



The Flame
Byron United Methodist Church
Byron, MN

 **Who Are We?**

We are a welcoming church that
wants everyone to know God's love.

 **Our Core Values**

Love First Foster Belonging
Grace-Powered Hope, Help, and Healing

JUNE 2026

FROM THE PASTOR:

Brothers and sisters, I don't want you to be ignorant about spiritual gifts. There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; and there are different ministries and the same Lord; and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good. A word of wisdom is given by the Spirit to one person, a word of knowledge to another according to the same Spirit, faith to still another by the same Spirit, gifts of healing to another in the one Spirit, performance of miracles to another, prophecy to another, the ability to tell spirits apart to another, different kinds of tongues to another, and the interpretation of the tongues to another. All these things are produced by the one and same Spirit who gives what he wants to each person.

Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. Certainly the body isn't one part but many.

Corinthians 12:1, 4-14

Friends, we who are in Christ are one, even though we are many. As I prepare to leave Byron UMC, I remind myself and you that we remain one in Christ, regardless of the distance between us. Nothing breaks that bond because nothing shall ever break Christ again. We are held together in him as one.

Yet the body isn't one singular part, but many distinct parts. The body isn't all hands or all feet or all noses. Each part is uniquely gifted to contribute to the body. Each of you is uniquely gifted to contribute to the body of Christ that is the church, just as I am uniquely gifted. The body thrives when each person uses their gift for the purpose that the Spirit gives the gift – to build up the church and continue its ongoing mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

All that we have done together as the church has been because of the many gifts that God has brought together here. Discover your gifts. Practice your gifts. And I encourage you to continue the good work that you are doing with faith that all that is needed will be provided.

The Apostle Paul ends his explanation of spiritual gifts by asking the people of the Corinthian church to strive for the most excellent spiritual gift of them all – Love. This is a gift offered to all, and it is the gift that empowers all other spiritual gifts and all the good work that you can possibly do. It is the gift that brings all the parts together so that each one can offer its own spiritual gift to the body. Strive for love and put love first, friends.

With Love,

Pastor Andy Petter

POTLUCK FOR PASTOR ANDY'S LAST SUNDAY: Pastor Andy's last Sunday is June 14. We will have a farewell potluck for him that day at 11 am. Please bring a favorite dish to share. All are welcome.

NEW MINISTRY COMING – ‘COME, BE FED’: After a seed idea was planted, the idea of offering a community meal was explored, prayed upon and born! In today’s world we are very aware of food insecurity and hunger, but there is also great ‘soul’ hunger - the need for soul nourishment that is increasingly caused by an overwhelming and disconnected world. We see people who feel stress, isolated, lonely, discouraged, hopeless, grieving, they don’t belong, disenfranchised, those experiencing mental health issues.

There is a church that after communion the people are asked “Have all been fed?”, they answer “Not Yet!” This “Not Yet!” signifies the ongoing mission of the church to serve, to show God’s love by being the hands and feet of Jesus, to follow Jesus’ commandment to love thy neighbor as thyself. This “Not Yet!” is a call for us to live into our BUMC core values.

A community meal is simply an occasion for gathering together with a group of people to share food and time together. But when we think of Jesus eating with all kinds of people, in all kinds of situations (in homes, crowds, with his friends & strangers), the meal acts as a Christian biblical spiritual practice. Jesus shared the good news of the gospel, LOVE, by being present with people, sharing time with them and sharing a most basic and essential life activity. The vision of the free monthly community meal is a call to action to act boldly and joyfully by opening our doors and hearts to better serve those in need in our community. The prayer is that God will use BUMC as disciples to extend the invitation, Come, Be Fed, to all who are ‘hungry’ for whatever reason and in the gathering around a table God’s love will be felt. Food ministry is as wonderful a way to share the gospel and build community today as ever.

After receiving support from the BUMC leadership team, a planning team has been working on initiating this ministry. Our annual *Mexican Fiesta Meal* on Thurs., July 16 during Byron Good Neighbor Days will be the first Free Community Meal to those who dine in and will be used as a way to introduce and communicate the ministry. Monthly meals will start in Sept. and be ongoing from then on. Sign-up sheets for workers/needs for the Mexican Meal will be up in the dining room mid-June. We hope to have great response for workers for this lively community meal! And please consider how you can support the ongoing meals as we start this church mission in Sept. The present planning team is team lead Chris Miller, Marlene Abel, Terry Egbers, Cathy Huntoon & Pastor Andy. We’d welcome any interested to the planning team!

In Christ, Chris Miller

GRIEF GROUP: Our next grief group meeting at Byron UMC is ***Wed., June 10, from 10-11 a.m.*** The group offers opportunities to talk about things that cannot be discussed in other settings and to find others who can relate to their situation. The scope of the group is helping others find comfort, healing and relationships through conversations and fellowship with others. For more information, contact Pastor Andy or Marlene Abel.

COVENANT GROUP: The Thursday evening Covenant Group invites you to consider trying out discipleship in the Methodist way by joining them for a trial session. Participate in a couple of meetings to see what it's like and then decide if you are ready to make this covenant commitment. Speak with Kelly VanDeWalker for details.

BEARPACK PROGRAM: Byron UMC continues its pledge to give \$200 monthly (Sept. – May) toward the BearPack Program with Byron Schools. This program helps those families with children in need in our schools. ***All donations through the year at fellowship time go toward this fund.*** Please consider supporting this great need in our community by giving generously to the cookie jar each week!

NEW CHURCH WEBSITE: Go to <https://www.byronunitedmethodist.org> and or scan this QR code with your smartphone to check it out. It is still under some construction. There are Events and News postings to keep people informed of announcements or activities taking place. Weekly bulletins are being uploaded to the Bulletin page within the Worship tab. Check those out for new postings! The giving page is fully functional for registering and giving online.



FINANCE SUMMARY: The following summarizes BUMC financial funds ending April 30, 2026.

Balance Sheet Roll Forward Report					
04-01-2026 to 04-30-2026					
Funds					
Name	Starting	Income	Expenses	Balance	
General	\$4,558.54	\$14,570.00	\$12,593.62	\$6,534.92	\$2,500 Designated, remainder undesignated)
Missions	\$1,221.30	\$808.25	\$960.00	\$1,069.55	Designated
Covenant Hands	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Designated
Apportionments	\$169.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$169.75	Designated
Education	\$1,176.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,176.42	Designated
Memorial Designated	\$1,278.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,278.04	Designated
Memorial Undesignated	\$9,996.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,996.82	Undesignated
Trustee savings	\$1,412.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,412.71	Designated
BUMC Undesignated Savings	\$10,102.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,102.32	Undesignated
Quilt Group	\$168.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$168.70	Designated
BAYM	\$1,047.68	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$1,697.68	Designated
BUMC Programs savings	\$3,978.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,978.02	Designated
Outgoing Charitable	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	Designated
Totals	\$35,110.30	\$16,048.25	\$13,553.62	\$37,604.93	
YTD Totals	\$43,289.70	\$59,801.53	\$65,486.30	\$37,604.93	

THANK YOU: The **Church Camp Bake Sale** raised \$888.00 to help our children and youth with the cost of summer church camp, and we could not have done this without those who baked and those who bought. The free-will offering at the **Sacred Creation Concert** collected \$912.00 for Family Service Rochester to fund its work assisting the elderly and families across SE Minnesota. We are grateful to those who sang and played, as well as to those who gave. Thank you for supporting both of these efforts. Your generosity does make a difference and is appreciated!

THANK YOU: Thanks, Al Miller, for all your hard work helping clean rocks. Yes, you read it right, cleaning rocks has been going on by the trustees in some of the landscape areas around church. Decades of dirt and debris collects in the rocks and leads to weed growth requiring more weed spray than is desirable. Rocks need to be shoveled out, screened clean and washed. New landscape fabric is then replaced, and the area filled back in with "clean" rocks. It's a dirty, tedious, and not all that easy job. We would like the project to continue in various areas in most need, and we would love your help! Contact Roger Vick if you are willing to put in some hours to help improve the appearance around your church. Thanks also to Luke Fritze for the topsoil used in the area of new sod. So far it's growing great!

VBS 2026: Save the dates! Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Aug. 9-13 from 6-8 p.m.

LOVE OFFERING 2026: Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. The 2026 Annual Conference will take place June 16-18, 2026, at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, with a theme of "Created to Serve Joyfully".

The 2026 Love Offering gifts will be distributed to:

- Midwest Mission (30%)
- Love Boldly Mental Health Ministries Grant for Minnesota Conference Churches (20%)
- Endowment for Ministerial Education (20%)
- Minnesota Conference Emergency Response Fund (20%)
- Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Scholarships (10%)

You can give to the offering through the church by designating "Love Offering" in the memo line of your check, on your offering envelope, or by giving online through the church website giving page and choosing "Love Offering" as your designation. Thank you for your generosity.

PRAYERS FOR ONE ANOTHER:

For those who need healing: God of compassion, source of life and health, strengthen, restore, and relieve those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially now: Jaxson Clark; Pastor Beth Perez; Jeff Schmidt (son-in-law of Anita Carlson); Ruth Wescott (cousin of Janet Sinning), Suze Anderson, Karin Byers, Donna Walters, Claire Field, Nancy Kelly, Doris Frey, Treaver Bleichner (grandson of Julene Bleichner), Dick Hart (brother of Judy Luttmers), David Larsen, Calvin Bell, Vicki McIntosh, Paige Reder, Sara (granddaughter of Anita Carlson), Max Smith (son of Barb Smith), Debbie Webb, so that they may receive healing and help in You.

For those who have died and for those who mourn: Eternal God, by your steadfast love, open your arms of mercy to those who have died, that they may find their place with you, and look with compassion on those who grieve, that they may be comforted by your sure presence and filled with hope in your goodness, especially now: Marlene Sovereign (mother of Sue Vick); Julie McCoy; Sandy Fitzpatrick; Wayne Petersen (friend of Julene Bleichner); Loren Walters; Jared White; Jim Miller (brother of Suze Anderson); Kirsten Hart (mother of Aubree, Gauge and Hunter); Patricia Klingsporn, Debbie Schwartz (sister of Kathy Nerlien).

For the homebound, those in care facilities, and their caregivers: God of all seasons of life, bring comfort to those who are vulnerable, tired, or weak, especially now: Suze Anderson, David Larsen, Nancy Kelly, Bette Josephson, Calvin Bell, Donna Walters, Alan Bourquin, Debbie Byers, John Lloyd, Carol Ramthun, Barb Smith; so that they may be blessed and at peace each day. Inspire and encourage those who care for them, so that their work may be filled with grace and their love may be multiplied.

For those who celebrate: God of blessing, we praise You for the joy we have received and the gift we have in one another. We lift up special thanks for those who celebrate milestones in life – birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, the birth of a child, graduations, promotions, and new jobs – and we ask Your continued blessing upon them, now and always.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

If you or someone you know would like to be included in these prayers, please contact Pastor Andy directly at 210-288-9477 or Andrew.L.Petter@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S SHELTER AND SUPPORT CENTER: Byron UMC's ongoing mission is support for the Womens' Shelter and Support Center. They also shelter men and their families (pets are welcome too) that need to get out of an abusive situation as well. Once they have a safe place to live they need to set up house and we can help by donating items to the shelter for them. There is a receptacle in the narthex for your donations. You aren't obligated to donate expensive items or donate at all. Help if you can. All donations must be NEW. The following is a list of needed items:

School supplies: Scissors, Folders plastic (Red, Blue, Yellow and Green), Crayons, Colored pencils, Highlighters, Markers, Pencils (sharpened preferred), Erasers, Glue (bottles and sticks).

Gift Cards - Visa, Target, Walmart, Hy-Vee, Kwik Trip (Gas, Food, Supplies, Car Repairs, etc.)

Kids Activities gift cards i.e. Movie passes, Bowling, Bounce House, Dairy Queen, McDonalds, Pizza places, Arcade, etc.

Adult color/activity books & colored pencils

Non-Perishable Food / Snacks (individual packets, i.e. Potato chips, granola bars, fruit bars, pretzel bits, raisins, fruit packets, animal crackers, and microwave popcorn

Baby wipes, Pull-ups (size 3-4T, 5-6T).

Paper products (toilet paper, napkins, tissues); **Cleaning Supplies** (dish soap, toilet bowl cleaner, disinfectant spray)

Eco-friendly plates, bowls (microwaveable) **cutlery.**

Kitchen Utensils (spatulas, whisks, wooden spoons, measuring cups/spoons, peelers, graters, cutting boards, knife sets, ladles, can openers, kitchen scissors, baking sheets, pot holders)

New Pots & Pans, Small Appliances (Coffee pots, mixers, can openers, etc.)

New Pillows, New Bath Towels, New Twin Sheet sets, Women's PJ's - all sizes

New Laptops & Tablets, New Tracphones

Shampoo and conditioner (full-sized)

If you have something you think they could use not on the list, please contact Janet Sinning at jsinning@charter.net or 507-251-1657.

ONLINE GIVING: Offerings can be made using electronic fund transfers from your bank account or by credit/debit card and have the option to be set as a recurring gift. Please go to <https://www.byronunitedmethodist.org>. Click on GIVE or scan this QR code with your smartphone. Once there, go to GIVE and follow the instructions for registration.



USE FULL CHURCH ADDRESS FOR MAILING: When sending mail to the church, please be sure to include the P.O. Box 146 in the address. The post office has been returning mail to senders when the PO Box # is not included. Please use 503 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 146, Byron, MN 55920.

CHURCH CONTACTS:

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