

2024



11	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:15 Worship with Communion-  Confirmation Sunday	3 11:30 Meals on Wheels	4 11:30 Meals on Wheels	5 11:30 Meals on Wheels	6 11:30 Meals on Wheels	7 11:30 Meals on Wheels	8
9 8:15 Worship	10	11	12	13 6-7:30 Caregivers Group	14  14 JUNE FLAG DAY	15 9:30 WWAP
16 8:15 Worship	17	18 5:30 Ad Council	19 5-6:00pm Community meal  Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22
23/30 8:15 Worship  Pastor Chad- Vacation	24  Pastor Chad- Vacation	25 7  Pastor Chad- Vacation	26  Pastor Chad- Vacation	27 6-7:30 Caregivers Group  Pastor Chad- vacation	28	29

# JUNE 2024 Newsletter

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

**Pastor: Chad Christensen**

**Email: revchriste5@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 July  
Newsletter is  
June 18.

## Pastor Chad's Ink In Times of Doubt

Sometimes we doubt that which we most want to believe. We doubt what we want to believe. A South Dakota couple wins the Powerball lottery \$112M. Their lives are radically changed. Like purchasing a lottery ticket, we doubt the windfall, yet believe it could happen because it indeed will be given to someone. Especially when it comes to life and death, we doubt that which we most want to believe.

I remember back to 1996 when my grandfather's cancer returned. He was 79. It had been almost 20 years since he had his first successful cancer surgery which had gone into remission. It just seemed that he could beat the cancer again, that it would go into remission once more. We wanted to believe that he'd get better again—but the reality was that he had a tired body. There weren't many days of life for him after his second diagnosis. He died 10 days after his 80 th birthday. So you have a family member who is sick. The doctor may give a good prognosis, but you still worry. What if the doctor is wrong? Doubts keep welling up...and they don't subside until your loved one is back home from the hospital, safe and sound.

None of us doubts that which is easily proven by what we see or have learned from history. The Twins have won 17 of their last 20 games. Dodge Center is very green with spring growth along the countryside. Napoleon once ruled France. We don't doubt the truths of these things.

In Romans 8:24, with regard to hope, the apostle Paul says: "Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." We might have doubts about our close relationships that have become broken—with a certain family member or friend—but we know we can probably work most things out that are unsettled. We might have our doubts when there is an action against us—the government hands down a decision. Our family attorney, when I was growing up, said this about his legal work: court cases for families are rarely over after with the first decision in court. There are doubts about justice, and so cases live on. So, what about the spiritual realm? In the field of religious beliefs doubts may be the most harassing, because faith in God is ultimately the basis for faith in anything else—faith in other people, faith in our own future, faith even in ourself. If there is no God, who else or what else is there to count on?

In the New Testament we meet the apostle Thomas (John 20:24-28), often dubbed "the doubter." Jesus appeared to the other disciples after the resurrection, but Thomas was absent. Told that they had seen Jesus, Thomas in his anguish said he could still not believe unless he touched Jesus' hands and side. He doubted, precisely because he wanted more than anything else to have the Lord be alive. The whole human race, before and after Thomas, has been just like this. We have doubted. And yet, given no vision that is written in the sky, we are summoned still to believe. And deep down, we want to believe. We are hardwired to believe.

This is what we are in the business of as Christians, sustaining our faith through spiritual practices, and then sharing that faith. Taking part in activities that sustain our faith are worship, a dedicated prayer life, being part of Bible or spiritual study groups and having conversations with others about God and faith. We yearn for the transcendent in our lives, to call out for God's involvement in what we are doing, in good times and in challenging times.

I believe that praying intercessions (that is praying on behalf of another's needs, like we often do in worship) is in essence "hoping out loud." What a great witness this is to pray with one another, when they have a problem, a concern, or a doubt. In this new upcoming season of Pentecost, we recognize the Spirit's activity in the life of the church. That activity, of course, moves through us, as we walk with each other in Christian faith and hope, and as well as in times of doubt. May a rich and rewarding summer be yours!

Pastor Christensen

We celebrated our High School and college graduates on May 12.

Ava Cummings  
and

Bronson Freerksen  
graduated from Triton

and

McKenna Freerksen graduated from  
The University of Wisconsin, River  
Falls.



For I know the  
*Plans*  
I have for you,  
declares the *Lord*  
Plans to *Prosper* you  
and not to harm you  
Plans to give you  
*Hope* and a *Future*  
-Jeremiah 29:11

Carol Burtis and her family want to offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported her and the family during the time Larry was living at Fairview and after his death. They sincerely appreciated your prayers, visits, cards and other acts of kindness during this difficult time.



## Thank You To Our Volunteers!

### Readers

June 2	Tyler Kispert
June 9	Kathy Bartz
June 16	Janet Bugarin
June 23	Lisa O'Neil
June 30	Kelly Amunrud

### Counters

June 2	Lisa O'Neil and Shawn Lepp
June 9	Kathy Bartz and Kelly Amunrud
June 16	Kim Marquardt and Doris Weber
June 23	Lisa O'Neil and Shawn Lepp
June 30	Kelly Amunrud and Doris Weber

### Communion

Linda Wallerich

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



### Happy Birthday

Colin Lepp	2
Kaylee Freerkesen	3
Chris Franko	6
Lois Kispert	8
Craig Mussman	8
Marty Hester	15
Brandon Schmoll	17
Susan Olness	22
Cody Thorson	25
Bridgette Narveson	27
Terri Lepp	24

### Happy Anniversary

Randy and Karen Franko	6
Larry and Deb Meeker	20



**We are in need of volunteers for our next Community Dinner which will be held on June 19.**

**There is a signup sheet in the back of the church or you may signup online using the following link:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094CA5AC2AA1FA7-49812338-umcfree>

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.





## June Meetings Held At Church

### Ad Council

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



Our church is scheduled to deliver Meals on Wheels June 3-7. There is a sign up sheet in the back. Please consider helping with this important service in our community.

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### Adult Caregivers Support Group

Will meet Thursday, June 14 and 28 from  
6 - 7:30 PM

### 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

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WWAP, Women With A Purpose meets on the third Saturday of each month. It is a wonderful time of fellowship with the women of our church and friends who wish to join us. We pray, have potluck snacks and a devotion. Come and join us and bring a friend!

Our June meeting will be on  
on the 15 at 9:30 AM.



*please  
join us*





# 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

### **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.**

## **June 2024 Schedule:**

**June 13**

**June 27**

### **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...*

## **Free Community Dinner**

### **Wednesday, June 19**

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

*Menu:* Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad, Chips,  
Variety of Fruit Crips for Dessert

**Dodge Center United Methodist Church**

Corner of 1st Ave NE and 1st Street NE

***Take Out Available***

**Donations this month will go to Dodge County Relay for Life.**

***Save the date: July 10 for a picnic and outdoor  
games on the church lawn!***

# FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

Dodge Center  
United Methodist Church  
1st Ave. & 1st St. NE



Join us for Food and Fun!

**Wednesday, July 10th**

**Event: 3:30 - 6:00 pm**

Cotton Candy



Bounce House



Petting Zoo



**Food Available: 4:00 - 6:00 pm**

Menu: Hot dogs, chips, applesauce, cookie

**Free-will donations will go to the  
Ready, Set, Learn Program of Dodge County**



DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE  
COUNCIL

TUESDAY, April 16, 2024 (REVISED)



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

MEETING: Lisa called the meeting to order. The Vision Mission statement was read in unison. Pastor Chad opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

TREASURER: End of March balance \$28,805.80. Memorial fund end of March balance \$15,906.40. The Q1 quarterly giving was \$16,504.88 TRUST FUND: End of March balance \$80,758.63

TRUSTEES: The church lawn mower needs to be repaired/replaced. Options were discussed. Lawn care options were discussed for fixing the lawn.

SPRC: The parsonage stove and dryer have been installed. The other repairs are pending.

PASTOR: (See page 2) We will have one graduate and two confirmands this spring. Dates will be finalized soon. Pastor has requested 5/19 to spend all morning at Trinity (to balance out 4/14 being at UMC all morning)

OTHER BUSINESS: - Love offering: We will take a love offering for annual conference on 5/19. Lisa will do a presentation. - Community Dinner – May menu will be ham and chicken salad sandwiches, fruit, chips, and bars. - July event – We will have our picnic on July 10th. We will promote it on the June flyer since it will be a different week. We have confirmed a petting zoo, bounce house, cotton candy. Menu will be the same as last year. The event will run from 3:30 – 6:30 with food from 4-6, same as last year. Lisa will work on the flyer. – Semcac 8 lbs of food was dropped off

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 21st at 5:30 PM Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council

Secretary

DCUMC: Pastor Chad's report for 4/11/24 through 5/8/24

Home/phone visits: 18 Pre-marriage/wedding planning visits: 0 Weddings: 0

Nursing home or facility visits: 2 (Circle Manor, Fairview) Funerals: 0  
Vacation

days taken through May 8: 4.5 Sick days taken since beginning of the year: 3

Pastor Chad's Ministries & Activities:

- ◆ Planning and leading general Sunday worship services
- ◆ Planning and teaching confirmation through May 15 (we have Sawyer Deml and Riley Cummings being confirmed on June 2)
- ◆ Attended Community Meal, 4/17
- ◆ Attended Caregiver group, 4/25
- ◆ Training of office secretary
- ◆ Follow up on delivering the Bibles won at our EXPO table raffle
- ◆ □ Preparing for Graduation Recognition Sunday, May 12; and Confirmation Sunday, June 2

[UPCOMING Ministries and Activities

- ◆ Graduation Recognition Sunday, May 12; and Confirmation Sunday, June 2
- ◆ Annual Conference with Beth at Bloomington, May 28-30
- ◆ I'm trying to get a hold of the band for July Festival Community Meal

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



June 2024

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED