

# CIRCLE TIMES

February 2023

United Protestant Church Newsletter

Silver Bay, Minnesota

## The United Protestant Church Mission Statement

*We are an open-minded Christian fellowship. We seek to follow the Word of God and to pass God's love on to others as we actively welcome them into our church family.*

Rev. Paul Scaringi, Ph.D.

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## February Text & Titles

**February 5** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 5:13-20

Title: *100 watt Faith*

**February 22** – Ash Wednesday

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Title: *All Hands on Deck*

**February 12** – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Title: *Cap'n Crunch Christianity*

**February 26** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Title: *Forbidden, Really?*

**February 19** – Transfiguration Sunday

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

Title: *Into the Cloud*



*We chose the name "Circle Times" for our first U.P. newsletter 62 years ago. It was a way of reminding ourselves that we are a united group of several denominations.*

*This is a much needed witness in our world filled with diversities.*



## From the Pastor

I've never done this before. In over 165 newsletter articles, I've never revised a previously published article and used it again. What follows is me breaking that pattern.

Of course I recognize that I need not have said this, that you would have read what follows and realized that this was the February article from 2015 but I thought it wise to acknowledge. I'm doing so because, as a number of you know, the Church Council approved a recommendation from the Personnel Committee that I be granted a sabbatical leave. Consequently, I thought I would return to what I originally wrote when I took my first sabbatical in 2015 and attempted to explain the process. The most straightforward way of doing this is to address the questions of who, when, what, why, and how.

A sabbatical is a time that is geared for a particular person. So, the question of **who** is the easiest to answer since the *who* is me, your pastor. As the sabbatical is a particular time, the question of **when** is raised. The sabbatical will begin on April 11<sup>th</sup> and end July 11<sup>th</sup> of this year. April 9<sup>th</sup> (Easter) will be my last Sunday with you and since Mondays are my 'day off', the sabbatical will officially begin on the 11<sup>th</sup>. I will return on July 11<sup>th</sup> (a Tuesday) and I'm hoping we can have some type of potluck or cook out after church on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

The question of **what** can be answered by supplying a dictionary definition. A sabbatical is defined as "any extended period of leave from one's customary work, especially for rest, to acquire new skills or training, etc." In the past sabbaticals have often been associated with colleges and universities. They are something that faculty members have taken after a number of years of service. Over the last several decades churches and ministers have begun to see the importance of a sabbatical time for clergy.

This leads to the question of **why**. This is probably the most important question, since a frequent response to the idea of a sabbatical is the statement, "I never got that much time off!" This response is understandable. Neither did I in any of the jobs I worked before going into the ministry. Yet, when we look at the number of clergy leaving the ministry (it is estimated that well over 70% of people entering the ministry will leave it within their first 5 years and over 80% of those remaining will not stay to retirement) we begin to see that the ministry is a rather unique "job."

When I took my sabbatical in 2015 you may remember that the funding for that time came from a generous grant from The Lily Foundation. The foundation recognized some time ago the problem of clergy leaving the ministry and started a clergy renewal program, of which we were the beneficiaries. They define a sabbatical as a time of renewal and I find that understanding most helpful and is the reason why I have requested it. They go on to say, "*Renewal periods are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry . . .*" After 14 ½ years of having the privilege of being your pastor, I find I am in need of a time for rest to ponder and remember my calling to ministry and my calling to be your minister.

Finally, we have the question of **how**, as in, how will this work. We are currently searching for an interim minister to cover the sabbatical time. This minister will be responsible for Sunday worship and emergency call. I am hopeful that within the next month we discover the person the Lord is leading to this interim position. I would encourage you to keep this process in your prayers.

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Well, there you have it, that is a sabbatical. I recognize this is a unique experience for our church, our community and for Eileen and me. During the time off Eileen and I plan to take a trip back to Scotland for three weeks and I am thinking about traveling back to Massachusetts for a visit. Otherwise the hope is to be able to be home, work on some study projects and my photography, as well as rest. I pray that this will be a time of renewal for myself and the congregation and through this time we'll be blessed with a deeper sense of God's presence, leading, and peace in our mission to be part of God's kingdom in Silver Bay.

