

United Protestant Church Of Silver Bay

17 Horn Boulevard, Silver Bay, Minnesota 55614

Church Profile 2024

Fulltime Intentional Interim Pastor Position

United Protestant Church, located in Silver Bay, Minnesota, is a welcoming, open-minded community of Christians who believe the Bible is the Word of God. With God's help, we are seeking an optimistic, caring, full-time interim pastor who will joyfully serve as our spiritual leader, and who will help guide our church family with our search for a permanent pastor.

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ABOUT US

A. OUR COMMUNITY

[Silver Bay](#) is a lovely town of approximately 1,800 residents located on the beautiful shore of Lake Superior in Northern Minnesota. Located near several state parks and recreation areas, including the famous Superior Hiking Trail, there is no limit to the number of outdoor activities available year-round. Hiking, skiing, fishing, ATVing and snowmobiling are very popular in this area, and the fall colors are a must-see.

Local businesses supply nearly everything residents need, including gas stations, banks, auto repair, restaurants, post office, grocery store, clinic and schools among other services. The larger town of Two Harbors is just a 30-minute drive away and the city of Duluth is just over an hour.

The [population](#) is comprised of working families, retirees, part-time residents and seasonal tourists. Short-term rentals are not allowed in city limits, so Silver Bay retains its small-town vibe even during popular tourist times.

The town was established in the early 1950's with the construction of a taconite processing plant, which supplies iron ore for shipping via Lake Superior to steel mills in the eastern United States. The economy of the area at that time was very poor and workers came from all over the five-state region and eastern states to work at the new plant.

The community experienced rapid growth through the early 1960's, growing to nearly 4,000 residents, but then struggled with the ups and downs of the mining company, starting with a bankruptcy in the 1980s and, more recently, a 5-month shutdown during the COVID pandemic.

B. Mission Statement of United Protestant Church

We are an open-minded Christian fellowship. We seek to follow the Word of God, and to pass God's love onto others, as we actively welcome them into our church family.

C. Our Church History

Our church was organized in 1954 as the town of Silver Bay was just being established. While there were other churches in town, many young families who were not Lutheran or Catholic joined together and decided to be the "United Protestant Church" comprised of five different Protestant denominations. They reasoned "there is one God, why not one church?"

The Minnesota Council of Churches was instrumental in bringing together various denominational leaders to establish our church, which is the first ecumenical church in the state of Minnesota. We are proud of our ecumenical heritage as a church, and our membership is a wonderful mix of people from many different backgrounds and denominations. Because of this, our services do not rigidly follow a particular denomination's order of service.

Through the years we have had several able pastors representing the five denominations (Appendix A), and we enjoyed 16 wonderful years with Rev. Dr. Paul Scaringi, who recently took a call in another state.

We are presently seeking an Intentional Interim Minister to allow us to be a fully functioning church while we conduct our search for a permanent Pastor.

D. Our Membership

Current membership at UPC is 118 individuals, with an average attendance at Sunday worship of 30 to 35 people. While many of our members are retirees, we are a very active and engaged group both within the church and community. Many members travel within and outside the state, which results in attendance fluctuations.

Most of our congregation lives in town, but some live in outlying rural areas. Our members are primarily of European American descent, as is the majority of the town and surrounding area.

E. Our Worship

The core of our life together as a church is Sunday morning worship. Sunday services are at 10:30 with fellowship time immediately following in the lower-level fellowship hall.

We seek to provide a service that helps worshipers experience God's transforming power and love, through our music, preaching of the Word, and shared prayer time in which we lift up "joys and concerns" of the congregation and the world at large.

Our members take an active part in our service as ushers, lay readers, communion servers, prayer leaders, musicians, sound operators, and acolytes. We strive to provide meaningful music and songs during our services. Our soundboard was recently upgraded. We use the The United Methodist hymnal and singing is accompanied primarily by a CD/sound board/computer system. Our choir, piano, organ and guitar players provide special music.

Worship is planned by the Pastor with the Diaconate Board. The Diaconate members assist with communion, which is offered the first Sunday of each month, and they assign lay readers and ushers.

Following Sunday worship, everyone gathers over coffee and "snacks" to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries and catch up with each other. There are no "cliques", and everyone takes the opportunity to talk with everyone.

F. Our Ministries

A weekly Bible study occurs on Wednesday mornings at 9:30. The pastor and laypersons take turns leading studies chosen by attendees. The study is open to those not affiliated with our church.

Special, additional church services are held on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Christmas Eve.

Prior to COVID, UPC provided periodic worship services to the Minnesota Veteran's Home and the Carefree Assisted Living facility in town. Also, our Women's Guild provided well-attended, monthly community luncheons and an annual Thanksgiving dinner. While the meals are making a comeback, it is our hope that worship at both local facilities will restart soon.

Our Christian Education Board makes Sunday School classes available for children and it sponsors summer Vacation Bible School sessions in conjunction with a neighboring church. Our hope is to expand our membership to include more young families with children in the near future.

Through Pastor Scaringi's encouragement, we provide financial support for a Christian orphanage in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The House Of Love is home for women and children affected by HIV/AIDS. One gratifying aspect of this effort is the church's provision for annual tuition for "Post", a college student who is in training to become a hospital nurse. Additionally, we sponsor an elementary age student, "Fai."

Our Prayer Shawl ministry makes and presents shawls to comfort those in the community who are recently bereaved and struggling with illness as opportunities arise.

G. Our Way Of Doing Things

- We strongly support our mission statement.
- As established in our Church Constitution, we emphasize mission giving and community outreach.
- We strive to be involved in community affairs.
- We tend to be influenced by our history and traditions.
- We want our Pastor to share in church leadership.
- Church decisions tend to be governed by Boards and the Church Council.

- Ideas and plans are made and implemented by the assigned board or committee.
- Decisions are communicated to members via worship services, bulletins and monthly newsletters.

INTERIM PASTORAL EXPECTATIONS

- The pastor shall be a minister in good standing in a Christian denomination.
- The pastor shall be our worship leader as well as our spiritual leader in:
 - Pastoral oversight of the membership with the assistance of the Diaconate
 - Developing support for, and stewardship of, the temporal affairs of the church with the Trustees
 - Developing an educational program and a youth and adult fellowship ministry with the Board of Christian Education.
- Sermons shall be relevant and have a biblical focus on life.
- The time for sharing our joys and concerns in prayerful consideration is an important part of our worship, and we pray our pastor will embrace this as well.

INTERIM PASTOR EXPECTATIONS/GOALS

- This is an intentional interim position, so you cannot be a candidate for the permanent pastor position.
- This is a full-time ministerial position, so we will have a fully functional church while we go through the selection process for a permanent pastor.
- You are expected to assist the search committee in the permanent pastor selection process, who may or may not be of the same denomination as you.
- Specialized training or experience as an interim pastor is preferred.
- You should maintain office hours in Silver Bay at least two days a week in addition to Sundays. (Our previous pastor lived an hour away and worked from the church on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and he worked from home Thursdays and Fridays.)

- You should be available for home and hospital visits with ailing church members.
- Our previous pastor partnered with Sychar Lutheran Church for many holiday and Holy Week services. He also was an active member of a group of area ministers. Our hope, but not a requirement, is that you would be willing to do the same.
- The salary for this interim position is based on several factors, including housing, health insurance, and transportation needs, and is expected to range from \$3,300 to \$5,000 per month, inclusive of Social Security offset, pension benefits, etc.
- Our church family practices open communion. If you are unwilling or unable to do so, we will get someone to serve communion in your stead.

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

“At our very first visit to UPC, we felt immediately welcomed and accepted. Many people introduced themselves and spent considerable time talking with us. We knew that day that we’d found our church home.” ~ New member as of 2024

“The people of the United Protestant Church are some of the most outgoing people; seen as willing and ready to volunteer where there is anything to be done in the community thereby living their Christianity.” ~ Member of the local Catholic church

“I like your relaxed and comfortable worship without all that ritual....I like the idea of all denominations in one church.” ~ Member of a local Lutheran church

“The United Protestant Church was my parent’s congregation for many years, and we always felt welcomed when we attended with them. I am so grateful for the love, care, and support they experienced from the members at UPC until their passing. Since then, we have continued to attend and contribute to this amazing fellowship of believers.” ~ Respectful Guests

Appendix A

Past UPC Pastors

Name	Denomination	Start	Ending
Cecil C. Hankins	Baptist	9-1-53	6-1-59
John A. Able	Christian Church	10-1-59	8-31-61
Willis J. Merriman	American Baptist	1-1-62	3-1-65
Richard J. Einerson	United Church of Christ (UCC)	9-20-65	8-25-68
Paul Sylvester (Interim)	Unknown	11-68	6-69
James R. Bourdon	UCC	6-8-69	10-15-72
Floyd L. Wynn	Presbyterian	7-1-73	7-31-87
William Miller (Interim)	Presbyterian	8-30-87	1-31-88
Penny Lauver	Methodist	4-17-88	6-22-97
Roger Waid (Interim)	Presbyterian	11-97	10-11-98
Daniel Sanford	Christian Church/Disciples of Christ	11-98	9-03
Roger Waid	Presbyterian	9-03	9-06
Anne Swallow Gillis (Int)	UCC	11-06	8-24-08
Paul Scaringi	American Baptist	8-29-08	9-22-24

Those interested in this position should reach out to:

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