

April 2025
Newsletter

United Methodist Church
of Dodge Center
PO BOX 98,
20 First Street NE,
Dodge Center, MN

Pastor: Chad Christensen
Email: revchrste5@gmail.com
Cell phone: 507-517-4160
Pastor Chad's Office hours:

Sun: After worship
Mon. & Tues 9-noon
Friday- off
Sat. home visits
Other times by appt.

Administrative Assistant:
Janet Bugarin

Email: secdcumc@gmail.com
Office Phone: 507-374-6885
(please leave a message)

Website:
www.dodgecenterumc.org

Visit us and like us on Facebook!
(United Methodist Church
of Dodge Center)

Worship Service is
at 8:15 am on
Sunday morning
in person and
online on Facebook.

Deadline for
the May
Newsletter is
April 16th



Pastor Chad's Ink

April 2025

"Easter: The Best Indication of New Life!"

The following excerpt is written by Jeff Evans of Texas. His description of what Easter's message has done for him states it better than I could.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. John 20:1 (NIV)

Writes Jeff: One Easter Sunday, my pastor preached on the account of the Resurrection in John 20. I don't even recall what the main point of her message was because the phrase "while it was still dark" in the Gospel reading had already captured my attention.

My wife and I had been going through a very difficult time regarding destructive choices that our teenage son was making. We had lost control, and we knew it. Our situation seemed hopeless, and it felt like it would go on forever.

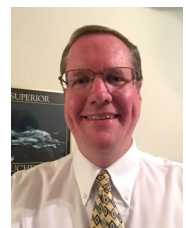
But though the scripture reading began with "while it was still dark," as it continued it became clear that God had already been at work? Not only had the stone been rolled away but our Lord Jesus Christ had risen! In a time of perpetual sadness and despair, the Holy Spirit whispered to my heart that although my outward circumstances had not changed, the God of resurrection was at work in our son's life. Hope and faith were kindled in my wife and me that Easter morning. How wonderful that our loving God speaks to us at our lowest moments, giving us hope of resurrection and new life to come!

Prayer: Dear Father, thank you for the stories of hope we find in scripture, especially that of your Son's resurrection. Help us to trust in that living hope. Amen!

May God grant to you grace and faith in these holy days!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

~Pastor Christensen





April Birthdays

Evan Schmoll	2
Jackie Schmoll	3
Dylan Freerksen	5
Andrew Narveson	5
Lyla Bowman	10
Brent Freerksen	11
Deegan O'Neil	11
Beverly Rohwer	30
Ellie Freerksen	30

April Anniversaries

Chris and Lisa O'Neil

Thank You To Our April Volunteers!

Readers

April 6
April 13
April 20
April 27

Tyler Kispert
Kathy Bartz
Janet Bugarin
Kelly Amunrud

Counters

April 6
April 13
April 20
April 27

Lisa O'Neil and Doris Weber
Kathy Bartz and Kelly A
Kim Marquardt and Shawn Lepp
Kelly Amunrud and Doris Weber

Communion

Deb Papenfus

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



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our church has had a prayer shawl ministry for about 6+ years. Currently we have gifted all our shawls and we would like to replenish our supply. If anyone knows of someone who would be willing to knit or crochet a prayer shawl or two for us, that would be very much appreciated. A suggested size could be 24" x 60", but any size is welcome!

Contact Lois Lepp or the church office with questions. Also, any donations of yarn, full or partial skeins, would be appreciated and we will find someone to make a shawl.

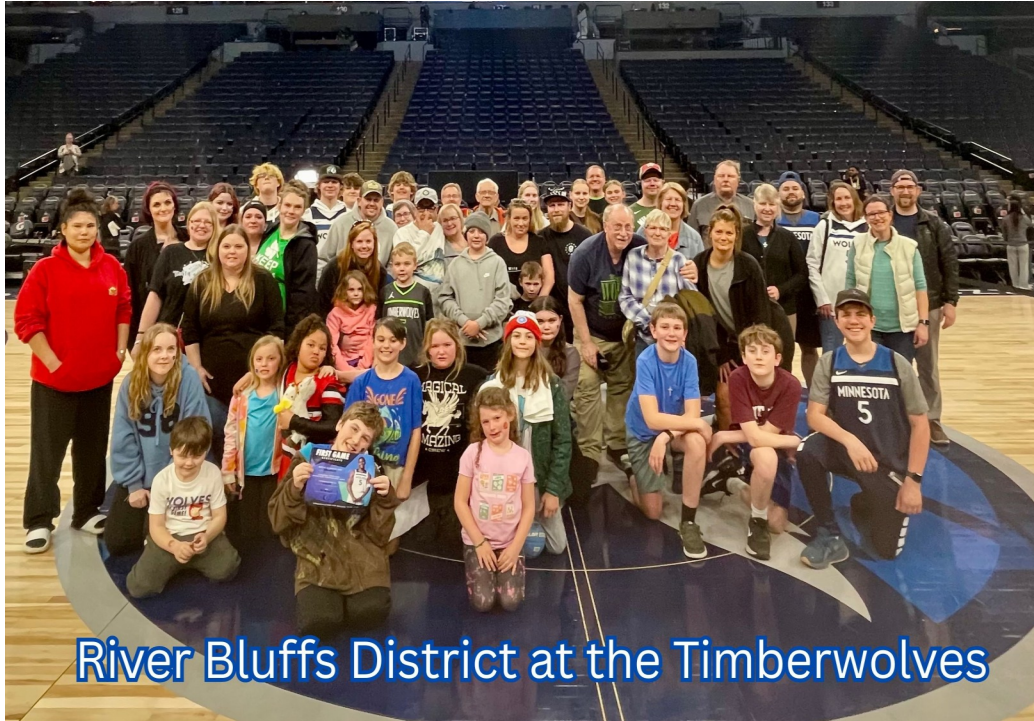
These prayer shawls come with a poem saying they were prayed over when constructed. They are given to anyone who could use a little encouragement and comfort during a difficult time. 19 shawls were gifted between 2023 and March of 2025.



2025



11	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 8:15 Worship with Communion Sunday School	7	8	9	10 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	11	12 9:30 WWAP
13 8:15 Worship/ Sunday School Noisy Offering  PALM SUNDAY	14	15 5:30-Ad Board Meeting	16 Newsletter deadline 5:00-6:00 Community Meal	17 Maundy Thursday	18 Noon- Good Friday Service here	19
20 8:15 Worship/ no Sunday School  HE IS RISEN!	21	22 9:45 Worship led by pastor Chad at Fairview	23 5:00-6:00 Community Meal 6:00- Confirmation	24 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	25	26
27 8:15 Worship/ Sunday School	28	29	30 6:00 pm Confirmation			



River Bluffs District at the Timberwolves

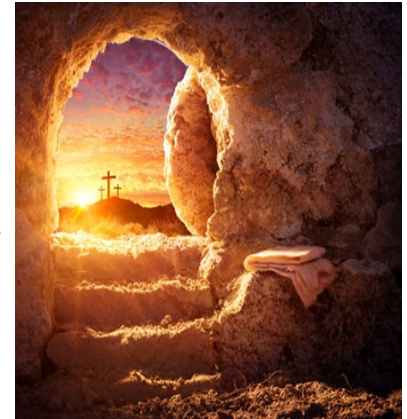
Pastor Chad and 2 members from DCUMC had a fun time at the Timberwolves game on March 14th! Thank you to Christ United Methodist in Rochester for inviting us to join them. \$250.00 was collected from the group to donate to UMCOR.

Sunday School News

April Lesson – Easter: Go and Tell

Main Idea:

The resurrected Jesus told his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded. The unit uses the Bible story included in Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20. All four Gospel writers tell the story of Jesus' resurrection. Details differ, but all tell the same message: Jesus lives! Details differ, but all agree that women were the first to hear that good news.



Objectives:

Children will explore the following concepts...

- ~ Jesus rose from the dead.
- ~ Through Jesus, God offers new life to people everywhere.
- ~ Jesus expected his followers to continue the work he started.
- ~ What Jesus told his followers applies to Jesus' disciples today
- ~ Each of us has unique abilities we can use to tell the good news of Jesus.

Sunday School NEWS!!

There are classes offered every Sunday for kids ages 3 years old through 6th grade. The classes will be during the 8:15 am worship. As in the past, the children will start in worship and then go to class after the children's message.

April 6, 13, 27 <i>*April 13 Palm Sunday</i>	Easter: Go and Tell (Matthew 28:19) <i>April 13 Noisy Offering for Heifer Funds</i>
April 20 (EASTER)	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
May 4, 11, 18	Pentecost (Acts 2:4)



Our church will be collecting money for Heifer International, beginning **March 23** through **April 27**.

We will kick off our Heifer International fundraiser on **Sunday, March 23**. Join us for worship that day.

This is our 14th year that we have been collecting money to send to Heifer International. Our goal has always been to raise \$1,000 or more. Last year, we collected \$1,233.70. The children were able to choose a variety of animals to send to the Heifer participants. They had a great time choosing them. Let's do it again this year! Since 2012, we have donated \$11,523.45 to Heifer International. Wow! Thank you for your continued support!

Join us **Sunday, April 13** for **Palm Sunday** and a **NOISY offering** of coins. Collect your coins and bring them on Sunday, April 13. Cash and checks are also accepted. You can make checks out to Dodge Center UMC and put "Heifer International" in the memo section. We will collect money through Sunday, April 27. There will be a table set up at church for your donations so you can bring a donation in any time. For more information on Heifer International you may go to www.heifer.org.

April Meetings and Events



Please join us for a Good Friday Service here on April 18th at noon.



Ad Council

The next Ad Council meeting will be held Tuesday April 15th at 5:30 PM.



Adult Caregivers Support Group

We will meet on April 10th and 24th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.



Greeters needed!
Being greeted when you enter a church is something that visitors appreciate. We may not have new people every week, but the times that we do, we should be prepared to give them a hearty welcome. Please let Janet know if you are willing to offer Christian Hospitality to our members and guests!

One of the ministries I provide is pastoral counseling, simply listening to your story. If you have a relationship that is concerning you, I may be able to give you some guidance, or refer you to a qualified licensed counselor or other resources, with confidentiality. Let me know how I may be of aid to you.

Pastor Chad






CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

FIND A SUPPORT SYSTEM TODAY!

Build a support system with people who understand. This caregiver support group is a safe place for ALL caregivers, family, and friends who are caring for someone with chronic illness or dementia to share their concerns, needs and feelings.



Location:

Dodge Center United Methodist Church
20 1st Street
Dodge Center, MN 55927

Normal Date/Time:

2nd and 4th
Thursday of the month.
From 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

- ♦ Exchange practical information on caregiving challenges and possible solutions.
- ♦ Talk through issues and behaviors and find ways to cope
- ♦ Learn about community resources.
- ♦ Occasional educational speakers.
- ♦ Meetings are in-person.

**In April, we will meet on the
10th and on the 24th.**

Feel free to contact:

*Mary Sue Sandeno - 507-208-8672

Beth Hanggi - 507-261-2989

United Methodist Church of Dodge Center
507-374-6885

(Please leave a message if there is no answer.)



MOVIE NIGHT

(Childcare provided for parents who want to enjoy the movie.)

**Saturday,
April 26**

Time: 4:30 pm

*(Doors open at 4:00 pm; time for pizza before
the movie.)*

Dodge Center

United Methodist Church

1st Street and 1st Avenue; Dodge Center



**Free PIZZA, POPCORN and
MOVIE on the big screen**



You're Invited!!

Join us for a...

Community Dinner

Menu: Meatloaf, Potatoes and Corn

**Wednesday,
April 16th**

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

Dodge Center United Methodist Church
Corner of 1st Street and 1st Avenue NE



**FREE WILL DONATIONS
ACCEPTED**

*Donations this month will go to
Heifer International*





**DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
TUESDAY, February 18, 2025 (REVISED)**

ATTENDANCE: Chad Christensen (Pastor), Beth Hanggi (SPRC), Kelly Amunrud (Trust Fund), Lisa O'Neil (Ad Council Chairperson), Tyler Kispert (Treasurer).

MEETING: Lisa called the meeting to order and Pastor Chad opened the meeting with a prayer.

SECRETARY: The January Ad Council minutes as well as the Charge Conference minutes were distributed. Changes were discussed. Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

TREASURER: End of January balance \$24,682.70. (Set aside for parsonage \$8,054.11). Memorial fund end of January balance \$18,375.41. Discussion was held about capping the set aside for parsonage at \$10,000. Everyone was in agreement.

TRUST FUND: End of December 2024 balance \$85,283.45; end of January 2025 balance \$87,833.70.

TRUSTEES: Jeremy Gnagey removes our snow, phone number was given to all Ad council members in case of a need. The thermostat at the church was repaired.

SPRC: Janet is on vacation 2/18 - 2/23.

PASTOR: (See page 2) There will be some youth from UMC going to the Timberwolves game. Pastor Chad discussed about an outreach program he could provide if there is interest.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Lent season: No confirmation held during Lent. Ash Wednesday service will be at noon on March 5th. We will discuss Maundy Thursday services at the next Ad Council meeting.

Heifer International The kickoff will be March 16th and end April 27th. Lisa will do a presentation at church during kickoff.

Dodge County Expo Decision was made to not participate this year.

Microsoft Group program Discussion regarding the use of a Trinity members Microsoft option free Zoom. This is not compatible with everyone. We do not use Zoom enough to make it worth the cost to pay for this group. Pastor Chad will look at Google Meet or Blue Jeans as these are free.

Trinity/UMC worship times Discussion was held with options that Trinity proposed. There will be additional meetings regarding this. Options were discussed.

Community Events 3/22/25 we will host a pizza and puzzle event from 11-2. We will provide pizza, dessert, and water. Will ask that they bring a Food shelf donation. **4/26/25** we will host a movie date night for adults. We will have pizza and popcorn and provide childcare. We will discuss more at the March Ad Council meeting.

Youth Events Discussion regarding some upcoming youth events available in the area. Pastor Chad will bring this to the confirmation students.

March Community Dinner – Will be held March 19th. The menu will be meatloaf, mashed potatoes, corn, and cupcakes.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 18th at 5:30 PM
Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council Secretary

DCUMC: Pastor Chad's report for 1/1/25 through 2/3/25

Home/phone visits: 8 Pre-marriage/wedding planning visits: 0 Weddings: 0

Nursing home or facility visits: 1 (Prairie Meadows)

Funerals: 0 (attended visitation of Kevin Kispert, 1/29)

Vacation days taken in 2025: 2; Sick days taken in 2025: 0.5

Pastor Chad's Ministries & Activities:

- Planning and leading general Sunday worship services; began new sermon series on "Applications of Faith"
- Community meal, 1/15
- Confirmation prep work and teaching
- Tuesday morning 7am weekly Bible studies at Trinity with DCUMC men attending, 2 Tuesdays
- Church newsletter articles and communications
- Fairview nursing home worship, 1/28
- January Charge Conference at DCUMC, visits with Rev. Andy Petter of Byron, who was the Elder presiding on Jan. 16.
- Attended WWAP, 1/18
- Attended Dodge Center pastors ministerium group, 1/16

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities

- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5
- Easter this year is on April 20

OFFICE HRS: TRINITY office hours: Sun: 9:45-noon; Wed. & Thurs. 9-Noon at Trinity; Saturday: Pastoral visitation and final prep for Sunday for both churches; also on Saturday taking phone calls and ministering in community, periodically checking in to office when needed.

DCUMC hours: Mon. & Tues.: 9-noon (w/secretary at UMC) Friday: day off;
Pastor Chad's mobile number: (call/text) 507-517-4160 -End-

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



April 2025

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED