

COMMUNITY CALL

Office Manager: Kaylynn Young; Ministers: The People of God
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ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE TO OCCUR FEBRUARY 18 AT 6:30 P.M.

Remember, you are from the dust, and to dust you shall return. But the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end.

~Genesis 3:19; Lamentations 3:22

What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 day season of Lent—a season of preparation to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter. Counting back 40 days from Easter—excluding Sundays which are days of celebration and feasting—we arrive at the Wednesday seven weeks before Easter.

What is Lent?

Lent simply means 'springtime,' and as early as the Council of Nicea (325AD), the season was set aside as a 40 day period of time in which the early church prepared new believers for baptism on Easter. It has since grown into a season focusing on repentance and renewal as we contemplate the reason Jesus came to suffer and die for our sins.

As it says in The Worship Sourcebook, the aim of Lent is threefold: (1) to meditate on our mortality and sinfulness, and on our need for a Savior; (2) to renew our commitment to daily repentance in all of life; and (3) to re-

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PULPIT SUPPLY

Many thanks go out to the devoted team of CPC preachers who lead worship and keep our congregation spiritually nourished. The following are scheduled for the upcoming weeks:



- Feb 1 Rev. Donna Monteith
with Communion
- Feb 8 Carrie Lauber
- Feb 15 Andrew Thostenson
- Feb 18 *Ash Wednesday Service*
Rev. Jim Wilson
with Communion
- Feb 22 Kevin Galt
- Mar 1 Rev. Donna Monteith
with Communion
- Mar 8 Kevin Galt
- Mar 15 Carrie Lauber
- Mar 29 Rev. Jim Wilson



GIVING HEARTS DAY IS FEBRUARY 12

For more information on how you can participate in this region-wide day of generosity, go to <https://app.givingheartsday.org/>

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DECEMBER CLERK'S CORNER



The regular meeting of the Session was held on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Elders present were Amy Grossman-Tomsich, Carolyn Meester, Dave Ruhnke and Andrew Thostenson. Temporary Moderator and Clerk of Session, Becky DeJong was present. Melissa Engebretson and Carrie Lauber were present via Zoom. Bonnie Thompson was absent.

The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer provided by Becky DeJong.

Consent Agenda:

- a. approval of the minutes of November 19, 2025
- b. Session will meet the third Wednesday of every month unless otherwise noted and communion will be served the first Sunday of every month, as well as, Easter, Christmas Day, and Maundy Thursday unless otherwise noted.
- c. Clerk's report – Don Rehling died on December 6, 2025. His funeral was held at West Funeral Home on December 12, 2025, and he will be buried at Fargo National Cemetery in Harwood, ND. Committee reports due in early January.

Communion on Christmas Day will be by intinction, and two elders will aid in serving. Elders to serve communion on Sunday, January 4, 2026 will be Amy Grossman-Tomsich, Carolyn Meester, Dave Ruhnke, and Andrew Thostenson.

The financial report was read, discussed and received.

The next Session meeting will be on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

The 2026 budget was presented.

A 'little free food pantry' – similar to a little free library – will be set up in the corner of the church parking lot. Anyone can bring something to share and

anyone can take something they need. This is a neighbor helping neighbor project. Watch for ways that you can participate.

Committee reports:

Building & Grounds Trustees: The B&G Trustees have worked on the following projects:

- * Programmed the thermostats for winter heat
- * Replaced three forced air gas furnace filters
- * Oiled circulation pumps and started gas boiler for winter heating
- * Converted the sump pumps to winter drains
- * Completed lawn care in October and secured the mower for the winter (thank you Lynn Hummel).
- * Replaced down spouts on North side of the building
- * Replaced lightbulbs in the Fellowship Hall and Narthex
- * Replaced LCD Display in Narthex
- * Repaired Media Cart in Sunday School Classroom
- * Installed surplus LCD Display to Media Cart for Sunday School use
- * Replaced weather stripping on front entry way doors
- * Adjusted front entryway doors for smooth operation
- * Replaced door stop on rear door.
- * Re-viewed and approved the building insurance policy for 2026
- * Replaced front, outside security light bulb
- * Adjusted security lighting to operate during winter hours (now 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.)
- * Worked with Cass County Electric to replace front parking lot lamp light
- * Replaced electrical cords on two vacuums and replaced filters
- * Removed parking lot snow from first major storm (thank you Larry Peihl).
- * Replaced and positioned snow shovels and ice melt at entryway doors

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- * Cleared snow (4X) from entry way and the parking lot sidewalks on the East and West sides of the building
 - * Secured with new snow removal company to clear parking lots and street sidewalks for the 2025-2026 season
 - * Placed snow markers on the West side of the building for snow removal contractor
 - * Replaced light/fan switch plate in women's restroom in the old annex basement
- Andrew Thostenson

Christian Education: The Christmas Cantata and Children's Program will be held on Sunday, December 21. After the service the WF Cross Country team will host a Spaghetti Feed.

On Wednesday, January 28, there will be a family fun night including a movie and a meal.

- Amy Grossman-Tomsich

Deacons: Cards have been sent to congregational members in need.

-Bonnie Thompson

Mission & Outreach: We are finishing up the New Life Center this month and then we will be focusing on Souper Bowl of Caring until February 8th (Super Bowl Sunday). We are looking to challenge other churches to collect soup and dollars for the food pantry during this time with a rotating trophy going to the winner. We would also like to host a soup and sandwich lunch after worship on February 1st.

- Carrie Lauber

Nominating: We are working hard to fill all of open slots this year, but still have a few open ones. We ask that you pray about the open spot if able and talk with someone from the nominating committee if you want more information or have questions. We are looking for 1 Session member, 1 Presbytery Delegate, and 1 Presbytery Delegate Alternate.

Worship: All preaching slots are filled through February 18, 2026. All Head Usher slots are filled for 2026. Communion preparers are needed for 2026. If interested, please sign up on the calendar in the communion supply closet or contact Dave Ruhnke.

Advent began on Sunday, November 30, this year. Christian Education and Worship committees coordinated a Hanging of the Greens event following the worship service on Sunday, November 23. There was Christmas music, treats, and fellowship. The season of Advent ends after the beginning of 2026, so please be prepared to help in taking down, changing, and putting away decorations on January 4.

Special Advent worship services are as follows: December 21 with the Christmas program followed by a spaghetti benefit meal hosted by the West Fargo High School Cross Country Team, December 24's Christmas Eve service at 6:30 p.m. with Kevin Galt officiating, and December 25's Christmas service with communion at 10:00 a.m. with Rev. Jim Wilson officiating.

Advent Reading sign-up sheets were reviewed. Volunteers have signed up to read all but two dates.

This year, the Worship Committee is offering daily Advent devotions for the entire congregation. Bulletin inserts or digital copies are available.

Looking forward, the committee discussed recruiting 2026 pulpit supply and communion preparers. We are so very thankful for these folks who have been an integral part of CPC's worship, helping the congregation to be spiritually fed every week. Previous assistants and preachers will be contacted regarding their future interest in taking part in CPC's worship. Additional preachers will be recruited using the newly updated Presbytery of the Northern Plains pulpit

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supply list. Also, there are plans for a Lent devotional.

- Dave Ruhnke

Meeting closed with unison prayer at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky DeJong

JANUARY CLERK'S CORNER



The regular meeting of the Session was held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Elders present were Melissa Engebretson, Amy Grossman-Tomsich, Carolyn Meester, and Dave Ruhnke. Temporary Moderator and Clerk of Session, Becky DeJong, was present. Bonnie Thompson and Andrew Thostenson were present via Zoom. Carrie Lauber was absent.

The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer provided by Bonnie Thompson.

Consent Agenda:

- a. approval of the minutes of December 17, 2025.
- b. elect Co-treasurers, Yvonne Hummel and Andrew Thostenson, and Clerk of Session, Becky DeJong, for a one-year term

Clerk's report – Amelia Broe was born on November 28, 2025. Her parents are Duane and Emma Broe.

Elders to serve communion on February 1, 2026 will be Carolyn Meester, Dave Ruhnke, Andrew Thostenson and +.

The financial report was read, discussed and received.

The Statistical Report for 2025 was presented to Session.

The next Session meeting will be on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 7:00.

Committee reports:

Building & Grounds Trustees: AED train-

ing will be conducted within the next month or two. Watch for details.

- Andrew Thostenson

Christian Education: The January 28th all-church family fun night will be a movie (TBD) and pizza.

The February 25th all-church family fun night will be Trivial Pursuit and a meal (TBD).

- Amy Grossman-Tomsich

Stewardship: The annual contribution reports have been printed and mailed.

- Carolyn Meester

Worship: At the January meeting, we discussed pulpit supply options and changing of the CPC decor as the church calendar changes throughout the new year. Preaching slots are filled through April 19. This includes Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter (with Communion). Thanks to everyone who helped in removing Advent decorations and hanging new banners on Sunday, January 4.

We are in need of communion preparers throughout 2026. A demonstration of communion preparation was held after worship Sunday, 1/11/26, for those curious about the process. The sign-up sheet for communion preparation is posted on the inside of the grey cupboard in the storage room next to the kitchen. We share the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month along with Easter and Christmas. Please consider helping CPC in this way. Contact any members of the Worship Committee for more information.

Different devotionals are being considered for sharing with the congregation during Lent. Other ideas for engaging the congregation in worship were discussed.

- Dave Ruhnke

No reports: Deacons, Mission, Nominating, Personnel.

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Thank you to Melissa Engebretson and Carrie Lauber for their dedicated, knowledgeable and compassionate work on Session!!

Meeting closed with unison prayer at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky DeJong



FOCUS ON MISSION

Thank you to everyone who has donated soup and/or money to our Souper Bowl of Caring during January. The collection will run through February 8, Super Bowl Sunday. Our final week of collections will kick off with soup and sandwich fellowship after worship on February 1.

We are competing with our sisters and brothers at First Presbyterian of Moorhead, and Faith Lutheran. Each can of soup is one point, as is each dollar. Funds and soups will be delivered to the Emergency Food Pantry when the competition is over. Let's see how much of a difference we can make!

Ash Wednesday is February 18, so we will begin our collection for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) when our Souper Bowl is over. That will continue through March 29, Palm Sunday. OGHS inserts, envelopes and fish banks will be available after February 15.

Thank you again for all you do for our community and the world beyond.

LADIES CIRCLE

Join us every second Tuesday for Ladies Circle in the narthex. If you like, bring a sack lunch and have fellowship, coffee, and treats at 12:30 p.m. Otherwise, come ready to begin Bible study at 1:00 p.m.

Our study this year is Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ by Rev. Dr. Rhshell D. Hunter and Rev. MacKichen Walker.



FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

2-7 Tom Birrenkott
2-8 Jack Smith
2-10 Mike Arvidson
2-10 Linda Bishop
2-17 Kevin Galt
2-20 Lise Alves
2-21 Scott Meyer
2-24 Lia Dobrinz

ANNIVERSARIES

2-19-81 – Dixon and Mary Jo Moorhead
2-24-79 – Scott and Vickie Meyer

CHOCOLATE FOR THE SOUL: WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Do you have that let-down feeling now that Christmas is past? Our February Bible study talks about how to find joy and happiness in things that are holy and worth celebrating. As we navigate our way through this winter cold and snow, learn how to not let the weather advisories bother you. We meet at the church at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4, if the weather is good. Remember that God loves us all always!

JOIN US FOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL!



We meet in the upstairs conference room at 9:00 a.m. We are continuing our study of Acts. Don't hesitate to join us. There is always coffee, comradery, and God's gift of the Bible.

PRAYER TIME



Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.
James 5:13

Come for a half hour of prayer in the CPC sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, February 6, as we worship, praise, and lay our petitions before our Lord God.

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member with confidence and gratitude that Jesus conquered death and sin. The season of Lent, rightly viewed, is drenched with Gospel truth.

In the words of Reformed theologian, Michael Horton, "...an evangelical celebration of Lent affords an opportunity to reinforce rather than undermine the significance of Christ's person and work."



What is the deal with ashes?

"I repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). In Scripture, ashes (or dust) symbolize many things, including repentance (Daniel 9:3; Joel 1:8, 13; Jonah 3:6; Matthew 11:21), mortality (Ecclesiastes 3:20), human frailty (Genesis 18:27; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49), sadness or mourning (Esther 4:3; Revelation 18:19), and judgment (Joshua 7:6; Lamentations 3:16). The Scriptures everywhere recognize this act as an outward expression of a felt reality.

So, what is the connection of ashes to Lent?

Christians around the world have participated in an Ash Wednesday service in which ashes are placed upon them as an outward expression of their inward desire to be renewed in repentance and faith, and the resulting joy of the Gospel. During this season of Lent when we intentionally reflect on the meaning of Christ's death for us, ashes can be an appropriate sign of sorrow for sin, our own resulting mortality, as well as a desire for renewal of our relationship with God.

Are you trying to impress God with this or work your way into heaven?

Not at all. On the contrary, the Gospel emphasis of Lent reminds us that we cannot do anything to earn God's grace. We are more broken, sinful, and flawed

than we often have the courage to admit, but in Christ we are more forgiven, loved, and accepted than we ever dared dream. Christ died for sinners, and that is Good News. We rejoice in grace alone.

Isn't this a specifically Roman Catholic thing?

Many in the Christian family of churches observe Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent, including Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Baptists. Many branches of Christianity have been enriched by the seasonal focus

upon the reason for Christ's death and his subsequent resurrection.

What does the Ash Wednesday service look like?

In our Ash Wednesday service, we will reflect on Scripture together with readings that call us towards a deeper, more intelligent repentance. We will also have a moment in the service in which you can participate in what is known as 'the imposition of ashes.'

The ministers will dip their finger in the moist ash and make a sign in the shape of the cross either on your forehead or on your hand while saying, "Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (cf. Genesis 3:19). The sign of the cross reminds us that Jesus redeems our brokenness. Of course, you may come to the service and opt not to have the ashes placed upon you. It's entirely up to you.

So we invite you to join us during this season of reflection as we contemplate our mortality, our need for the renewing grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the great cost of our redemption as seen in the crucifixion of the Son of God.

What: Ash Wednesday Service

When: February 18, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Community Presbyterian Church
702 Sheyenne St., West Fargo, ND



YEAR-TO-DATE GIVING UPDATE

12/31/2025

General Operating budget
2026: \$155,554.00

Monthly funds needed to meet budget:
\$12,962.33.

Total Giving December \$ 26,290.63
Total Expenses December \$ 10,724.14

Per Capita amount for 2026 is \$50.00 for each confirmed member. Please mark on your check or envelope as contributing to Per Capita. Total assessment for 2026 is \$4,500. So far, \$250 has been paid toward per capita.

Please prayerfully consider the amount you are able to contribute to the church so we are able to continue our mission to serve members and the community.

THE DEACONS CAN HELP YOU

If you or someone you love needs immediate pastoral care, you can call a Deacon for help.



If anyone in the congregation is hospitalized, needs a visit, or would like home communion, please contact the Deacons.

Jenni Hummel	[C] 701-371-7640
Dawn Larson	[C] 701-261-9609
Boots Misheski	[C] 701-388-7160
Lisa Steffen	[C] 701-238-9355
Cary Talley	[H] 701-282-3273
Bonnie Thompson, Session Liaison	[C] 701-799-8598

PRAYER CHAIN



Sharing our needs and concerns in prayer with our church family brings us closer to one another and lightens our load. If you have a prayer concern, please contact Gayle Thostenson (412-6387, cpcnews@midco.net) or Kaylynn Young (cpcnews@midco.net, 282-4135). To have your name added to the prayer request e-list, just let them know.

SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP SUPPORT



Thanks to all who have signed up to help serve.

- Feb 1 - Group 2
- Feb 8 - Group 2
- Feb 15 - Group 3
- Feb 22 - Group 3
- Mar 1 - Group 4
- Mar 8 - Group 4
- Mar 15 - Group 1
- Mar 22 - Group 1
- Mar 29 - Group 2

We are looking for people to sign up for February & March. If it is your group and you are available to help, please sign up in the narthex. We are also in need of liturgists and slide 'flippers' for the winter. These are unique opportunities to participate in worship.

If you are able to help but forgot to sign up, please email the church office at office@cpcwf.org by or on **the prior Sunday**, and we will add you to the list.

THERE IS ROOM FOR YOU



There is room at the table to join the folks making greeting cards! Our Card Makers gather on Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. for fellowship and an opportunity to recycle and create cards for sale at Community Presbyterian Church.

Proceeds from the cards are used for various church projects from supporting children who attend Summer Bible Camp to purchasing items for the kitchen. Plus, they always seem to have sweet treats for a mid-afternoon break.

Interested? Just show up on Thursdays at 1 p.m. The group will welcome you and show you how to make cards!

YOUTH SPRING RETREAT



To be held in Grand Forks on May 1-3.

