

The Newsletter

August 2026

Volume 1 - Issue 1

Faith Journey

**A five part series
for growing your faith**

(details on page 11)

Sunday Worship

Dodge Center UMC
8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Dodge Center UMC
PO BOX 98,
20 First Street NE
Dodge Center, MN

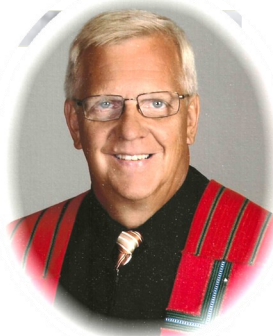
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<https://www.dodgecenterumc.org/>



FROM THE PASTOR



August. One month left of summer. For students, the summer has flown right by and a return to school is fast approaching. For parents, that return may not be fast enough. But, it's August... and summer is almost over. Time has a way of moving on so quickly. Ephesians 5:16 tells us to make "the best use of the time, because the days are evil." It's an interesting reason to make the best use of the time we have been given... because the days are evil. What might that really mean?

It's Paul's letter to the Ephesians and he is trying to communicate to them how they utilize time. I think of this encouragement as "making the most of every opportunity." Paul was personally familiar with the perspective that each day could be his last. He had been beaten, shipwrecked, stoned, and imprisoned, not knowing if he would live to see another day (2 Corinthians 11:24-28). In addition, he taught Christ would return at any moment (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Believers are to live holy lives and share the gospel in preparation for our inevitable departure.

Paul also notes another purpose to make the best use of time: the time he lived in was rampant in sin. Just as Noah lived a godly life prior to a time of judgment, Paul urged his readers to live holy lives in obedience to the Lord, knowing the evil days in which they lived indicated that judgment could come soon.

My friends, it's August and as I look around, I see shadows of what Paul saw. The days can be evil. What Paul is saying is important - we need to make the most of our time... the most of every opportunity!
Blessings to you this August...

Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

Dodge Center United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck

Administrative Assistant:

Janet Bugarin

www.dodgecenterumc.com

Office: (507) 374-6885

secdcumc@gmail.com

20 First Street NE

Dodge Center, MN 55927

"Worship the Lord with gladness..." - Psalm 100:2a

Sunday, August 2nd
The 10th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

"Faith Journey: Aches & Pains"

"God can certainly use pain to change us for the better. Jacob's encounter with God at Peniel transformed his life, linking him to the Lord and to his brother in ways he never dreamed possible. May our experience of aches and pains do the very same thing."

- based on Genesis 32:22-31

Sunday, August 9th
The 11th Sunday after Pentecost

"Faith Journey: Dare to Dream"

"God has the right to punish us and we deserve it; but rather than do that, God has freely and generously forgiven us, restored the relationship with us and has abundantly and freely blessed us, just as Joseph did to his brothers. Ultimately, it is God's dream that counts. If God indeed wills it to be so, then nothing can stand in the way! Do you dare to dream?"

- based on Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Sunday, August 16th
The 12th Sunday after Pentecost

"Faith Journey: Family Feud"

"We see in Joseph's behavior a template to help us make forgiveness happen. One place to make this so is in the family reunions of your life. Do your part to put the family feuds behind you - extend the invitation, offer the forgiveness, look for God's imprint on the situation and be a part of the solution, not the problem.

Families are important. We need each other. Heaven knows we do!"

- based on Genesis 45:1-15

Sunday, August 23rd
The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

"Faith Journey:

Trusting the Current"

"One of the key questions of the book of Exodus is: Whom shall Israel serve? It doesn't surprise us that it is also one of the key questions we still face every day. Whom shall we serve this day? Are we trusting the current of the Holy Spirit to lead us to make the right choices that we need to make today - choices that will please God and fall in with God's plan?"

- based on Exodus 1:8-2:10

Sunday, August 30th
The 14th Sunday after Pentecost

"Faith Journey:

Sandals of Skepticism"

"If you were going to write a book about your holy ground experience, what would be its subject? There is a lot more holy ground around us than we are normally conscious of. It would be good for us to include in our daily prayers a petition that God would make us aware, as he did for Moses, of when we are treading on it, so that we can take our sandals off to fully experience the blessedness of the moment and discover what God wants us to make of it!"

- based on Exodus 3:1-15



Meeting Minutes

*Here are the minutes from
the Dodge Center UMC
Administrative Council
Meeting held on
Tuesday, June 9, 2026*

DODGE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026 (REVISED)

ATTENDANCE: Daren Flinck (Pastor), Kathy Bartz (Ad Council Chairperson), Beth Hanggi (Trustees), Kelly Amunrud (Treasurer), Lisa O'Neil (Education), Tyler Kispert (Secretary), Richard Urbain, Janet Bugarin.

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

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

TREASURER: End of May 2026 balance \$12,458.12. (Set aside for parsonage -956.21). Memorial fund end of May 2026 balance \$18,707.05.

TRUST FUND: End of May 2026 balance \$73,899.55.

TRUSTEES: Don & Richard are cleaning up the parsonage building this week. No shed for awhile due to expenses. Upstairs bathroom handle was replaced.

Talk of making basement bathrooms handicap accessible for doors/handles/bars.

Beth will look into repair price for pews that are cracked and finish peeling. Richard will look into pricing of new options.

Kelly to call printer service to see about updating printer to color for new bulletins.

SPRC: n/a

EDUCATION: n/a

PASTOR:

- Starting June 14.
- First year to switch off 6 months 8:30 am/10:30 am. See what to do after that.
- Will make bulletins and PowerPoints for Sundays – new layout with traditional Methodist flow.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Live stream will stay with Mevo for now. Discussed changing to Streamyard. Would like to upload to YouTube,

- For communion Pastor doesn't follow liturgy, ad libs to relate to days story to liturgy, will not be a call/reply
- Going to start a surprise box sign up for children's time to relate to the sermon.
- Will be attending annual conference

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Dodger Days 2026: Beth has lined up golf cart and driver for Pastor Daren to be in. Will get candy and ask NFG for banner. Lineup is 1:30, parade at 2.
- July 15 th Dinner: Pulled pork, coleslaw, potato salad, bars.
- Annual Conference: June 16-18, 2026
- Love Offering campaign: June 14th

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Tyler Kispert, Administrative Council Secretary

We celebrated McKenna Freerksen by hosting a bridal shower on July 18th. Best wishes for many blessings in your marriage.



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

AUGUST



2

Sunday Worship
8:30 a.m.

3

4

5

Pastor Dare
Office Hours
10:00 am - 5:00 pm

9

Sunday Worship
8:30 a.m.

10

11

12

Pastor Dare
Office Hours
10:00 am - 5:00 pm

16

Sunday Worship
8:30 a.m.

17

18

Pastor Daren
Office Hours
10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Administrative
Council Meeting 5:30

19

Newsletter

23

Sunday
Worship
8:30 a.m.

30

Sunday
Worship
8:30 a.m.

24/31

25

26

Pastor Dare
Office Hours
10:00 am - 5:00 pm

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	2026		1
n s 5:00 pm	6	7	8 WWAP @ Church 9:30 a.m.
n s 5:00 pm	13 Caregiver's Meeting 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	14	15
Deadline	20	21	22
n s 5:00 pm	27 Caregiver's Meeting 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	28	29



Women With A Purpose

Women With A Purpose (WWAP) WWAP will meet Saturday August 9th 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. Please note that we are meeting one week earlier this month.

Caregiver Support Group

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.

We invite the exchange of practical information on caregiving challenges and possible solutions; talk through issues and behaviors and find ways to cope; learn about community resources; invite occasional educational speakers; meetings are in-person. This month we will meet on the 13th and the 27th.



Location:
Dodge Center UMC
20 1st Street Dodge Center, MN

Normal Date/Time:
2nd and 4th Thurs. of the month
6:00 pm – 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.)

Community Dinner...

We are not serving a Wednesday night meal in August. Plan to join us in September for our annual fundraiser on September 16th. More details to follow. Please pass this information on to your friends and neighbors.

Pastor Led Bible Study...

One of the most effective ways to grow as a disciple of Jesus is to engage in Bible Study. Pastor Daren would enjoy leading a Bible study here at Dodge Center UMC... but choosing the right time and the right topic is always a challenge. He would like your feedback. If you are interested in hearing more about a Bible study group, or if you have an idea regarding the beginning of one, please contact Pastor Daren at this email address: dflinck@gmail.com or text/call his cell phone: 651.283.5754

There are a number of different options available... in person at the church, using Zoom or Microsoft Teams as a way to connect when time and travel are considerations, studies on any book of the Bible, topical Bible studies (usually a short series on using one's time or dealing with challenging situations, as examples.), or enhancing relationships (with spouses, children, parents, etc.)

Study ^{the} **Bible**
with us

Please contact Pastor Daren if you are interested in hearing more!

Summer Book Study...

You're invited to participate in a 2026 Summer Book Study led by Bishop Lanette. In this area-wide study, United Methodists are invited to read "Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny" by The United Methodist Council of Bishops.

This book offers a roadmap for these turbulent times where we see polarization dividing communities and people of faith. All are welcome! Mark your calendar and encourage others to join you.

Discussions will be held via Zoom on the fourth Saturday morning in August and September, from 9-10:30 a.m. You may have missed the first few sessions, but you can still join in! See Pastor Daren for more details.

Happy Birthday!

Deb Meeker	August 9
Kaylee Narveson	August 18
Taylor Lepp	August 22
Rebecca Schletty	August 22
Keith Bowman	August 28
Jacob Monson	August 31

Happy Anniversary!

Steven and Shari Garness	August 9
Mark and Angie Freerksen	August 18

Our Facebook Page

We have an active Facebook page that seeks to promote the ministry of our church. Announcements, events, and sharing stories takes place on our Facebook page. We also make special announcements via our page to keep you up to date on schedule changes. Go to Facebook and search for Dodge Center United Methodist Church.

Pastor Daren's Blog

Pastor Daren has a blog that provides insights and behind the scenes reflections on our busy lives today. Here is the link to Pastor Daren's blog - subscribe to it today (no cost):

revdaren.blogspot.com



Live Streaming!

Each Sunday we live stream our worship services from Dodge Center UMC. If you are going to be out of town, you can catch the live broadcast on our church app (download to your device) or any one of four different online locations:

Dodge Center UMC YouTube Channel

Go to YouTube: Dodge Center United Methodist Church

Dodge Center UMC FaceBook

Go to FaceBook: Dodge Center United Methodist Church

Worship Servers and Counters

Here are the persons who are scheduled to help serving in worship and those who help with counting the offering:

		Readers
Sunday	August 2	Tyler Kispert
Sunday	August 9	Lisa O'Neil
Sunday	August 16	Kelly Amunrud
Sunday	August 23	Kathy Bartz
Sunday	August 30	Janet Bugarin
		Counters
Sunday	August 2	Tyler Kispert and Kathy Bartz
Sunday	August 9	Lisa O'Neil and Shawn Lepp
Sunday	August 16	Kim Marquardt and Doris Weber
Sunday	August 23	Kathy Bartz and Shawn Lepp
Sunday	August 30	Lisa O'Neil and Doris Weber
		Communion
Sunday	August 2	Linda Wallerich

✿ (Please find a sub if you are unable to do your duty on your assigned Sunday)

August Sermon Series: Faith Journey

Pastor Daren will be preaching a five part sermon series on growing your faith in August. In these difficult days, building a stronger faith to overcome the challenges of this world is essential for the follower of Jesus. Join us in person or on our live stream broadcast to grow your faith!

Please pray for:



Prayers for health concerns:

Marty Franko (in Hopsice care in Hayfield)

Those struggling with addiction and mental illness...

For those who are remembering loved ones...

Care Center Residents...

Giving thanks & praying for:

Local farmers and their families...

Area businesses and their employees...

Our nation and leaders...

Our school teachers, administrators, students...

Service women & men and their families...

Local health care professionals, doctors, nurses, aides, group home, & care center workers...

Law enforcement & emergency service workers...

Area congregations...

Family and friends with difficulties in their relationships...

If you have a loved one you would like to have added to the Prayer Corner list, please contact the Church Office at 507.374.6885 or secdcumc@gmail.com - thank you!

Care Center Residents

If you have a loved one you would like to have added to the Care Center Residents list, please contact the Church Office at 507.374.6885 or secdcumc@gmail.com - thank you!