



The Communicator

United Presbyterian Church of Jamestown, ND

Volume 53 No. 3 March 2026

Sharing Christ's Love Through Service

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

As we enter the season of Lent, we are invited into a meaningful journey of faith, reflection, and renewal. This year, Ash Wednesday was on February 18, marking the beginning of this sacred season as we look ahead to the joyful celebration of Easter on April 5. During Holy Week, we will gather for a Maundy Thursday Communion service on April 2 at 7:00 PM, and we are honored to host Jamestown Ministerial Association's Community Good Friday Service on April 3 at 12:00 noon.

Lent offers us a special opportunity to draw closer to God, centering our hearts on His love, grace, and guidance. In the midst of busy schedules and daily responsibilities, it is easy to become distracted, but this season gently calls us back to what matters most. By placing God at the center of our lives, we rediscover our identity as His beloved children and find renewed purpose and direction.

A Time for Spiritual Renewal

Surrendering to God's will is not about losing who we are, but about discovering a life shaped by grace and meaning. It is an act of trust—allowing Jesus to guide us into God's good and perfect plan. Lent invites us to seek truth and righteousness, to release what holds us back, and to embrace a deeper life of faith and devotion.

In our adult Sunday class, we have been participating in a teaching series by Andy Stanley entitled "Starting Point." One of the key themes in this series explores an important spiritual distinction—the difference between a mistake and a sin.

A mistake is an error that arises from limited knowledge or human frailty. Using the wrong ingredient, misreading a number, or pressing the wrong pedal are familiar examples. These moments are part of being human. While they may require correction, they do not break our relationship with God and, when acknowledged, usually do not cause lasting harm in our relationships with others.

Sin however, is different in nature. Sin begins with a conscious decision to do what we know is wrong. It often starts quietly, wrapped in self-justifying thoughts such as, "I deserve this," or "No one will notice." What may seem small at first can carry serious and lasting consequences.

It is not uncommon to hear someone say, "I'm sorry—it was just a mistake. Can we move on?" While forgiveness is essential, this response can sometimes attempt to minimize serious

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UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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 Jamestown, ND 58401
 Phone (701) 252-1748
 website: www.upcjamestown.org
 e-mail: presbyterianchurch@daktel.com

FALL-SPRING WORSHIP HOURS
 Sunday School 9:00 AM
 Worship Service 10:30 AM

PASTOR HOURS
 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
 Monday-Thursday

SECRETARIAL HOURS
 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 Tuesday & Thursday

You may also join us for Sunday worship on YouTube at 10:30 AM

MARCH WORK MONTH FAMILIES

Chairpersons:
 Doreen Wegner 952-1789 / 303-241-1744

Burgard, Joe & Nancy	952-0051
Haag, Theresa	320-3599
Johnson, Terry & Deb	763-6245
Lund, Danyel	701-890-4021
Reimers, Doug and Mary Claire	701-200-9347 (Mary Claire)
Tarpinian, Jackie	269-1515
Wegner, Dean & Kathy	252-3980
Wegner, Yvonne	952-2399

From the Pastor (continued from front page)

wrongdoing by placing it in the category of a simple error, avoiding accountability and overlooking the harm caused.

Andy Stanley notes that when every wrongdoing is reduced to a mistake, the concept of sin itself begins to disappear. Without sin, there is no sinner, and without a sinner, there is no need for a Savior—a truth central to our faith.

Opportunities for Generosity

Lent is also a season that calls us to generosity. Children, youth, and adults alike are invited to participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which supports disaster relief, refugee assistance, and community development around the world. Offerings will be received on Easter Sunday, and gifts may be given using the envelopes provided or through Fish Banks.

Reflecting on the Meaning of Lent

At times, Lent can feel routine—much like New Year’s resolutions that are made with good intentions but are difficult to sustain. Yet at its heart, Lent is about more than tradition; it is about renewal and spiritual depth. When we receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we make a public declaration of our faith. I recall a young child at a past service joyfully announcing, “I’m going to keep this on forever!” While the ashes eventually fade, the truth remains that we are forever marked by God’s enduring love.

Embracing the Journey

Lent reminds us of who we are and to whom we belong. We are called to live lives of surrender, love, and service—setting aside distractions so that our faith may flourish. My prayer is that each of you will enter this season with openness and expectation, using these weeks as a time of reflection, renewal, and growth. May this Lenten journey draw you closer to the Lord and fill your hearts with quiet joy and lasting peace.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob

TO ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH:

The United Presbyterian Women’s purpose statement is:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God’s kingdom.

Nancy F. will be doing the lunch and lesson on March 26 from chapters 6 & 7.

ALL are welcome to join!!



MARCH 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday School-9am Worship 10:30 AM	2 Christian Nurture 6:30 PM	3 Deacons 6:15 PM	4 Youth Bible Study 3:00 pm Zoom Bible Study 6:00 PM	5 AA 7:00 PM	6	7
8 Sunday School-9am Worship 10:30 AM	9 Property & Finance-5:00 pm	10	11 Youth Bible Study 3:00 pm Zoom Bible Study 6:00 PM	12 Session-5:30 pm AA 7:00 PM	13	14
15 Sunday School-9am -ADULTS ONLY Worship 10:30 AM SOUP LUNCH AFTER SERVICE	16 Chess Gathering 7 PM	17	18 Youth Bible Study 3:00 pm Zoom Bible Study 6:00 PM	19 AA 7:00 PM	20	21
22 Sunday School-9am Worship 10:30 AM	23	24	25 Youth Bible Study 3:00 pm Zoom Bible Study 6:00 PM	26 UPW 1:00 PM AA 7:00 PM	27	28
29 PALM SUNDAY Sunday School-9am Worship 10:30 AM	30 Chess Gathering 7 PM	31				

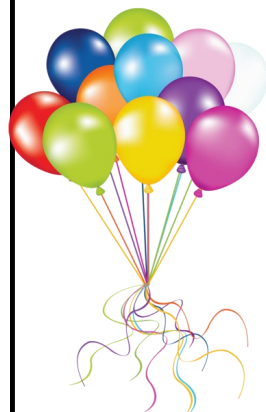
***More Dates to Remember...**

3-15-26 - Deacons are putting on a donation Soup Lunch with proceeds going to the Safe Shelter, there will be a sign-up sheet to bring soups or desserts and for clean up.

3-15-26 - NO YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

March - watch for the Busy Jar to be out!!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS 2026



Steve Koehn	3
Jerusha Zamgba	6
Deb Hornung	8
Terry Johnson	8
Brittany Chandler	9
Munah Tarr	10
Mary Ellen Reimers	13
Emma Piatz	16
Christina Tarr	17
Mary Cadwell	18
Gail Martin	23
George Barnes	24
Kathie Dunn	24
Larry Hoffman	30



March Anniversaries



Jerome & Laura Zamgba	5
George & Jackie Barnes	22
Jeff & Vicki Enger	26



MARCH ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL AGENDA

We will continue watching the Right Now Media presentation of "Starting Point" hosted by Andy Stanley. Here is a brief description:

Everything has a starting point-your life, your relationships, your education, your career. Sometimes we forget that faith has a starting point as well. For some of us, our faith journeys began in childhood as a set of beliefs handed to us by a parent, teacher, or pastor. Maybe you developed a framework of faith based on personal experience. Or maybe you had not faith at all. Too often, a faith formed in childhood isn't strong enough to withstand the pressures of adult life.

But what if you could find a new starting point for faith?

DEACON DIALOGUE . .

Per Vicki Enger

Greetings from your United Presbyterian Church Deacons!

First of all, we can never thank you enough for the wonderful support you extend through us to help local organizations in need. Your generous giving to the Senior Citizens (\$400) and the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center (\$664) was able to be doubled through Giving Hearts Day.

The donation to Dakota Children's Advocacy Center went to help them with their operational costs. They also have additional day to day needs to help their clients. To assist with that we are placing a Busy Jar in the sanctuary, similar to our Noisy Jar for the Salvation Army. If you are interested you may donate your extra change, bills, whatever you feel led to contribute. The Jar will be out for March and April.

Our United Presbyterian Church has long been a supporter of the Safe Shelter in Jamestown. The Deacons will be serving a soup and bread donation meal on Sunday, March 15. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church to bring soup, desserts, and to help with cleanup.

Subway gift cards will be sent to our college students.

Financial Update

YTD Income thru February 24, 2026	\$ 43,381.54
YTD Expenses thru February 24, 2026	\$ 32,571.64
YTD Income/Loss thru February 24, 2026	\$ 10,809.90

We thank you for your continued support of United Presbyterian Church!

Per-Capita Payments: We encourage all members to pay their per-capita as a gift above and beyond their annual pledge. **Our per-capita is based on \$50.00 for each active member of our church.** To submit a check for per-capita, simply write "Per-capita" on the memo line of your check.



The Deacons received thank you cards from the Salvation Army for the \$285.85 raised in the 'Noisy Jar' in Nov/Dec; from the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center for the \$664 raised from the donation meal February 8th; and from the Community Action for the \$265 raised in the Souper Bowl pots.

Thank you everyone!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Steve Koehn moved/2nd, “to approve the new picture of The United Presbyterian Church to be used as the bulletin cover.”

MOTION CARRIED

Tiffany Dauer moved/2nd, “to approve PEO’s annual silent auction on Monday, December 7, 2026, in UPC’s Fellowship Hall.”

MOTION CARRIED

Christian Nurture Committee:

**CN Recommends having an Easter Egg Hunt between services indoors on April 5th.
CN recommends sending youth to the spring youth retreat May 1-3 - TBD if there is a cost.**

CN recommends spending \$25 for a blessing basket from the youth fund.

CN recommends using \$1,595 from the HERRB fund as a scholarship to Hannah Tarr for her music ambassador trip.

ALL RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED

Property and Finance:

The Property and Finance Committee recommends an upgrade to the Church Administrative Assistant’s computer. The cost should not exceed \$500 and will come from the building fund.

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED

Worship Committee:

Mark Sherfy moved/2nd, “to approve the United Presbyterian Church hosting the Community Good Friday worship service on April 3rd, 2026, at 12:00pm.”

MOTION CARRIED

Deacons:

January benefit for meal Senior Citizen Center collected \$400.

February benefit meal for Dakota Children’s Advocacy Center collected \$664 and the Super Bowl of Caring collected \$265 for Jamestown’s Community Action, plus donated food products.

\$25 Subway gift cards will be given to UPC college students.

A “Busy Jar” collection jar will be set out on Sundays in March and April for the Dakota Children’s Advocacy Center.

Donation meal for March 15 will be a soup lunch for Safe Shelter.

Nancy Burgard, Clerk of Session

INTERESTED IN CHESS??? We are hosting Chess Gatherings on Monday, March 16th at 7:00 PM and Monday, March 30th at 7:00PM. Anyone that is interested in playing is welcome. Whether you are a child or a senior citizen, whether you are a beginner or an experienced player, you are welcome!

Christian Education Program Coordinator Report

Greetings United Presbyterian Church!

February has been a busy and exciting month for our children and youth programs!

Sunday School continues to go well. We average 7 kids per Sunday. This includes all kids Preschool through 5th grade. We have some youth that attend Sunday School also. We will not have Sunday School for preschool and early elementary on March 15th.

Sunday School begins each week at 9:00 a.m. with an opening time. The children have been learning what The Lord’s Prayer is and have been learning actions that go along with the Lord’s Prayer. We will be taking a break from the Lord’s prayer over Lent to go through a set of “Resurrection Eggs” and learn about Jesus’ life before he was crucified. After Easter we will circle back to the Lord’s prayer and work on memorizing the prayer to finish off the Sunday School year. After the opening, the children stay in the Sanctuary for music time and then move to their individual classrooms for Bible lessons and snacks. Our Sunday School teachers are Danielle Geiszler, Tammie Keese, Jerome Zagmba, and Tiffany Dauer. Kim Thoele also serves as a substitute Sunday School teacher.

We will plan to have the Sunday School children sing on **April 12th**. They will be singing an anthem with the adult choir.

We offer a variety of sensory supports that may be used throughout Sunday School, including weighted lap animals, worry stones, pop-its, and visual schedules. A quiet room is also available for children who may feel overwhelmed. This space includes a bubble column and pillows for seating.

If you are interested in volunteering during Sunday School—either in the quiet room or as a substitute teacher—please contact **Pastor Bob** or **Tiffany Dauer**.

Youth Group continues to meet every Wednesday after school, averaging 8 students in attendance, ranging from 5th through 9th grade. The youth went to the Winter Youth Retreat put on by the Presbytery on January 30th through February 1st. 7 youth attended the retreat. They had a great time meeting new friends, participating in service projects, and learning about God!

We had a Valentine’s Monster event on February 12th. We had 6 children attend. They enjoyed making the Monster’s and having some play time together!

Upcoming events include an Easter Egg Hunt that will happen between services on April 5th!

God Bless you all!

Tiffany Dauer, Christian Education Program Coordinator