

# CIRCLE TIMES

**January 2024**

**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.**

**Pastor's e-mail : [upcpaul@tutanota.com](mailto:upcpaul@tutanota.com)**

**Lynn Anderson, Church Secretary**

**Dedie Moore, Church Council Chair**

**Church Office: 218-226-3973**

**Church email: [upchurch1956@gmail.com](mailto:upchurch1956@gmail.com)**

**U P Church web site: [www.unitedprotestant.org](http://www.unitedprotestant.org)**

## **TEXTS AND TITLES**

**January 7** – Epiphany of our Lord

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Title: *The Original GPS*

**January 21** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Mark 1:14-20

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Psalm 62:5-12

Title: *To the Rescue*

**January 14** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: I Samuel 3:1-10

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 1:43-51

Title: *A Limited View*

**January 28** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Mark 1:21-28

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Title: *Needing a Word*



**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

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:  
everything old has passed away;  
look, new things have come into being!  
- 2 Corinthians 5:17

As I write this article we still have a few days to go till Christmas. As you read this, though, you are already into the 'New Year' and that reality causes me to ponder what being 'new' means for us as people of faith. I write this recognizing even before the calendar turned to 2024, 'newness' was in the proverbial air. Gifts opened on Christmas morning were most likely new, you may have tried out new clothes for holiday gatherings, and, of course, following Christmas we entered the new year. All this expression of newness flows from a new revelation from the Lord God – a new baby was born in a manger, our Messiah.

God coming to us in Jesus is the pivotal new event within scripture but that newness does not begin or end with Jesus' birth. The theme of newness runs throughout scripture, especially through the New Testament. Unlike the world around us where newness is often equated with the latest thing or fad or is an indicator of leaving the present behind, the newness we find within the Bible calls us to a different understanding.

Now the above passage certainly sounds like newness is being defined as the 'latest thing' since Paul says "everything old has passed away" yet consider what he is saying. When the Corinthians are told that they are a "new creation" did their past lives cease to matter? Did they become unrecognizable to their neighbors or family? No, they were a people rooted in a specific time and place and their past was not negated. That said, they were still a people becoming a "new creation." The presence of God through the Holy Spirit, made possible by the grace of Jesus, was transforming their lives into something new.

The newness that Paul proclaims here did not come about because they started a new year or moved to a new location. Their newness had its genesis in the presence of God within their lives. And, here's the clincher, it was not a one-off event – they didn't all of the sudden shift from being 'old' to 'new' and that was it. If we were to read 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians we would find lives that were a bit of a roller coaster. One minute Paul is praising them for the lives they are living and the next he is calling them to account because of how they have turned away from God. We see, then, being a new creation is an ongoing process of creating and re-creating based on the Lord's grace and willingness to turn to God.

All of which brings us to this present day. As we begin this new year we would do well to remember what our faith proclaims: there is always the possibility of newness within our lives and within our world. This is not because we started a new calendar and we can make resolutions. No, the possibility of new life is always before us – in whatever stage of life we find ourselves – because of the presence of the God who comes to us and seeks to bless us with the grace, courage, and faith to begin this year with the Lord at our side. So, I hope your 2024 begins well and I pray we enter this year carrying the Good News we heard at Christmas into the days ahead for our Emmanuel, our 'God with us,' is calling us onward.

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.*

Note: image not available.

For this month's update, we're highlighting the latest news we have of Post (the young woman we are supporting as she pursues her nursing education). Mark Juanes wrote: "I have a praise regarding Post to share with you. Last week she passed the first part of her nursing school program. There was a small ceremony held and she received her 'nursing cap' which signifies that she passed. After the school break, she will be beginning the second stage of her education which is an increased focus on nursing (less of the general education) and she will now be placed with a hospital to do on-site learning. Prayers for the next stage in her education is appreciated. Here is a photo the staff took of her before the ceremony."

### ***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 January 7<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: I Samuel 3:7-10

Prayer: Ever-Present God, grant me the wisdom to know the ways in which you speak to me and the faith to answer when you call, so I may follow you. Amen.

#### **The week of January 14<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: Mark 1:14-20

Prayer: As I go through my days, Gracious God, unstop my ears and my heart so I may I hear again your Good News for me and my world. Amen.

#### **The week of January 21<sup>st</sup>**

Scripture: Mark 1:25-27

Prayer: I confess, Good Shepherd, at times I fear the forces opposed to you. Forgive and embolden me to trust in the power of your presence with me. Amen.

