

SUMMER 2026

NEWS TO PERUSE

The Official Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Hayfield

What's coming up!



June 3-5 VBS

3:00 pm

June 7 VBS Program

June 17 PFP & Session

6:30 pm & 7:00 pm

June 19-20 Hayfield

Chicken Fry Days

June 21 Community Worship

10:00am Veterans Park

June 28 Communion

It's Time For The
Cokesbury Kids
SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE
FIND YOUR STRENGTH IN GOD

First Presbyterian Church
3 YEARS TO 5TH GRADE
Wednesday, June 3rd - Friday, June 5th
3:00-5:00pm
(Supper included, starting at 5:00)
PERFORMANCE DATE: SUN. JUNE 7TH @ 10AM

\$15/child or \$30 per family (due the 1st day)
You don't need to be a member to attend.
Scholarships are available.

 **SCAN HERE TO REGISTER**
QUESTIONS? Call 507-477-2631 or email
hayfieldpresbyterian@gmail.com

As we enter the Summer months, vacations, etc., we want to remind members to try and maintain their donations. You can send them to the Church at Box 2, Hayfield, or go online and make the contribution there. We are behind for the year at this point, so maintaining your contributions is important to the Church

- Thanks,
PFP Committee



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

I've heard that you only turn 50 once in your life, so I thought that might be a topic worth writing about for the Summer of 2026 newsletter. So let's go back to when I was born a few hours after church on Sunday, May 30th, the weekend of Memorial Day. Mom and Dad didn't make it to church that Sunday, but my 3 siblings still went with grandparents. I mention this because it demonstrates what kind of commitment I was raised with when it comes to attending church. Even vacations were not an excuse, and so we would find a place to visit for worship.

I don't have room to list all my church activities, but basically when the doors were open, the Vander Waals were at church. (Sometimes even when the doors weren't open since my mom was the janitor for a good part of my childhood.) This all gave me a very strong foundation in my faith, not to mention a good amount of ice cream from rewards for memory verses.

I was then off to Iowa State with quite a few strong convictions about what was right and what was wrong. You might say I had an overly intense moral compass which might have been exaggerated by the fact that I had a diagnosis of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder as a teen. (again not enough room to talk all about OCD, but if you want to learn more or chat with me about other mental health things, please let me know 😊)

At Iowa State I again attended lots of campus ministry worship experiences and found almost all my friendships through those places. I also had the opportunity to take quite a few religion courses from professors who either would not call themselves Christian, or at least not the kind of 'Christian' I was familiar with. At that stage in my life, I was still feeling pretty confident in what I thought were the right answers and confused by how others came up with different ideas. Now this doesn't mean I didn't struggle with doubts about the whole God thing overall, but that didn't stop me from striving to be "right" in what I believed. (and also knowing who was "wrong", in a nice way of course).

So that really covers the first 25ish years of my Christian faith walk. 25 years ago this month I was an inexperienced youth pastor in Worthington, MN, getting prepared to lead my first youth mission trip to Colorado 🙄🙄🙄. Lesley and I also got engaged that Summer in Okoboji and got married the next June, then it was back to Denver the next Summer for the two of us and time for me to start seminary.

Now some of you might be aware of the old cliché about seminary being the place where people go and their faith dies, even using a little word play and calling it 'cemetery'. This is not how I would describe what happened to me but

it does generally mark the time of my life where I was opened up to more ideas about the Christian faith.

There is not just one moment in time where I started to second guess many of those “right” answers that I knew so well in college. In general I would say that it was a slow melting of my very ‘black & white’ faith into this less hard-edge gray faith.

It wasn’t all just in seminary either, that was just the beginning. I continued to learn more about how different kinds of Christians looked at so many challenging topics in our world. And now after serving about 18 years in churches as an ordained minister I often say that I “know” a lot less than I did 25 years ago. This is not saying that my Christian faith is less than it used to be, but it is more open. This kind of talk might make some of my childhood Sunday School teachers and youth leaders nervous because it sounds like I have given up convictions that are very important to them, and I can understand why they would feel that way. There are family members of mine who would also have a problem with my version of the faith. But all the years of being taught and loved by my teachers and family did not go to waste because it still gave me a foundation in the goodness of God and love for one another (even if it didn’t teach me to sing about it very well).

