may mail your donations or drop them off at the CE building. There is a mail slot

there if the office is closed. Please make checks out to HCPC with Souper Bowl in the memo. Donations will go to the local Salvation Army Supper Club. Let's TACKLE HUNGER again. Thank you so much for your help!



### Jazz Sunday Feb. 19

Why have a Jazz Worship Service? Jazz has emerged as a powerful expression of human dignity, sophistication, and soulfulness in the face of oppression. In short, jazz is a rebuke of hate. Therefore, bringing jazz into the worship setting celebrates the life of the Church, through Jesus' resurrection and message of liberation and justice.

On Sunday, February 19, 2023, we are planning a Jazz Worship Service; not only to celebrate our centennial year but to be joyful release before Ash Wednesday, which is February 22. This service will lend itself to a spirited celebration of life as we enter the Lenten season of reflection and the renewal of our Christian beliefs.



### One Great Hour of Sharing

Lent is the time that the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering is collected. This offering is made by Presbyterians around the world to provide relief from natural disasters, hunger, poverty and oppression. You may use the special OGHS envelopes at the church, or checks made out to HCPC with OGHS in the memo can be mailed to the church.

### Deacons Service

The Deacons continue to keep our Little Free Pantry stocked. Donations of food items and personal care items, such as soap, toothbrushes, combs, etc., are always needed. Donations of winter outerwear, such as hats and mittens, will be put on our community clothesline. Check donations can be made out to the Deacons Fund.

### **Time to Celebrate!**

It was on April 23, 1893 that the First Presbyterian Church of Virginia was founded. In January of 1923, our beautiful sanctuary was dedicated after a fire destroyed the former structure.

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A VERY SPECIAL DAY:**

**Sunday, April 23, 2023**

We will celebrate the **sanctuary's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday** with a special worship service at 10:00 a.m., followed by a **catered luncheon**. The cost of the luncheon will be \$15 per person, children under 5 eat free. To aid in our preparations, please **RSVP** to the church office by **April 1**.

That afternoon we will open our doors to the public by inviting them to an **organ concert** featuring Vicki Gornick and Amy Szumal. Amy was a student of Vicki's and if you came to our previous concerts, you know what a talented organist Vicki is. Can her student be far behind? It will be a fantastic afternoon of celebration.

Mark your calendar now to attend our  
**Sanctuary Centennial Celebration on Sunday, April 23.**





# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH NEWS



February 2023

## Elementary Sunday School

**February 5**

**Matthew 5: 13-20**

We learn the influence we as Christians (God's disciples) have on the world  
We learn why it matters so much that we do the good works God gives us to do.



**February 12**

### Souper Bowl of Caring

**Matthew 5: 21-37**

We learn Jesus wants us - his disciples - to be honest  
And to keep our promises and respect other peoples' promises

**February 19**

**Matthew 17: 1-9**

We learn just as God sent his disciples to baptize and teach the people to obey his commandments  
We learn we too must listen and obey.  
God reminds us he is always with us

**February 26**

**Matthew 4: 1-11**

We learn when Jesus was in a difficult situation he turned to God for guidance  
We learn to choose to do what is right to make this world a better place  
Always remember to turn to God for help



## Christian Education Calendar

### Shut-in Cards

I am still sending out the Shut-in cards from Sunday school every month. It would be so nice if I could include pictures that any of you might color. So send me a picture, I will copy them and get them in the cards I send. Anything you draw or color would be wonderful. Remember how good it feels to think of others and know how much they love hearing from you!  
Thanks



### Souper Bowl of Caring



Super Bowl Sunday this year is **Sunday, February 12**. We are still trying to "tackle hunger." The donations will go to the Salvation Army Souper Club again this year. We are sorry we were not able to make and sell our Friendship soup mixes and fresh soup but we do hope people will still contribute to this cause. Thank you to everyone who is helping us with your donations. You can mail them in or just drop them off at the church.

### One Great Hour of Sharing

I am planning to send home the Lenten Fish Banks in February. The first Sunday before Lent is February 19th which will be a Jazz service. Remember to fill them a little each day or week. We will be collecting them on Palm Sunday April 2nd. They may be brought to church, or dropped off at the CE Building.



Everyone is welcome to pick one up at church anytime if they would like one.

Sunday February 5	Sunday February 12	Tuesday February 14	Sunday February 19	Ash Wednesday February 22	Sunday February 26
Matthew 5: 13-20	Matthew 5: 21-37	Love One Another Valentine's day 	Matthew 17: 1-9 Transfiguration Jazz Celebration Sunday	Beginning of Lent  Lent	First Sunday in Lent Matthew 4: 1-11