January 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 February Newsletter is January 20th

Pastor Chad's Ink

"Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come, and the years draw near to when you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them" Ecclesiastes 12:1.

I remember it clearly. My first youth group event at church. I was in the 9th grade (our church had a 9-12 grade youth group) and two young men and school teachers were the church youth leaders: Dan and Lon. I had Dan for chemistry, and Lon was director of music and our One-Act play and Sr. high plays.

We had four youth from each Sr. high grade, so about 14-16 youth were there, along with Dan, Lon and Pastor John. The night had kind of a rocky start for our budding new youth leaders. Dan and Lon burned the pizzas enough so that a light haze of smoke entered the dining area from the kitchen. Then Dan thought that a good kick off for the year at this meeting would be to show the movie "Kujo". It was about a rabid St. Bernard dog who terrorizes and tries to kill a farm family--a horror movie! We all left the church that night scared out of our wits!! [Sometimes church youth events get wacky... A former secretary I worked with from Dodgeville, Wis. said that at her first church youth group meeting they showed the movie "Poltergeist," a scary movie all its own.] I wondered what kind of adventures our next youth meetings would hold, and Dan and Lon did not disappoint. (By the way, they did help us achieve some objectives for the year, taught us things about faith from their own perspective, and walked with us as we met our yearly goals.)

The low bar for youth group meetings and events seemed to be that "If it was memorable and no one got hurt," then it was a success. But I look back on those days and smile. Here at our church, we have worship, confirmation, youth outings like ski trips, movie nights, and just had a lock-in. Along with these is Sunday school to learn about God, form relationships, make connections and engage in meaningful listening, and receive spiritual direction. Lois Lepp, Lisa O'Neil, Janet Bugarin, Shawn Lepp, LaRee Deml among others have left an important imprint on these ministries to our youth. We give thanks to them for their creativity and time! Memories stem from our efforts, even from unusual meetings! Youth ministry is but one of our areas of mission. Christ is made real through us. And all this is to the glory of God.

May our ministries this year at Dodge Center United Methodist be robust with the guiding of the Spirit and served in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Happy New Year to everyone!
Pastor Chad

January Birthdays

Lona Jensen	6
Laura Peck	6
Ronald Olness	7
Carole Burtis	8
Hannah Olson	11
Heather Bowman	16
Deb Papenfus	16
Martin Franko	21
McKenna Freerksen	22
Randy Franko	31

My thanks to those who gave me gifts for Christmas. They were yummy and also supported me taking a little trip to Wisconsin to visit missionary friends of mine. Bless you for your thoughtfulness.
~ Pastor Chad

Thank You To Our January Volunteers!

Readers

January 5	Tyler Kispert
January 12	Kathy Bartz
January 19	Janet Bugarin
January 26	Lisa O'Neil

Counters

January 5	Kelly Amunrud and Doris Weber
January 12	Kathy Bartz and Shawn Lepp
January 19	Kim Marquardt and Lisa O'Neil
January 26	Lisa O'Neil and Doris Weber

Communion
Linda Wallerich

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

Loving God, be with all who need your healing touch.
Those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.
Those who need your healing touch: Delmer Paulson, Bruce, and Gerry Fahning, Charleen Dostal, Lea Flury, others suffering from memory loss, loneliness, chronic pain, depression or other mental illness; those awaiting test results, diagnosis, and prognosis; those trying to overcome addiction, and all others we name in our hearts and minds. Bless us as we pray, Lord God.

Beauty of Winter

God of creation, thank you for the beauty of winter- for snow, icy window panes, evergreen trees, warm coats, sledding, and hot cocoa. Let us enjoy Your creation in all its glory, this winter and always.

- Author Unknown

2025

January

11 Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 No Confirmation	2	3	4
5 8:15 Worship with Communion Sunday School	6	7	8 6:00 PM Confirmation Resumes	9 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	10	11
12 8:15 Worship/ Sunday School	13	14	15 5:00-6:00 Community Meal 6:00 Confirmation	16 5:30-Charge Conference at church Ad Council to meet after the charge conference	17	18 9:30 WWAP
19 8:15 Worship/ Sunday School	20 Newsletter deadline		22 6:00 Confirmation	23 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	24	25
26 8:15 Worship/ Sunday School	27	28	29 6:00 Confirmation	31		

Another Successful Women's Christmas Brunch

This year, eighteen of us enjoyed a delicious pot luck brunch, participated in a gift exchange which was made up of some yummy treats, had a meaningful devotional time led by Lois Lepp, and sang favorite Christmas songs in our beautifully adorned Sanctuary. As always, the event was a great way to remember the reason for the season

Looking ahead:

Our church will be serving Meals on Wheels during the weeks of February 3-7 and February 10-14.
Watch for a sign up sheet posted in the back during January. We appreciate your willingness to serve in this important mission in our community.

Meals on Wheels

JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL "THE BOYS LUNCH"

Main Idea: Jesus accepted a boy's simple, yet generous gift of two fish and five loaves of bread. Jesus blessed this gift and turned it into a feast for more than five thousand people.

Unit Description:

The Boy's Lunch unit uses the Bible story included in John 6:1-14. Jesus and his disciples needed a rest. They traveled across the Sea of Galilee and went up onto the mountains. Still, huge crowds came looking for Jesus. They had heard about his miracles of healing and desperately wanted to see him. Jesus did not turn them away; he knew they needed him. As the day wore on, the disciples worried about feeding the people, but Jesus had a plan. A boy's small lunch of five barley loaves and two fish, when placed in Jesus' hands, became enough to feed thousands of people. Jesus blessed this boy's simple offering, and by Jesus' power no one went hungry that day.

Scripture: John 6:1-14

Objectives:

Children will explore the following concepts:
The New Testament of the Bible tells us of the life and teachings of Jesus, God's son.
The book of John is the fourth book of the New Testament, and is one of the four Gospels.
God sent Jesus to teach people more about God and what God calls them to be and do.
Jesus fed a large crowd of more than 5,000 people when a boy shared his lunch of five loaves and two small fish.
Through this act, Jesus helped the people understand how powerful God really is and how God truly cared for their needs.
The stories of Jesus' miracles are part of the mystery of faith.

- We can care for people by sharing .
- God can multiply what we do.

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.

January 5, 12, 19, 26	The Boys' Lunch (John 6:9)
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 **April 13 Palm Sunday*	Easter: Go and Tell (Matthew 28:19) *April 13 Noisy Offering for Heifer Funds*
April 20 (EASTER)	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
May 4, 11, 18	Pentecost (Acts 2:4)

January Meetings and Events

Important Announcement:

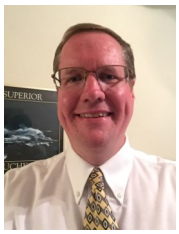
On Thursday, January 16, AT 5:30 PM we will be having our annual charge conference. All are invited to attend.

Ad Council

The next meeting will be held Thursday January 16 following the charge conference.

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



Adult Caregivers Support Group

We will meet on Jan. 9th and 23rd 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!

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 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 January, we will meet on the 9th and on the 23rd.

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: A variety of hotdishes and bars for dessert

Wednesday, January 15th

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 Triton Foundation.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094CA5AC2AA1FA7-54134444-umcfree#/

DODODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
TUESDAY, November 19, 2024 (REVISED)

ATTENDANCE: Beth Hanggi (SPRC), Kelly Amunrud (Trust Fund), Lisa O'Neil (Ad Council Chairperson).
MEETING: Lisa called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with a prayer.
SECRETARY: The October Ad Council minutes were distributed. Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.
TREASURER: End of October balance $26,884.35. (Set aside for parsonage $6,779.11) Memorial fund end of October balance $18,667.42.
TRUST FUND: End of October balance $85,593.91.
TRUSTEES:
Snow removal: We need someone to clear the back parking lot. Beth will call Jeremy Gnagy for a quote. Lisa will contact Colin to see if he would like us to have the sidewalks also. Motion was made to proceed.
Unknown vehicles: We have had unauthorized people using our parking lot. We have ordered two signs to place in the lot. If issues continue, we will contact the Sheriff's office for their assistance.
MEMORIAL:
Lapel microphone: Lisa and Pastor Chad looked in to options. It was decided to postpone this as there were no good options and his microphone is working at this time.
Gutters: Colin asked if we could use memorial funds to get leaf guards for the gutters for the flat part of the roof. We would also like to get larger gutters on the west side. Lisa will talk with Colin to get a quote from Craig Hester with Millenium Seamless Gutters. Motion was made to proceed.
SPRC:
Parsonage lawn: The parsonage tenants contacted us to let us know TruGreen sprayed and killed their plants. Beth will contact Alex Corey for a quote and obtain service for both the parsonage and the church. Lisa will cancel TruGreen.
PASTOR: (See page 2) Pastor Chad would like to host a youth event. Date TBD. Vacation requested 12/29, Pastor Chad will find a replacement. Discussion was also had regarding Pastor compensation package. Questions will be brought to Michelle Hargrove by Beth.
OTHER BUSINESS:
- Community Dinners – December meal 12/18 will be chicken pot pie over biscuits, fruit cup, and cookies
- Secretarial computer – Beth has a computer she will donate. She will drop it off and Lisa/Kelly will see if it will work for our needs.
- Christmas Eve service – Pastor Chad will put a small ad in the newspaper. Service will be at 7 PM.
- Charge Conference – Decision was made to host our own charge conference. Pastor Chad will find an overseeing pastor. Dates were given to put this on the calendar. Forms will be completed.
NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 17 th at 5:30 PM
Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council Secretary

DCUMC: Pastor Chad’s report for 9/6/24 through 10/3/24

Home/phone visits: 24 Pre-marriage/wedding planning visits: 0 Weddings: 0

Nursing home or facility visits: 2 (lead worship at Circle Manor and Fairview) Funerals:

(1, Donald Subbert) Vacation days taken since Jan. 1: 22.5 (including 2 Sundays, June 23

& Sept 1) Sick days taken since Jan. 1: 6.5

Pastor Chad’s Ministries & Activities:

 Planning and leading general Sunday worship services

 Several hospital/facility visits to Mayo to see ill parishioners

 Community meal, 9/18

 Confirmation prep work and teaching, cleaning up church yard on 10/3 & 10/10

 Attended WWAP, 9/14

 Attended Caregiver group, 9/26

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

 Newsletter articles and communications

 Attended Triton area pastors prayer meeting

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities

 Continue confirmation classes (no class on MEA Wed., Oct. 16)

 I look forward to attending one Caregiver meeting group each month, the 4th Thursday.

 MN Adult and Teen Challenge women will sing in worship on Nov. 10

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
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P.O. Box 98
Dodge Center, MN 55927
507-374-6885

January 2025

Lois Kispert

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED