

# CIRCLE TIMES

January 2022

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.

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[@upchurchsilverbay](http://www.facebook.com/upchurchsilverbay)

## January Text & Titles

**January 2** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 1: 1-9

Title: *The Light Still Shines*

**January 23** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 4:14-21

Title: *A Line in the Sand*

**January 9** – Epiphany

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

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

Title: *Fright, Time, & Joy*

**January 30** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Title: *A Dim View*

**January 16** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 2:1-11



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

*The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.*  
- Zephaniah 3:17-18a

It doesn't happen often that I find myself surprised while preaching. I'm not referring to being surprised when someone stays awake during the sermon or when the fly flies into my mouth (actually that has *not* happened but there has been a close call). No, what I'm referring to is when in the midst of a sermon I find myself surprised at what I am saying.

I realize that may sound odd since one would reasonably figure I know what I am going to say before I step into the pulpit. For the most part, I do. I won't bore you with how I prepare for a sermon except to say that it does take a bit of time and effort to be prepared for the moment of stepping into a pulpit. I've come to regard this moment as a relational moment. What I mean by that phrase is that for me any given sermon is about my relationship with God (whom I hope and pray is present in my engagement with scripture), my relationship with the people gathered before me, and the relationship of the gathered people with God. Your presence and how open you are to God's presence and how open I am really does matter on any given Sunday. All of which is to say that a sermon can be a bit of a fluid situation for me and can lead to moments of surprise (and maybe for you also).

My recent surprise came at the beginning of December when our text was from Zephaniah 3:14-20. I had planned to highlight the above verses during the message but it wasn't until the moment I read them did the image of God looking at us in our everyday situations and rejoicing in who we are really hit home. If you were there you might have heard me ask, "Do you think God looked at you rolling out of bed this morning and said, 'Wow, look at him! I can't believe I created him.'" Or, "Look at her going about her day – she's really something!" While the chuckles that followed didn't surprise me, what did was the image of God looking at us and saying "Wow." I hadn't planned on saying the above lines, they came to me as we moved through Zephaniah's proclamation and I trust it was the Holy Spirit directing me down that path.

It remains a surprising thought for me. In all my years I'm not sure I've ever taken the prophet's words to heart. The idea of the LORD GOD Almighty rejoicing over me, over you, with gladness and loud singing – it is a quite a thought. It is a blessed thought.

If we pull this out of scripture and only focus on this particular truth we can end up with a skewed view wherein God becomes a doting parent who allows his/her children to do anything they want. God rejoicing over me doesn't mean that God either blesses everything I do (whether it be true to the Divine call or not) or that God simply ignores those times when I wander and end up in sin. The life of faith is a constant call to turn back to the Lord's grace and steadfast love.

That said, the call to turn back to God, the call to repentance, must be understood in the light of Zephaniah's proclamation (a proclamation we find in other places within scripture), which is the revelation of God's utter delight that we walk this earth. Zephaniah tells us the truth – God rejoices in the fact you are alive. All of which begs the question, is this your understanding of how God considers you? Or, do you tend to believe that God is basically angry towards you? Or, maybe indifferent towards you?

What you believe concerning how God regards you makes a significant difference for

Continued from page 2

your faith and, thus, for your life. I've encountered folks through the years who either believe, or just assume, God is basically angry with them or God simply doesn't care. From this assumption, these beleaguered individuals come to see God sending Jesus to the earth – the LORD taking on the mantle of humanity – as simply a way to prevent God from destroying the earth. All the while the witness of Zephaniah, and the famous words of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world . . .", tells us a radically different story. Our God, who knew us before we were born and who seeks to welcome us into a life eternal, rejoices that we are alive today and desires us to have that same delight in his presence in our lives.

As we begin this new calendar year, let me encourage you to reflect on this truth. I challenge you to start this year, indeed start each day, by uttering a prayer of thanks that God rejoices in you and to keep that truth before you on whatever path you walk as you begin 2022.

Blessings,  
Paul

### House of Love Update

The House of Love 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.

In this past year our House of Love committee here at church (Lynn Anderson, Deanne Reiten, Cindy Tackett, Dale Pederson, and Pastor Paul) have been working to further our partnership. We have been grateful for your outpouring of support for this mission and we were excited to take an important step last month in sponsoring a child at the mission for 2022. This means we are assured that in the coming year there will be funding to support a child's spiritual, physical, and emotional needs. We are currently waiting on information and pictures of the young person we'll be supporting and praying for in the year ahead.

As Christmas approached the committee decided the children should receive something from us. The cost of shipping presents is prohibitive so what we decided upon was to sponsor a Christmas party and presents. This was done by sending funds to the mission to provide a party and presents for all at the mission as well as sending personal greetings to each child and staff member through Christmas cards. Lynn Anderson took charge and the committee created handmade cards for all. They received our cards and were able to have a memorable party, which you can see in the pictures below.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support. We look forward to seeing how the Lord will bless the House of Love through our partnership in the year ahead.



# UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 14, 2021 6:00 pm

**ATTENDEES:** Michael Osmundson, Lynn Anderson, Dale Pederson, Allison Packard, Ed Maki, Serine Ege, Philip Christman, Terry Eggum, Ruth Eggum, Eileen Scaringi (Zoom), Angie Goutermont (Zoom), Pastor Paul.

Chairperson Terry Eggum called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Pastor Paul opened in prayer.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None

M/M/S by Mike Osmundson/Philip Christman to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

**TREASURERS'S REPORT:**

Checking Account: \$31,157.89      Memorial Fund: \$27,400.83  
Window Fund: \$157.02      House of Love: \$7,570.84      AmazonSmile: \$270.29  
Checking SS: \$2,667.55      YTD Food Shelf: \$920.00  
YTD Income: \$89,816.81  
YTD Expense: (\$88,128.49)  
YTD Total: \$1,688.32

M/M/S by Philip Christman/Ed Maki to approve the Treasurer's report from November, 2021 for audit. Motion carried.

**DIACONATE REPORT:** Lynn Anderson reported that Communion will be held on January 9, rather than the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and it will be by Intinction. Forty items were left on the Mitten Tree and donated to the Salvation Army. Doyle Gilson's name has been ordered for the Memorial Plaque.

**TRUSTEE REPORT:** Philip Christman reported that they are working on a plan for selling the parsonage. They also discussed plans for the "coming year and beyond". He also commented on the Trustee's accomplishments for 2021.

**CHRISTIAN ED REPORT:** Eileen Scaringi and Angie Goutermont met and decided to keep Sunday School going "as is", and postpone any plans for developing a youth group. Faith @8<sup>th</sup> continues at the school with Cooper and Pastor. After the Advent study, there will be a break for Christmas. In January, Bible study will resume with a study on the Sermon on the Mount.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** There is presently no one in the hospital. There was a service today at Care-free Living. We will try and go back every 4-6 weeks. Mary Ann Hall has moved back to Carefree from Two Harbors. The student from the high school who comes to clean tables has been here once. Pastor met with the United Methodist tech rep concerning live-streaming our services. The Trustees will have Zito move the microphone to the soundboard. Mike Osmundson will check with Zito about doing this. Terry Eggum, Lynn Anderson and Pastor Paul got the year-end letter out.

**OLD BUSINESS:** We will continue with the "Masks strongly recommended" policy now in place.

**NEW BUSINESS:** M/M/S by Serine Ege/Ruth Eggum to submit the proposed budget for 2022 to the congregation for review and approval in the annual report. The annual meeting will be held January 30, following the worship service. Lynn needs the yearly reports by January 6 so the Annual Report can be distributed by January 18. Mike will ask Beth Smuk to do the annual audit.

The next Council meeting will be January 11, 2022 at 6:00pm.

M/M/S by Allison Packard/Philip Christman to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Pastor Paul closed in prayer and recited a poem written by Lynn Anderson.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Eggum, Council Secretary

December 2021 Council Minutes will be approved at the January 2022 meeting.



Parish Nurse Notes  
Dedie Moore R.N.  
218-220-2048

"...they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes...and understand with their heart and turn---and I would heal them.' But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear."

Matthew 13:15b-16

## January Notes

January is glaucoma awareness month. Of course, our eyes open to see is not just a physical ability, but our hearts and minds need to be open. And still we see through a glass darkly.

