

## January 2026 Newsletter

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

Pastor: 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 and Sunday School is  
at 8:30 am on  
Sunday mornings.  
Additional youth education on the third  
Wednesday each month at 5:45 pm.**

Deadline for  
the February  
Newsletter is  
January 21st



### *Pastor Chad's Ink*

#### Without Life Are We Like Old, Unused Barns?

There is a theory about old, unused barns. They depreciate and become run down quicker because they do not house livestock anymore. When there is no livestock, the barn dries out from the lack of moisture that the animals give off. This rots and subsequently decays the wood, which then buckles slowly under the pressure of gravity. Therefore, many unused barns have a sinking roof and begin to lean.

When our faith gets dried out by not being active, our self can be weaker under various pressures, too, like old, unused barns. Methodists proclaim that faith that is alive and vibrant is a faith worthy of striving for and living for. Faith without works is dead, says the book of James. And while we are not saved by our good works, an active faith is a good faith. While it does not give off moisture, like livestock in a barn, a strong faith gives off a good, life-giving spirit that not only nourishes us but also nourishes those around us. Vibrancy. Have you ever met a stranger on a sidewalk who simply smiled at you? Smiling can become contagious, and when met with a smile, it can take away our sour thoughts in the moment. Sharing the love of God with another works in the same way.

A good barn is a barn in use! And so it is with our faith, not as a couch potato, lifeless faith, but as an active faith that nourishes and strengthens. May this New Year ahead be a time to exercise your faith fully—perhaps in new and creative ways, or in much the same patterns as 2025. Such nourishing and strengthening, like the wood structure uplifted in a used barn, is our own nourishing and strengthening for being instruments that God can use in a weary world.

Happy New Year!  
Pastor Christensen

*Wishing  
YOU A  
Blessed  
NEW YEAR*



## 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

## Thank You To Our January Volunteers!

### Readers

January 4  
January 11  
January 18  
January 25

Tyler Kispert  
Kathy Bartz  
Lisa O'Neil  
Janet Bugarin

### Counters

January 4  
January 11  
January 18  
January 25

Lisa O'Neil and Doris Weber  
Kathy Bartz and Shawn Lepp  
Kathy Bartz and Lisa O'Neil  
Shawn Lepp and Doris Weber

### Communion

Linda Wallerich

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

## 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

Our church will be serving Meals on  
Wheels during the weeks of  
January 5-9 and January 12-16.  
There is a sign up sheet posted in the  
back of the church. We appreciate your  
willingness to serve in this important  
mission in our community.





2026



11	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Office Closed  Happy New Year	2	3
4 8:30 Worship with Communion Sunday School	5	6	7  6:00 pm Confirmation	8  6-7:30 pm Caregiver's meeting	9	10
11 8:30 Worship/ Sunday School	12	13	14	15	16	17 No WWAP This month
18 8:30 Worship/ Sunday School	19	20  530-Ad Board	21 5:00-6:00 pm Community Meal 6:00 pm- Confirmation  Newsletter Deadline	22  6-7:30 pm Caregiver's meeting	23	24
25 8:30 Worship/ Sunday School	26	27	28	29	30	31

## January Meetings and Events



### Ad Council

The next meeting will be held  
Tuesday, January 20th  
at 5:30 PM.

### Adult Caregivers Support Group

We will meet on Jan.  
8th and 22nd from  
6:00 to 7:30 pm.



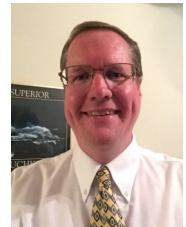
#### **Greeters needed!**

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!



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



### 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 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
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 January, we will meet on the  
8th and on the 22nd.**

### **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.)

# You're Invited!!

*Join us for a...*

## Community Dinner

**Menu: Chicken Pot Pie served over biscuits, fruit and bars.**

**Wednesday,  
January 21st**

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

Dodge Center United Methodist Church  
*Corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE*



**FREE WILL DONATIONS  
ACCEPTED**

*Donations this month will go  
to Triton Foundation.*

Sign up using this link to donate food, set up, serve or cleanup. Thanks!  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094CA5AC2AA1FA7-61417271-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 10/4/25 through 11/4/25

Home/phone visits: 11 Pre-marriage/wedding planning visits: 0 Weddings: 0

Leading worship at facility: 2 (led Fairview and Circle Drive Manor) Funerals: 0;

Burials: 2 (Lea Flurry, 10/10; Bruce Galley, 10/11). Vacation days taken since Jan. 1, 2025 through Oct. 3: 14 (includes 2 Sundays). Sick days in 2025: 3.5

Pastor Chad's Ministries & Activities:

- ☐ Planned and delivered general Sunday worship services
- ☐ Planned All Saints worship service for 11/2
- ☐ Preparing and delivering confirmation for Peyton Lepp
- ☐ Newsletter articles and communications
- ☐ Attended Pastor's Prayer meeting (Kasson Baptist Church)
- ☐ Writing invitations to Sunday school youth
- ☐ Community Meal, 10/15
- ☐ Planning Thanksgiving DC service, Nov. 23 with Dodge Center ministers; held at Living Waters (Anchor of Hope church) at 6pm.
- ☐ Preparing documents for Charge Conference
- ☐ Preliminary planning for Advent mid-day services in December

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities

- ☐ Making home calls to church members
- ☐ Thanksgiving DC service, Nov. 23 with Dodge Center ministers; held at Living Waters Church (Anchor of Hope church) at 6pm.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HRS: DCUMC hours: Mon. & Tues.: 9-noon (w/secretary at UMC), Friday: day off; Pastor Chad's mobile number: (call/text) 507-517-4160

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.



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507-374-6885



January 2026

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED