

Lamplighter

Randall Presbyterian Church ~ Randall, MN

December 2021

Christmas Joy

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Message from Michael

Shortly before Christi and I returned to Phoenix in 2001, she was diagnosed with a benign tumor in her neck. When the doctor in Greeley, Colorado, learned we were moving to Phoenix, he told us that if he had her condition, the surgeon at the Barrows Institute in Phoenix is who he would want as his surgeon (divine coincidence?). We later learned that this surgeon was internationally known and had once been specially selected to operate on a princess from Saudi Arabia.

Christi condition required two surgeries, followed by nearly 12 weeks of wearing a neck brace.

Financially it was not the best time for us to go through something like that. We had just moved and brought debt with us, Thomas and Robin were six and seven years old, and Christi was now unable to work.

Fortunately, insurance covered most of the hundreds of thousands of medical fees (no, that is not a typo). What was not covered by insurance, the Presbyterian Board of Pensions Assistance Program did.

Donations you make to the Christmas Joy Offering help support the BofP Assistance Program, as well as Presbyterian schools and colleges. If you'd like more information, there are pamphlets on the table in the entryway, as well as Christmas Joy offering envelopes.

It is very likely that your past support for the Christmas Joy offering directly helped my family 21 years ago, and we thank you. Be sure to pick up an envelope for this year's offering, which will be collected on December 19. (Donations can also be made online at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/cj999999/>)

Michael

Christmas at Randall

Hartwell Christmas Open House December 5, 4:00—8:00 p.m.

The Hartwells invite friends and family to their home for a time to take a break from the busyness of the season and enjoy some good food and conversation. Everyone is invited! There will be plenty to eat and drink. The address is 59 Edgewater Dr, Little Falls. There is also a Zoom option. So, if you can't make it, Zoom in and say "Hi!"

Zoom Advent Bible Study Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Randall Presbyterian Church is joining Presbyterians from St. Cloud, Baxter, Foley, and Windom. The study will be on Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, & 22.

Movie Night

Saturday, December 11, 6:00 p.m.

Bring a snack and join the congregation for a family friendly Christmas movie.

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 19, 10:00 a.m..

Come enjoy the show as the children and youth of Randall Presbyterian Church present their Christmas program as part of worship.

Caroling Caravan

Sunday, December 19, 5:00 p.m.

We will meet at the church and then caravan to different homes to sing carols. Everyone is encouraged to join the parade.

Food Shelf

December 30, 4:30 p.m.

Continue the Christmas Spirit by serving at the Food Shelf! Contact Michael or Terry if you can help.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24, 5:00 p.m.

Join Randall Presbyterian Church for a traditional Christmas Eve service with carols, scripture and candle lighting.

Blue Christmas Service December 21, 6:00 p.m. (Online Only)

For many people, the holidays are difficult. It is important to name that sometimes hope, love, joy, and peace are distant feelings when we have encountered so much loss. A Blue Christmas, held on the longest night of the year, is a service acknowledging and remembering loved ones who are no longer with us. The service will be posted on Facebook and the church's website.

December Birthdays

Misty Selinski	December 9
Norman Fenske	December 12
Mitchell Magee	December 15
Dean Ganz	December 22
Sharon Thilquist	December 23
Nick Turner	December 25

*May God Bless Each of You &
May You Have a Happy Birthday*

Little Falls Care Center Birthday Party

Normally Randall Presbyterian Church members celebrate the November birthdays at the Little Falls Care Center. Because of the pandemic, the normal party couldn't happen. However, the church did provide a cake and birthday supplies for the residence. Thanks to Warren & Yvonne.

RANDALL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MINUTES OF SESSION – October 20, 2021

Members present: Terry Coffin, Jake Farrow, Christi Hartwell, Michael Lashinski, Chris Magee and Moderator Reverend Michael Hartwell. **Members excused:** Marlys Olson. **Members absent:** None.

Others present: None.

The regular meeting of the Session was called to order at 6:40 p.m. in the basement of the Randall Presbyterian Church by Moderator Reverend Michael Hartwell, who opened the meeting with prayer. Chris Magee joined the meeting via Zoom. A quick check in was also done to see how everyone was doing and any prayer concern updates.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the September 15, 2021 Session Meeting minutes was made by Jake Farrow, seconded by Michael Lashinski. Motion carried.

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Summary of the September 2021 Balance Sheet – Current Total Assets: \$162,339.06 (Checking: \$5,781.00, Savings: \$156,558.06). Motion to approve the September Treasurer reports was made by Christi Hartwell, seconded by Jake Farrow. Motion carried.

