



THE MESSENGER

February 2026

*A Publication of The United Methodist Church
340 N Newell Ave, Minden, NE 68959*

Greetings Members and Friends of MUMC,

Can you believe January is already behind us? Some years, January feels like a year all on its own—and yet here we are, already stepping into February. Time seems to move faster with each passing season, and life, both in the church and in the world, continues at a pace that hardly allows us to pause and catch our breath.

That is precisely why I am grateful for the season now before us. Lent is my favorite season of the church year, and I am thankful for the invitation it offers to slow down, take stock, and realign our lives with God. Beginning on Wednesday, February 18, we will enter the forty-day journey of Lent (not including Sundays), a season that calls us to honest self-examination and faithful renewal.

During Lent, we are invited to reflect on our spiritual condition using the baptismal covenant as our reference point and the means of grace as our guide. On Ash Wednesday, we hear the church's ancient invitation "to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word." The marking of ashes reminds us of our mortality and calls us to live as people prepared to stand before our Lord at any time. Even for those who consider themselves spiritually mature, Lent has a way of revealing how far we still have to go. All of us have work to do.

Lent is also a stark reminder that life is brief and every moment is precious. We do not know how much time we are given, and so we are called to use each day, each hour and minute, to live as Jesus Christ has taught us to live. Our calling as Christians is not to seek the approval of those around us, but to live lives that are faithful to the God who created us and redeems us.

As we begin this holy season together, may we receive the call to observe a holy Lent as a sacred invitation; an invitation to rise each day ready to do the work of repentance, prayer, and love. Let us live prepared for whatever may come, this day and every day. And by the power of the Holy Spirit, may we walk through this season side by side, shoulder to shoulder, trusting fully in the promises of God made known to us in Jesus Christ.

This Lent, we will be *Entering the Passion of Jesus* using Amy-Jill Levine's study, which invites us into a deeper understanding of the final days of Jesus' life. If you are interested in joining this journey, I would be glad to lead a book study or help you order a copy.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kayla

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am Worship 4th Sunday after the Epiphany 11:15am Confirma- tion	2 7:00pm Girl Scouts	3	4	5 Prayer Time 1:30pm	6	7
8 10:00am Worship 5th Sunday after the Epiphany 11:15am Confirma- tion	9 8am-4pm WIC 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10	11 9:30am United Women in Faith 6:00pm Finance Mtg 6:30pm Youth Group	12 Prayer Time 1:30pm	13	14  Happy Valentine's Day!
15 10:00am Worship Transfiguration Sunday 11:15am Confirma- tion	16 7:00pm Girl Scouts	17	18 Come & Go Imposition of Ashes 8am-6pm Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	19 Prayer Time 1:30pm	20 6:00pm Boy Scouts	21
22 10:00am Worship 1st Sunday in Lent 11:15am Confirma- tion	23 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24	25 6:30pm Youth Group	26 Prayer Time 1:30pm	27	28



February Birthdays

- 2—Tim Burke
- 4—Mark Loseke
- 8—Ben Propp
- 10—John Mullin
- 10—Kara Suchsland
- 15—Lee Ann Lux
- 15—Nicholas Pearson
- 22—James Wilkinson
- 24—Merlin Beahm
- 24—Greg Jorgensen
- 25—Clark Bauer
- 25—Ed Rowse



February Anniversaries

- 16—Jason & Jaime Sinsel—19 years
- 17—Donlyn & Sandra Space—52 years
- 23—Bill & Kathy Hunter—57 years



- Family & Friends of Liz Merrill
- Family & Friends of Keven Schutz
- Brenda Oltean
- Rod Duffey
- Orlan Grams
- Alyssa Kahle
- Chad Fries

Please call the office when you know of any illness, hospitalization, new babies, marriages, joyous or sad news among your friends or family members.

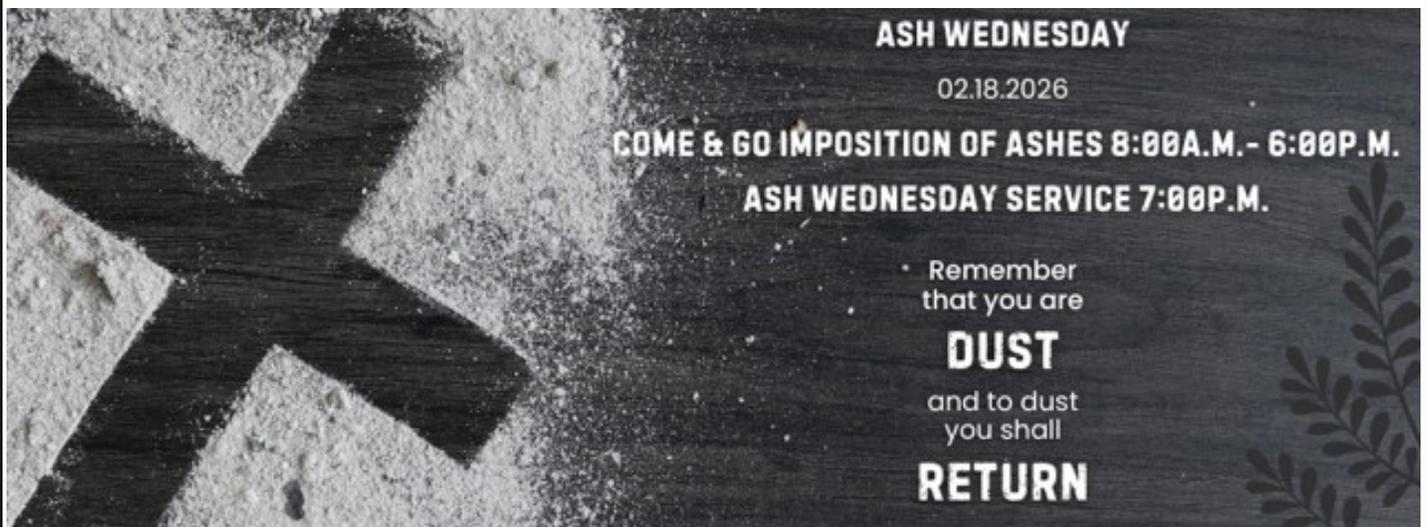
If you or your family has a prayer request and you would like to put on the Prayer Chain call Jeanette Wilkinson at 402-756-0772.

January 2026 Financial Report...

General Giving in January	\$8,079
General Fund Giving to Date	\$8,079
General Expenses in January	\$14,952
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$14,952

(This report does not include the final days in January)





Simplified Accountable Structure

The One Board Model (or [Simplified Accountable Structure](#)) is a church governance system that consolidates traditional separate committees (Trustees, Finance, Staff-Parish Relations, Church Council) into a single, unified Leadership Board for streamlined decision-making and a holistic focus on the church's mission and vision, reducing meetings and bureaucracy while empowering leaders for greater impact. This single board oversees overall strategy, resources (people, property, finances), and staff accountability, allowing for quicker adaptation and more effective ministry.

On January 12th Church Council members and Pastor Kayla attended an information meeting about changing the structure of our committees. Currently we have a Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Education Committee, Memorial Committee, Missions Team, Hospitality Team, Endowment Committee and Worship Committee. The new structure would combine all of these into one group. One thing they stressed at this meeting was communication. We want to keep all members informed about everything happening in our church. We need to know from everyone any questions you might have, if you would like to be involved, if you have ideas for our church, we will make this structure work for us and design it to fit our needs.

Benefits

- **Greater Efficiency:** Faster responses and decision-making.
- **Increased Engagement:** Easier for people to serve with fewer, more impactful commitments.
- **Better Resource Use:** Aligns financial and human resources with the church's mission.
- **Missional Effectiveness:** Keeps the church focused on making disciples and changing the world.

Please Call (308) 832-1995 if you can fill one of the open dates or email managerumcminden@msn.com.

Scripture Reader & Call to Worship:

February 1: Shirley Fellers
February 8: Dawn Moyer
February 15: Jodi Boudreau
February 22:

February 1:

Communion Steward: Shirley Fellers
Servers: Lori Conyers, Shirley Fellers,
Dawn Moyer, and Scott Jacobsen.

Refreshment Hosts:

February 1:
February 8: KayLyn McBride
February 15: Klabunde Family
February 22:



Holy Week Schedule

March 29
Palm
Sunday
10:00 am - 11:00 am

April 2 & 3
Holy & Good
Thursday Friday
Come & Go Stations
of the Cross
(Fellowship Hall)

April 5
Easter
Sunday
10:00 am - 11 am
Confirmation
Sunday

United Methodist Church
340 N. Newell Ave
Minden, NE 68959



Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
11:15am Sunday - Confirmation
February 11 & 25 @ 6:30pm Youth Group

Church Contact Info:
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Mindenumc.org

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Jaime Sinsel
Office Manager
308-830-2867
Mon-Wed 8am-Noon,
Thurs. 8-10:30am

Jeanette Wilkinson
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Randy Nolan
Custodian
308-830-3973

God
demonstrates
his own
love for us...

ROMANS 5:8

