

**COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
LAC DU FLAMBEAU
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER OF 2022
VOLUME XX
ISSUE XII**

Our Mission Statement:

As people of God and servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, we believe our Mission to be the building of a strong fellowship, ministering to the Spiritual and physical needs of the church, the community, and the world fulfilling our Lord's command to "Love our neighbors."

2022

*Remember the days of old, consider the years long past;
Ask you [parents] and [they] will inform you, your elders, and they will tell you.
Deuteronomy 32.7*

You are invited to spend some time reflecting on and responding to the following questions as a way of intentionally engaging with 2022 before 2023 is upon us.

What stands out for you personally during 2022, in your life, in the life of your family?

What memory holds fast as a member/friend of Community Presbyterian Church in 2022?

How were God's presence and presents made even more real for you during 2022?

What comfort did overcoming challenges bring you during 2022?

Who is a new friend you made during 2022? What have they brought to your life?

Who is a friend/acquaintance/family member who died during 2022? What do you miss? What do you continue to cherish/treasure about the relationship you shared?

What happened during 2022 that you hadn't planned on, but now you're grateful for?

A Love Letter To The Saints of Community Presbyterian Church

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

Matthew 11.2-6

To the Saints of Community Presbyterian Church engaged in God's mission, greetings;

This comes from the Gospel reading for Sunday, December 11th this year. In the season of Advent, the first two Sundays look forward to the end of time. On the third Sunday, the focus shifts to John the Baptist, the one whom Christian tradition witnesses to as the "new Elijah", who was to appear before the Messiah. Matthew shares this dialogue as a part of this witness, as John, imprisoned and not yet beheaded, wonders about who Jesus is.

The text reflects Matthew's influence and how it was crafted after Jesus' resurrection. John inquires as to whether Jesus is the Messiah (or Christ: the anointed one), a term that would not have been used for Jesus during his earthly life. Matthew is clear in his narrative how he understands Jesus to be the Messiah because of how persons' lives have been transformed physically: emphasizing Jesus as a healer; and spiritually: with "good news" brought to the poor (in Matthew this term refers equally to persons who are "poor of spirit"). Have you wondered how John received Jesus' reply?

As we make our way towards the annual celebration of Jesus' birth, the one whose life, death and resurrection would result in his acclamation as the Messiah/Christ (Hebrew and Greek terms, respectively) of God, what kind of "anointed one" are you expecting/desiring? What do you want/need Jesus to be, and how does that fit with Jesus' self-revelation to his cousin (per Luke) John? I recognize it's challenging given how we know how the story turns out. Yet the question is still important and useful: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another", the question reflecting our own hopes, the answer, Jesus' self-understanding.

Thank you for your witness to God's mission in the person of Jesus through the passion and purpose of the Holy Spirit and for your witness to God's Way in the world as you love God and neighbor and yourself, and for your presence in the Community Presbyterian Church.

Blessings and Be Well...

Timm

Sunday morning worship begins at 10am weekly in the sanctuary.

The texts for preaching during December are:

Dec 4	2 nd Sunday of Advent	Psalm 72/Isaiah 11.1-10	"What Is To Come?"
Dec 11	3 rd Sunday of Advent	Luke 1.46-53/Matt. 11.2-11	"What Is God Doing?"
Dec 18	4 th Sunday of Advent	Psalm 80/Matt.1.18-25	"God With Us"
Dec 24	Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9.2-7/Luke 2.1-20	"Do Not Be Afraid"
Dec 25	Christmas Day	John 1.1-14	"Grace Upon Grace"

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship

Christmas Eve worship will be held at 4pm on Saturday, December 24th in the sanctuary. If you are able, please come ready to share your voice in song and celebration!

Christmas Day worship will be held at 10am in the Fellowship Hall around tables in a more casual context. Feel free to come to worship in your Christmas PJ's to share stories and memories of what Christmas means in our lives. Please bring a plate of cookies to share!

An Invitation to be Transformed: Dwelling In The Word

On Sundays from 9-9.40am, you are invited to come to the gathering space to reflect on the texts that will be preached during the worship service that morning and are a part of the "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Advent Study. Please bring your copy of the study with you and the desire to listen, learn, and be transformed! If you did not receive a copy of the study/devotional in the mail, additional copies are available in the sanctuary.

An Invitation to be Transformed: The First Christmas

During these seasons of Advent and Christmas, you are invited to participate in a book read/discussion of **The First Christmas**. There are two opportunities to gather, on Sundays, following worship from 11.30-12.30 and Wednesdays from 9.30-10.30am. Copies of this book are available in the sanctuary. If you are able, please come to listen, learn, and be transformed!

Timm High Contact Information

Mobile Phone: 814.873.1910

Email: timhigh27@gmail.com

Thanks Be To God To...And For...

Members and friends of CPC who as disciples faithfully share their presence and presents supporting God's work individually and corporately through CPC!

Members and Friends who have supported CPC financially during 2022!

