

Lamplighter

Randall Presbyterian Church ~ Randall, MN

January 2023



Message from Michael

Remembering
Your Baptism
Sunday, January 8

I don't remember my baptism. Like many Presbyterians, I was baptized as an infant at the First Presbyterian Church of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Though I don't remember it, my parents made vows promising to raise me and Micki, my twin sister, in the Christian faith. I made very similar vows at my confirmation when I became a member of Christ United Presbyterian Church in Phoenix. Members of Randall Presbyterian Church made similar vows when they joined this church.

Every time we participate in a baptismal service we are called to remember the vows we made, or the vows made for us at our own baptism.

When we remember our baptismal vows, we once again proclaim and reaffirm our faith in Jesus Christ. More than that, we acknowledge the continuing transforming power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We are continually being washed in the baptismal waters and renewed, or reborn, in Christ.

I believe Sunday, January 8, will be a very special service. During the service of worship we will remember the Baptism of Jesus Christ, but also, as a community of believers, remember and reaffirm our own baptism.

I hope you will join us.

Michael

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism
Ephesians 5:4-5

**Undecorate the Church
January 8, 2023
Following Worship**

Please plan to say a few minutes after worship to help put away all the Christmas Decorations.

**Annual Congregational Meeting
January 29, 2023
Following Worship**

The Annual Congregational Meeting will follow worship on January 29. Everyone is also invited to our monthly potluck and asked to bring a dish to share.

**The Presbytery of Minnesota
Invites all Elders and Deacons for
Officer Training.
January 21, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

You are invited to join us on Saturday, January 21st, from 10:00 - 3:00 at the Willmar Presbyterian Church for a day of training. Deb DeMeester, our Synod Director of Leadership Development, will be our keynote speaker in the morning. In the afternoon we will provide officer training for elders and deacons, and opportunity for all of our committees and commissions to have their first meeting of the year.

Lunch will be provided for this event. Please RSVP to Karen Lange at your earliest convenience so we can arrange for lunch.

karen@minnesotavalleys.org

**Perkins Bible Study
Thursday Mornings at 9:30 a.m.**

Bring your Bible and join us at the Little Falls Perkins for a late breakfast, early lunch, just coffee, or come just for the study and fellowship. The study is lead by Nancy Skoog.

The Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck will follow worship on Sunday, January 29.

2023 Officer's Retreat

Part 1, Friday, February 3, 6:00 p.m.

All Deacons and Elders who served in 2022 or will be serving in 2023 are invited to the Hartwell's. Dinner included.

Part 2, Saturday, February 4, 9:00 a.m.

The retreat will resume at the church on Saturday for all new and continuing officers. This is a time to reflect on the past year and plan for the future.

**Food Shelf
Volunteers Needed
January 26**

Randall Presbyterian Church provides volunteers to help at the Food Shelf on the last Thursday of every month. Three or four volunteers are needed and anyone of age can help. Volunteers are needed from 4:30 p.m. to about 7:00 p.m.

Thank You!

Christi and I were in awe over the gracious and generous gift we received from the congregation. We are equally grateful for all the care and support we have received in the years we have been here.

The Ordination Questions

A Worship Series January 15-February 19

“Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our Church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?”

What?????

If you are a Deacon, Ruling Elder or pastor in the Presbyterian Church, you have been asked that question. It is asked at every ordination and every time an officers is installed.

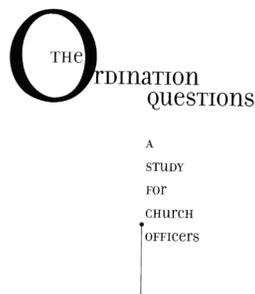
For the last four and half years, I have been the one asking that question. I have to be honest, I almost always wonder if the people have any idea what that question means, or any of the other questions they are being asked.

I, like too many pastors in our denomination, have not done a good job of preparing people for the ordination/installation questions. That is a shame, because they are really important.

