

Circuit Writer

January 2026

Dear friends,

As I write this, it is one week before our Christmas Eve worship service at 5:30pm so it feels strange to be **wishing you a Happy New Year!** It will depend on how fast the mail is delivered at this time of the year to see whether you will receive the newsletter before or after Christmas.

January is always a time for many of us to look back on the past year and evaluate what we did or did not do. It is never too late to begin a new discipline or “turn over a new leaf.” We don’t have to wait until a new year to do so but there is something about starting a new year and realizing life is moving along faster than we want it to.

In this new year look for ways to encourage someone or have an influence in someone’s life for the kingdom of God. Make more room in your life for what is of eternal significance.

Please continue to pray for our Costa Rica Mission Team. They are getting things ready for the work they will do there from January 13-22. **On Sunday, January 11, we will have a special time of prayer and commissioning for those going.** Hold these members of our church in prayer who have committed to be part of making a difference for Jesus in Costa Rica: Lisa Rhodes, Missy Wetsch, Austin Wetsch, Kailey Seedorf, Kristen Schneider, Sheldon Landeis, Abby Landeis, Hayden Forde, and Grace Peterson.

With peace and hope in Christ,

Pastor Joel

**Mandan United
Methodist Church**
610 12th ST NW
Mandan ND 58554

701-663-8909

E-mail:
mumch@msn.com

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!**

May the New Year
bring you happiness,
peace & prosperity.

Wishing you a joyous
2026!

Prayer Concerns

Willow Althoff and Malinda
Carolyn Desper
Bob Samuelson
Betty Leingang
Costa Rica Trip
Colter, Karri Landeis' great nephew
Mary Carter's sister
Colleen Macbeth
Mike Kroh
Lorraine Hallendorff
Sandy & Matt Thorenson
Jana Knoll's brother Jake
Clifford Friesz
Daniel Heim
Those receiving medical treatments
Those mourning
Our Country's leaders
Families and friends with cancer
Those traveling
Military and their families
Several unspoken requests



Church Members in Care Facilities

Edgewood Vista Assisted Living Center

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

Miller Point

Jim Mellon

Sunset Prospera

Chloe Leingang

Baptist Home

Virginia Geist

Communion Steward meeting will be Sunday, January 4 at 9 AM. This will be information on how to prepare, serve and clean up for Communion.

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.

Men's Group

Men's group will meet at 6 PM on Sunday, January 18.

Thank you for filling the goodie bags for the Christmas program.

Costa Rican Prayer Partners

Prayer is the most important part of our mission trip! We are inviting members of the congregation to pray specifically for the health and safety of our team, travel mercies, good weather that allows us to work and play outside, and, most importantly, that God works in and through each of the team to share the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Church family members who would like to be prayer partners are encouraged to contact Lisa. You will pray for the whole team, and specifically for one member of the team each day at noon. Prayer partners will receive an itinerary to help you pray knowledgeably each day for the activities the team will participate in throughout the day.

Prayer
Partners Supporting Others
with Prayer



Prayer Concerns

Willow Althoff and Malinda
Carolyn Desper
Bob Samuelson
Betty Leingang
Costa Rica Trip
Colter, Karri Landeis' great nephew
Mary Carter's sister
Colleen Macbeth
Mike Kroh
Lorraine Hallendorff
Sandy & Matt Thorenson
Jana Knoll's brother Jake
Clifford Friesz
Daniel Heim
Those receiving medical treatments
Those mourning
Our Country's leaders
Families and friends with cancer
Those traveling
Military and their families
Several unspoken requests



Church Members in Care Facilities

Edgewood Vista Assisted Living Center

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

Miller Point

Jim Mellon

Sunset Prospera

Chloe Leingang

Baptist Home

Virginia Geist

Communion Steward meeting will be Sunday, January 4 at 9 AM. This will be information on how to prepare, serve and clean up for Communion.

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.

Men's Group

Men's group will meet at 6 PM on Sunday, January 18.

Thank you for filling the goodie bags for the Christmas program.

Costa Rican Prayer Partners

Prayer is the most important part of our mission trip! We are inviting members of the congregation to pray specifically for the health and safety of our team, travel mercies, good weather that allows us to work and play outside, and, most importantly, that God works in and through each of the team to share the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Church family members who would like to be prayer partners are encouraged to contact Lisa. You will pray for the whole team, and specifically for one member of the team each day at noon. Prayer partners will receive an itinerary to help you pray knowledgeably each day for the activities the team will participate in throughout the day.

Prayer
Partners Supporting Others
with Prayer



Costa Rica Mission Team Update

Thank you for your generosity as the team continues to raise funds for the mission trip to Limon Costa Rica! As our preparations continue, we are very appreciative of your gifts that make this mission opportunity possible. **We are representatives of Mandan UMC in Central America, and your presence will be present as we minister to the people in Costa Rica!** Please continue to pray for this mission trip that minister not only to the people of Limon, but also to each member of the team.

Our departure date is drawing closer, and we are excited as we prepare to set off for Limon. Our itinerary begins on January 13th as we leave Bismarck about 6:30 a.m. We will return on January 22nd at 9:30 p.m. The days in between are filled with first aid classes, soccer camp, painting, repairing the church, handing out back-to-school bags, VBS for all ages, picking produce and many other tasks. Additional time has been designated for tours, souvenir shopping and enjoying the beautiful Costa Rican beaches.

School supplies will be needed for the children in Limon. The items below will be collected:

Children's and Youth backpacks (thrift store shoppers – this is a call to action!)

12 Pre-K and Kinder

87 Primary

92 High School

21 University or trade school

11 towels

24 round tip scissors

96 black pens

65 large scissors

6 white out

Scientific calculators (see Lisa for specs)

70 boxes colored pencils

144 red pens

10 blue pens

65 large scissors

Please drop off your school supplies on the table in the east hallway.

Twenty thousand dollars have already been raised, and we are praiseful for these gifts! The initial estimate of \$22,000 may need to be adjusted to fulfill these needs. Our fundraising efforts will include coffee sales, the Costa Rica Coffee Counter between worship services in December, Jana's jelly donations and individual gifts. **Thank you** for giving so faithfully to this mission

Christmas is right around the corner! Jars of homemade jelly and bags coffee from Costa Rica would make gifts to coworkers, teachers, family and friends! Please take a moment to peruse the selection!

Friday Nite Lite January 30th

Tired of the cold and dark of January? Come into the warmth of 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 12th 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!

CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight Service will be Wednesday, December 24 at 5:30 PM.





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.

Wonderful Wednesday, supper and Youth Group will not meet on December 24, Merry Christmas. There is no Sunday School on December 28 or January 4.

Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Wednesday, December 24 at 5:30 PM. All are welcome!



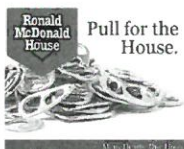
Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

Sunday Worship Cancellation Policy

- ♦ Worship services will be held every Sunday except when local authorities have issued a no-travel advisory within the city limits of Mandan.
- ♦ All members and attendees are encouraged to use their best judgment regarding travel and personal safety.

Weekday Event Cancellation Policy

- ♦ For weekday programs (e.g., Wonderful Wednesday, Bible Studies, Youth Group), if Mandan Public Schools are closed or dismiss early due to winter weather, all church events will also be canceled for that day.



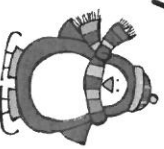


Pop Tabs are being collected in a cardboard Ronald McDonald House in the east coat room. Tab donations allow this charity to continue providing housing for children and their families while receiving medical care.



January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day 	2	3
4 Epiphany Sunday Communion Sunday 8 AM Worship 9 AM Communion Helper meeting 10:30 AM Worship	5 5:30 PM Staff meeting	6 10 AM Coffee Time 7 PM AA	7 3PM Wonderful Wed. 5:45 PM Potluck 6:30 PM Youth Group	8 Pastor Joel is out of the office	9	10
11 8 AM Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	12 5:30 PM Staff meeting	13 10 AM Coffee Time 7 PM AA Costa Rica Team leave	14 3PM Wonderful Wed. 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:30 PM Youth Group	15	16	17 
18 8 AM Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6 PM Men's Group meeting	19 5:30 PM Staff meeting	20 10 AM Coffee Time 7 PM AA	21 3PM Wonderful Wed. 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:30 PM Youth Group	22 1 PM Newsletter Costa Rica Team return	23	24 10 AM Church Council Meeting
25 8 AM Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	26 5:30 PM Staff meeting	27 10 AM Coffee Time 7 PM AA	28 3PM Wonderful Wed. 5:45 PM Family meal 6:30 PM Youth Group	29	30 7 PM 11 PM Fri. Nite Lite	31

