

HUMC Leadership Team – Monday August 24th,
2026

HUMC Leadership Team Meeting Notes

Date: August 24, 2026

Meeting: Church Council / Leadership Meeting

Attendance: Joyce Alderson, Lexy Klinkhammer, Erin Alderson, Dan Kistler, Abbey Nevins; Pastor Julie & Pastor Brian

Call to Order and Opening Prayer @ 6:00pm by Lexy

The previous meeting minutes from July 7th were reviewed and approved. No additions or corrections were raised.

Abbey Nevins - Children & Youth Ministry

Bibles for 3rd & 4th Graders

- Bibles need to be presented to the current 3rd and 4th graders.
- Last year's 3rd-grade class did not receive Bibles, so approximately **13 children** may need Bibles this year.
- Three Bibles are currently available.
- The group agreed that Bibles are traditionally presented **during Sunday worship**, rather than at Wild Wednesday.
- There was discussion about purchasing Bibles that:
 - Have somewhat larger, easier-to-read print.
 - Are appropriate for older elementary children without looking like children's Bibles.
 - Can potentially have each child's name printed or embossed on the cover.
- Crossroads will be contacted regarding Bible options and personalization.

Wild Wednesday Preparation

- Lessons are being prepared, with approximately three completed so far.
- Craft and lesson supplies are being organized.
- Teachers and helpers are being scheduled for the first several weeks.
- A few additional volunteers would still be helpful.
- It is hoped that additional volunteers may step forward during the **September 16 kickoff**.
- Lynn Stockwell plans to work in **The Closet every Wednesday**, which will allow it to be open while families are already at church.

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Junior High & High School

- The high school group currently includes approximately three students.
- Sunday may work better than Wednesday for this group because of school sports and activities.
- There was interest in supplementing traditional lessons with occasional educational or faith-related experiences, such as:
 - Visiting a funeral home to learn about funeral ministry and practices.
 - Visiting a synagogue or temple.
 - Other outings that expose youth to faith, service, and community experiences.
- These outings would not necessarily need to occur on Wednesdays.

Parent Communication

Plans are being developed for improved weekly Wild Wednesday communication.

Potential schedule:

- **Monday:** Send parents and volunteers a message with:
 - Meal for the week.
 - Lesson/topic.
 - Teachers and helpers.
 - Reminders and expectations.
- **Friday:** Send a follow-up containing:
 - Questions parents can ask their children about what they learned.
 - Photos from the evening when available.
 - Additional family engagement opportunities.

Registration forms, expectations, and parent volunteer sign-ups are also being prepared for opening night.

Meals

- Darin has begun organizing Wild Wednesday meals.
- Approximately the first month of meals is currently covered.

Christmas Program

Ideas are being developed for this year's Christmas program.

One concept being considered is **"Christmas Traditions Around the World."**

- Different groups/classes could present Christmas traditions from different countries.
- Each section could include a song connected with that country or tradition.
- The goal would be both educational and fun for the children and congregation.

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Monthly Activities

Ideas are also being considered for special monthly activities, including:

- Ornament making.
- Cookie activities.
- Bingo.
- Other family or fellowship events.

Kids Against Hunger

The group would like to include a **Kids Against Hunger meal-packing event**.

- The children have enjoyed this activity in the past.
- Because the packing system is primarily set up at the Sioux Falls location, transportation would be necessary.
- Parents may need to participate and assist with transportation.
- A Wild Wednesday evening could potentially be dedicated to the event.

Vacation Bible School

- VBS was considered successful.
 - Grouping of children worked well overall.
 - Decorations have been purchased next year – Space Theme.
 - Remaining decorations and supplies are being moved and organized to clear space for the turkey supper.
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Erin Alderson - Treasurer / Financial Update

Foundation / Investment Account

- The foundation account had shown a loss at the end of July but has since rebounded significantly.
- As of the meeting date, the account was reported to be **just under \$230,000**.
- The church's checking/bank account has declined somewhat because of current church and parsonage expenditures.
- There is no immediate concern, but Foundation funds could be accessed if cash reserves become uncomfortably low.
- The preference is to leave foundation funds invested as long as possible because of current growth.

Year-to-Date Finances

- The church is approximately **\$20,000 negative year-to-date**.
- This corresponds fairly closely with money that has been invested in the parsonage.

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- Regular monthly expenses are continuing to be paid.
- A year-to-date Statement of Activity and monthly expense information were provided for review.

Dedicated Funds / Sound System

- Approximately **\$4,300** remains in the dedicated new sound-system fund.
- Ann is researching:
 - One or two additional wireless/headset microphones.
 - A microphone for singers.
- Additional microphones would help pastors and worship leaders move away from the podium and could potentially assist with meeting recording.

Miscellaneous / Parsonage Utility Funds

- The miscellaneous dedicated account still needs to be reviewed.
- Some funds may have originally been designated for Montrose parsonage utilities and may need to be reclassified appropriately.

Camp Fund

- Annual camp fees totaling approximately **\$1,920** have been paid.
- The camp fund is now considerably lower.
- Fundraising will likely be needed before next year's camp season.
- Possible fundraisers discussed included:
 - Pizza Ranch fundraiser.
 - Youth fundraising sales.
 - Other child/youth-led fundraising options.

High-Yield Savings

- A high-yield savings option has been discussed.
- No immediate move will be made while cash is actively being used for current projects.
- This may be reconsidered later, particularly if rental income begins coming in.

Sales Tax

- Required sales-tax filing/payment was completed.

Administrative Fees & Filings

- A **\$150 Chamber of Commerce fee** was paid.
- The church's annual state report still needs to be filed, with a deadline believed to be around **September 1**.
- A county tax-exemption/equalization filing also needs to be completed by approximately **November 1**.
- Prior-year forms should make the filing process relatively straightforward.

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Clergy Continuing Education

The clergy compensation forms provide approximately:

- **\$500 for continuing education**
- **\$500 for vocational formation**

Questions remain regarding whether these amounts should be placed in or reimbursed through the existing laity development/dedicated fund. Erin will check with Melissa on this.

- Julie will be reimbursed for qualifying expenses in the meantime, with accounting classifications corrected later if necessary.

Credit Card / Account Transition

- Work continues on obtaining the appropriate church credit card and removing Seth from accounts.
- Several recurring charges still use the existing card and will need to be transferred before it is canceled.
- Julie's card will be ordered and those reoccurring transactions switched to her account once it is received. Then Seth's old card will be cancelled.

Banking / Giving Systems

- Users have been removed from Vanco.
- Vanco has been contacted to verify that no ongoing fee will be charged now that it is not being used.
- Online giving has been transitioned to **Tithely**, including updating the giving link on the church website.
- This should simplify deposits and accounting by reducing the number of systems being used.

Communications

Bulletin & Canva

- The bulletin and newsletter have successfully been transitioned into Canva.
- A church brand/template system has been created to make producing future bulletins easier and more consistent.
- The new workflow appears to be working well.

Weekly Emails

- Weekly church emails are going well.
- More targeted Wild Wednesday communication will be added as the program begins.

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Minnehaha Messenger

- Church information in the Minnehaha Messenger has been updated.
- The outdated “Wisdom Wednesday” listing was changed to **Wild Wednesday**.
- The contact email was changed to the church’s general HUMC email rather than a pastor’s personal email.
- The updated information should begin appearing in upcoming issues.

Birthday List / Newsletter

- The birthday list in the newsletter is outdated.
- Some people listed are deceased or no longer active, while newer members and children may be missing.
- Current lists will be printed and provided to church members/ladies’ groups to help update them.
- The goal is to have the list improved for the **September newsletter**.

An additional idea was raised for Wild Wednesday children to make birthday cards for church members beginning in 2027.

Joyce Alderson – Lay Member - Women’s Ministry

Sunnycrest Visit

- Approximately **15 people** participated in the Sunnycrest gathering.
- The visit was very well received.
- Participants shared stories about their church involvement and enjoyed fellowship together.
- The gathering felt like a small church service/community and was considered worth repeating.

Women’s Retreat

- The women’s retreat was successful and included:
 - Fellowship.
 - Bible study.
 - Service work.
 - Time together at camp.
 - Participants helped clean the activity center and kitchen.
 - The women’s group also identified needs at camp and contributed **\$500** toward needed supplies/projects.
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Turkey Supper

- The annual turkey supper is scheduled for September **12th**.
- Logistics still need to be finalized, including:
 - Which entrance(s) guests will use.
 - Traffic flow.
 - Placement of the bake sale, crafts, and produce.
- One possibility is putting a tent near the front of the church for the bake sale and produce area, weather permitting.
- A large white 10' × 10' tent with walls may be available.
- Existing large roadside turkey-supper signs need to be updated with the current date and put back up.
- Additional advertising may include:
 - Local billboard/signage.
 - Grocery-store/community signs.
 - Facebook event sharing.
 - Local radio promotion.
- A Facebook event has already been created and should be reshared.

Lois is leading the turkey supper, with Heidi assisting.

Lexy Klinkhammer – Staff Parish Relations

Fall Kickoff Sunday

The church will hold its first fall kickoff Sunday immediately following the turkey supper weekend.

Meal

Ideas discussed included:

- Using leftover turkey supper food.
- Turkey sandwiches.
- Pulled pork.
- Potatoes and other simple sides.

Pulled pork was offered as one of the main foods, while leftover turkey-supper items may also be incorporated.

