



# Methodist Messenger

2022 Edition, Issue 5, May



For months now I have been wondering what would help us rebuild our churches. I believe we are still in a season of rebuilding our church's attendance, worship experience and mission/outreach emphasis. Our church family members are slowly trickling back, and we are grateful for every heart hungry to worship, walk with God, and share Christ's love in the world.

Therefore, as we rebuild, I thought it would be helpful to take a few months to review what membership means in the Methodist denomination. Coming into Methodism as an adult, I didn't know what membership means in this denomination. And I'm guessing I might not be the only one.

Did you know this happened on the day you were baptized as an infant? If you were baptized as an infant in the Methodist church, your parents promised on your behalf to faithfully participate in their local congregation through their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. And you became a new member of your church. The idea is that you would learn and grow into these promises as you participated in your church.

Let's talk about praying for your church. Julie Dwyer, a writer for the UMC, wrote the following about a woman who lived into praying for her church:

**Mary Meyer carried index cards with her wherever she went. On each was a list of names of people she needed to pray for or other concerns.**

Continued on pg 2....

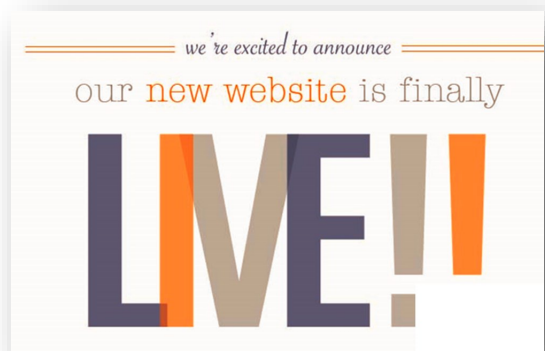
Thank you for a fun Psalm Sunday and a wonderful Easter.



As you can see, Dent was certainly living up Psalm Sunday.

Vergas had a wonderful cross display honoring our Risen Lord.

Thank you for gathering together to worship the Lord.



[dentvergasumc.org](http://dentvergasumc.org)

Come and check it out, It's still a work in progress but look what we have accomplished so far.

Continued from pg 1

She would jot down new names and prayer requests as they came to her, and then she'd tuck the cards into her Bible, her purse or even the cushions of her favorite chair. If she had a free minute, she was praying.

"I think it's honest to say she was never bored because of her prayer life," said her grandson, Gilbert C. Hanke, top executive of the Commission on United Methodist Men.

Hanke said after his grandmother's death, his parents helped clear out the family's home and found more than a hundred of her prayer cards scattered around in books, drawers and other places.

"It was like seeds that she planted," Hanke said. "I don't have much from Grandma, but I do have this memory. Every time I see an index card, that's what I think of."

There are many ways we might pray for our church and one another. Many are participants in the Prayer Chain so they can pray for people's health needs. You could put a timer on your phone to remind you to pray for your church each day. I love how we pray together each Sunday during Joys and Concerns.

Starting Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> we will be starting a new sermon series on The Lord's Prayer by Adam Hamilton. For the next six weeks we will be learning how to pray as Jesus taught his disciples to pray. I am looking forward to God's encouragement and strengthening of our prayer lives.

We will be starting a new thing each month in Dent and Vergas. I'm calling it a Breakfast Club. We'll see if it works. But I'm thinking, "You gotta eat right?"



Vergas' Breakfast Club will be on the fourth Friday of the month...fourth Friday for food; 9:00am at the Loon's Nest.

Dent's Breakfast Club will start on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00am at "Nootzies"... first Friday of the month for food.

Bring your appetite and a friend. I'm looking forward to fellowshipping together.

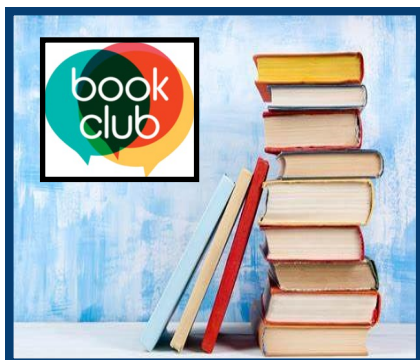
WHEN WE PUT  
OUR PROBLEMS IN  
GOD'S HANDS,  
HE PUTS HIS  
PEACE IN OUR HEARTS.



We had a wonderful experience with VBS last year! The kids were great and the evenings flew by. We hope we to offer VBS again August 1<sup>st</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>. Our first informational meeting will be on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at noon in Vergas. Looking forward to dreaming and planning together.



Every Sunday ~ September thru May at 10:30am



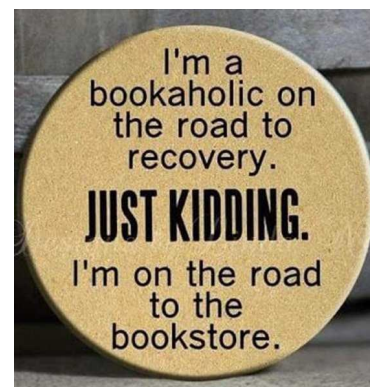
Next Book Club meeting Tues, May 3rd at the Loon's Nest.

April's Book is members choice. Whatever book you would like to read and share with the group.



Dent Citywide Garage Sale Frybread Fundraiser Saturday, May 14th 7am

Keep Reading  
It's one of the most marvelous adventures anyone can have.  
-Lyod Alexander



No one is too young or too old to join the Church Ladies. So join us as we reorganize our Women's Group on Tuesday, May 10 at the church at 1:00 pm, where a delicious dessert will be served. The United Methodist Women have two purposes, first to raise money for missions and secondly to enjoy each other's company and have fun.

In the past we met at church most of the year taking the winter off regular meetings and then meeting for lunch in various restaurants in Vergas or Perham. We had a "Good Stuff" sale where we brought baked goods and craft projects to sell after church. We organize the annual Looney Days Rummage Sale. We have raffled quilts. We also take donations at the meetings, then all money is added together and we decide which missions the group will sponsor and we give away the money collected. We need more church ladies and more ideas so join us on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm and keep the second Tuesday open for more activities.

# Vergas Mission Minute

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## Local Outreach



This month, the \$300 for local missions was sent to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to be used in Ukraine. There is so much need there and sending this through the conference assures that it reaches the people of Ukraine.

Please let the Ad Council know if there are needs in the community that should be considered for assistance.

## Mission of the Quarter



The Mission of the Quarter is the American Cancer Society which we support through our local Relay for Life team called the “Vergas Looneys”. This little team has done a big job fundraising for the Cancer Society. Its big activities are the Fashion Show and Silent Auction, Bunko Tournament, and the Christmas Gathering featuring music, food, and bake sale. This year many of the events were plagued by snowstorms, but we still managed to raise \$11,000. More plans are in the works, and we need your support. All mission moneys donated in May, June, and July will go to the Vergas Looneys. Everyone has been touched by Cancer and the American Cancer Society helps people in many ways as well as research into diagnosis and cures.

Thank you for continued generosity,

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## Dent Mission of the Quarter

April, May, June



UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable. We provide relief, response and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a community’s ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.

Global Ministries works through missionaries and partners in more than 60 countries around the world.



Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. The theme of the 2022 Annual Conference is “Jesus: Healer.” Our Love Offering this year will address food insecurity by supporting three Minnesota United Methodist food ministries.



Thank you for your continued generosity



**Vergas**  
**Needed for May:**  
 8th, 15th & 22nd



**Vergas**  
**Needed for May:**  
 1st, 8th & 26th

**Dent UMC** - Liturgist & Usher lists have been put together. Ushers will have the responsibility for ushering all Sunday's in that month. If you are unable to be there on a Sunday, please find a substitute to fill in for you. Thank You!

**May Ushers**  
**Lyndon & Peggy M.**

**June Ushers**  
**Gary & Judy A.**

Liturgists May:

- 1st Don G.
- 8th Darlene H.
- 15th Carolann G.
- 22nd Augie A.
- 29th Don G

Liturgists June:

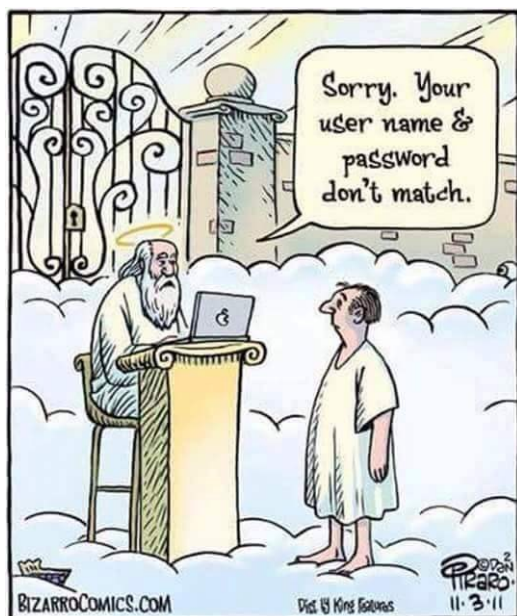
- 5th Doris C.
- 12th Russ W.
- 19th Gary A.
- 26th Peggy Me.

**Fellowship:**

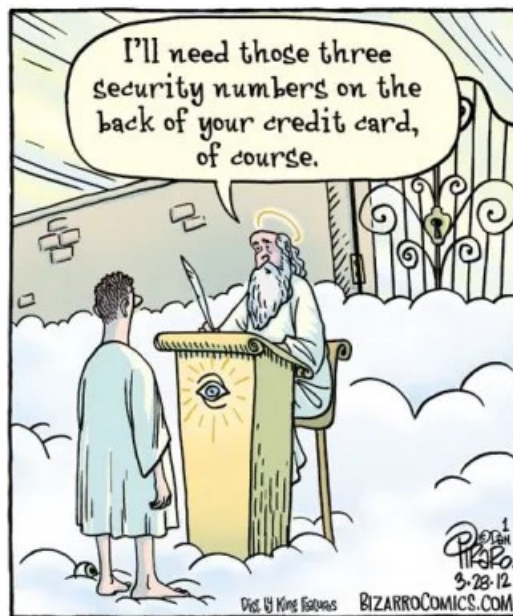
- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1st Doug & Nanchy H     | 5th Lyndon & Peggy M.  |
| 8th Karen & Richard J.  | 12th Peggy Meissner    |
| 15th Rick & Virginia J. | 19th Don & Carolanne G |
| 22nd Judy A / Joann S   | 26th Russ & Lisa W.    |
| 29th Curt & Ellie L.    |                        |

**Vergas UMC** - Liturgist & Usher sign up sheets are in the fellowship hall. Please check the lists and see where you might be able to help. Thank you!

*\*check the weekly bulletins for reminders of who signed up or where there is still a need.*



HEAVENLY  
 HUMOR



## Backyard Song Bird Lovers - Some info on the Bird Flu ~ Is it Safe to Feed Wild Birds Right Now?

There is no official recommendation to take down feeders unless you also keep domestic poultry, according to the National Wildlife Disease Program.



“The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and United States Department of Agriculture have both stated that **bird feeding is safe**. Out of an abundance of caution, some agencies initially suggested taking feeders down, but these guidelines have been scaled back. Currently, there are not any restrictions in place on bird feeders.”

If you raise poultry and live in an area where avian influenza is being reported, you could consider removing bird feeders in the short term. “Past outbreaks of avian flu have generally waned by early summer,”.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources says hummingbird feeders and oriole feeders do not need to be removed.

Waterfowl including ducks, geese, and swans, are the main group impacted. It can be fatal in these species. Other birds including raptors like hawks and eagles, as well as shorebirds and gulls have also tested positive for HPAI H5N1 during this outbreak. Research has shown songbirds are less likely to contract bird flu and are less likely to shed large amounts of the virus. A small number of corvid species (crows, jays, and magpies) have tested positive.

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/avian-influenza-outbreak-should-you-take-down-your-bird-feeders/>

### **GRANDMAS ARE SMART**



I was out walking with my Grandson. He picked up something off of the Ground and started to put it in his mouth. I took the item away from him and I asked him not to do that.

"Why?" my Grandson asked.

"Because it's been on the ground; you don't know where it's been, it's dirty, and probably has germs, and sometimes germs make little boys sick and not feel good" I replied.

At this point, my Grandson looked at me with total admiration and asked, "Grandma, how do you know all this stuff?? You are so smart."

I was thinking quickly and said to him, "All Grandmas know stuff. It's on the Grandma Test. You have to know it, or they don't let you be a Grandma."

We walked along in silence for 2 or 3 minutes, but he was evidently pondering this new information.

"Oh...I get it! He beamed, So if you don't pass the test you have to be the Grandpa."

"Exactly," I replied with a big smile on my face.



**Friends are like balloons;**  
 once you let them go, you might not get them back. Sometimes we get so busy with our own lives and problems that we may not even notice that we've let them fly away. Sometimes we are so caught up in who's right and who's wrong that we forget what's right and wrong.. Sometimes we just don't realize what real friendship means until it is too late.

**TAKE TIME**

**To Think.** It is the source of power.  
**To Play.** It is the secret of perpetual youth.  
**To Read.** It is the fountain of wisdom.  
**To Pray.** It is the greatest power on earth.  
**To Love and Be Loved.** It is a God-given privilege.  
**To be Friendly.** It is the road to happiness.



**Worship Service Times:**

Dent Services 9:00 am  
 Vergas Services 10:30am

*The Vergas service will begin the Livestream on Facebook at 10:30 am and will be posted to YouTube & the Website shortly after the end of the service.*

**YouTube.com** Search using this text, "[Dent Vergas UMC](#)" to find our channel. **Please "Subscribe"** - once we get to 100 subscribers, we will get our own unique YouTube link.

Are there things you would like to see each month in your newsletter? Would you like to write an article? Submit photographs? Share a recipe? Please let us know and we will do our best to include it here. Also, If you want your Newsletter delivered by email. Please let Sheri Schoenberger know at [sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com](mailto:sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com) or call her at 218-329-7465

Additions to the newsletter, deadline for April is March 26, 2022

We will be sending out the newsletter on the first or second Sunday of each month, if possible. To defray costs the newsletter will be offered in the following formats:

**Email - Website - In person pick up** at church - 1st or 2nd Sunday of the month.

**US Mail** - Remaining newsletters will be mailed on the 1st or 2nd Monday of the month.

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# May / June 2022

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri  | Sat  |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>1</b><br>Video worship<br>service<br>provided by MN<br>Annual Conf.                                     | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>12:30pm<br>Book Club<br>meeting @<br>Loon's Nest | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br>Sheri S<br>(V)  | <b>7</b>   |
| <b>8</b><br>Communion<br> | <b>9</b><br>Olive H.<br>(V)  | <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b><br>Donna F.<br>(V)  | <b>12</b><br>Cliff M<br>(V)    | <b>13</b><br>Mike S<br>(D)  | <b>14</b><br>Garage Sale 7am<br>Fry Bread 8am<br>Dent UMC  |
| <b>15</b><br>VBS<br>Informational<br>Meeting<br>12pm Vergas  | <b>16</b>   | <b>17</b><br>1:00 pm<br>Ladies Group                         | <b>18</b><br><u>Ad Council</u><br>3pm Dent<br>6:30pm Vergas  | <b>19</b>   | <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b>  |
| <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b><br>Lana J<br>(V)   | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b><br>Lynn S<br>(D)    | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b><br>Vergas Breakfast<br>Club<br>9am Loon's Nest   | <b>28</b><br>Colter G<br>Connie H.<br>(V)  |
| <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b><br>              | <b>31</b>  | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b><br>Sondra F<br>(V)  | <b>3</b><br>Dent Breakfast<br>Club<br>9am Nootzie's  | <b>4</b>   |
| <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br>12:30pm<br>Book Club<br>meeting @<br>Nootzie's   | <b>8</b>   |   | <b>Worship Times</b><br>9am Dent<br>10:30am Vergas<br>10:30am<br>Livestream                                    | <b>Vergas Sunday</b><br><b>School</b><br>9:30 am Adult<br>10:30am<br>Children's  |



## VERGAS AD COUNCIL MINUTES

Zoom Meeting

April 20, 2022, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

Those present: Renee Sonnenberg, Sheri Schoenberger, Jane Wasvick, Carmen Moore, Pastor Amy Strom, and Faye Courneya

**Call to order** and a devotional by our Chairwoman Renee. P. Amy told of a God intervention in her life in her accidental meeting with another pastor, who gave her resources, advice, guidance, and encouragement, which were the very things she had been praying for.

### **Pastor Amy re: attendance and activities at our church:**

1. Attendance at Vergas for Easter Services were disappointing, but the good attendance at the Maundy Thursday Service in Dent had been a nice surprise. She is content with the average attendances at services at both of the churches. The online attendance continues to be consistent and is like a 3<sup>rd</sup> church she serves.
2. Pastor Amy is excited for doing another kayaking program and VBS at Vergas this coming spring/summer.
3. She is starting another sermon series about the Lords Prayer, using Adam Hamilton's book.
4. She is going to the Covenant Annual Conference next week and a prerecorded service from our conference will be used for the next Sunday service.

### **Secretary minutes**

Approved after a motion to approve from Jane, a second by Faye, and carried.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Renee moved that the treasurer's report be approved as sent out to us in advance of the meeting, was seconded by Jane, and carried.

### **Old Business:**

**\$500 Monthly Mission donations:** There has been no further information about the Ukrainian family that Tonya had told us about, so Jane moved that we give the \$300 for local missions to UMCOR for use in with assisting Ukrainian needs, seconded by Sheri, and carried.

**Update on Church Audit:** One of our Vergas members, Connie Hoffman, has agreed to do an annual audit of our Vergas church books. Since Faye had done a careful review of the last 6 months of Paul's (our previous bookkeeper) books when she took over for him, that will be counted as an audit. Jane moved and Renee seconded that Connie Hoffman be asked to go over Faye's bookkeeping in another year (after the 6 months review of Paul's books) to satisfy the audit requirement on the Methodist Church Form 12. Connie will be paid a courtesy stipend in thanks for her work,

## **New Business:**

**CD at Vergas State Bank: (due 4-29):** Faye moved that we reinvest the \$50,000 from the CD back at Vergas State Bank, then use the \$251 interest paid out on it to fund the campership program this year; it was seconded by Sheri, and carried. A question was asked if the monies might be needed to help pay for the building re-roofing this year, but we were informed by Faye that we have \$28,000 in a contingency fund and there is also a building maintenance fund that would be used for the roofing.

**Handyman** needed to do some of the heavy outside work (shrub removal, and replacement of the pipe railing at the back entrance) of the church: Myles Flateland has agreed to do this work for us. Bev Flateland has agreed to help us plan a way to make the church front entrance more beautiful; we may need to hire her to help or find a church member willing to help with the maintenance of any plantings.

**Broken Refrigerator:** The little refrigerator in the fellowship kitchen has stopped working. Jane moved that we purchase another similar sized one, seconded by Faye, and carried. The men's group will be asked to remove the old one.

**VBS:** This will be held in Vergas August 1-4. Renee is searching for a program to be used.

**Snow removal from the Parking Lot** by Carl and Jim Hoffman this winter hasn't been compensated. Jane moved that we pay these two men \$500 for their considerable efforts in clearing all the snow this winter. Seconded by Faye and carried.

## **Other Business:**

**Kayaking group** was discussed by P. Amy who wants to establish a calendar and planning for the summer get-togethers to be put on our church website so the community will be encouraged to attend. There is a kayaking planning meeting scheduled for next week. Some members, pontoon owners, also want to participate to make the activities more accessible to people who do not kayak. Other activities (ice cream socials, bonfires, walking groups, breakfast clubs, UMW group) were discussed to bring more of our members together in the summer.

## **Adjournment**

**Next Month's AD Council Meeting will be an in-person meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Respectfully submitted by Carmen Moore, Secretary