Blessings,  
Paul



## House of Love Update

*The House of Love (HoL) is our partnered mission. It is a Christian orphanage in Chiang Mai, Thailand that is a home for women and children affected by HIV/AIDS. Its mission is to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of each resident. Mark and Alise Juanes are American Baptist missionaries working with the local administrators and staff to further this ministry.*

This past year we have seen many of our older residents, college students, and recent graduates struggling to make it on their own. Of course, the global pandemic has not helped, and the economy in Thailand has been suffering, which has also added a layer of difficulty for our young adults to obtain a job that provides sustainable income. We have also realized the need to be more intentional about life-skills training and mentoring these young adults as they strive for independence. Our eyes have been opened to see the necessity of incorporating life-skills training at a younger age and over many years, just as a mother, father, or guardian would do. Therefore, in the past few months we have launched an intentional training program first beginning with financial training for our college students and recent graduates. This training focused on basic financial concepts: budgeting, tracking finances, debt, savings, etc. It included exercises on actually tracking their budget for a month with coaching follow-up from staff to ensure they understand and develop a plan to work towards saving. We enjoyed launching the first class with some of our young adults, the activities were fun and the students definitely have a better grasp of personal finance basics. We look forward to working with more of our students as the new year begins. We will also be incorporating other life-skills training modules such as business start-up, what is family, positive parenting, healthy communications, social issues, and protecting children. The great thing about this life-skills program is that the emphasis is on coaching, activities, and conversations rather than lectures - with a goal of learning through relationships. The target of the life-skills program goes beyond the college students: this past year we used the "what is family?" module with some families of children from the House of Love, with some families from the preschool, and to all the students of the House of Love. We are excited to see what doors open up for these individuals and families as we continue to work together on future modules.

## Prayer Request:

Please pray for the five communities we work with through the preschool. In preliminary surveys of the communities, we are seeing that there are a lot of children delaying their education until elementary school. Education is still not a priority for many families. Studies have shown that children who attend school are much less likely to be trafficked and have more career opportunities.



Guide has completed his schooling and is able to live with his father now. We have helped them to build a small pond to raise fish and frogs which they sell at the market. Helping the two of them to be self-sustainable with a source of income for the future has been a big boost for them. We continue to visit and supplement their food while they learn how to grow their business.



### ***Taking 5***

Below you will find the Taking 5 scripture and prayers for this month. I encourage you to take 5 minutes each day to read the scripture closely, pray the prayer attentively, and spend the remaining time in prayerful silence, seeking out God's presence and prompting in that time. Thank you for being part of this important discipline for our church and for you.

Peace,  
Paul

#### **The week of February 5<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

Prayer: Gracious God, it is hard to think there are times when I am only an infant in the life to which you have called me. Empower me to gracefully grow in you. Amen.

#### **The week of February 12<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: Psalm 99:1-3

Prayer: King of kings, I join with those who proclaim that you are holy. Lead me in the ways of your kingdom this day. Amen.

#### **The week of February 19<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: Genesis 2:15-17

Prayer: Creator God, strengthen me to care for what you have entrusted to me that I may keep this day and be a blessing to all. Amen.

#### **The week of February 26<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: John 3:5-9

Prayer: Lord of Breath and Wind, attune my life so I may not fear being moved by your wind. Instead, may I know your peace as I am blown along by your breath. Amen.

# UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

January 10, 2023 6:00 pm

ATTENDEES: Dedie Moore, Mike Osmundson, Philip Christman, Terry Eggum, Lynn Anderson, Brenda Larson, Peg Osmundson, Ruth Eggum, Eileen Scaringi (Zoom), Angie Goutermont (Zoom) and Pastor Paul.

Council Chair Dedie Moore called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Pastor Paul opened in prayer.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

Chair Dedie Moore welcomed Alis Stevens, Agnes Gilson and Shirley Whiteford to the Diaconate Board and Eileen Scaringi to the Christian Ed Board. With these new members the quorum for the Council is set at 8.

M/M/S by Terry Eggum/Philip Christman to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022 meeting, with the correction to the spelling of Philip Christman's name. Motion carried.

TREASURERS'S REPORT: M/M/S by Ruth Eggum/Philip Christman to approve the Treasurer's report for 2022 (which includes the December, 2022 report). Motion carried. Mike O. reported that the 2022 annual Treasurer's report has been audited by Beth Smuk. In response to an inquiry, Mike O. reported that our sponsorship for Fai at the House of Love is \$600 per year.

December, 2022

Checking Account: \$27,582.97	Memorial Fund: \$30,197.19	
Ministry Fund: \$72,268.19	House of Love: \$7,497.81	AmazonSmile:
\$389.34	Checking SS: \$2,997.34	YTD Food Shelf: \$1,301.60

YTD Income: \$118,250.75  
YTD Expense: (\$125,875.64)  
YTD Net: (\$7,624.89)

DIACONATE REPORT: Peg Osmundson reported that there was an ad placed in the North Shore Journal about the new Bible study starting on January 11. The denomination checks went out in December. There will be a Carefree service on February 19. Pastor Paul will be gone on Sunday, February 12. The directories will be assembled next week.

TRUSTEE REPORT: Chair Philip Christman reported that the new website is still a work in progress. Mike O. is working with the sanctuary computer to correct the sound problems we have been having. Jessica Wartman from Northern Elite Epoxies made a presentation concerning their product for the Fellowship Hall floors (leaving samples). No decision has been made yet. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, January 17, with Philip Christman, Terry Eggum, Mike O. and Pastor Paul to discuss security after the break-in at the church in December. Custodian Sharon Searls and Secretary Lynn Anderson have been instructed to keep the doors locked when they are here alone.

CHRISTIAN ED REPORT: Brenda Larson reported that Faith@8<sup>th</sup> is continuing in January and Bible study will begin again on January 11. Young people and family members participated in the lighting of the Advent candles.

PASTOR'S REPORT: There is no one in the hospital at present. Prayers are needed for Phyllis Pearrow, Ed and Cindy Maki, Chuckie Knudson and Irene Johnson. Help is needed to remove sanctuary Christmas decorations on Wednesday. The new Bible study starts tomorrow. Thanks for the great response to the year-end appeal. Katie Robinson (?) has asked if the Special Olympics fundraiser team from Silver Bay can use the parking lot of the church as a gathering spot before they go to Duluth for the Polar Plunge. She also asked if Pastor Paul can give them a prayer blessing

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before they leave. Pastor Paul will check with her to see if we can supply treats for them. The Council OK'ed this plan. Pastor asked for input from the Council and what they would like to see on the new website. Things such as history of the church, a calendar, means of contacting the church, health ministry, access to more than one sermon at a time, etc. were mentioned.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Alis Stevens and Pastor Paul continue to work on our Period Poverty project and will meet next week. Brenda reported that she has finished her part of the quilt for the narthex and will give it to Noreen Carlson to finish it. Brenda will speak to Noreen about donating her time, otherwise it may be \$50-\$100 to complete. Ruth Eggum will order the altar flowers for Glen Avon Presbyterian church to be delivered for their January 15 service. The annual meeting and potluck will be January 29.

**NEW BUSINESS:** In regard to the December break-in at the church, Dedie Moore suggested we have some kind of an "Alms Box" for people in need. Pastor Paul mentioned having a "Deacon's Fund" as well as the possibility of adding a doorbell to the church. This matter was tabled until the February meeting.

The next Council meeting will be February 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

M/M/S by Philip Christman/Mike Osmundson to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm. Motion carried. Pastor Paul closed in prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Eggum, Council Secretary

January minutes will be approved at the February Council Meeting

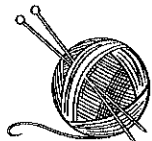


**WOMEN'S GUILD :**

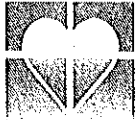
*All ladies of the church are welcomed as Guild members.  
The Guild meets at 1:00 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month.*

**Note: There will be no Guild Meeting in February**

**The UPC Noon Luncheons are cancelled until further notice.**



**PRAYER SHAWL MISSION MEETS ON  
SECOND AND FOURTH WEDNESDAYS.  
2:00 PM  
IN THE HOSPITALITY ROOM**



## Parish Nurse Notes

Dedie Moore R.N.

*Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

Colossians 3:14

It seemed appropriate to think about love since it is the month of St. Valentine. Love is essential to life. Without love and connection, people do not thrive. One of the leading causes of life is connections. Being with people who see us and are glad to see us. Loving and caring for ourselves as we care for and try to nourish those we love. Forgiving ourselves when we fall short. I often am harder on myself than on those I love.

I remember Rick Carlson telling me that he always felt loved at UP. What a nourishing community. And we continue to do the best that we can with this. We share food at potlucks, Bible study, fellowship hours. I know perhaps some foods could perhaps be healthier, but the love with which they are offered is also important. We pray for each other, call people, give rides, listen, care.

So, clothe us with love, to care for ourselves, and to have the strength and love to share with others. We love because God loved us first. What a gift!

Please let us continue to be diligent in our infection control. There is still COVID, as well as flu and other viruses. Protect the more vulnerable. Mask if you have symptoms, or stay home, and wash your hands, wash your hands. Cover your cough. And we all thank you.

### OUR CIRCLE

"OUR CIRCLE" is a news article that features a member or friend of U.P. Church. The article is based on conversations and written answers to questions. We hope you will enjoy learning about the folks who are familiar participants in our church life.



### Paula Fenstad

Paula was born to Blaine and Mary Fenstad in Minneapolis. She spent her first seven years living in Kenton, Michigan where her father worked for the U.S. Forest Service. With the addition of three younger brothers, Paula remembers playing with them in the huge amounts of snowfall that offered fun in "igloos" and play within the beautiful forests of Upper Michigan. Reflecting on this rural early life, Paula said, "When I began school, the most significant thing that stands out in my mind is how long and lonely the bus rides were back and forth. I envied my brothers at home who were now having more fun than I was."

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In 1968, Paula's dad left the Forest Service to take over his father's resort located on the big lake Gitchie-Gumee in Little Marais, MN. This was an exciting and adventurous time for Paula and her family. She started school in Silver Bay in the third grade where she made new friends and had a much shorter bus ride (much more to her liking). Beside school friends, Paula made friends with children who stayed at the resort from summer season after season. Thinking back, Paula wrote, "I enjoyed a lot of outdoor activities such as trout stream fishing, trolling with Dad or Grandpa on the lake, thimble berry picking, agate hunting and swimming in the river. It wasn't all fun and games, though, as everyone had a specific job at the resort that they were responsible for. Mine was cleaning kitchens in the cabins and I started out as a "helper" to a lady my mom had hired when I was just eight years old."

Recalling childhood days, Paula writes, "I have fond memories of family vacations in Canada to Lac des Mille Lacs in Ontario. They were really fun as my grandparents came with us. We all fished for walleye and caught our limits. Grandma would cook up our whole catch for the day with all you could eat mouth-watering fillets. One day I went out alone with Grandpa and caught a huge northern pike that almost got away with my fishing pole. It was actually a terrifying sight when we finally got it into the boat. Mom made him into delicious fish cakes, though, so it was worth it. I also have wonderful memories of family vacations on Marco Island, FL and then in later years, Destin, FL."

After graduating from Wm. Kelley H.S., Paula went on to attain her bachelor's degree from Saint Cloud State University. In 1984 she moved to the Twin Cities and worked as a stenographer for Honeywell. She decided corporate world wasn't for her and started a career in civil service at the University of Minnesota. In 1987 her daughter, Megan, was born and she quit working to focus on being a full-time mom. Paula says those were wonderful years. When Megan approached school age, Paula returned to the Cities and took another position at the University and continued to work there until retirement in 2020.

Now, in retirement, Paula homesteads at the home her Grandpa Ben built and spends a lot of time painting and making improvements on the property. She enjoys reading, knitting, feeding her deer and birds and loves a good game of cribbage. She has her three brothers, two of whom live in Little Marais. Her great joys are visits with her daughter, Megan who brings light and love into her life. Reflecting on the joys of home, Paula writes, "After spending much of my life in the big city and attending large church congregations, I really feel blessed to have come home to my roots in Silver Bay (Little Marais) and UP Church. You just can't beat the friendliness and feeling of home that you get in a small community. I feel that I have come full circle and am reminded of something G. K. Chesterton once said, 'There are two ways of getting Home; one of them is to stay there. The other is to walk around the whole world till we come back to the same place.' How true it is."



# What's



# up now with U.P. folks!!!

**Keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers:**

Pat Viola is at home in the Silver Bay, MN Veteran's Home (56 Outer Drive).  
Ellen and Karsten Hogenson, Phyllis Pearrow, Ray Burge, Dave and Kay Colby,  
Irene Johnson, David Prestidge, Mary Aijala, Mary Carroll, Chuckie Knutson and Ed Maki of  
our congregation as they deal with health-related changes and recoveries.  
All the caregivers.

**February Birthdays**

Gwynne Ness	5
Charlotte Olson	6
Paul Scaringi	6
Archer Goutermont	10
Kay Colby	12
Steven Betzler	13
Shawn Gilbertson	16
Dillon Gilbertson	18
LaVern Fergon	21
Nancy Gilson	21
Angie Goutermont	24



**February Anniversaries**

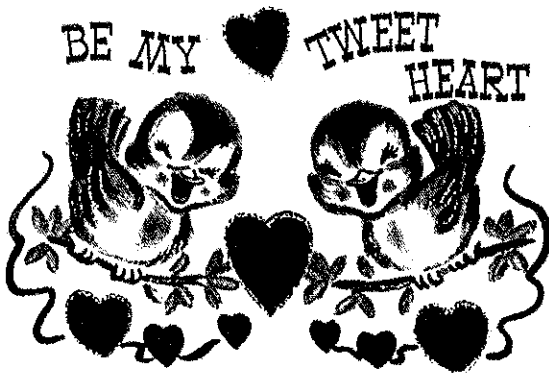
Terry and Barb Hron	1
Randy and Rebecca Snook	14
Paul and Kathryn Kolojeski	22

**Ash Wednesday Service**

**Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**7:00 pm.**

Let us join together and begin the season of  
Lent in the presence and companionship of  
God and one another.



If you shop on Amazon.com, you can donate 0.5% of your purchase to United Protestant Church.

Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and sign up with your Amazon password or create a new account with a new password. You can choose our church as your charity. After you sign up, when you shop on [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) you will be set up to automatically donate 0.5% to our church. The donations can really add up.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY  
9:30 AM EVERY WEDNESDAY

On January 11th we began a new study:

*Everyday Contemplative:  
The Way of Prayerful Living*

All are welcome



# February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 WMBS 9:30 am Faith @ 8 <sup>th</sup> 2:30 pm	2	3	4
5 Sunday Worship 10:30am Communion	6	7	8 WMBS 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 2:00 pm	9	10	11
12 Sunday Worship 10:30am	13 GLAD 6:30 pm Zoom	14 Boards Meet 5:00 pm Council Meets 6:00 pm	15 WMBS 9:30 am Faith @ 8 <sup>th</sup> 2:30 pm	16	17	18
19 Sunday Worship 10:30am CareFree @ 2:00 pm	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm No WMBS Prayer Shawl 2:00 pm	23	24	25
26 Sunday Worship 10:30am	27 GLAD 6:30 pm Zoom	28		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Pastor Paul in office-Tue-Wed - 9:00-5:00.            Lynn in office Wed &amp; Thurs 1:30 -4:00 pm         </div>		

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