



# LIVING HOPE

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Living Hope Presbyterian Church seeks to inspire and empower through the Gospel.

### From the Pastor...

February 2023 Newsletter

Our world is obsessed with finding the right answers. We want to know what the right treatment is for a particular disease, what the best strategy is for living out retirement in comfort, how to make our kids follow through with proper behavior. We want the answers, the solutions, the correct course of action. We want to have things decided and move on so things go in our preferred direction. Unfortunately, in many situations in life there is often more than one correct answer (if there are any at all). And when we start talking about spiritual matters, things get less clear because there are often competing values involved and there is no clear right answer.

In the Quaker tradition there is a practice called a clearness committee. When a member of the church is trying to figure out a significant or difficult situation, they can gather a group of people together to help them. The rules of this group are that the person bringing the issue must state clearly what they are struggling with and the others can only ask questions. No advice, no observations, only questions are allowed by the folks participating. In doing this, the hope is that the person will walk away with new insights and questions that can help them discern the correct path for them to live faithfully.



It's interesting that in the gospels Jesus is asked 183 questions, answers only 3 of them, and in turn asks 307 questions of others. It seems like Jesus prefers questions over answers, much to our disappointment. But maybe that is the way that the Spirit works. Instead of giving us a direct answer that we can go out and execute, instead, the Spirit wants us to be drawn into the questions that bring depth and exploration, a deepening sense of connection to God and wonder at God's vast love for creation.

Over the course of Lent, which starts at the end of this month, we will be seeking questions that help us grasp at something deeper in our lives and pull us into God's love. While we are seeking those questions, wrestling with those questions, we may find some answers, but, more likely than

not, we will only find more questions. This is okay. Sitting with questions, sitting with the discomfort that hard questions bring, can be a part of spiritual growth. Maybe in the coming months, we need to cultivate both asking good questions and trying not to resolve them too quickly, to give the Spirit room to come into our lives and grow our hearts closer to God.

In Christ,

Will



Lent begins

February 22

Our readings for Lent this year offer us many stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking: Nicodemus comes to him in the veil of night, he approaches a Samaritan woman at a well, he heals a man born without sight. In these stories, each person is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. Often, an unveiling occurs – assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows.

Our Lenten series, *Seeking*, is founded on questions. Many of our weekly questions feel restorative (“Can these bones live?”). Some feel like a charge or challenge (“Who will you listen to?”). Some questions are hopeful and curious (“How do we begin again?”). Our questions won't necessarily lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity and a new perspective. Ultimately, we pray they lead to a new beginning, a restoration, a wider grace.

Like the characters in our Lenten scriptures, we are also seeking many things: clarity, connection, wonder, justice, balance. We are seeking our calling, the sacred, and how to live as a disciple. Throughout the turbulence of the past few years, many of us are asking big questions about our lives and our faith.



This Lent, we invite you to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. We hope you will soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives. We pray that these questions will create a safe space to explore – to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God.

We have two different devotionals this year - you can use either one or both. **Devotional books and Prayer cards will be available starting February 5** - we can print as needed, so if you don't get a book or a set of cards right away, please put your name on the list and Lisa will print to your request.



Donation forms for Easter Flowers will be available once Lent begins.



Sunday School will be using the theme “Seeking” that we are using in worship. One of the activities the students will be doing is Poetry writing and creating Visual Poetry art.

Sunday School meets in person on February 26 before worship at 8:45.

## First Sunday Food Pantry

Feb 5

March 5

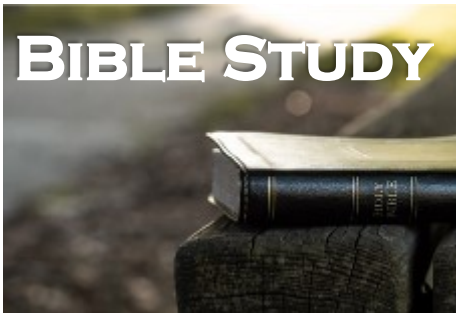
April 2

Please mark any monetary donations “Food Pantry” and they will be split between the two pantries we support. The collection bin is in the church Gathering Place. Thank you for your continued generosity.



**Food Pantry Sunday**

First Sunday of each month



## Monday Bible Study

Mondays at 9:30 AM

Join us for a discussion about the coming Sunday's lectionary readings either in-person in Fellowship Hall or watch on Channel 966 .

Feb 6	Matthew 5:21-37; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9	for Feb 12
Feb 13	Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-9	for Feb 19
Feb 20	Matthew 4:1-11; Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	for Feb 26

Once Lent begins, we will go back to our 9:45 AM meeting time.

Feb 27	Genesis 12:1-4a; John 3:1-17	for Mar 5
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## Faith Conversations - Spring Schedule

First and Third Thursdays 1:30-2:30 pm

February 2 and 16

March 2 and 16

Meet in **Fellowship Hall** , **channel 966** or **watch the livestream** [[www.livinghopepcusa.org/livestream](http://www.livinghopepcusa.org/livestream)] .

Come with curiosity and respect as we explore what other faiths and denominations believe and how they live that out.



# FEBRUARY 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>29</b> <b>10 AM Worship</b> 11:15 Annual Meeting	<b>30</b> 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH	<b>31</b>	<b>1 February</b>	<b>2</b> 1:30 Faith Conversation	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>10 AM Worship - with Communion</b> 11:15 Deacon Meeting  	<b>6</b> 9:30 AM Bible Study—FH	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>10 AM Worship</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30 AM Bible Study—FH	<b>14</b> 9 am - Worship Meeting - Staff 10:45 Worship committee	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 1:30 Faith Conversation	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>10 AM Worship</b> 11:15 AM Session	<b>20</b> 9:30 AM Bible Study—FH	<b>21</b>	 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 6:30 pm Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26 - Lent 1</b> 8:45 AM Sunday School <b>10 AM Worship</b> 	<b>27</b> 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH	<b>28</b>	<b>1 March</b>	<b>2</b> 1:30 Faith Conversation	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>



We are a connectional church...connected in faith to God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Jesus taught us that prayer connects us to the Divine...and to each other.

Each month we list our faith community. Every family has a date when we ask you to hold them in prayer.

## February Prayer Calendar



**The Care and Concern of the  
Congregation is with:**

**Average January Attendance**

In person: 40

Zoom: 9

Livestream Views: 4

Total Average Attendance: 53

(We cannot track how many people watch on Ch 966. Livestream is household, not individual count)

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?  
Please let the office know so we can  
update our files.

<b>FINANCIAL UPDATE - As of December 31, 2022</b>							
				<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>		<b>Fav/(Unfav) Variance</b>
Total Income - YTD				\$112,263.21	\$ 97,209.00		\$ 15,054.21
Total Expense - YTD				\$161,930.96	\$ 147,283.00		<b>\$(14,647.96)</b>
Net Income - YTD December 31, 2022				<b>\$(49,667.75)</b>	<b>\$ (50,074.00)</b>		\$ 406.25
Unrestricted Funds as of December 31, 2022				\$345,954.26			



## Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 22

6:30 pm

In person, Channel 966, Livestream or Zoom.  
Join us for worship with imposition of ashes.

## Lenten Devotionals and Prayer Cards

Will be available starting Sunday, Feb 5. We are able to print an exact amount - please sign up for a Devotional or Prayer Card set if none are available when you look.



## LIVING HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

W156 N4881 Pilgrim Road, Menomonee Falls WI 53051

[www.LivingHopePCUSA.org](http://www.LivingHopePCUSA.org)



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**Administrative Assistant:** Lisa Quinn

Email: [Office@LivingHopePCUSA.org](mailto:Office@LivingHopePCUSA.org)

Office: (262) 599-8341

Office Hours: Mon and Tu 8:30-12:30 (remote email rest of the week)

**Clerk of Session:** Kathryn Fresch

**Treasurer:** Steve Sinner

**Church Musician:** Teresa Ledford

**2023 Session Members:** Karl Bertram, Michael Brady, Dorothy Dieter, Kathryn Fresch, Curtis MacDonald, Mike McBride and Marcia Sinner

**2023 Deacons:** (A-B) Tom Tennyson (C-F) Ann Tennyson (G-K) Diane DeBoer – Moderator  
(L-O) Cherie Andrus (P-R) LaVonne Gardner (S-Z) Ken DeBoer