I would say though that my Christian faith has actually become larger in my 2nd 25 years, because it has torn down walls of division that I had because of this or that belief, and instead the focus is on the biggest news of God being for us, and that is really good news because God is Love! And now I am here in Hayfield getting to be a part of a church of diverse beliefs in some areas, but united in faith, love and compassion. It is a good place to turn 50 🥰

New Addresses:

Jim Jacobson
800 5th Ave. NW Apt 319
Kasson, MN 55944

Don Opseth
St. Mark’s Room #158
400 15th Ave. SW
Austin, MN 55912

Extra note from the pastor:

If there is anyone who would like to have a visit for any reason at all this Summer please don’t hesitate to contact me or a deacon. I would also love to know about the activities the kids of the church are participating in so I can encourage them too!

You can always contact me at 989-359-9206 and vanderwaal02@gmail.com. Also on the topic of the PFP note on page 1, if you would consider making a continual financial commitment to our church through our online portal on our website, it would help our church’s financial health and you don’t have to worry about trying to keep track of when you give.

Thank you for your generosity!



Thank you!
VOLUNTEERS

June 7
Lay Leader Sarah Gunderson
Usher/Greeter Dick Untiedt
Counters Tara & Kristi

June 14
Lay Leader Anthony Reese
Usher/Greeter Jack Heydt
Counters Kristi & Joe

June 21 **Community Service**

June 28
Lay Leader David Johnson
Usher/Greeter Jodi Good
Counters John & Tyler Joe & Jack

July 5
Lay Leader Krystine Kramer
Usher/Greeter Anthony & Rachel
Counters Jack & John

July 12
Lay Leader Lynn Wanzek
Usher/Greeter Mark Peterson
Counters John & Tyler

July 19
Lay Leader Morgan Jacobson
Usher/Greeter Jeff & Sandy Kreckling
Counters Tyler & Molly

July 26
Lay Leader Jordan Becker
Usher/Greeter Lynn Wanzek
Counters Molly & Dave

August 2
Lay Leader Tony Kramer
Usher/Greeter Jordan & Tara Becker
Counters Dave & Jim

August 9
Lay Leader LaVae Kramer
Usher/Greeter Gary & Dawn Allen
Counters Jim & Tara

August 16
Lay Leader Mariah Gunderson
Usher/Greeter Dave & Ruth Santjer
Counters Tara & Kristi

August 23
Lay Leader Jack Heydt
Usher/Greeter Jim & Patty Kvasnicka
Counters Kristi & Joe

August 30
Lay Leader Molly Heydt
Usher/Greeter Brad & Lesley Vander Waal
Counters Joe & Jack

*Happy
Birthday!*

June 1 - Ruth Santjer
June 3 - Sloane Meyer
June 5 - Jim Kvasnicka
June 12 - Judy Reese
June 17 - Delmar Heikes
June 18 - Marla Dahlen
June 20 - Molly Heydt
June 24 - Karen Johnson
June 25 - Zeke Wanzek
June 28 - Kasey Kreckling
June 30 - Bryon Meyer
July 4 - Sawyer Meyer
July 7 - Deb Sprau
July 16 - Allen Stanton
July 17 - Bob Sprau
- Lennon Wanzek
July 21 - JoAnn Buck
- Kelly Johnson
July 23 - Hudson Gunderson
- Denny Louks
July 24 - Paul Stanton
July 26 - Jon Jacobson
July 27 - Tanner Kramer
July 29 - Ruth Heikes
August 1 - Josh Jacobsen
August 4 - Phyllis Thompson
August 7 - Dick Untiedt
August 13 - Harriet Cole
August 19 - Joe Gunderson
August 22 - Joey Dahlen
August 25 - Mia Kramer
August 26 - Bob Jacobson
August 30 - Jenna Gerrhartz
August 31 - Angie Meyer
- Drew Wanzek

*Happy
Anniversary!*

June 14 Brad & Lesley Vander Waal
June 16 David & Kayla Stanton
June 24 Tanner & Maggie Kramer
June 26 Jordan & Tara Becker
John & Jill Kruger
July 8 Bryon & Angie Meyer
July 9 Bob & Deb Sprau
July 24 Roger & Ruth Kruger
August 4 Jason & Samantha Born
August 11 Tony & Astyn Kramer
Jeff & Sandy Kreckling
August 4 Beau & Kendall Olson
August 16 Dan & Melissa Doman
August 21 Brad & Molly Heydt
Buzz & Sharon Roberts
August 22 Joey & Jean Dahlen
August 28 Jim & Patty Kvasnicka
August 31 Bryon & Angie Meyer

**Financial
Information**

General Fund

Last 4 weeks giving
\$5,440
Budget for 4 weeks
\$8,968

For giving online:
go to firstpresbyterianhayfield.com
and click on "Giving"