

Northern Voice Newsletter

Spring (Feb-Mar-Apr) 2024

“Go into all the World and Preach the Gospel.”

~Mark 16:15

I’m often asked about the difference between a traditional brick-and-mortar church and an online church. Prior to Covid-19, this was not the question that people were asking me—so I feel blessed to have been in the unique position of having been a part of both worlds. While I initially expected a lot of differences, I was surprised by what I learned: the only thing that changes is the shape of the lobby.

That’s right. The lobby just looks different. Because, no matter where people gather, in church buildings or online, the same *opportunities* for ministry still exist. People still need relational connection. They still need prayer. They still need someone to support them through difficult seasons, encourage them through seasons of growth, and celebrate with them at the mountaintop moments.

At Hubbard Church, we are trying to create a space both in person and online where people feel welcome. We have greeters, we have people available for prayer, and we offer community to those looking for a place to belong. Even though the method might be different, our calling is still the same.

Jesus tells us, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel.” He tells us “what” to do, but much of the “how” is up to us. I think of the good shepherd who leaves the 99 sheep to go after the one that’s lost. Technology is such a big part of our everyday lives—even more so during the current crisis—that it’s easier and easier to use it to chase after the one. We don’t have to wait for the lost to come to us. We can meet them exactly where they are.

It’s not a question of whether we here at Hubbard can reach people with technology; we can. The question is whether we can get past our preconceived notions, concerns, or fears and embrace technology to reach people.

I believe online church is a ministry opportunity we need to continue to explore both now and in the future. And here are some of the reasons why:

The internet does not limit God. Just because everyone doesn’t meet in our physical location, doesn’t mean we can’t experience God together. With the addition of Andy Hendrickson, our Digital Host and our online group studies, we are able to interact with

2) We can shine light into even the darkest corners of the internet. In this world, people are constantly told they're not enough. That message only seems to get louder online through bullying, unrealistic body images, and negativity of all varieties. The body of Christ has the opportunity to step into that same space with a counter-culture message and offer people the grace, hope, peace, and love they're craving. We can be a source of encouragement and light the digital world desperately needs.

- 3. Problems don't wait for Sunday.** People are broken and hurting around the world, every day of the week. Technology creates the opportunity to bridge the gap between weekends so that if someone wants to turn to the church for help, they have a place to go. Hubbard Church uses our Website, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and email to minister throughout the week. Using the technology available to us, we can pray with someone halfway around the country who might be battling with their depression and needs to talk to someone who cares. We can meet people online to support them in their greatest moment of need.
- 4. Anonymity breaks down walls.** Critics of online ministry often say accountability is missing in an environment where people can hide behind anonymity. But at Hubbard, we have found that oftentimes people will share more openly online than they might in face-to-face conversations. Online attendees have commented that they were often too hesitant to attend a traditional church setting, worried about what people might say or think. But they feel comfortable enough to attend online, and when they did, they find a place to belong.
- 5. Genuine relationships can form online.** A common misconception about online relationships is that they aren't as powerful or real as the relationships we form in person. But think of how many marriages today start as online relationships. Think of children who regularly connect with their grandparents through FaceTime... Clearly, technology can be a powerful tool for bringing people together. At Hubbard, we strive to connect people to each other because we believe spiritual growth best happens in the context of community. We encourage our online community to deepen relationships, both within the service and outside the service.

6) We can be together in mission. Not everyone can go on a mission trip, but you don't have to travel to minister to people around the world. We can reach into places from Hubbard to across our state into Ogilvie, MN and across our country to Florida and Arizona, as well as into Canada, Norway, and Africa, just to name a few! We can minister in places where it's unsafe for people to gather as a church offering a place for them to use their Spiritual gifts for the Kingdom of God.

Friends, at Hubbard Church, we believe God has called us to use the technology available to us in this time and in this place, to spread the Good News to as many people as we can in as many places that we can. There are more than eight billion people on this earth, and as long as there is one hurting person who doesn't know the love of Christ, we know our job isn't done.

As we look forward into the future, let us also look back over the past year and see how many people we have impacted with our weekly worship alone. Thank you to all of you who support this remarkable ministry opportunity here at Hubbard Church!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Lauren



HUMC Average Attendance 2023

MONTH	Avg. Weekly In-Person Attendance	Avg. Weekly Online Attendance	Avg. Online and In-Person Attendance
January	44	161	205
February	41	132	173
March	36	380	416
April	52	240	292
May	85	158	243
June	83	146	229
July	104	159	263
August	89	288	377
September	75	116	191
October	54	81	135
November	51	123	174
December	79	158	237
TOTAL	793	2142	2935

Soup Supper



*Come for a Soup Supper and
Prayer Service During Lent*

Wednesdays at 5:30pm Sign up in the Welcome Area



*Please check the Bulletin and Friday
Announcements for details as these dates get closer!*

Lenten Schedule

Join us at 6:15 PM on Wednesdays in Lent for a short prayer service. We will use Marty Haugen's Holden Evening Prayer as our guide. All are welcome for this time of prayer and meditation, silence and song.

February 14th Ash Wednesday at
 Calvary Lutheran 4 & 6pm

February 21th Lent 1 6:15-6:45pm

February 28th Lent 2 6:15-6:45pm

March 6th Lent 3 6:15-6:45pm

March 13th Lent 4 6:15-6:45pm

March 20th Lent 5 6:15-6:45pm

March 24th Palm Sunday
March 28th Maundy Thursday 7pm
March 29th Good Friday
 at Riverside 6:30pm
March 31st Easter Sunday

*Please check the Bulletin and Friday
Announcements for details as these dates get closer!*



Camp Scholarships needed!

Camp Minnesota is committed to allowing anyone who wants to attend camp to do so, and that no camper will be turned away because they can't afford to pay.

Currently, we at HUMC are seeking to provide scholarship funds, or “camperships”, to campers who need them most, based on individual and family needs. Our hope is that HUMC can help to provide support to cover the registration cost for those associated with our HUMC family who are interested in attending or volunteering at camp can do so. If you can donate, please write your check to Hubbard UMC and write “Camperships” in the Memo Line.

Thank you for your support!

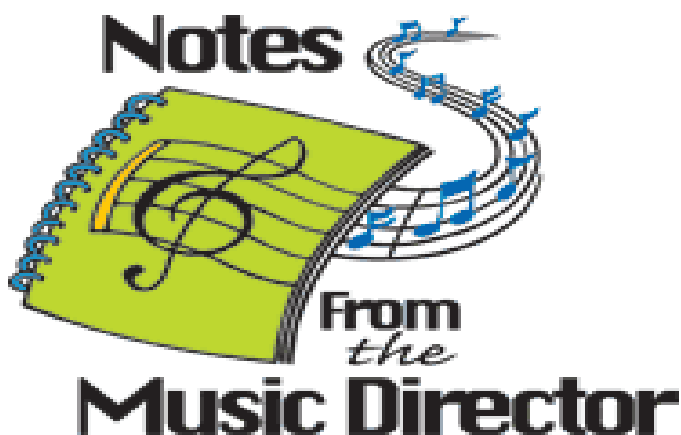
Pastor Lauren Hauger

Free Study Guide

The Palestine-Israel Conflict: Advocating for a Just and Lasting Peace

The Palestine-Israel Justice Project, a ministry team of the Minnesota Annual Conference offers an updated study guide on the historical context behind the Israel-Hamas War. Copy and paste the link below.

<https://pijp.org/study-guide/>



As we approach a very busy season with Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter knocking at the door, we begin our preparations to bring God's message though song.

For all who wish to join us, HUMC choir would love to have you sing with us!

Wednesday Rehearsal dates: 2/13, 2/21, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/16 (Saturday) 3/20, 3/27 all at 7pm.

Sunday 8am rehearsal & Service: 2/4, 2/18, 3/3, 3/17, 3/24 Service and "Lord of the Dance," 3/31 Easter Sunday.

In Him and in song,

Jennie





United Women in Faith

The United Women of Faith meet
the 1st Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm
All are welcome!

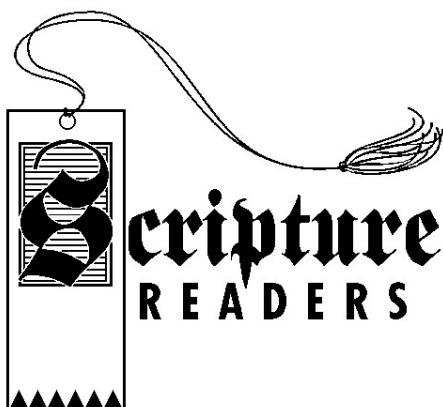
You are invited! A World Day of Prayer event will be
hosted at Crystalbrook apartments on

March 1, 1-3pm.

All are welcome to join for music, fellowship and of
course, prayer. This years program is based on a World
Day of Prayer program written by Palestinian women
and adapted for this event. Hubbard UWFaith is the
“host” for this years event with the support of Riverside
and Calvary churches. If you have questions, please
contact Marion Hansen, President Hubbard United
Women in Faith.

Thanks, Marion





Scripture Readers

Please consider
volunteering for this
important part of our
Sunday Worship. Sign
up sheet is available by
the nametags
or call
Diane Thoeke at
218-255-5557



Fellowship VOLUNTEERS **NEEDED**

Hebrews 10:25

Let us not give up on meeting together, as
some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage each
other....

Fellowship is important, for encouraging each other, for
sharing our joys and sorrows, for getting to know our
church family a little better. Janelle and Kaylyn are very
grateful for all who have served the treats for Sunday
morning fellowship.

THANK YOU! We appreciate you!

If anyone would like to serve, there is a sign up sheet under
the nametags.



OCTOBER Mission Giving 10/6/23

MISSION COMMITTEE

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Pastor's Discretionary	\$168.75
MN Annual Conf- UMCOR	\$50.00
Hubbard County Food Shelf	\$200.00
Riverside Thanks Meal	\$100.00

TOTAL MISSION GIVING **\$518.75**

NOVEMBER Mission Giving 11/07/23

MISSION COMMITTEE

Riverside Thanks meal	\$1,500.00
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Total Mission Committee **\$1,500.00**

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

UMCOR United Methodist Relief	\$5,618.00
Hubbard County Food Shelf	\$200.00
Riverside Methodist Thanks meal	\$575.00
Wellspring	\$2,200.00
Meals on Wheels	\$518.00
UWF - Thanks offering	\$150.00
Pastor's Discretionary	\$100.00

TOTAL MISSION GIVING **\$10,861.00**

December Mission Giving

12-6-23

MISSION COMMITTEE

Toys for Boys and Girls

\$1351.37

Total Mission Committee

\$1351.37

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

UMCOR

\$1815.00

Meals on Wheels

\$ 750.00

Toys for Boys and Girls

\$ 750.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

\$ 200.00

TOTAL MISSION GIVING

\$ 4,866.37

Volunteers from HUMC deliver **Meals on Wheels** to Park Rapids residents once every 5 weeks.

If you are interested in becoming a delivery person for this

rewarding activity,
please contact
Arnie Kuhn at
701-730-3667.

"Thank You" to our many
dedicated volunteers.



Hubbard MOW Dates:

February 5-9

March 11-15

Crumb Block Quilting—You're Invited!

Quilting teaches us that even the smallest scraps can be transformed into something extraordinary.

Who knew what you can do with a scrap of this and a crumb of that!

Just take a look at the photo (below) and you will see what is termed in quilting vernacular as a *Crumb Block Quilt*. Mary Takle and Beth Holland put this quilt together to illustrate what happens when you dump your fabric scraps (crumbs) on the table, sew them together in any random way, cut and trim this “new fabric” into blocks, then sew them together create a beautiful, colorful quilt.

The HUMC Threads of Love Quilters invite you to join them any Tuesday to experience crumb quilting, by just visiting and observing, or perhaps even taking a turn at cutting, ironing or trimming. You don't have to be a quilter to have fun with scraps or crumbs!

The Quilters meet in the Fellowship Hall every Tuesday from 9:30 am to 3 pm, breaking for lunch, devotions and prayer. Everyone is welcome—you can come and leave at anytime.

Watch for an announcement of the next Quilters Coffee Hop, a monthly field trip, open to everyone, destination to be determined, with fun and fellowship guaranteed!

*Through quilting, we stitch together
memories
that will warm our hearts for
generations to come.*

Joy Derr



Care And Comfort



Threads of Love

BIRTHDAYS

February

Lynne Boulden	1
Ed Poitras	1
Pat Tanner	2
Brent Selander	2
Day-Ana Fietek	3
Cecilia Taggart	4
Renee Manlove	6
Tom Good	7
Boo Groth	7
Tonya Bolton	8
Terry Greenawalt	9
Avryl Thornton	13
Dick Boehmer	14
William Brunsdale	17
Jenny Seaton	19

April

Nancy Seaberg	1
Karen Odegard	3
Tom Harmon	4
Katherine Zander	4
Sue Heggen	5
Deb Haagenon	6
Evalt Laine	6
Richard Perrine	6
Larry Odegard	9
Barb Boyd	11
Richard Anderson	11
Juliann Kjenaas	17
Jackie Swanson	18
Genelle Forsberg	22
Patrick Kimball	23

March

Tom Stetzler	1
Hank Hallstrom	2
Shirley Green	5
Jackie Lundstrom	9
Mary C. Hansen	11
Bob Roman	12
Ken Manlove	12
Jill Eisele	17
Jack Derr	18
Oliver Manlove	18
Peggy Novak	21
Joanne Torfin	23
Andrea Otto	25
Jeff Hauger	30
Dick Lundstrom	31

ANNIVERSARIES

February

John & Evelyn Davis	5
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March

Tack & Martha Tacker	18
Randy & Robyn Wimmer	10

April

Jim & Janet Pieper	30
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Pastor Discretionary Fund

Thank you for your support of the Pastor's Discretionary Funds Please continue your support as the funds are being depleted quickly due to the great need.

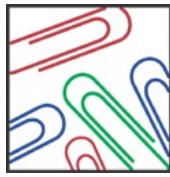
*Please Consider Giving to the Pastor
Discretionary Fund Today!
The needs are great!*

Upcoming *Sermon Series*

"Wrestling with Doubt"
continues through 2/11

"What RU Up To?"
2/14- 3/31

"A Future With Hope"
4/7-4/28



FROM THE
CHURCH
OFFICE

Northern Voice- Newsletter Deadline

The Northern Voice newsletter is now published quarterly.

The deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of the month, so mark your calendar: the **Summer 2024 Issue deadline is April 15th**. Thank you!!



**Daylight Saving
Time Begins Sunday,
March 10th. Remember
to turn your clocks
ahead!**

We Need You!

**Please consider volunteering. We are always looking for
Ushers & Greeters & Tech people- whatever gifts you
have or are willing to learn!**

Thank you to all of our many faithful volunteers!

*Stop in and say "hi!" to Kelly our
new Office Manager. She would
love to meet you!*



***Let us be a praying church! Remember those on
our Weekly Prayer Guide in your daily
prayers.***

Please have all joys and prayer requests into the church office by Friday morning - 9:00 am. You may also fill out a "Prayer Request" form, found on the back of the pews in the sanctuary, and place in the offertory collection or leave in the church office. If desired, we will add your request to the prayer chain and the weekly prayer guide.

**Please notify the office if/when you would like your
name removed from the prayer list.**