

March 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 April
Newsletter is
March 19th



Pastor Chad's Ink

"Culture Shifts Most Churches Need"

Hello Parishioners,

In thinking about outreach to our local community, I thought the below listing of items would be good for us to think about as we are the hands and feet of Christ. There is no doubt that one central red thread woven through the scriptures is that God is active *in community*. As the reformer, John Wesley has said, "No one can be Christian alone", meaning we are active in Christ when we work with one another.

Please reflect upon these categories and how they can be rich for our DCUMC church life.

1. From Fellowship to Hospitality
2. From Worship as an Event to Worship as a Lifestyle
3. From Membership to Discipleship
4. From "Serve Us" to Service
5. From "Survival Mentality" to Generosity
6. From "I go to church" to "I *am* the church"
7. From God as a theological thought or abstract concept to God as an encounter, experience, and being in relationship with us.
8. From attractional (how we get them to come to us) to missional (how do we go to them).
9. From wanting to reach young people because we need them to wanting to reach young people because we have something to offer that they need.
10. From busy to focused
11. From democracy to discernment
12. From control to empowerment
13. From dependency to capacity

Let us always pray, "Lord God, help us to be the church you desire us to be in your beloved community of Dodge Center and its surrounding area. Amen"

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Christensen





March Birthdays

Breckyn Franko	3
Shirley Bowman	4
Chad Christensen	5
Mikaela Burtis	8
Taelyn Narveson	9
Reece Kispert-Johnson	26
Erin Kispert	28
Ralph Hangii	30
Shari Garness	31

March Anniversaries

Thank You To Our February Volunteers!

Readers

March 2
 March 9
 March 16
 March 23
 March 30

Tyler Kispert
 Kathy Bartz
 Kelly Amunrud
 Janet Bugarin
 Kathy Bartz

Counters

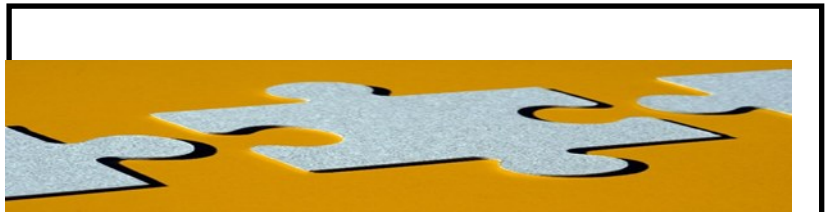
March 2
 March 9
 March 16
 March 23
 March 30

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

Communion

Deb Papenfus

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



Pizza and Puzzles

Join us for Fun, Food, and Fellowship!

Bring a non-perishable food item or monetary donation for the Dodge County Food Shelf

When: Saturday, March 22, 2025

Time: 11 AM – 2 PM

Where: Dodge Center United Methodist Church

Address: 20 1st ST NE, Dodge Center, MN

Bring: Your team to compete against others to complete your puzzle first!

Provided: Pizza, water, and dessert



An Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you,
 may the wind be always at your back,
 may the sun shine warm upon your face,
 the rain fall soft upon your fields,
 and until we meet again, may
 God hold you in the palm of His hands.



2025

March




11	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:15 Worship with Communion Sunday School	3	4	5 Noon: Ash Wednesday Service- Imposition of Ashes	6	7	8
9 8:15 Worship/ Sunday School	10	11	12	13 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	14 7:00 PM Youth go to Timber- wolves vs Orlando Magic game	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	20	21	22 11:00-2:00 Puzzles and Pizza
23/30 8:15 Worship/ Sunday School 23rd-Rev. Matthew Larson preaching Heifer Kickoff	24/31	25	26	27 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	28	29

UMC RIVER BLUFFS DISTRICT
Upcoming Youth Event
Friday March 14, 2025

Come join Christ United Methodist Church and watch the Minnesota Timberwolves take on the Orlando Magic. All families and friends of the River Bluffs District are invited Please note that there will be an opportunity to take a group picture center court once the game concludes. More information will be sent out closer to gameday.



March Sunday School Lesson People Who Made a Difference

Main Idea: People of faith made a difference. Through the stories of people of faith, such as Deborah, Jeremiah, the Centurion's servant, and the woman at the well, we learn more about God. As people of faith, we can respond to God and make a difference.

Unit Description:

The People Who Made a Difference unit uses the Bible story included in **Judges 4:4-15; Jeremiah 1:4-8; Luke 7:1-10; John 4:5-41**. Throughout history there have been great people of faith. People who made a difference in the lives of others and in our world. People of every age, race, or gender. People like you and me. The Bible stories in this unit, two from the Old Testament and two from the New, tell us that people of faith can be all sorts of people. And all kinds of people can make a difference.

Objectives:

Children will explore the following concepts:

- The Bible shows us that all kinds of people can make a difference.
- A woman (Deborah) made a difference, a child (Jeremiah) made a difference, someone who wasn't of the Jewish faith (centurion) made a difference, and an outcast (woman at the well) made a difference.
- Throughout history, people of great faith made a difference.
- Each one of us can make a difference.

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.

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)



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.

March Meetings and Events



Ad Council

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



Ash Wednesday Worship
Imposition of Ashes
Service
March 5, 2025 at noon



Adult Caregivers Support Group

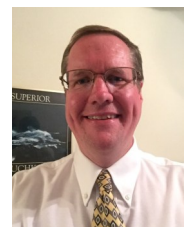
We will meet on March
13th and 27th from
6:00 to 7:30 pm.



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






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 March, 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: Meatloaf, potatoes, and corn

**Wednesday,
March 19th**

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
The Dodge County Food Shelf.*

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

DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THURSDAY, January 16, 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 December Ad Council minutes were distributed. Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

TREASURER: End of December balance \$26,528.98. (Set aside for parsonage \$7,629.11). Outstanding checks \$4,532.48. Memorial fund end of December balance \$18,373.07.

The 2024 budget shows a deficit of \$3,000. Our 2025 budget was presented and will be filed with these minutes and posted in the newsletter. Our apportionments total was decreased for 2025.

TRUST FUND: Statement not available yet

Q4: \$20,954.06

2025 total: \$57,069.68 per Tyler's 2024 totals / Janet spreadsheet shows \$59,159.67

TRUSTEES: NA

SPRC: Pastor Chad had his annual review with Beth from SPRC. Beth also met with Trinity regarding pastor compensation. Beth and Lisa will set up a quarterly meeting with Trinity for 2025.

PASTOR: (See page 2)

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Donations for community dinner: Discussion was held and we agreed to keep the same list from 2024. Kelly will update with contact information so we can share flyers with them as well. See second page

- February Community Dinner – Will be held Feb. 19th and we will have breakfast for dinner. Egg bakes, pancakes, cheesy potatoes, meat.

- MISC: Discussion was held regarding ideas for things we can do to be more visual in the community. We will bring ideas to the February Ad Council meeting and set aside time to discuss.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 18 th at 5:30 PM

Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council Secretary

**DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THURSDAY, January 16, 2025 (REVISED)**

ATTENDANCE: Chad Christensen (Pastor), Andy Petter (Pastor from Byron UMC), Beth Hanggi (SPRC), Kelly Amunrud (Trust Fund), Lisa O'Neil (Ad Council Chairperson), Tyler Kispert (Treasurer), Richard Urbain, Kathy Bartz, Janet Bugarin.

MEETING: Pastor Andy called the meeting to order and Pastor Chad opened the meeting with a prayer. We reviewed the Mission Report and highlighted the good we've done to give back to the community. The caregiver group is definitely a need in the community we did not know was needed.

We discussed our goals for 2025 which include bringing more people to church, especially our children and youth. We are wanting to welcome and help them stay active.

A discussion was held regarding the youth lock in that was just held. Possibly a winter activity (tubing) with fellowship after. We also discussed reaching out to current non-active members and welcoming them back.

We discussed advertising our community dinner with the group who is benefiting from the donations to make more people aware of both groups.

Pastor Andy talked about a book he gave Pastor Chad called A Field Guide to Methodist Fresh Expression which the conference is using to maybe find some new ideas.

Pastor Andy also mentioned that the Rochester Evangel UMC church has an open invitation to all youth with activities on Friday nights.

We then reviewed the following reports: Leaders list, Inactive/Non-responsive members, Pastoral compensation. Discussion was held regarding non-responsive vs removed members. Lisa will update our form and reprint. Members removed form will be updated to reflect: Mikaela Burtis, Dennis Hester, Philip Stowers, and Kendy Parker. Motion was made to approve all the reports. Motion was seconded and approved.

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-

Community Dinner giving list - Updated: January 16, 2025

January: Triton Foundation, Attn: Tricia Johnson, 813 West Highway Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927
Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/triton.k12.mn.us/triton-foundation/board-members>

Contact: Tricia Johnson 507-418-7510

February: Faith in Action, PO Box 246, Kasson, MN 55944 Website: www.fiadodgecounty.org

Contact: 507-634-3654

March: Dodge County Food Shelf Website:

Contact:

April: Heifer International, done in house at DC UMC Website:

Contact: Lisa O'Neil

May: NAMMI, 2746 Superior Dr NW, Ste 110, Rochester, MN 55901 Website:

Contact:

June: Relay for Life Dodge County, Lisa Rollins c/o Dodge County Relay for Life, 26245 State Hwy 30, Hayfield, MN 55940 Website:

Contact: Lisa Rollins

July: Ready, Set Learn of Dodge County, Tanya Young Website:

Contact: Tanya Young

August: Triton Backpack Program Website:

Contact: Barb Schrandt (email: backpack@triton.k12.mn.us)

September: DC UMC Pork dinner fundraiser

Contact: Lisa O'Neil, Kelly Amunrud, Beth Hanggi

October: MN Teen & Adult Challenge Website:

Contact:

November: Santa Anonymous Dodge County Website:

Contact: Roger Langworthy

December: Dodge County Sheriff Emergency Fund Website:

Contact: Roger Langworthy

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



March 2025

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED