

# Lamplighter

Randall Presbyterian Church ~ Randall, MN

February/March 2023

Lent 2023

## Walking to Jerusalem with Jesus A Study of Mark 8:22-10:52

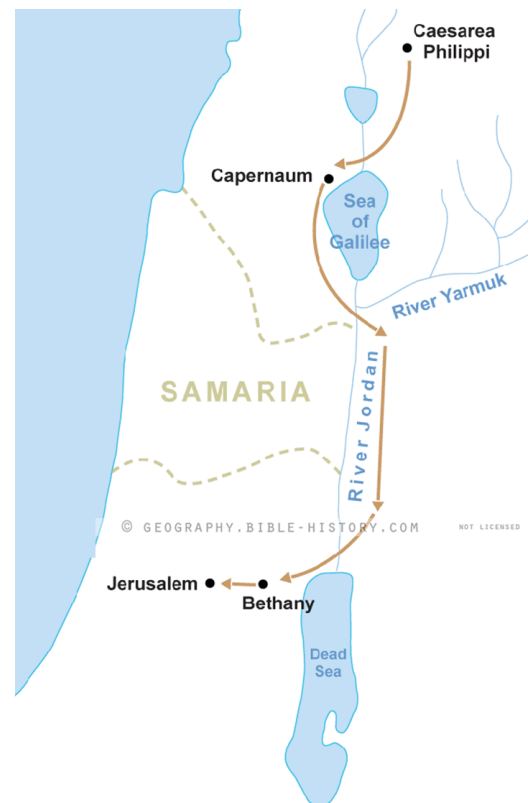
In the 8th chapter, the Gospel of Mark places Jesus in Bethsaida, just north of the Sea of Galilee. From there Jesus begins his journey to Jerusalem; his journey to the cross.

I find Mark 8:27-10:52 to be one of the most exciting, demanding, revealing, and engaging sections of the Bible. This year during Lent, I invite you to walk with Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross.

The section begins with Jesus healing a blind man at Bethsaida, which is near Caesarea Philippi, Mark 8:22-26. It concludes with Jesus giving sight to Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52) after leaving Jericho, just outside of Jerusalem. Between these two healings, Jesus foretells his death three times, and continues to teach what it means to follow Jesus. Yet the disciples never fully understand what is happening. Instead they continue seek their own glory.

The section leads us right to Palm Sunday. As we study these passages, we are called to remember our own human frailties that prepares us for the full reconciliation with Christ that is promised in the resurrection.

Join Randall Presbyterian Church for Sunday morning worship and Wednesday evening Zoom study for this Lenten journey.



## Sacrament of Holy Baptism March 5, 2023

Riley Koep, the son of Meghan Ballou and Austen Koep will be baptized during the service of worship on Sunday, March 5. Riley is the grandchild of Chad & Patty Ballou and the great-grandson of Sharon Ballou.

### February Birthdays

<i>Howard Kazeck</i>	<i>Feb 2</i>
<i>Allen Lashinski</i>	<i>Feb 2</i>
<i>Chase Vetsch</i>	<i>Feb 10</i>
<i>Ken Ballou</i>	<i>Feb 17</i>
<i>Mary Skoog</i>	<i>Feb 18</i>
<i>JT Schokker</i>	<i>Feb 18</i>
<i>Jeff Turner</i>	<i>Feb 19</i>
<i>Briel Selinski</i>	<i>Feb 21</i>

### March Birthdays

<i>David Dalquist</i>	<i>March 7</i>
<i>Jackie Magee</i>	<i>March 7</i>
<i>Cathy Gannon</i>	<i>March 11</i>
<i>Lee Selinski</i>	<i>March 22</i>
<i>Sonya Ganz</i>	<i>March 26</i>
<i>Linda Fearing</i>	<i>March 30</i>

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

Lenten Zoom Bible Study  
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.  
March 1—March 29

Randall Presbyterian Church will be joining the Windom Presbyterian Church, Lakes Area Presbyterian Church of Baxter, and Crosslake Presbyterian Church for this Lenten Study.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

Thanks to donations to the Presbyterian Disasters Assistance (PDA), our denomination was immediately supporting relief efforts following the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

PDA is one of the three programs that are supported by the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Donations all support Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People.

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

Randall Presbyterian Church will be collecting donations through Palm Sunday, April 2.



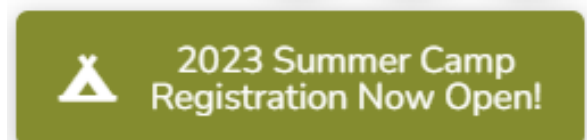
### Perkins Bible Study Thursday Mornings at 9:30 a.m.

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.

*clearwater forest*

## SUMMER CAMP

Click



Or copy and paste

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

## *Message from Michael*

### **The church does not have membership dues.**

One of my doctor of ministry instructors was Diana Butler Bass, a well known Christian author and speaker. She told the class of an experience at her home church in Washington D.C.. It is a downtown church, and the area has many homeless and out-of-luck people. Many of these people were repeatedly invited to join the church in worship, but they never really felt like they belong.

So, the church decided to create a new service where the poor and homeless would feel welcome. In many ways it was a typical Episcopal service, except no offering was collected. The church thought it would be inappropriate expect of even ask *these* guest to contribute.

However, after a few months the homeless members approached the leadership and insisted their service should include a traditional offering. They were now members of the church, and they wanted to contribute to the life and ministry of the congregation.

That story appeared in the book Diane Butler Bass published the next year, which included this paragraph.

Daniel, a member of the traditional congregation, recalled how moved he was the first time he acted as an usher at the homeless services; “As the plate passed down the rows, I watched poor people turn their pockets inside out and throw loose change and crumpled dollars in the offering. I almost cried. I learned more about giving that morning than in a thousand sermons.”

As Christians, we believe that everything we are and all that we have are our gifts from God. We express our thanks for these gifts by joyfully returning to God a portion of those gifts. It is a practice that goes back to the time of Adam and Eve, when Cain and Abel brought their offerings to God.

We continue to believe the practice of offering our gifts is a spiritual discipline, and a necessity to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ at Randall Presbyterian Church. However, our offerings should never be considered membership dues or some kind of tax. Unfortunately, Per Capita is often seen as just that.

Per Capita is a reminder that we are a connectional church. United with Presbyterians throughout the country, the Per Capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly, and supports the work of the Presbytery and Synod. Each church contributes based on its membership. It is a financial obligation the church has just as the church is obligated to pay utilities or salaries.

In the past, like many churches, we asked members to make a special contribution to cover the expense to the church. Unfortunately, it has become clear to me that many members do see this as membership dues.

Therefore, this year, we are not campaigning members to make that additional donation, and the session is seeing our Per Capita as just another expense—like utilities.

Personally, my desire is that none of your contributions are seen as dues, taxes or merely necessary obligations. I hope your offerings are joyful thanksgiving to God, and a commitment to continue the life and ministry of Randall Presbyterian Church.

*Michael*



### **THE 42ST ANNUAL MN FOOD SHARE CAMPAIGN!**

All monetary and food donations from February 17—April 9, 2023 will count towards a percentage donation match from their Food Fund. As the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together various community organizations, businesses, and faith communities to help stock nearly 300 food shelves statewide. . Every year we look forward to the March Campaign and your continued partnership, as we engage with our community to fight hunger today and advocate for long-term solutions to food insecurity and poverty.

Randall Presbyterian Church will not be serving at the Food Shelf until April 27.

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**RANDALL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**MINUTES OF SESSION – January 18, 2023**

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

The regular meeting of the Session was called to order at 6:37 p.m. 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 December 21, 2022 Session Meeting minutes were previously sent out by email to session for their review. Session approved the minutes; the minutes were included in the January Lamplighter newsletter.

**Approval of Treasurer’s Report:**

Summary of the December 2022 Balance Sheet – Current Total Assets: \$128,070.44 (Checking: \$7,562.43, Savings: \$120,508.54).

<u>December</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	
<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$4,882.43</b>	<b>\$ 85,765.27</b>
<b>Expense:</b>	<b>\$8,930.34</b>	<b>\$103,242.01</b>
<b>Net Income:</b>	<b>\$-4,047.91</b>	<b>\$-17,476.74</b>

- Motion to receive the Treasurer reports was made by Jake Farrow, seconded by Terry Coffin. Motion carried. **Reports:**
- **Pastor’s Report:** Pastor’s Group Zoom, December 26; Inventive Ministries Zoom, January 3; Pastor’s Group Zoom, January 9; Randall Area Business Group, January 10; Committee on Leadership (COL) Co-Chairs Zoom, January 11; Academy Zoom Meeting, January 11; Pastor’s Group Zoom, January 16; COL Co-Chairs Zoom, January 18.  
Vacation:  
    Pastor Michael took three vacation days: Dec. 28-30 for a trip to Arizona.  
Continuing Education:  
    Pastor Michael will be doing an online Academy class on Pastoral Care in February.
  - **Church Rolls and Register Report:** Meghan Ballou (member) and Austen Koep request the baptism of their son, Riley Koep. Christi Hartwell made a motion to approve the request, Jake Farrow seconded. Motion carried. Riley’s baptism will be on March 5, 2023.
  - **Worship/Membership/Mission Report:** The average weekly attendance is 30; our services are live-streamed. 26 were served Communion on January 1, 2023. 70 members; no change.  
Missions: Weekly – Meals on Wheels; Monthly –Morrison County Food Shelf. College students will be volunteering in January, February and March; church volunteers will not be needed until April.
  - **Christian Education Report:** Sunday School resumed on January 15.
  - **Building/Maintenance Report:** Jake Farrow said he will check the lighting and the faucets in the basement.
  - **Presbytery:** Officer Training will be offered on Zoom on Saturday, January 21.
    - Ruling Elder Training led by the Rev. Dr. Deb DeMeester
    - Deacon Training led by the Rev. Dr. Candace Adams The next Presbytery meeting is February 18 in Redwood Falls.
  - **Correspondence:**
    - Thank you card from the Morrison County Sheriff department for our donation.
    - Thank you from Knight Elementary School for our donation to Coins for a Cause.
    - Letter from the pastor of First Lutheran in Little Falls; they are having a youth mission project July 13-16 and are inviting youth from area churches to join them.
  - **Deacon’s Report:** nothing to report.

Motion to approve the committee reports as received was made by Terry Coffin, seconded by Jake Farrow. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

- a. Nominating Report: Officer positions to be filled: 2 elders and 3 deacons  
    Ruling Elders: Christi Hartwell and Marlys Olson will serve their second terms.

Deacons: Sara Wester and Colleen Waldoch will serve their second terms, JT Schokker will be ordained and serve his first term.

- b. Installation and ordination of officers will be during the service of worship on February 12.
- c. Officer's Retreat will be February 3 & 4; February 3 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hartwell's home and February 4 at 9:00 a.m. at the church.
- d. Annual Congregational meeting will be after the service of worship on January 29, before the potluck.

**New Business:**

- a. Communion schedule for 2023: First Sunday of every month and Maundy Thursday. Jake Farrow moved, Christi Hartwell seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Election of the following positions:
  - Clerk of Session, Terry Coffin
  - Treasurer, Sue Fenske
  - Financial Secretary, Marlys OlsonTerry Coffin moved to approve; Jake Farrow seconded. Motion carried.
- c. General Mission Fund: Terry Coffin moved we give \$500 to this fund, Christi Hartwell seconded. Motion carried.
- d. Special Offerings: selected One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Joy, Pentecost, and Peacemaking. Jake Farrow moved to approve; Terry Coffin seconded. Motion carried.
- e. Presbytery Compensation Report: reviewed, no action required.
- f. New Member Orientation: Looking at offering something in February, before Lent.
- g. Building Designated Funds: Reviewed restricted and unrestricted funds. Of the \$80,409.07 currently in Building Designated Fund, \$25,000 was donated to a specific cause and therefore is restricted. Jake Farrow moved we recognize \$25,000 as restricted for Fellowship Hall Building Fund and the remaining balance is Session designated for building, Christi Hartwell seconded. Motion carried.
- h. Camp Scholarships for non-Presbyterian Camps: Currently the church provides ½ the registration fee for church members and/or their children attending a Presbyterian camp. Following discussion, Terry Coffin moved that for non-Presbyterian camps, the church provide ½ registration fee with a maximum amount of \$50 for campers whose parents or guardians are members of the church. Jake Farrow seconded. Motion carried with one abstained.
- i. Audio issues on livestream: discussed options for fixing the issues; Pastor Hartwell will test a few methods to see what will work best; if something needs to be purchased, we will submit a tech grant with the Presbytery.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Christi Hartwell, seconded by Jake Farrow. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. followed by prayers for the people and the Lord's Prayer led by Reverend Michael Hartwell.

**Next Meeting date and time: February 15, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m. at the church.**

Respectfully submitted by,

*Christi Hartwell*

Christi Hartwell  
Clerk of Session, pro tem

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**RANDALL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**MINUTES OF SESSION – February 15, 2023**

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**Members present:** Terry Coffin (by Zoom), Jake Farrow, Sue Fenske, Christi Hartwell, Marlys Olson and Moderator Reverend Michael Hartwell. **Members excused:** Chris Magee. **Members absent:** None. **Others present:** None.

The regular meeting of the Session was called to order at 6:32 p.m. in the basement of Randall Presbyterian Church 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 January 18, 2023 Session Meeting minutes were previously sent out by email to session for their review. Session approved the minutes as written; the minutes will be included in the February/March Lamplighter newsletter.

**Approval of Treasurer’s Report:**

Summary of the January 2023 Balance Sheet – Current Total Assets: \$132,764.73 (Checking: \$10,590.37, Savings: \$122,174.36). Motion was made by Jake Farrow, seconded by Marlys Olson to approve the Treasurer reports with corrections. Motion carried.

Session discussed gifts designated as Memorial should be put into the #3530 – Memorial Unrestricted account. Motion was made, seconded and carried.

	<u>January 2023</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$12,165.48</b>	<b>\$12,165.48</b>
<b>Expense:</b>	<b>\$9,677.21</b>	<b>\$9,677.21</b>
<b>Net Income:</b>	<b>\$2,488.27</b>	<b>\$2,488.27</b>

**Reports:**

- **Pastor’s Report:**

Perkin’s Bible Study, Thursday, January 19; Presbytery Leadership Zoom Meeting, Friday, January 20; Presbytery Leadership Zoom Workshop & Commission on Leadership Meeting, Saturday, January 21; Pastor’s Group Zoom, Monday, January 23; Perkins Bible Study, Thursday, January 26; Presbytery Zoom Meeting on New Worshipping Communities, Monday, January 30; COL Co-Chair Zoom meeting, Wednesday, February 1; Commission on Leadership Zoom Meeting, Thursday, February 2; Perkin’s Bible Study, February 2; Deliver Chicken to Food Shelf, Friday, February 3; Pastor’s Group Zoom, Monday, February 6; Presbytery Subcommittee Zoom meeting, Tuesday, February 7; Little Falls Area Ministerial Association, Thursday, February 9; Deliver Chicken to Food Shelf, February 9; Pastor’s Group Zoom, Monday, February 13; COL Co-Chair Zoom meeting, February 13; Academy Pastoral Care Zoom Class, February 13;  
Typical Work Week: In the Office Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday morning. However, next week will be Wednesday instead of Monday as we will be at Mayo on Monday and Tuesday.  
Vacation: Sunday, February 19, Candace Adams will be leading worship.

- **Church Rolls and Register Report:** Makayla Ganz has asked to have her wedding at the church on May 18, 2024 and to have Pastor Michael Hartwell officiate.

- **Worship/Membership/Mission Report:** Currently the average weekly attendance is 34.

33 were served Communion on February 5, 2023

70 members; no change.

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

March is Morrison County Food Shelf match month

- **Fellowship:** Morrison County Food Shelf; the last Thursday of the month has three members from church volunteering. College students will be volunteering in January, February, and March, so volunteers from Randall are not needed.

- **Christian Education Report:** The Sunday school children made Valentines to hand out to the congregation on February 12<sup>th</sup> along with candy.

- **Building/Maintenance Report:** Nothing to report.
- **Presbytery:** On Saturday, February 18th, First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls will be hosting the in-person Presbytery meeting. The meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pastor Michael Hartwell and Christi Hartwell will be attending.
- **Correspondence:** In the Presbytery's Valley Bridge newsletter, First Presbyterian Church of Madelia is seeking applications to receive grants for various projects which include "new building construction and renovations or capital improvements." This is something for session to consider for future building projects.
- **Deacon's Report:** Ken Ballou has been nominated as Chair of the Deacons.
  - Motion to approve the committee reports as received was made by Christi Hartwell, seconded by Jake Farrow. Motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

- a. Morrison County Food Shelf volunteers – (April 27<sup>th</sup> is next date) Everyone is invited to volunteer at the Food Shelf. The new working hours are 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please let Pastor Michael, Terry Coffin or Geri McLennan know if you are interested. We need volunteers please!!!
- b. Officer retreat at the Hartwell's and training at the church was held on February 3 and 4<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Ordination and installation of J. T. Schokker as deacon along with installation of deacons Sara Wester and Colleen Waldoch (in absence) and ruling elders Marlys Olson and Christi Hartwell was held on February 12, 2023.
- d. There are several individuals attending church who are interested in becoming members. More information will be coming.
- e. Audio issues we were experiencing on livestream has improved.


### **New Business:**

- a. Financial review for 2021 and 2022 needs to be completed. Pastor Michael, Jake Farrow and Sue Fenske will meet to review.
- b. Committee chairs will remain the same for 2023:
  - I. Worship/Membership/Mission – Christi Hartwell, Terry Coffin
  - II. Christian Education – Marlys Olson
  - III. Building/Maintenance – Chris Magee, Jake Farrow
- c. Session and Pastor Michael discussed technology and equipment that may be needed for the future to submit for a tech grant including a new printer for upstairs. Session will re-evaluate the equipment needs in March.
- d. Joint Zoom Lenten bible study with Baxter and Windom is under discussion.
- e. Ash Wednesday service will be on February 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the church.
- f. Pastor Michael recommends getting checks that would be printed from QuickBooks for several reasons. This is pended until a new printer is purchased.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Marlys Olson, seconded by Sue Fenske. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. followed by prayers for the people and the Lord's Prayer led by Reverend Michael Hartwell.

**Next Meeting date and time: March 15, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m. at the church.**

Respectfully submitted by,



Terry L. Coffin  
Clerk of Session