

March 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

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 April
newsletter is
March 18th.



“Sojourners of faith” - Deuteronomy 26:1-11
March 2026

Land is connected to identity. Where we make our home is woven into how we make sense of the world. Land is also fraught with challenges. Our histories reveal that Native peoples throughout the world have had their land stolen through coercion, fraud, and, in many cases, violence. Our faith calls and compels us to examine these truths as we work toward justice and reconciliation. It is no secret that the promised land named in Deuteronomy was already occupied when the Israelites came into it. There is a deep history of identity, challenge, and violence connected to this land "flowing with milk and honey. " And though this land has become the spiritual home of so many peoples and traditions, the lasting truth is that we all come from "a wandering Aramean," Abraham, and his wife Sarah. That is, we are all sojourners of faith, guests in any land, whose core identity is one of a wayfarer on a journey. This means that our true home is God. In your Lenten journey this year, as you reflect upon your inner-self, repentance, and good deeds, remember that your true home is in God during this journey.

A blessed Lenten season to you,
Pastor Chad



Deuteronomy 26:1-11

26When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house..



March Birthdays

Brecklyn Franko	3
Shirley Bowman	4
Chad Christensen	5
Mikaela Burtis	8
Taelynn Narveson	9
Reece Kispert-Johnson	26
Erin Kispert	28
Relph Hanggi	30
Shari Garness	31

Thank You To Our March Volunteers!

Readers

March 1
 March 8
 March 15
 March 22
 March 29

Tyler Kispert
 Janet Bugarin
 Kelly Amunrud
 Janet Bugarin
 Kathy Bartz

Counters

March 1
 March 8
 March 15
 March 22
 March 29

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

Communion

Deb Papenfus

(Please find a Sub If you are unable to do your duty on your assigned Sunday.)



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.

MARCH



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 meeting	13	14
15 8:30 Worship/ Sunday School	16	17 5:30-Ad Board  ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18 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 meeting	27	28
29 8:30 Worship/ Sunday School						

March Meetings and Events



Ad Council

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

Adult Caregivers Support Group

We will meet on March
12th and 26th 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!

Meals on Wheels Drivers needed for the weeks of March 30 - April 3 and April 6-10. There is a sign up sheet on the back table. Your willingness to help deliver meals to people in our community is a blessing. Thank you!



Women With A Purpose (WWAP)

WWAP will meet Saturday March 21 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





Hello, friends. March is here, and we would once again like to invite you to join us in the fight against hunger with the **Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign March 1 - April 6, 2026**. For 45 years, FoodShare has been a catalyst of additional support for food shelves, offering grant funds that bolster the generosity of our community.

In 2025, you gave an incredible \$18,589.83 and 8191 pounds of food during FoodShare! In November of last year, we also saw how incredibly giving our community is, as we faced the uncertainty of food program funding within our state. So many of you showed up in amazingly giving ways, and we are so grateful! With your support throughout this past year, we were able to serve 171,924 pounds of food and personal care items to 9,712 individuals within 3,606 households.

With the hope of your continued support, here are some suggested needs of the food shelf: *Canned Fruit and Veggies, Condiments/Seasonings, Rice, Pasta and Pasta Sauce, Deodorant, Toothpaste/ Toothbrushes, Canned Meat, Cereal/Oatmeal, Canned Beans, Soups/Sauces, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Laundry/Dish Soap, Feminine Hygiene Products, Baby Food/Formula, Shampoo and Conditioner, Baking Items, Juice, body wash/bar soap.*

Uncertain what to purchase? Monetary donations are accepted and always appreciated. Drop off a donation at: 105 S Mantorville Ave – Mondays 8am-3pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 8am-12:30pm & 1:30pm-4pm. Mail a donation to: PO Box 36, Kasson MN 55944

If you are interested in a food shelf presentation at your church or organization or are interested in a tour to see what we are doing here, please let us know.



Easter Flower orders must be placed to Houston's by March 16th. Please turn your order in to the church office by that date. They are not ordering much more than is requested and the orders need to be guaranteed and cannot be cancelled. Here is what they have to offer:

- White Easter Lilies-\$14.00 (No discount due to cost increase)
- Large Mums- \$15.00
- Begonias-\$15.00
- Small Mums-\$9.00

The colors of the Mums or Begonias cannot be guaranteed.
Please indicate who the plant is in memory or in honor of.

In Memory of:

In Honor of:



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 March, we will meet on the 12th
and on the 26th.**

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 Sunday School 2025 - 2026

Children and Families,

Please join us in March to learn how “God Protects” through examples from the Bible. We will meet each Sunday during worship at 8:30 am, and Wednesday, March 18 at 5:45 pm. Our Sunday School program will be supporting a monetary collection for Heifer International again this year. We will discuss this during Sunday School and the kids will participate in the noisy offering on Sunday, March 22. Below is a unit 2 family letter from our new curriculum. Hope to see you soon!

Cokesbury Kids

**big
faith**

Unit 2: Shelter

Faith Focus: God protects us.

*Let your loyal love and faithfulness always protect me.
(Psalm 40:11)*

FAMILY FAITH LETTER

Dear Families,

Welcome to Big Faith! The goal of this program is to help your child grow in faith and learn to live as a disciple of Jesus. As Christians, we know that our faith can impact each and every aspect of our lives. You are your child’s first and most important teacher of faith, and we want to help you create meaningful moments of spiritual formation that will have a lasting impact on your child’s faith.

This fall, your child will be exploring ways that we grow our faith in God. This month the children are learning about how God provides for us in difficult times. They will learn how God shelters us through life’s storms.

Your child will explore Old Testament Bible stories that show how God provides for and protects us at all times. Familiar passages like Psalm 121, the story of David and Goliath, and the Book of Esther will help children learn about how God provides for people’s needs and protects them from danger. You can help your child grow in faith this month by encouraging him or her to notice the ways that God provides for and protects him or her.

Here are some ways you can incorporate Big Faith ideas in your family life:

- Have a living-room or backyard campout, and talk about ways God shelters us.
- Say a prayer of thanks to God for shelter the next time there is a storm in your area.
- Discuss bullying with your child, and explore safe ways to seek protection from bullies.

You're Invited!!

Join us for a...

Community Dinner

Menu: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Carrots/Peas, and Dessert

**Wednesday,
March 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
Dodge County Food Shelf*

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/20F094CA5AC2AA1FA7-62432686-copy>



DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026 (REVISED)

ATTENDANCE: Chad Christensen (Pastor), Kathy Bartz (Ad Council Chairperson), Beth Hanggi (Trustees), Kelly Amunrud (Treasurer), Lisa O'Neil (Education), Tyler Kispert (Secretary), Kim Marquardt (SPRC).

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

SECRETARY: The December 2025 Ad Council minutes were distributed. Motion was made to approve the minutes.

Motion was seconded and approved.

TREASURER: End of December 2025 balance \$21,545.23. (7269.05 set aside for parsonage / proposed 2026 property taxes \$2504.00) Memorial fund end of December 2025 balance \$18,345.61.

Deficit for 2025 Year End: -\$3870.36 · Apportionments are going up \$20/month · CCLI was decided to only pay for streaming and copyright, and not include song select this year. · We will re-look at financial outlook after Q1

TRUST FUND: Not Available

TRUSTEES:

SPRC: The barn in the back of the parsonage is damaged. Getting a quote to tear down. Replacing will be talked about in the summer. Kim/Karen will set up a transition meeting with Beth. There are new Superintendent co-chairs for our district starting July 1 st .

EDUCATION: Discussed when to do Heifer donations: Feb-Mar, April dinner, last year we raised \$1800. Wednesday "Sunday school" will continue.

PASTOR: (See page 2) Lent Bible Study – virtual combo was discussed. Looking into if Conference has something already. · Noon Ash Wednesday Service · Ash blessing available during Wednesday meal

OTHER BUSINESS:

Tables Update needs to be finished by February meeting

Administrative Council Position Updates: Kathy Bartz: Ad Chair; Lisa O'Neil: Education Chair; Beth Hanggi:

Trustees; Kelly Amunrud: Treasurer; Tyler Kispert: Secretary; Kim Marquardt and Karen Franko: SPRC Co-chairs.

Emails from Janet B. - Netgear Router & Alarm Alert Safety System Scam Email

Discussed changing KMTEL authorized business form.

ALARM ALERT Smoke Alarm alerts being discontinued; Beth to reach out to Church Mutual if Collin doesn't know.

Bruce Buller - Give \$50 to him for planning for the worship that was cancelled.

Discussed Sundays for Graduation, Confirmation & Chad's Farewell. Chad to reach out to parents for date suggestions.

February Meal - February 18: Noodle bar; spaghetti and alfredo, Caesar salad, Meatballs/Chicken, Cake.

We will Change Relay donation from monthly meal donations to Dolly Parton Imagination Library

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 2/17/26 at 5:30 PM

Tyler Kispert, Administrative Council Secretary

DCUMC: Pastor Chad's report for 1/3/26 through 2/5/26

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 taken in 2026: 1 day (1/2/26); Sick days: 0

Pastor Chad's Ministries & Activities:

- Planned and delivered general Sunday worship services
- Planning 2026 Lenten services and Ash Wednesday
- Administrative recording of parochial reports
- Preparing and delivering confirmation for Peyton Lepp
- Newsletter articles and communications
- Community Meal in January
- Checking announcements, and newsletter article writing
- Planning wedding for Jacobson/Nelson (non-members) on April 11 at DCUMC

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities

- Next Community Meal, 2/18
- JR./SR. High youth event at DCUMC, either Feb. 13 or 14
- Mid-week Lenten services

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

March 2026

