May 2025
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
May 21st

May 26, 2025

Pastor Chad's Ink

Matthew 27:38-46 *"He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now." (v. 43)*

May 2025

Susan Kerrigan from Washington State writes:

For years I prayed for a baby. I longed to look into the eyes of my newborn and hear the little sounds that a newborn makes. Through all the waiting, fertility screenings, and treatments, I prayed and waited.

During my years of waiting, I was hesitant to declare my trust in God, especially to those who were not believers. I was afraid that they would think, *If her God is so trustworthy, why haven't her prayers been answered?*

In Matthew 27:43, Jesus was mocked for his faith as he hung on the cross. To onlookers, it appeared that God had abandoned Jesus, and Jesus even poured his heart out to God asking why he had been forsaken. God did not rescue Jesus from the cross as his followers had hoped because God had a much bigger plan that would make redemption possible.

We often cannot see God's plan. We think, *if only God would intervene and fix my problem...* But if we continue to trust in God, we are in good company. Even if others mock our trust, God is trustworthy. We have every reason to declare boldly our trust in God.

May this season of Easter give you new meaning and new things in your life that bring joy and encouragement.

Yours in the faith,

Pastor Chad

May Birthdays

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

May Anniversaries

Dan and Kim Marquardt	5
Todd and Kris Bowman	8
Glenn and Linda Wallerich	8

Please let us know how we may keep you in prayer. Pastor Chad will take your requests before worship or during joys and concerns on Sunday morning. You may also contact him directly other days or call the office with your prayer needs as well.

Thank You To Our May Volunteers!

Readers

May 4	Tyler Kispert
May 11	Janet Bugarin
May 18	Kathy Bartz
May 25	Kelly Amunrud

Counters

May 4	Lisa O'Neil and Doris Weber
May 11	Kathy Bartz and Kelly A
May 18	Kim Marquardt and Shawn Lepp
May 25	Kelly Amunrud and Doris Weber

Communion
Linda Wallerich

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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our church has had a prayer shawl ministry for about 6+ years. Currently we have gifted all our shawls and we would like to replenish our supply. If anyone knows of someone who would be willing to knit or crochet a prayer shawl or two for us, that would be very much appreciated. A suggested size could be 24" x 60", but any size is welcome!

Contact Lois Lepp or the church office with questions. Also, any donations of yarn, full or partial skeins, would be appreciated and we will find someone to make a shawl.
These prayer shawls come with a poem saying they were prayed over when constructed. They are given to anyone who could use a little encouragement and comfort during a difficult time. 19 shawls were gifted between 2023 and March of 2025.

2025

Dodge Center United Methodist Church

11 Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3
4 8:15 Worship with Communion/ Sunday School	5	6	7 6:00 PM Confirmation	8 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	9	10
11 8:15 Worship/ Sunday School 	12	13	14 6:00 PM Confirmation	15	16	17 9:30 WWAP
18 8:15 Worship/ Sunday school	19	20 5:30-Ad Board Meeting	21 5:00-6:00 Community Meal Newsletter Deadline	22 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	23	24
25 8:15 Worship	26 Office Closed 	27 9:45 Worship led by Pastor Chad at Fairview	28	29	30 Pastor Chad at Lutheran Assembly	31 Pastor Chad at Lutheran Assembly

Minnesota Annual Conference
June 11-13

We will be taking our Love Offering on June 8th to be presented at this year's Annual Conference. You may find more information about how the love offering will be distributed this year at:
https://www.minnesotaumc.org/loveoffering

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION

Give to the 2025 Love Offering

This year's Annual Conference theme is "Created for Love" and reminds us that the love we were created for is lived out in incarnational ways. One of those ways is through our 2025 Love Offering—an act of hope, generosity, and grace that extends our reach beyond what any one congregation could do alone. Funds given to this year's Love Offering will go to Africa University for student scholarships (30%), Immigration Law and Justice Network (30%), OC Ministries (20%), and Midwest Mission (20%). "In our lifetime, the role of the church in the U.S. has never been more critical," Bishop Lanette Plambeck said in a letter to Minnesota United Methodists. "The 2025 Love Offering invites us to walk alongside our neighbors near and far, reminding them through our tangible actions that they too are loved and beloved."

MAY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON - PENTECOST

Main Idea:
Through the Holy Spirit, we know God is with us, helping us live as faithful disciples.
Bible verse: *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:4*
Objectives:
Children will explore the following concepts…

~ Hear the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
~ Identify how the Holy Spirit empowered the disciples.
~ Understand that we are empowered by the Holy Spirit.
~ Define the Holy Spirit as "God with us now."
~ Learn that the Holy Spirit can be present in our lives too.

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.

May 4, 11, 18	Pentecost (Acts 2:4)

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. We are on our way to another successful year of giving to this worthy organization. In the June newsletter, we will publish the amount we collected this year. Since 2012, we have donated $11,523.45 to Heifer International. The total collected in 2025 will be published in the June newsletter. Thank you for your continued support!

May Meetings and Events

Ad Council

The next Ad Council meeting will be held Tuesday May 20th at 5:30 PM.

Adult Caregivers Support Group

We will meet on May 8th and 22nd from

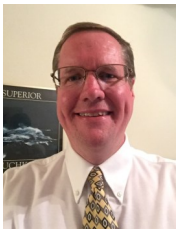
Women With A Purpose (WWAP)

WWAP will meet Saturday May 17th at 9:30 AM at the church. Feel free to bring a friend and a snack to share if you wish. Join us for an informal time of fellowship.

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 May, we will meet on the 8th and on the 22nd.

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: Turkey Noodle Casserole, Peas, Bun, Bars.

Wednesday, May 21st

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

Dodge Center United Methodist Church

Corner of 1st Street and 1st Avenue NE

open hearts open minds open doors

FREE WILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Donations this month will go to

NAMI of Southeast MN

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094CA5AC2AA1FA7-56341483-umcfree

Minnesota
Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church

Our Mission
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision
Grow in Love of God and Neighbor
Reach New People
Heal a Broken World

Expression of Our Vision as Lived Out Values
Rooted in Jesus
Grounded in Wesleyan Theology
Inclusive of All Persons
Engaged in the Work of Justice and Reconciliation

April 21, 2025

Dear Pastor and Congregation of Dodge Center United Methodist Church:

Thank you for paying 100 percent apportionments in 2024! The River Bluffs District had 53 churches, three more than last year, meeting 80.1% of apportionment payments. Apportionment giving connects us as United Methodists, working together to share the love of Jesus Christ with our communities.

Our newly shaped district includes churches that are rural, town, suburban, and urban working together to grow in love of God and neighbor. We have centrist, progressive, and traditional theologies, with small and large congregations led by clergy and lay people. Your dollars provide training for clergy and lay leadership, support for congregations, and common ministry across Minnesota.

Your congregation joins 52 others in the River Valley District in paying apportionments in full. Thank you for your steadfast faithfulness to our common ministry. I have included a *Certificate of Appreciation* to honor your commitment.

Our apportionments undergird the Minnesota Annual Conference, and the worldwide United Methodist Church, in our witness to Christ. May God continue to work through your church as you bless the world around you.

In Christ,

Michelle

DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
TUESDAY, March 18, 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 February Ad Council minutes were distributed. Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

TREASURER: End of February balance $23,162.92. (Set aside for parsonage $8,479.11). Memorial fund end of February balance $18,432.52.

TRUST FUND: End of February balance $88,550.05.

TRUSTEES: N/A

SPRC: Beth has contacted Michelle Hargrave to discuss next steps in meeting with Trinity.

PASTOR: (See page 2) Pastor Chad is working to plan another youth event, this time at DC UMC

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Lent season: Confirmation will resume April 23rd . We will hold Good Friday service here at noon on Friday, April 18 th . Easter service will be at our regular service time of 8:15 AM. Pastor Chad will put an Ad in the Independent newspaper.

- Microsoft Group program: Pastor Chad will use Google Meet or Blue Jeans as these are free. Zoom is free if 40 min or less.

- Trinity/UMC joint meeting: Lisa and Jeremy have talked, they agreed to have a few representatives from each church in attendance. Dates have been given of 3/31, 4/1, or 4/7 and Lisa will contact Jeremy to coordinate.

- Community Events 3/22/25: All is in place for the pizza event. 4/26/25 we will host a movie date night for adults. We will have pizza and popcorn and provide childcare. We will watch the movie Courageous. We discussed holding our next community event this summer. Possible park/pool area with popsicles and games. Will discuss further.

- March Community Dinner: This was canceled due to the incoming blizzard. Kelly updated Facebook and submitted to KTTC.

-April Community Dinner: Will be held April 16 th . The menu will be meatloaf, mashed potatoes, corn, and cupcakes.

-UMCOR Sunday: This is tabled for now, we will discuss at our next meeting.

- Web Hosting: Janet received an email regarding our web hosting options. Kelly will look in to this and bring it back to our next meeting.
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-NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 15 th at 5:30 PM

Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council Secretary

DCUMC: Pastor Chad's report for 2/4/25 through 3/11/25

Home/phone visits: 8 Pre-marriage/wedding planning visits: 0 Weddings: 0

Nursing home or facility visits: 3 (Circle Drive Manor, Fairview Care Facility, and Prairie Meadows) Funerals: 0 Vacation days taken in 2025: 2; Sick days taken in 2025: 0.5
Pastor Chad's Ministries & Activities:

 Planned and delivered general Sunday worship services; Finished sermon theme series "Applications in Faith" on Feb. 23.

 Community meal, 2/19

 Confirmation prep work and teaching through Feb. 26 then suspended for Wed. worship

 Tuesday morning 7am weekly Bible studies at Trinity with DCUMC men attending, 2 Tuesdays

 Church newsletter articles and communications

 Fairview nursing home worship, 2/25

 Attended WWAP in February

 Planned and led youth group event on 2/28 (Wescon, meal, devotions, and games @ Trinity—6 youth attended)

 Newsletter articles and communication; creating promotional materials like posters and other advertising

 Attended Triton ministerium meeting 2/27

 Prepping for Wednesday night Lenten worship- on March 12 – April 10

 Attended County Pastor's prayer meeting 3/5

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities

 Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5

 Easter this year is on April 20

 Youth trip to Timberwolves game on March 14 (14 youth and adults going; 4 youth from DCUMC are going)

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

open hearts
open minds
open doors

May 2025

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED