

2024



11 Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			<p>1 Confirmation 6:00 PM</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 8:15 Worship *SS</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 7 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>8 Confirmation 6:00 PM</p>	<p>9 Adult Caregiver Group 6—7:30 PM</p>	<p>10</p>	
<p>12 8:15 Worship *SS</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>15 Last day of Confirmation 6:00 PM Community Dinner 5—6 PM</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9:30 WWAP</p>
<p>19 8:15 Worship *SS Love Offering Pastor Chad off</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 7 am Men's Bible Study Ad Council 5:30</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Adult Caregiver Group 6—7:30 PM</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 8:15 Worship *SS</p>		<p>28 7 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>29 Minnesota Annual Conference in Bloomington Beth Hanggi and Pastor Chad will be attending</p>	<p>30 Minnesota Annual Conference in Bloomington Beth Hanggi and Pastor Chad will be attending</p>	<p>31</p>	

May 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

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 June
Newsletter is
May15

Pastor Chad's Ink

Theological Decisiveness is Important

As Christians, we have probably negatively observed "doctrine" or "theology" as something that nit-picks between different beliefs in God and of the church. Because of this, we may not be so inclined to give it our respect. There doesn't seem to be as much honor for distinctive doctrinal beliefs as there once was. In our current cultural climate, we have made unity over diversity an important goal and charge--and indeed unity has its merits. In the church we celebrate ecumenism, where our various churches can do things together as a sign of unity of public Christian expression, despite our own denominational beliefs being different from each other.

One difference I observe around me is an un-confident feeling about salvation. Our salvation is important enough to hold up and see for its own worth and even more so, its truth. You may see billboards or bumper stickers or read newspaper articles and hear televangelists asking "Do you know where you are going after you die?" "Is your future secure after this life?" "Are you sure you are saved?" Though these questions are well-meaning by whom they are written or spoken, they all seem to focus on what we ourselves are going to do about our salvation. They are about our decision, our work, our doing something in order to make salvation happen. If these questions seem unflattering to you, or scare you, it is probably because deep down, you have been hearing a message inconsistent with this from the Methodist church--in its practices, preaching, education, and discussions.

Any time our salvation is dependent on something we as humans have to do--for even believing is a work--this puts up a red flag for a Methodist. Jesus did not die to only come halfway to us, where we need to do our part to come to him to have eternal life. Jesus died for more than that--he came straight for us all the way to take us as his own when he died and rose again. That is what makes the Easter promise so special, albeit seemingly too good to be true. The Old Adam, the sinner within us, likes to puff ourselves up and have something to do, too, to secure eternal life. But that is not how God wanted it.

John Wesley (and we) teach that Christ's death creates the possibility that all may be saved. We believe salvation is God's response and offer of love, but such love does not compel people to accept it. We do not believe that God predestines some to salvation and others to condemnation. Salvation is delivered through God's grace, God's unconditional love, which makes us "right" (or justified) before God and reconciles us into right relationship with God. God's free gift of salvation makes us holy. It is our entry into joining with God. In other words, when we are saved it becomes evident in our actions now.

I like to put it this way: for the things that are above, the heavenly things like our salvation, Jesus won for us outside of anything we can do for it. For the things that are below, in this earthly life, yes, we make our choices and live with them. And as part of this, we can deny Jesus' love and benefits. We have the free will to say, "no thank you, I'll go my own way."

So now the question becomes, if we are already saved, why do we keep preaching, teaching, and talking and sharing with others this good news? The answer is quite simple. It is because, 1) we want to encourage those who go their own way, fleeing from a loving God, to return back to God, and 2) in this life we live, we have our own down days where we feel cold and dark inside, and we need to hear about God's promises constantly to bring us the joy and life-giving spirit to live better. This "spring in our souls" also helps us be there for one another to care, uplift, and console the ones who feel that God has forsaken them, and for us to tell them confidently, "Not So!!!"

"But, wait.... wait!" the sinner in us says, can all this really be true? There must be something, anything that *I have to do*. The answer is... bask in the glory of God and God's work in Jesus Christ and say, "Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief!?" (These were the words of the father of the boy with the unclean spirit, before Jesus healed him, Mark 9:24).

May God shed light on our continued understanding of God's promises made to us and may our own doctrine and theology be so meaningful to us.

Enjoy your springtime!



Happy Birthday

Finlee Amunrud	1
Todd Bowman	12
Bronson Freerksen	15
Betty Staffon	20
Steven Meeker	21
Melecio Bugarin	24
Summer Freerksen	24
Julie Bowman	28

Anniversaries:

Dan and Kim Marquardt	5
Todd and Kris Bowman	8
Glenn and Linda Wallerich	8
Steve and Sandy Delzer	30

Thank You To Our Volunteers!

Readers

May	5	Janet Bugarin
May	12	Kathy Bartz
May	19	Tyler Kispert
May	26	Kelly Amunrud

Counters

May	5	Kelly and Shawn
May	12	Lisa and Kathy
May	19	Kim and Shawn
May	26	Kelly and Doris

Communion

May	5	Linda Wallerich
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If you are unable to do your duty on the assigned Sunday, please find a substitute.

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.



We are in need of volunteers for our next Community Dinner which will be held on May 15th. 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/20F094CA5AC2AA1FA7-48660201-umcfree>



May Meetings Held At Church

Ad Council

The next meeting will be held
Tuesday May 21st
at 5:30 PM

Adult Caregivers Support Group

Will meet Thursday, May 9th and 23th 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

Women With A Purpose (WWAP)

WWAP will meet on **Saturday, May 18 at 9:30 AM** at church. All women are invited to join us for an informal time of fellowship. Bring a friend and a snack to



We want to honor our graduates and recognize their academic achievements in a special service. Watch upcoming announcements to notify you of the date once as we find a date that works for the students. Please email the church office (secdcumc@gmail.com) or call Pastor Chad if you have a graduate that we may



Our church is scheduled to deliver Meals on Wheels May 27-June 7. There will be a sign up sheet in the back. Please consider helping in this important service in our community.

Can you help?

Wanted: Greeters

We're looking for people interested in greeting our visitors and members when they arrive for worship. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church, or you may get a call from Janet requesting your help with this. We want to be a



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.

Exchange practical information on caregiving challenges and possible solutions.

Talk through issues and behaviors and find ways to cope.

DODGE CENTER

Location:

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

Date/Time:

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

2024 Schedule:

May 9, 2024
May 23 2024

Learn about community resources.

Occasional educational speakers.

Meetings are in-person.

Feel free to contact:

*Mary Sue Sandeno - 507-208-8672
*Beth Hanggi - 507-261-2989
*United Methodist Church
of Dodge Center - 507-374-6885
(If there is no answer,
please leave a message.)

**Dodge Center United Methodist Church
20 1st Street NE
Dodge Center, MN 55927
(507) 374-6885**

You're Invited!!

Join us for a...

Free Community Dinner

Wednesday, May 15

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

*Menu: Chicken salad sandwiches, ham salad sandwiches,
fruit, chips, and bars*

Dodge Center United Methodist Church

Corner of 1st Ave NE and 1st Street NE

Donations will this month will go to NAMI of Southeastern Minnesota

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY ~ "JONAH"



Main Idea:

The story of Jonah helps us understand that God loves all people and will forgive them when they repent.

Scriptures: Book of Jonah

Objectives:

Children will...

- ~become familiar with the story of Jonah.
- ~explore ways to tell others about God, as Jonah did.

Sunday School Schedule

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. Mark your calendars ! See now! See you soon!

May 5, 12 May 19	Jonah (Jonah 4:2) Field Trip to Cobra Country Park



DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

TUESDAY, March 19, 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 February Ad Council minutes were distributed. Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

TREASURER: End of February balance \$28,576.65 (\$6,802.01 set aside for parsonage). Memorial fund end of February balance \$15,904.38. The audit has been completed.

TRUST FUND: End of February balance \$77,336.05.

TRUSTEES: The stove and dryer have been ordered and should be installed early April.

SPRC: No updates

PASTOR: (See page 2)

OTHER BUSINESS:

-Dodge County Expo – This will be March 23 rd from 8 am – 2 pm. Lisa brought an updated board and suggestions were made. Confirmation of all items needed discussed.

-Gideon presentation – The Gideon's will come and present a Conversation Workshop: A Simple Approach to Sharing the Gospel after church on April 14 th from 9:15 am – noon. The Ad Council members will provide snacks. All members are invited.

- Community Dinner –April dinner (Heifer International) will be: Sloppy Jo's, pasta salads, chips, cookies. May menu discussed and will be ham and/or chicken salad sandwiches, fruit, chips, and bars.

- July event – discussion was held about ideas for the July dinner/activities like we did last year. We will be moving it to the 2 nd Wednesday due to the Dodge County Fair being the third Wednesday.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 16th at 5:30 PM
Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council Secretary

DCUMC: Pastor Chad's report for 3/9/24 through 4/11/24

Home/phone visits: 11

Pre-marriage/wedding planning visits: 0 Weddings: 0

Nursing home or facility visits: 2 (Circle Manor, Fairview) Funerals: 1
(Larry Burtis)

Vacation days taken through April 11: 1.5 Sick days taken since beginning
of the year: 2

Pastor Chad's Ministries & Activities:

- Planning and leading general Sunday worship services
- Planning and teaching confirmation after Easter
- Attended Community Meal, 3/20
- Boundaries and ethics continuing education thru MN Conference
- Training of office secretary
- Tended the Dodge County EXPO booth
- Preparing for April 14 "Conversations" seminar at DC UMC (w/ G. Gossard)

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities

- Conversations: faith sharing/story telling event on Sun, Apr. 14
(Gideon's; Gaylord Gossard)
- Graduation recognition in May
- Confirmation recognition in June

OFFICE HRS: TRINITY office hours: Sun: 9:45-noon; Wed. and 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



May 2024

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED