

**Northern Voice Newsletter**  
2025 Summer Edition - May, June, July



***We've a Story to Tell the Nations***

Does inviting someone to church put your stomach in knots? Does your tongue get tied when you're asked why you go to church, or why you go to Hubbard Church or why you follow Jesus? Does the word "evangelism" feel like a bad word that has a whole host of negative experiences connected to it?

You are not alone. For many folks in the mainline Christian traditions, we don't quite know what to do with evangelism. We know that we are called to share our faith with others, following Jesus' command in the "Great Commission" in Matthew's Gospel to "Make disciples of all nations," but the real question we wonder is, "How?"

For many of us, standing on a street corner or a soap box, aren't options we believe are faithful. So, what options do we have left? (Perhaps you are getting nervous just reading this! I assure you, that is normal too!)

What if we paused just for a second... What if we took a deep breath and held it...

What if we slowly exhaled... (No, really! Try it!)

At the heart of evangelism is a Witness. Folks sharing a story of how God has worked in the world. Folks sharing a story of how God has changed their lives. Whether it is the very first evangelist, Mary, running to tell the disciples that “Jesus is risen!” or it’s the countless stories that we hear and tell of folks that go something like, “I once was ....., but because of God’s work in my life, now I am ....” The best work of evangelism starts with witnessing how God has worked in our lives.

That’s what we see in the Gospel of John, too. Throughout the gospel, the word for witness (or testify) is used in almost every chapter. It’s all over the place. People witnessing this, people testifying to that... People sharing stories that witness and testify to what God is doing in their lives. Of folks in the community asking, “Why are you doing this?!” And the response being a testimony – a witness – to how they are acting differently because of what Jesus is doing, or has done, in their lives. It’s evangelism. It’s the story of the Good News being lived out in this world.

This Eastertide, we hope you will join us as we do this work together in worship, in small groups, in mission. We hope you will commit to being more attentive to the story of God’s action in your life, and then we hope you will spend time telling your story to others, and hearing their stories too, after worship during fellowship, during the week, at choir practice, or on the street... or Call Jeff Hauger! He will help you to find creative ways to share your story!

Friends, you have a story to share, whether you know it or not. And we believe it is worth sharing.

On this journey with you,

*Pastor Lauren*

# Memorial Garden a Blessing for All



*"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose.  
All that we love deeply becomes a part of us."  
Helen Keller*

With the promise of spring, it is time to enjoy the peace and tranquility of the Hubbard Pines Memorial Garden, a sacred site of beauty and dignity in the shadow of the church which is central to our lives.

As we remember those we have lost but who are a part of us forever, take a moment to visit this beautifully landscaped garden, set a midst towering pines and with the American flag flying high.

The garden is open to all, a final resting place or a place of remembrance. Perhaps you would like to have your names included on the Remembrance Wall Plaque, where loved ones can visit anytime they visit the church. Or, you may choose to have your ashes placed in the Columbarium, interred in a designated area of the garden, or scattered by the Cross.

The dream of the late Audrey and Bud Schlong, members of HUMC, the garden is a peaceful setting to meditate on the past and future and to remember loved ones.

For more information, or if you are interested in serving on the Memorial Garden Committee, please contact the church office.



Anyone is welcome to join us,  
no experience needed!

**Wednesday rehearsals at 7 pm:**

May 14 and 28;  
June 11; July 2, 16, 30

**Sundays we sing**

with rehearsal at 8 am:  
May 4 and 18; June 1 and 15;  
July 6, and 20



*From the*  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

*Jennie Anderson*

We are looking forward to our snowbirds returning to rejoin us singing in choir! As a reminder, we sing the first and third Sunday of each month. Rehearsals are the Wednesday prior to the Sunday we sing at 7pm and at 8am the Sunday we sing. All are welcome to sing with us!

This summer there will be a joint choir production (HUMC, Riverside and Calvary). We will be singing *To Save the World from Sin*. At this time, each choir will separately work on learning the Cantata (it is not difficult) and we will rehearse June 25 at 6pm (most likely at Calvary), July 23 at 6pm (again, most likely at Calvary). We will perform during each church's service - August 3 at Riverside 10 am; Calvary August 9 at 5:30pm (warm-up at 4pm) and August 10 at 8:30; then at Hubbard at 9am August 17. There might be added rehearsal times. I will keep choir informed.

I'm looking forward to summer services and singing praises to God!

*Jennie*



Please consider **VOLUNTEERING** for any of the following volunteer opportunities.

- ⇒ Greeters and Ushers - Contact Shari Perrine
- ⇒ Scripture Readers - Contact Diane Thielke or sign-up in Welcome Area
- ⇒ Fellowship servers - Contact Janell Saunders or sign-up in Welcome Area
- ⇒ Tech people - Contact Jeff Hauger
- ⇒ Communion set-up and servers - Contact Joy Derr



*HUMC Treasurer  
Position Available*

Noel Moore is retiring from her position as Treasurer at the end of this fiscal year. As such, Hubbard UMC is seeking a new Treasurer who will be responsible for supervision and control of the general accounting, financial statements, report preparation and the faithful stewarding of the resources that God has entrusted to the church. We are grateful for the years that Noel has so graciously given to us and thank her for her dedication and commitment to this position. We have been truly blessed.

For more information, or to express interest, please contact Pastor Lauren Hauger.



## JANUARY MISSION GIVING

02/23/2025

### **MISSION COMMITTEE**

California Wildfires \$ 1,000.00

### **DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING**

Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$ 1,325.00

UMCOR \$ 800.00

California Wildfires \$ 1,625.00

**TOTAL MISSION GIVING - JANUARY** \$ 4,750.00

## FEBRUARY MISSION GIVING

03/16/2025

### **MISSION COMMITTEE**

\$ 000.00

### **DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING**

Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$ 1,351.89

California Wildfires \$ 550.00

**TOTAL MISSION GIVING - FEBRUARY** \$ 1,901.89

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

## MARCH MISSION GIVING

04/12/2025

### MISSION COMMITTEE

Hubbard County Food Shelf \$ 1,000.00

### DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$ 853.56

UMCOR \$ 500.00

Hubbard County Food Shelf \$ 1,962.00

**TOTAL MISSION GIVING - MARCH** \$ 4,315.56



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!

### HUMC MOW Dates:

May 5 - 9

June 9 - 13

July 14 - 18

August 18 - 22



# Packing Event

Join us after worship on Sunday, June 8  
for this packing event.

## "They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love"

Dear Hubbard Church Family,

Like many congregations, the people I serve as pastor to are of diverse opinions about politics . . . **as well as many other subjects.**

And what a year it's been so far, right??? We have experienced democracy in action and we can give thanks and praise to God that we live in a country where we all have a voice in the leadership and direction of our government.

As we move forward into spring, let us remember that election results mean change in our world, in our national and local governments and their policies. But let us also remember **that the election changes nothing in our church.**

Just as before the election, we are a congregation of Democrats, Republicans, Greens, Libertarians, Independents, and those of other affiliations or no interest at all in politics. And friends, **I believe that is a good thing!**

God does not fit in the box of **any** political party (or nation for that matter). The way a person votes – or doesn't vote – doesn't make them any more or less a Christian than anyone else. We are stronger as a congregation **because** of the diversity of opinions about how to live out our faith.

Friends, we can learn from each other. But we must listen to each other and otherwise put our love for one another into action.

In his explanation of the Eighth Commandment (You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor), Martin Luther writes that as Christians we are called to "speak well (of our neighbor) and to explain everything in the kindest way." And John Wesley, founder of United Methodism emphasized that loving one's neighbor is an essential part of the Christian life, inseparable from loving God, and that true love involves practical actions to meet the needs of others. That is especially important regarding those with whom we disagree. What we must not do is impugn the motives – or the faith – of sisters and brothers who have come to different conclusions.



Romans 12:15 encourages God's people to "rejoice with those who rejoice" and to "mourn with those who mourn." It is a call for empathy based in a desire to understand the feelings of those with different opinions or reactions to what is happening in our world today.

The reality is that we are united **not** because of our politics or our nationality, or by our ethnicity or any other human construct. We are united at the Cross.

We are not Christians because of how we vote . . . or because of anything else we do.

We are Christians because of what God in Christ has done for us, a gift of life and salvation that became ours in the waters of baptism.

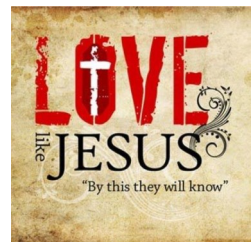
We are God's people in this place and time, called to Dwell in Love, Grow in our faith, and Go out in mission to the world. We are called to a time and place where Love Dwells, Faith Grows and Mission Leads... We are called to **Gather, Grow, and GO!** We have work to do **together**, living out our faith in ministries within – and especially outside – the church.

No matter our varying opinions, we, the people of the church are called to the joyful work of feeding the hungry, lifting up the poor, caring for and about the sick and imprisoned, and speaking up for those on the margins of society.

These past few months have evidenced some of the differences that exist among Christians, but have also given us the opportunity to be an example of how to live together – and minister together – not just acknowledging our diversity of opinions, but celebrating the fact that we are united as one in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

*Pastor Lauren*





**May**

Terry Kimball	1
Denny Boulden	7
Rob Hallstrom	9
Steve Christenson	11
Jim Cook	12
Betty Davis	13
Gail Hamilton	16
MaryAnn Kjenaas	21
Jim Wheeler	22
Nancy Knowles	24
Ed Bolton	24
Tack Tacker	24
Emily Kjenaas	25
Daniel Sanson	25
Rose Christenson	25
Rod Nordberg	26
Marcus Knowles	27
Mark Larsen	27
Marilyn Wilson	27
John Strom	28
Bridgett Cook	29
Derek Carlson	31

**June**

Nancy Jordheim	1
Isaac Sundsrud	5
Avaunne Hed	8
Judy Fedje	9
Sue Kuhn	10
Liz Merrick	13
Mary Hutchins	13
Laura Spolum	14
Neal Aronson	15
Steve Hill	17
Janell Saunders	21
Jean Aronson	24
Alan Fietek	24
Diane Thoelke	25
Jim Pieper	27
Kaylyn Anderson	27
Jeff Lund	28

**July**

Meghan Johnson	3
Stu Hamilton	6
Sally Wizik Wills	6
Linda Larson	7
Dale Captain	8
Merrie Ellen Bergeth	9
Bob Wills	14
Terry Seter	15
Lois Captain	17
Glynn Davis	17
Pat Peterson	20
Jan Pieper	20
Sandee Edelman-Karl	20
Ken Stellmacher	23
Alice Strom	25
Pat Beaumont	26
Diane Balk	29
Evelyn Davis	29
Marie Nordberg	30



**May**

Jeff & Linda Lund	3
Steve & Betsy Hill	20
Jim & Nadine Wheeler	20

**June**

Arnie & Sue Kuhn	2
Bob & Sue Heggen	10
Doug & Avaunne Hed	11
Bob & Andrea Otto	11
Don & Diane Balk	13
Roger & Maggie Jorgenson	15
Bob & Sally Wizik Wills	26
Stu & Gail Hamilton	26

**July**

Bob & Betsy Roman	10
Ken & Renee Manlove	11
Dave & Diane Thoelke	12
Ken Stellmacher & Mary Claire Hansen	13



The theme of the 2025 Annual Conference is

## *“Created for Love.”*

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions. The offering is brought to annual conference session — a gathering of United Methodist clergy and laity from across the state.

Our Love Offering this year will help us put love into action for our neighbors around the world.

Where will the Love Offering go?

- 30% will go to Africa University for student scholarships.
- 30% will go to Immigration Law and Justice Network.
- 20% will go to OC Ministries.
- 20% will go to Midwest Mission.

Our Love Offering will be traveling, along with our delegates, John Kisser, Marion Hansen, and Pastor Lauren, to Annual Conference on June 11-13 to be included in a special celebration of mission giving.

To give to the Love Offering, write your check to Hubbard UMC and designate Love Offering in the memo.

To learn more, go to [www.minnesotaumc.org/loveoffering](http://www.minnesotaumc.org/loveoffering). Thank you for your generosity!

**A Note from the Trustees . . . .**

**Spring Clean-Up Day is  
Saturday - May 3 at 9:00 am**

The time is here for the HUMC  
Buildings and Grounds Clean-Up.

A list of inside jobs will be provided. Outside work  
will include: flower gardens, gathering and hauling  
of fallen limbs, and fertilizing.

Please mark this day on your calendar. The treats  
are always noteworthy!!



HUMC Trustees



*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 sanctuary pews, 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.**



## United Women in Faith

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



Have a  
**Happy Father's Day,**  
**Sunday, June 15!**

### *Get your bikes ready folks, It's Time for the Hubbard Bike Group!*

The Hubbard Bike Group invites you to join us  
this summer. Whether you typically ride 3 miles or  
25 miles, you are most welcome.

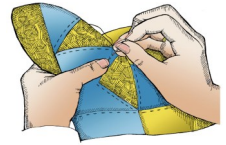
We meet Monday afternoons at 4:00 PM and  
Friday mornings at 9:00 AM at area trailheads...  
Park Rapids, Nevis, Hackensack and more.

After our ride, we enjoy fellowship and a meal at local  
restaurants. Come join us, we'd love to pedal with you.  
Watch for locations and details in our church bulletin.





# Care And Comfort



Threads of Love

## Quilters Invite You to Ladies Luncheon on June 3

*“When you said, ‘Let’s have lunch,’ I knew it was going to be a fantastic day.”*

Please join us on Tuesday, June 3, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall for a Spring Luncheon for the women of HUMC, a time to celebrate with friends, fellowship, food and fun. Your hosts, the Threads of Love Quilters, encourage you to bring a friend.

This luncheon is our opportunity to say “Thank You” for the support you have shown the quilting mission over the years. Our annual Blessing of the Quilts is set for Sunday, June 1, at which time the church pews will be decorated with a wide variety of colorful quilts and fleece blankets. They are amazing!

The quilters have scheduled an end-of-the-year “Quilters Coffee Hop” to Pequot Lakes for Tuesday, May 13. If you are interested in joining them, please contact Mary Takle or Diane Thaelke.

The Threads of Love Quilters meet on Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall, breaking at noon for lunch (BYO), and devotions. Please join them for part of the day or all day. Everyone is welcome!

### Pictures from our Iced Dyeing Fun!



## **“We” are one congregation.**

Covid’s isolation has expanded the idea of congregation to include not only “in the pew” worshipers but online and digital worshipers as well. We have become a hybrid congregation. We see 60-120 “in the pew” worshipers on Sunday and between 135- 270 “views” (or 200-400 viewers), digital worshipers each week.

We operate in the knowledge that the Holy Spirit always surrounds us in all places and all times as one community. So, if you worship on Wednesday at 4:30 in the afternoon from Tampa Bay, Florida, you are still part of this congregation.

Recently I was given an assignment to ask and record people’s responses to the question: “Where have you found love?” I discovered that a group of friends, around a table, sharing their stories with each other, gave us some beautiful and insightful answers. When looked for, love is the common theme that unites us. Love is so much stronger than the issues that are tending to divide us.

How do we share this idea with our entire congregation and world? It’s as easy as talking with each other, noticing and expressing gratitude for the obvious and hidden “gifts” we give daily to each other. Or as complex as finding out: who, where, when and why our digital worshipers join us and then developing ways to create the feeling we get at fellowship time with those viewers.

We continue to seek ways to include all our worshipers in two-way dialogue and fellowship.

**Jeff Hauger**  
Technical Director, HUMC





## *Northern Voice- Newsletter Deadline*

The Northern Voice newsletter is published quarterly. Our next Northern Voice will be **FALL 2025**, for the months of August, September, and October. The article submission deadline is **July 15<sup>th</sup>**.

*Register Now!*

*2025 Women's Retreat is June 18*

**Circles Around Us:**

***An exploration of self and influence***

Join us for a thoughtful and fun-filled day as we engage in simple activities for knowing oneself and how to self-assess and grow to fully become the person God intended. Then learn and consider “the ripple effect,” and how simple acts of kindness may grow and grow to touch those close to us as well as those we may never know.

*Sign-up in the Welcome Area.*



**A NEW VISION FOR  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Love Boldly  
Serve Joyfully  
Lead Courageously**

### **THE VISION**

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously** in local communities and worldwide connections.

#### **LOVE BOLDLY:**

We passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life. [Matthew 22:37-39 | John 13:34-35]

#### **SERVE JOYFULLY:**

With the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy. [Psalm 100:1 | Nehemiah 8:10 | John 13:14-15 | 1 Peter 4:10]

#### **LEAD COURAGEOUSLY:**

Following Jesus' example, we seek to resist and dismantle all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation. [Joshua 1:9 | Ephesians 6:10]

Learn more about this vision at **[ResourceUMC.org/Vision](https://ResourceUMC.org/Vision)**.