



# MARCH NEWSLETTER



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

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

## MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH

### KENYA KIDS EASTER BASKETS

Easter is March 31, 2024, and the money for the baskets has to be sent in by the end of March. 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.*



# From the PASTOR'S DESK

Pastor Medhat Yoakiem



## Lent Season 2024 Fasting, Prayer, and Scripture Matthew 4:4

Today we are reading from Matthew 4:4 where Christ was exercising his faith to prepare himself for the next battle. I chose the word exercise carefully, because just as we do for our physical health, we need to exercise our spirit in order for it to remain strong.

Christ had been fasting in the desert for 40 days when he encountered the devil who encouraged him to turn stones into bread to relieve his hunger. Christ replied,

Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that proceeds  
out of the mouth of God.

Now, imagine a dialogue between two speakers. Christ represents the light, the devil represents the darkness, we are the audience, and the topic of the panel discussion topic is human needs. One side assures that if you have your basic needs met, you will be satisfied, while the other tests you by reminding you of the times you thought that if you did this or got that, you would be happy and satisfied despite an endless list of needs.

When Christ said, "live not by bread alone," he was not denying that many of our material needs are good or needed. Instead his message reminds us that we also belong to the spiritual world with its different meanings of sustenance and satisfaction. So do not ignore your material needs, but do not be deceived into believing that you will truly live if your material needs are the main or only focus in your life.

Christ has the power to perform miracles, yet he refused to turn stones to bread when he was hungry, because he reserves such miracles for the powerless and forgotten. Christ teaches us that we may be hungry for bread, but we must trust in the Lord to provide spiritual sustenance.

The way to maintain a strong Christian spirit is to keep exercising. First find a special place where you can feel God's presence and where you can talk and listen without interruption. Second, fast to reconnect your lifestyle with your spiritual values. Finally, listen to the word of the Lord who reminds us to define ourselves according to God's will.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor. Medhat Yoakiem

**Stated Session Minutes**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Shakopee, MN**  
**Thursday, January 18, 2024**

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

Opening prayer and devotions were led by Rene' Vanoni.

The Stated Session meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Shakopee was called to order at 6:30 on Thursday, January 18, 2024 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

Excused: Loren Wolfe

**M/S/C to approve the agenda**

**Clerk's Report**

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

The Annual Report was given to the Session members. Edie will give the Year in Review report.

**M/S/C to accept the Statistical Report as written.**

Election dates are as follows: March 5, 2024, August 13, 2024, and November 5, 2024. The city has asked us what our emergency plan is. Rene will work with the city on this item.

**Deacon's Report** Deacon's minutes were received.

**Worship and Faith Formation** LuAnn Amberson (no meeting)

The next meeting is February 4<sup>th</sup> after church.

**Mission and Outreach** Edie Cook (No meeting)

Music on Marschall will be May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, and September 16

**Administration and Finance Report** Rene' Vanoni

The city agreed to install a light by the south parking lot entrance.



A file cabinet will be purchased with funds from the Bjork Fund.

Discussion of how to proceed for an updated WebSite.

**Personnel** Loren Wolfe (no meeting)

**Nominating Committee** LuAnn Amberson (no meeting)

**M/S/C to accept all reports.**

### **Pastor's Report**

The Christmas Eve service was very good. Pastor Yoakiem likes to involve lots of people in the services. He had a great visit with Gene Chapman and is making phone calls to others. Confirmation Class will meet four times and he is coordinating those dates with Faith and Fortune.

### **Old Business**

Installation and Ordination is on February 4

### **New Business**

**M/S/C to accept building request from Elizabeth and Betty Hvidsten for the following dates:**

**2/1 from 1-8, 2/13 from 12-8, 3/14 from 12-8, 4/16 from 4-8, 5/2 from 12-8, 5/21 from 3-8, 6/5 from 10-8, and 7/16 from 12-8.**

**M/S/C for building request for Paul Sindze (for Janet) for March 2.**

**M/S/C to have Session on February 14 after Ash Wednesday Service instead of February 15.**

LuAnn suggested that a Time/Talent interest sheet be given to congregational members. This list would include: greeters/coffee fellowship/ushers/readers/communion preparers, etc.

Edie Cook will have devotions at the February 14, 2024 meeting.

