

# New England Messenger

**New England Congregational Church  
805 Oak St., PO Box 655, Stanton, NE 68779  
Church 402-439-2175**

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## This Month: February 2026

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### Birthdays

- February 7 Jordan Gartner
- February 9 Jan Hansen
- February 10 Reggie Alder
- February 12 Mary Drott, Grace Hansen, Eric Hansen
- February 14 Trystan Gartner
- February 15 Phyllis Dahlkoetter, Kim Dahlkoetter

*Wishing you a very special day filled with God's blessings!* These are the birthdays that are part of the permanent records at church. If one has been missed, please let April Alder know so that she can add the name to the list of birthday special prayers. Thank you.



**Newsletter Deadline: 2/18/26**

### Calendar

Office hours are generally Wednesdays **9 am to 12 pm but are subject to change**

- Feb 1:** 9:10 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship with communion
- Feb 8:** 9:10 am Sunday School  
9:30 am Elders Meeting  
10:00 am Fellowship  
10:30 am Worship
- Feb 14:** VALENTINES DAY
- Feb 15:** 9:10 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship
- Feb 18:** 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday with communion, Agape Feast following
- Feb 22:** 9:10 am Sunday School  
10:00 Fellowship  
10:30 am Worship

**Thank you to the sponsor for this month.**

**Dallas Miller**

The cost to sponsor 2 month's newsletters is \$78.00. (This covers a roll of 100 first-class stamps.)

Thank-you for all your generous support.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE A NAME ON THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE LET US KNOW.**

*If you know someone in the hospital, or the nursing visit, please let us know by phone or e-mail -  
402-439-2175 [congregationalchurch@stanton.net](mailto:congregationalchurch@stanton.net) or [necchurchsecretary@stanton.net](mailto:necchurchsecretary@stanton.net)  
Church website at [stantonneucc.org](http://stantonneucc.org).*

## **The Elders Meeting**

### **ELDERS, January 11, 2026**

**Attendance:** Bob S., Howard S., Jim D., Dallas M., Don E., Michael E., Barb H, Moderator Bill Johnson, Pastor Scott Frederickson, Treasurer Reggie A., April A.

Meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Scott and called to order at 9:30 by Vice-Chair, Michael E.

Minutes of the December 14th meeting were approved as presented. (Dallas, Bob S.) Carried.

Treasurer's report: (Bob S., Howard S.) moved to accept the treasurer's report and moved to pay the bills as presented. Carried

#### **Old Business:**

Sunday School: April reported Sunday School started January 11 with 6 children present. The teachers are Sue Ann, April and Cheryl with helpers Reggie A. and Donna Barr at this time. Still need a few more adult helpers to meet the insurance requirement.

Liability insurance: Almost all teachers, helpers and others have finished the online class.

#### **New Business:**

Annual meeting reports: Jack has received all but the budget which Barb will send to him after the Elders approve it.

Budget for 2026: Discussion. (Bob S., Howard) moved to accept the budget as presented and present for vote at the annual meeting. Carried

Reminder that some of us will be going off the Elders as term complete. Who will be doing some of the weekly and monthly duties?

Quorum for annual meeting could be a problem so we need to have some proxy votes from people who cannot attend.

Ash Wednesday service February 18 at 6:00 with Agape meal following.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50.

Upcoming dates: Next meeting February 8, 9:30 Election of officers. Pastor Scott will conduct election as Chair Bob C. will be out of town and vice Chair Michael will have served his terms

## **New England Congregational Church Fellowship Meeting**

January 8, 2026,

Barb Hansen opened the meeting with a prayer. Others in attendance were Darlene Johnson, Karen Beyke, Lorena Bernbeck, Lynn Schelpper and Donna Barr.

Minutes were read and approved.

Lorena gave the treasurer's report. Karen approved, Darlene seconded. Approved. The three CD's are due to be renewed February 23, 2026. Lorena made a motion that the CD's be renewed, Lynn seconded. Approved.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Lorena read thank- yous from The Norfolk Rescue Mission and the Stanton Heath Center for the Christmas donations. A thank you card from Lola Denney's family for providing and planning a wonderful luncheon to celebrate Lola.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

It was approved by Scott that some of the greens celebrating Christmas could come down, remaining will be done January 11.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Lorena read a list of duties for the janitor. It will be revised by the Elders. January 18, 2026 will be the Annual Meeting of the Church. It was suggested that April send an email reminding members how important it is that everyone attend this meeting, because a quorum is necessary to accept and make any changes presented. Barb suggested that next year we donate to the Tree of Giving for a general fund. Barb's committee has the Agathe meal. Karen's committee has Easter and Graduation. Karen will speak with Scott if he would preach a Sunrise and a later service for Easter. If he would speak at the celebration of graduates, the date is to be determined.

The next meeting will be April 2, 2026 at 1:30.

<p><b>WANTED: SPONSORS NEEDED FOR NEWSLETTERS</b></p>
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**The cost to sponsor 2 months of newsletters now, is \$78.00. (This covers a roll of 100 first-class stamps). If you would like to be a sponsor or are able to purchase a roll of stamps, please let April Alder know.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINOUS SUPPORT.**

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION – ATTENDANCE & COLLECTIONS

Offerings to our Church: When you cannot attend, it may be mailed to our financial secretary, Karen Beyke, 1516 4th Street, Stanton, NE 68779. She may be reached at 402-649-8993. Please leave a message. Thank you!

Date	Attendance	Collections
January 4	24	\$1001
January 11	26	\$995
January 18	26	\$585
January 25	24	\$703

### WORK GROUP FOR FEB - MAR

#### WORK GROUP - 1

Barth, Tami: Co – Chair  
Hansen, Howard & Barbara: Co – Chair  
Benson, Lonnie  
Burtwistle, Scott & Sue  
Chamberlain, Mark  
Eberly, Don & Louise  
Mandle, John & Lynette  
Mandl, Justin  
Scheidegger, Joel & Becky  
Tejkl, Loren & Carey

#### HONORARY

Bonnie Barth  
Nancy Mandl



FAMILY.

FOOD.

FUN.

FELLOWSHIP.

### WORK GROUP FOR APR - MAY

#### WORK GROUP – 2

Beyke, Rod & Karen: Co - Chair  
Hansen, Bill & Jan: Co – Chair  
Alder, Reggie and April  
Benson, Brian & Wendy  
Benson, Gary & Bonnie  
Bernbeck, Cody & Alysha  
Bernbeck, Lorena  
Daniel, Kevin & Jacquee  
Noelle, Dennis  
Seier, Jill  
Stamm, Tim

#### HONORARY

Joy Denney Colsden  
JoAnne Schellpeper





## LENTEN SEASON 2026

### Ash Wednesday Worship Service and Agape Meal

This year's Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday, Feb 18, 2026. Our worship service, including communion and the imposition of ashes will begin at **6:00 pm**. This service gives those attending the opportunity to openly acknowledge our frailties and imperfections, receive the mark of ashes as a reminder of our human mortality and share a meal around the communion table in remembrance of Jesus. Christ took our frailties and imperfections as his own and died so that our sins would be forgiven and we would have an everlasting relationship with God.

Following the service, we will share our Agape Meal, a beautiful feast of love – a simple meal where we are able to be in fellowship and community as we begin this year's Lenten journey. Please plan to begin Lent together this year.



### Why do we celebrate Valentines Day?

**Valentine's Day**, also called **Saint Valentine's Day** or the **Feast of Saint Valentine**, is celebrated annually on February 14. It originated as a Christian feast day honoring a martyr named Valentine, and through later folk traditions it has also become a significant cultural, religious and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.