

United Methodist Church of Dodge Center

July

NEWSLETTER

Pastor: Chad Christensen

Email: revchrste5@gmail.com

Cell phone: 507-517-4160

Pastor Chad's Office hours:

Tuesday & Thursday- 9:00-12 :00

Administrative Assistant: Janet Sinning

Email: secdcumc@gmail.com

Phone: 507-374-6885 (Office)

**Office Hours: Monday & Thursday's
8:00- 1:00**

Website: www.dodgecenterumc.org

Visit us and like us on Facebook!

Dodge Center United Methodist Church
PO Box 98
20 First Street NE
Dodge Center, MN 55927

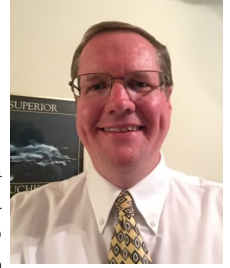
**Worship Services 8:00 am in
person and online on Facebook.**

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
July 18**



Pastor Chad's Message...

"Worship Centers Us"



I hope all of you are off to a good start on your summertime and these days point you in fun and interesting directions. I want to take a moment and write about our worship as it forms us as a faith community. Many make personal decisions about worshiping less during the summertime. It can be related to the school season where there is a "break" for a few months. There are new places to get to on the weekends because summer affords this to us more so than winter. And it has been said, "I can worship God when seeing a sunset at the lake or seeing my kids play ball."

God knew far, far ahead to our time the reasons for taking a break from worship...so God gave Moses the tablets of stone we know as the Ten Commandments. One tablet has the statement "Honor the Sabbath and keep it holy." Resting in God from the labors of a week is an intentional design that God has placed into our lives so that we can be centered in God, and not just being centered in and of itself, but centered in God and hearing of his goodness to us and his plans for us.

It is quite easy to be distracted away from our Lord. Coming out of the pandemic has meant for many people a craving to "make up for last year's losses" or try to get strong traction with fervor to get back to life as we knew it, pre-Covid. Or simply carry on our hard work ethics and maintain the bases covered at home to keep our family moving in good directions. But I sense a jungle of distraction in such an embedded spirit. It can be our detriment. Any strength taken too far can become a weakness. I posted writer Dave Hollis' advice recently on my personal Facebook page:

In the rush to return to normal, use this time to consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to.

God centers us when we come together as a community (in-person and when we need to stay home yet and worship virtually). Please know that such worship in its centering is also a way for God and the church to equip us for ministry (see my June 20 Facebook worship service delivered from home). (Cont. on page3)



Matthew Rohwer	6
Kinley O'Neil	7
Shawn Lepp	10
Gavin O'Neil	11
Nikol Dreyer	17
Trevor Kispert	18
Courtney Kispert	19
Karen Franko	22
Tyler Kispert	23
Kelly Amunrud	24
Mark Freerksen	26
Joyce Parker	27

Readers:

July 4	Kathy Bartz
July 11	Lisa O'Neil
July 18	Tyler Kispert
July 25	Ralph Burtis

Counters:

July 4	Kathy Bartz and Kelly Amunrud
July 11	Dale and Lona Jensen
July 18	Shawn Lepp and Kim Marquardt
July 25	Lisa O'Neil and Ralph Burtis

If you are unable to do your duty on the assigned Sunday, please find a substitute.



- Grandchildren
- Service men and women
- Those who have no church home
- Young adults who have left the church
- Those who suffer from mental illness and addictions; and their families
- Those affected by Alzheimer's and other ailments of aging
- Traveling mercies
- Unspoken prayers

Thank you

Many thanks for all the good wishes, phone calls, and visits. I'm doing good.

Richard Urbain

???????

Did you borrow a hymnal or Bible during the time we were shut down? We are missing approx. 7 hymnals and 14 Bibles. If you borrowed one could you bring it back so the pews holders are filled again. Many thanks.



Dale & Lona Jensen	10
Richard & Deborah Papenfus	10
Dennis & Marty Hester	31



NOTE:

NO WWAP this month.

NOTE: If you have moved or changed your phone number, please let the church office know. We want to stay in touch with you.

That means that:

Worship is education

Worship is spiritual direction

Worship is youth ministry

Worship is care for the elderly, the middle aged, and the young

Worship is preparing you for being a Christian servant

We look forward to seeing a fuller, vibrant congregation of worshipers as time unfolds. There will be much joy ahead for our worshiping community. And, let us always know that God is with us and active in our midst, forming us into faithful people who belong to God and serve Him gladly.

Peace and blessing upon your summer.,

Pastor Chad

BEING PATIENT WITH YOURSELF

From Ministry Matters

Between 1999 and 2012 Jacob and Jake ranked among the most popular baby names. In the preceding decades, not so much. I was always the only Jake in my class. Finding a coffee mug, a t-shirt, or a key ring with my name on it was impossible. So you can imagine how startling this experience was: In the 80's I was still a grad student and teaching my very first intro philosophy course. Some class sessions went well. Others were pretty rocky. On that particular morning my lecture had induced mass catatonia among my students, so I spent the rest of the day kicking myself and muttering "stupid, stupid, stupid" to myself. Later in the afternoon, I strolled up a sidewalk to a nearby watering hole to meet some friends for a whining session. A tow headed little boy of about nine or ten walked toward me. When we were within ten feet of each other, he caught my eye, smiled, tossed up his hands in a silly-me gesture, and laughingly said, "Stupid Jacob!" How on earth did this kid know my name? Not to mention, how did he know that I'd been calling myself "stupid" for hours? And most incredibly, how did he know just the way to tell me to give myself a break? To show myself a little compassion as a beginning teacher?

I joined my friends and hurriedly told them the story. Our waitress came to the table to take our order. Just then, that little boy strolled up to her. She said, "This is my son Jacob." He grinned and held up his school bag like a trophy, "I forgot to bring this in. I've got to do my homework." Well, that explained the name thing. But honestly, I think the lesson was a God thing: Be patient with yourself. As I've come to see, being patient with myself makes it possible for me to be patient with others. And crucially, patience is how we come to know God. In his letter to the very early church, James writes, "Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord." (James 5:7) Even if we weren't already deep into Advent, many of us we read this to say: "Wait. Hold your temper and tamp down your frustrations. Jesus is coming back, he's going to fix this mess." In other words, most of us think of patience as the struggle to fend off irritability and temper tantrums when we're frustrated or disappointed by delayed gratification or closure or relief. Bruce Springsteen sounds pretty restless in these lyrics:

Radio's on and I'm movin' 'round my place
I check my look in the mirror
Wanna change my clothes, my hair, my face
Man, I ain't gettin' nowhere
I'm just livin' in a dump like this
There's somethin' happenin' somewhere

—(Bruce Springsteen, "Dancing in the Dark")

We rush around looking for the pill or the food or the job, the haircut or the car or the sex partner who will relieve us or gratify us or anesthetize us. Patience is simply waiting to get the thing we don't have. And, man, nobody chooses to spend time in the waiting room if they don't have to.

By contrast, I've begun to think about patience as the way to acknowledge and to respond to a basic state of our humanity. We are restless, but not in the way portrayed in those lyrics. God made us that way.

Augustine sees our restlessness as essential to our spiritual life. In his Confessions, he famously writes, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." God created us to be in seamless, continuous relationship with us. We are who we most truly are in relationship with our Maker.

In this life, our union with God is always fleeting and incomplete. We will be restless. And yet that very restlessness—our deep longing—points beyond this moment to the eternal.

Patience is learning to stay with ourselves as imperfect and incomplete, learning to be compassionate with ourselves. And from that patience with ourselves emerges our ability to be patient with others. Patience is how we love ourselves, how we love others, and how we love God.

Richard Rohr puts it this way:

"Our task is simply to embody heaven now. We cannot 'get there'; we can only 'be there'—which ironically is to 'be here!' Love, like prayer, is not so much an action that we do, but a reality that we are. We don't decide to be loving. Love is our True Self. It is where we came from and where we're going. All spiritual growth is no more than a matter of becoming who we already are." ("The Search for the Real," CAC, Dec. 20, 2017)

Patience is being here—with yourself and with others as we actually are—because that is where God is.

A volunteer is needed to provide flowers for the altar on Sundays, July 4, 11, 18, and 25. Choose one or more Sundays and please let Lois Lepp know. Flowers from your garden would be wonderful!



Coffee fellowship will resume on Sunday, June 27th.

A sign up sheet to provide treats is in the fellowship area at church or call Lois Lepp if you can do this. The coffee pot will be started each Sunday and juice is available.



to Donna Rohwer's family
Donnas funeral was held here
June 19th.

You're Invited!!

Join us for a...

Free Dinner

(open to anyone in the community)

Take Out & Curbside Pickup will be available

Wednesday, July 21

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Dodge Center United Methodist Church

1st Street and 1st Avenue; Dodge Center



DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021
APPROVED



ATTENDANCE: Beth Hanggi (SPRC), Chad Christensen (Pastor), Dale Jensen (Trustees), Kelly Amunrud (Trust Fund), Janet Bugarin (SPRC), Kelly Amunrud (Trust Fund), Lisa O'Neil (Ad Council Chairperson), Sheila Freerksen (Secretary Ad Council), and Tyler Kispert (Treasurer).

MEETING: Lisa called the meeting to order. The Vision Mission statement was read in unison. Concerns and praise reports were shared. Pastor Chad opened the meeting with a prayer.

SECRETARY: The April 20, 2021 Ad Council minutes were distributed. Motion was made to approve the updated minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

TREASURER: The ending April bank balance was \$9,405.92. The Memorial Fund balance is \$12,459.50

TRUSTEES: We were called by the parsonage renters and they would like to have their lawn sprayed for the weeds growing. This will be taken care of.

SPRC: The items for the \$2,500 promotional items grant have been ordered. Our current web host offered Janet S. a discount since she contacted them about switching providers. She will compare the long-term costs of the new web host (included in the grant) and the current web host. The ad council approved to have her move forward with the one that was most cost effective. She will then work on updating our current or new website. Janet S. also received a post card grant (500 cards available) and the grant will cover all costs of the cards and their postage. These will be sent to residents in the Dodge Center area, inviting them to worship with us. Tomorrow evening, May 19th from 5-6pm, we will have a free community dinner (take-out meals only).

PASTOR: See page 2 for details. Pastor Chad requested vacation from May 28 – 30. He will find another pastor or have a lay person lead worship on Sunday, May 30.

OTHER BUSINESS: The book study “Discovering Hope” Building Vitality in Rural Congregations by David Polling-Goldenne and L. Shannon Jung will begin Thursday, June 3rd at 6 p.m. Read 2 chapters each week before the meeting. We will be meeting on Thursdays for 5 weeks for this book. Barb Streed, a Lutheran Pastor, will give the sermon on Sunday, June 6. Pastor Chad will be here to lead worship that Sunday. The Dodge Center UMC Check-Up Report from February 2020 was distributed earlier and reviewed. We decided on what parts to share at our Congregational Check up meeting. We discussed and decided to try something different for our next communion service since the individual cups are difficult to open.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 6:00pm at the beginning of the book study meeting. We will also preview the reports ahead of time for approval at the meeting.

Sheila Freerksen
Administrative Council Secretary

JULY 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3
Bible
Study 6-7

4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Bible Study
6-7



11 12 13 14 15 16 17
Bible Study
6-7

18 19 20 21 22 23 24
Ad Council Free
6:30 pm Dinner
5-6 pm
Bible Study
6-7



25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Bible Study
6-7

THE NEWSLETTER
Dodge Center United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 98
Dodge Center, MN 55927
507-374-6885



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

July 2021

While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved-with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"