



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I find it interesting that in the Book of Acts, in Chapter 11, at the end of verse 26, it says, *“the disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.”* Here is what I find interesting, it is that Christians did not name themselves. But rather, they were *called* (or named) “Christians” by those watching them live out their lives. They lived their lives according to Jesus and his teachings. I wonder if that is true about us all today, those of us who call ourselves Christians? Would someone who looked at your life, or looked at my life, would they call us a Christian? It is a humbling question.

When Jesus was asked, “What is the greatest commandment?” he responded with “Love”.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

So here is the thing – the life that Jesus calls us to live – is absolutely craziness to the world. Sure, it is fine and politically correct to *believe* in God, but to really *love* Him is a whole different story. Yeah, it’s nice and generous to give to the needy at Christmas or after some disaster, but to sacrifice your own comfort and welfare for another.....especially for *“the least of these”*may look like madness to a safe and undisturbed world.

Francois Fenelon asks this question in his book, *The Seeking Heart* – *“To just read the Bible, attend church, and avoid “big” sins – is this passionate, wholehearted love for God?”*

I do not know about you, but when I read the Book of Acts – I wonder if we in the church are missing *“it”*? Pastor Jennings Wallace shared at our recent Community Worship Service that our first love should be God. If we love our family and have a deep and meaningful relationships with them – shouldn’t our relationship and love for God, our Creator be more than that? And the answer is – yes, it should be.

As I read messages from the Presbytery office and the MN Methodist Annual Conference – both are voicing concerns about how many members we have lost in both the Presbyterian and Methodist churches in the state of Minnesota over the past year – I get nervous about our future. I think we all feel deeply, even if we have not voiced it, that the church (organized religion) in many ways is not doing well. I begin to wonder if we have missed who we are supposed to be, and are we missing out on all that God wants for the people He loves enough to die for? I grew up believing in God, without having a clue what He is really like. I do not think that my church’s teachings were incorrect, just maybe – they were incomplete. My personal view of God was narrow and small.

Beginning on Sunday, July 12 until the end of August, we are going to walk through the New Testament and dig a little deeper into the love that God has for each and every one of us. Honestly, this crazy love – loving us so much - that He was willing to die for us.

Are you willing to be a part of a group of believers who are willing to think biblically rather than conventionally? We are not going to challenge or tear down denominational walls – but remember those early “Christians” in the Book of Acts – did not belong to a denomination – they belonged to the Triune God. We will take a look at how we can love God as He intended – in the same crazy way that He loves us.

Loving you all with agape love,

Pastor Velda

Pastor Velda's Schedule for July 2026

Regular monthly events:

First and third Monday of the month - Peace Quilters

Every Tuesday evening - Ecumenical Prayer Shawl Ministry

Every first and third Wednesday of the month -

First Presbyterian Morning Coffee Hour and Kiwanis Meeting

Every Wednesday morning - PC Pastoral Prayer Breakfast

Second Monday of the month - PUMC Worship Committee Meeting

Second Wednesday of the month - PUMC Trustees Meeting

Third Tuesday of the month - Human Rights Commission Meeting



Pastor Velda's May Report

During the month of May, I received 31 telephone calls, 47 text messages, had 3 in-person visits and 1 email.

I officiated 1 funeral, 1 graveside service along with performing 1 baptism and Communion at Ridgeview Assisted Living.

I attended the following meetings: 3 - PC Pastoral Prayer Breakfasts, Monthly PC Ministerial Meeting, 2 - Kiwanis meetings, 2 - FPC Morning Coffee gatherings, 2 - Peace Quilters, 2 - Ecumenical Prayer Shawl Meetings, 3 - FPC Meetings, 4 - PUMC Meetings, 2 - Human rights Commission Meetings and met with both my Presbyterian Mentor and UMC Mentoring/Covenant Group.

I also had the privilege of representing the many forms of ministry at the PAS Career Expo for 9th through 12th Grade students. Also completed evaluations for Steinke Scholarships through the FPC.



Long-time member, Curt Hess, passed away on June 3, 2026. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Curt's family.

Curt spent the majority of his life farming. A career that was near and dear to him. He enjoyed helping the youth of Peace Methodist Church, especially when he could be part of the "Kitchen Crew." He served on many church committees, most recently the SPRC committee.

A Celebration of Life was held for Curt on June 27, 2026 at his farm.



Condolences to the Draper family in the loss of their Dad and Grandpa, Chuck Draper. Chuck passed away on Saturday, June 13, 2026.

Chuck was an active businessman within the Pipestone community and was well know for his many civic services.

Chuck was a member of both Zion and Peace United Methodist Churches where he served on several committees, sang baritone in the Zion choir, and was a leader for Zion church council.

Services were held at Peace United Methodist Church on Friday, June 19, at 10:30 a.m.

June 28th Community Worship Service

Six churches participated in an outdoor Community Worship Service held at Hiawatha Pageant Park. Approximately 400 people joined together in a worship service lead by 5 pastors with a praise team leading the music. People were encouraged to bring a picnic lunch and stay for a time of fellowship after the service.



July 2026



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Birthdays Anniversaries Church Events			1	2 Tom & Joan Walker	3 Dudley Houselog Myron Koets	4
5 Jay VanderPlaats 10:30 am Joint Worship at PUMC	6 9 am Peace Quilters	7 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	8 Becky Sietsema Shelley Wiese 6 pm Trustees	9 Mark & Shelley Wiese	10	11
12 10:30 am Worship 	13 Elaine Misfeldt 11 am Worship Committee	14 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	15 James Wussow	16 10 am UWF Meeting	17	18 Myron & Nancy Koets
19 Tessa Shuler 10:30 am Worship	20 9 am Peace Quilters	21 Al Winter Eldonna Hillard 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	22	23	24 Julie Dallman	25
26 Rob Sietsema 10:30 am Worship	27 Mark Wiese	28 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	29	30 Stacy Quist	31	

Holy Baptism

Welcome Jovi June, daughter of Wesly and Kayla Johnson. What an honor and a joy it was to baptize this beautiful baby girl on Sunday, June 14, during worship service.

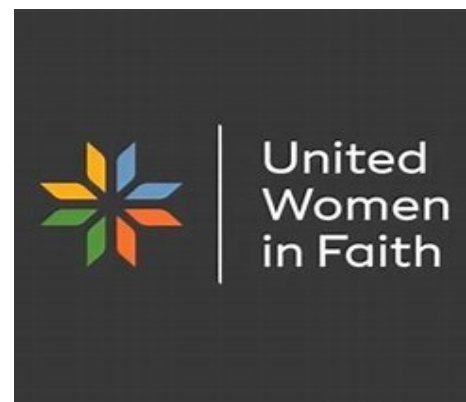
Blessings to you, Jovi, and the entire Johnson family!



UWF Annual Rummage Sale

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Peace United Methodist Church Rummage Sale! Join us Thursday, July 30, from 4:00–8:00 PM and Friday, July 31, from 9:00 AM–6:00 PM for our annual missions fundraiser and two great days of sales and fellowship. We are now accepting donations of clean items in good condition, including household goods, décor, books, toys, infant and children's clothing, (NO ADULT CLOTHING) and more. Please no broken or heavily worn items. Donations may be dropped off in the hallway outside the Sunday School room doors. Clean-up will begin Friday, July 31, at 6:00 PM and continue until finished. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Fireside Room.

We need help marking items, setting up, working during the sale, and cleaning up afterward. Your help is greatly appreciated! Thank you for supporting the ministries of Peace United Methodist Church!



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

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

COMMUNION SUNDAYS

JULY 12

AUGUST 9

SEPTEMBER 13

ALL ARE WELCOME!



**UWF meets Thursday,
July 16, at 10 am**



**United
Women
in Faith**

Midwest Missions

Our July Change for Change will be used for Midwest Missions. Over the years we have supported, and will continue to support, several of their missions. The funds for the month of July will be used to buy supplemental supplies such as diaper cream, rubber pants for diaper coverage, and onesies that will be used in the packets.

Listed below are the items that Peace Quilters were able to donate this year. These items were taken to Minnesota Annual Conference, and Midwest Missions will distribute them to multiple missionary sites.

133 Diapers. Some members cut the flannel fabric, while others members finished the construction (sewing) of the diapers.



Layette Packs—Peace quilters provided 17 gowns, 113 receiving blankets, and 49 fleece jackets to be used in the Layette Packs to be distributed by Midwest Missions.



Peace Quilters donated 5 sewing machines and miscellaneous sewing machine parts which are distributed to women in foreign countries who will use them to support their families.

MANY THANKS!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Peace UMC - Pipestone MN,

Everyone at Midwest Mission would like to send a heartfelt thank you for making your generous donation of sewing machines and layette kit items on 6/17/2026.

Your donation extends our outreach and makes a tremendous impact on so many lives.

Thank you so much for blessing others through the ministry of Midwest Mission!

Opportunities to Serve



The Peace Quilters are looking for colored sheets—flat or fitted that can be used for quilt backs. They will accept all sizes of sheets twin—king size. These can be new or gently-used. Donations can be given to Shelley Wiese, Pastor Velda, or left outside the church office near the mailboxes.



The Trustees are looking for help mowing the lawn this summer. Mowers are provided, as are operating instructions! There is a sign-up sheet located in the Fireside Room, or call the church office and leave a message (507) 825-4348 to find out what dates are available.



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:

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!



Monday, July 6 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

\$ 640.00

Received June 2026

To benefit

Back to School Supplies

\$ 766.66

Received May 2026

To benefit

**UMCOR
(United Methodist Committee on Relief)**

July Change for Change

Midwest Missions

Midwest Mission

All their work is done in partnership with trusted nonprofits. Partners help them understand what the current needs are.

They ask their supporters for monetary and in-kind (specific supplies) donations to fill the needs their partners have shared with them.

Volunteers process, revitalize, and assemble the donated items, both at Midwest Mission in Pawnee, IL and around the Midwest.

Donations are given to trusted nonprofits to distribute to those who are in crisis. Nonprofits report back about those impacted.

Their Mission is: Bringing the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.

2026 Giving Goal

\$125,303

Needed Each Month

\$10,442

Received in June

\$2,940.00

