

October 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 November
Newsletter is
October 22nd.

Autumn
Blessings to you!



2025

Pastor Chad's Ink

"Good Communication is Worth a Lot"

The Bible has passages that support sound communication, whether it is for ministry, or at home with our families, or when we are out with friends. The scriptures emphasize being a good listener. How many times have we caught ourselves only half listening to another because our minds were busy figuring out what to say next? Good communication means being focused on the speaker entirely. The words will come to us as to how to respond. Grace and kindness in speech is also the trait of a good listener. Grace is unconditional love for our listening friend. Discerning what things to say, before we say them, can keep our tongues from harming others. Are you speaking pre-maturely about someone? Are you giving someone the benefit of the doubt rather than quickly criticizing them? Is avoiding gossip hard for you to do sometimes?

Some key verses on communication include James 1:19 ("be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry") and Proverbs 15:1 ("A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger"). May we have a *discerning mind and tongue* when we speak to others and as well when we are listening—making sure to ask the speaker if we heard them correctly. We might ask them, "Okay, is this what I am hearing you say?" Those words help us to understand, and they provide notice to the speaker that they are being understood.

Traits of a good communicator are very useful in our servanthood for God. Here are some key principles as well:

Key Principles from Scripture

Listen Actively:

Give your full attention when others speak to show respect and achieve deeper understanding.

Speak with Grace:

Ensure your words are helpful, build others up, and are "seasoned with salt" to create an inviting atmosphere.

Choose Words Carefully:

Your speech has the power of life or death; use words to build up, not tear down.

Be Quick to Listen, Slow to Speak:

Prioritizing hearing and understanding over immediately speaking helps prevent conflict.

Avoid Gossip and Harsh Words:

Gossip separates friends, and harsh words stir up anger. Instead, choose words that are soothing and beneficial.

May you all have a blessed and happy autumn season!

Pastor Christensen



October Birthdays

Josslyn Freerksen	1
Emily Johnson	2
Steven Garness	3
Richard Urbain	8
Beth Hangii	9
Jon Bowman	11
Richard Papenfus	13
Scarlett Kispert	17
Elaine Olson	18
Dwayne Schmoll	20
Kevin Rohwer	21
Brian Chicos	23
Krystal Rohwer	25
Stephanie Chicos	30

October Anniversaries

Craig and Vickie Mussman	2
Brent and Ellie Freerksen	21
Tyler and Connor Kispert	22
Colin and Lois Lepp	26



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 October Volunteers!

Readers

October 5
October 12
October 19
October 26

Tyler Kispert
Lisa O'Neil
Kelly Amunrud
Kathy Bartz

Counters

October 5
October 12
October 19
October 26

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

Communion

Linda Wallerich

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

"If we are to believe Jesus, his Father and our Father is the God of all life and his caring and provision include a shepherd's lost lamb, a falling sparrow, a sick child, the hunger pangs of a crowd of four thousand, the need for wine at a wedding feast, and the plight of professional fishermen who toiled all night and caught nothing. These vignettes, scattered though the Gospels like little patches of gold dust, say to us, 'No creaturely need is outside the scope or range of prayer.'"

-Catherine Marshall cited by Ed Gungor,
"Dangerous Blessings" p. 33 in Leadership, Summer 2006



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.



You're Invited!!

Join us for a...

Community Dinner

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

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

Menu: Enjoy a variety of soups, and cake for dessert

Dodge Center United Methodist Church
Corner of First Street NE and First Avenue NE

*Freewill donations this month will benefit
MN Adult and Teen Challenge*



2025

Dodge Center United Methodist Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 8:30-Worship, Sunday School, and Communion, with Coffee Fellowship after the service	6	7	8 6:00 pm Confirmation	9 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	10	11
12 8:30-Worship and Sunday School with Coffee Fellowship after the service	13	14 5:30-Ad Board Meeting	15 5:00-6:00 Community Meal Soups and cake for dessert	16	17	18 9:30 WWAP-come and bring a friend
19 8:30-Worship and Sunday School with Coffee Fellowship after the service	20	21 9:30 Worship led by Pastor Chad at Fairview	22 6:00 pm Confirmation Newsletter Deadline	23 6-7:30 Caregiver's meeting	24	25
26 8:30-Worship and Sunday School with Coffee Fellowship after the service	27	28	29	30	31 	

October Meetings and Events



Sunday School begins on October 5th. Children age 3 through 6th grade are invited to come. We begin with Worship at 8:30 and after the children's time, the children will proceed downstairs for a time of fun and learning about Jesus and His teachings.

Ad Council

The next Ad Council meeting will be held Tuesday, October 21st at 5:30 PM.

Women With A Purpose (WWAP)

WWAP will meet Saturday October 18th 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 devotions and fellowship.

Adult Caregivers Support Group

We will meet on October 9th and 23rd from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.



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

Check out the Dodge Center UMC website!

www.dodgecenterumc.org

Check out the events tab for an interactive calendar or list of events!


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!



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 October, we will meet on the
9th and on the 23rd from
6:00-7:30 pm.**

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, AUGUST 19, 2025 (REVISED)

ATTENDANCE: Chad Christensen (Pastor), Beth Hanggi (SPRC), Kelly Amunrud (Trust Fund), Lisa O'Neil (Ad Council Chairperson), Tyler Kispert (Treasurer), Kathy Bartz, Lois Lepp, Janet Bugarin, McKenna Freerksen, and Michelle Hargrave (District Superintendent).

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

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

TREASURER: End of July balance \$14,574.76. (Set aside for parsonage \$7,482.07). Memorial fund end of July balance \$19,753.21.

TRUST FUND: End of June balance \$90,073.61. End of July balance \$90,732.76

Tuck and Point: Quotes were presented. One quote from Benike was \$47,100 (which included our stone sign). This could be broken down into three stages based on priority with first stage quoted at \$31,600. A second quote from Building Restoration Company was \$32,219 or \$42,848 (this second number included to cut out and replace 100% of sealant in all stone joints, wind, door, and penetration perimeters). BRC quote did not include our stone sign. Questions were raised and discussion was had. A motion was made to use Trust Funds to hire Benike and do everything at once rather than in stages, pending some questions that Kelly will take back them. Motion was seconded and approved. Kelly will work with Benike.

TRUSTEES:

Parsonage: A walk through was done on 8/6/25. Small repairs were taken care of. New fire extinguisher, smoke detector, and carbon monoxide detector were installed. A new water softener was installed.

Door lock: The church has replaced both the East and West door with keypads. The same code is used.

SPRC: No report

PASTOR: (See page 2) Pastor Chad requested August 30 and 31, 2025 off. He will find a replacement.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **September Community Dinner / annual fundraiser:** We discussed our fundraiser annual pork dinner. We are going to send a flyer to all members as well as change the verbiage on the flyers and add a QR code for subsplash in order to raise more funds. Menu will be pork loin, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, buns, and fruit bars.
- **Mold:** There is mold in the basement. Kelly will contact Paul Davis Restoration 507-330-6530 to give us a quote to have this removed. It has been noted on the exterior walls, both stairwells, furnace and utility room area, as well as the nursery.
-

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 16th at 5:30 PM

Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council Secretary

DCUMC: Pastor Chad's report for 7/9/25 through 8/5/25

Home/phone visits: 7 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 through Aug. 5: 11 (Took Sundays 7/6 & 7/13 off; first Sundays off this year). Sick days in 2025: 3.5

I had a 3-year-old boy at Trinity die on July 5, and his funeral was July 10. So, I worked on and off that week to prepare for the funeral. In the process I took 4 days off that week. I was also be off (prior-authorized) Fri-Sun., July 11-13.

Pastor Chad's Ministries & Activities:

- Planned and delivered general Sunday worship services; Arranged for Sunday substitutes while I was away.
- Newsletter articles and communications; creating promotional materials like posters and other advertising
- Attended all Tuesday men's studies at Trinity with Methodist men there
- Choosing designs for new church banners
- Met with District Superintendent Rev. Hargrave for my evaluation and planning (7/2)

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities:

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

2025



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

