

MAY NEWSLETTER 2023

Dear members and friends of Hope Community Presbyterian Church,

After an extraordinarily long and snow filled Winter and early Spring in northern Minnesota, we are entering the month of May with the hope of a Summer filled with warmth and sunshine. It is our hope that we can leave our shovels, ice scrapers, snow blowers, snow plows, skates, skis, parkas, boots, mittens, hats and heavy socks in storage and pull out our fishing rods, bicycles, running shoes, kayaks, paddle boards, swimming gear, gardening supplies and Summer clothing!

During the final hymn of our wonderful and meaningful Sanctuary Centennial Celebration worship service on April 23, 2023, we sang, “Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness....on Christ the solid Rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.” Those lyrics were written by Edward Mote in 1834 but certainly can have meaning for us in 2023. What a great time we had during our Sanctuary Centennial Celebration! The hard work of the Sanctuary Centennial Committee, led by the extremely talented and capable Elder Sue Stevens, paid off as we experienced meaningful worship that included a full sanctuary with lovely music and historical liturgy as well as input and participation from past Hope clergy, an artful display of memories from the past that included timelines, important documents, photos and much more, a catered meal served to almost 100 people in the beautifully decorated church dining area where we enjoyed fellowship and renewed friendships as we shared delicious food and an amazing afternoon organ concert that took our breath away as we listened to two very skilled organists showcase our refurbished 100 year old Bennett organ. As I experienced the events of the day, I could not help but feel blessed and profoundly grateful to God for all the faithful believers who have been part of and continue to be part of the legacy of God’s work in northern Minnesota through Hope Community Presbyterian Church. A huge thank you to all who worked hard to make the event such a success! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

As Edward Mote wrote, “On Christ the solid Rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.”

Peace and blessings,

Rev. Wendy

Lectionary Readings for May 2023

Date	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Sunday, May 7	Psalm 31: 1-5 & 15-16	I Peter 2:2-10	John 14: 1-4
Sunday, May 14	Psalm 66: 8-20	I Peter 3: 13-22	John 14: 25-21
Sunday, May 21	Psalm 68: 1-10 & 32-35	I Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11	John 17: 1-11
Sunday, May 28 Day of Pentecost	Psalm 104: 24-34 & 35b	I Corinthians 12: 3b -13	John 20: 19-23

Happy May Birthdays

1 – Priscilla White 23 – Eli Koski
3 – Barb Mason 23 – Trudi Mellak
4 – Jack McKillop 27 – Carolyn Olsen
15 – Susie Pearsall 29 – Paj Falkowski
19 – Frank Del Greco 31 – Steve Badanjak
21 – Patty Maki 31 – Veronica Kvale
23 – Stephen Day 31 – Amelia Moschler

Session Highlights

We will need to renew Rev. Wendy's contract soon. Salary will increase 7% as did other staff wages this year. Any other changes to the contract will be discussed at this month's Session meeting.

The Present Word Bible Study

On June 6, Rev. Wendy will begin leading weekly Bible Studies based on *The Present Word* publication from PC(USA). The sessions will be Tuesdays at 2pm. If you are interested in participating, please contact the church so we can order the correct number of materials.

Moana Jr.

The Lyric Center for the Arts Youth Theater Program will be performing the musical *Moana Jr.* at the Eveleth Auditorium on May 5 & 6 at 7 p.m. and May 7 at 2 p.m. Adult tickets are \$15. Our own Ariella Reynolds will be performing!

Memorial Sunday

May 28 will be Memorial Sunday. As in past years, you will have the opportunity to light candles in memory of loved ones. If you would like to purchase a geranium in honor of a loved one, please contact the church by May 24.

Geraniums are \$5.00.

We will also be recognizing loved ones (living and deceased) who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces. If you noticed a name that was not listed last year, please contact the church office by May 24.

Young Disciples

Since we've been having a couple young disciples join us on Sundays recently, Rev. Wendy plans to include a *Time with Young Disciples* in the services beginning in May.

Easter Lily Memorials

Anne & Steve Badanjak – In memory of Juliane Badanjak

Rev. Wendy Christianson – In memory of Wallace & Joyce Christianson

Judy & Claude Erickson – In loving memory of our parents, Judy's sister-Julene, nephews-David and Luke. In celebration of a reunion with Judy's youngest brother Judd and his family after many years!

The Falkowskis & Johnsons – Prayers for peace, love, and hope in the world with an end to hatred

Diane Hakala – In memory of loved ones

Kay & Gordy Hoelscher – In memory of past Easters with family

Kathy Jacklen & Mel Moschler – In memory of family and friends

Janet & Roger Koski – To honor loved ones

Marianne Loscheider – In memory of Harry Digerness and Peter Loscheider

Carolyn Olsen – For special memories of family

Irene & Larry Salo – In memory of Larry's brother, Mark

Sue & Craig Stevens – In celebration of family and friends

Rick & Dana Wahlberg and Bret Hestetune – In honor of our parents Dan & Beth Hestetune

O, What A Day: April 23, 2023

The “praises of the Sanctuary” rang true all day long. It started with the sweet sounds of Angie and Dawn on the dulcimer and flute followed by the rousing *Onward Christian Soldiers* piano duet of Bill and Sue with the commencement of the “kirking of the tartan” by bagpipers Jock, John, and Judd.

Then came the intimate interlude of people in the congregation introducing themselves and voicing the reasons they chose to worship at HOPE today. The call for former choir members to join the Chancel Choir and sing *A New Commandment* brought forward those whose hearts always sing with the choir whether standing there or not. The Call to Worship recounted the 130 year history of our church, acknowledging that God’s steadfast love endures forever. Our 1923 Bennet organ resounded throughout the sanctuary as former church organist, Sue Swanson, led us in the singing of the hymns that were sung 100 years ago during the dedication of the sanctuary in 1923. The Choral Anthem of *Agnus Dei with How Great Thou Art* lead by Angie Cantlon put tears of joy in our eyes and our hearts swelled with pride and true appreciation for the dedication of our choir members. The scripture readings spoke to our praising God and loving each other deeply, which lead us to the highlight of the service: 130 Years of Hope! The Reverends Remer, Davis, Pol, Williams, Stangl and Christianson gave testimony to the loving spirit that has given our church such a rich and vibrant history. Stephanie Falkowski read the words of Rev. Remer and Rev. Pol while the pastors in attendance spoke from their hearts to ours. As our faith looks up and brings us nearer to God, our HOPE is built on nothing less than Amazing Grace.

The luncheon catered by Paul’s Italian Market of Eveleth arrived at high noon with approximately 85 people breaking bread together. How glorious it was to see the banquet hall filled with hungry parishioners! A happy kitchen crew led by the Kroll brothers put away their final dish by 2:15 p.m. just as the featured organists arrived to prepare for the 3 p.m. concert. Several of the luncheon guests sat in the back reminiscing until it was time to head back upstairs for the organ extravaganza.

Once again, Angie and Dawn provided Gathering Music before Rev. Wendy welcomed everyone to the Centennial Organ Concert. As Chair of the Sanctuary Centennial Committee, Sue in turn, welcomed Amy Szumal and Vicki Gornick to the venue. Amy provided the audience with a fantastic set of organ compositions including the *Grand March* by W. Stickles and *Festive Trumpet Tune* by D. German. Vicki’s portion wowed the delighted listeners with some sacred selections as well as the *Bohemian Rhapsody* by F. Mercury and the *Kiev Processional* by M. Moussorgsky, reminding us of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. We were able to watch their “behind the scenes” action, as Mason set up cameras focused on the pedals, the 3 keyboards and the overall organ console with the images projected on the walls adjacent to the organ loft. What an all-encompassing treat!

While the organists switched places, the Mayor of Virginia, Larry Cuffe, Jr. presented Rev. Wendy with the City’s Proclamation declaring *April 23, 2023 as Hope’s Sanctuary Centennial Sunday*. Sue acknowledged the Sanctuary Centennial Committee and a free-will offering was taken to support the Little Free Pantry. \$650 was raised for the pantry!

A reception for the organists featured delicious treats from our congregation’s bakers. Most attendees of the concert took advantage of the sweets and enjoyed visiting with each other. Kay, Diane and Irene oversaw the set-up and clean-up of the reception. It was a delightful end to a magical day!

On behalf of the Sanctuary Centennial Committee, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to making this day possible. Whether you gave money, baked a pan or two of bars, assisted in the set-up and clean-up of the luncheon and reception, preached, sang, videotaped and recorded the service and the concert, wrote historical memos, paid for advertising, paid for the bagpipers, fixed the plumbing in the Session room, cleaned up the ramp platform, deep cleaned the sanctuary, monitored the chair lift, decorated the tables, ordered the cake, wrote the checks, printed the bulletins and programs, played an instrument, wrote up the bulletin contents, and/or prayed for the day’s events to go off without a hitch – it took a village and a higher power. All thanks to each and every one of you.

Sue Stevens, Chair
Bill Ewens, Honorary Member
Jackie Anderson
Priscilla White

Rev. Wendy Christianson
Paj and Stephanie Falkowski
Judy and Claude Erickson
Sylvia Chad

Carolyn Olsen
Georgia Day
Angie Cantlon
John Pearsall

HOPE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
 & YOUTH NEWS**



MAY 2023

**Children's
 Sunday School**

May 7

Jesus Comforts Disciples
 John 14:1-14

Jesus tells his disciples not to be sad: "believe in me and in God for we will always be with you - even though I am gone. Continue to do God's work."

May 14

Jesus tells of the Holy Spirit
 John 14:15-21

You are blessed. Jesus said "if you love me, keep My commandments. I will send another to help you, to be with and in you always. This is the Holy Spirit."

May 21

Jesus Prays
 John 17:1-11

Jesus prayed to his Father - God- before his crucifixion showing us that even in hard times we can continue to pray to God - to love him and thank him.



May 28

Pentecost
 John 20:19-23

Pentecost reminds us how Jesus' promise that God would send the Holy Spirit was fulfilled.

Thank you, Again!

I just want to thank all parents (and relatives) again for taking the time to spend working with the kids on any Bible readings, lessons and crafts sent out. We certainly would not have been able to Sunday school this way without all the help from everyone. Also thanks to the kids for working so hard on Sunday school from home this year. We hope it has been informative, fun and worthwhile. Back to face-to-face next fall, though.

Important Updates for Sunday School Fall 2023

We would like to be able to go back to our regular in church face-to-face Sunday school next fall. For this to happen we need volunteers to help teach each Sunday morning and we need to have the children coming to church. Would you consider helping our kids have Sunday school again Sunday mornings. Please let me know if you can help so I can make a schedule this summer for the coming year. Our children are our future. Thank you so much. Paj and the CE committee

The Holy Spirit Comes

Jesus' disciples were all together when it sound like wind filled the house and they saw what looked like tongues of fire over each of them.

Find 10 differences between the pictures below.



**Remember Mom on
 Sunday, May 14th. Make sure she knows
 how much you love and appreciate her
 Happy Mother's Day!**



Christian Education Calendar

Sunday May 7	Sunday May 14	Sunday 21	Sunday May 28	Monday May 30
John 14:1-14 Communion Sunday	John 14:15-21 Mother's Day	John 17:1-11 Jesus Prays	John 20:19-23 Pentecost Memorial Sunday	Memorial Day
			  	

Jesus prayed to God.

To find His prayer, fit the words from the list into the crossword puzzle. Then transfer them to the numbered lines.

<p>all may Son Him life come time give over Your that might given Father people</p>	<p>granted eternal glorify authority</p>
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“(8) _____, the (7) _____ has (2) _____.
 (1D) _____ (11) _____ (12) _____,
 (5) _____ Your Son (4D) _____ glorify You.
 For You (9) _____ (6) _____
 (10) _____ (14) _____ (13) _____
 (15) _____ that He (4A) _____
 (17) _____ (3) _____ (16) _____ to all
 those You have (1A) _____ Him.”

Jesus prayed for His

_____ .
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Find the letters to fill in the blanks.
 Write the letter that's missing from the second word of the pair.

- 1) DESERT - TREES _____
- 2) FRUIT - TURF _____
- 3) SMILE - LIME _____
- 4) CAMEL - LAME _____
- 5) RADIO - ROAD _____
- 6) SPIDER - RIDES _____
- 7) LEARN - NEAR _____
- 8) ELBOW - BOWL _____
- 9) PEAS - APE _____

