

February 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
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

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(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 March
newsletter is
February 18th

February

February

Pastor Chad's Ink

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. -Psalm 23:4

Pamela was a student in my learning group when I did my clinical chaplaincy at Gundersen Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse in 1997. Pamela, like her classmates, gave us rich stories and insights to scripture, and her past, that were helpful for us to learn about disabilities. Pamela was legally blind, yet she would walk the hospital floors like each of us, going about our rounds visiting hospital patients.

When it came time for our summer outing with the group, to going hiking, once again Pamela demonstrated that she could take on the experience despite her handicap.

We were on a rocky trail, and Pamela walked ahead of us with Pastor Dave. We had a hard time walking without slipping on the sometimes narrow trail. Pamela could feel this too, with her white cane. Pastor Dave told us the hike was not a race but an exercise in scenic exercise. He helped Pamela by giving her a rope for both of them to hang onto and still have her cane. He would lead her with the rope by describing the terrain ahead, and this was helpful for all of us that followed.

Scripture promises us that God's rod and staff will give us comfort and courage. A shepherd would use a rod and staff to protect and guide the sheep through any dangers along their path. Likewise, God walks with us, protecting us from unseen dangers and guiding us through whatever we encounter.

Just as Pamela and the group were able to go slowly and be guided by Pastor Dave's description of the path, we can confidently maneuver through life without fear, reassured that God leads the way and will never abandon us. As long as we hold on to God, we will find assurance of God's presence, power, and protection.

In the difficult obstacles of our time, may we hold closer to the beloved words of Psalm 23.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Christensen



February Birthdays

Linda Wallerich	1
Kole Delzer	3
Connor Kispert	9
Jason Peck	9
Janet Bugarin	13
Roger Freerksen	14
Lois Lepp	16
Steve Delzer	17
Cheryl Stowers	19
Robert Bowman	24
Chris O'Neil	27

February Anniversaries

Robert and Julie Bowman 15
Melecio and Janet Bugarin 18

Thank You To Our February Volunteers!

Readers

February 1
February 8
February 15
February 22

Tyler Kispert
Kathy Bartz
Lisa O'Neil
Janet Bugarin

Counters

February 1
February 8
February 15
February 22

Tyler Kispert and Lisa O'Neil
Kathy Bartz and Shawn Lepp
Kim Marquardt and Doris Weber
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.)



Our church will be collecting money for Heifer International, beginning **March 1** through **March 29**. We will kick off our Heifer International fundraiser on **Sunday, March 1**. Join us for worship that day. This is our 15th 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 \$1,800,00. The Sunday school children and congregation members were able to choose a variety of animals to send to the Heifer participants. They had a great time choosing them. Let's do it again this year! Since 2012, we have donated \$13,323.45 to Heifer International. Wow! Thank you for your continued support!

Join us **Sunday, March 29** for **Palm Sunday** and a **NOISY offering** of coins. Collect your coins and bring them on Sunday, March 29. Cash and checks are also accepted. You can make checks out to Dodge Center UMC and put "Heifer International" in the memo section. We will collect money through Sunday, April 5. There will be a table set up at church for your donations so you can bring a donation in any time. For more information on Heifer International you may go to www.heifer.org.



February

2026

11	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 Worship with Communion Sunday School	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 8:30 Worship/ Sunday School	9	10	11	12 6-7:30 pm Caregiver's meet-	13	14
15 8:30 Worship/ Sunday School	16	17 5:30-Ad Board	18 Ash Wednesday 5:00-6:00 pm Community Meal 5:45 Sunday School Newsletter Deadline	19	20	21 9:30 WWAP At the church
22 8:30 Worship/ Sunday School	23	24	25	26 6-7:30 pm Caregiver's meet-	27	28

February Meetings and Events



Ad Council

The next meeting will be held
Tuesday, February 17th
at 5:30 PM.

Adult Caregivers Support Group

We will meet on Feb.
11th and 25nd 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!

We have new Administrative Council officers and committee holders for 2026:

Ad. Council Chair - Kathy Bartz
Secretary - Tyler Kispert
Treasurer - Kelly Amunrud
Education - Lisa O'Neil
Trust Fund & Trustees - Beth Hanggi
Staff/Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) - Karen Franko and Kim Marquardt
Thank you to all of you for your willingness to serve!

Women With A Purpose (WWAP)

WWAP will meet Saturday February 17 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 February, we will meet on the
11th and on the 25th.**

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: Italian Spaghetti, Fettuccini Alfredo, Meatballs, Shredded Chicken, Salad and cake for dessert

**Wednesday,
February 18, 2026**

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

Dodge Center United Methodist Church
Corner of 1st Street and 1st Avenue NE



**FREE WILL DONATIONS
ACCEPTED**

*Donations this month will go to
Faith In Action*

Sign up using the link below or in the back of the church to donate food, set up, serve, or cleanup. Thanks!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094CA5AC2AA1FA7-61886394-umcfree>



DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 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 Pastor Chad opened the meeting with a prayer.
SECRETARY: The November Ad Council minutes were distributed. Motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

TREASURER: End of November balance \$61,762.41. (Set aside for brick repair and mold clean up \$47,100. Set aside for parsonage \$6844.05). Memorial fund end of November balance \$18,343.27.

TRUST FUND: End of November balance \$48,442.34. The final invoice for the brick came in at \$22,212.18. This has been paid. The mold invoice has been paid. The remainder of the \$47,100 left was \$21,461.90 so that will be put back in the Wells Fargo account. Review of our investments show we are a 7/9 for risk. Our accounts have done very well over the last 10 years. We do need to add the next treasure to the accounts as the secretary is the only one on the account at this time.

TRUSTEES:

Plowing: We had some issues with the first snow plowing, clearing sidewalks. Lisa talked with Jeremy and we should be all set moving forward.

SPRC: End of year staff evaluations will be scheduled for Janet and Pastor Chad.

PASTOR: (See page 2)

Pastor Chad will be on vacation 12/26-12/31. Rev. Buller will sub on 12/28/25. There may be a youth activity planned the last week of December and if so, Pastor Chad will work that day. Of note, there will be a wedding on 4/11/26 here for a non-member.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **MN Paid Family Leave Act:** Beth presented an alternative options. Discussion held. Tyler contacted the state and UI and will set Janet up. The Pastor is paid through Trinity.

- **Ad Council Positions:** We had one nomination for Ad Chair. Discussion was held over current members of the board and where they would like to move. Lisa will reach out to Kathy Bartz for the Ad Chair position.

New positions are:

Trustee Chair – Beth, Trust Fund Chair will move back to the Trustees to manage. Treasurer – Kelly. Secretary – Tyler. Education Chair – Lisa. Pastor Chad will make some phone calls for SPRC chair and committee member.

- **January Community Dinner:** The meal will be chicken pot pie over biscuits.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 20th at 5:30 PM

Kelly Amunrud, Administrative Council Secretary

DCUMC: Pastor Chad's report for 12/3/25 through 1/2/26

Home/phone visits: 9 Pre-marriage/wedding planning visits: 0 Weddings: 0

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

Total Vacation

days taken in 2025: 28 (included 3 Sundays). Sick days in 2025: 3.5 Vacation taken in 2026: 1

day (1/2/26)

Pastor Chad's Ministries & Activities:

- Planned and delivered general Sunday worship services
- Planned and delivered three Advent Monday services
- Planned and delivered Christmas Eve worship
- Preparing and delivering confirmation for Peyton Lepp
- Newsletter articles and communications
- Community Meal in December
- Checking announcements, and newsletter article writing

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities

- Next Community Meal, 1/21

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.

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2026

Agnes McKittrick
109 2nd Street
Dodge Center, MN 55927

