

Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church – March 2023

Newsletter

Hello
March!



Celebrating, Serving, Loving & Growing with God and Each Other

909 Marshall Road / Shakopee, MN 55379 / 952-445-3562 / shakopeefpc@gmail.com

MISSION OF THE MONTH

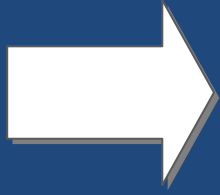
WE ARE ONE



**GIVE TO
ONE GREAT
HOUR OF
SHARING.**



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



A note from Pastor Meg...



I grew up in a neighborhood where most of the families attended the Roman Catholic Church. At this time of year, conversation in the schoolyard included the question “What are you giving up for Lent?” Common answers were “chewing gum,” “chocolate,” or “ice cream.” I had a friend who announced one year that she was giving up orange pop because she didn’t really like it anyway. I think she missed the point.

As the token Protestant, I never understood what they were talking about. My church, typical of most Presbyterian churches at that time, did not acknowledge Lent in any way – at least not in a way that a child would notice.

Over the years, many of us Protestants have learned the value of some of the traditions kept alive by our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters. Now I understand that Lent is a time for prayer and spiritual self-examination to prepare for the celebration of Easter. We use these days as a time to contemplate the suffering of Jesus, and to consider our role in that suffering.

“Because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did.” Isaiah 53:5. Recalling Jesus’ death makes real for us the consequences of our sin, and should move us to repentance. Acts of self-sacrifice help us participate in Christ’s suffering, and acts of discipline strengthen us in the fight against temptation. So if we give something up for Lent, that self-imposed challenge can be a daily reminder of our need for Christ. Other disciplines can help us grow in faith -- fasting empties us, so that we might be filled by the Holy Spirit; prayer and reflection, which leads to repentance of our sins, clears away the things that get in the way between us and God.

How will you prepare to celebrate our Lord’s resurrection at Easter? (Even though Lent has already begun, it is never too late to begin a Lenten discipline.) Perhaps you will commit to spending more time studying God’s Word. Perhaps you can give up some time, focusing on the needs of others in service to them and to God. Perhaps you need to make prayer a more regular part of your day. Perhaps there is something you should “give up,” as my schoolmates did, in order to free up more space in your life for God.

Whatever you feel called to do, I pray that God will bless you during this Lenten season.

Peace,
Pastor Meg

Joel is headed to the state tournament!

Joel Makem will have some company in the second-ever sanctioned Minnesota State High School League girls state wrestling tournament.

The senior on the Shakopee wrestling team won the 126-pound title last year and qualified for state again Feb. 11 in the Section 5, 6, 7 and 8 tournament in Sartell, along with her teammate, ninth-grader Cassy Gonzales.

Makem claimed the 132-pound championship, while Gonzales won the 126-pound division. Both went into sections ranked No. 1 in the state in those two weights.

Gonzales will take a 10-0 record into state, which will be held March 3-4 at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. The girls’ individual tourney will concurrently with the boys’ competition.

Makem will go into state with a 9-3 mark.

At sections, Gonzales went 3-0 en route to her title, winning by fall over Jovanna Volker of Nashwauk-Keewatin-Greenway in the final. Gonzales also won in the quarterfinals and semifinals by fall.

Makem also won by pin in her title match over Faith Koning of Wadena-Deer Creek. Makem got a bye in the quarterfinals and won by fall in the semis.

Ninth-grader Cassy Gonzalez (left) and senior Joel Makem both qualified for the girls state tourney for Shakopee at 126 and 132 pounds, respectively, in the Section 5,6,7 and 8 tournament Feb. 11 in Sartell.



Stated Session Minutes
First Presbyterian Church, Shakopee, MN
Thursday, January 19, 2023

Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum: A quorum was established.

Opening devotions were led by Edie Cook. Pastor Meg Newswanger opened with prayer.

The stated session meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Shakopee was called to order at 6:30 on Thursday, January 19, 2023 by Moderator Meg Newswanger.

Roll Call

Class of 2022

Roberta Crider

Edie Cook

Donna Beeney

Class of 2023

LuAnn Amberson

Loren Wolfe

Class of 2024

Rene' Vanoni

Elders excused: Loren Wolfe

M/S/C to approve the agenda

Clerk's Report

M/S/C to approve minutes of December 21, 2022 stated session meeting.

The Clerk of Session distributed a draft of the 2022 Session Annual Report. The Session reviewed the report. It was moved and seconded that the Session Annual Report for 2022 be approved. The motion carried.

Deacon's Report

The Deacon's Report was received by the Session.

Administration and Finance Report Rene' Vanoni

M/S/C to accept Finance report.

Worship and Faith LuAnn Amberson

M/S/C to start the traditional communion service and offering on February 5.

M/S/C to hold Ash Wednesday (February 22, 2023) and Maundy Thursday (April 6) services at 6:30 p.m.

Mission and Outreach No meeting

Pastor's Report

Pastor Meg suggested mentors for the two new session members. Rene will mentor Paul and Loren will be asked to mentor Michel.

Presbytery meetings are still being held by Zoom. Let Meg know if you would like to attend.

Discussed progress of committee searching for a transitional pastor

Roberta Crider and Donna Beeney were thanked for their years of service on Session.

Old Business

Discussion was held about the grant money. Roberta and Edie will recruit members for a small committee and begin work on a spring/summer concert series.

New Business

M/S/C to approve use of the building for February 17 (10-8) and March 14 (10-8) for Betty and Elizabeth Hvidsten.

M/S/C Ordination and Installation of officers will be on February 12, 2023 during the worship service.

M/S/C to not renew Zoom contract.

M/S/C to allow Southern Valley Alliance use of the church building beginning January 24, 2023.

Rene' will have devotions at the February 16, 2023 meeting.

Communion Servers for February 5, 2023 are LuAnn and Rene'.

M/S/C to adjourn at 8:00.

Pastor Meg closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Edie Cook, Clerk of Session

Annual Meeting Minutes of the Congregation/Corporation

First Presbyterian Church, Shakopee, MN

909 Marschall Road, Shakopee, MN 55379

January 29, 2023

An opening prayer was given by Moderator Meg Newswanger.

A quorum was established.

Call to Order

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Shakopee was called to order at 11:05 AM on Sunday, January 29, 2023 by the Moderator, the Rev. Meg Newswanger. The meeting was held in the fellowship hall.

M/S/C to accept agenda.

A Review of the Year written by Pastor Scott Larson was read.

Reports of the Session

M/S/C to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2022 Annual Meeting. The minutes had been approved by Session at the February 2022 meeting.

The Statistical Report was received.

Ministry Teams

Mission and Outreach: The report was given by Edie Cook.

Worship and Music: The report was given by Jan Oliverson.

Administration and Finance: The report was given by Rene' Vanoni. Rene' went over the budget from 2022 and the proposed 2023 budget.

Personnel: Written by Loren Wolfe and Carol Balvance

Board of Deacons and Deacons Treasurer Report: Carol Balvance gave the report.

M/S/C to receive all the reports.

Nominating Team Report and Recommendations: The report was given by Roberta Crider.

Appreciation was expressed for the service given by outgoing officers:

Elders: Donna Beeney and Roberta Crider and Deacon: Carol Balvance

Election of New Officers:

Session **Class of 2025 (three year term)**
Edie Cook
Paul Sindze
Michel Makem

Deacons **Class of 2023 (one year terms)**
Shirley Ackerman
Harriet Volding

Class of 2025 (three year terms)
Verneil Ewert
Marinda Gay

There were no nominations from the floor.

M/S/C to elect this slate of officers to the respective boards.

2022 Nominating Committee: The congregation elected Carol Balvance, Barb Metz, and Miranda Gay to serve on Nominating committee as congregational members at large.

M/S/C to adjourn at 11:35.

Pastor Meg closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Edie Cook, Clerk of Session



March 11 Duplex Makem	March 19 Annette Nicholas
March 13 Veneta Anderson Tom Glaser Nina Makem	March 23 Margaret Chamberlin Abbey Bosard
March 16 Randy Makem	March 27 Shirley Ackerman
	March 31 Evariste Tafoka



DEACONS NEWS

If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.
John 12:26

February ended with a blizzard.....maybe March will be a little gentler to us!
 At the annual meeting, we voted in Verneil Ewert as a Deacon for a new term. She has been with us before, and we welcome her back for another term. We also have to say goodbye to Carol Balvance, and thank her for all her service as a Deacon for many years. Thankfully, she will continue to support us and help with projects.
 One of those projects will be a photo bulletin board, and will be posted in the fellowship hall. Watch for upcoming news and info.....to get pictures of everyone, so we can continue to get to know each other by name.
 The Deacons have some money in a Campership fund. There would be a small amount to help with the cost of camp. If anyone is interested in sending your youth to Clearwater Forest, a Presbyterian church camp, please contact Mary Wolfe.
 We continue to call, visit, and send cards. Be sure to let one of us know if you would like a visit.
 We would like to open our nursery again. If you can help, as frequently or infrequently as you are able, please contact Rose Schmitz.
 If you are in need of a ride, you can contact Jim Perry at 612-220-7977, and he will make sure someone will pick you up.
 Please contact a Deacon if you would like a visit, or have any needs.
 In Christ's love,

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Shirley Ackerman | 952-334-3202 | Verneil Ewert | 952-237-2201 |
| Linda Brooks | 952-240-9502 | Lyle Crider | 952-496-0822 |
| Marinda Gay | 952-445-1031 | Jim Perry | 952-492-5952 |
| Rose Schmitz | 612-670-6309 | Harriet Volding | 218-209-1982 |
| Mary Wolfe | 952-393-3973 | | |

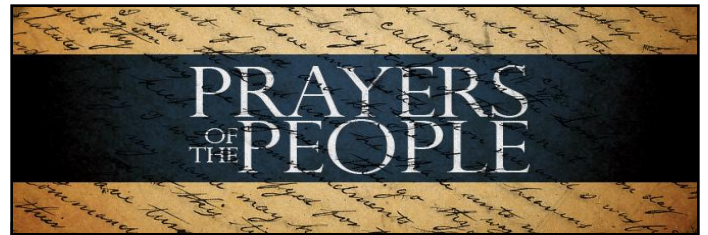


Per Capita

[pər 'ka-pə-tə]

A Latin term meaning "by head" that is often used in place of "per person" in statistical observances.

Per capita is a set amount of money—sometimes referred to as “apportionment”, “by head” or “per member” that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) In other words; it is like a Presbyterian community fund, and it binds Presbyteries, Synods and Congregations together in one church. The per capita contribution per person for the year 2023 is \$37.50. We understand in these trying times where money and budgets are tight, but maybe throughout the year you find a way and are able to contribute your share. We thank you for your generosity and we always remain your SFPC.



**Steven Beeney – Linda Brooks
Marinda Gay - Jan Oliverson Family
Shirley Bjork Family
Dick Olin**



There has been a change in the office administrator position. Diana Norman is back at the helm, but doing the work from her new home in Oklahoma! All emails addressed to SFPC office will go to her. We are thankful that Diana has agreed to fill this spot.

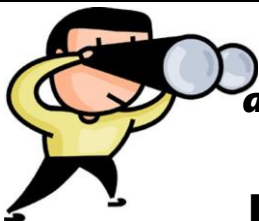
Volunteers are coming into the office to check mail, phone calls, print bulletins, etc., but there are no regular office hours at this time.

If you have a need for a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor Meg Newswager at 763-228-9716.

Remember Pastor Meg is a bridge pastor so the Session is working with the Presbytery to find a half-time pastor. Pray for us as we receive resumes and conduct interviews. Pray for the future of this body of Christ followers. Pray for Pastor Meg and our future pastor.

In Christ's Love,

*The Session members of
First Presbyterian Church of Shakopee*



**Keep a look-out for a new and exciting summer concert series
at First Presbyterian Church**

'Music on Marschall'

May 22 ~ June 26 ~ July 24 ~ August 28

Meal @ 5:00pm ~ Concert @ 6:00pm

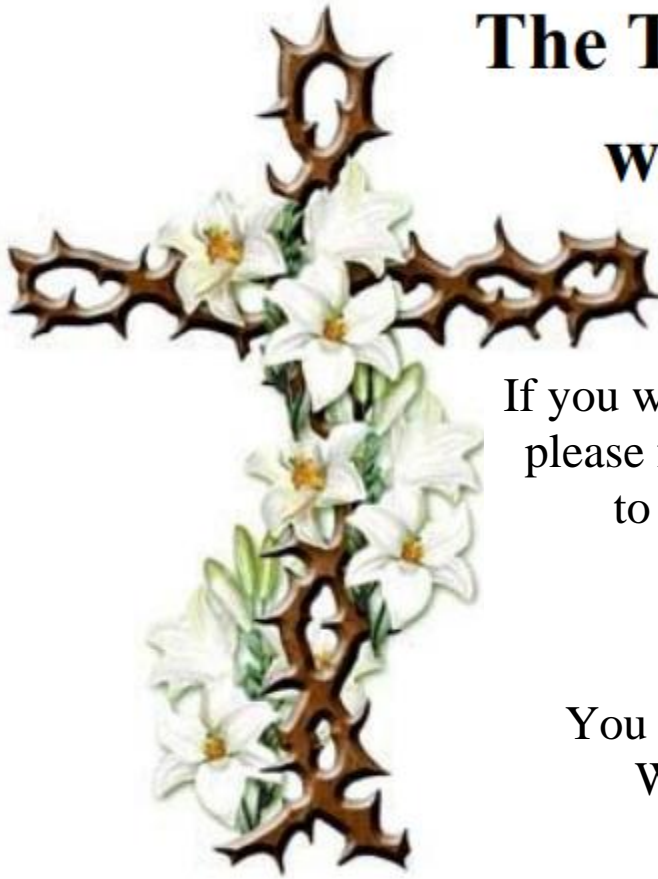
****Stay tuned for the announcement of the entertainment line-up****



**SUMMER
Concert Series**

**SAVE THE
DATES!**

The Traditional Easter Cross will again be part of our Easter Worship Service



If you would like to purchase and contribute a lily,
please fill out the attached order form and return
to Jan Oliverson or to the church office
by April 2, 2023.

The cost per lily will be \$10.00.

You can take your lily home after the Easter
Worship Service on Sunday, April 9.

Please see Jan Oliverson for any questions.

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

Please fill out this form and return to Jan Oliverson or to the church office no later than Sunday, April 10, 2022

Name(s): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Number of lilies ordered: _____

(Cost per lily is \$10.00)

Total Enclosed: _____

Please make check payable to First Presbyterian Church

Please Check One:

I will pick up my lily after the Easter service.

I do not wish to pick up my lily.

All Easter Lilies will be recognized in the Easter bulletin.

Shakopee First Presbyterian Church

Easter Breakfast

April 9, 2023

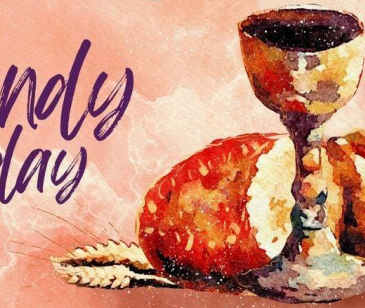
9:00 am



We will enjoy coffee, juice, and sticky buns

April 6 – 6:30 pm

*Maundy
Thursday*
service



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



BEGINS
MARCH 12

*Don't
forget
to spring
forward!*

KENYA KIDS EASTER BASKET

Easter is April 9 and the money for the baskets has to be sent in by March 31st. So the Easter Bunny will be appearing a few Sundays in March.

A donation of \$15.00 will provide a basket including the following (2 kgs = 4.4 lbs.):

4 kgs Maize Flour, 4 kgs Rice,
2 kgs Wheat Flour, 2 kgs
Sugar, 2 kgs Cooking Oil,
500 grams Tea, Biscuits,
and Soap.

Your help is greatly appreciated as we desire to give a special blessing to His precious little ones during this most holy Season.

Whatever amount your Donation might be, please mark on your check "For" Easter Basket.

