

COMMUNITY CALL

Office Manager: Kaylynn Young; Ministers: The People of God
702 Sheyenne St., West Fargo, ND 58078; 701-282-4135; E-mail: office@cpcwf.org; Web: www.cpcwf.org

SPRING FORWARD



On Sunday, March 9th, at 2:00 a.m., Daylight Saving Time begins. Please remember to turn your clocks forward one hour.



WELCOME!

Community Presbyterian Church extends a special invitation for you to attend worship services this Lenten Season. You may do this in person or online at cpcwf.org.

March 29 > Palm Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by an Easter Eggstravaganza for kids, aged Pre-K through 5th grade

April 2 > Maundy Thursday with Communion at 6:00 p.m.

April 5 > Easter Sunday service with Communion at 10 a.m.

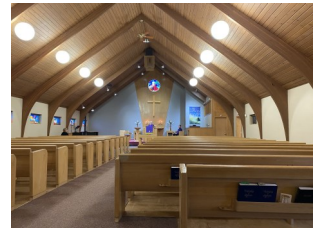
No matter where you are, let us all join in celebrating with joy God's amazing grace and triumph over sin.

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA



Anyone, preschool through fifth grade, hop on down to the sanctuary after worship on Sunday, March 29, for some Easter fun! We will start with an Easter story followed by an Easter Egg Hunt!

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:

- Mar 1 Rev. Donna Monteith
with Communion
- Mar 8 Kevin Galt
- Mar 15 Andrew Thostenson
- Mar 22 Carrie Lauber
- Mar 29 Rev. Jim Wilson
- Apr 2 Maundy Thursday
Carrie Lauber
With Communion
- Apr 5 Rev. Donna Monteith
with Communion
- Apr 12 Kevin Galt
- Apr 19 Andrew Thostenson
- Apr 26 TBD

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR



There will be no Sunday School classes on Easter, April 5.

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**MINUTES OF
THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
CONGREGATION
AND CORPORATION OF
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



January 18, 2026

The annual meeting of Community Presbyterian Church was held on January 18, 2026 at 11:10 a.m. in the church sanctuary. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Gayle Thostenson. The clerk verified there was a quorum present with 28 members in attendance.

The minutes from today's congregational meeting will be approved at the next Session meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, after being attested to by the Moderator and Clerk of Session. *Boots Misheski made a motion to allow Session to approve the minutes. Jack Smith seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.*

Committee reports from 2025 were presented to the congregation. All reports were received.

Andrew Thostenson reviewed the financial reports. A special thanks was given to the many, many volunteers in the church that allow CPC to meet its financial obligations.

Lise Alves made a motion to accept the financial reports as presented. Carolyn Talley seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

Andrew Thostenson presented the Session-approved 2026 General Fund Budget.

Melissa Engebretson presented a full slate of candidates for all open committee positions.

- ◇ Melanie Hanson and Chris Mace to be elected as Elders for the Class of 2029 for a three-year term.
- ◇ Lisa Steffen to be elected as Deacon for the Class of 2029 for a three-year term.

- ◇ Kevin Galt and Lynn Hummel to be elected as Buildings and Grounds Trustee for the Class of 2029 for a three-year term.
- ◇ Linda Bishop, Melanie Hansen, Yvonne Hummel, and Melissa Engebretson to be elected to the Nominating Committee for the Class of 2026 for a one-year term.

Nominations were ceased and a unanimous ballot was cast.

The Nominating Committee made a motion to cease all nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of candidates. The motion was unanimously approved.

Carrie Lauber will be the delegate to the Presbytery meetings for 2026. We are open for a second delegate and an alternate.

Thank you to the past members of Session, Melissa Engebretson and Carrie Lauber. For Deacons, Patty Smith. For Trustees, Melanie Hanson and Brent Talley. For Nominating, Dawn Larson.

Thank you to the Clerk of Session, Becky DeJong, Co-Treasurers, Andrew Thostenson and Yvonne Hummel, Bookkeeper, Carolyn Meester and Office assistant, Kaylynn Young, for their service.

Barb Grossman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Steffen seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Moderator Thostenson at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Meester, Clerk pro tempore

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.



FEBRUARY CLERK'S CORNER



The regular meeting of the Session was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Elders present were Amy Grossman-Tomsich, Melanie Hansen, Chris Mace, Carolyn Meester, Dave Ruhnke, and Andrew Thostenson. Temporary Moderator and Clerk of Session, Becky DeJong was present. Bonnie Thompson was absent.

The meeting was opened with prayer provided by Amy Grossman-Tomsich.

Consent Agenda:

- a. approval of the minutes of January 14, 2026 and the minutes of the Congregational meeting on January 18, 2026.
- b. next Session meeting – Wednesday, March 18, 2026.
- c. Amelia Broe baptism – June 28, 2026 – Jim Wilson has pulpit supply.
- d. Communion will be served for the Ash Wednesday service on February 18, 2026.
- e. Mitzi Hager would like 4 tables and 32 chairs for her granddaughter's graduation on June 6th. She will pick them up on June 5th and return them on June 7th.
- f. Clerk's Corner – On Sunday, January 25, 2026, Melanie Hansen and Chris Mace were ordained and installed as elders for three-year terms, Lisa Steffen was installed as a deacon for a three-year term, Kevin Galt and Lynn Hummel were installed as B&G Trustees for three-year terms, Linda Bishop, Melissa Engebretson, Melanie Hansen and Yvonne Hummel were installed on the Nominating Committee for a one-year term. Carrie Lauber will be the 2026 delegate to the Presbytery.

Elders to serve communion on March 1, 2026 will be Chris Mace, Carolyn Meester, Dave Ruhnke, and Andrew Thostenson.

Welcome Melanie Hansen and Chris Mace. We look forward to your input and leadership.

The financial report was read, discussed, and received.

Discussion was held regarding how we, as elders, should engage publicly—especially around political or social protest—and how we distinguish between speaking as individual Christians and speaking on behalf of the church.

- ♦ Role vs. personal conviction – When someone serves as an elder, their words and actions are often perceived as carrying institutional weight, even when they are intended to be personal. Identifying oneself publicly as an elder can blur the line between individual conviction and church representation.
- ♦ Unity within the congregation – Our church includes people with a wide range of views. Public protest tied to a leadership title may unintentionally create confusion or division, or leave some members feeling that a particular stance reflects the church as a whole.
- ♦ Public witness – How our leaders are perceived in the broader community matters. When our church name or leadership roles are invoked publicly, others may reasonably assume that the action reflects an official church position, whether or not that is the intent.

Remember, as an elder, member or friend of our church, that your actions and opinions matter. Be mindful, be kind, and do good.

Committee reports:

Building & Grounds Trustees: Trustees have dealt with a variety of issues with the colder weather. Snow removal has been prompt and consistent by our new contractor. Walks have been shoveled by the Trustees five times since January

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15.

Our forced air gas furnace for the sanctuary is NOT running at full capacity. We had it inspected in mid-January. We likely need a new combustion pump to draw in fresh air to meet the needs of a high-capacity burn. This will be costly and may NOT be worth replacing in a system that is nearing the end of its service life. Since we have a backup boiler gas furnace, we decided to defer maintenance and obtain bids on the repair or replacement of the entire furnace during the summer months.

We installed a remote environment sensing system to monitor the temperature in the Sanctuary, Narthex, and the Fellowship Hall. This allows us to know what the temperature is 24 hours a day via smart phone, tablet, or home computer.

Our elevator became inoperable for a few days in late January. We had a technician restart the system without finding a critical issue. An inspection of the elevator was made and the only concern identified was dust and grime build-up on the door electrical contacts. This may have caused a system error which locked out the elevator for safety reasons. The technician advised us to monitor the system over the next few months. If we continue to have problems, we may be looking at the replacement of the system board. So far, so good.

We installed additional security cameras to monitor the entry-way doors. They can be accessed from the building or remotely via smart phone, tablet, or personal computer. They can also be monitored via a tablet during the worship service from the sound and streaming workstation at the back of the Sanctuary.

The adhesive pads required for the Heart Defibrillator machine were replaced in mid-January. Because the old ones are no longer serviceable, we will use them in a demonstration of the ma-

chine following Worship on February 22. Linda Bishop has agreed to conduct this during the fellowship hour for interested members.

- Andrew Thostenson

Christian Education: The children will be providing special music on February 22 and March 29 with Kevin. Palm Sunday, March 29, we will be ordering palms for the congregation to be given out to enjoy with the children. After church will be the Easter egg hunt for the children.

Upcoming all church family fun nights:

- ⇒ February 25: hotdish/casseroles with Trivial Pursuit
- ⇒ April 29: baked potato bar, and puzzle competition

The youth were invited to a retreat in Grand Forks <Correction: Moorhead, MN> so we will work out the logistics for that to see if anybody is interested:

- Dates: May 1-3
 - Grades: 6th-12th
 - Kevin forwarded event information.
- Amy Grossman-Tomsich

Personnel: We will be setting up a check-in meeting with Kaylynn. It has been about 6 months since the last meeting. Things are going well from our perspective. We want to make sure she feels the same.

- Carolyn Meester

Stewardship: We discussed education for members who may be interested in making contributions directly to the church from a retirement account. Andrew will write up something for the newsletter. Andrew shared we may have additional expenses the furnace for the sanctuary.

Additional security cameras were added. From the back of the sanctuary, we will have the ability to monitor the front door during service.

- Carolyn Meester

Worship: Communion preparation, pulpit supply, and church calendar changes were reviewed. Pulpit supply for worship services is filled through April

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19. Communion preparers are needed for the months of July, October, November, and December. If interested in assisting, please contact any of the Worship Committee members (Emma Broe, Dave Ruhnke, Gayle Thostenson, Rev. Jim Wilson) or sign up on the list posted inside the grey cupboard in the storage room next to the kitchen. Thanks to all those who have signed up.

The season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 18. CPC will hold a service to include communion by intinction at 6:30 p.m. that day. Devotionals specially made for the season of Lent will be shared with our members and friends to help strengthen and encourage their faith.

Lastly, we discussed the practice of Sharing the Peace. Worship Committee endorses Sharing the Peace during most worship services. The practice can be exchanged from the pulpit in a choral response by the congregation or individually from person to person with or without a handshake. It can be used to welcome newcomers, encourage friends, or share greetings. Always, it reflects our reconciliation to God and to one another, bringing us in community by His grace.

- Dave Ruhnke

No reports: Mission, Nominating

Meeting closed with unison prayer at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky DeJong

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, March 6, as we worship, praise, and lay our petitions before our Lord and God.

FOCUS ON MISSION



A huge "Thank You!!!!" to everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring challenge to benefit the Emergency Food Pantry (EFP).

We collected cans of soup and money to go to the EFP, and challenged our sister churches to do likewise. Faith Lutheran of West Fargo and First Presbyterian of Moorhead accepted the challenge. Each church got a point for each dollar or can of soup donated.

The totals are in:

- ◇ Faith Lutheran collected 454 cans and \$1334.69 for 1,788.69 points.
- ◇ First Presbyterian, Moorhead, totaled 1,394 points.
- ◇ CPC collected 278 cans and \$567 for 845 points.

The Golden Soup Ladle traveling trophy goes to Faith Lutheran.

We didn't win, but the Emergency Food Pantry did! Big time! And that's the point of our mission focus each month, isn't it? Be proud of what we did, and remember, this happened because we started it here.

Our focus through the end of March is One Great Hour of Sharing, our church-wide offering that has been going on since shortly after World War II. It provides aid to people in the U.S. and around the world in three major areas. Presbyterian Disaster Relief is the one that we may have had the most direct contact with, as they have come to our area following floods and other disasters. Currently Self Development of People is also active in our area, as it helps groups of disadvantaged people start their own groups to help their community succeed. The Hunger Program provides emergency food where it is needed worldwide to prevent starvation, but they also focus on providing tools and seeds to farmers so that they can grow their own food in the future.

Give as God has blessed you, to be a blessing to others.

MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

- 3-3 Karen Steele
- 3-15 Irene Martin
- 3-21 Melissa Engebretson
- 3-22 Bonnie Thompson
- 3-24 Dawn Larson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3-14-64 Chuck and Bonnie Thompson

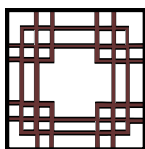
LADIES CIRCLE



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. Rhashell D. Hunter and Rev. MacKichen Walker.

CHOCOLATE FOR THE SOUL: WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Are you looking for a bit of spice in your life? Not the cayenne or jalapeno spice but some fun and excitement? Our Bible study this month talks about how God can spice up your faith in Him when we ask for His guidance. We will plan to meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, as long as it's not stormy.

JOIN US FOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL!



We meet in the upstairs conference room at 9:00 a.m. In March, we should finish our study of Acts. April's study TBD.

Don't hesitate to join us. There is always coffee, comradery, and the gift of God's Word.

SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP SUPPORT



Thanks to all who have signed up to help serve.

- Mar 1 - Group 4
- Mar 8 - Group 4
- Mar 15 - Group 1
- Mar 22 - Group 1
- Mar 29 - Group 2
- Apr 5 - Group 2
- Apr 12 - Group 3
- Apr 19 - Group 3
- Apr 26 - Group 4

We are looking for people to sign up for March & April. 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.' 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.



YEAR-TO-DATE GIVING UPDATE

1/31/2026

General Operating budget 2026: \$155,554.00
 Monthly funds needed to meet budget: \$12,962.83.

Total Giving January \$ 6,333.00
 Total Expenses January \$ 5,301.39

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, \$400 has been paid toward per capita.

- ⇒ Stewardship is the path; Generosity is the adventure.
- ⇒ Generous givers make God and His purposes their highest priority.
- ⇒ Enjoy God's generosity to you ... then share it with others.

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 CPC. 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!

MAY 9, 2026, LET US RUMMAGE!

We will be holding our CPC Rummage Sale at CPC in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 9th.

Watch for details in the April newsletter.



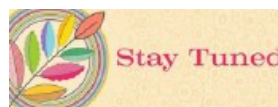
THE DEACONS CAN HELP YOU



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



YOUTH SPRING RETREAT – CORRECTION

To be held in Moorhead, MN on May 1-3. More details to be published in upcoming newsletters and weekly reminders.

I have

No Greater Joy

than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. 3 John 1:4



Presbyterian Women in the Northern Plains Presbytery

2026 PW Spring Gathering Saturday, April 25, 2026

Mendenhall Presbyterian Church East Grand Forks, MN
 Registration Cost: \$15.00
 Time: 10:00 a.m.

Remember a Gift Basket for the Silent Auction. All proceeds to: 2026 PWP Mission Partner – Chogoria Ministry Team
 Dr. Carrie Lauber, Co-Team Leader & Gathering Worship Leader

RSVP to Donna Preston at 701-238-7414 or at preston@gra.midco.net by April 20, 2026

April's Community Call data is due Thursday, March 19

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 ____ |
|---|---|

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 |



MARCH 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. | 2 | 3 Bells at CPC 6:00 p.m. | 4 Pres. Squares 4 p.m. 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>Daylight Savings Time Begins –Set clocks ahead</i> | 9 Personnel/ Stewardship 6:00 p.m. | 10 Ladies Circle 12:30 p.m. Lunch 1 p.m. B. Study Bells at CPC 6:00 p.m. | 11 | 12 PW Card Group 1:00 p.m. | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. | 16 | 17 Bells at CPC 6:00 p.m. | 18 D B&G Trustees 6 p.m. Session 7:00 p.m. | 19 PW Card Group 1:00 p.m. | 20 | 21 Presbytery Meeting 10 a.m. |
| 22 Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. | 23 | 24 Bell Choir practice at CPC 6:00 p.m. | 25 | 26 PW Card Group 1:00 p.m. Deacons 6:00 p.m. | 27 | 28 |
| 29 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. | 30 | 31 Bell Choir practice at CPC 6:00 p.m. | <p>**April newsletter deadline: March 19**</p> <p>Non-church scheduled events: Mon. evenings: TOPS in Fellowship Hall Sat. & Sun. p.m.-HOREMOW in Sanctuary Sun. 12-3 p.m., Friday 7-10 p.m.—GOSHEM In Fellowship Hall</p> | | | |
| <p>Easter Eggstravaganza Following worship</p> | | <p>Head Ushers</p> <p>March: Lynn Hummel April: Brent & Cary Talley May – Melanie Hansen Amy Crossman–Tomsich</p> | | | | |

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.**