Reports:

- **Pastor's Report:** Thursday, September 16, Inventive Ministries Zoom Meeting; Perkins Bible Study, Little Falls; Presbytery Transformation Commission Zoom meeting; Thursday, September 23, Perkins Bible Study, Little Falls; Monday, September 27, Pastor Cohort Zoom; September 27, Faith Not Fear Zoom meeting; Thursday, September 30, Perkins Bible Study, Little Falls; Monday, October 4, Pastor Cohort; Tuesday, October 5, Inventive Ministries Zoom Meeting; Thursday, October 7, Perkins Bible Study, Little Falls; October 7, Randall Area Business Group, Randall; Monday, October 11, Pastor Cohort; October 11, Lakes Area/Crosslake Joint Meeting, Crosslake; Crosslake Session Meeting, Crosslake; Wednesday, October 13, Academy Board Zoom meeting; Thursday, October 14, Little Falls Area Ministerial Association, Little Falls; October 14, Pakistan Mission Project, St Cloud;

Vacation: September 28

Continuing Education: The Academy, November 20-21

Reverend Michael Hartwell officiated the graveside service for Mary Jo Evans, (non-member) on October 18, 2021 at the Minnesota State Veteran Cemetery at Camp Ripley.

- **Church Rolls and Register Report:** Phyllis C. Hoffman (member) passed away on Thursday, September 30, 2021. A memorial service was held on Monday, October 4, 2021 at Randall Presbyterian Church with the Reverend Michael Hartwell officiating. Interment service was held at Randall City Cemetery, Randall, Minnesota.
- **Worship/Membership/Mission Report:** Outdoor in-person worship continues, weather permitting, with an average of 35 attending. COVID-19 protocols have been relaxed for those fully vaccinated and for outdoor activities. Online worship will continue.

Communion was served on October 3, 2021

68 members; death of Phyllis C. Hoffman, September 30, 2021.

Monthly church mission is the Morrison County Food Shelf and the weekly church mission is Meals on Wheels.

- **Fellowship:** Morrison County Food Shelf on September 30, 2021 with four members from church volunteering. The family game and picnuck on September 26 was a hit! Thank you to all who helped make it successful.
- **Christian Education Report:** Sunday School started on October 10, there were thirteen children in attendance. Ages ranged from 2 – 11. Discussion and ideas for the Christmas pageant planned for December 19 have started.
- **Building/Maintenance Report:** There are still issues with periodic water in the basement. Michael Lashinski will call Ballou Plumbing and Heating to schedule a furnace check.

- **Presbytery:** Terry Coffin attended a Special Presbytery meeting on September 27 at First Presbyterian Church in Willmar. The meeting was called for the purpose of examining for ordination candidate Laura Messer, newly called pastor for First Presbyterian Church in Silver Lake.
- **Correspondence:** Received a service evaluation from EEI.
- **Deacon's Report:** Nothing to report.
 - Motion to approve the committee reports as received was made by Michael Lashinski, seconded by Chris Magee. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- a. Officer training – pended until COVID-19 restrictions have been fully lifted and it is safer to gather.
- b. Morrison County Food Shelf – only three volunteers are needed at this time until restrictions are lifted. October 28, 2021 will be our next night for volunteering. Everyone is invited to volunteer at the Food Shelf. Starting in October the new hours to work will be 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please contact Geri McLennan or Terry Coffin if you are interested.
- c. Church Mutual policy change: session reviewed three alternates for policy coverage changes to the current plan to reduce the significant increase for November 1, 2021. Session chose the option to increase the deductible from \$1,000.00 to \$2,500.00 and to change the coinsurance from 100% to 90%. This produced an approximate annual premium savings of \$444.00. Starting November 1, 2021, the deductible will be \$2,500.00, the coinsurance will be 90%. Estimated annual premium to be \$4,967.90. Waiting on final numbers from Church Mutual.
- d. Board of Pension agreement was submitted on October 1, 2021 with no changes.
- f. Fall clean-up – to be determined

New Business:

- a. COVID-19/Post COVID: At this time, we will continue with our current mask policy while indoors, which states recommended but not required. We will continue to monitor the COVID risk and if things worsen, we will need to reconsider changes to our policy.
- b. No deletions to the membership will be made to the Rolls and Register due to COVID-19, except for noting deaths in 2021.
- c. Appointed to the 2022 Budget committee are: Jake Farrow, Sue Klooster-Fenske and Pastor Michael Hartwell. A review of the budget categories will be assessed for changes.
- d. With the dropping temperatures, worship will now be indoors. Pastor Michael is interested in moving to live-streaming instead of pre-recorded online services. Extra help will be needed to assist with the monitoring of the camera, computer and other equipment for live-streaming. Additional equipment may be needed in the future.
- e. Kari Magee and Mary Skoog received a letter from Dr. S. G. Knight regarding "Coins for a Cause" donations. Motion to donate the balance of session designated funds to this cause was made by Michael Lashinski, seconded by Christi Hartwell. A notice will also go out to the congregation for any monetary donations they wish to make.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michael Lashinski, seconded by Jake Farrow. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. followed by prayers for the people and the Lord's Prayer led by Reverend Michael Hartwell.

Next Meeting date and time: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Terry L. Coffin
Clerk of Session