

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

Dear Members and Friends of Hope Community Presbyterian Church,

As we embark on this new year of 2024, it is with hearts full of gratitude and anticipation that we come together as a community of faith. With the words of I Corinthians 6, 7, and 8 as our guide, we find inspiration and guidance to help us navigate the journey ahead.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV) reminds us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, and we are called to honor God with our bodies. As we make resolutions and set goals for the new year, let us remember that our physical well-being is important. Let us strive for health and wellness, not only for our own sake but as a way to honor the Lord who has entrusted us with these bodies. Whether it's through exercise, a balanced diet, or simply taking better care of ourselves, let our bodies become vessels through which we can serve God and others more effectively.

In **1 Corinthians 7:17** (NIV), we are encouraged to live our lives in the way the Lord has assigned to us. This year, let us embrace the unique path that God has set before each one of us. Whether we are single, married, or in any other life circumstance, may we seek to glorify God in all that we do. Let us strengthen our relationships with one another and be a source of support and encouragement as we journey together through the challenges and joys of life.

1 Corinthians 8:1 (NIV) reminds us that knowledge puffs up while love builds up. In our quest for spiritual growth and understanding, let us never forget the importance of love and compassion. As we study the Word of God and seek to deepen our faith, let us do so with humility and a heart full of love for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. May our pursuit of knowledge be accompanied by a commitment to build up and edify one another, fostering a spirit of unity within our church family.

As we step into 2024, let us do so with a spirit of unity, love, and hope. Let us be a community that encourages one another, lifts each other up in prayer, and serves our Lord with all our heart, soul, and strength. In the face of uncertainty, let our faith remain steadfast, for in the words of 1 Corinthians 7:24 (NIV), "each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them."

May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding be with us throughout this new year. May His blessings overflow in our lives, and may our hope be anchored in Christ, our solid foundation. Together, as a church family, we can face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, knowing that God is with us every step of the way.

With hearts full of hope and anticipation, let us journey into 2024, knowing that we are loved, blessed, and called to be a light in this world.

Peace and blessings,
Rev. Wendy

Sunday Lectionary Readings for January 2024

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
1/7/2024	Gen. 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19: 1-7	Mark 1: 4-11
1/14/2024	I Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20)	Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18	I Cor. 6: 12-20	John 1: 43-51
1/21/2024	Jonah 3: 1-5 & 10	Psalm 62: 5-12	I Cor. 7: 29-31	Mark 1: 14-20
1/28/2024	Deut.18: 15-20	Psalm 111	I Cor. 8: 1-13	Mark 1: 21-28

Happy January Birthdays

2- Katie Hadrava	8- Shirley Korpela
3- Bill Ewens	12- Georgia Day
4- Gordy Hoelscher	20- Ruth Saranen
5- Julia DeVries	21- Marjorie McPeak
6- Henry Pecchia	29- Togboh Schandorf

Session Highlights

- Session approved of the minutes from the Dec. 3 Annual Congregational meeting where 3 Elders and 2 Deacons were elected and the decision to put the CE building up for sale was approved.
- We are waiting to hear from the Presbytery about who is authorized to sign the listing contract with the realtors.
- Our 2024 General Mission Pledge will remain \$200/month. This is divided between the PC(USA) General Assembly, our regional Synod, and the Presbytery of Northern Waters.

Class of 2026 Elders/Deacons

Welcome to the following Elders and Deacons who were elected at the Dec. 3 congregational meeting.

Elders

Janet Koski
Carolyn Olsen
Spencer Hjelle

Deacons

Clyda Prosen
Jeff Kroll

Welcome Marjorie!

We would like to welcome our newest church member, Marjorie McPeak! Her membership was transferred by Letter of Transfer from the now-closed St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower, MN. We're glad to have you in our congregation, Marjorie!

Calendar

Mondays, 1:30 p.m. – Food for Thought (not Jan. 1)
Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (not Jan. 2)
Sun, Jan. 7, 10:00 a.m. – Rev. Davis preaches
Sun, Jan. 14, 10:00 a.m. – Communion Sunday

Per Capita

Per capita will be \$34 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. **Session strongly encourages members to cover their per capita** so that funds used for church operating expenses won't have to be redirected to cover this obligation. Checks can be made out to the church (HCPC) with per capita in the memo, or you may use one of the per capita envelopes at the church.

Church Revitalization

We are still waiting to hear back from the Phillips, WI Presbyterian church about some of their members coming to give us a presentation on their successful revitalization efforts. We are hoping that they can come mid-January, but a definite date has not been set yet. Please contact the church office if you would like an update once a date is set.

Poinsettia Memorials

- * Rev. Wendy Christianson in memory of Wallace and Joyce Christianson
- * Georgia & Dwight Day in memory of Carol Ewens and in memory and honor of our parents
- * Judy & Claude Erickson in honor of family and loved ones
- * The Falkowskis for prayers for peace in the world and an end to the hate and conflict everywhere
- * Kay & Gordy Hoelscher in memory of Christmases past with loved ones
- * Janet & Roger Koski in memory of loved ones
- * Marianne Loscheider in memory of Harry Digerness and Peter Loscheider
- * Carolyn Olsen in memory of the Olsen and Koski families
- * Susie & John Pearsall in honor of our families past and present
- * Irene & Larry Salo in honor of our parents and Mark Salo
- * Sue & Craig Stevens in honor of Christmas Joy
- * Dana & Rick Wahlberg in honor of Dan & Beth Hestetune

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH NEWS



January 2024

Elementary Sunday School

Here are the readings for the weeks of January.

January 7

Baptism of the Lord

Mark 1:4-11

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

January 14

Jesus calls first disciples

John 1:43-51

Jesus knows who we are, and being known, we proclaim with Nathaniel that Jesus is Lord.

January 21

Fishing for Men

Mark 1:14-20

Our skills can be used for God's purposes - Jesus called his first disciples to do so, and us too

January 28

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus begins His ministry of teaching and healing - we discover He is the source of healing and truth.

Souper Bowl of Caring

February 11, 2024

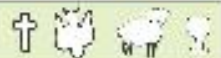
The need to

"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.



Find and (circle) the hidden objects.



Birthday Corner

Henry Pecchia - January 6



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

SECRET CODE!
BMP733

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Sunday January 14

Sunday January 21

Sunday January 28

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John 1:43-51

Fishers of Men
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Jesus Teaches and Heals
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