Ordination is a big deal, and Presbyterians are one of the few denominations that ordain Deacons and Ruling Elders. With one exception, the questions that officers are asked are the same questions asked a Ministers of the Word and Sacrament at their ordination.

Ruling Elders and Deacons should understand what they are being asked, and so should the rest of the congregation. So, for six weeks in January and February we will be brief look at each of the questions, and how they are grounded in Scripture. I encourage you to read through these questions before each service.

For those who would liked to go deeper, I would be glad to share the short book, “The Ordination Questions”



January 15

Question One: *Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?*

January 22

Question Two: *Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God’s Word to you?*

January 29

Question Three: *Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?*

Question Four: *Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?*

February 5

Question Five: *Will you be governed by our church’s polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God’s Word and Spirit?*

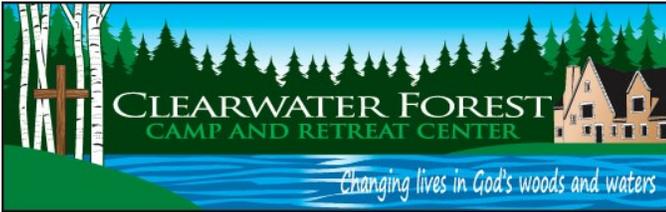
February 12

Question Six: *Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?*

Question Seven: *Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?*

February 19

Question Eight: *Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?*



January Birthdays

Coyer Waldoch	1/3
Steve Magee	1/4
Lucy Thomas	1/4
Ryan Yorek	1/9
Bob Hines	1/11
Dana Johnson	1/11
Jeri Betts	1/12
Chris Magee	1/13
Jason Brott	1/14
Yvonne Johnson	1/15
Dan Thilquist	1/17
Tanner Magee	1/21
Carol Saxton	1/22
Abby Carron	1/24
Celia DeGroot	1/28

“May God Bless Each of You & May You Have a Happy Birthday”



Presbyterian Giving Catalogue Gifts for Developing Countries

\$315 was raised to help families and communities in the developing countries. During the service, the youth decided to purchase

Piglets	\$ 40
Family of Chickens	\$ 25
Sewing Machine	\$ 50
Community Garden	\$ 25
Jerry Can	\$ 25
Family Nutrition Starter Pack	\$150

Thank you for your generous donations!

“Oh, precious is the flow, that makes me pure as snow”...CAMP! Save the date for snow camp 2023 happening January 13th-15th—you won’t want to miss it! Registration will be opening soon, and we cant wait to see you ALL this winter!

\$130 per person.

Questions Contact

programs@clearwaterforest.org

clearwater forest

SUMMER CAMP

Click



Or copy and paste

<https://clearwaterforest.campbrainregistration.com/>

RANDALL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MINUTES OF SESSION – December 21, 2022

Members present: Terry Coffin, Jake Farrow, Christi Hartwell, Chris Magee, Sue Fenske 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 5:32 p.m. via Zoom by Moderator Reverend Michael Hartwell, who opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was declared as is shown by those in attendance. A quick check in was also done to see how everyone was doing and if there were any prayer concern updates.

Approval of Minutes: The November 16, 2022 Session Meeting minutes were previously sent out by email to session for their review. Session approved the minutes with a correction; the minutes were included in the December Lamplighter newsletter. The minutes for the November 20 Congregational meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Approval of Treasurer’s Report:

Summary of the November 2022 Balance Sheet – Current Total Assets: \$129,977.42 (Checking: \$10,713.41, Savings: \$119,437.64).

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$8,592.81	\$80,882.84
Expense:	\$6,096.44	\$94,001.73
Net Income:	\$ 2,496.37	\$-13,118.89

- ❖ Motion to receive the Treasurer reports was made by Jake Farrow, seconded by Chris Magee. Motion carried.

