

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2024

Dear Members and Friends of Hope Community Presbyterian Church,

As we transition from the crisp winds of late winter to the budding promises of early spring, our hearts are filled with anticipation at Hope Community Presbyterian Church. Nestled in the picturesque landscapes of northern Minnesota, we find ourselves poised at the threshold of renewal, both in nature and in spirit.

This March marks a significant season in our liturgical calendar, beginning with the observance of Palm/Passion Sunday on March 24th. As we commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, we are reminded of the humility and grace embodied in his journey towards sacrifice.

Holy Week follows closely, a time of reflection and reverence, leading us through the poignant narratives of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Through the numerous scripture readings from the lectionary this month, we immerse ourselves in the profound depths of Jesus' love and sacrifice, drawing strength and inspiration for our own spiritual journeys.

And finally, Easter Sunday dawns upon us with the radiant promise of resurrection and new life. As we gather in joyous celebration, we are reminded of the transformative power of hope and redemption, echoing throughout the ages.

In the spirit of this season, let us embrace the lessons of humility, sacrifice, and renewal that lie at the heart of our faith. Let us come together as a community, supporting and uplifting one another on our respective paths of growth and transformation.

May this March be a time of deepening faith, abundant blessings, and boundless hope for each and every one of us.

Peace and blessings,
Rev. Wendy

Sunday Lectionary Readings for March 2024

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
3/03/2024	Ex. 20: 1-17	Psalm 19	1 Cor. 1: 18-25	John 2: 13-22
3/10/2024	Numbers 21: 4-9	Psalm 107: 1-3 & 17-22	Ephesians 2: 1-10	John 3: 14-21
3/17/2024	Jer. 31: 31-34	Psalm 51: 1-12 or Psalm 119: 9-16	Hebrews 5: 5-10	John 12:20-33
3/24/2024 Palm Sunday	Isa. 50: 4-9a	Psalm 118: 1-2 & 19-29 Psalm 31: 9-16	Phil. 2: 5-11	Mark 11:1-11 or John 12: 2-16 Mark 14:1- 15:47 or Mark 15: 1-39 (40-47)
3/25/2024 Monday of Holy Week	Isa. 42 1-9	Psalm 36: 5-11	Hebrews 9: 1-15	John 12: 1-11
3/26/2024 Tuesday of Holy Week	Isa. 49: 1-7	Psalm 71: 1-14	1 Cor. 1: 18-31	John 12: 20-36
3/27/2024 Wednesday of Holy Week	Isa. 50: 4-9a	Psalm 70	Hebrews 12: 1-3	John 13: 21-32
3/28/2024 Maundy Thursday	Ex. 12: 1-4 (5-10) & 11-14	Psalm 116: 1-2 &12-19	1 Cor. 11: 23-26	John 13 1-17 &31b -35

Sunday Lectionary Readings for March 2024 (Continued)

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
3/29/2024 Good Friday	Isa. 52:13 – 53:12	Psalm 22	Heb. 10: 16-25 or Heb 4: 14-16 & 5: 7-9	John 18: 1 – 19:42
3/30/2024 Great Vigil of Easter	Gen.1:1-2:4a Gen. 7:1-5 & 11-18 & 8:6-18 & 9:8-13 Gen. 22:1-18 Ex. 14:10-31 & 15:20-21 Ex 15:1b-6 & 11-13 & 17-18 Prov. 8:1-8 & 19-21 & 9:4b-6 Isa. 12:2-6 Isa. 61:1-4 & 9-11	Psalm 236:1-9 & 23-26 Psalm 46 Psalm 16 Psalm 19 Psalm 42 & 43 Psalm 143 Psalm 98 Psalm 114	Romans 6: 3-11	John 20: 1-18
3/31/2024 Easter Day	Isa. 25: 6-9 Isa. 25: 6-9	Psalm 118: 1-2 & 14-24 Psalm 114	1 Cor. 15: 1-11 or Acts 10: 34-43 1 Cor.5: 6b-8	John 20: 1-8 or Mark 16: 1-8 Luke 24: 13-49

Happy March Birthdays

5- Pat Claesson 16- Hayden Skalko
9- Klara DeVries 21- Milo Kroll
11- Nikolas Jesch 29- Craig Stevens
14- Kay Hoelscher 31- Monica Marks
14- Becky Peterson

Session Highlights

- Session approved the 2023 Annual Report and the 2023 Statistical Report that is submitted to the Presbytery.
- Discussions are beginning on the need to convert from steam heat in the next couple years.
- An Administrative Commission through the Presbytery is in the process of being assembled to move forward with putting the CE building up for sale.