Communion Servers for February 4, 2024 are LuAnn and Paul.

**M/S/C to adjourn at 8 p.m.**

Pastor Medhat 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 28, 2024**

**An opening prayer was given by Moderator Pastor Medhat Yoakiem.**

**A quorum was established.**

**Call to Order**

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Shakopee was called to order at 11:15 AM on Sunday, January 28, 2024 by the Moderator, the Rev. Medhat Yoakiem.

**M/S/C to accept agenda.**

The Clerk of Session, Edie Cook, gave a Review of the Year

**Reports of the Session**

**M/S/C to accept the minutes from the January 29, 2023 Annual Meeting. The minutes had been approved by Session at the February 2023 meeting.**

The Statistical Report, which will be sent to the Presbytery, was presented.

**Ministry Teams**

**Worship and Education:** The report was given by LuAnn Amberson.

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

**Personnel Report:** Written by Loren Wolfe, presented by Edie Cook.

**Administration and Finance:** The report was given by Rene' Vanoni. The end of the year financial report, 2023 December balance sheet, and 2024 budget were presented.

**M/S/C to accept the Committee reports.**

**Board of Deacons Report:** Carol Balvance gave the report.

**M/S/C to accept the Deacon Report and Deacon Treasurer Report.**

**Nominating Team Report and Recommendations:** The report was given by LuAnn Amberson.

Appreciation was expressed for the service given by outgoing officers:

Elders: Loren Wolfe

Deacons: Linda Brooks, Jim Perry, Harriet Volding

**Election of New Officers:**

Session                      Class of 2024 (one year term)  
LuAnn Amberson  
Roberta Crider

Deacons                      Class of 2024 (one year terms)  
Shirley Ackerman  
Barb Metz

Class of 2026 (three year terms)  
Carol Balvance  
Arlette Sindze

No nominations from the floor.

**2024 Nominating Committee:** Carol Balvance and Miranda Gay volunteered to serve on the Nominating committee as congregational members. An Elder and Deacon need to be added.

**M/S/C to accept the Nominating Committee Report and Officers.**

**M/S/C to accept 2023 Annual Report.**

**M/S/C to adjourn at 11:50.**

**Pastor Medhat closed with prayer.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Edie Cook, Clerk of Session**

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

**March 10**  
Diana Norman

**March 11**  
Duplex Makem

**March 13**  
Veneta Anderson

Nina Makem

Tom Glaser

**March 16**  
Randy Makem

**March 19**  
Annette Nicholas

**March 23**  
Abbey Bosard

**March 27**  
Shirley Ackerman

**March 31**  
Evariste Tafoka



**BORN IN MARCH**

- Attractive personality
- Affectionate and caring
- Naturally honest, sincere
- Loves peace and serenity
- Sensitive to needs of others
- Not easily angered
- Reliable
- Appreciative of gratitude
- Observant
- Loves travel
- Aesthetically gifted

Wishing you  
a  
*Blessed*

For He made Him  
who knew no sin to  
be sin for us, that  
we might become  
the righteousness  
of God in Him.

*Easter*  
WEEKEND

*Prayers  
of the  
People*

Donna Beeney Family  
Linda Brooks  
Ruth Wittek  
Terri Maidment  
Vivian Geis Family

**LET'S  
PRAY  
FOR OUR  
FAMILIES**

**March 3**  
Gabriel & Patricia Akufongwe  
Jayden & Nathan

**March 10**  
LuAnn Amberson

**March 17**  
Veneta Anderson

**March 24**  
Carol Balvance

**March 31**  
Mary Bawden

**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*

It is a blessing to announce our newly installed Deacons: Barbara Metz, Arlette Sindze, Shirley Ackerman and Carol Balvance. We all look forward to working together this year.

We continue to call, visit, and send cards. Be sure to let one of us know if you would like a visit.

**"Give a ride"** : If you are in need of a ride, you can contact Carol Balvance, and she 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,

<b>Shirley Ackerman</b>	<b>952-334-3202</b>	<b>Barbara Metz</b>	<b>715-604-2323</b>
<b>Carol Balvance</b>	<b>952-240-4755</b>	<b>Rose Schmitz</b>	<b>612-670-6309</b>
<b>Lyle Crider</b>	<b>952-496-0822</b>	<b>Arlette Sindze</b>	<b>763-670-1698</b>
<b>Verneil Ewert</b>	<b>952-237-2201</b>	<b>Mary Wolfe</b>	<b>952-393-3973</b>
<b>Marinda Gay</b>	<b>952-445-1031</b>		

**Please let  
Carol Balvance  
(952-240-4755)**

**or**

**Mary Wolfe  
(952-393-3973)**

**know if you have anyone graduating  
this year, so that we can acknowledge  
them.**

**They will be recognized in June.**







FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -  
 WE ARE BEYOND GRATEFUL FOR YOUR DONATION + CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION. BECAUSE OF YOUR COMPASSION + GENEROSITY, WE CAN SERVE FREE, HEALTHY MEALS THROUGHOUT THE SHAKOPEE COMMUNITY. THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TAKE CARE OF OUR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, + NEIGHBORS IN NEED. WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT INCREDIBLE SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU.

WITH GRATITUDE,  
 CAROLYN GROSS





# GAME DAY



**Monday - March 11 & March 25**  
**Fellowship Hall**



**2024 Per Capita**  
**apportionment rate**  
**is \$38.50**  
**per member**

# MAUNDY THURSDAY



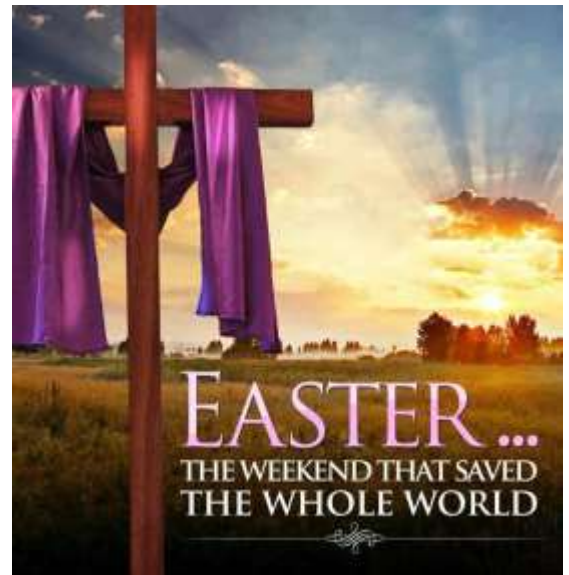
**March 28**

**6:30 pm**

# DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

*Spring Forward*

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!  
MARCH 10, 2024



**EASTER...**  
THE WEEKEND THAT SAVED  
THE WHOLE WORLD





MUSIC ON MARSCHALL



# SUMMER CONCERT Series

Save These  
DATES



**FREE ADMISSION**

★ BRING A LAWN CHAIR ★

**MAY 20 TOM HUNTER**

**JUNE 17 HOMEWARD BOUND**

**JULY 15 BARSOLO BROTHERS**

**AUGUST 19 THE JUPES**

**SEPTEMBER 16 LOREN WOLFE**



FREE DINNER AT

**5:00 PM**

MUSIC  
STARTS AT

**6:00-7:30PM**



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



909 MARSCHALL ROAD ★ SHAKOPEE, MN 55379 ★ 952-445-3562



THURSDAY

*Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Join Us for our*

## **THURSDAY CHATS**

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



**2:00 pm**

March 14th - Led by Lyle Crider

April 11th - Led by Jan Oliverson

May 9th - Led by Ray Kruger

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 909 MARSHALL ROAD - SHAKOPEE, MN - 952-445-3562

CHATS

Shakopee First Presbyterian Church

## **Easter Breakfast**

March 31, 2024

9:00 am



*We will enjoy coffee, juice, and sticky buns*



## 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 form below and return to Jan Oliverson or the church office by Sunday, March 24, 2024.

The cost per lily will be \$10.00.

You may take your lily home after the Easter Service on Sunday, March 31, 2024.

*Please see Jan Oliverson for any questions.*

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# EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

*Please fill out this form and return to Jan Oliverson or the church office no later than Sunday, March 24, 2024*

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.*



*Join us as we welcome*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

# *Common Bond*

QUARTET



**SUNDAY - JUNE 23, 2024**

**10:00 AM**

**FREE WILL OFFERING  
WILL BE TAKEN**



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