#### **The week of January 28<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: Isaiah 40:28-29

Prayer: Gracious God, help me to know, to hear, and to live the promise that you will lift me up and walk with me through my days. Amen.

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF  
UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH**

**NOVEMBER 26, 2023**

**Present:** Lynn Anderson, Dedie Moore, David Moore, Reba Moore, David Prestidge, Ernie Kelley, LaVern Fergon, Ellen Hogenson, Karsten Hogenson, Brenda Larson, Deanne Reiten, Agnes Gilson, Shirley Whiteford, John Harrison, Carol Harrison, Ruth Koepke, Maggie King, Grace Kelley, Paula Fenstad, Angela Goutermont, Serine Ege, Philip Christman, Amy Wasson, Jeff Miller, Cindy Tackett, Carol Bakken, Marlin Bakken, Jim Martineau, Dawn Connor and Pastor Paul.

Council Chair Dedie Moore called the meeting to order at 11:35 am. Pastor Paul opened in prayer. Dedie thanked the Nominating Committee: Eileen Scaringi (Chair), Lynn Anderson, Ed Maki, Maggie King and Shirley Whiteford. Lynn Anderson read the slate of board member nominees. M/M/S by Maggie King/Grace Kelley to accept the slate of people nominated: Jean Williams (Christian Education); Jim Martineau (Daconate) and David Moore, Ed Maki and Mike Osmundson (Trustees). Motion carried. M/M/S by Deanne Reiten/Cindy Tackett to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Pastor Paul closed in prayer.

Minutes taken by Dedie Moore and typed by Ruth Eggum, Council Secretary

**UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES  
December 12, 2023 6:00 pm**

ATTENDEES: Dedie Moore, David Moore, Ed Maki, Mike Osmundson, Philip Christman, Shirley Whiteford, Agnes Gilson, Terry Eggum, Ruth Eggum and Pastor Paul.

Council Chair Dedie Moore called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Pastor Paul opened in prayer.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

M/M/S by Terry Eggum/Philip Christman to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURERS'S REPORT: M/M/S by Ruth Eggum/Ed Maki to approve the Treasurer's report from November, 2023 for audit. Motion carried.

Checking Account: \$19,121.27	Memorial Fund: \$26,467.83	
Ministry Fund: \$67,037.49	House of Love: \$7,930.15	AmazonSmile:
\$463.78	Checking SS: \$3,319.60	YTD Food Shelf: \$1,279.00
YTD Income: \$91,304.28		
YTD Expense: (\$99,426.78)		
YTD Net: (\$8,122.50)		

The Council gave their approval for Beth Smuk to do the audit for 2023.

M/M/S by Terry Eggum/David Moore to approve the Annual Budget to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

M/M/S by Ruth Eggum/Agnes Gilson to hold the Annual Meeting and potluck January 28, 2024 following morning worship. Motion carried.

The Chairs of the Boards and Committees should submit their annual reports to Secretary Lynn Anderson by January 12.

**TRUSTEE REPORT:** Philip Christman reported that all exterior locks have been changed on the church and new keys are available by request from Lynn Anderson. Work to the front of the church and the back sidewalk will be completed in the spring. Mike Tarolli will be working on the windows in the spring. The control system for the boiler is being worked on. Ear phones will be supplied to the sound person so that they can hear what the congregation hears and make the appropriate adjustments.

**CHRISTIAN ED REPORT:** Pastor Paul reported that the Sunday School/Youth Group began two weeks ago and is going well. They have requested the use of a white board.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** There is no one in hospital at this time. Jean Wagner will be having surgery on Tuesday, December 19. Continued prayers are needed for Mike O. and Philip Christman. We collected \$500 + for House of Love on Sunday to be used for their Christmas party. The card from the church was mailed last Friday to the House of Love. The video Post made for us was viewed on Sunday, December 10 by the congregation. Irene Johnson has requested we have a Game Night in January. The Diaconate will check on re-supplying products for the Tabitha Ministry in January. There will be both an a.m. and a p.m. (6:00) service on December 24. It has been wonderful to have new people visiting the church.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There has been lots of good feedback in regards to the Thanks-giving Meal.

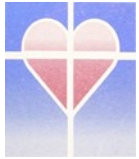
**NEW BUSINESS:** M/M/S by Terry Eggum/Philip Christman to grant Treasurer Mike O. the authority to set up an account at North Shore Federal Credit Union for matching gifts. Motion carried. There will be a meeting on January 16, 2024 at North Shore Area Partners to learn more about establishing a Clubhouse (a gathering place for socializing and other activities for people with mental health issues) in Silver Bay. There is a possibility that United Protestant Church could be the site of the Clubhouse. There was discussion on having Spring and Fall Community meals at the church. This was tabled until the January meeting.  
The next Council meeting will be January 9, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

M/M/S by Ed Maki/Agnes Gilson to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm. Motion carried. Pastor Paul closed in prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Eggum, Council Secretary

December Council minutes are approved in January.





**Parish Nurse Notes**  
**Dedie Moore R.N.**

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end; they are new  
every morning; great is your faithfulness.*  
Lamentations 3:22-23

So, a “new year” and indeed we are revolving around our sun (and hopefully our Son) and come to the same place to start the rotation again. It is an opportunity to reflect on the past year and make plans for the New Year, remembering that God’s love and mercy abounds and is new every morning. We are fresh and new each morning, as our bodies have exchanged with our environment during the night, we are indeed different and new each morning.

“Everything that is done in the world is done by hope,” as Martin Luther said. To make what positive changes we may plan to make, we have to have the hope and faith that the changes are possible. We have to depend on God’s steadfast love and on our community to support us in these changes.

So let us all look for joy and hope in this fresh new year. Let us notice the love and support around us. Focusing on joy, what we look forward to in the new day and year, and what joys we remember from the past year. The more we focus on joy, the more our joy builds. That can seem foolish when we see and hear of all the suffering and hatred in our world, but then we are called to be fools for Christ. We can better navigate our world when we are running on joy instead of fear.

The Clubhouse model for healing and support of mental illness is active in the Twin Cities and over the world. Clubhouse is a place for people to connect, share community and resources and is directed by the people served. Ely has had a clubhouse for about ten years. Chad Bostrom from the Veil House in the Twin Cities will be in Silver Bay January 16 at 1-2:30pm at North Shore Area Partners to share what Clubhouse can do. Mental illness affects every one of us and our community. Suicides are much too common.

Mental Health Crisis line is 988. Pass it on.





# 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, Mary Aijala, Mary Carroll, Chuckie Knudson, Mike and Peg Osmundson, David Gustafson, Rebecca Snook, Phil Christman, Serine Ege, Deanne Reiten, Agnes Gilson and Jean Wagner** of our congregation as they deal with health-related changes and recoveries. **All the caregivers.**

## **January Birthdays**

Margaret Ness	5
Kris Small	7
Leona McMahon	11
Brenda Larson	13
Marlin Bakken	16
Deanne Reiten	17
Mary Jo Taintor	20
Peggy Osmundson	22
Jeff Miller	23
Eileen Scaringi	28
Vera Johnson	28
Dick Steward	31



Let's celebrate !!

GREAT  
time  
FOR  
New  
BEGINNINGS

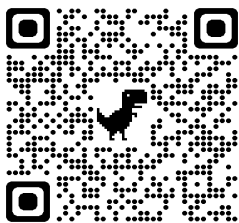
## **January Anniversaries**

Amy Wasson and Jeff Miller 1  
David and Sandy Wakefield 24

## **GAME NIGHT!!!**

Our winter Game Night is  
Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Come join us for a fun night  
of games, food, and time together!



For those who would like to support the  
UPC ministry electronically, please scan  
this code to access our website's online  
giving page:



## **Wednesday Morning Bible Study 9:30 am**

Join us as we explore the Bible.  
Everyone is welcomed.  
We will begin our next study on  
**January 10th**

## **Check out our website:**

<https://www.unitedprotestant.org>.  
You can download the latest news-  
letter and sermon as well as keep  
up to date with what is happening  
here at UPC.

January2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 No WMBS	4	5	6
7 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Communion	8 GLAD 6:30 pm	9 Boards meet 5:00 pm Council meets 6:00 pm	10 WMBS 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 2:00 pm	11	12	13  Game Night 6:00 pm
14 Youth Group 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am		16	17 WMBS 9:30 am	18	19	20
21 Youth Group 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am	22 GLAD 6:30 pm	23	24 WMBS 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 2:00 pm	25	26	27
28 Youth Group 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am  Annual Congregation Meeting and Potluck Following worship	29	30	31 WMBS 9:30 am	<div><div>Pastor Paul will be in the office on Tuesday and Wednesdays . He will be in his home office on Thursdays and Fridays.</div><div>Lynn in office Wed &amp;Thurs 1:30 -4:00 pm</div></div>		

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH  
17 HORN BOULEVARD  
SILVER BAY, MN 55614

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