Vision loss from glaucoma can, however, be prevented by early detection and treatment. Glaucoma is a group of diseases that damage the eye's optic nerve and can result in vision loss. Often there are no symptoms. It is the second leading cause of blindness world-wide.

People at increased risk include: African Americans over 40yo, all people over 60yo, anyone with a family history of glaucoma, and those with diabetes. Anyone in a high risk group and anyone over the age of 40 should get comprehensive dilated eye exams. Prescription eye drops can stop glaucoma from progressing. Talk with family members to learn of family history of glaucoma, and to share if you have glaucoma.

Maintaining a healthy weight, controlling blood pressure, remaining physically active and avoiding smoking all help to avoid vision loss from glaucoma.

These last few years have had many reminders that we are not in control, and how much we all need connections with others. Help us to open our eyes to the power of God, to remember Who is in control, and to open our eyes to the needs around us.

Whenever COVID-19 slows down I hope to have the Health Ministry Team meet in person. The North Shore Mental Health Group meets on Zoom the third Tuesday at 7. Group Living with Anxiety and Depression, a confidential peer support group, meets on Zoom the second and fourth Mondays at 6:30pm. Check out the NSMHG Facebook page for resources. Contact me at [dediedavid@yahoo.com](mailto:dediedavid@yahoo.com), or [nsmentalhealth@gmail.com](mailto:nsmentalhealth@gmail.com) for information and links to meetings.

Here's to 2022!

### **WOMEN'S GUILD :**

*All ladies of the church are welcomed as Guild members.  
The Guild meets at 1:00 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month.*

**Note: There will be no Guild Meeting in January**

**The UPC Noon Luncheons are cancelled until further notice.**

**Cards for Sale:** Beautiful recycled greeting cards are sold in the Fellowship Room. Please put your 50 cents in the tin box behind the card display. **At this time, we have a large supply of your donated cards for recycling, so please wait with your card donations. Everyone can participate in our recycling efforts!** U.P. Church collects **Campbell & Our Family** product labels (bar code portion) and **pull tabs from aluminum cans** are sent to the Ronald McDonald House. Donation containers are on the table of cards as you enter the Fellowship Hall.



## OUR CIRCLE

"OUR CIRCLE" is a news article that features a member or friend of U.P. Church. The article is based on conversations and written answers to questions. We hope you will enjoy learning about the folks who are familiar participants in our church life.



Jean Marie Marshall Wagner (in her own words)

I was born in 1947 and raised in Southwestern Iowa in a small town named after the biblical Mt. Tabor. It was a bustling center for farmers and cattlemen and Saturday night "going to town" was a big deal. My father, Vernon Marshall, worked as the County Recorder and my mom, Margaret Lee, was his clerk at the courthouse. I remember going to work with my dad on his half-day Saturdays. If I was very good, I could use some old stamps, ink pads and paper forms to play "office." I often think about his crisp, white dress shirts that he wore every day to work. When I was little and he would pick me up, I loved the "pleasant" smell. My mom had to have spent the equivalent of years washing, starching, and ironing those shirts.

As the middle of three daughters (all 5 years apart) I worked very hard to be the favorite. It was simply a matter of survival. My mom always said I was "easy to please and a very happy child." I do know that even as a small child I was aware of all of the "magical" things life had to offer. At Christmas I would scooch up to the tree because the holder had these fabulous lights that bubbled and I felt those were the most magical things I'd ever seen.

My childhood was spent being part of a large group of neighborhood kids and, on weekends after our chores were done, several of us rode our horses for miles over the countryside and along dirt lanes. I have no idea what we found to talk about on those slow, easy rides but we ambled along outdoors with our horses, who were really more like pets than livestock. I remember one such bare-back ride where I leaned back across my little black Morgan horse's rump and actually fell asleep. Her name was Beauty and she just stopped and did a little grazing until I woke up.

We walked to school, hung out afterwards at the candy store...it was pretty great.

I was a band and choir member and did the basketball thing. My true love was barrel racing with my Quarter Horse, Peggy, and riding in the local park with my two best girlfriends. I was a rodeo queen candidate representing our town in one of the biggest mid-western rodeos. (I didn't win).

