

CIRCLE TIMES

December 2025

United Protestant Church Newsletter

Silver Bay, Minnesota

The United Protestant Church Mission Statement

We are an open-minded Christian fellowship.

We seek to follow the Word of God

and to pass God's love on to others

as we actively welcome them into our church family.



Lynn Anderson, Church Secretary
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[www.facebook.com @upchurchsilverbay](https://www.facebook.com/upchurchsilverbay)



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

United Protestant Church

December 24, 2025

6:00 pm



We chose the name "Circle Times" for our first U.P. newsletter 62 years ago.
It was a way of reminding ourselves that we are a united group of several denominations.
This is a much needed witness in our world filled with diversities.



From Pastor Dave Harvey

Advent Reflections

“The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil.” Matthew 25:1-4 New Living Translation

Most of you know this parable. Ten bridesmaids were asked to attend a lamp lit wedding celebration. The groom came a little later than expected. The five bridesmaids who brought extra oil had lit lamps that were ready for the procession. The other, unprepared bridesmaids ran out of oil and missed out on the celebration.

One year, instead of Advent Candles on the altar, I used five accurate reproductions of the kind of little clay lamp that was common in Jesus’ time. They were surprisingly small. As a matter of fact, the whole lamp nestled easily into the palm of my hand. They hold less than a ¼ cup of olive oil and I can personally attest to the fact that the oil sloshes out easily if you move too quickly.

The parable is about prudence. In this case, prudence was not about preparing for every eventual need, but only for the most likely and immediate need. The prudent bridesmaids did not pack a lunch, bring a change of clothes or stick a toothbrush in their toga. After all, they knew the bridegroom would come that night, they just didn’t know when. So, being that the lamps were so small, they knew they would need extra oil if the groom were delayed at all. In this parable, it wasn’t even important that they remain awake with strained vigilance... all they needed was just a little more oil than they could carry in their lamp and all would be well.

The point is that most spiritual failures are a result of failing to make even the smallest, most obvious preparations for our spiritual endurance.

We don’t need a grim resolve or severe mortification of the flesh. The lamp of our spirit will stay lit just by staying connected to God and God’s people. It means approaching each day with the attitude that God is going to interrupt my plans with a detour that requires an act of kindness, justice or grace. It means carrying a little extra oil for whatever surprise God may have for me today.

What small provision can you make for yourself and your family this Advent Season that will give you that little bit of extra oil you need to get through the night until He comes... again?!

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 4, 2025 6:00 pm

ATTENDEES: Pastor Dave Harvey, Jean Williams, David Moore, Dedie Moore, Jim Martineau, Shirley Whiteford, Terry Eggum, Nancy Christenson, Ed Maki, Lynn Anderson, Angie Goutermont, Jeff Miller and Ruth Eggum .

Council Chair Terry Eggum called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm and opened in prayer.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

M/M/S by Dedie Moore/Nancy Christenson to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2025 Council meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURERS'S REPORT: M/M/S by Ruth Eggum/David Moore to approve the September and October Treasurer's reports for audit. Motion carried. Angie Goutermont reported that there is debit card for the main checking account that can be used for purchases, but the purchaser should take the tax exempt certificate with them when shopping. She stated that while she is still having trouble coordinating the credit union's new software with Quickbooks, the main checking account is OK.

Checking Account: \$40,944.28	Memorial Fund: \$38,430.67
Ministry Fund: \$18,910.78	House of Love: \$2,268.28
Benevolent Fund: \$465.86	CD account: \$35,246.25

DIACONATE REPORT: Chair Dedie Moore reported pulpit supply for January will be Paul Taintor (4th), Von Borg (11th & 18th) and Richard Blood (25th). We collected 476 pairs of socks for Sock-tober which will be distributed from the school. M/M/S by Ruth Eggum/Dedie Moore to take \$522. from the Memorial Fund, add it to the \$980. we collected on House of Love Sunday, and send these amounts with the balance of our House of Love account (minus \$10. to keep the account open) to Juanes' to cover Post's tuition and Fai's support. Motion carried. We will put out a separate offering plate on Sundays for House of Love to collect for their Christmas party. YTD Food Shelf collections are \$581. The contact numbers for the Prayer Chain will be published in the bulletin for people who are not on the Prayer Chain.

TRUSTEE REPORT: Dave Moore reported that they will be replacing bulbs in the light fixtures in the church with LED replacements. Nancy Christenson reported that she is in touch with Jules Salvesson about waxing the floors, date to be determined. Jeff Miller reported that that they are working on a manual that will document jobs that need to be done a regular basis, eg. starting up the boiler.

CHRISTIAN ED REPORT: Chair Jean Williams reported the Good News Crew is going well. Wednesday morning Bible study continues to be well attended.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Dave Harvey reported that there will be a Christmas Eve service at 6 pm and he has purchased real candles to be used. He needs readers for the service. He will be doing an Advent series on the names of Christ on Sunday mornings. He feels that when we have the Gideons come next year, we should have a written statement ahead of time for approval. This will prevent them from sharing personal/political views. Pastor Dave will be taking the month of January off, but will continue as interim pastor through April. We do not have to have a new contract drawn up, as the original contract was open-ended. There will be an ecumenical Thanksgiving service at the Reunion Hall on November 23 at 6 p.m. M/M/S by Terry Eggum/Lynn Anderson to give \$50. to help cover the cost of the Reunion Hall on December 14 for the 3:30 p.m. ecumenical Christmas Caroling/pizza event. Motion carried.

SEARCH COMMITTEE: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: M/M/S by Dedie Moore/Jeff Miller to approve the slate of Board members from the Nominating Committee which include: Cindy Tackett (Diaconate), Ernie Kelley and Karsten Høgenson (Honorary Trustees) and Ruth Eggum (Personnel Committee). Motion carried. There is still one vacancy on the Diaconate Board that needs to be filled. Treasurer Angie Goutermont reported that the proposed budget is still being worked on for the December Council meeting. The Budget Committee will meet Monday, November 10, at 4:00. We have received Thrivent monies for the Thanksgiving meal and four turkeys have been ordered. Posters are being distributed and ads will be placed in the Shopper.

NEW BUSINESS: Chair Terry Eggum reported that he is working on the Year-End Drive letter which will go out in November. M/M/S by David Moore/Ruth Eggum to accept Serine Ege's generous gift of Phil Christman's piano to the church, and to pay the estimated \$1000. cost to move it. Motion carried. M/M/S by Terry Eggum/Nancy Christenson to allow the Fischer family to use the church on Saturday, November 15. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Monday, December 1, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. (NOTE DATE CHANGE)

M/M/S by Ruth Eggum/Dedie Moore to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. Motion carried. Chair Terry Eggum closed in prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Eggum, Council Secretary

November minutes will be approved at the December meeting.

Taking 5

Below you will find the Taking 5 scripture and prayers for this month. You are encouraged to take 5 minutes each day to read the scripture closely, pray the prayer attentively, and spend the remaining time in prayerful silence, seeking out God's presence and prompting in that time. Thank you for being part of this important discipline for our church and for you. Note: the origin of these Taking 5 scripture readings are from Rev. Paul Scaringi who has given us permission to reprint them.

The week of December 7

Scripture: John 1:21-23

Prayer: During this time of holiday cheer and holiday stress, I need you, Gracious Lord, to show me how to make straight your way in this day. Amen.

The week of December 14

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:8-11

Prayer: I sometimes forget, Ever-present Grace, that you have always been with me. Forgive me and restore my faith so I may walk with you. Amen.

The week of December 21

Scripture: Luke 2:13-14

Prayer: God of glory and manger, in this holy-day season, grant me the strength and joy to praise the wonder of you being born into my life and into this world. Amen.

The week of December 28

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2

Prayer: God of beginnings, I pray that you will begin again to create your light and love within me so I may know the way to follow you throughout my days. Amen.



Parish Nurse Notes
Dedie Moore Retired R.N.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. Isaiah 40:11

***** Eating Color to Prevent Cancer

How much does your daily habit--like diet and exercise--affect your risk for cancer? These choices are among the most important factors in a person's risk for cancer. Fortunately they're within your control. For the majority of Americans who do not smoke, eating a healthful diet and being physically active are the most important ways to reduce cancer risk. Evidence suggests that one third of the 550,000 cancer deaths that occur in the U.S. each year are due to unhealthy diet and insufficient physical activity. Greater consumption of vegetables and fruits has been shown to lower the risk of several cancers including cancers of the lung, mouth, esophagus, stomach, and colon. Vegetables and fruits are packed with vitamins, minerals, fiber, antioxidants and many other substances which together account for their beneficial effect. Eat at least five servings of vegetables and fruits each day, especially those with the most color (from Healthful Hints, Vol. 1, International Parish Nurse Resource Center).