Everyone who contributed to the Peacemaking Offering of the PCUSA and to God for how we will be led to share our 25% of the offering.

Another season of Thanksgiving shared with friends and family.

All who have so genuinely helped Kim Emery and Timm High settle into CPC and Lac du Flambeau. Both of us are very grateful for each and every one of you.

The season of Advent, a time to spiritually prepare for Jesus' birth!

Bill Raduege for his six years of service as an Elder on the Session!

Those who participated in the Sunday morning reflection on the texts for the morning, and those who participated in the Parables Study on Wednesday mornings, September through November.

The persons who helped decorate the church building for Advent/Christmas.

The Season Of Christmas

Most of us are familiar with the Christmas Carol "The Twelve Days Of Christmas", an English Carol first published in an illustrated children's book *Mirth Without Mischief* in the late 1700's. In our lifetime, radio stations and other organizations have used the theme to gift folks in December.

What such a celebration glosses over is that the Twelve Days of Christmas—the season of Christmas—begins on Christmas Day and extends through Epiphany, January 6th of each year, not on December 13th. Once we have made our way through Advent and Christmas Eve, we will begin celebrating the Season of Christmas on Sunday, December 25th!

SESSION NOTES FROM November 11, 2022

Notes from November 11, 2022, Session Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Pastor Timm at 10:00 with an opening prayer.

The budget has met our expenses for the past month, and we have a slight increase in our total reserves.

Services for Christmas Eve have not been finalized yet. Christmas Morning Services will be in the Fellowship Hall.

The cooktop and garbage disposal will be replaced in the Manse. The church will pay for it and Pastor Timm and Kim will reimburse the church as a gift.

The session will meet on December 8, 2022, for a four-hour meeting to discuss what our purpose and vision are.

Next session meeting will be Friday, December 15, 2022. Meeting adjourned at 12:35 with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy LaBarge, Clerk of Session

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Janeen Clarke	Dec. 1
Judy Loertscher	Dec. 3
Tonna Applegren	Dec. 12

Anniversaries

Paul and Jan Hope	Dec. 11
Bill and Barb Streng	Dec. 16

Scripture readings for December

December 4 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 11: 1-10 and Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12

December 11 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 35:1-10 and Ps. 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matt. 11:2-11

December 18 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Isa. 7:10-16 and Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; Rom. 1:1-7; Matt. 1:18-25

December 25 - Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day

Dawn: Isa. 62:6-12 and Ps. 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7)8-20

Day: Isa. 52:7-10 and Ps. 98; Heb 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

Special Dates for December

2 nd Sunday in Advent	Dec. 4
3 rd Sunday in Advent	Dec. 11
4 th Sunday in Advent	Dec. 18
First Day of Winter	Dec. 21
Christmas Eve	Dec. 24
Christmas Day	Dec. 25
New Years Eve/Watch Night	Dec. 31

WE ARE IN DIRE NEED OF PEOPLE TO SIGN UP FOR:

GREETER AND ANNOUNCER

LITURGIST

USHERS

COFFEE HOUR

HOPE

People think hope is the desire and wish for good and positive outcomes.

We hope for a decent winter.

We hope for gas and food prices go down.

We hope our latest medical test have positive outcomes.

These desires are not hope, they are wishes. Wishes for tangible things.

The bible teaches us that with God nothing is impossible. We need to be patient, and we need to pray. True hope is a part of faith. It is the part of knowing that we must look at the unseen and not the seen. For the seen is temporary. The unseen is eternal.

We need to be joyful in hope, and faithful to prayer, for Those who truly believe in him will have eternal life.

When Paul prayed, he said..." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." This prayer clearly exemplifies Paul's belief that hope is of God and to receive hope one must trust in God.

CPC Missions Report (December 2022)

Your Missions committee is committed to working with the CPC congregation to use our collective time, talents and treasures to serve God. The committee is charged by the Session with distributing the "treasure" earned by Attic volunteers who share their own time and talents to make the Attic so successful.

Our first round of "treasure" was used to support:

- Caritas (serves Vilas/Oneida Counties clients with urgent financial need/referrals)
 - Scholarships for the local Girls on the Run chapter and two LdF college students
 - Presbyterian disaster Relief Fund to aid Ukrainian refugees.
- (For a total of \$4,000.00)

In August the committee sent financial support to:

- Additional scholarships to students going on to trade professions
 - Food pantries in Arborvitae and Boulder Junction
 - Frederick Place (provides temporary, emergency housing to our homeless neighbors)
 - Pastime Club (adult day care program housed at Ascension Lutheran in Minocqua-offering programming for people with dementia)
 - Headwaters, Inc. (non-profit community based agency serving people with special needs)
- (For a total of \$3, 500.00)

Tune into the January CPC newsletter to learn more details about the Missions Committee's final round of spending! Our grateful thanks to the Attic Thrift Store for 100% of our funding. If you see a member of the Attic Team, be sure to say THANK YOU!

Questions? Comments? Please talk with Jillanne Consie, Kim Johnson, Ralph Kerler, Jo Mayeau.

