



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ –

How is it with your soul?

For the past four weeks we have been talking about our souls. That internal part of us that cannot be found on a slide under a microscope or on an x-ray, a sonogram, a MRI or even a full body ultrasound or scan. “Scientifically,” or medically - there is no evidence that we have a soul. But we talk about souls all the time, not so much in church – but we say things such as:

Well - bless your soul!
Not a living soul.....
He or she is an old soul.
Well – that’s/there’s a lost soul.
Bare one’s soul.
Sell one’s soul.....
The eyes are the gateway to the soul.
May God rest his or her soul.....

And also, when an airline crew - pilot, captain and flight attendants – get ready for departure from a terminal – they ask how many “souls” are onboard in the event that tragedy should strike. The counting of souls goes back to the Book of Acts of the Apostles when the Apostle Paul is involved in a shipwreck, and he writes in Acts 27:37 – “all 276 of the souls who were on board...”

In the past, I engaged in a Bible study by Presbyterian Pastor John Ortberg and the Bible Study he wrote called “Soul Keeping.” What was shared and what I learned in this Bible study has never left me. We – each of individually - is responsible for our own soul. No one else. Pastor Ortberg was struggling with a few of his own demons in his life, so he sought out a renown professor from University of South California, a professor of philosophy, Dallas Willard. Written in the forward of this Bible study, Pastor Ortberg shares this quote from Dallas Willard, and I have never forgotten it: “The most important thing in your life, is not what you do; it’s who you become. That’s what you will take into eternity. (WOW! My emphasis.) You are an unceasing spiritual being with an eternal destiny in God’s great universe. That’s the most important thing for you to know about you. Your soul is not just something that lives on after your body dies. It’s the most important thing about you. It is your life.”

Beginning all the way back in the Old Testament it first speaks about the soul in Genesis 2:7, where God forms man from dust – and breathes life into him, making him a "living soul" (or "living being" in modern translations). Our soul is what connects our thoughts, our sensations, our emotions, and our will – integrating them into an entire being. It is what makes you who you are. And each of us is the keepers of our own soul, and we, each of us, is responsible for nourishing our own soul. In Psalm 84, the psalmist speaks to how our soul longs to be with God, our Creator, and then the blessings that come to those “whose hearts and souls are set on this pilgrimage, here on earth.” Check it out.

I hope you are enjoying this series and learning about your soul. We will continue this series until the Season of Lent begins. Hard to believe that Ash Wednesday will arrive on February 18. That will be here before we know it! During the Lenten season we will be looking at the conversations that lead to the cross.

Be Blessed - and be a blessing to others,

Pastor Velda

Pastor Velda's Schedule for February 2026

February 5 11 am - LLP Meeting in Slayton
February 9 11 am - PUMC Worship Committee Meeting
February 10 8:30 am - Pipestone County Ministerial Meeting
February 11 6 pm - PUMC Trustees Meeting
February 16 4:30 pm Leadership Council Meeting at PUMC
February 17 10 am - Presbyterian Mentor Meeting in Luverne
 6 pm - Human Right Commission Meeting
February 18 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service at FPC
February 19 1:30 pm - Communion at Ridgeview
February 23 6 pm - Session Meeting at FPC

Monthly commitments:

Wednesday mornings 8:30 am - Pastoral Prayer Breakfast
First and third Mondays 9 am - Peace Quilters
First and third Wednesdays 10:30 am - Coffee at FPC
 Noon - Kiwanis Meeting at Pizza Ranch



Lenten Season

The celebration of the Easter season will soon be upon us. Mark your calendars for these upcoming services.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday February 18 at 7:00 pm. This is a combined service with First Presbyterian Church (FPC) and will be held at First Presbyterian Church.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 pm. This is a combined service with First Presbyterian Church (FPC) and will be held Peace United Methodist Church (PUMC)..

