

# Circuit Writer

## February 2026

Dear friends,

Here we are already in the month of February! As they say, the older we get the faster time seems to go. I'm finding that to be true for me more and more. Because of the fleeting of time I hope you are making the most of each day as God guides and directs you. We are all finite beings on this earth with only a limited span of life to serve and love others.

On February 18 we begin the season of Lent which is a time for Christians to reflect on their mortality and the salvation Jesus brought to us through his life, death, and resurrection. Lent is also a time for each believer to grow deeper in relationship with Jesus Christ. We sometimes "give up" things for Lent to sacrifice a bad habit or show our seriousness of faith. I'd like to encourage you to "add something" during Lent. Lent is only six weeks long. Maybe there is some habit or spiritual discipline you can add or improve in your life for six weeks to develop a new holy habit. It could be that you will start reading your Bible daily for those six weeks, pray at a set time each day, read a devotional and so forth.

I want to encourage you to be part of a Lenten Study that I will be leading on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in our Fellowship Hall starting on February 18. This will be a six-week study on The Apostles Creed. This creed is a foundational statement that all Christians agree to about the basics of our faith. Come early at 5:30 pm for a shared meal and stay for the half-hour to forty-five-minute study which will include video, scripture, and conversation.

With Peace and Hope in Christ,

Pastor Joel

**Six Week Lenten Study on The Apostles Creed  
Beginning on Wednesday, February 18, 6:30 pm  
Basement Fellowship Hall**

**Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes Worship Service  
Wednesday, February 18, 7:15 pm  
Church Sanctuary**

**Mandan United  
Methodist Church**  
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Mandan ND 58554

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Mandan UMC is on  
Facebook

**Pastor**  
Rev. Joel Winckler

**Office Administrator**  
Belinda Van Dyke

**Director of Family  
Ministries**  
Lisa Rhodes

**Where People  
Believe, Belong &  
Become**

**Missed worship?  
A link to our Sunday  
services can be  
accessed on our  
Facebook page!**





**Coffee Time** is every Tuesday morning at 10 AM. Join us for fellowship, coffee and snacks!

### **Lewis & Clark Elementary Outreach**

Lewis and Clark Elementary school, just two blocks from Mandan UMC, has many children and families who struggle with many necessities such as food, proper winter clothing and other needs.

For several years, our church family has provided snacks, food and winter meals. Recently their needs have changed and have given MUMC an opportunity to meet those needs. The list below are the current needs for Lewis and Clark families.

Snacks for school children: protein bars, granola bars, fruit snacks, small bags of nuts and fruit, snack crackers, and small bags of cereal, chips and cookies. Monetary funds to be used for winter snow gear are also being collected. Please mark your gifts for Lewis and Clark.



**Pop Tabs** are being collected in a cardboard Ronald McDonald House in the east coat room. Tab donations allow this charity to continue providing housing for children and their families while receiving medical care.

### **TALENT SHOW AND KARAOKE** **Thursday, February 26** **7 PM**

The talent show as well as karaoke will be on Thursday, February 26 at 7 PM. Do you play an instrument, sing, read poetry, dance, do crafts? We would love to listen and see your talent! Anyone is welcome to share your talent with us! There will be a sign up sheet in the East hallway.



There will be a sign up sheet in the

### **Costa Rica Presentation** **Sunday, February 1** **8 AM & 10:30 AM**

The Costa Rica team is back! They will be sharing their experience with us at both services on Sunday, February 1. Join us at either service to find out how they shared Jesus with those in Limon, Costa Rica.

Thank you to all who supported us and prayed for us! It was greatly appreciated!

## February Birthdays

- 1 Tessa Osterbauer
- 2 Baily Opp  
Cathy Adams  
Katie Olson
- 3 Kristen Schneider
- 6 Deb Samuelson  
Amanda Varriano
- 10 Dalton Sougstad  
Kinzley Heidrich
- 11 Doug Van Daalen
- 13 Corri Westberg  
Payton Loerch
- 14 Billie Ann Caya  
Melissa Wetsch  
Sutten Helfrich
- 15 Steve Hulm  
Brianna Ricard
- 18 Amy Watson  
Malena Olson
- 19 Nikki Pedersen
- 21 Marilyn Welk  
Joce Koch
- 22 Jeff Laity  
Brylin Seedorf
- 24 Joel Winckler  
Coy Sprenger  
Brody Forde
- 25 Scott Newgard  
Amy Richter  
Dane Sprenger
- 26 Stacy Dirk  
Karri Landeis
- 28 Joyce Gustafson  
Oliver Rebenitsch



The church Blood Drive will be Thursday, February 26 from 3:30—6:30 PM. Watch for texts and emails to get you signed up! Sign up to give blood and stay for the Talent Show!



## February Anniversaries

- 8 John & Wanda Markel—52 yrs.
- 20 Clifford & Marlys Friesz—61 yrs.
- 25 Joce & Barry Koch—48 yrs.



## OFFICE NOTES

The church office is opened Monday through Friday 9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The next newsletter will go out February 19 at 1PM.

If anyone would like to become a member of Mandan United Methodist Church or need to transfer your membership from another church, call the church office.

## VISITATION

Please contact the church office if you would like a visit in your home or in the hospital.

**.Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins** on Wednesday, February 18. A Wednesday Lent Study on the Apostles Creed will start at 6:30 PM each Wednesday during Lent in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to attend.

Following the Lent Study, at 7:15 PM, there will be Imposition of Ashes Service in the Sanctuary. All are welcome.

**Men's Group** will meet on Sunday, February 22 at 6 PM. All men are welcome to attend.



## Prayer Concerns

Dion Feigitsch's cousin  
Tracy Merfeld's nephew, Charlie  
Joni Olson  
Jana Knoll  
Willow Althoff and Malinda  
Carolyn Desper  
Bob Samuelson  
Lorraine Hallendorff  
Sandy & Matt Thorenson  
Those receiving medical treatments  
Those mourning  
Our Country's leaders  
Families and friends with cancer  
Those traveling  
Military and their families  
Several unspoken requests



## Give to Mandan UMC via Electronic Fund Transfer

Download the user-friendly app on your smart phone. You may designate your gift utilizing the categories listed in the application. Please contact the church office if you have questions or need further information.

You can give through Vanco for any end of year giving. It will need to be given by Wednesday, December 31. Thank you for your generosity.

## Friday Nite Lite February 20

Come join us for Friday Nite Lite! Bring your friends and enjoy games, snacks and plenty of tasty food! Did we just list food twice? Yes, we did!

All youth sixth through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join the fun from 7 to 11 p.m. Come late or leave early, is needed – just come! We'll leave the LITE on for you!

## Church Members in Care Facilities

### Edgewood Vista Assisted Living Center

Marcie Zabel  
Leah Jeromchek  
Peachie McArthur  
Lucille Risch  
Amy Watson (Bismarck)  
Joyce Gustafson

### Miller Point

Jim Mellon

### Sunset Prospera

Chloe Leingang

### Baptist Home

Virginia Geist

be kind  
be brave  
be caring  
be strong  
just be you



