June 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)

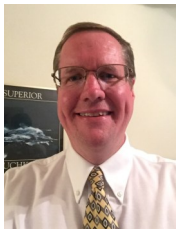
Website:
www.dodgecenterumc.org

Visit us and like us on Facebook!
(United Methodist Church of Dodge Center)

Worship Service is at 8:30 am on Sunday morning in person and online on Facebook.

Deadline for The July Newsletter is June 18th

June 14, 2025



"In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly" Psalm 5:3.

We pray quite a bit for safe travel; we are such mobile people today! It is nothing to consider taking a two hour trip to go somewhere, even knowing that at one time that was a long journey for people-- a long awaited for and anticipated two hour trip to either vacation or visit family. Praying for safe travel is often lifted up by our congregation members for the intercessory prayers we pray during worship.

I am more of a nighttime pray-er myself, concluding the day as a "recap time with God" and asking God for a good day tomorrow. Sunday May 18 was a good day for me, for God had protected me from an accident...even though it was scary encountering a car coming straight at me and several other vehicles. The car was going the wrong way down the fast lane on Hwy. 14 between Byron and Kasson. It was surreal. It could have been deadly, but thankfully I was alert. The car behind in the fast lane got side-swiped but was not hit head-on. She was driving behind me (not in the wrong) and was shaken up but not physically injured.

We never know when life will become a fine line separating us from tragedy. Tornados rip through areas with seeming wanton abandonment, our foot slips on the ice or when we are repairing something up on the roof; we get in the car and take for granted that we will arrive at our destination safely.

We can pray at any time of the day, of course. Perhaps a morning prayer, even if brief, will guide us through the day, showing us that we are not alone in whatever we encounter good or bad.

The teen girl who was side-swiped in the accident stood together with me on the side of the road, calming each other down, before her family came and the State Trooper arrived to take our statements. The erratic driver was arrested farther down the road and charged with driving under the influence of drugs. And... God was with all of us in that unusual and scary time!

May your prayer life be a boon to you during the summer! And may God richly bless you as you keep the line of communication open to God.

Shalom,
Pastor Chad

June Sermon Series:

"Half-truths of the Bible"
June 1 Deuteronomy 30:19-20a "Everything Happens for a Reason"
June 8 Psalm 121:1-2 "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves"
June 15 1 Corinthians 10:13 "God Won't Give You More than You Can Handle"
June 22 Deuteronomy 23:12-14 "God Said It, I Believe It, that Settles It"
June 29 Matthew 7:1-5 "Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin"

June Birthdays

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

June Anniversaries

Randy and Karen Franko	7
Larry and Deb Meeker	20

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 June Volunteers!

Readers

June 1	Tyler Kispert
June 8	Janet Bugarin
June 15	Kathy Bartz
June 22	Kelly Amunrud
June 29	Janet Bugarin

Counters

June 1	Kelly Amunrud and Doris Weber
June 8	Kathy Bartz and Kelly A
June 15	Kim Marquardt and Kathy Bartz
June 22	Kelly Amunrud and Doris Weber
June 29	Lisa O'Neil and Shawn Lepp

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.

June

2025

Dodge Center United Methodist Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **8:30** Worship Confirmation Sunday 	2	3	4 	5	6	7
8 **8:30** Worship-with Communion. Love Offering Collection for Annual Conference 	9	10 	11 Annual Conference- Pastor Chad And Kathy Bartz will attend	12 Annual Conference 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	13 Annual Conference	14
15 **8:30** Worship	16	17 5:30-Ad Board Meeting	18 5:00-6:00 Community Meal Newsletter Deadline	19	20	21 9:30 WWAP at the church
22 **8:30** Worship 29 **8:30** Worship	23 30	24 9:45 Worship led by Pastor Chad at Fairview	25	26 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	27	28

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."

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.

$1,800 was collected this year, wow!

Here are the things we picked out to order from the Heifer catalog.

1. Gift of Water for Life: Clean water is rare in many parts of the world. Give life-sustaining water with solar-powered wells, water kiosks, and irrigation systems.

2. Hope Basket: Jumpstart a family towards a sustainable future with rabbits and a starter flock of chickens, along with farmer training and education.

3. Promise Gift Basket: Your gift includes ducks, chickens and rabbits, along with training and education in their care.

4. Animals: 1 Heifer, 2 herds of pigs, 1 goat, 2 flocks of chickens

Thank you to all who donated to our Heifer International Project.

June Meetings and Events

Check out the newly revised Dodge Center UMC website! Same web address, new look! Check out the events tab for an interactive calendar or list of events!

Please wear your nametag each Sunday. This is helpful when we have visitors. Thank you!

Join us at our new worship time of 8:30 am on Sunday mornings from June 1st through August 31st.

Adult Caregivers Support Group

We will meet on June 12th and 26th from 7:00-8:30 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!

Ad Council

The next Ad Council meeting will be held Tuesday, June17th at 5:30 PM.

Women With A Purpose (WWAP)

WWAP will meet Saturday June 21st 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.

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 June, we will meet on the 12th and on the 26th.

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: Sloppy Joes, Chips, Macaroni Salad, Potato Salad, and Fruit Crisps for Dessert.

Wednesday, June 18th

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

Dodge County Relay For Life

DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
TUESDAY, April 15, 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 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 $24,823.37. (Set aside for parsonage $9,004.11, minus $2500 paid for property taxes not cleared bank yet). Memorial fund end of March balance $18,434.87. We received a notice from Church Mutual that our coverage has gone up as have our premiums.
TRUST FUND: End of March balance $88,627.39. Q1 giving was $12,610.82.
TRUSTEES: Lisa discussed the front lawn and need for some attention. We will talk with Corey's to see what they can help with. Beth will contact the city of Dodge Center first about the area they left last year after construction.
SPRC: May 18th Janet will be away, she will find someone to play piano for her.
PASTOR: (See page 2)
Offering plates: Pastor Chad brought up passing plates during worship. Our giving has been going smoothly and is in the bulletin sowe will hold off on this. Advised to have the Pastor announce the offering plate is there when he sees guests or on special Sundays. (Easter).
Shed: Janet Bugarin let Pastor Chad know that the property/house next door is being sold and perhaps their decent sized shed could be of use to us if moved to our property. No action taken by Ad Council. Our finances are fairly strong and there is little room for a new structure on the church property. Colin stores the lawn mower and snow blower in a smaller shed on the church property now.
OTHER BUSINESS:
- Confirmation/Graduation Sunday: May 18th was given as a possible joint date, Pastor Chad will contact those affected.
- Lent season: Good Friday service will be at noon.
- Trinity/UMC joint meeting: Kelly and Lisa will meet with Trinity 4/17/25 at 6 PM at Trinity. Discussed revisiting hosting possible joint events.
- Community Events 4/26/25 will be our movie date night. Lisa and Beth will work this event.
- May Community Dinner: We will have turkey noodle casserole with peas, buns, and bars.
- Love offering/UMCOR Sunday: We will take a Love offering on June 8th to present at the Annual Conference. We will do an UMCOR giving in the Fall.
- Annual Conference: Pastor Chad and Lisa will be going this year. This will be held June 11-13 in St. Cloud.
- Web Hosting: Kelly has submitted and paid for the transfer of our website. It should be live in a few weeks. We will get a notice for review and Kelly will send to all Ad Council members for review.
NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 20th at 5:30 PM
Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council Secretary

DCUMC: Pastor Chad's report for 4/4/25 through 5/7/25

Home/phone visits: 10 Pre-marriage/wedding planning visits: 0 Weddings: 0

Leading worship at facility: 0 (attended Methodist clergy breakfast on 4/22 instead of Fairview)

Funerals: 0 Vacation days taken since Jan. 1, 2025: 2 Sick days in 2025: 2.5

Pastor Chad's Ministries &Activities:

- Planned and delivered general Sunday worship services
- Coordinated and led Holy Week services: Good Fri (at noon, well attended), and Easter Day
- Attended DCUMC Movie Night, "Courageous"
- Newsletter articles and communications; creating promotional materials like posters and other advertising
- Attended Triton minister's meeting with Supt. & Principal ministerium meeting 4/10
- Hosted County Pastor's prayer meeting at DCUMC, 5/1
- Attended Triton Ministerium meeting at Center Café, DC, DC Mayor presenting
- Planning confirmation and teaching the last four classes: teaching Holy Communion, helping prepare w/ the students' their faith statements, New Testament teaching

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities

- Finishing confirmation classes in strong fashion (our 2025 confirmands who will be confirmed: Kinley O'Neil and Josslyn Freerksen)

PASTOR'S OFFICE HRS:
TRINITY office hours: Sun: 9:45-noon and into afternoon; 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 at office when needed. Friday: day off.

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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Dodge Center, MN 55927
507-374-6885

open hearts
open minds
open doors

June 2025

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED