

Northern Voice Newsletter

2026 Spring Edition - February, March April



Dear friends, grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

As I write this letter near the end of January when our temperatures are plummeting, the darkness lingers, and the everyday news seems to spiral relentlessly... Personally, I can't help but long for Spring when the first pretty little spring flowers poke out of the dirt, bringing color back to the world after the gray winter. When the birds start to sing early in the morning, signaling that brighter days are finally here. When our windows can finally be opened to let in the fresh, clean air, instead of frozen over with frost. And our days get longer and warmer, allowing for walks without needing to bundle up in a heavy parka, as the smell of blooming flowers and fresh grass fills the air. Spring is my favorite time of year and is often seen as a time of renewal, growth, and hope.

I also write as one who, in my pastoral role, is called to guard the faith, shepherd the people, and work for unity. It is from this responsibility that I offer up these words from our Bishop, Lanette Plambeck who writes to us, "mindful of the anxiety many are carrying and the questions surfacing across our communities. As national conversations intensify and the possibility of extraordinary federal action is raised in public discourse." She offers us a pastoral word grounded not in speculation, but in wisdom, care, and our shared calling as the Church.

Scripture reminds us that “God is not a God of confusion but of peace” (1 Corinthians 14:33). The work of the Church in uncertain moments is not to amplify fear, but to cultivate clarity, courage, and compassion. Whatever unfolds in the civic realm, our call as the Church remains steady: to bear witness to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ, to tend the vulnerable, and to form community rooted in truth and grace.

As we complete our series on love in 1 John, and enter into a series on our Methodist Roots, let us continually be reminded who we are in Christ Jesus, and as Wesleyan followers. In today’s society, Bishop Plambeck urges us toward wisdom, saying, “Wisdom listens before it reacts. Wisdom resists rumor and refuses to traffic in unverified claims. Wisdom helps people distinguish between what is happening, what may happen, and what we are imagining might happen.

In moments of grief and uncertainty, most of us naturally lean toward news voices we already trust. In our vulnerability, we rush to make complex situations clear-cut. While that is human, it can also narrow our understanding. I encourage us to broaden our listening, seek out careful reporting from news sources representing multiple perspectives, and remain open to voices that may challenge our assumptions. Expanding how we listen is one way we practice humility and love in the pursuit of truth.”

In moments of heightened tension, it is my job as your pastor – to lead and guide you, not pressured by a growing sense of urgency or by reactive measures alone, but by steadiness and careful consideration; through prayer and honest conversation.

Bishop Plambeck says, “As United Methodists, we affirm both our responsibility to the public good and our ultimate allegiance to Christ. Our Social Principles call us to uphold human dignity, resist harm, and seek justice without surrendering to hatred or despair. We do not confuse the Kingdom of God with any political authority, nor do we retreat from the world Christ so loves.” (Someone told me this week, that indifference may just be considered a sin.)

As your pastor, I call our congregation to be a place of refuge and prayer in the days, weeks and months ahead. Be attentive to grief. Listen deeply to those who are afraid. Stay rooted in Christ, and be a people who chose the way of self-giving love and peaceful action over the way of force.

And may I remind you that the Church has lived through empires rising and falling, wars declared and ended, laws enacted and repealed. What has sustained us is not certainty about the future, but trust in the God who is already there.

Above all, remember this: our church is a place where fear does not get the final word and where no one carries their anxiety alone. I am constantly praying for you, grateful for your faithfulness, and confident in the quiet strength God is cultivating among us. Let us walk humbly, love boldly, and persevere with wisdom.

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; ...those whose spirits are overwhelmed.” - Psalm 34.18 NLT, adapt.

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” - Micah 6.8 NRSV

May the God who binds up the brokenhearted draw near to all who mourn, and may the Spirit lead us in the way of justice, mercy, and peace.

Pastor Lauren Hauger and Bishop Lanette Plambeck, (adapt.)





Anyone is welcome to join us,
no experience needed!

Wednesday rehearsals at 7 pm:

February 11 and 25;
March 11 and 25;
April 1, 15, and 29

Sundays we sing

with rehearsal at 8 am:
February 1 and 15;
March 1, 15 and 29;
April 5, 19; and May 3



Join us for our
Spring Hymn Sing
Sunday - April 12

Do you sing in the shower?
Do you rock out to your favorite band in the car?
If you answered "Yes" (even if you said no) you have a place in the choir! We'd love to have you sing with us!

HUMC choir sings the first and third Sundays of each month. We rehearse Wednesday night at 7pm prior to the Sunday we sing and at 8am on the Sunday we sing.

Singing is good for the soul, and it is fun to make a joyful sound to the Lord!

Jennie



Join the Choir



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

- ⇒ Ushers and Greeters - Contact Shari Perrine
- ⇒ Scripture Readers - Contact Diane Thoelke
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



USHERS/GREETERS

To all who have so faithfully served
as Ushers or/and Greeters at HUMC,
a heartfelt **THANK YOU!**

In a church, such as ours, known for its
hospitality and its welcome, it is a very important
job. If there is anyone who would like to serve
and has not been asked, or if you have any
questions, please feel free to contact
Shari Perrine at 218-251-5081,
or e-mail at favreme@msn.com, and thank you!

MISSIONS

OCTOBER MISSION GIVING

MISSION COMMITTEE

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Hubbard County Food Shelf | \$ 750.00 |
| Pastor Discretionary Fund | \$ 750.00 |

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Ukraine Youth Ministry | \$ 300.00 |
| United Women in Faith | \$ 150.00 |
| Pastor's Discretionary Fund | <u>\$ 2,040.00</u> |

TOTAL MISSION GIVING **\$ 3,990.00**

NOVEMBER MISSION GIVING

MISSION COMMITTEE

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Hubbard County Food Shelf | \$ 500.00 |
| Laporte Food Shelf | \$ 250.00 |
| Menahga Food Shelf | \$ 250.00 |

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Meals on Wheels | \$ 377.00 |
| Food Shelf | \$ 633.34 |
| Jamaica Hurricane Relief | \$ 783.33 |
| World Vision - Wellspring | \$ 2,500.00 |
| Pastor's Discretionary Fund | <u>\$ 5,533.33</u> |

TOTAL MISSION GIVING **\$10,827.00**

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

DECEMBER MISSION GIVING

MISSION COMMITTEE

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Alaska Community Foundation | \$ 1,000.00 |
| UMCOR US Disaster Relief | \$ 1,000.00 |
| UMCOR I-nat'l Emergency Relief | \$ 500.00 |
| Hubbard County Meals on Wheels | \$ 500.00 |
| Toys for Boys and Girls | \$ 322.00 |

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| World Vision - Wellspring | \$ 40.00 |
| Pastor's Discretionary Fund | <u>\$ 2,105.00</u> |

TOTAL MISSION GIVING \$ 4,967.00



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 Don Haagenson at 218-255-2788.

"Thank You"
to our many dedicated volunteers!

HUMC MOW Dates:

February 9 - 13
March 16 - 20
April 20 - 24

Epiphany Greetings 2026
Global Missionary Belinda Forbes

Dear Hubbard UMC,

As the New Year barely begins, and even as we are surrounded with plenty of dismal headlines or perhaps personal challenges that may make us stumble, let us contemplate the wisdom and courage of the Magi in their bold decision to follow God's call and take a different way home, heeding a warning to move away from injustice and trusting God's guidance even without seeing the way clearly. Following the light of God manifested in Jesus Christ requires faith. I share this prayer from spiritual leader Jack Kornfield which has been helpful to me as I transition into 2026.

If you wish, take a few breaths and offer yourself this simple blessing:

May I carry forward what truly matters.
May I release what no longer serves.
May I walk into this new year with courage and care.
And then extend that light outward:
May we choose love again and again.
May our world remember its own goodness.
The light you seek for the year ahead is not waiting somewhere else.

It already lives in you---
in your capacity to begin again,
to forgive a little more

to open when it would be easier to close.

As this year turns, may you trust that something wise is moving you forward even when you cannot see the path.
With gratitude for you, and faith in what is unfolding!

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With faith and thanksgiving, I am looking forward to our continued journey of mission service through the General Board of Global and AMOS Health and Hope.

Blessings of light and love for us all in 2026!

Grace and peace,
Belinda

Dr. Belinda Forbes
Global Missionary
General Board of Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church
From the United States serving in Central America
Advance #12109Z

An Unlikely Lent

February 18-April 5
Lenten Sermon Series

The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are at the heart of the story of Easter, but the resurrection was not witnessed in isolation; it unfolded before a crowd.

Join us this Lent as we uncover what the stories of those women and men teach us today. How will they help us step into the story of Easter?

By seeing the Easter story through their eyes, we may discover that the resurrection is not just a past event, but an invitation into something new, unexpected, and unlikely.

This Lent, we will walk through this season with eyes wide open, ready to see where God is moving, even in the margins. Since the cross is not the end of the story, we will embrace every unlikely moment along the way.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| February 18 th | Ash Wednesday Service at Calvary | 6:00pm w/ Soup Supper @ 5:00pm |
| February 22nd | Lent 1 – <i>Unlikely Offering</i> | 9:00am |
| February 25 th | Soup Supper and Game Night! | 5:30 – 7:00pm |
| March 1st | Lent 2 – <i>Unlikely Opposition</i> | 9:00am |
| March 4 th | Soup Supper and Game Night! | 5:30 – 7:00pm |
| March 8th | Lent 3 - <i>Unlikely Freedom</i> | 9:00am |
| March 11 th | Soup Supper and Game Night! | 5:30 – 7:00pm |
| March 15th | Lent 4 – <i>Unlikely Companionship</i> | 9:00am |
| March 18 th | Soup Supper and Game Night! | 5:30 – 7:00pm |
| March 22nd | Lent 5 – <i>Unlikely Courage</i> | 9:00am |
| March 25 th | Soup Supper and Game Night! | 5:30 – 7:00pm |
| March 29th | Palm Sunday – <i>Unlikely Allies</i> | 9:00am |
| April 2 nd | Maundy Thursday – Seder Meal | 7:00pm |
| April 3 rd | Good Friday at Riverside Church | 6:30pm |
| April 5th | Easter Sunday Service | 9:00am |

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

HAPPY Birthday

February

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Lynne Boulden | 1 |
| Ed Poitras | 1 |
| 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 |
| William Brundale | 17 |
| Jenny Seaton | 19 |
| Donald Saunders | 23 |
| Eileen Bolton | 28 |



March

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Tom Stetzler | 1 |
| Hank Hallstrom | 2 |
| Jackie Lundstrom | 9 |
| Mary Claire Hansen | 11 |
| Bob Roman | 12 |
| Ken Manlove | 12 |
| Jill Eisele | 17 |
| Oliver Manlove | 18 |
| Joanne Torfin | 23 |
| Andrea Otto | 25 |
| Jeff Hauger | 30 |
| Dick Lundstrom | 31 |

April

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Nancy Seaberg | 1 |
| Gary Gauldin | 2 |
| Karen Odegard | 3 |
| Tom Harmon | 4 |
| Katherine Zander | 4 |
| Sue Heggen | 5 |
| Deb Haagenson | 6 |
| Richard Perrine | 6 |
| Larry Odegard | 9 |
| Russ Takle | 10 |
| Barb Boyd | 11 |
| Richard Anderson | 11 |
| Juliann Kjenaas | 17 |
| Genelle Forsberg | 22 |
| Patrick Kimball | 23 |



February

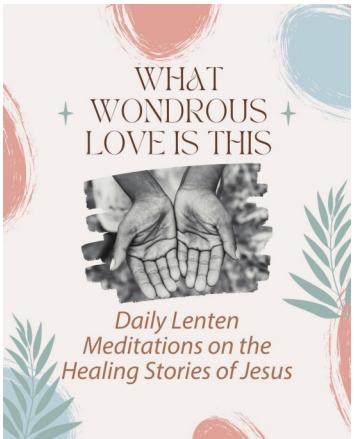
| | |
|---------------------|---|
| John & Evelyn Davis | 5 |
|---------------------|---|

March

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Derek & Samantha Carlson | 10 |
| Randy & Robyn Wimmer | 10 |
| Tack & Martha Tacker | 18 |

April

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Benn & Bekah Sundsrud | 26 |
| Jim & Janet Pieper | 30 |



Annual Conference Lenten Study

This year's Lenten Study, *"What Wondrous Love is This"*, will be made up of six weekly video witnesses for each week of Lent, as well as original daily devotionals. These witnesses and devotionals will be posted on the Minnesota Annual Conference's Facebook page.

We hope these resources help you grow and learn as we walk through the Lenten Season and approach the miracle of Easter.

Look for more information as we draw closer to Ash Wednesday!



Campership Funds 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 support camp costs associated with our HUMC family interested in attending, or volunteering, at camp can do so. If you would like to donate, please make your check to Hubbard UMC and write "Camperships" in the Memo Line.

Thank you for your support!

A Note from the Missions Committee

March Food Shelf Drive March 1 - April 6



MARCH IS COMING SOON!

Each Sunday in March, we will be collecting grocery-store related products for the Hubbard County Food Shelf, as has been our tradition for some time.

There may be a twist or two this time, so keep your eyes open as March approaches. Meanwhile, consider stocking up a little extra now, so it will be more convenient for you to donate each of the five Sundays in March.

The usual non-perishable groceries are always welcome, as are paper items (baby DIAPERS, for example -- hint, hint).

Of course, cash donations are always welcome!

Dave Thoelke
Missions Chair

SUPPORT
LOCAL
FOOD SHELVES



*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!

Upcoming Events:

- March 4 **UWF meetings resume**
1st Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm at Hubbard UMC
- March 6 **World Day of Prayer** - watch for more information in the Friday emails and the weekly bulletins.
- **Lenten meal:** Please join us at 5:30 pm each Wednesday of Lent beginning February 25. There is a sign up sheet for Soup and Dessert in the Welcome Area if you are able to provide a soup or a dessert.

The Hubbard United Women in Faith are again sponsoring books for you to check out, read and return. They are all included within the UWFaith Reading Program. If you would like to explore more books, the MN Conference has a listing on our website, UWFaithmn.com with instructions on how to access our lending library and our online Book studies.

- *How to Fight Racism* by Jemar Tisby
This is a guide for standing up for racial justice. This would be a great book for an adult and youth person to peruse together.
- *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass
Explores paths to rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence.
- *Grace Can Lead Us Home* by Kevin Nye
Focuses on a Christian approach to end homelessness.
- *The Book of Hope* by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams
Feeling a little “overwhelmed and rung out”, try this survival guide for trying times.

These books are located in the Wesley room. Each has a check-out card. Add your name and date, put card in Marion's mailbox in the Wesley room and enjoy. When you are done, return the book to Marion (mailbox is fine).

Marion Hansen, UWF President



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Care And Comfort



Threads of Love

Threads of Love Quilters
have been busy this fall
constructing many beautiful quilts
(at last count over 50!)

We continue to reach out to
the community organizations around us
to see what needs they might have for quilts.

One need that emerged recently was for another Dignity Quilt for the memory care units at Crystal Brook. Several years ago, The Threads of Love Quilters gifted Crystal Brook with a lovely dignity quilt. The Dignity Quilt is used to cover the body of someone who has died when they are taken away from Crystal Brook.

Now that Crystal Brook has expanded into two memory care units, they have a need for a second quilt. Thankfully, Sue Harmon was able to resurrect the pattern we used to create the first quilt. We purchased fabric and distributed kits to our members. The quilt blocks are being constructed and the new quilt should be ready in the next couple of months. All of us are excited to be able to bless our community with such a gift.

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 us for part of the day or all day. Everyone is welcome!





Prayer Gathering for Ukraine: 4th Anniversary

On **Tuesday, February 24**, we mark the fourth anniversary of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. To honor this day, we will hold a one-hour global prayer gathering via Zoom, bringing together United Methodist followers, friends, and partners from around the world.

We invite you to join us in a time of shared prayer for peace, the safety of our clergy, and the continued resilience of the Ukrainian people.

Date: February 24, 2026

Location: Online via Zoom

Time: 5:00 PM Kyiv Time

10:00 AM (EST) / 9:00 AM (CST) / 8:00 AM (MST) / 7:00 AM (PST)

Watch the Friday Emails for more information.

2026 MN Annual Conference

The 172nd Minnesota Annual Conference

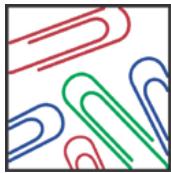
June 16-18, 2026

River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud.

The theme of the Annual Conference will be
"Created to Serve Joyfully."

2026 Leadership Institute

September 30 - October 2, 2026



FROM THE
CHURCH
OFFICE

Northern Voice- Newsletter Deadline

The Northern Voice newsletter is published quarterly.
Our next Northern Voice will be **SUMMER 2026**, for the
months of May, June and July.

The article submission deadline is **April 15th**.

Annual Giving Statements
have been mailed.

if you did not receive your statement,
please contact the office
by email at hubbardumc@unitelc.com
or by phone at **218-732-0224**.



Sunday -- March 8, 2026
Daylight Savings begins

**CAMP REGISTRATION
IS OPEN NOW!**



**For more information about camp,
please look for camping brochures in the Welcome Area
or visit www.campminnesota.org**