



October Bounty



The Communicator

United Presbyterian Church of Jamestown, ND

Volume 53 No. 10 October 2026

Sharing Christ's Love Through Service

Dear Friends,

From the Pastor



Artificial intelligence is quickly becoming part of everyday life, and it naturally raises many questions and concerns. That is one reason I attended an AI breakout session at UJ's Leadertown on September 17. Whether we realize it or not, we already encounter AI in our phones, computers, workplaces, schools, searches, and communication. Used well, it can help us find information, organize ideas, solve problems, and work more efficiently.

For Christians there is a deeper question worth asking: How do we use AI without letting it begin to shape or control us? A good place to start is simply by keeping technology in its proper place.

Technology is a tool, not a master; it should serve us, not determine how we live. Paul writes, "I will not be dominated by anything" (1 Corinthians 6:12), and that is a helpful reminder for our digital age. We can appreciate what technology offers without allowing ourselves to depend on it too much.

Imagine that someone in our congregation loses a spouse. AI might help us locate Scripture about grief or organize our thoughts for a note of encouragement. But it should never replace our personal care. What a grieving person truly needs is a phone call, a listening friend, a meal, prayer, and a church family willing to walk beside them.

AI can help us prepare to care for someone, but it cannot do the caring for us. That is an important difference. AI can give us information, suggest words, and even imitate conversation, but it cannot replace wisdom, relationships, or Christian fellowship. It may help with a sermon, a project, or question, but it cannot pray for us, discern for us, show compassion for us, or simply be present with another person.

Christianity is not simply about gathering information; it is about knowing God and living faithfully with one another. Jesus did not call us merely to know more. He called us to follow Him. For example, it is not enough to learn what Jesus taught about loving our neighbor; following Him invites us to become His love in action—to bring hope to the lonely, extend grace to those who have hurt us, and serve those in need with open hearts and willing hands. So let us choose one person this week and take one faithful step: make the call, offer forgiveness, share a meal, or lend a helping hand. Let us not merely admire the way of Jesus—let us walk in it.

(continued on page 2)

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

302 2nd Avenue SE
Jamestown, ND 58401
Phone (701) 252-1748

website: www.upcjamestown.org
e-mail: presbyterianchurch@daktel.com
Facebook - search upcjamestown

REGULAR WORSHIP HOURS

Sunday School - 9:00 AM
Worship Service - 10:30 AM
You may also join us for live Sunday
worship on YouTube at times above.

PASTOR HOURS SECRETARIAL HOURS
10:00 AM-2:00 PM 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Monday-Thursday Wednesday & Thursday

*For corrections or additions to the newsletter
please call the church office—252-1748*

OCTOBER WORK MONTH FAMILIES

Chairperson:

Jonelle Lindbo

Dunn, Duane & Kathie
Giesler, Brent & Danielle
Koehn, Steve
Lindbo, Pat

McIntyre, Mike & Cheryl
Nelson, Colleen
Reimers, Dale & Mary Ellen

From the Pastor

(continued from front page)

So perhaps the most important question is not, “What can AI do?” but “What should we allow it to do?”

Technology should help us, not define us or control us. We can welcome its benefits while still setting healthy boundaries that protect our relationships, attention, integrity, and our dependence on God. For example, we might use AI to help draft a message, but then put the phone away during dinner, verify the information before sharing it, and spend time in prayer before making an important decision.

Sometimes the wisest and most faithful thing we can do is simply turn the technology off—to listen, sit quietly before God, open the Bible, pray, worship, or give our full attention to the people around us.

AI may become more powerful in the years ahead, but it does not change who we are: God’s people, created in God’s image and called to love God and our neighbors. Technology may belong in our hands, but our lives belong in God's hands. For example, we may consult AI when weighing a difficult choice, but we still bring that choice to God in prayer, seek wisdom in Scripture, and trust Him with the outcome.

May we use these remarkable tools with wisdom, humility, and gratitude, remembering that no technology can replace God, genuine human community, or the call of Jesus to love and serve one another.

Grace and peace,
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.

A women’s Bible study group will meet for the first time on October 16 at 4:30 pm - contact Tiffany Dauer for more information.

The Senior Circle will meet on October 22 at 1 pm.

We now have an account at BUFF TOWN BARGAINS - in order for them to get give credit to the correct church - PLEASE label your items with UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Jamestown - not just Presbyterian Church as there is another account by that name!! Contact Dixie Lee for more information!
AS OF 9-22-2026 WE HAVE EARNED \$ 296.15 ! THANK YOU EVERYONE!



October 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 AA 7:00 PM	2	3
4 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM	5 Property & Finance-5:00 PM Christian Nurture C &O- 6:30 PM	6 Deacons- 6:15 PM	7 Confirmation - 3 pm Zoom Bible Study 6:00 PM Chancel Choir - 7 PM	8 Session - 5:30 PM AA 7:00 PM	9	10
11 NO YOUTH SS Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM	12	13	14 Confirmation - 3 pm Zoom Bible Study 6:00 PM Chancel Choir - 7 PM	15 AA 7:00 PM	16 Woman's Bible Study- 4:30 pm Christian Music Concert - 5 PM	17
18 Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM CHILI COOK-OFF	19	20	21 Confirmation - 3 pm Zoom Bible Study 6:00 PM Chancel Choir - 7 PM	22 Senior Circle - 1:00 PM AA 7:00 PM	23	24
25 NO YOUTH SS Sunday School 9AM Worship 10:30 AM	26	27	28 Youth Bible Study-3p Zoom Bible Study 6:00 PM Chancel Choir - 7 PM	29 AA 7:00 PM	30	31 Halloween

*More Dates to Remember...

- October 5 - Chess Gathering - 7 pm in Fellowship Hall
- October 16 - Jamestown High School is sponsoring a music event featuring a Christian artist Mark Schultz - supports the music department - poster on hall bulletin board
- October 27 - November newsletter/communicator items/reports due!



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS 2026

Diane Witzig	5
Vi Reimers	7
Sandy Worm	8
Jackie Barnes	10
Konah Tarr Jr.	14
Danielle Geisler	15
Angie Allmer	19
Flory Austin	21
Duane Dunn	21
Kathy Wegner	21
Ellen Boyar	23
Natalie Szarkowski	29





OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Joe & Nancy Burgard	11
Carrie Orn & Ryan Carlson	26
Bob & Gail Martin	27



Financial Update

YTD Income thru September 22, 2026	\$ 165,374.91
YTD Expenses thru September 22, 2026	\$ 167,334.74
YTD Income/Loss thru September 22, 2026	(\$ 1,959.83)

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. Thank you!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS - SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

Tiffany Dauer moved/2nd, “to approve the Buffalo City Group Alcoholics Anonymous meeting every Thursday from 7-9pm starting in September 2026 through August 2027, barring any church conflicts, in the UPC Fellowship Hall.”

MOTION CARRIED

Mary Reed moved/2nd, “to approve Tiffany Dauer as UPC’s commissioner for the October 10th, 2026, fall Presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead, MN.”

MOTION CARRIED

Moderator’s Report:
 A confirmation class started on Wednesday, September 9th at 3:00 pm.
 Tiffany Dauer moved/2nd, “to approve Reverend Robert Boyar attending Leadertown at UJ on September 17, 2026.”

MOTION CARRIED

Christian Nurture:
 Presbytery Youth Retreat October 2-4 at UPC. Help is needed serving meals.
 Women’s Bible Study will start October 16th at 4:30pm.
 Little Free Pantry has had 237 items put into it since the last session meeting.
 CN recommends having Allie Carpenter as a substitute teacher for Sunday School pending a background check.
 CN recommends having UPC Confirmation Class on the weeks that Jerome Zamgba is unable to have Youth Group.
 CN recommends having Ophelia Dahn (Moses’ mom) as an option to be a second adult for Youth Group and Confirmation.
 CN recommends having no Children’s Sunday School on October 11th and 25th; November 15th and 29th; December 20th and 27th; January 3rd; February 14th and 28th; April 18th following Jamestown Public Schools vacation calendar.

ALL RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED

Property and Finance:
 UPC’s 2025 financial review is almost done.
 UPC’s 2027 budget planning will start at their October 5th meeting.
 Collecting snow removal bids.
 Air conditioning bids for sanctuary to be pursued.
 Bat control companies are booked for year.

Deacons:
 Tiffany Dauer moved/2nd, “to approve the Deacons collecting, September 2026 through August 2027, various hygiene products for the Salvation Army and non-perishable items for Jamestown’s Community Action Food Pantry.”

MOTION CARRIED

Deacon's Offering will be October 11.
 Chili Cookoff scheduled for October 18.
 Gift Cards for UPC college students will be Dairy Queen \$25 gift cards.
 A donation meal for district elementary schools on November 15th, will be lasagna with garlic bread.

Respectfully submitted – Nancy Burgard, Clerk of Session

Christian Education Program Coordinator Report

By: Tiffany Dauer

I made 100 Backpack Blessings. I am proud to report that between the Backpack Blessings and United Presbyterian Church and the Community Block Party, all 100 blessings were handed out! Blessings were handed out to school aged children, college students, and adults!

Sunday School resumed on Sunday, September 13th. This year we are using a new curriculum called God’s Kids. It is through Right Now Media. Last week we had 5 in attendance and we learned about Creation. There is memory Bible Verses built into the curriculum. The first verse we are working on learning is from Genesis 1:31 “Then God, looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!” The first six weeks is all about God’s Story: God made everything. There is a parent app that goes with this new curriculum. I have added any parents that I have emails for to the app. The parent app is used to help reiterate what the children learn during Sunday School. They can also work on the Bible verse from home. We are giving away prizes for any Memory verses the child learns. The offering collected this year during Children’s Sunday School will be going towards the Little Free Pantry. Last week we collected \$10.25 for the Little Free Pantry. As always, we could use extra hands during Sunday School. Please contact Tiffany Dauer if you are interested. Our Sunday School Teachers this year are Jerome Zagmba, Allie Carpenter, Nancy Burgard, Tiffany Dauer, Danielle Geisler, Tammie Keese, and Kim Thoele.

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 in the quiet room, please reach out to Tiffany Dauer.

There are worship bags available for any children that sit in the sanctuary during the worship service. There are fidgets and coloring supplies in these bags.

We will be hosting the Presbytery’s Fall Youth Retreat **October 2 – 4th**. Youth from all around the state of North Dakota will be spending the weekend here to learn more about Jesus. The theme for the weekend is Disney. We will need volunteers to help cook and serve meals. The food that we cook will be provided for you. **Saturday morning**, I need volunteers to help make omelets in a bag and sheet pan pancakes. **Saturday lunch** I need a couple of volunteers to oversee the food table. We will be having make your own sandwiches for lunch. **Saturday evening**, I need volunteers to bake frozen lasagna and serve. **Sunday morning**, I need volunteers to oversee the food table we will be having a grab and go breakfast that consists of muffins, fruit, and etc. The youth will be volunteering at the Orphan Grain Train. They will be also going to the TRAC for some rec time. Devotions will be themed around Disney and how it pertains to the scripture. There will be a devotion on Beauty and the Beast and how it pertains to looking beyond the differences of others. There will also be a devotion on Encanto and how it pertains to being a part of the family of God. **Please let Tiffany know if you would be willing to help serve a meal or be an extra adult during the youth retreat.**

Church Growth and Outreach Report

By: Tiffany Dauer

The pantry has been utilized on a regular basis. Beef sticks seem to be a hot commodity in The Little Free Pantry. Other items that have been put in it include nuts, tuna, water, peanut butter crackers, and etc. Any shelf stable food can be put into the pantry. If you would like to donate please bring items to the church office as I am taking inventory of the number of items that are being put into the Pantry. If you don’t know what to buy and would like to donate money please touch base with Tiffany Dauer. From **August 15th – September 8th 237 items were put into the Little Free Pantry an all were taken.**

The Women’s Bible Study will have the first session on Friday October 16th at 4:30pm. We plan to meet in the parlor. We will be using “Find Your People” on Right now Media for the study. We will have some scripture time, discussion time, and caffeine. Please contact Tiffany Dauer if you would like any more information. At that session we will decide as a group our next meeting time. We hope to see you there!

The Chess Gathering continues. We met last on Monday, September 21, 2026. We are averaging over 10 people each time. Participants are encouraged to donate to our Little Free Pantry. We will have another gathering on Monday, October 5th at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

God Bless you all!
Tiffany Dauer, Church Growth and Outreach Chair

DEACON DIALOGUE . . PER VICKI ENGER

Thank you to the congregation for your support of our Giving Tree that supports our local Backpack Program. It is much appreciated by the food pantry and the children that they serve.

The Deacon Offering will be October 11. We thank you for your generosity!

Fall is here and it is once again chili season. Get your favorite chili ready to share at our chili cookoff coming up on October 18. The sign up sheet will be available soon and we ask that you

We would like to thank the Sunday School teachers for their dedication to the students that God has placed in our congregation.
And to Tiffany Dauer, our Christian Education Program Coordinator,
thanks for all you do!