Reports:

- **Pastor’s Report:** Perkins Bible Study, November 17; Recital, St Benedict College; Pastor’s Cohort Zoom Meeting, November 21; Presbytery’s Inventive Ministries Zoom Meeting; Pastor’s Cohort Zoom Meeting, November 28; Advent Zoom Study, November 20; Presbytery’s Commission on Leadership, Wilmar, MN; Randall Holly Days, December 1; Hartwell Open House, December 4; Pastor’s Cohort Zoom Meeting, December 5; Advent Zoom Study, December 7; Perkins Bible Study, December 8; Little Falls Ministerial Christmas Luncheon at St Francis convent, December 8; Pastor’s Cohort Zoom Meeting, December 12; Advent Zoom Study, December 14; Perkins Bible Study, December 15; Christmas Caroling, December 17; Pastor’s Cohort Zoom Meeting, December 19; Presbytery’s Commission on Leadership Co-Moderators Zoom meeting, December 19; Randall Area Business Group, December 20; Advent Zoom Study, December 21

Vacation:

Pastor Michael has four vacation days left; he might take them the last week of December, but it would not include a Sunday.

- **Church Rolls and Register Report:** Nothing to report.
- **Worship/Membership/Mission Report:** Currently the average weekly attendance is 39. As of September 4, worship is now indoors and being live-streamed.

The average weekly worship attendance is 39. The new router was installed, and the worship services are now being streamed online. It appears the sound issue has been resolved.

30 were served Communion on December 4, 2022.

70 members; no change.

Missions: Weekly – Meals on Wheels; Monthly – Morrison County Food Shelf

Fall mission: \$320 was raised to support the ministry of the Presbytery Giving Catalog.

- **Fellowship:** Morrison County Food Shelf: the last Thursday of the month has three members from church volunteering. They were closed on Thanksgiving; the church will serve on December 28.
- **Christian Education Report:** Children's Program was during worship on December 18. Vicky Lashinski, Colleen Waldoch, Ashley and Jake Farrow and others planned and organized with more than 15 children who participated. Colleen made new costumes for many of the performers and Mary Skoog helped with the props. Everyone agreed it was a marvelous program! There will be no Sunday School the next two weeks.
- **Building/Maintenance Report:** There was no heat in the building one morning; Ballou plumbing repaired it the same day.
- **Presbytery:** No meeting.
- **Correspondence:** None.
- **Deacon's Report:** nothing to report.
 - Motion to approve the committee reports as received was made by Chris Magee, seconded by Jake Farrow. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- a. Morrison County Food Shelf volunteers – The Food Shelf has had increased use, and more volunteers are needed. Everyone is invited to volunteer at the Food Shelf. The new working hours are 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The next time Randall service will be Thursday after Christmas, December 29.
- b. Storage room – Dan Thilquist and Jim Skoog agreed to build some shelving in the storage room. This probably won't be done until summer.
- c. Nominating Report: They are still making calls.
- d. Finalized 2023 Budget; made note that the per capita amount will now be included only as a line item expense in the budget under mission, and church members will not be solicited to pay their portion. This is to avoid it being considered a membership fee. Jake Farrow made a motion to approve the 2023 Budget, Terry Coffin seconded. Motion carried.
- e. Officer's Retreat had originally been scheduled for January 6 & 7; after discussion it was decided to move it to February 3 & 4 so the Nominating Committee has time to finish their work.
- f. Mary Skoog suggested that we might have a nursery available for small children. It would be in the old Sunday school room. The room would need new flooring and would need to be painted. Discussion on how to prevent mold from returning and solve the moisture issue. We will begin looking into preparing the room early next year.

New Business:

- a. Annual Congregational meeting: Date was set for January 29, either during the potluck or right before.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Terry Coffin, seconded by Jake Farrow. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. followed by prayers for the people and the Lord's Prayer led by Reverend Michael Hartwell.

Next Meeting date and time: January 18, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m. at the church.

Respectfully submitted by,

Christi Hartwell

Christi Hartwell

Clerk of Session, pro tem