

From the PASTOR'S DESK



Read James 3:1-12.

You can use this link to read it online at Bible Gateway.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%203%3A1-12&version=NLT>

James is not convinced that our tongues—our words—can be trusted. He uses powerful metaphors to describe the tongue as a fire, a stain, as full of poison. Sure, he says, we may bless God with it, but we just as easily use it to curse each other, persons who like us are made in the image of God. Certainly, this ought not to be so. Yet, it is. And we know in our experience that it is true. Where is there hope for our wayward, cursing, burning words? James tells us there are some seemingly small things that can have powerful influence—the small rudder steers the cargo ship; the small bit guides the draft horse. Is he hinting at the seemingly small story of Jesus as having power to steer and correct our words, pointing to the gospel as the guide to our mistake-prone (or worse) speaking and living? One hopes so.

Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, steer us and guide us by the good news of Jesus Christ. Empty our tongues of mean, hurtful, cursing words, and teach us to love and bless others with our speech. Amen.

Blessings and See You in Church!

Pastor Joyce <><



*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; Do not be discouraged,
for the Lord Your God will be with you wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9*



October Worship



10/4 "Disciples Formed by Jesus Christ"

World Communion Sunday Luke 5:1-11, Ephesians 4:11-16, Psalm 119:1-8

Hymns: All Things Bright & Beautiful; Lord, I Want to Be a Christian; The Summons

10/11 "Disciples Empowered by the Holy Spirit"

Psalm 16, John 10:10, Colossians 2:6-10 Hymns: Every Time I Feel the Spirit; Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing; Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

10/18 "Love Boldly" Mark 12:28-34, Leviticus 19:9-18, John 13:34-35

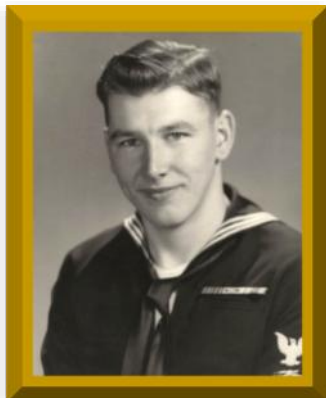
Hymns: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling; When Love Is Found; Help Us Accept Each Other

10/25 "Serve Joyfully" Psalm 100, 1 Peter 4:8-11

Hymns: I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me; Lord, You Give the Great Commission; Jesu, Jesu

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

offers an opportunity to celebrate our connectional nature and call toward ecumenical relations as United Methodists. Here's one tangible way to demonstrate this: during Holy Communion, offer a variety of breads common across many cultures. Offer a reminder that as the sun has arisen from the East and continues its movement across multiple time zones, Christians across the globe have already received communion, many congregations are gathering for communion in the moment, and many more will begin worship soon.



*Alwyn Markham Martinson, 100, passed away
at Twin Town Villa in Breckenridge, MN,
on September 23, 2026.*

Funeral Service for Alwyn will be

Oct 2, 2026 at Vergas UMC

Visitation 1:00 - 2:00pm

Worship Starts at 2pm

Luncheon to follow the service

1926 - 2026

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, the Vergas Veterans Memorial, or the Veterans Crisis Line.



Christmas Shoe Boxes: We will start collecting soon. We are going to have a box with items that we need for the boxes and you can take one or several slips, purchase it, and leave at church. This way we will end up with what we need to fill the boxes. It also costs \$10/ box for shipping so we would take monetary donations as well. We will be filling the boxes on November 15th after church. Get involved and help us with this special project.



Upcoming Event



Fashion Show & Brunch

Sponsored by
Vergas Looneys
Relay for Life



October 3rd 10:00 am - Noon
St John's Lutheran Fellowship Hall
410 E Scharf Ave, Vergas

Tickets \$25 ~ Available at local businesses
or call Bev at 218-234-6492
Silent Auction, Win Prizes, Mimosas

Gnome One Fights Cancer Alone

Special Raffle: Tickets \$5
\$500 prize at Ditterich's Mercantile



Join us Sunday, Nov. 8th at Vergas UMC



NEW FALL

Bible Study



**Begins Wednesday Oct 7th – 10:30 am in person at Dent UMC or at 6:30 pm online via Zoom, continues every Wednesday thru Nov 11th.
Cost: \$5 – just to cover printing costs, no book needed.**

In May 2025, the bishops of The United Methodist Church released a vision statement designed to help the whole church live into its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. They built the statement around three movements: loving, serving, and leading. Then they deepened the call by naming the Spirit that inspires and empowers these actions.

We are not called just to love, but to love boldly. We are not called just to serve, but to serve joyfully. We are not seeking those who will merely lead, but those who will lead courageously. The adverbs bring a spark to the statement.

The full vision statement reads: *"The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."*

This vision statement complements The UMC's longstanding mission statement, inspired by Matthew 28:18–20: *"The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."*

About the Series

To help churches explore and embody this vision, Discipleship Ministries offers a six-week worship series and small group study titled Embracing an Adverbial Faith. The series invites congregations to go deeper into what it means to love, serve, and lead not as obligations, but as expressions of a life formed by the Holy Spirit.

Week 1: Disciples Formed by Jesus Christ

Week 2: Disciples Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Week 3: Love Boldly

Week 4: Serve Joyfully

Week 5: Lead Courageously

Week 6: Disciples Transform the World

All folks are welcome to participate – no Bible knowledge required. Look for sign-up sheets in church.



Everyone is encouraged to attend

**Vergas Conference
Sunday, October 25th
after the service**

The Vergas Church Ladies



The Church Ladies are collecting for the Christmas Shoebox drive. We made slips for the congregation to take and purchase the items so that we have enough of the items needed and none of the things that can't go into the boxes. Slips are in a box in the fellowship hall and items can be brought in any time before November 15th. Packing the boxes will occur after church on

November 15th. If you wish to donate dollars to help with the postage (\$10 a box), write your check to United Methodist Women.

There will be a combined church service with "Good Stuff Sale", a potluck dinner, and Band of Faith playing on November 8th. Come to church that day and enjoy the music, food, and buy some Christmas gifts or treats. All dollars raised will go toward the Christmas Box mission.

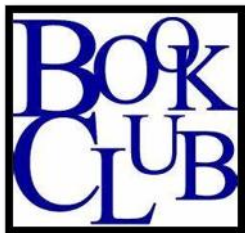
**Our next meeting
will be Oct 15th,
12:30pm
at the church**



AD COUNCIL MEETING

Wed. Oct 21st

**Dent 3pm
Vergas 6:30pm**



Dent Prayer Breakfast



Meets at Drew's Diner
9am on the first
Wednesday of the month



S/PPRC MEETING

**RESCHEDULED TO
OCTOBER 4TH
11:45 AM AT VERGAS**

Next Meeting
Tues, Oct 6th 12:30pm
at Perham Golf Course

Book: "The Road to Tender Hearts"
by Annie Hartnett



OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

October Ushers

Roger & Gretchen D.

Oct Liturgist

Pastor Jocye

Oct	Fellowship
04	Gretchen & Roger D.
11	Toni & Lowell L.
18	Ellie Lodin
25	Dorothy W / Ivy M.

Oct	Vergas Liturgist	Vergas Ushers	Fellowship
04	Rick N.	Rick & Margy N.	Margy N.
11	Tonya J.	Faye & Tonya	Margy N.
18	Carla R.	David & Carla R.	Pastor App Potluck
25	Bev F.	NEEDED	
		Communion Set Up	Tonya Johnson

If you are unable to be there on a Sunday, please find a substitute to fill in for you. Thank You!



Vergas

Oct 11th Faye & Tim Courneya
Oct 26th Carl & Connie Hoffmann

Dent

Oct 12th Doug & Nancy Hovey



Vergas Birthdays

Oct 24th Kathy Hillstrom
Oct 28th Erin Gjerde
Oct 28th Diane Menz
Oct 31st Jim Hoffmann

Dent Birthdays

Don't have anyone listed for October - Please let Sheri Know if you have an October Birthday



A 10 year old little girl was asked by another classmate, "what is it like to be a Christian? The girl replied, "it's like being a pumpkin God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then he cuts open the top and scoops out all of the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. and then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you for all the world to see."



Church Missions October / November / December

Vergas Mission of the Quarter ~ Local Food Shelves



Minnesota is a leader in agriculture. Yet every day in Minnesota, over 9,000 people visit a food shelf to get help meeting their daily food needs. Let's work together to advance solutions that tackle hunger on a large scale. Each dollar helps struggling Minnesotans. Your support helps parents with children, seniors, and working

Vergas Local Outreach

The local mission dollars for October will be sent to the schools in Frazee, Pelican Rapids, and Perham for school supplies. The November dollars will be given to Band of Faith. December local mission dollars will be used for the Pay It Forward envelopes.

Thank you to the congregation for their giving and please let us know if there is a need in our communities.



Dent Mission of the Quarter ~ Salvation Army



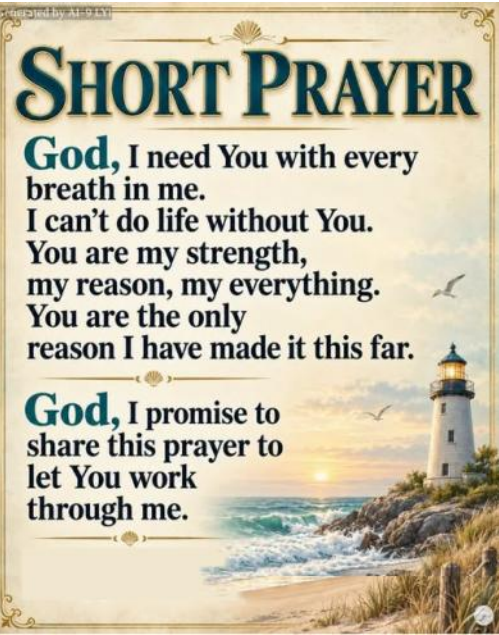
The Salvation Army has been helping people in need for more than 150 years. We have seen many changes since then, but one thing remains constant: God calls us to serve those who are most vulnerable. Today, The Salvation Army provides emergency services, including food, clothing, shelter, a safe space, and a hopeful word to everyone who needs it regardless of religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. For many, making ends meet is a daily challenge, forcing people to choose between things like heating their homes and putting food on the table. We understand the stress these situations put on families and are here to help. With utility assistance, our goal is to provide resources that will help families stay in their



A Thought for The Day

Life won't always be perfect,
but waking up each day is a quiet
blessing. Another day means
another chance to begin again—
don't take it for granted.

Unknown | MyPositiveOutlook.com



SHORT PRAYER

God, I need You with every
breath in me.
I can't do life without You.
You are my strength,
my reason, my everything.
You are the only
reason I have made it this far.

God, I promise to
share this prayer to
let You work
through me.



"Worship Times"

Dent UMC

8:30am Pre Fellowship
9am Worship Service

Vergas UMC

9:30am Adult Sunday School (Sep thru May)
10:30am Worship Service
11:30am Coffee Fellowship



Livestream Service begins at 10:30am on the [Vergas Facebook page](#)



*Recorded Service will be posted on YouTube and dentvergasumc.org
Click on the icon or link to go to the site*

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 or call her at 218-329-7465

Additions to the newsletter, **deadline for November is October 26, 2026.**

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.

Church Secretary / Newsletter editor

Sheri Schoenberger

Phone or text: 218-329-7465

email: sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com

October / November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Bible Study times 10:30am Dent 6:30pm Online	1	2	3
4 11:45 SPPRC Meeting @ Vergas	5	12:30pm Book Club at Perham Golf Course	6 9am Dent Breakfast Club Drew's Dinner Bible Study	7	8 1-2pm visitation 2pm Service Alwyn Martinson Funeral	9 10am - Noon RFL Fall Fashion Show
11	12	13	14 Bible Study	15 12:30 pm Church Ladies	16	17
Faye & Tim C. (V)	Doug & Nancy H. (D)					
18 Pastor Appreciation Potluck	19	20	21 Bible Study Ad Council 3pm Dent 6:30 Vergas	22	23	24 Kathy H. (V)
25 11:45 am Vergas Church Conference	26 Carl & Connie H. (V)	27	28 Erin G. (V) Diane M. (V) Bible Study	29	30	31 Jim H. (V) 4:30pm Vergas Trunk or Treat
1	2	3 12:30pm Book Club	4 9am Dent Breakfast Club Bible Study	5	6	7

DENT UMC ADM COUNCIL

August 26, 2026

The regular meeting of the DUMC Council was held on Wednesday at 3:00 at the church. Members present were Austin Holtz, Lyndon Maasjo, Ivy Mickelson, Peggy Meissner, and Pastor Joyce Slostad.

CALL TO ORDER: Lyndon called the meeting to order and Joyce opened with a devotional reading and a prayer.

said that our portfolio was looking good. He suggested that we look into setting a CD for emergencies. This will be discussed later.

MINUTES: Last month's minutes were approved with a motion made by Austin and seconded by Ivy, motion was passed.

FINANCE: The monthly financial statement was discussed and bills have been paid. Peggy Made a motion to pass the report subject to audit and Austin seconded, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS: The bake sale at Dent Daze made \$1005 and the float in the parade was nice to have.

NEW BUSINESS: The breakfast meeting on Wednesday will be at the new diner in Dent, Drew's Diner. Question about if we wanted to do a trunk or treat on Halloween this year. This was tabled for future meetings.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- Pastor will be taking time off from September 9 thru September 21. She will preach on Sunday the 13th and on the 20th. Don Garber will lead a hymn singing service. She will be available for any pastoral care if needed.
- She is planning a six-week Bible study for the end of September. This will be in person interested. This was tabled.
- Pastor asked how people were feeling about the videos at the end of the services. There has been some discussion as to if they are necessary. They will be cancelled for now.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Austin reported that the furnaces will be checked this year. Roger will contact Esser's heating in Perham.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT: Next scheduled meeting will be September 16. Joyce closed the meeting with a prayer and Austin made a motion to adjourn with a second from Ivy.

**Ad Council Minutes Vergas United Methodist Church
September 23, 2026, at Church**

Present: Joyce Slostad, Jane Wasvick, Doreen Schwarzrock, Sheri Schoenberger, Renee Sonnenberg, Faye Courneya, Tonya Johnson and David Reiten

Pastor Joyce shared a devotion and prayer.

Sheri reported that attendance has been steady in person and online. Last Sunday was low.

Secretary Report: The minutes were approved as sent out with corrections added.

Financial report:

The Treasurer's report was available for review. There were no questions.

Joyce shared a draft of a letter to the congregation about the current state of the budget. Joyce and Sheri will work on a letter; and get it mailed out. Jane made a motion seconded by David to approve the financial report.

Trustee:

- David reported that he has talked to Zitzow Electric and they will fix the light situation.
- David has been working with Great Plains Gas Supply to change the meter and has spent a lot of time waiting for them to come and they still haven't. He will keep trying.

Pastor:

- Joyce will begin a Bible Study in the fall. She was successful in getting the study done by the bishops from the conference. This will begin in October and end in November and will be offered online and in person. Signup sheets will be available at both churches.
- Joyce thanked the team for the time off; it was a renewal for her.
- SPPRC has moved to October 4th. Also discussed someone from Vergas needed to join SPPRC as Carla's time is complete. Jane agreed to serve again.

Mission:

- The current quarterly mission is Lend a Hand Up, a non-profit organization who helps local needs.
- The local dollars have been allotted through the end of the year.
- We will need to work on the quarterly missions for 2027. Jane will work with Tonya to suggest missions to sponsor for 2027.
- Jane shared the new way that we are doing the Christmas boxes. We made slips for the congregation to take and purchase the items so that we have enough of the items needed and none of the things that can't go into the boxes. Slips were available on September 20th, Packing the boxes will occur after church on November 15th.
- There will be a combined church service with "Good Stuff Sale", a potluck dinner, and Band of Faith playing on November 8th.

Miscellaneous Agenda Items:

- Charge conference forms are available, and we need to start completing them.
- Jane reviewed the mission report to be sent to the conference. There was discussion on many of the questions. Jane will draft a report and share any additional questions at the October meeting. Tonya will share the work done on the Mission Statement as that will help answer some of the questions. Joyce will request information on the community from the conference. Jane will ask Julie Bruhn for community assessment from city.
- The Annual Meeting will be held October 25 after church. It was decided to develop packets to hand out to those that want them. The budget needs to be completed by then and a report on how the church did according to the budget.
- As the Council works on the Budget and the report for the Annual Meeting, it was decided that we would use the figures from October 1 through September 30 for budget to actual numbers.

- The following items should be available for the annual meeting:
Mission, Jane
Financial, Faye and Tonya
Trustee, David
Membership, Sheri
Leadership and Pastor Report, Joyce
- Someone noticed bat droppings and reported it, Faye will call the Bat exterminator.

Doreen adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on September 23rd at the church.