



December Newsletter

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

909 Marschall Road / Shakopee, MN 55379 / 952-445-3562 / shakopecpc@gmail.com

DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

God saw
the great needs of the world
and offered a perfect gift.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

NOVEMBER 27 – DECEMBER 18



**TIME TO GET OUT THE
KNITTING NEEDLES!**

We need hats, mittens & scarves
to decorate the Christmas Tree
in December.

All items will be donated to the CAP Agency.



Christmas Reflection 2023

There is Room for Everyone

Luke 3: 7-18

This Christmas season I pray for you to open yourself to God's mercy and respond to his love by creating room for others, including those who are struggling to find joy in this happy season. I encourage you to think more broadly about Christmas as a time when people can celebrate or grieve.

John the Baptist may be an unconventional figure to reflect on during the Advent season, but his story resonates with me and my belief that there is indeed room for everyone in this season. The Baptist preached not just to tax collectors and soldiers, but also to everyday people who had been crushed by an unjust society and were desperate for a word of comfort, and had come to take shelter in God's word and to be baptized. The Baptist was an exceptional preacher because he could challenge those who were comfortable in their invented sense of peace, as well as to comfort those who questioned whether God's mercy included them.

Just like the Baptist has taught us that everyone, regardless of status in society, has a role to play in God's kingdom, we can make Christ present in our lives throughout the year and not only during the Advent season.

We can hear the voice of the Baptist remind us to make our personal faith visible and effective. "Bear fruits worthy of repentance!" he implored. Take care of those in need. Share clothing. Share food. Share power. Share grief.

Yes, share grief. Advent is supposed to be a peaceful time of quiet waiting for the light of Christ to take us away from our despair, but for many, the time is filled with grief. Those grieving – the loss of loved ones or the separation from their families or the atrocities against humanity both at home and abroad.

Open your heart to those who are grieving. Stand with them in their difficult times so they do not feel so lonely in the darkness. Words alone cannot heal our suffering and grief, and human efforts alone could not gather the fragments of our broken souls, but there is one God who welcomes us and our grief during the Advent season. Even when life does not feel fair, or you find yourself thinking that because the Advent season is supposed to be joyful and you therefore have no place, you do have a place in God's heart and there is indeed room for you, even in a time of grief.

Thinking or caring for others is not a luxury, but rather a natural response to what we experience in our relationship with God. Merry Christmas to you and please be aware and gentle to those who are grieving during this time of the year.

Peace,
Rev. Medhat Yoakiem

Stated Session Minutes
First Presbyterian Church, Shakopee, MN
Thursday, October 26, 2023

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

Opening prayer and devotions were led by Paul Sindze.

The stated session meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Shakopee was called to order at 6:30 on Thursday, October 26, 2023 by Moderator Medhat Yoakiem.

Roll Call

Class of 2023

LuAnn Amberson

Loren Wolfe

Class of 2024

Rene' Vanoni

Class of 2025

Edie Cook

Michel Makem

Paul Sindze

All were present.

M/S/C to approve the agenda

Clerk's Report

M/S/C to approve minutes of September 21, 2023 Stated Session meeting.

An ad was placed in Welcome Neighbor brochure for Scott County at the cost of \$190 for 1 year. The Mission and Outreach budget will take care of this bill.

Deacon's Report Deacon's minutes were received.

Worship and Faith Formation LuAnn Amberson (No meeting)

M/S/C to continue Thursday Chats through 2024.

Mission and Outreach Edie Cook (No meeting)

Administration and Finance Report Rene' Vanoni

M/S/C to approve snow shoveler contract for sidewalks with Royle Nimpa.

M/S/C to approve custodial contract with Steve Wiggen.

M/S/C to approve building use agreement with Great Commissions Ministries for a Bible Study in the double Sunday School room every other Saturday night from 7-10 pm.

Personnel Loren Wolfe

End of year job reviews were held. Carol and Diana are satisfied with their present contracts, but suggest the committee start thinking of long range plans.

M/S/C to approve the document attached to personnel report for details of Pastor Medhat Yoakiem's new contract.

Pastor's Report

With 4 months of working at FPC, Pastor Yoakiem is developing relationships with members of the congregation. With the Deacons help, he hopes to make more visits to those who cannot attend church.

M/S/C to accept all reports

Old Business

- 1) As a way to make the church more visible, a suggestion was made that an electronic sign be installed where the present outdoor sign is. The cost will be investigated.
- 2) Discussion was held on the Presbytery's stance on alcohol use in the church building. Edie will contact the Presbytery on this matter.

New Business

M/S/C for Paul Sindze to have an insert in the newsletter to advertise his business.

M/S/C to write a response letter to the Slavic Baptist Church to let them know First Presbyterian Church is not for sale. Edie will write the letter and have Pastor approve it.

More volunteers are needed for greeters, coffee fellowship, communion preparation, etc.

The Annual meeting will be January 28, 2024.

LuAnn will have devotions at the November 16, 2023 meeting.

Communion Servers for November 5, 2023 are Paul Sindze and Michel Makem

M/S/C to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Pastor Medhat closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Edie Cook, Clerk of Session



December 6
Todd Boom

December 9
Alice Larsen

December 11
Harriett Volding
Dave Willemsen

December 17
Carol Balvance

December 18
Genese Tafoka

December 20
Mike Vanneste

December 24
Carol Boom

December 25
Donna Beeney



GAME DAY



Monday
December 11
Fellowship Hall



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

December 3

Mike & Sara Vanneste

December 10

Rene' & Kathy Vanoni

December 17

Gary & Harriett Volding

December 24

Craig & Kelly Whitney
Darin & Ryan

December 31

Jim & Marlis Whitney



Donna Beeney Family
Linda Brooks - Ruth Wittek
Sue Sergeant Family

LET US PRAY

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

December - the Christmas season is upon us!

As November ended with a time of Thanksgiving, we helped with the potluck. As always, there was great food and great fellowship.

Now we are on to preparing Christmas treat bags for the children's Christmas program. They will singing at the Sunday morning service, on December 24th.

"Give a ride" : 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.

As we remember the "Reason" for this season, we wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Please contact a Deacon if you would like a call or visit, or have any needs.

In Christ's love,

Shirley Ackerman **952-334-3202**
Linda Brooks **952-240-9502**
Marinda Gay **952-445-1031**
Rose Schmitz **612-670-6309**
Mary Wolfe **952-393-3973**

Verneil Ewert **952-237-2201**
Lyle Crider **952-496-0822**
Jim Perry **612-220-7977**
Harriet Volding **218-209-1982**

COME LET US WORSHIP THE KING

Join us at our 10:00 service on Christmas Eve for, Come Let Us Worship The King.

Local news anchor Betty Curious, with Channel SFPC, will travel to Bethlehem. She promises interviews with each of characters involved in this exciting story.

Don't miss it!



Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Join Us for our

Thursday Chat

Each chat will include scripture reading, selection from the Upper Room and discussion questions. ~ with treats following



Thursday, December 14

2:00 pm

December 14 Leader: Ray Kruger

First Presbyterian Church - 909 Marschall Road - Shakopee, MN
952-445-3562

Music on Marschall

With the new \$15,000 grant from the Presbytery, it is time to start planning for our concert/free food series for next year!

Our first meeting is Monday, December 4, at 9:30 am.

Please join us, or if that time is not convenient, let Edie Cook or Loren Wolfe know that you would like to join the committee.

We need ideas for musicians/ food vendors,
and especially ways to incorporate children.

We need

YOU!





LIFE, ACCIDENT & HEALTH INSURANCE



Hi Brothers and Sisters,

I'm now a licensed Life, Accident and Health Insurance Producer (known as an Insurance Agent). I would like to invite you to my next financial literacy training session to be held anytime on demand.

I will recommend you to get an Indexed Universal Life (IUL) insurance coverage for you, your partner, and kids. This is a generational wealth transfer technic. My company will protect your family with a term or permanent life insurance according to your specific circumstances.

Don't let your family down as this is a great opportunity to educate yourself and take action.

Contact me for further information:

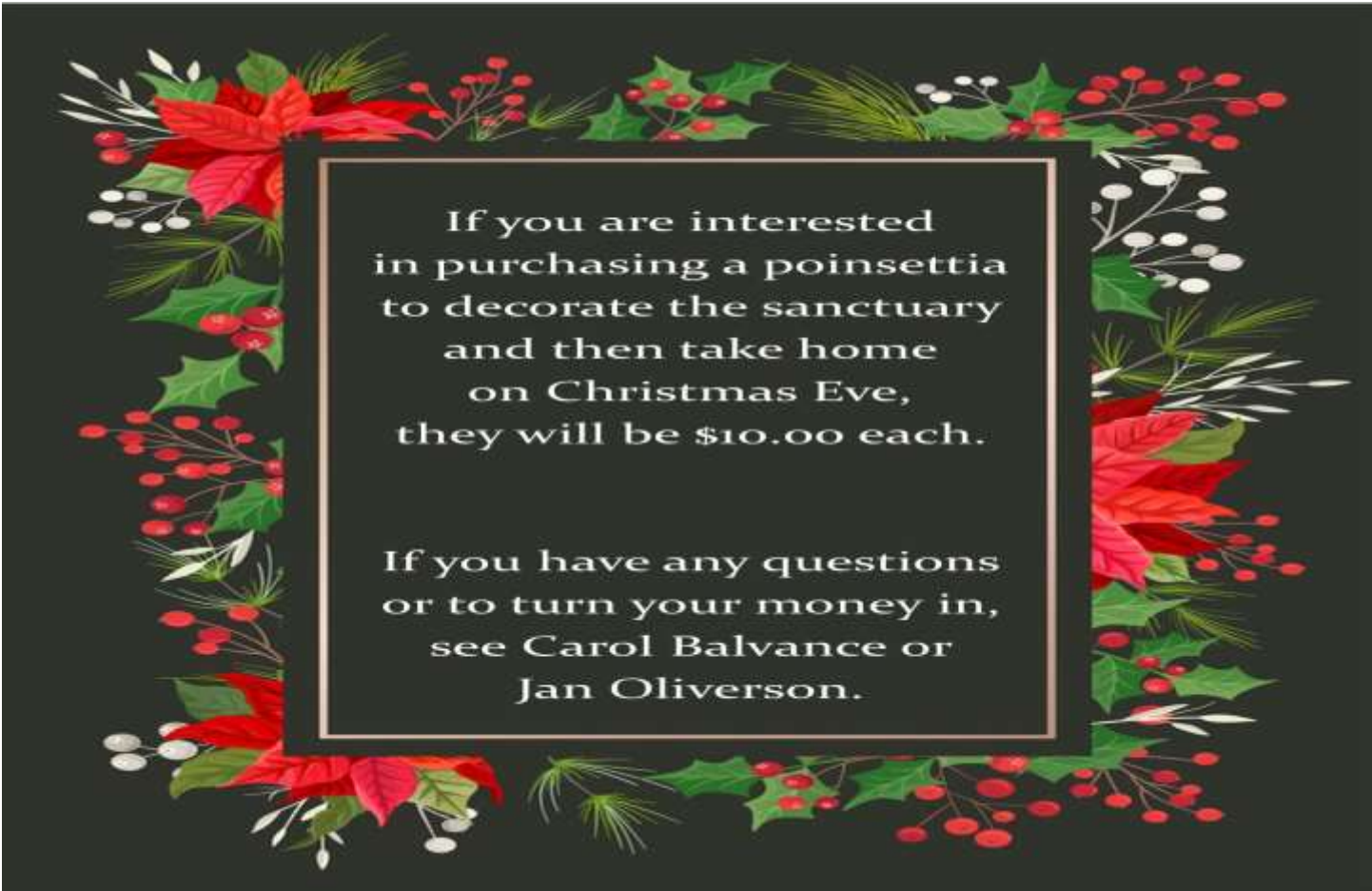
Dr. Paul Sindze

Macroeconomist and Financial Advisor

763-221-5673

psindze@yahoo.com





If you are interested
in purchasing a poinsettia
to decorate the sanctuary
and then take home
on Christmas Eve,
they will be \$10.00 each.

If you have any questions
or to turn your money in,
see Carol Balvance or
Jan Oliverson.

Christmas Eve Services

10:00 am—Regular Service

6:00 pm—Candlelight Service



Join us as we celebrate together!

Thanksgiving Potluck



A circle of strength and love.
Our Family
Founded on Faith: Joined in Love

