

## July 2025 Newsletter

United Methodist Church  
of Dodge Center  
PO BOX 98,  
20 First Street NE,  
Dodge Center, MN

**Pastor: Rev. Chad Christensen**  
Email: [revchrste5@gmail.com](mailto: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

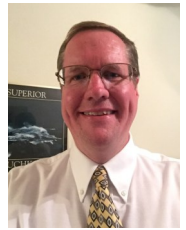
Email: [secdcumc@gmail.com](mailto:secdcumc@gmail.com)  
Office Phone: 507-374-6885  
(please leave a message)

Website:  
[www.dodgecenterumc.org](http://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 August  
Newsletter is  
July 16th.



### Pastor's Ink: Stewardship

Many pastors have said, "I've never met a *former* tither," meaning that once a person grows in offerings or greater giving to the church, it sticks with them. They have come to grow in faith, giving their offerings as "first fruits" right off the top of their income each month. It is a mark of their trust--that they will be provided for.

**Bible Studies:** The church is responsible for teaching its members about the scriptures, faith, and its traditions. YOUR offerings go toward study materials, adult Bible studies, Confirmation, and Pastor's sermon preparation. For Bible studies, in the past we have studied women of the Bible and mission outreach themes. *Thank you for supporting this part of our educational ministry at DCUMC!*

**Continuing Education for the pastor:** Pastor Chad is required to have several units of education to keep up his training on today's church and congregational ministry. Pastors in the conference are required to attend the spring MN Annual Conference, where new worship forms are experienced and speakers address contemporary topics. Funding for these trainings are gifts that DC UMC upholds for its own life and ministry. *We are grateful for offerings to the general fund that provide for pastor and lay person training!!*

If you have any questions about current programs and offerings through our church, or have an idea that could lead to mission or ministry, let me know. The body of Christ--you and me--undergirds the church with volunteer strength by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

May you have a rich and rewarding summer ahead!  
Pastor Christensen





### July Birthdays

Kinley O'Neil	7
Shawn Lepp	10
Gavin O'Neil	11
Nikol Delzer	17
Courtney Kispert	19
Karen Franko	22
Tyler Kispert	23
Kelly Amunrud	24
Mark Freerksen	26

### July Anniversaries

Dale and Lona Jensen	10
Deb & Richard Papenfus	10

## Thank You To Our July Volunteers!

### Readers

July 6  
July 13  
July 20  
July 27

Tyler Kispert  
Janet Bugarin  
Kathy Bartz  
Lisa O'Neil

### Counters

July 6  
July 13  
July 20  
July 27

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

### Communion

Deb Papenfus

(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.

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.





# July

## 2025

### Dodge Center United Methodist Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 	5 
6 8:30-Worship Pastor Chad on vacation	7 Pastor Chad on vacation	8 Pastor Chad on vacation	9 Pastor Chad on vacation	10 Pastor Chad on vacation  6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	11 Pastor Chad on vacation	12 Pastor Chad on vacation
13 8:30-Worship- Pastor Bruce Buller will be preaching	14	15  5:30-Ad Board Meeting	16  Newsletter Deadline	17	18	19 9:30 WWAP at the church
20 8:30-Worship	21	22  9:45 Worship led by Pastor Chad at Fairview	23	24  6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	25	26 
27 8:30-Worship	28 	29	30	31		



# Confirmation

Confirmed in the faith on June 1st were Josslyn Freerksen and Kinley O'Neil. The confirmands completed a year of Bible instruction and a year of theology/traditions/beliefs instruction and performed various community service projects. Our hearty Congrats to these youth for completing the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism. Keep these young women in your prayers as they continue to grow in the faith!



# Minnesota Annual Conference 2025

Kathy Bartz and Pastor Chad attended this year's conference meetings in St. Cloud.



Thank you!

Thank you for your generosity. Our church collected \$270.00 for the Love Offering. At Annual Conference 2025, a total of \$57,614.51 was raised!



In a powerful and prophetic Episcopal Address, Bishop Lanette Plambeck called Minnesota United Methodists to embody unrelenting grace in a world desperate for hope. With bold clarity and pastoral conviction, she named the false gospels of our time, redefined “hallelujah” as an act of sacred resistance, and cast a vision for a Church that loves boldly, serves joyfully, and leads courageously. All are invited to join the Spirit-led movement God is stirring in our midst.



# ATTENTION: SUMMER CHANGES!

No community evening meal in  
JULY



JOIN us for a worship/potluck in the park.  
Date TBD: Sunday in August at 8:30 am  
Location TBD: One of the Dodge Center  
Park Pavillions



Keep an eye on our Facebook page,  
bulletins, & emails for more information!

## July 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 summer worship time of 8:30 am on Sunday mornings from June 1st through August 31st.



### Adult Caregivers Support Group

We will meet on July 10h and 24th 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, July 15th at 5:30 PM.

### Women With A Purpose (WWAP)

WWAP will meet Saturday July 19th 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 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE  
Dodge Center, MN 55927

### **Normal Date/Time:**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
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 July we will meet on the 10th**  
**and on the 24th.**

### **Feel free to contact:**

Beth Hanggi - 507-261-2989  
United Methodist Church of Dodge Center  
507-374-6885  
(Please leave a message if there is no answer.)



# **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 so we 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 Fair-view)

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



July 2025

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED