

December 2024
Newsletter

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

Pastor: Chad Christensen
Email: revchris5@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 January
Newsletter is
December 18th



Pastor Chad's Ink



“On the Morning of Christ’s Nativity”

Seventeenth century English writer and poet, John Milton, wrote this wonderful poem for Christmas morning (a portion of it is here):

Say Heav’nly Muse, shall not thy sacred vein
Afford a present to the Infant God?
Hast thou no verse, no hymn, or solemn strain,
To welcome him to this his new abode,
Now while the heav’n, by the Sun’s team untrod,
Hath took no print of the approaching light,
And all the spangled host keep watch in squadrons bright?


Our Lord Jesus entered the world like all of us—birthed, naked, and helpless—crying out as the small warm company of the gathered came to pay homage to him. Jesus’ parents, the shepherds, the wise men, the gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The gentleness and incredible measure of God’s love shone through the One who was human and yet divine. He was one of us, not far away, but with us. Shall we not also bring to the Lord Jesus our offerings, like those present in that stable near Bethlehem? Our warm greetings, our good cheer, the happiest of praises, and to simply to dwell with him. May your Christmas this year be one where you can actively see the various kinds of welcome of our Lord.

God come to us. God be with us!

May these Advent and Christmas seasons richly bless you this year!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chad





Celebrate

December Birthdays
And
Anniversaries

Birthdays

Charleen Dostal	1
Matt Narveson	3
Daytin Freerksen	6
Brittany Delzer	6
Rose Ella Subbert	7
Sandy Delzer	21
Kim Schmoll	24
Thomas Bowman	24
Lisa O'Neil	24
Glenn Wallerich	24
Peggy Narveson	26

Anniversaries

Jason and Laura Peck	18
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Thank You To Our December Volunteers!

Readers

December 1	Kelly Amunrud
December 8	Kathy Bartz
December 15	Janet Bugarin
December 22	Lisa O'Neil
December 24	Kelly Amunrud
December 29	Janet Bugarin

Counters

December 1	Kelly Amunrud and Doris Weber
December 8	Kathy Bartz and Shawn Lepp
December 15	Kim Marquardt and Lisa O'Neil
December 22	Lisa O'Neil and Doris Weber
December 24	Kelly Amunrud and Shawn Lepp
December 29	Lisa O'Neil and Kathy Bartz

Communion

Deb Papenfus



Loving God, be with all who need your healing touch.

Those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, most recently the families of Glenn Franko and Sharon Darr, as well as others who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Those who need your healing touch: Bruce, Gerry Fahning, and Delmer Paulson; Charleen Dostal, Lea Flury, those suffering from memory loss, loneliness, chronic pain, depression or other mental illness; those awaiting test results, diagnosis, and prognosis; those trying to overcome addiction, and all others we name in our hearts and minds. Hear us as we pray, dear Lord.

Prayer Quote:

O Lord God, loosen the hold on us of everything but your Holy Spirit. We are divided persons; unify our lives. We are doubleminded; build in us the single mind of Christ. So break the fascination of this world for us that even when we fall back into its embrace, it cannot hold us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**-Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.
Assurances of the Heart**






The family of Glenn Franko wishes to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during her illness and at the time of her death.

A special thank you to those who helped before, during and after her funeral.
Blessed be her memory.



2024



11	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:15 Worship with Communion 	2	3	4 6:00 PM Confirmation	5	6	7
8 8:15 Worship <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 	9	10	11 6:00 PM Confirmation	12 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	13	14 9:30-11:30 Women's pot-luck Christmas Brunch
15 8:15 Worship Potluck snacks 	16	17 5:30 Ad Council	18 5:00-6:00 Community Meal 6:00 Confirmation	19	20	21
22 8:15 Worship <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 	22	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candle Light Service	25  Office Closed	26 Pastor Chad on vacation through January 1, 2025	27	28
29 8:15 Worship	30	31 	Jan 1, 2025 			



Join us for our annual Women's Potluck Christmas Brunch

Date: December 14, 2024
Time: 9:30 to 11:30

Come for food , fun, and fellowship along with Christmas Carol singing. Bring a friend or two! For the gift exchange, you may bring a wrapped, edible gift, homemade or purchased.

Any questions, contact Lois Lepp at 507-421-3474.

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



On November 10th, The MN Adult and Teen Challenge Women's Choir led us in worship with inspiring music and testimony of their experience of healing, and their path to sobriety through having a relationship with God. We hosted a continental breakfast after the service giving the congregation an opportunity to visit with the women.

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia this year to adorn our sanctuary for the Advent season, please indicate your choice of size and color and return this form to the church by:

Sunday December 8th.

You may also email or call Janet (507)884-5416 by December 9th. The church email is secdcumc@gmail.com

Please circle what size plant you would like.

- 4 1/2 " plants - \$5.00 each
- 6 1/2" plants - \$12.00 each
- 7 1/2" plants - \$27.00 each

Please circle which flower color you would like.

Red, burgundy, white, pink and jingle bells (red/white)

If you want your plant to be in honor or in memory of someone, please fill in the name(s) below. The names will be printed in the bulletins on December 15, 22nd, and on Christmas Eve. You may take your plant home after the Christmas Eve service if you wish,

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____



The family of Glenny Franko wishes to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during her illness and at the time of her death.

A special thank you to those who helped before, during and after her funeral service. Blessed be her memory.



Joy

Christmas Prayer of Joy: Heavenly Father, as we celebrate the birth of your Son, fill our hearts with the joy that comes from knowing Him. May the joy of Christmas be a constant presence in our lives, reminding us of the true source of happiness found in Jesus Christ. Let us share this joy with others and be a reflec-

DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL "CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD"

Main Idea: God sent Jesus into the world to bring peace to all people and all nations. Today Christians from around the world prepare for and celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-11 "On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage."

Objectives:

Children will explore the following concepts:

- Hear and experience the story of the magi visiting the Christ child.
- Experience Christmas customs from around the world.
- Study the stars and connect to the magi as astrologers of their time.
- Create gifts to be given to children around the world.
- Create gifts to be given to shut-ins or to a neighborhood food cupboard.

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. The schedule through December is below. Mark your calendars now! See you soon!

Preschool (3 years old) – 6th Grade

Preschool (3 years old) – 6th Grade **Preschool (3 years old) – 6th Grade**

Date	Lesson
December 1, 8, 15	Christmas Around the World (Matthew 2:11)
December 22, 29	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL



Pastor Chad is looking to provide a "Half Lock-In" during the Christmas break for our youth, gathering late afternoon and finishing at Midnight. Combining with Methodist youth from Dodge Center, and bringing your friends, this event will be held at Trinity. Let Pastor know how you can help, and for the youth which days during the Christmas break are available to have this event. Thank you!!



December Meetings and Events



On Sunday December 15, we will have potluck Christmas snacks after worship. Please bring a snack to share and join in the fellowship!

Ad Council

The next meeting will be held
Tuesday December 17th
at 5:30 PM.



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



Adult Caregivers Support Group

We will meet on Dec.
12th 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!

NEW MEMBERS


Our Methodist church is seeking individuals and families interested in joining the church. Discernment on choosing a church for one's spiritual growth is a meaningful and deliberately slow process. During New Member Sundays, we recognize those who desire to join us in ministry through the church. Let Pastor know if you have in mind someone who is open to joining our church or considering attending a church. Pastor would be happy to touch base with them. Keep the ministry of outreach and prospective member recruitment in your prayers. Keep the ministry of outreach and prospective member recruitment in your prayers. Contact Pastor Chad at 507- 507-517-4160 or the church office at 507-374-6885.



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 December we will meet on the 12th but not on the 26th due to Christmas.

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.)

You're Invited!!

Join us for a...

Community Dinner

Menu: Chicken pot pie over biscuits, fruit cup and cookies

**Wednesday,
December 18th**

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

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



In October, we served a total of 41 people and received \$141.00 in free will donations which were given to the MN Adult and Teen Challenge on Sunday November 10th.

In November, we served a total of 50 meals and received \$196.00 in free will donations which were given to the Lions Club for Santa Anonymus.

**FREE WILL DONATIONS
ACCEPTED**

*Donations this month will go to
the Dodge County Sheriff*

Emergency Fund

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094CA5AC2AA1FA7-53424600-umcfree#/>

DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
TUESDAY, October 21, 2024 (REVISED)**



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

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

SECRETARY: The September Ad Council minutes were distributed. Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

TREASURER: End of September balance \$21,272.21. (Set aside for parsonage \$6,354.11) Memorial fund end of September balance \$18,665.05.

TRUST FUND: End of September balance \$86,288.62.

TRUSTEES:

MEMORIAL: TABLED TO NOVEMBER MEETING - The item of the new lapel microphone for Pastor Chad. Pastor Chad will get some quotes and bring them back to the next meeting for discussion and approval.

SPRC: No items

PASTOR: (See page 2) Pastor Chad was sick on 10/20, Kelly covered service.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Community Dinners – The annual fundraiser, Pork Chop dinner raised \$2209.30. October raised \$141 for the MN ATC group. November dinner will be hot turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, roll, and bar.

- Family movie night – October 25 th at 7 PM, everything is taken care of.

- Trinity joint meeting – Lisa and Beth asked Tyler to be available for this meeting, date to be determined. Pastor's compensation will be discussed.

- MN Adult and Teen Challenge – Group will be here November 10 th . We will provide rolls, fresh fruit, cheese & crackers, bars, coffee and creamer.

- Charge Conference – Reports will be due at charge conference (date to be set) or 2 wks after. Clergy compensation is due December 1 st . Discussion was held regarding these items.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 19 th at 5:30 PM

Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council Secretary

DCUMC: Pastor Chad's report for 9/6/24 through 10/3/24

Home/phone visits: 24 Pre-marriage/wedding planning visits: 0 Weddings: 0

Nursing home or facility visits: 2 (lead worship at Circle Manor and Fairview) Funerals: (1, Donald Subbert) Vacation days taken since Jan. 1: 22.5 (including 2 Sundays, June 23 & Sept 1) Sick days taken since Jan. 1: 6.5

Pastor Chad's Ministries & Activities:

- Planning and leading general Sunday worship services
- Several hospital/facility visits to Mayo to see ill parishioners
- Community meal, 9/18
- Confirmation prep work and teaching, cleaning up church yard on 10/3 & 10/10
- Attended WWAP, 9/14
- Attended Caregiver group, 9/26
- Tuesday morning 7am weekly Bible studies at Trinity with DCUMC men attending
- Newsletter articles and communications
- Attended Triton area pastors prayer meeting

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities

- Continue confirmation classes (no class on MEA Wed., Oct. 16)
- I look forward to attending one Caregiver meeting group each month, the 4th Thursday.
- MN Adult and Teen Challenge women will sing in worship on Nov. 10

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

December 2024

Lea Flury
c/o Field Crest Care Center
318 2nd Street NE, Room 32
Hayfield, MN 55940