As usual, I am saying what I know I need to do and do not do on a regular basis. And what a time to talk about healthy eating as we head into the holidays with lots of food and sweets. I will try to keep fruit on the table so I can snack on that instead of empty carbohydrates. And sugar is a very inflammatory food, which increases pain and risk for diabetes as well as other diseases.

How would our shepherd feed us? And he would also have us rest in green pastures and have good water to drink. He gathers us and holds us close to his heart....a wonderful image in this hectic time.

Remember he is holding all of us close.

Group Living with Anxiety and Depression meets the second and fourth Mondays at 6:30pm on Zoom. Contact me 218-220-2048, or email nsmmentalhealth@gmail.com to get connected.



UPDATE FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Paula Poaletti Holden, Chair, Amy Wasson, Secretary, Lynn Anderson, Maggie King, Jim Martineau, Dedie Moore and Jean Williams

The Search Committee met on the 23rd of November. Paula explained that we received a letter and resume from an interested reverend. We also heard from another potential interested person.

Paula will make contacts with these persons to determine our next steps. We will discuss budget issues with the Council on December 1st. This is a happy turn of events. For a pastor search can take years.



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AT U P CHURCH

Brenda Larson created her 3rd set of seasonal banners for our church. It reminds us of the loaves and fishes story (one banner into many). Dave Prestige helps to hang the banners.

House of Love update

The House of Love (HoL) is our partnered mission. It is a Christian orphanage in Chiang Mai, Thailand that is a home for women and children affected by HIV/AIDS. Its mission is to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of each resident. Mark and Alise Juanes are American Baptist missionaries working with the local administrators and staff to further this ministry.



We received a thank you note from Mark Juanes in behalf of Post, our student nurse and Fai, our 4th grader. We sent to House of Love, a check for \$2,750.00. We hope to send some donations for a Christmas party, as well.

When we help others, we help our Lord.

What's up now with U.P. folks!!!

Keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers:

Ellen and Karsten Hogenson, Phyllis Pearrow, Ray and Marion Burge, Irene Johnson, Peg Osmundson, David Gustafson, Rebecca Snook, Serine Ege, Agnes Gilson, Carol Bakken, Allison Oja, Carol Harrison, Paula Fenstad, Greg and Nancy Christenson of our congregation as they deal with health-related changes and recoveries. Please note: Ray Burge is now a resident of the Vet's Home in Silver Bay. Dave Gustafson's address is Edgewood Hermantown Rm.431 4195 Westberg Rd., Hermantown, MN 55811 **Prayers for all caregivers.**

December Birthdays

Rebecca Snook	8
Paul Taintor	10
Shirley Whiteford	10
Ellen Hogenson	15
Bob Myers	16
Dick Stronach	24
Reba Moore	28



December Anniversaries

Dan and Karen Bzdok	2
Jack and Bonnie Anderson	11



CHRISTMAS CAROL EVENT

An ecumenical Christmas carol and pizza gathering will be held at the Reunion Hall on Sunday, December 14th at 3:30 pm.

PLEASE NOTE:

Pastor Harvey will have office hours on Wednesdays 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
If you need pastoral care you may call him at: 218-370-8329 or email at pastordaveharvey@gmail.com

Wednesday Morning Bible Study 9:30 am

Please join our discussion.
Rev. Dave Harvey will lead a study.
Everyone is welcome.

The Good News Crew

UPC is hosting a children's ministry on Wednesdays 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. They will meet the 3rd and 17th of December.
Contact the church office for details.

Check out our website:

<https://www.unitedprotestant.org>
You can download the latest newsletter and sermon as well as keep up to date with what is happening here at UPC.



For those who would like to support the UPC ministry electronically, please scan this code to access our website's online giving page: Note: There is a fee associated with using this application.

December

2025

11Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Board s 5:30 pm Council 6:00 pm	2	3 WMBS 9:30 am Children's Ministry 5:30pm	4	5	6
7 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Communion	8 GLAD 6:30 pm Zoom	9	10 WMBS 9:30 am P, Shl. 2:00 pm	11	12	13
14 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Community Carol 3:30 pm Reunion Hall	15	16NSMHG meets 6:00 pm UP Church & Zoom	17 WMBS 9:30 am	18	19	20
21 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Christmas Cookie Sunday	22 GLAD 6:30 pm Zoom	23	24 NO WMBS No P. Shawl Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm	25 	26	27
28Sun. Worship 10:30 am	29	30	31 No WMBS 9:30 am	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Lynn in office Wed & Thurs 1:30 -4:00 pm Pastor Harvey in office Wed. 9 :00 am-5:00 pm</p> </div>		

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