

FEBRUARY 2026

# NEWS TO PERUSE

The Official Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Hayfield

## What's coming up!



### **February 4**      **PFP & Session**

6:30 & 7:00 pm

### **February 8**      **Communion**

After worship, then a potluck

### **February 15**      **Sledding**

Ironwood Springs 12:30-2:30

Everyone welcome!

Contact Jenna Johnson so we have total numbers.

### **February 18**      **Ash Wednesday**

Service at 7:00 pm

### **Starting Wednesday Feb 25**

Lenten Study 6:30 pm weekly

## Women's Book Club

Please join us for Women's Book Club! We meet monthly (usually the first Monday) from 6:30-8:00 pm at someone's home to discuss the focus book of the month. Our group is comprised of women from our community and beyond - all are welcome.

February book: "We All Live Here" by Jojo Moyes  
Book club at Marla Dahlen's  
Monday, February 9th, at 6:30

March book: "Go as a River" by Shelly Read  
Book club at 6:30 - date/location TBD

April book: "Beneath the Badge" by Dave and Christi Dyke  
Book club at 6:30 - date/location TBD

May book: "What Was Taken" by Carol Haack  
Book club at Nancy Dahlen's at 6:30  
Date TBD

Questions?

Contact Molly Heydt (507-438-9795) or  
Kristi Jacobsen (507-259-5726)



## *FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE*

In last month's newsletter I spoke of it being a new year and how I didn't know what was on the horizon for the new year. Well, I can say I definitely did not expect the state of Minnesota to become the talk of the nation and beyond for multiple weeks. Now you might say that one of the benefits of living in a small town such as Hayfield is that the big problems that come with living in a big city don't often have much effect on us, and that has sort of held true in the past month. If I had avoided social media and the news in the last few weeks I might be mostly unaware of the conflicts that have been happening in more populated areas. Partially with that in mind I considered if I should even bring it up in a public place like a church newsletter. I have decided I do want to briefly share some things for two reasons; one, the conflict and ramifications of what is going on is not as far away as the "cities", it is affecting people very close by. And two, as a pastor I feel I should try to speak in some fashion about a topic that has become so polarizing and all-consuming in many people's lives.

My goal is to not tell you what to think about the specific topic of immigration and also to not tell you what to think about any of the individual people that are involved in all of this. What I do want to focus on is how we can be people who are able to share their opinions and emotions with others, even strongly held ones, without building up more divisions and walls between "us" and "them".

One of the things that came to mind when I was thinking about this was my bad habit of getting too 'invested' in the referees when I am at a basketball game. There are at least two problems I have when I become 'vocal' about the calls in a game. One is that I am biased, we all are, we can try to keep our bias in check but our desires for a certain outcome and our past experiences are going to have an effect on our judgment. The second reason is that if my opinion of a call by the referee is shared with anger or frustration, then my 'suggestion' for a different call is going to fall on deaf ears.

So what does that have to do with the unrest happening in our state? Well, I don't know which "referee" in our current crisis has you the most upset, but allow me to give just a couple small suggestions. One is to remember that we are all biased in all of our judgments and it affects how we see things and often our assumptions we make about people. Too often I see people making assumptions about the motives or the thinking of a person in a given situation. We don't know what is going on inside another person's heart and I know I can benefit from not assuming the worst of others and instead remembering that they also are created in the image of God.

My second suggestion is to consider how you might share your opinions and feelings about these tense topics. As Christians I hope that we more often than not choose to share our beliefs after some reflection.

We all have moments of anger and frustration and there might even be times to express that, but more often it would be beneficial to the cause to pause, calm ourselves, make sure our words are trustworthy and not exaggerated. Just as a referee doesn't listen to the hot head in the bleachers, other people are not likely to listen to or consider the words of the screaming, always exaggerating, loudmouth known for stretching the truth.

Don't forget we are people of hope, faith, and love. May we be a light to the world and display the fruit of the Spirit, even when times seem to be the darkest.

### Lenten Discussion Group

On the Wednesday evenings between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week we will gather in the sanctuary for a short video and a time of discussion.

Come join us any week or every week, no homework!

6:30 pm

*Thank you!*

## VOLUNTEERS

### February 1

Lay Leader	Jordan Becker
Usher/Greeter	Dick Untiedt
Coffee Hour	Kristi Jacobsen
Counters	Tara & Kristi

### February 8

Lay Leader	Melissa Doman
Usher/Greeter	TBD
Coffee Hour	Lee & Sarah Gunderson
Counters	Kristi & Joe

### February 15

Lay Leader	Tyler Kramer
Ush/Greeter	David & Kayla Stanton
Coffee Hr	Brad & Lesley Vander Waal
Counters	Joe & Jack

### February 22

Lay Leader	LaVae Kramer
Usher/Greeter	Gary & Dawn Allen
Coffee Hour	Tom & Karen Johnson
Counters	Jack & John

*Happy  
Birthday!*

February 1 - Chad Kruger

February 5 - Ian Gaal

February 7 - Tom Johnson

February 23 - Kayla Johnson

February 25 - Buzz Roberts

February 26 - Morgan Jacobson

February 28 - Nella Johnson



### Financial Information

#### General Fund

Last 4 Weeks

**\$6,902**

Budget for 4 weeks

**\$8,968**

### Funny Prayer

"Dear God, please take care of my daddy and my mommy and my sister and my brother and my doggy and my cat and me. Oh, please take care of yourself, God. If anything happens to you, we're gonna be in a big mess."