The goal is to make the meal easy so those who worked the turkey supper do not have to prepare another large meal the next day.

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Activities

Possible activities include:

- Bean bags/cornhole.
- Ladder golf.
- Badminton.
- Other simple outdoor games.

Parsonage Tour

The kickoff will include an opportunity for the congregation to tour the renovation at the parsonage.

Interest in seeing the progress has been high, and this may encourage people to remain after worship.

Community Invitation

Because the church is trying to engage more families and build Wild Wednesday participation, the kickoff may be advertised beyond the congregation.

A separate Facebook event may be created.

Ministry Involvement

The kickoff could also include opportunities for people to indicate areas where they would like to participate, such as:

- Praise team.
- Chime choir.
- Teaching.
- Bible studies.
- Children's ministry.
- Other ministry opportunities.

Lynn Margeson - Missions

Noisy Bucket for September - Lions Club / Eyeglasses

- Members can contribute money and/or donate old eyeglasses.
- Lynn will make sure donated glasses reach the appropriate Lions Club program.

Hygiene Kits

- The current hygiene-kit collection has had a strong response.
- Approximately one more week remains.

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- A reminder may be posted on Facebook encouraging additional donations.
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Dan Kistler – Trustees

Parsonage & Property Update

Significant progress continues at the parsonage.

Work Completed / Underway

- Plumbing work has been completed.
- Concrete work has been poured and leveled.
- Countertops have been selected and ordered.
- Countertops are expected around the beginning of September.
- A new window is expected near the end of August.
- Landscaping has begun.
- The existing front door is being cleaned up and moved to a new location.
- Electrical work is scheduled.
- Kitchen electrical improvements will include:
 - Approximately eight can lights.
 - Additional countertop outlets.
 - Exterior/entry lighting.
- Basement lighting and switching will be improved, including four-way switching in the large family room.
- Several areas of drywall will be repaired/replaced.
- Much of the labor is being donated.

Donations / Cost Savings

Several donations have significantly reduced project expenses:

- Gravel was donated for concrete work.
- A trailer has been made available.
- Concrete debris can be dumped/recycled at no charge.
- Much of the plumbing material came from donated or leftover supplies.
- Framing materials have also been donated.
- Landfill costs have been minimal.

Thank-you notes should be sent to individuals/businesses providing significant donations.

Menards Rebate

- A Menards rebate of approximately **\$1,100** is expected.

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- The rebate can be used toward cabinets or other project needs.

Countertops

- Kitchen countertops were somewhat more expensive than originally anticipated.
 - The price also includes the bathroom vanity top.
 - The selected counters include an integrated/built-in sink feature.
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Church Building / Property

HVAC

- New AC units have been installed in the church.
- Additional AC for the wing containing The Closet was discussed.
- Because approximately **\$7,000** has already been spent on a new unit, additional HVAC work will likely be postponed until next year.
- The basement AC system still needs further review.

Men's Restroom

The men's restroom needs updating.

Items discussed:

- Replace or improve the vanity/countertop.
- Evaluate partitions.
- Possibly remove one stall to create a more usable layout.
- Clean, repaint, or replace existing partitions.
- Consider the needs of people using the nearby upstairs bathroom as well.

The area will be reviewed before making a final decision.

Exterior / Entry Doors

- One rear door does not reliably close/latch unless it is pulled completely shut.
- There are concerns regarding the number of church keys currently in circulation and the lack of an accurate key inventory.
- Re-keying exterior doors was discussed.
- Ideally, the front, side, and rear exterior doors would use the same key.
- A keypad entry system may also be considered.
- The office may remain on a separate lock/key system.

Accessibility

Some older or mobility-impaired members have difficulty opening the heavy exterior door.

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- An automatic door opener was discussed but may cost approximately **\$15,000**, making it impractical at this time.
 - Greeters can assist during Sunday worship, but accessibility remains a concern for weekday meetings and other activities.
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Linda Blue - Worship

Saturday Evening Worship – Update by Julie as Linda was unavailable

- Saturday evening worship attendance had become very small.
 - After conversations with regular attendees, leadership does not believe continuing a formal Saturday worship service currently makes sense.
 - However, the Saturday group has developed meaningful fellowship and community.
 - Members are encouraged to continue gathering informally as a **life group/fellowship group**.
 - Options could include:
 - Meeting at the church.
 - Watching the previous Sunday's message.
 - Fellowship and discussion.
 - Going out for a meal afterward.
 - The pastor has met individually with the regular Saturday attendees.
 - Conversations were positive.
 - Cherie may be asked to serve as a point person for the group because she has a heart for those members.
 - Some former Saturday attendees are already beginning to attend Sunday morning worship.
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Worship & Music

Contemporary Worship Team

Several members have expressed interest in contemporary worship music.