After high school graduation, I attended a community college for a year and a half and gravitated toward my interest in psychology and communication. It was pretty idyllic and safe and reminds me of the show "Happy Days."

During the summer of my sophomore year, I met my future husband, Denny Wagner during a vacation in Park Rapids, MN, got engaged and married that next February. We were married in St. Paul by the same minister (and in the same church) as Denny's parents and grandparents. I thought that was a good sign and it must have worked: we were married for 43 years.

After our wedding, I went to work for Northwestern Bell as a service representative in downtown Minneapolis until Denny took a lab job in Silver Bay with Reserve Mining. After working for telephone companies in Duluth and Two Harbors, I went to work at Reserve Mining as an administrative assistant. I read tons of paperwork and retired in 2009.

Our children, Matthew (1973) and Lee Ann (1977), graduated from Wm Kelley H.S. and went on to additional schooling-Matt as a chief boiler operator and Lee Ann with her degree in psychology.

Continued from page 6

During my working years, I enjoyed taking University of Phoenix online classes, plus classes at U of W, Superior; was on several local volleyball teams; and taught Sunday school. We packed the family up each weekend in the summer and headed to our cabin up the Sawbill Trail in Schroeder. Our children were real "north-woods kids" with no electricity or running water, we used an out-house. There was lots of lake time, swimming and fishing-sunny days and saunas at night followed by cut throat games of cribbage. It was wonderful times for our whole family. On Sunday morning we'd curl up and read Bible stories. When Matt was in army boot camp and the subject of religion came up, he won "knew most Bible stories" hands down.

Denny worked as an Environmental engineer for Northshore Mining Company for 42 years, and I joined him in 1989. He became ill with cancer that began as just a sore throat, and went valiantly through many treatments and surgeries before passing away in 2010. Working at Northshore Mining was the basis of many close friendships that continue to this day. My girlfriends and I have enjoyed many adventures over the years and have fond memories of being together.

Upon retirement, I began working as a random drug testing technician contractor for Northshore Mining in Silver Bay and Babbitt. It's a great part time job and although it doesn't always make me very popular, I enjoy my time visiting with the employees.

After Dennis passed away, a good friend of many years and I started "keeping time." Donald Runberg, a nice Finnish-Swedish-Danish man and I have enjoyed the past ten years traveling, living at Lax Lake and enjoying our partial retirements. We laugh a lot! We vacation at our home in Texas during winter months and have great fun with our new, southern friends. We feel we live a blessed life and we love being able to live among and enjoy long time friends in Silver Bay and Finland.

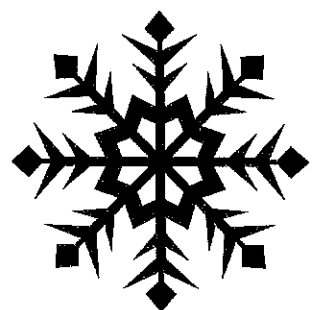
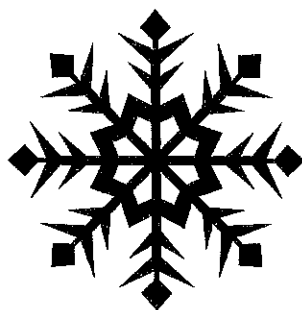
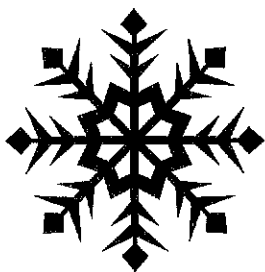


**Annual Meeting**

**30 January 2022**

**11:30 am**

Please mark your calendar for this important meeting as we remember God's faithfulness to us in 2021 and look to how we will be led in 2022. The meeting will immediately follow our Sunday morning worship.



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-2

Prayer: Gracious Lord, I pray for your light, your star, to shine upon my life that I may see your presence in my days and follow where you are leading. Amen.

### **The week of January 9<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: Psalm 36:5-7

Prayer: Faithful God, help me to remember there is nowhere I can go that is beyond your grace. May I find my refuge in your steadfast love. Amen.