Church Office Hours

Rev. Wendy is changing her office hours to Monday through Wednesday 12-3pm. Dawn will keep her hours as Tuesday through Thursday 12-3pm. So the church office will now be open Monday through Thursday 12-3pm.

Lenten Meals and Discussions

On Ash Wednesday, we began weekly 5:30 pm Lenten soup meals with discussions about a future vision for our church. We will have 3 more meals/discussions in March: 3/6, 3/13, and 3/20. All are welcome to participate in the fellowship and discussions!

Easter Lilies

Easter lilies will be \$11 this year. If you would like to purchase one, please let the office know who they are in honor/memory of. Checks can be made out to HCPC.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Lent is the time that the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering is collected. This offering is made by Presbyterians around the world to provide relief from natural disasters, hunger, poverty and oppression. You may use the special OGHS envelopes at the church, or checks made out to HCPC with OGHS in the memo can be mailed to the church.

Holy Week

We are invited to participate in Holy Week services at Peace United Methodist Church in Virginia. They will be offering a Maundy Thursday service on 3/28 at 6pm and a Good Friday service on 3/29 at 6pm. Our Easter Sunday service will take place on 3/31 at 10am.

Congregations Caring for the Earth

After taking a break for a couple years, Congregations Caring for the Earth will begin meeting again to resume efforts to work together to care for our common home. The first meeting will take place in our fellowship hall at 10am on Thursday, March 14. All are welcome to join us!

Souper Bowl of Caring

A huge, grateful THANK YOU to all who so generously and kindly donated to our Souper Bowl of Caring project! We raised over \$350 to donate to the Salvation Army Supper Club. We really appreciate your help and thoughtfulness. Thank you from CE.



Jazz Sunday!

We had another fun Jazz Sunday on Feb. 11 to help usher in the season of Lent. Sue Stevens did a great job of assembling musicians and getting an article in the Mesabi Tribute to publicize the service. The jazz musicians this year included: Angie Cantlon (keyboard), Bill Boyce (drums), Larry Salo (trumpet), Jeff Kroll (trumpet), Stephanie Wichlacz (clarinet), Milo Kroll (clarinet), Dawn Trexel (flute), Skip Ferris (tuba), Daniel Melby (trombone), Ryan Freitas (alto sax), Sue Stevens (tenor sax), and Steve Kniefel (bari sax). The musicians are already looking forward to Jazz Sunday 2025, which will be on March 2. Here's a quote that helped inspire Sue to assemble a jazz band in 2023: *"Jazz music is an audible expression of life in community. We listen to one another, build off of what we hear, and sometimes move in unexpected directions. We are more together than the sum of our individual selves. We serve each other and our creator. These attributes of Christian community are also true to jazz, so it should not surprise us that jazz is a wonderful form of worship music."* — Pastor Don Wink, Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Barrington, IL





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH NEWS



March 2024



Elementary Sunday School

March 3

John 2:13-22

Jesus cleans out the temple.

We learn Jesus does not want us to follow Him for the power He has or for what we can gain from Him, but because of our love, faith, and trust in Him.

March 10

John 3:14-21

For God so loved the world he gave his only son to save us. God loves all the people of the world.

March 17

John 12:20-33

We learn the importance of Jesus as priceless and valuable treasure as he sacrificed himself for us. Know the Bible is there for us to learn about God and Jesus and to show us when we are doing something wrong.

March 24

Palm Sunday

John 12:12-16

Jesus is a humble King.

He rides in on a donkey as the people honor him with palm branches and coats on the ground. Knowing what has done for us we should want to offer ourselves to Him with our time, talents, and devotion.



March 31

Easter

John 20:1-18 / Mark 16:1-8

Jesus is alive!

Hallelujah

He is risen.

Love & accept one another as God loves us.



Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank so much to all who donated to this year's Souper Bowl of Caring. We were able to donate a wonderful \$359 to the Salvation Army Supper club.



One Great Hour of Sharing

Lenten Fish Banks will be collected on Palm Sunday March 24.

They may be brought to church, or dropped off at the CE Building any time.

Thanks to all

Ages 3-4

March 24, 2024 - Philippines 2 to 11

Jesus Christ is Lord

Remember Jesus' attitude in our relationships with one another.

What Would Jesus Do?

Find and count WWJD in the picture. How many? 3 4 5 or 6?



Birthday Corner

Hayden Skalko March 16

Milo Kroll March 21



Christian Education Calendar

Sunday March 3	Sunday March 10	Sunday March 17	Palm Sunday March 24	Easter Sund March 31
John 2:13-22 Jesus cleans out the temple.	John 3:14-21 God gave his only Son	John 12:20-33 The importance of Jesus	John:12:12-16 The King rides in on a donkey	Mark 8:31-38 He is risen. He lives! Hallelujah

