

CIRCLE TIMES

January 2026

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
Church Office: 218-226-3973

Terry Eggum, Church Council Chair
Church email: upchurch1956@gmail.com

U P Church web site: www.unitedprotestant.org

[www.facebook.com @upchurchsilverbay](https://www.facebook.com/upchurchsilverbay)



The Annual Congregation Meeting
for UP Church members
will commence after the Sunday service
on January 25, 2026.

All are invited to the potluck following the meeting.



*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

Reflections

Thus says the Lord. "Oh turn back. reform your ways and your deeds." But they will say, "It is hopeless! For we are going to follow our own plans, and each of us will act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart." Jeremiah 18.11-12 NAS95

The people of Judah had sworn to be God's people; champions of the poor, guardians of the widow and orphan, lovers of God and their neighbor. Instead they exploited the poor and ignored the cries of the powerless. They loved only their own appetites and defended only their own self-righteousness.

Jeremiah the prophet had preached, confronted, editorialized and wept before the people calling them to face the truth about themselves and turn back to justice and compassion. He called them to turn back to God who promised to lead them to freedom from the darkness of self-absorption. When the people could no longer ignore the prophet or rationalize away their misdeeds, they simply threw up their hands and said, "It's hopeless! For we are going to follow our own plans."

I can't change. I've gone too far. I can't see the way back let alone imagine how I will get there.

Embracing hopelessness is a deadly mistake. Accepting despair cuts us off from the love of God and everyone else, leaving us imprisoned in ourselves. It springs from the same root as all our other poor choices, a fixation on ourselves. our perspectives and our resources. Jesus did not make food out of thin air when he fed 5,000 people. Some little kid took the hopeless risk that giving up his small lunch would feed himself and his whole village if only he gave it to Jesus.

Magical thinking occurs when we mistake wishing for faith. There is no magic to spiritual renewal and personal change, but there are miracles. Miracles occur when we take the risk of that first step out of darkness toward the Truth.

Faith trusts that God will give us the courage and strength we need to stay the course. Faith is the courage to accept forgiveness and move on when we stumble on the way. Faithful choices trust that God will make a way where there is no way!

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 1, 2025 6:00 pm

ATTENDEES: David Moore, Dedie Moore, Jim Martineau, Terry Eggum, Lynn Anderson, Angie Goutermont, Karsten Hogenson, Paula Holden and Ruth Eggum .

Council Chair Terry Eggum called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and opened in prayer.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Sanctuary plants

M/M/S by Dedie Moore/David Moore to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2025 Council meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURERS'S REPORT: M/M/S by Ruth Eggum/Dedie Moore to approve the November Treasurer's reports for audit. Motion carried.

Checking Account: \$39,710.24	Memorial Fund: \$38,433.83
Capital Fund: \$18,912.33	House of Love: \$110.20
Benevolent Fund: \$411.89	CD account: \$35,334.61

DIACONATE REPORT: Chair Dedie Moore reported that Philip Christman's piano has been delivered to the church and Ruth Eggum is getting a piano tuner. The dedication of the piano will be held in March per Serine Ege's request. An engraved plate has been made for the dedication. Cindy Tackett will be joining the Diaconate in February. We will not be hosting the House of Love Christmas party this year. December 21 has been designated Christmas Cookie Sunday for the Fellowship Hour. The Mitten Tree will be put up this week and collections can be made until December 17 when they will be turned over to the Salvation Army. Fifty dollars has been donated to help cover the cost of the ecumenical Christmas caroling event on December 14th at 3:30. We will be using real candles at the Christmas Eve service this year.

TRUSTEE REPORT: Dave Moore reported he and Karsten Hogenson discussed putting LED light fixtures in for the murals in the Fellowship Hall. He said that changing the humming light fixture in the church office is on their to-do list.

CHRISTIAN ED REPORT: Paula Holden reported that she will be contacting area churches to see if they want to do VBS with us in June. On December 17 the North Shore Area Mental Health Group will be doing a craft project with the Good News Crew.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Dave Harvey was unable to attend the meeting, but sent the following report: He will be doing an Advent/Christmas series on some of the names of Christ on Sunday mornings. There will be a candlelight Christmas Eve service on the 24th at 6 p.m. He is seeking readers for that service. There will be an ecumenical Christmas carol sing at the Reunion Hall on December 14 at 3:30. He reminded us that he will be taking a sabbatical for the month of January. He will continue under the current contract, resuming in February and ending on the last Sunday in April (or sooner) should a permanent pastor be hired.

SEARCH COMMITTEE: Paula Holden reported that they will be interviewing a pastoral candidate on December 21.

OLD BUSINESS: The Proposed Budget for 2026 was discussed. Treasurer Angie Goutermont will be making some adjustments in categories listed in the financial reports, eg. combining Sunday

School supplies and Youth Group; Fuel/Gas category to Natural Gas. The Ministry Fund account will have its name changed to the Capital Fund. Lynn Anderson and Sharon Searls will both have a 6% increase in their salaries. The completed Proposed Budget for 2026 will be available by the end of the year.

NEW BUSINESS: Lynn Anderson suggested we get rid of the dying plant in the sanctuary. The Trustees will do this. The Year-End Drive letter was mailed out on Tuesday. M/M/S by Dedie Moore/Ruth Eggum to send \$50.00 to Julie's Hardware for the Shop with a Hero project. Motion carried.

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT SHOULD BE TURNED INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 25.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. **(NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGE)**

M/M/S by Dedie Moore/Paula Holden to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried. Chair Terry Eggum closed in prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Eggum, Council Secretary

December minutes will be approved at the January 7th 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 January 4th

Scripture: I Corinthians 6:19-20

Prayer: Holy Lord, open my heart and mind to know that in your love you dwell within me. May others this day find your love through me. Amen.

The week of January 11^h

Scripture: Mark 1:14-16

Prayer: As I go through my days, Gracious God, unstop my ears and my heart so I may hear again your Good News for me and my world. Amen.

The week of January 18st

Scripture: Mark 1:25-27

Prayer: I confess, Good Shepherd, at times I fear the forces opposed to you. Forgive and embolden me to trust in the power of your presence with me. Amen.

The week of January 25th

Scripture: Psalm 147:2-5

Prayer: You are a great and faithful God. Accept my praise and let it be the way in which you remind me of your power and how you deliver those in need. Amen.



Parish Nurse Notes
Dedie Moore Retired R.N.

“I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will guide him and restore comfort to him, creating praise on the lips of the mourner in Israel. Peace, peace, to those far and near,” says the Lord, “And I will heal them.”
Isaiah 57:18-19

A new year, at times, is cause for reflection, perhaps repentance and choosing a better, healthier way. Each day is a new day, indeed each moment is a time of change. Choosing to replace a habit we want to change with a more positive action can be a good step. Speaking more positively, and asking someone you trust to help you remember are a healthful changes. Eating more fruit and vegetables and moving more, we can always improve.

Choosing to let go of resentment is very healing. Resentment that is nurtured will poison us physically, as well as emotionally. And sometimes it is ourselves we need to forgive.

New Year’s resolutions can be a source of disappointment, and lead to giving up on change. Little changes, eating the elephant one bite at a time, is more possible as well as starting again each day. As Isaiah says, even though God sees us and our ways, He will heal us and bring peace. Comfort and guidance are always available to all of us.

Pray for our church as we seek wisdom and guidance in seeking the pastor God has for us. And how we might be called to grow and change to carry out God’s will.

Group Living with Anxiety and Depression meets the second and fourth Mondays at 6:30 pm on Zoom. Contact me at 218-220-2048 , or Cindy Tackett, or email nsmentalhealth@gmail.com for more information. North Shore Mental Health Group meets to plan activities to foster good mental health on the third Tuesday at 6pm at UP or on Zoom.

PLEASE JOIN US

On Wednesday , January 7th at 1:00 pm

we will remove the
Christmas decorations.



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 December 21st and spoke with a reverend who is very interested in the pastoral post at UP Church. The meeting was very informative and thoughtful. We discussed the culture and needs of our church, as well as the expectations of the candidate. The Search Committee will meet in January to discuss and determine what we do next. We need more time to consider our next steps. Keep our search in prayer.

Photo not available for protection of children.

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.



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 and Nancy 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.**

January Birthdays

Kris Small	7
Leona McMahon	11
Brenda Larson	13
Marlin Bakken	16
Deanne Reiten	17
Mary Jo Taintor	20
Peggy Osmundson	22
Jeff Miller	23
Eileen Scaringi	28
Vera Johnson	28
Dick Steward	31



January Anniversaries

Amy Wasson and Jeff Miller 1
David and Sandy Wakefield 24

PLEASE NOTE

Reverend Dave Harvey
Is taking January off for a break.
If we have not secured a pastor
by the end of January,
he is willing to
return in February until spring.
We are grateful for his service.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

9:30 am

Please join our discussion.
We begin a new study on
January 7th
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 7th and 21st in
January.
Contact the church office for details.




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.

Check out our website:

[https://
www.unitedprotestant.org](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.

January

2026

1311Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lynn in office Wed & Thurs 1:30 -4:00 pm				1 	2	3
4 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Communion	5	6	7 WMBS 9:30am Undec. 1:00 pm Boards 4:30 pm Council 5:00 pm Good News Crew 5:30 pm	8	9	10
11 Sunday Worship 10:30 am	12 GLAD 6:30 pm Zoom	13	14 WMBS 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 2:00 pm	15	16	17
18 Sunday Wor- ship 10:30 am	19	20 NSMHG meets 6:00 pm UP Church & Zoom	21 WMBS 9:30 am Good News Crew 5:30 pm	22	23	24
25 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Annual Meeting <u>Potluck</u>	26 GLAD 6:30 pm Zoom	27	28 WMBS 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 2:00 pm	29	30	31

**UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
17 HORN BOULEVARD
SILVER BAY, MN 55614**

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