### **The week of January 16<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: Psalm 19:1-5

Prayer: Creation is telling of your glory, Holy God. Unstop my ears so I may hear that glorious song of praise and join in the chorus of wonder and awe. Amen.

### **The week of January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Scripture: I Corinthians 13:12-13

Prayer: Loving God, I struggle to see that my vision and understanding of the world is dimmed. Forgive me and grant me the faith to stand on your love. Amen.

### **The week of January 30<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: Psalm 138:5-8

Prayer: God of glory, thank you that you walk with me, even in the midst of trouble, and that your steadfast love will deliver the lowly like me. Amen.

**2022**  
Happy New Year!



# What's



# up now with U.P. folks!!!

**Keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers:**

Hilda Carlson and MaryAnn Hall live at Carefree Living (36 Bell Circle).

Phyllis Sandmann, Pat Viola and Ed Berglund are at home in the Silver Bay, MN Veteran's Home.(56 Outer Drive)

Ellen and Karsten Hogenson, Ray and Phyllis Pearrow, Ray Burge, Ruth Koepke, Dave and Kay Colby, Irene Johnson, Sandy Wakefield, MaryAnn Hall and Philip Christman of our congregation as they deal with health-related changes and recoveries.

All the caregivers.

**January Birthdays**

Margaret Ness	5
Leona McMahon	11
Chad Smuk	11
Brenda Larson	13
Marlin Bakken	16
Deanne Reiten	17
Peggy Osmundson	22
Eileen Scaringi	28

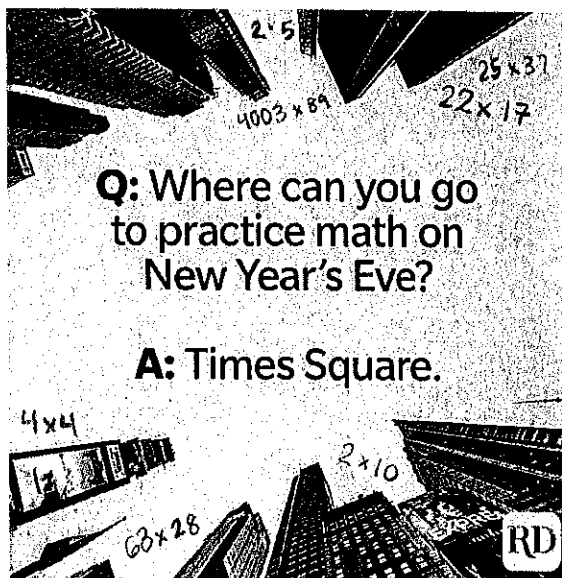


**January Anniversaries**

None in January

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study**

Join us on Wednesdays at 9:30 am for companionship as we explore the wonders of the Bible. Beginning January 19 and ending February 23rd our study is: *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginners Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven.*



**Q: Where can you go to practice math on New Year's Eve?**

**A: Times Square.**


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Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and sign up with your Amazon password or create a new account with a new password. You can choose our church as your charity. After you sign up, when you shop on [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) you will be set up to automatically donate 0.5% to our church. The donations can really add up.

**FRIENDSHIP**

Those are our best friends  
in whose presence we are  
able to be our best selves.

# January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Sunday School 9:15 am Sunday Worship 10:30am	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Sunday School 9:15 am Sunday Worship 10:30am	10 GLAD 6:30 pm Zoom	11 Board 5:00 pm Council 6:00 pm pm ▲	12 Prayer Shawl 2:00 pm	13	14	15
16 Sunday School 9:15 am Sunday Worship 10:30am	17	18 NSMHG Meeting 7:00 pm On Zoom	19 Wed Morn. Bible Study 9:30 am Faith@8 <sup>th</sup>	20	21	22
23 Sunday Scl. 9:15 am Sunday Worship 10:30am	24 GLAD 6:30 pm Zoom	25 Carefree Living Worship Service 3:00 pm	26 Wed Morn. Bible Study 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 2:00 pm	27	28	29
30 Sun. School Sun. Worship Annual Meeting	31			Pastor Paul in office Tues-Wed - 9:00-5:00. Lynn in office Wed & Thurs 1:30 -4:00 pm		

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