

CIRCLE TIMES

February 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

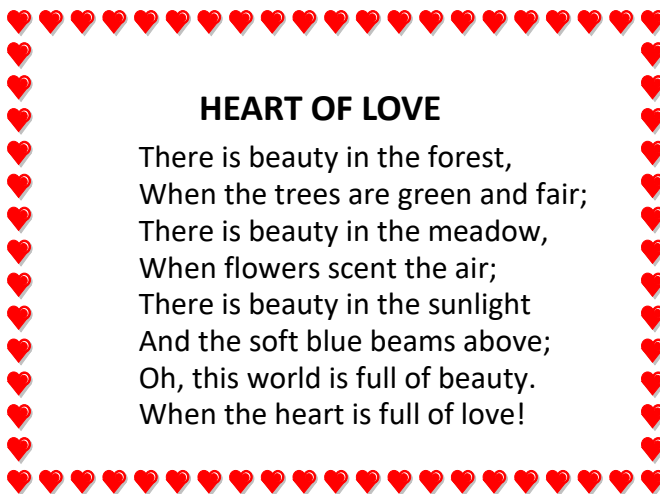
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HEART OF LOVE

There is beauty in the forest,
When the trees are green and fair;
There is beauty in the meadow,
When flowers scent the air;
There is beauty in the sunlight
And the soft blue beams above;
Oh, this world is full of beauty.
When the heart is full of love!



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.



MATTHEW 5:16
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Let Your Little Light Shine

A favorite gospel song for many is “This Little Light of Mine.” It is a song that numerous folks learned as children and remains popular within our culture. In his first broadcast after the Sept. 11 tragedies, David Letterman had the performer, Odetta, and the Harlem Boys Choir, sing this song for his broadcast. I do not believe the song was chosen because it has a catchy little tune. I think the song was selected because of the truth it evokes, of how light overcomes darkness. I recognize this is the most generic of explanation. The song is not simply talking about the physics of light, it is pointing to a deeper truth.

We live in a time where we hear on a daily basis of the “deep division” within our society, we read of tragedies that are occurring around the world, or we may be focusing on the struggles within the lives of our loved ones or within our very selves. When faced with such difficulty we struggle to believe that a little light can make much of a difference. Sometimes it may feel like trying to let our light shine is akin to whistling in the dark.

The song is based on Jesus’ words in Matthew 5, where he tells his followers to let their light shine. Just as we may struggle to understand what difference our little light can make, so it was most likely for those who first heard Jesus utter these words. Those early followers lived under an occupying army and as a nation there was a great disagreement as to how they should live, never mind the uncertainty of what the future held. It was a turbulent time and into that turbulence Jesus calls those around him to let their light shine.

To let our light shine as people of faith we must not only sing the song (or hear it sung) we must also remember what Jesus is calling us to. Jesus was not telling the crowds to muster up enough courage and faith to let their light shine just as he was not telling them to overthrow the occupying forces or cast out the darkness of their day. He was calling them to action but that call originates with the understanding that their little light, and our little light, is not our own.

By that I mean the little that shines forth is not based upon what we can do by our own strength or talents. Our “little light” is a reflection of God’s light and grace in our lives. When we see Jesus’ call from this perspective, it hopefully begins to free us from the burden of believing it is merely up to us to confront the wrongs before us. Jesus sent his disciples into a troubled world knowing that their light was not dependent upon their own strength but rather on reflecting God’s light within them and God’s love for them. He never underestimated what they would face, Jesus was fully aware of the darkness of this day but he knew that whatever they faced, God was greater.

There are many voices telling us that all is lost or there is not much we can do. Into these moments, we have Jesus’ words encouraging us to let our light, our little lights, shine forth and be the people of faith we are called to be. To remember that we are called to be a people who resist the siren song of fear or to regard people who disagree with us as the “enemy.” We are to let our light shine and reflect God’s love for us, for our neighbor and for this world.

This article written by Rev. Paul Scaringi was published in the Lake County News Chronicle on 2/17/2017. Rev. Scaringi gave permission to reprint it in the Circle Times Newsletter.

January 7, 2026 5:00 pm

ATTENDEES: David Moore, Dedie Moore, Jim Martineau, Nancy Christenson, Ed Maki, Lynn Anderson, Paula Holden, Terry Eggum and Ruth Eggum .

Council Chair Terry Eggum called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm and opened in prayer.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Credit Union CD, NSMHG report

M/M/S by David Moore/Jim Martineau to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2025 Council meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURERS'S REPORT: M/M/S by Dedie Moore/Ed Maki to approve the December Treasurer's report for audit. Motion carried. M/M/S by David Moore/Jim Martineau to renew the CD at North Shore Federal Credit Union for the time span that Treasurer Angie Goutermont deems best. Motion carried. Chair Terry Eggum reported that the end-of-the-year campaign total was \$10, 225.

Checking Account: \$60,362.23	Memorial Fund: \$38,617.02
Capital Fund: \$13,313.49	House of Love: \$500.87
Benevolent Fund: \$411.89	CD account: \$35,426.14

DIACONATE REPORT: Chair Dedie Moore reported that Cindy Tackett will join the Diaconate in February. Secretary Lynn Anderson is seeking people willing to usher Sunday mornings. Tabitha Ministry supplies are being used, so the Diaconate will continue to purchase and supply the distribution centers. Von Borg is pulpit supply for January 11th and 18th and Richard Blood will be here on January 25th.

TRUSTEE REPORT: Nancy Christenson reported that the Stack Brothers will be replacing the circulating pump on the boiler this month at an estimated cost of \$2,200. Karsten Hogenson is researching new lighting for the murals in the Fellowship Hall. Ruth Eggum told the Trustees that Mike Tarolli has stated he did not renew his contracting license.

CHRISTIAN ED REPORT: Ruth Eggum reported the Good News Crew will begin meeting from 4:15 to 5:15 beginning January 21. Research is being done into a summer VBS program, possibly with other churches.

SEARCH COMMITTEE: Chair Paula Holden reported that they will be re-interviewing a candidate at the beginning of February.

OLD BUSINESS: The 2026 proposed budget was passed out and has been made available to the congregation. Secretary Lynn Anderson reported that all the reports have been turned in for the Annual Report, except for the Guild and Memorial Committee. She will make contact with Peg.

NEW BUSINESS: Chair Terry Eggum passed out the roster of current Standing Committee and Board members, and the Church Council Year of Recurring Tasks. Dedie Moore suggested getting rid of the Health Ministry Team. Terry Eggum reported that the Council quorum for 2026 will be seven. He also stated that we will elect Council officers at the February meeting as well as confirm the Standing Committees. Nancy Christenson reported that the North Shore Mental Health Group is continuing to work on community outreach and have also written a grant request.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. (NOTE DATE CHANGE)

M/M/S by Ruth Eggum/David Moore to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chair Terry Eggum closed in prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Eggum, Council Secretary
January minutes will be approved at the February 11th meeting.

UPDATE FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

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

Due to the holidays, absences and illnesses the Search Committee has not had an official meeting since our interview with our potential candidate. Paula sent a series of follow-up questions to discuss further with the our candidate. The committee is eager to deepen our understandings and plan to meet in February for a meeting before we have a response and another one after to discuss our impressions.

Prayer for wisdom is requested.

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 February 1

Scripture: Psalm 50:1-3

Prayer: Shine your light, Holy Lord, into my life and may your light and power still the tempest around and within me. Amen.

The week of February 8

Scripture: Genesis 9:14-16

Prayer: I confess, gracious God, that I forget your promises to me and this world. Forgive me and help me remember the assurance of your love and grace. Amen.

The week of February 15

Scripture: Romans 4:17-18

Prayer: Dear Lord, I need your presence and power in my life so I may place my hope in you and find you creating something new within my world. Amen.

The week of February 22

Scripture: I Corinthians 1:25

Prayer: Eternal God, grant me the faith to let go of my wisdom and strengthen me to live under the "foolishness" of your cross. Amen.



Parish Nurse Notes

Dedie Moore Retired R.N.

*For where two or three gather in my name,
then I am with them. Matthew 18:20*

February's national health observance is heart health. Most of us know habits that can help decrease heart disease: eat a nutritious diet, exercise, have the right genes, don't smoke, keep your blood pressure controlled. I wonder if we realize the importance of good social connections?

I saw several studies showing a significant increase in heart and brain disease in people who are socially isolated and lonely. They have increased risk of heart attack, stroke, peripheral vascular resistance, and increased blood pressure. A person can have social contacts and still feel lonely, and another person may seem isolated but is not lonely. Interesting, the age group 18-22 is considered the loneliest because they spend more time on social media, less personal engagement, and some suffer the after effects of COVID isolation.

Activities that combat negative thinking can decrease loneliness. Of course, participating in a church fellowship has the additional benefits of social connections and hope in a loving, powerful God and where one is asked to help out which can give a sense of purpose.

I wonder how the 18-22 age group could be reached? Traditional church probably won't work, but we can all make an effort to reach out to people who may be isolated. There are quite a few activities in Silver Bay: at North Shore Area Partners, the library, and music in the summer.

Group Living with Anxiety and Depression meets the second and fourth Mondays at 6:30pm on Zoom. Contact me, or Cindy Tackett, or nsmentalhealth@gmail.com. North Shore Mental Health Group meets the third Tuesday at 6 pm at UP.





Christmas 2025

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.**

February Birthdays

Gwynne Ness	5
Charlotte Olson	6
Paul Scaringi	6
Archer Goutermont	10
Kay Colby	12
Steven Betzler	13
Shawn Gilbertson	16
Dillon Gilbertson	18
LaVern Fergon	21
Nancy Gilson	21
Angie Goutermont	24



February Anniversaries

Terry and Barb Hron	1
Randy and Rebecca Snook	14
Paul and Kathryn Kolojeski	22



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

9:30 am

Please join our discussion.

We begin a new study of Genesis with Pastor Dave.

February 4th

Everyone is welcome.

The Good News Crew

UPC is hosting a children's ministry on Wednesdays February 4th and 18th at 4:15 pm to 5:15 pm. 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.

You can download the latest newsletter and sermon as well as keep up to date with what is happening here at UPC.

February

2026

1311Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Communion	2	3	4 WMBS 9:30 am Good News Crew 4:15 pm	5	6	7
8 Sunday Worship 10:30 am	9 GLAD 6:30 pm Zoom	10	11 WMBS 9:30am Prayer Shawl 2:00 Boards 4:30 pm Council 5:00 pm NS Voices 4:30 pm	12	13	14
15 Sunday Worship 10:30 am	16	17 NSMHG meets 6:00 pm UP Church & Zoom	18 WMBS 9:30 am Good News Crew 4:15 pm No Ash Wed. Service at UPC	19	20	21
22 Sunday Worship 10:30 am First Sunday in Lent	23 GLAD 6:30 pm Zoom	24	25 WMBS 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 2:00	26	27	28
Lynn in office Wed & Thurs 1:30 -4:00 pm Pastor Dave in office-Wed.9:00 am to 5:00 pm						

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