

Circuit Writer

October 2026

Preparing the Heart

Dear friends,

In my free time these past few weeks, I have been scraping, sanding, repairing, priming, and painting the exterior of our 1905 house in downtown Mandan. Thankfully, the quality of its 120-year-old lumber has kept most of the siding and trim in good condition, even though it had gone unpainted for years before I began working on it.

It is deeply satisfying to watch the house change from flaking white paint and exposed wood to vibrant blue siding and bright white trim. But that transformation does not happen quickly or easily. I am often tempted to rush through the preparation, yet without careful scraping, sanding, and priming, even the most beautiful coat of paint will not last.

The Bible speaks of this same need for preparation. Through the prophet Hosea, God calls us to break up the fallow ground of our hardened hearts so that we are ready to receive and cultivate God's goodness.

*¹² Your hearts are as hard as a field
that has not been plowed.
If you change your ways,
you will produce good crops.
So plant the seeds of doing what is right.
Then you will harvest the fruit of your faithful love.
It is time to seek the Lord.
When you do, he will come
and shower his blessings on you.*

Hosea 10:12 (NIV)

Hosea's image reminds us that spiritual growth begins before the harvest. As hard soil must be opened before it can receive seed and rain, our hearts must be opened through repentance, prayer, and attention to God before we can faithfully receive and share God's blessings.

This month, take time to prepare your heart: seek the Lord, allow God to soften what has grown hard, and remain open to the blessings God wants to cultivate in you and through you for the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Joel

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Mandan UMC is on
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Pastor
Rev. Joel Winckler

Office Administrator
Belinda Van Dyke

**Director of Family
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Lisa Rhodes

**Where People
Believe, Belong &
Become**

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



Prayer Concerns

Deb Leingang Laske's family in the loss of her mom Ginny Geist.

Randy Meissner's family in the loss of his dad Steve Kinzler on Kidney transplant list

Diane Frenzel's daughter, Angie has cancer

Tyler Ruff, back issues

Larry Leingang

Lisa Rhodes' parents

Lisa Rhodes

Carolyn Desper

Dalas Breuer

Malinda and Willow Althoff

Lorraine Hallendorff

Cathy Adams

Sandy & Matt Thorenson

Those receiving medical treatments

Those mourning

Our Country's leaders

Families and friends with cancer

Those traveling

Military and their families



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

Hay Creek Lodge Assisted Living-Bismarck

Ken Blazer



CRAFT SOCIAL—Those who would like to meet after church on Sunday, October 11 at 11:30 are welcome to come and spend an hour or two or three to sit and relax and do your craft. Anyone who would like to learn a craft, please come and get guidance and instructions from someone who can show you what to do. Bring something to share for a snack/lunch.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 18 at 11:30 am, we will have a time of preparation for Trunk or Treat. We need help getting decorations and the treat bags ready to give to the kiddos who come through our doors. All help is appreciated. Time will be announced later.

Then, Wednesday, October 28 from 5 PM—7:30 PM, we will meet and greet kids and adults coming for trunk or treat. There will be hotdogs served, and games for the kids. There is still room for anyone to decorate a trunk and be in the South Parking lot. You can also have a booth inside. If you need ideas, please talk with Lisa. We have decorations for a table or trunk. We will be needing many volunteers to help with this event for it to run smoothly. We had about 500 people come through our doors last year.



Coffee Time is every Tuesday morning at 9:30 AM. Join us for fellowship, coffee and snacks!



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. 6 lb. will take care of one night for someone staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Thank you to those who have been saving tabs!



October Birthdays

2	Cozette Bender
4	Griffin Heidrich
5	Tyson Ruff
7	Elayna Rebenitsch
8	Nancy Dawson Jana Knoll
9	Andrea Forde
10	Deb Kegley Tegan Osterbauer
11	Sharon Tabert Kurtis Newcomb
12	Aria Sundahl
14	Olivia Mieras
16	Connor Ruff
18	Austin Wetsch
22	Marc Taylor Harper Laib
23	Faye Stenerson Jarret Westberg
25	Eloise Rixen
29	Darlene Swanston
29	Ryan Rixen
30	Lucille Risch
	Gianni Varriano
31	Linda Keller



**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.

New Exterior Sign Update

Thank you to all who have given monetary gifts to the church sign as a lasting memorial to our beloved friend and pastor, Rev. Bruce Adams. \$1,912.07 the amount remaining to be raised. Installation will start soon. Please mark your gift "Sign" as we complete this project.

October Anniversaries

4	Shayne Thomas & Thomas George -1 yr.
5	Betty & Mark Gudmunsen - 42 yrs.
13	Christina & Jason Craine - 14 yrs.
14	Roger & Vicki Griffin -54 yrs.
15	ShyAnne & Evan Fulk—4 yrs. Kiara & Tyler Rebenitsch—4 yrs.
16	Corri & Penn Westburg—45 yrs.
25	Steve & Belinda Van Dyke—41 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 October 29 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.

Belinda will be out of the office October 10—21.

CHURCH COUNCIL — The next Church Council meeting will be Saturday, October 17 at 10 AM.





October 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10 AM Bible Study	2	3
4 Communion 8 AM Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	5	6 10 AM Coffee Time 5:30 PM Staff meeting 7 PM AA	7 3PM Wonderful Wed. 5:45 PM POTLUCK 6:30 Youth Group	8 10 AM Bible Study	9	10
11 8 AM Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Craft Social	12 Columbus Day Belinda out of Office 10-21 	13 10 AM Coffee Time 5:30 PM Staff meeting 7 PM AA	14 3PM Wonderful Wed. 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:30 Youth Group	15 10 AM Bible Study	16	17 10 AM Church Council meeting
18 8 AM Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Trunk or Treat Prep 6 PM Men's Group	19	20 10 AM Coffee Time 5:30 PM Staff meeting 7 PM AA	21 3PM Wonderful Wed. 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:30 Youth Group	22 No School 10 AM Bible Study	23 No School	24
25 8 AM Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	26	27 10 AM Coffee Time 5:30 PM Staff meeting 7 PM AA	28 5—7:30 PM Trunk or Treat 	29 10 AM Bible Study 1 PM Newsletter	30	31 Halloween 