



Methodist Messenger

2022 Edition, Issue 4, April

**From the
Pastor's
Desk**

Praying with You During This
LENTEN SEASON

I learned recently about an event called, “Ask the Pastor”. It is an opportunity to ask the pastor any question you might have about faith, the Bible, or Christianity. Three weeks from now on Sunday, April 24th (the Sunday after Easter) will be our first experiment. **Please participate!**

Begin thinking of questions you have and submitting them now. You can write them on a Prayer Card found in the pews and drop it in the Offering Plate, email me at: amyjstrom@gmail.com, or text me at: 612-226-8905. I will not mention your names.

The best 3 to 5 questions submitted will be answered in lieu of a sermon. You might be interested and surprised even, to hear what other people are wrestling with and questioning about their faith.

Come simply to witness the inevitable train wreck of me being spontaneous. Who knows what is going to come out of my mouth?!

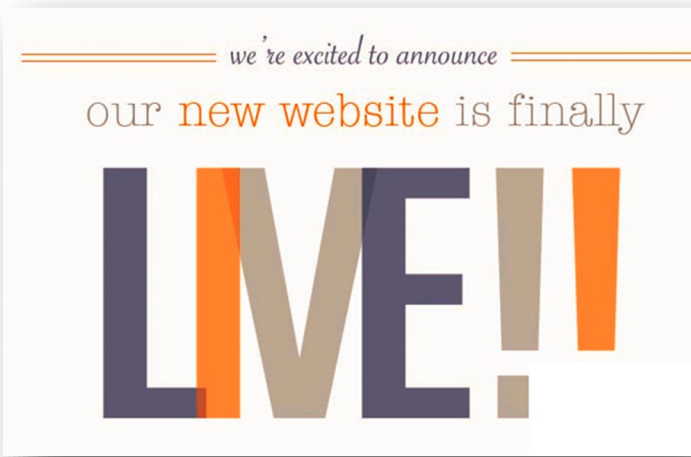


PRAYER CHAIN

We are in the process of updating our Prayer Chain in Dent and Vergas. If you are on the Prayer Chain but would prefer to be notified by **email** or **text** instead of by phone, please let our prayer chain leader know. If you are not on the Prayer Chain but would like to be included, so that you can be notified about praying for others in our church, then reach out to one of the following contacts.

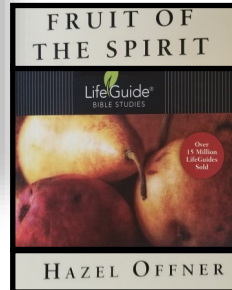
If you are in Dent, please call Doris Champlin with your preference at 218-758-2821.

If you are in Vergas, please call Sondra Flett with your preference at 218-342-2637



dentvergasumc.org

Come and check it out, It's still a work in progress but look what we have accomplished so far. The Sermon, Newsletter & Calendar pages are current and there are lots of photos in the Gallery

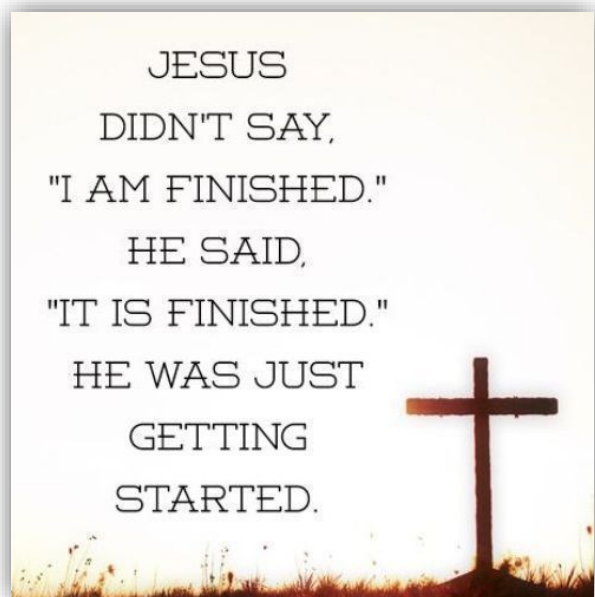


Every Sunday ~ September thru May at 10:30am

Masks Recommended But not Required

If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask in church, feel free. Covid has not gone away. Also, fellowship can start up again. I think we have all been looking forward to that! However, in Vergas we need volunteers to sign up to serve, if there is no one signed up then there won't be any coffee fellowship that Sunday. Dent has a list of servers posted.

We desire to have robust and vibrant worship together again. We are also thinking of new and creative ways to impact in our communities, with the love of God, meeting real needs, and touching lives. To do that, we need to be re-united. See you soon!



Vergas Mission Minute

Local Outreach

The Food Shelves in Pelican Rapids, and Detroit Lakes also serve our area well and continue to need our help. The \$300 of local mission dollars this month will be divided between the Pelican Rapids & Detroit Lakes Food Banks to assist them.



Mission of the Quarter



The mission of the first quarter of 2022 continues to be the local food shelves. They have been hit hard by the pandemic so \$200 a month will be sent to them for January, February, and March as well as the dollars that are designated to “mission” and placed in the offering. The mission dollars for this quarter will be The Bridge Food Shelf in Perham, as there is a matching opportunity in the month of March where our dollars will be doubled.

Please let the Ad Council know if there are needs in the community that should be considered for assistance. Thank you for continued generosity, *Jane Wasvick*

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

Inspirational Story "Carl - Ending"

...He took out his retirement watch and put it back on his wrist. Opening his wallet, he checked for his wedding photo. He gazed for a moment at the young bride that still smiled back at him from all those years ago.

He died one cold day after Christmas that winter. Many people attended his funeral in spite of the weather. In particular the minister noticed a tall young man that he didn't know sitting quietly in a distant corner of the church. The minister spoke of Carl's garden as a lesson in life. In a voice made thick with unshed tears, he said, "Do your best and make your garden as beautiful as you can. We will never forget Carl and his garden."

The following spring another flyer went up. It read: "Person needed to care for Carl's garden." The flyer went unnoticed by the busy parishioners until one day when a knock was heard at the minister's office door. Opening the door, the minister saw a pair of scarred and tattooed hands holding the flyer. "I believe this is my job, if you'll have me," the young man said. The minister recognized him as the same young man who had returned the stolen watch and wallet to Carl. He knew that Carl's kindness had turned this man's life around. As the minister handed him the keys to the garden shed, he said, "Yes, go take care of Carl's garden and honor him."

The man went to work and, over the next several years, he tended the flowers and vegetables just as Carl had done. During that time, he went to college, got married, and became a prominent member of the community. But he never forgot his promise to Carl's memory and kept the garden as beautiful as he thought Carl would have kept it.

One day he approached the new minister and told him that he couldn't care for the garden any longer. He explained with a shy and happy smile, "My wife just had a baby boy last night, and she's bringing him home on Saturday."

"Well, congratulations!" said the minister, as he was handed the garden shed keys. "That's wonderful! What's the baby's name?"

"Carl," he replied.

That's the whole gospel message simply stated.

Excuse me, is Spring
coming soon?



Spring is finally here.
... I think ... Maybe
... Hopefully.





Fire Extinguisher Training

Dent UMC Parking lot

April 20th at 2:30pm

Church Meetings:

Ad Council Wed, April 13th
Dent 3pm Vergas 6:30pm

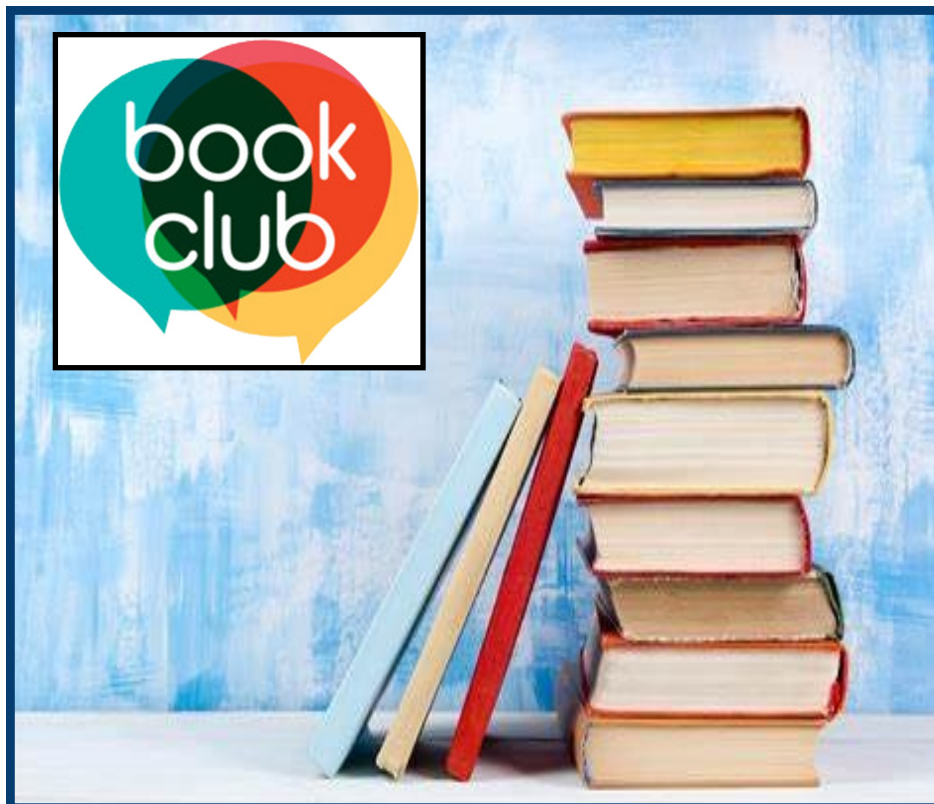
S/PPRC meeting in Vergas,
Sunday, April 24th at 11:45am



Dent Citywide Garage Sale

Frybread Fundraiser

Saturday, May 14th 7am



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 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!

April Ushers - Dent
Rob & Ivy M.

May Ushers
Lyndon & Peggy M.

Liturgist April:
 3rd Peggy Me.
 10th Augie A.
 17th Gary A.
 24th Michelle S.

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



Vergas
Needed for April:
 10th, 17th & 24th



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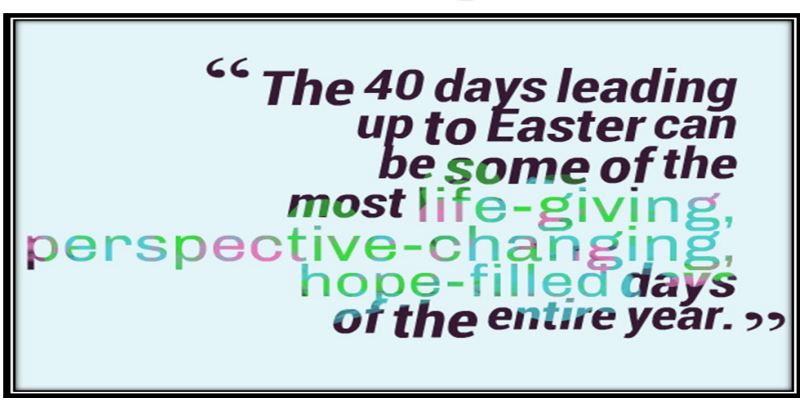
Fellowship:

3rd Doris C. / Rose T.
 10th Lowell & Toni L.
 17th Roger & Gretchen D.
 24th Kelvin & Michelle S.

1st Doug & Nanchy H
 8th Karen & Richard J.
 15th Rick & Virginia J.
 22nd Judy A / Joann S
 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.*



HOLY WEEK





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 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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Dent Vergas Website:
vergasumc.com

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April / May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship Times 9am Dent 10:30am Vergas 10:30am Livestream	Vergas Sunday School 9:30 am Adult 10:30am Children's					1 Jody S (V)  2
3 Sermon: The Cup of Compassion	4	5 12:30pm Book Club meeting @ Mysteries in Dent	6		7 Loren M (V)  8	Abbey S  9
Palm Sunday 10	11	12	13	Maundy Thursday 6pm Service at Dent UMC	14  Good Friday 15	16
 Easter Sunday 17	18 Michelle S. (D)  19	Rick N. (V)  20 Ad Council 3pm Dent 6:30pm Vergas	21	22	23	
24 S/PPRC 11:45 am Vergas	25	26  27	Kelli Ann A (D)	28 Doug Hovey (D)  29	30	
1	2	3 12:30pm Book Club meeting @ Loons Nest	4	5	Sheri S (V)	6
						7

DENT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL

March 16, 2022

The regular meeting of the DUMC Council was held on Wednesday at 3:00 at the church. Members present were Doris Champlin, Don Garber, Austin Holtz, Peggy Meissner, Ivy Mickelson, and Pastor Amy Strom. Doris called the meeting to order and Amy opened with a prayer.

MINUTES: Everyone read the minutes from last meeting. The minutes were accepted as printed.

FINANCE: Apportionments and bills have been paid for the month. We have received an additional bill in the amount of \$323 for printing expenses over the last six months. These expenses are over the contracted amount with Marco. Amy will have Sheri look into possibly changing the contract amount. It was decided to try using a power point presentation of the weekly bulletins on a trail basis. One CD is due and it will be rolled over. Peggy made a motion to accept report subject to audit with a second from Austin, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Austin reported that he fixed a pew that came apart and he checked the rest of the pews in the sanctuary. He found one fire extinguisher that needs to be replaced due to it losing pressure. This will be done by spring. There was a discussion about having training on how to use the extinguishers. It was decided to have a training during our next council meeting. This will be open to anyone who is interested.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: We will have the rummage sale on May 14 and it was decided to have fry bread for sale. Other events will be discussed at a later time.

MISSIONS: The mission thru March is for The Bridge Food Pantry. The donation they receive will be doubled this month.

WORSHIP: Sunday coffee fellowship has started and Ivy has made a schedule for serving. It was decided that one item and coffee will be plenty for the fellowship. Ivy will have the list ready by this Sunday.

MEMORIAL & TRUST FUNDS: We have received \$50 from Lavina Miller family for a quilt that was given to them. It will be put in our memorial fund.

OTHER: We will be changing our funeral policies after we get more information on how other churches are handling the costs of the service and meals. The piano in the sanctuary is for sale. We will put the announcement in the church newsletter so members of Dent and Vergas can have first chance. We will accept the best offer for the piano. Contact will be Doris or Ivy.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT: The next scheduled meeting will be April 20 at 3:00. Meeting adjourned.

VERGAS AD COUNCIL MINUTES
Zoom Meeting
March 16, 2022, 3rd Wednesday

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

Call to order by our Chairwoman Renee.

Pastor Amy offered prayer for Alwyn Martinson and his family in their loss of Marilyn this week.

Pastor Amy re: attendance and funerals at our church:

The numbers attending church services were strong for online. We need to spend more time during services for our online followers.

We also need to articulate prices for families and meet needs for instructions and communication with funeral homes for funerals at our church. Amy will work on that price list.

Secretary minutes approved after a motion to approve from Jane, a second by Faye, and carried.

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

Faye explained that the giving reported was high because some members have paid their yearly contribution as a lump sum; Sheri told us she tries to space these contributions apart throughout the month to even the amounts reported out.

Food Pantry donations:

Pastor Amy moved that our missions offering received in the quarter be given to The Bridge at Perham because the \$ they receive in March are doubled by another source. Jane moved that the local mission's money in our budget (\$300) then be split between the other 2 food pantries this month, (Pelican Rapids and Detroit Lakes). Motions were seconded and carried.

Families in Need:

Tonya told us that she was aware of a Ukrainian family who is in the process of seeking refuge in our area with the sponsorship of another Ukrainian family that has been here for 15 yrs. She recommended that we consider helping the new family with mission monies in the next few months when their paperwork and customs procedures are further along.

Update on Church Audit:

Some of our AD Council members have inquired with people from other local churches about how their audits are done. Generally, other churches ask someone who is a member of their church to check over the checks and deposits that have been posted, and a CPA was not deemed necessary to do this. Dent church is having a member who is in banking professionally look

over the numbers for the Dent church audit and it was agreeable that we ask someone in our membership to do the same thing (Connie Hoffman?) for our Vergas church books.

Scanner on the copy machine needing repair:

The scanner is not fixed yet, Sheri reported difficulty contacting the company (Marco) or in receiving acknowledgement to her many inquiries. A representative that came in for repairs on the machine showed Sheri what to do to fix the scanner; she was going to try it.

The cost to fix the scanner is still unknown due to Marco's lack of communication. Our contract with them will be up in another year then we may want to renegotiate it. Faye feels we should not lease the copier/scanner/printer but should buy one after we research our options.

COVID Restrictions:

Last month we reduced the COVID restrictions by communicating and voting via emails, but we see small numbers attending fellowship after church. We discussed the value of our fellowship time in sharing the friendly warmth that our church has to offer and that we may need to recruit fellowship hosts to continue to provide it after church.

Dahlgren House next door to the church:

Brian Giese had contacted a board member wondering if our church should pursue obtaining the house of Marion Dahlgren for a church parsonage, in the case we lose the ability to rent the parsonage in Frazee. Several board members felt that we should continue to rent the Frazee parsonage rather than be burdened with maintenance, and the other expenses of ownership. The family members of Marion have told some folks that they want to sell the house quickly; it was unlikely that it would be gifted to our church.

Parking Lot Rental:

Brian G. also wanted us to discuss renting a portion of the church parking lot to potential occupants in the new apartments on main street or to the city of Vergas. Renee felt that such a rental would make our church vulnerable legally liable, and others felt that it would invite other unforeseen problems in our parking lot, that we should not risk. The parking lot would be very difficult to clear of snow when the spaces in it are occupied. Faye felt we should table this discussion for later and be vigilant of the happenings in our parking lot.

Spring Outside Clean-up :

Faye suggested that we have an outdoor cleanup of the church building and grounds when the weather improves (April?). Perhaps we could do this after church, inviting members to help after services, and then have a light meal after working together.

Old Business:

Planning More Social Gatherings for our membership:

We acknowledged the need in our church to provide more social gatherings and brainstormed ways to accomplish that improvement. Ideas for socializing activities included bowling, game nights, and movie nights with all of us issuing

more enthusiastic invitations to attract church members and guests. The idea of establishing a fellowship or social committee to be responsible for planning such activities was also tabled.

Color Copies Issue revisited:

Sheri informed us that we had misunderstood at our last meeting the costs of making colored copies; she sent us a thorough breakdown of colored copies costs per sheet and per month (via email) for bulletins, newsletters, promotional materials (Bible school and postcards). Making the color copies for us herself on our copier was markedly cheaper (up to 1/10th the cost of having them made for us by a professional printer). She also broke down the numbers of per-item cost for color copied (bulletins, newsletters, promotional etc.). Although the cost of color copies had doubled in the last 6 months (because the number of copies made had doubled), they were much cheaper than color alternatives purchased in other ways.

Further discussion followed about what could be done to reduce this expense (\$131.47 per month in the last 6 months). Faye moved that B&W copies be used for newsletters, bulletins (except on special occasions), and training materials, but that outreach materials and special activities promotions be made in color, to see if that makes an acceptable, worthwhile impact on the expenses in our church budget. Motion seconded by Jane and carried.

Adjournment

Next Month's AD Council Meeting will be an in-person meeting on April 20th.

Respectfully submitted by Carmen Moore, Secretary