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29 is a 5th Sunday so combined services will be held at First Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday

9:00 am service at PUMC (normal church service schedule)
10:30 a.m. service at FPC (normal church service schedule)

Also in March, we will begin taking orders for Easter Lillies to be displayed at the Easter Service. Keep your eyes open for the order forms.





Love Wrapped In Action

This Advent season, **Peace United Methodist Church** was given a quiet but powerful opportunity to live out the heart of the Gospel—not just in one moment, but through many quiet acts of love.

We learned about two teenagers—a girl and a boy—who attend the local Alternative School. Through caring staff, it became clear that their family was likely unable to afford Christmas gifts this year. Like

many families facing hardship, their need wasn't loudly announced, but it was deeply real.

In response, two members of Peace UMC did what Christians have done for generations: they went shopping.

With care and intention, gifts were chosen to say *you matter*. We thought about what might bring joy, what would help these young people feel seen and valued during a season that can be especially difficult for those who feel overlooked. Along with the gifts, a Christmas meal was also provided for each family, offering not only presents under the tree but nourishment, warmth, and the reassurance that they would not be alone on Christmas. The spirit of generosity extended even further through the faithful work of the **Peace Quilters**, a quilt and fleece blanket were also gifted to both young people offering warmth and comfort during the cold winter months.

In addition, quilts and fleece blankets were donated to the Kiwanis and Family Services for distribution through Pipestone County, reaching individuals and families throughout our community.

Scripture calls us to this kind of love. Jesus teaches us plainly:

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:35, 40

Caring for those who have less isn't optional in the Christian life, it is central to it. Proverbs reminds us:

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done." Proverbs 19:17

These simple acts of generosity reflect who we strive to be at Peace UMC: a church that notices, a church that responds, and a church that loves. In moments like these, we are reminded that ministry doesn't always happen in pews or sanctuaries, it often happens through sewing hands, shopping carts, shared meals, and open hearts.

Thank you to all who support the mission and outreach of Peace United Methodist Church through prayers, generosity, and faithful service. If you become aware of a family or individual in our community who may need help, we ask you to bring it to the attention of Pastor Velda. Together, we can continue to be the hands and feet of Christ, responding with care when God places a need before us.

May this story encourage each of us to stay attentive to where God is calling us to serve next. Sometimes the most sacred moments happen quietly, when love shows up and says, *"You are not forgotten."*

Submitted by the Missions Committee

Pipestone County Food Shelf

Peace United Methodist Church will be helping with serving at the Pipestone County Food Shelf the following Thursday's in 2026:

April 23

July 23

October 22

If you are willing and able to assist on any of these dates, please contact Sandy Lopau at 507-215-0971. Thanks so much!



February 2026



Sun

Birthdays
Anniversaries
Church Events

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 9:00 am Worship	2 9 am Peace Quilters 7:00 Church Clean-up	3 Gwen Jaycox 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	4 Josie Koppen 6 pm J.A.M. PUMC 7 pm Confirmation PUMC	5 Tammy Johnson	6	7
8 9:00 am Worship  Communion	9 Carrie Backer 11 am Worship Committee	10 Cindy Miller 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	11 6:00 pm Trustees 6 pm J.A.M. PUMC 7 pm Confirmation PUMC	12 David Christensen	13	14 Bill and Cindy Miller
15 Jeff Terry 9:00 am Worship	16 Andy Bucher Dale Wussow Mary Wabeke 9 am Peace Quilters	17 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	18 Cohen Lane 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday at FPC No J.A.M. or Confirmation Class	19 Judy Sheridan- Christensen Lydia Martens	20	21
22 9:00 am Worship	23	24 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	25 6 pm J.A.M. PUMC 7 pm Confirmation PUMC	26	27 Cassandra Whipple Curt Hess	28
				<div> <p>If you do not see your name(s) listed on the calendar for birthdays and anniversaries, please contact the church office so that we can update our lists with your information!</p> </div>		

MANY THANKS!

An anonymous donor gifted Peace United Methodist \$2500 to go toward the general fund. They learned that a portion of the Turkey Dinner profits went toward mission projects and wanted to show their appreciation to the church for having a heart to serve mission projects. We are grateful for their thoughtfulness.



United
Women
in Faith

United Women of Faith made the following mission donations from the proceeds of the Craft/Bake sales and other funds:

Helping Kids Round First	\$300.00
Methodist NOMADS	200.00
UMCOR	250.00
Ecumenical Prayer Shawl Ministry	100.00

**We have three ways you can give back
to your church!**

By USPS:

Peace United Methodist Church; PO Box 26; Pipestone, MN 56164

Auto Giving through your bank:

Set up by the church treasurer in the church office. You will be able to designate the amount and frequency of your donations. All that is required is filling out a form and bringing in a voided check.

**PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE
TO THE SUPPORT OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY!**

**PEACE UMC HAS A
WEBSITE!**

www.peaceumcpipestone.com

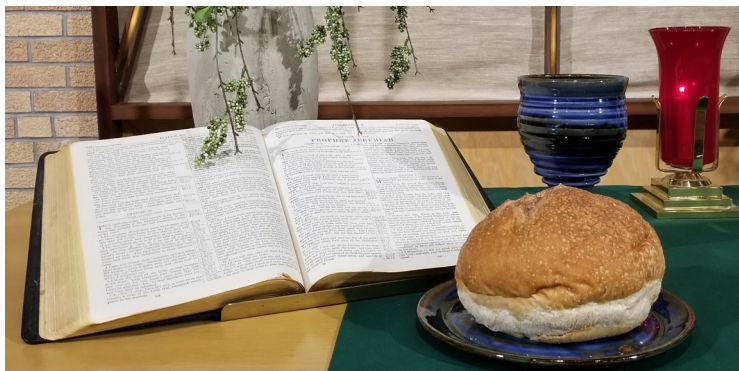
COMMUNION SUNDAYS

FEBRUARY 8

MARCH 8

APRIL 12

ALL ARE WELCOME!



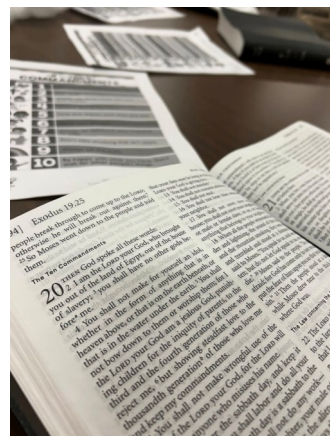
**UWF will not be meeting during the
winter months (January, February, March)**



United
Women
in Faith



JAM is back in session after a short holiday break. Currently they are studying the 10 Commandments.



JAM Schedule Wednesday nights from 6—7 pm

February 4, 2026 – [Peace UMC](#)

February 11, 2026 – [Peace UMC](#)

February 18, 2026 – **No JAM, Ash Wednesday Service**
at [First Presbyterian Church](#)

February 25, 2026 - [Peace UMC](#)

March 4, 2026 – [First Presbyterian Church](#)

March 11, 2026 – [First Presbyterian Church](#)

March 18 – [First Presbyterian Church](#)

March 25, 2026 – **Singing and fun at Ridgeview**

April 1 – **No JAM – Easter Break**

April 8, 2026 – [Peace UMC](#)

April 15, 2026 – [Peace UMC](#)

April 22, 2026 – **JAM End of Year Bash** - [Peace UMC](#)

PEACE QUILTERS

Ministry

peaceumcpipestone.com

PLEASE JOIN US!

WE MEET THE 1ST & 3RD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH 9 AM - 3 PM, IN THE BASEMENT FELLOWSHIP HALL. BRING YOUR LUNCH

Help us make warm quilts and blankets for Sleep Tight Pipestone, Pipestone Kiwanis, Sherriff and Fire Dept. and more. Don't sew? We need cutters, designers, and people to tie quilts and fleece blankets. All are welcome.

Thank you to the SW Initiative Foundation for the gift of \$2500 grant money for the Peace Quilters. This gift will enable our ministry to continue our outreach projects by providing quilts, receiving blankets, and cloth diapers to multiple missions.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

We invite you to join the Ecumenical Prayer Shawl Ministry which meets every Tuesday evening from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The completed Prayer Shawls are given to members of the community who have received a cancer or chronic illness diagnosis, or lost a loved one. Prayer Shawls are also given out at the Relay for Life Event and to the clients at New Life Treatment Center in Woodstock as they complete their treatment program.

Whether they are called Prayer Shawls, Comfort Shawls, Peace Shawls, or Mantles, etc., the shawl maker begins with prayers and blessings for the recipient. The intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. Upon completion, a final blessing is offered before the shawl is sent on its way. Some recipients have continued the kindness by making a shawl and passing it onto someone in need. Thus, the blessing ripples from person-to-person, with both the giver and receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a sheltering God!

Please lift up our shut-ins in your prayers, and please visit them!
You can see Gretchen Blom at
Good Samaritan Society of Pipestone.



Monday, February 2 at 7 p.m.

Peace UMC now has a sign-up list for various areas of the church building that you can specify and commit to cleaning. Please see the sign-up sheet for further



CHANGE FOR CHANGE

\$387.77

Received January 2026

To benefit
Pipestone County
Food Shelf

February donations will benefit the Flandreau Indian School Chaplaincy Program

Flandreau Indian School Chaplaincy is a nonprofit ministry privately funded through a partnership of churches, organizations, and individuals. Our support of the FIS Chaplaincy is vital in meeting the needs of the Native American students and being the hands and feet of Christ, sharing His love. Any amount you can give through February Change for Change will impact the student's lives.



2025 Giving Goal

\$125,303

Needed Each Month

\$10,442

Received in January

\$5985.00

Leadership Council Meeting

January 19, 2026

4:30 pm

Present: Velda Maine, Elly Erks, Chuck Vaux, Jan Wussow

Pastoral Report: Pastor Velda

Pastoral Calls and Visits - 67 text messages, 30 phone calls, 6 email and 2 in person visits

PUMC Parish Meetings - 2

FPC Parish Meetings – 0

Pastoral Prayer Breakfast - 3

Peace Quilters - 1

Ecumenical Prayer Shawl Ministry – 2

Visitation at FPC

Funeral

J.A.M. and Confirmation - 3

Registering for Seminary/Course of Study Class for Congregational Care.

Also looking at Presbytery classes for CRE (Certified Ruling Elder). Will provide an update when those are available.

Treasurer's Report:

All bills and apportionments are paid to date.

Monthly reports from Kinner & Company were distributed.

Trustees Report: Mark Wiese

December Meeting – Met on January 14 with 6 members present

Electrical updates were finished in the Head Start office.

Approved to do work in the upstairs bathroom at the parsonage, New faucet, toilet, and flooring.

Dan continues to monitor the heating system.

UWF Report:

United Women of Faith made the following mission donations from the proceeds of the rummage and bake sales:

Helping Kids Round First	\$300.00
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Methodist NOMADS	200.00
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UMCOR	250.00
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Ecumenical Prayer Shawl Ministry	100.00
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Not meeting in January, February, or March

Worship Committee Report:

The January meeting was canceled. Christmas decorations were taken down, winter decorations were left up.

The Tackling Hunger campaign has begun with donated food items being placed in boxes near the altar.

Peace Foundation Report:

Elly Erks made a motion to add Charles (Chuck) Vaux to CD's at First Farmer's & Merchant Bank and First Bank & Trust.

This motion was seconded by Jan Wussow and passed unanimously

No reports from the following:

Mission Report:

Shared Ministry Council

Children's Ministry Report:

SPRC Report:

Lay Leader Report:

If you are unable to join us in person on Sunday mornings, remember we are available online! You can watch our Sunday Worship broadcast live on

Facebook Live every Sunday at 9:00 am!

www.facebook.com/peaceUMCpipestone/



PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PO BOX 26

PIPESTONE, MN 56164