- A worship team has begun practicing.
- Approximately five to seven people may participate.
- Nancy is helping coordinate the group.
- One possible approach is including **one or two contemporary songs each Sunday** along with traditional hymns.
- The goal is a blended service that serves multiple generations.

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The group emphasized that music should support genuine worship rather than simply serve as entertainment.

“My Lighthouse” was mentioned as a song that children particularly enjoy and respond to.

New Business

Chime Choir – Joyce would like to see this resume

There was interest in reviving the church’s chime choir.

Possibilities include:

- Youth participation.
- Parent/child participation.
- Intergenerational participation.
- Playing for Advent, Christmas, or other special occasions rather than every week.

The church already owns chimes, and there are several people with piano/music experience who could potentially participate.

Youth Musical Participation

The Wild Wednesday Christmas program last year included several young musicians, including beginner band and piano students.

Even when performances were very new or imperfect, the children were enthusiastic and enjoyed participating. Leadership would like to continue creating opportunities for children to use their musical gifts.

Membership Records

- Church membership and birthday records need significant updating.
- Some people currently listed have moved, died, transferred, or have not participated for several years.
- During previous denominational changes, letters were sent asking people whether they wished to remain members.
- Some responded and transferred or requested removal, while others did not respond.
- The United Methodist Discipline has procedures governing removal of inactive members, and those requirements should be reviewed before anyone is removed.
- Records can still be cleaned up and corrected where information is known.

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Sunday Bible Study – Pastor Brian will be implementing

A new Sunday Bible study is being planned.

Proposed Format

- Begin approximately **15 minutes after Sunday worship**.
- Meet for approximately **45 minutes**.
- Open to adults as well as high school students.
- The current high school group is small enough that they could participate comfortably with adults.

Schedule

Rather than asking participants to make an indefinite commitment, the study may operate in modules:

- Approximately **five weeks of study**.
- A one- or two-week break.
- Another study module.

Start Date

The tentative plan is to begin **the Sunday following Fall Kickoff Sunday**.

Location

Potential locations include:

- One of the larger classrooms.
- Fellowship hall, although the size and acoustics may make it less personal.
- A classroom appears preferable if attendance allows.

Bibles

The church has multiple matching Bibles available, including the same translation used in the pews, which should work well for the study.

Offering Drop-Off – Proposed by Pastor Julie

A church member asked whether an outside offering drop box could be installed because it can be difficult for her to get to the church when it is open.

Concerns included:

- Theft.

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- Tampering.
- Weather damage.
- Creating an obvious target outside the building.

No outside box was approved.

Alternatives discussed:

- Mailing offerings to the church.
- Using the church's **P.O. Box 159**.
- Online giving through Tithely.
- Dropping offerings off when church staff are present.

Because mobility is also an issue for the member who raised the concern, leadership will communicate available options to her.

Follow-Up / Action Items

- ☐ Research larger-print, age-appropriate Bibles for 3rd and 4th graders and ask about personalized names on covers.
- ☐ Finalize Wild Wednesday registration forms, expectations, and parent volunteer information.
- ☐ Continue preparing Wild Wednesday lessons and supplies.
- ☐ Finalize weekly Wild Wednesday Monday/Friday communication plan.
- ☐ Explore scheduling Kids Against Hunger.
- ☐ Continue planning Christmas Around the World program.
- ☐ Determine camp fundraising plan for next year.
- ☐ Review miscellaneous/parsonage utility dedicated fund classifications.
- ☐ Clarify continuing education/vocational formation accounting.
- ☐ Complete annual state report.
- ☐ Complete county tax-exemption/equalization filing before November deadline.
- ☐ Finish credit-card transition and move recurring charges.
- ☐ Confirm Vanco account will not incur continuing fees.
- ☐ Update September birthday/member lists.
- ☐ Update and install turkey-supper signs.
- ☐ Reshare/promote turkey-supper Facebook event.
- ☐ Finalize Fall Kickoff meal and activities.
- ☐ Consider creating a Fall Kickoff Facebook event.
- ☐ Plan parsonage tour for Fall Kickoff.
- ☐ Send thank-you notes for parsonage material/equipment donations.
- ☐ Review men's restroom renovation options.

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- ☐ Investigate re-keying exterior church doors and/or keypad entry.
- ☐ Follow up with Saturday evening group regarding formation of a fellowship/life group.
- ☐ Continue development of blended contemporary/traditional worship music.
- ☐ Explore restarting chime choir for Advent/Christmas.
- ☐ Review United Methodist requirements for updating inactive membership records.
- ☐ Launch Sunday Bible study following Fall Kickoff.
- ☐ Communicate offering-by-mail, Tithely, and church-office options to members needing alternate ways to give.

Next Meeting – September 28th, 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm with prayer by Pastor Brian