March's Community Call data is due Thursday, February 20

Pre-authorized debits customer authorization form

I authorize Community Presbyterian Church and the financial institution listed below to initiate electronic debit entries, (and if necessary, credit entries and adjustments for any debit entries in error) to my:

checking account savings account for \$ _____

*(This authority will remain in effect until I have cancelled it in writing.)
(Changes can be easily made)*

*Please select from the following options to make contributions:

<u>MONTHLY</u> 1 st ____ OR 16 th ____	<u>TWICE A MONTH</u> 1 st AND 16 th ____
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Please print the following:

Name _____

Address _____

Financial Institution: _____ Branch: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bank Routing Number (9 digits):

Account Number:

Please return to:
 Office
 Community Presbyterian Church
 702 Sheyenne St.
 West Fargo, ND 58078
 (A confirmation will be sent to you)

Forms accepted at any time

Annual Income	Approximate Weekly Commitment Proportionate to Income						
	15%	10%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%
100,000	288.00	192.00	135.00	115.00	96.00	77.00	58.00
75,000	216.00	144.00	100.00	87.00	72.00	58.00	43.00
60,000	173.00	113.00	80.00	69.00	58.00	46.00	35.00
50,000	144.00	96.00	67.00	58.00	48.00	38.00	29.00
45,000	130.00	87.00	61.00	52.00	43.00	35.00	26.00
40,000	115.00	77.00	54.00	46.00	38.00	31.00	23.00
35,000	101.00	67.00	47.00	40.00	34.00	27.00	20.00
30,000	87.00	58.00	40.00	35.00	29.00	23.00	17.00
25,000	72.00	48.00	34.00	29.00	24.00	19.00	14.00
20,000	58.00	38.00	27.00	23.00	19.00	15.00	12.00
15,000	43.00	29.00	20.00	17.00	14.00	12.00	9.00



FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Soup & Sandwiches Following Worship	2 Bells at CPC 6:00 p.m.	3 Ladies Circle 12:30 p.m. Lunch 1 p.m. B. Study	4 Christian Education 6:00 p.m.	5 PW Card Group 1:00 p.m. Worship Com. 7:00 p.m.	6 Prayer 9:30 a.m.	7
8 <i>Last day of</i> Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m.	9 Bells at CPC 6:00 p.m.	10	11	12  PW Card Group 1:00 p.m.	13	14 <i>Happy</i> <i>Valentines</i> <i>Day!</i>
15 Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m.	16 <i>President's</i> <i>Day</i> Personnel/ Stewardship 7:00 p.m.	17	18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.	19  PW Card Group 1:00 p.m.	20	21
22 Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m.	23 Bell Choir practice at CPC 6:00 p.m.	24	25 Trivial Pursuit Family Night Dinner 5:00 p.m. Games 5:30 p.m.	26 PW Card Group 1:00 p.m. Deacons 6:00 p.m.	27	28

March newsletter deadline: February 19

Non-church scheduled events:

Monday evenings: TOPS, Sat. & Sun. p.m.— HOREMOW
Sunday 12-3 p.m., Friday 7-10 p.m.—GOSHEM Fellowship Hall

Head Ushers:

February: Dwight & Lisa Steffen
March: Lynn Hummel
April: Brent & Cary Talley

Community Presbyterian Church
702 Sheyenne St
West Fargo, ND 58078

701.282.4135 www.cpcwf.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Community Presbyterian Church Committees

Building & Grounds Trustees

Andrew Thostenson, Liaison
Kevin Galt Larry Peihl
Lynn Hummel Terry Meester
Veril Larson

Christian Education

Amy Grossman-Tomsich, Liaison
Emma Broe Melanie Hansen
Kevin Galt Gayle Thostenson

Deacons

Bonnie Thompson, Liaison
Jenni Hummel Lisa Steffen
Dawn Larson Cary Talley
Boots Misheski

Mission & Outreach

Liaison TBD
Kevin Galt Rev. Donna Monteith
Boots Misheski Dave Ruhnke

Nominating

Liaison TBD
Linda Bishop Mel Hansen
M. Engebretson Yvonne Hummel

Personnel

Carolyn Meester, Liaison
Lia Dobrinz A. Thostenson
Kevin Galt

Presbytery Delegates

Carrie Lauber

Stewardship

Carolyn Meester, Liaison
Kevin Galt A. Thostenson
Yvonne Hummel

Worship/Service & Fellowship

Dave Ruhnke, Liaison
Linda Bishop G. Thostenson
Emma Broe Rev. Jim Wilson
Carolyn Meester



**Sunday
Worship Hours**
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Worship Service
Fellowship following

The Session of Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo

Temporary Moderator
& Clerk of Session: Becky DeJong
Co-Treasurers: Yvonne Hummel
Andrew Thostenson

Amy Grossman-Tomsich
Melanie Hansen
Chris Mace
Carolyn Meester
David Ruhnke
Bonnie Thompson
Andrew Thostenson

**Our mission is to know God;
to be led by the Holy Spirit; to share Christ.**