

February 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](http://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 March  
Newsletter is  
February 19th



## Pastor Chad's Ink

### Pastor's Ink

Imagine moving to a place you do not want to go. Imagine being taken to that place. As if another foreign military took us—all of us—to another land... let's say, to northern Manitoba or Saskatchewan. We stayed in heated tents, barely warm enough, We had meager food to eat, We left all our possessions behind, We were lost to a life of captivity—and, just as harsh, we had the realization that we were guilty, and had such punishment coming to us. Shutter the thought!! Enslaved without hope, without a future except the future of serving their oppressors, the Israelites had nothing and acknowledged it with a cry for mercy. There's a lot of narrative in the Old Testament about people going to places they don't want to go to. BUT, the people of Israel were directed beyond the immediate calamity they found themselves in and back to a love relationship they had with their God. This reality is the basis for the prophet Isaiah's expression of God's promise, to us today: That God loves God's people. God had heard their cries, had delivered them from their captors, and had drawn them into the personal relationship through a covenant that forever after would be called to mind by God's promise: "I will be your God, and you shall be my people." God had freed Israel before from captivity in Egypt. Could it happen again? Memory opened up a glimmer of hope for the people in exile. They remembered God loved them and would sustain them. The sole ground of Israel's confidence is stated clearly in Isaiah 43:2: "I will be with you..." says the Lord. From this most central of biblical promises stems a divine truth—God is with us, especially when we are in a place we would rather not be. It is unlikely we will ever face a physical exile. But there are other "metaphorical exiles" in our lives. What is your own story of being in a place you did not want to be? Are you in that place right now?? We all face these times. And we yearn for the authentic word of God to comfort us, console us, and to help us in knowing... Yes, Lord!! You are with me, when I endure difficult, uncertain times. Isaiah gives such a word. It takes a willingness to look deeply into the heart of life for ourselves, to make some sense of the situation in which we find ourselves. And it takes courage to recognize the competing truths and the complex realities of our life to give way to any kind of understanding. Even in this, we find ourselves in precarious, unstable, and trying situations. BUT, ALSO, within these things, for you and me, is a very loving expression of God's will toward us as God claims us, saying: "Do not fear, for I am with you—I have called you by name... you are mine and I love you" (Isaiah 41:10; 43:4). These are the words of your baptism. God has made his claim on each of us, and does not forsake us. Mark yourself each morning with the sign of the cross with your finger, while standing in front of the mirror, to remember your baptism. And may you live into being God's people in all that you do with the sure sign and promise of love from a loving God.

Grace and Peace to you, Dodge Center United Methodist People of God.  
~Pastor Chad





### February Birthdays

Linda Walerich	1
Kole Delzer	3
Connor Kispert	9
Jason Peck	9
Janet Bugarin	13
Roger Freerksen	14
Lois Lepp	16
Steve Delzer	17
Cheryl Stowers	19
Robert Bowman	24
Chris O'Neill	27

### February Anniversaries

Robert and Julie Bowman	15
Melecio and Janet Bugarin	18

## Thank You To Our February Volunteers!

### Readers

February 2  
February 9  
February 16  
February 23

Tyler Kispert  
Kathy Bartz  
Kelly Amunrud  
Janet Bugarin

### Counters

February 2  
February 9  
February 16  
February 23

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

### Communion

Linda Wallerich

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

## February – A New Month Of Faith And Blessing

As the new month of February dawns, I come before You, Almighty God, with a heart full of gratitude and expectation. This month, known for love, warmth, and renewal, is a reminder of Your constant care and unchanging love for me. I ask for Your blessings, [guidance](#), and protection over every aspect of my life and the lives of those I love in the days to come.

I submit to You every plan, every hope, and every fear. May this month be filled with spiritual growth, joy, [peace](#), and fruitful labor. I stand in faith, knowing that Your promises are true and that You are with me every step of the way. Amen





# February



2025

11	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:15 Worship with Communion Sunday School	3	4	5  6:00 PM Confirmation	6	7	8
9 8:15 Worship/ Sunday School	10	11	12  6:00 Confirmation	13  6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	14  	15 9:30 WWAP
16 8:15 Worship/ Sunday School	17	18  5:30-Ad Board Meeting	19  Newsletter deadline 5:00-6:00 Community Meal 6:00 Confirmation	20	21	22
23 8:15 Worship/ Sunday School	24	25	26  6:00 Confirmation	27  6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	28	

# Youth Event

We had a fun **Youth Lock-in Retreat on December 28th**, with 17 youth and 3 adult chaperones attending at Trinity. "Sports & Spirituality" was the theme, and we bowled at Wescon, worshipped, played games, and watched "Facing the Giants" movie on faith, courage, and competition. *[See the pictures below of the retreat.]* We thank Annalee Thomas and Sharril Wheeler for chaperoning; and Naomi Froyum from Concord Church of Christ in recruiting many of the kids



Mark your calendars!

Our church will be serving Meals on Wheels during the weeks of February 3-7 and February 10-14.

There is a sign up sheet posted in the back of the sanctuary. We appreciate your willingness to serve in this important mission in our community.





## FEBRUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL "PEER PRESSURE"

**Main Idea:** As Christians we are called to be faithful to God and to make wise choices. Sometimes a wise choice will be different from the choices others are making.

**Scripture: I Corinthians 16:13, 14** Keep alert. Be firm in your faith. Stay brave and strong. Show love in everything you do. **Hebrews 10:24** Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love, and to do good.

### **Objectives:**

Children will explore the following concepts:

- It is often hard to choose to do the right things, especially when others are making different choices
- The choices they make have consequences, both good and bad
- God wants them to make good choices and to help others make good choices
- They can choose to stand up for God in their choices
- They can say no to others when asked to do things they know are wrong
- There are tools, techniques, and resources to help make wise choices
- Friends can help make right choices or wrong choices



## **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.

February 2, 9, 16, 23	Peer Pressure (Hebrews 10:24)
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Heifer International People Who Made a Difference (John 4:39)
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)

## January Meetings and Events



### Ad Council

The next meeting will be held  
Tuesday February 18th at 5:30 PM.

### Adult Caregivers Support Group

We will meet on Feb.  
13th and 27th 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



### 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 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Dodge Center, MN 55927

### Normal Date/Time:

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
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 February, we will meet on the  
13th and on the 27th.**

### **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: Breakfast for Dinner-Brinner!!**

**Wednesday,  
February 19th**

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

Dodge Center United Methodist Church  
*Corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE*



**FREE WILL DONATIONS  
ACCEPTED**

*Donations this month will go  
to Faith In Action.*





## **DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

### **DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY, December 17, 2024 (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 opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

**TREASURER:** End of November balance \$23,444.62. (Set aside for parsonage \$7,204.11) Memorial fund end of November balance \$18,704.72. Apportionments paid in full for 2024. Tyler will check with Janet about a Cokesbury bill we received.

**TRUST FUND:** End of November balance \$89,149.28.

#### **TRUSTEES:**

**Yard/parking lot maintenance:** We will move forward with Jeremy Gnagy for snow removal (plow, shovel, salt) and Alex Corey for lawn care spring and fall at the church.

**SPRC:** Snow/lawn care at parsonage will be the same personnel as the church. Pastor and secretary reviews to be scheduled.

**PASTOR:** (See page 2) Vacation requested 12/26 - 12/31. Rev Bueller will cover that Sunday.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Community Dinner – January meal will be hot dishes and bars.
- Christmas Eve service – Service will be at 7 PM.
- Charge Conference – Forms discussed, changes made. Beth will work with Trinity on Pastor compensation. Conference date will be set for January and sent in multiple ways to the congregation.

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, January 16th at 5:30 PM \*\*Note date change due to charge conference

**Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council Secretary**

DCUMC: Pastor Chad's report for 11/6/24 through 12/5/24

Home/phone visits: 10 Pre-marriage/wedding planning visits: 0 Weddings: 0

Nursing home or facility visits: 0 (no service at Fairview in December) Funerals: 0

Vacation days taken in 2024: 30; Sick days taken in 2024: 7.5 Vacation days taken since Jan. 1, 2025: 2 (Jan. 2-3, 2025)

Pastor Chad's Ministries & Activities:

- Planning and leading general Sunday worship services
- Community meal, 12/18
- Confirmation prep work and teaching
- Attended Christmas brunch, 12/14
- Tuesday morning 7am weekly Bible studies at Trinity with DCUMC men attending, 4 Tuesdays
- Church newsletter articles and communications
- Fairview nursing home worship, none in December
- Communication—creating promotional materials like posters and other advertising; prepping for January Charge Conference at DCUMC, visits with Rev. Andy Petter of Byron, who will be the Elder presiding on Jan. 16.
- I had my annual evaluation with Beth and Doris for DC UMC, 12/20
- Compensation negotiations with Beth and Trinity leaders, 12/19
- Planned and coordinated Youth Lock-in on 12/28 at Trinity (17 youth, 3 adults attended)—DCUMC youth attending were Peyton Lepp and Sawyer Deml
- Planned and led Christmas Eve worship at both churches

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities

- Ad Council charge meeting at DC UMC, Rev. Andrew Petter visiting, Jan. 16

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

**February 2025**

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