

April 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

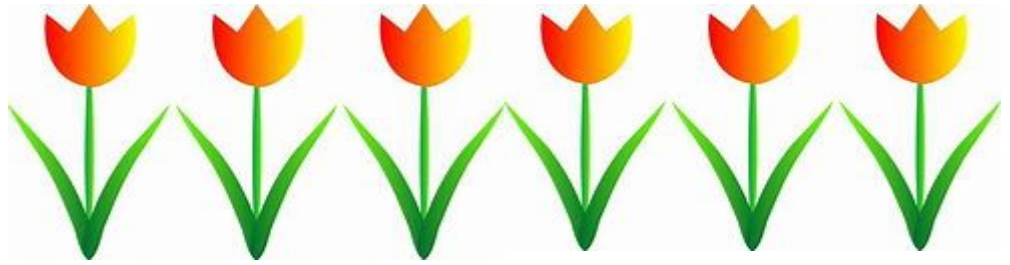
Email: secdcumc@gmail.com
Office Phone: 507-374-6885
(please leave a message)

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 May
newsletter is
April 22nd.



Pastor Chad's Ink

“Thank You”

"I thank my God every time I remember you" (Philippians 1:3) is a powerful expression of gratitude and joy from the Apostle Paul to the church in Philippi, often used to express deep appreciation for partners in faith. This sentiment highlights **joyful prayer, partnership in the gospel, and confidence in God's ongoing work.**

The Apostle Paul's sentiment above is what runs through my mind now as I have just a few more weeks in serving you. Indeed, it has been a blessing and privilege to serve alongside you in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ for close to six years. I give thanks for our worship planning together, for my times with the Community Meal, the caregiver's group, and WWAP; and the confirmation and youth group events, along with visiting you in your homes for regular, illness, or celebration visits like graduations. Ecumenical meetings and activities like Thanksgiving services give me fond memories as well. There's much more to list here that I so appreciated.

From 2020, which started out as an adventure with Covid and to gain our foothold on ministry back in some greater sense in 2022, we grew stronger by the month. For seeing the programming, mission activities, and worship services we have put on together, to God be the glory for the achievements and strides we have made.

The risen Christ is our message. Our locale needs to hear this message. You all have the tools in place to be a church in mission through Dodge Center United Methodist. I will be praying for you and your future after I leave you, please know. God be with you during these next months as you discern your future ministries and minister alongside your next pastor. I'll be thinking of you and always wishing the best for the church and her mission. God bless you all!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Chad

April Birthdays

Evan Schmoll	2
Jackie Schmoll	3
Dylan Freerksen	5
Andrew Narveson	5
Lyla Bowman	10
Brent Freerksen	11
Deegan O'Neil	11
Beverly Rohwer	30
Ellie Freerksen	30

Anniversaries

Chris and Lisa O'Neil	16
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Thank You To Our April Volunteers!

Readers

April 5	Tyler Kispert
April 12	Janet Bugarin
April 19	Kelly Amunrud
April 26	Janet Bugarin

Counters

April 5	Tyler Kispert and Kim Marquardt
April 12	Lisa O'Neil and Shawn Lepp
April 19	Kathy Bartz and Doris Weber
April 26	Lisa O'Neil and Shawn Lepp

Communion

Deb Papenfus

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

*Thank you
and farewell*

Farewell for Pastor Chad

Pastor Chad's last Sunday with us will be on April 12th. All are invited to a farewell brunch **BEFORE** the 8:30am worship service that day to greet him and wish him well. Pastor will be taking an interim call to a four-church parish in the Bricelyn/Kiester, MN area, west of Albert Lea. Our best wishes to him in this next chapter of his ministry.



April

2026



11	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 8:30 am Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School	6	7	8	9 6-7:30 pm Caregiver's meeting	10	11 Church reserved for a wedding to be held here at 4:00
12 8:00 am Farewell Brunch for Pastor Chad 8:30 am Worship/Sunday School	13	14	15 5:00-6:00 pm Community Meal 5:45 Sunday School	16	17	18 9:30 am WWAP At the church
19 8:30 am Worship/ Sunday School	20	21 5:30-Ad Board	22 Newsletter Deadline	23 6-7:30 pm Caregiver's meeting	24	25
26 8:30 am Worship/ Sunday School	27	28	29	30		

April Meetings and Events



Ad Council

The next meeting will be held
Tuesday, April 21
at 5:30 PM.

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!

Adult Caregivers Support Group

We will meet on April
9th and 23rd from



Women With A Purpose (WWAP)

WWAP will meet Saturday April 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 fellowship.



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
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 April, we will meet on the 9th
and on the 23rd.**

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.)

Sunday School NEWS

JOIN US for Sunday School during the 8:30 am worship AND the 3rd Wednesday of the month, at 5:30 pm. Children ages 3 years old—6th grade are invited to attend.

There will not be Sunday School on Easter Sunday (April 5).

Here is our faith focus for April and May:

Cokesbury Kids

**big
faith**

Unit 3: Road Map

Faith Focus: God shows us the way.

*Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey.
(Psalm 119:105)*

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 shows us the way. They will learn how God provides wisdom and direction when we aren't sure which way to turn.

Your child will explore Old Testament Bible stories that show how God provides a road map to help us figure out which way to go. Stories like Samuel choosing a king, Solomon asking for wisdom, and Josiah leading as king will help children learn about how God provides guidance. You can help your child grow in faith this month by encouraging him or her to notice the ways that God guides him or her.

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

- Take a mini road trip together and talk about how God guides us wherever we go.
- Look at maps together and discuss how God's presence goes with us no matter how far we travel.
- Read from a children's Bible together and discuss how the Bible provides a road map for our faith journey.



Thank you for your donations during the noisy offering held on Palm Sunday. The donations that we get during our April Community Meal will go the Heifer International as well. Checks cash and coins are accepted. Please write Heifer International on the memo line. We will continue to collect through Sunday April 5th.

You're Invited!!

Join us for a...

Community Dinner

Menu: Ham salad and chicken salad sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans and cupcakes.

Wednesday, April 15, 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

Sign up using the link below or on the signup sheet in the back of the church to set up, serve, or cleanup. Thanks!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094CA5AC2AA1FA7-63220578-umcfree>



DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026 (REVISED)

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

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

SECRETARY: The January 2026 Ad Council minutes were distributed. Motion was made to approve the minutes.

Motion was seconded and approved.

TREASURER: End of January 2026 balance 22,198.85. (Set aside for parsonage \$7,869.05/proposed 2026 property taxes \$2504). Memorial fund at the end of January 2026 balance \$18,347.94. End of year deficit prior to payroll taxes (\$916**) was -\$3870.36. The new weekly needed amount was calculated at \$1,700. IRS mileage rate has been updated to \$0.725

TRUST FUND: End of Dec 2025 balance \$70,313.96.

End of Jan 2026 balance \$71,446.83.

TRUSTEES: KM Glass gave us a quote for repairing the broken window by janitors closet \$496. Motion approved to repair. The storage barn at the parsonage was removed; dump fees \$332.26 and motion was approved to pay and also get 3 \$100 Kwik Trip gift cards for the individuals who volunteered to take it down. The neighbor at the parsonage has cut down the border hedge and will be finishing in the spring and will wait to give us the half cost for us to reimburse.

SPRC: Transition meeting is still waiting to be scheduled. We need to reach out to Michelle Hargrave about possibility of interim pastor.

EDUCATION: Heifer donations will start to be collected March 1st and run through April 5th with a noisy offering on March 29th . This will also be discussed at the March Meal Sunday School.

PASTOR: (See page 2)

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Table Update – Chad gave to Tyler at the meeting to submit by March 1 st .
- Pastor Chad will do Peyton confirmation
- Agreed to skip Dodge County Expo this year and discuss next year when we have a new pastor.
- Wednesday, February 18 Ash Wednesday Service will be at noon.
- March Dinner: March 18th : Ham, scalloped or au gratin potatoes (Kathy to check at Sunshine for large bags), peas and carrots, dessert.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 17th , 2026, at 5:30 PM

Tyler Kispert, Administrative Council Secretary

DCUMC: Pastor Chad's report for 2/6/26 through 3/4/26

Home/phone visits: 5 Pre-marriage/wedding planning visits: 1 (Jacobson/Nelson)

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

Vacation taken in 2026: 2 days; Sick days: 1

Pastor Chad's Ministries & Activities:

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

UPCOMING Ministries & Activities

- Next Community Meal, 3/18
- Mid-week Lenten services
- I'm at Rural Ministry Conference at Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA on Mar. 8-10
- I'll be at a Lutheran Leadership event on Sat., Mar. 14

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.

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

April 2026

