

August 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
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 September
Newsletter is
August 20th.



Pastor's Ink: This month, I'd like to share with you a timely message from our Bishop, Lanette Plambeck.

To the Beloved People of the Dakotas-Minnesota Area,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Sustainer, Jesus Christ.

One of the most enduring gifts of our Wesleyan tradition is the question that continues to echo across generations: How is it with your soul? These words are not meant to prompt a quick response or a polite, "I'm fine."

They offer a sacred invitation—a call to remember who we are and whose we are, and to return to the wellspring that sustains us when the world demands more than we can give.

Over these last 33 years of ministry, I've come to understand that soul care is not a luxury—it is a holy necessity. In a world where expectations press hard upon us, whether from within or without, we can too easily neglect the very practices that ground us. Even the most faithful among us can find ourselves scanning our calendars, wondering how and when we'll fit in time for sabbath, let alone extended renewal.

I am especially grateful for the leadership of Diane Owen in our regional area and her unwavering commitment to clergy and lay well-being. Through her work and voice, I hear a steady reminder: when we live untethered from sabbath, when we press forward without pause, we risk disconnection—from ourselves, from others, and from the God who longs to meet us in stillness, recreation, renewal, and rest.

I write to you not only as your bishop, but as a fellow sojourner—one who is actively seeking to serve from a place of wholeness rather than depletion. My own rule of life is guided by three questions I pray through daily:

- How might I glorify God today?
- Where might I point others toward Christ?
- At the end of the day: Have I loved?

These questions are not just outward-facing measures of ministry—they are inward markers of faithfulness. And I've found that I cannot answer them with full integrity unless I am also making intentional space to reflect, to reconnect, and to be renewed by grace. (Continued on p. 2)

Bishop Planbeck continued:

So, I invite you to consider:

- Where are you tending your soul?
- What rhythms are giving you life—and which ones are draining it?
- When was the last time you were still enough to hear your name spoken by the God of love?

I hope this summer you will find ways to rest without guilt, to play without worry, to worship without hurry. I hope you'll rediscover joy—that you'll laugh, wander, nap, read, and pray. And perhaps you'll even try the sacred act the Scots call *hurtle-durkling*—lingering in bed after waking, not out of laziness, but to savor the gift of *being* before the demands of *doing*.

The road ahead will ask much from us. But we follow a Savior who withdrew to quiet places, who welcomed rest, and who never rushed the work of transformation. May we follow his pace—not the world's—and in doing so, rediscover that deep and steady assurance: It is well with our souls.

A One-Day Soul Care Plan

Join me in this rhythm of renewal.

Morning (8 a.m.-noon)

- Wake slowly—no alarms, no urgency
- Light a candle and read Psalm 23 or John 15 aloud
- Enjoy coffee or tea without multitasking
- Go for a walk in silence and notice the beauty around you
- Reflect or journal: What is God saying to me today?

Afternoon (noon-4 p.m.)

- Prepare or savor a favorite meal
- Take a nap or rest wrapped in a blanket
- Do something creative: sketch, write, sing, garden, build, plant.
- Call someone who brings peace to your spirit

Evening (4-8 p.m.)

- Cook or share a simple dinner
- Light a candle and offer a prayer of gratitude
- Reflect: What renewed me today?
- Read something life-giving or sacred—and rest well

With care and deep affection,

Bishop Ranetta Planbeck



August Birthdays

Deb Meeker	9
Kaylee Narveson	18
Taylor Lepp	22
Rebecca Schletty	22
Keith Bowman	28
Jacob Monson	31

August Anniversaries

Steven and Shari Garness	9
Mark and Angie Freerksen	18

Thank You To Our August Volunteers!

Readers

August 3
August 10
August 17
August 24
August 31

Tyler Kispert
Janet Bugarin
Kelly Amunrud
Lisa O'Neil
Janet Bugarin

Counters

August 3
August 10
August 17
August 24
August 31

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

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.





DODGE CENTER



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP & POTLUCK

IN THE PARK



**Everyone is
welcome to
join us!**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

8:30 AM

NORTH Park, New Pavillion



AUGUST

2025



Dodge Center United Methodist Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2						
3 8:30-Worship with Coffee Fellowship after the service	4	5	6	7	8	9 9:30 am WWAP (Note the date change)
10 8:30-Worship and Potluck at the new pavilion at North Park	11	12	13	14 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	15	16
17 8:30-Worship with Coffee Fellowship after the service	18	19 5:30-Ad Board Meeting	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23
24 8:30-Worship with Coffee Fellowship after the service	25	26 9:30 Worship led by Pastor Chad at Fairview	27	28 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	29 	30
31 8:30-Worship with Coffee Fellowship after the service						

August 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 through August 31st.

Adult Caregivers Support Group

We will meet on August
14th and 28th
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!

Ad Council

The next Ad Council meeting will be held
Tuesday, August 19th at 5:30 PM.

Women With A Purpose (WWAP)

WWAP will meet Saturday August 9th at 9:30 AM at the church. (Note the date change this month) 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 NE
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 August we will meet on the
14th and on the 28th.**

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, JUNE 17, 2025 (REVISED)

ATTENDANCE: Chad Christensen (Pastor), Beth Hanggi (SPRC), Kelly Amunrud (Trust Fund), Lisa O'Neil (Ad Council Chairperson), Tyler Kispert (Treasurer), Kathy Bartz.

MEETING: Lisa called the meeting to order and Pastor Chad opened the meeting with a prayer.

SECRETARY: The May Ad Council minutes were distributed. Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

TREASURER: End of May balance \$17,052.01. (Set aside for parsonage \$7,260.11). Memorial fund end of May balance \$18,459.50. Love offering raised by our church \$270. They raised about \$15,000 at Annual Conference for the Love offering.

TRUST FUND: End of May balance \$87,496.69.

TRUSTEES: The leaf guard screens were put on the gutters. The bill will be paid out of the Memorial fund.

SPRC: Pastor Chad is working on his evaluation and will meet with Michelle in July/August.

PASTOR: (See page 2) Pastor Chad has requested June 18-20 and July 6-13 as vacation. July 6th Kelly will preach and July 13th he will get a guest pastor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **Cleaning:** A cleaning of the church main and basement will be announced for June 23rd . Lisa created a checklist of items to complete.

- **Survey results:** Pastor Chad and Kathy were able to catch about 50% of the people at home and several others by phone. They were able to meet with several people in their time of need. It was a good process. We reviewed the data obtained from the surveys on paper and Facebook. We will continue to watch and discuss next month.

- **July Community Dinner / Trinity joint worship/potluck:** We have not heard back from Trinity and the July dates we had no longer work. We will skip the July meal and have a park worship/potluck in August.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 15th at 5:30 PM

Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council Secretary

DCUMC: Pastor Chad's report for 5/8/25 through 6/9/25

Home/phone visits: 16 (includes Survey home visits: 10) Pre-marriage/wedding planning visits: 0 Weddings: 0 Leading worship at facility: 2 (led Fairview and Circle Drive Manor) Funerals: 0 Vacation days taken since Jan. 1, 2025: 2 Sick days in 2025: 3.5 Request for Vacation: Thurs. through Sat., June 18-20; Sunday through Sunday, July 6-13 11 days total.

Pastor Chad's Ministries & Activities:

- ☐ Planned and delivered general Sunday worship services
- ☐ Coordinated June sermon series "Half Truths"
- ☐ Newsletter articles and communications; creating promotional materials like posters and other advertising
- ☐ Attended all Tuesday men's studies at Trinity with Methodist men there
- ☐ Attended May Triton Pastor's meeting (Ministerium)
- ☐ Led Confirmation service of 2 youth, Kinley O'Neil and Josslyn Freerksen, on June 1. Next year Peyton Lepp will be the only confirmand from both churches.
- ☐ Visited 17 church members' homes (10 were home and visited) to give them Surveys about our congregation life that they can send back to the church

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities

- ☐ MN Annual Conference June 11-13
- ☐ Upcoming Community Meals, 3rd Wednesdays of the month
- ☐ Visiting our elderly members and getting to know members who have been less active in church activities

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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507-374-6885

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

