



# Methodist Messenger

2022 Edition, Issue 12, December



Advent is a season of waiting that challenges us to grow in hope. Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> was our first Sunday in Advent. We began turning our thoughts and preparing our hearts for the coming of the Lord in his birth and resetting our focus on how Jesus is the HOPE of the world.

There are many ways in which Jesus gives us hope. First, He is our living hope (1 Peter 1:3) and well-spring and the headwaters, our eternal source of hope bubbling up inside of us. His birth and then death on the cross gives us the hope of heaven. His humble birth proves Jesus is the hope of all people... poor and rich, the homeless and the powerful.

Jesus' humanity and divine nature provides us with Someone who in their humanity understands our suffering and, in their divinity, can offer us real compassion and comfort now - in our daily lives. We also remember that the hope Jesus' offers often comes disguised and hidden, hard for us to see when facing difficulties. But he promises never to leave us nor forsake us and that gives us hope. He is our hope for experiencing forgiveness and living by grace and not the law.

So many wonderful ways Jesus gives us hope... an impressive list but hardly exhaustive.

Hope is an essential ingredient in living a satisfying life. Hope is vital for the Christian life. And maybe we have been a little low on hope recently. But now, with Advent, we have been given an opportunity to be renewed in hope. I am wondering if we aren't more ready than ever for hope to well up inside of us again.

I would encourage you to surrender to Advent. Personally enter this journey of waiting and being challenged to grow in hope. Throw open the doors of your heart...be expectant for hope to come in new and different ways into your life. Consider the ways you already place your hope in Jesus. And ask yourself, "What other areas in my life might I embrace the hope Jesus offers me?" And pray, "Lord, renew my hope, expand my hope, deepen my hope!"

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)



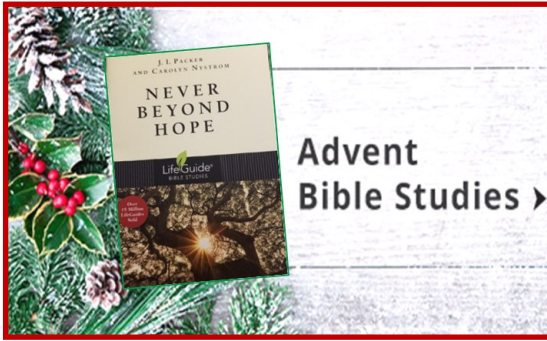
---

## Update on the Texting Prayer Chain

Our Prayer Chain in both Dent and Vergas has not only been used to send on prayer requests but also to notify the church family when someone has passed/funeral details, but also to communicate bad weather/church cancellations and also when there is an important event in the life of the church. We felt that creating a Texting Prayer Chain is critical to good communication as we move forward.

There is no denying crafting and sending a text is much quicker and easier than calling. But the downside... texting requires someone who is more comfortable with utilizing the technological end of things. Therefore, Sheri Schoenberger will handle the Texting Prayer Chain in Vergas, and Ellie Lodin will handle it in Dent.

From now on, if you have a prayer request please contact Sheri via text or call 218-329-7465. And then Sheri can send out the text and make the calls on behalf of the whole church family. Ellie Lodin can be reached via text or call at 218-457-0734. Thank you for your support of this new improved system!



We will be offering a 4 or 5 week bible study entitled **Never Beyond Hope** in Dent and also one online via zoom.

One of the studies will start Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm at Don and Carolann Garber's home. No homework required but please bring your Bibles. At our first meeting we will finalize details for starting time and length of the study.

Our second study will start Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm online via zoom. No homework required but please have your Bible handy. At our first meeting we will finalize details for starting time and length of the study.

If you are interested in participating in either one, please let me know...612-226-8905 or [amyjstrom@gmail.com](mailto:amyjstrom@gmail.com) I'm looking forward to our time in the Word together!



©eslpoems.blogspot.ie2015

### Advent Candles

Four little candles sit in a ring,  
Three of them purple, one of them pink,  
Each of them has it's own special meaning,  
The glow of their light has a message to bring.

The first is of hope for the road ahead,  
The second of faith about what has been said,  
The third tells of joy about what is to come,  
The fourth speaks of peace for everyone.

Four little candles sit in a ring,  
Rejoice in the Christmas message they bring.



*3:30 pm Dent 5 pm Vergas*



**No Services on Christmas Day.**





**VERGAS LOONEYS RELAY FOR LIFE  
A CHRISTMAS GATHERING**  
 ~ ~ *Concert and Bake Sale* ~ ~

Enjoy an afternoon of Christmas Music  
 "Something Special" Ladies Barbershop Quartet; "Tami Jensen" Harpist; "Band of Faith"

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 2pm - 4pm at the Vergas Event Center  
 Admission \$10 ea, \$25 family All proceeds will go to American Cancer Society




*Angels are available for purchase to Honor or in Memory of a loved one. See Sheri to purchase an Angel for our tree. \$5 each, proceeds will go to a local mission.*

**Sunday, Dec 4th** we will be randomly passing out the Pay it Forward envelopes to pass on to someone in need.



**Sunday, Dec 18th** wear your Ugly Christmas sweater to church, or a nice Christmas sweater if you want.



The ladies Christmas gathering will be at 11:30am on December 14th. They will be meeting at Billy's Bar & Grill in Vergas. All ladies are welcome and encouraged to come and join this festive time of year!

# Mission Minute

---

## Vergas Local Outreach

The Local Offering of \$300 for November will be the Band of Faith. The Band of Faith is a group of musicians that get together weekly in Pelican Rapids to share music and monthly play for various churches and nursing homes in the area. The group is under the direction of Mike Nettetstad and began in 1996. The



## Mission of the Quarter for Vergas & Dent



The Mission of the Quarter is **The Salvation Army**.

Songs were one of the tools of The Salvation Army right from its early days as the Christian Mission. Popular songs were rewritten with new lyrics which explained the Christian faith and used alongside well-known and contemporary hymns. Concertinas, tambourines and guitars were played at first, but it was not long before a style more suited to outdoor services was found – brass!

The first Salvation Army brass group was heard in 1878 when a Methodist preacher named Charles Fry, together with his three sons, played instruments to support the Army in open-air meetings in Salisbury, UK. They were soon travelling with Booth as he toured the UK, becoming a distinctive and effective feature of the Army's style. Bands were also formed in areas such as Consett, Northwich, Whitechapel and Portsmouth. Over time, many gifted composers used their skills to write new music for Salvation Army groups to play, bringing glory to God. Today, brass groups remain an important way of attracting crowds and telling people about him.

November 6th, during a combined service, the Band of Faith used a Salvation Army Song Book to play the hymns for the congregation to sing along.



Thank you for your continued generosity

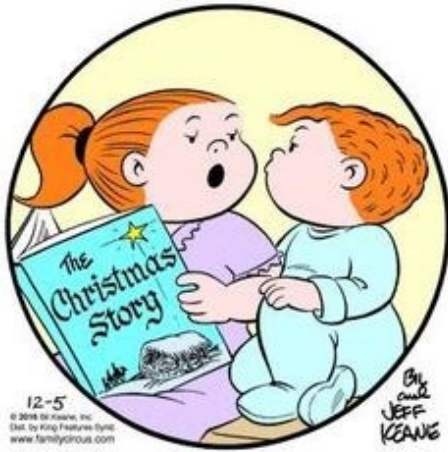


Considering what it costs to heat my house, I hope Santa DOES fill my stocking with coal this year!



©Hallmark Licensing, Inc.

Maxine.com



12-5  
© 2016 by Maxine, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Syndicate  
www.familycircus.com

By  
CRAIG  
JEFF  
KEANE

"Putting Baby Jesus in swaddling clothes was the first Christmas present wrapping."



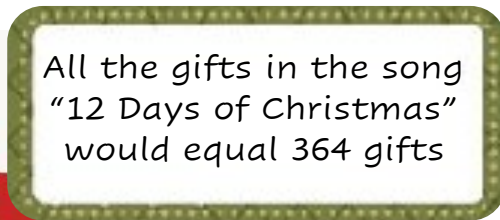
**Hanging Stockings** comes from the Dutch custom of leaving shoes packed with food for St Nicholas' donkeys. He would leave small gifts in return.



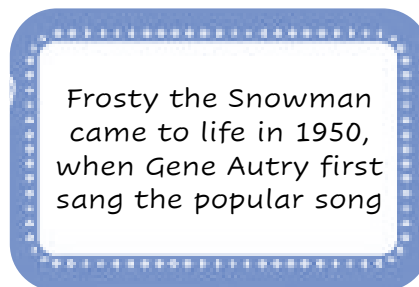
The tallest Candy Cane was 51 feet



Mistletoe is from the Anglo - Saxon word Misteltan, which means "little dung twig" because the plant spreads through bird droppings.



All the gifts in the song "12 Days of Christmas" would equal 364 gifts



Frosty the Snowman came to life in 1950, when Gene Autry first sang the popular song

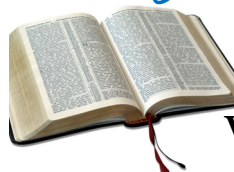


The song Jingle Bells was first called One Horse Open Sleigh and was written for Thanksgiving

**We NEED you.**  
**Can you HELP**



*Liturgists*  
*Needed*



**Vergas Dec 18th**

**Ushers Needed**  
*Are you willing to serve?*

**Vergas Dec 18th & 19th**

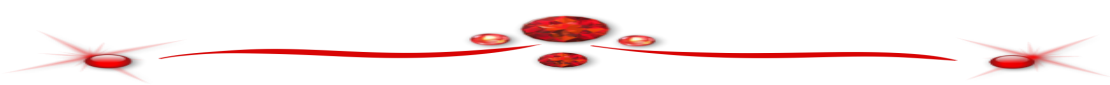
**Dent UMC** - Liturgist & Usher lists have been put together. Ushers will have the responsibility for ushering all Sunday's in that month. If you are unable to be there on a Sunday, please find a substitute to fill in for you. Thank You!

December Ushers	January 2023
Lyndon & Peggy M.	

Dec	Liturgist	Fellowship
4th	Don G.	Gretchen & Roger D.
11th	Michelle S.	Michelle & Kelvin S.
18th	Darlene H.	Judy & Gary A.
24th	Augie A.	No Fellowship
25th	No Church	Service Christmas Day

**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.*




**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

9:30 am Sunday's  
in Vergas

**THE WHITE BOARD BIBLE**  
by Pastor Allen Jackson



**Ad Council Meetings**  
Wed. Dec 14th  
3pm Dent  
6:30pm Vergas



**Next Meeting Tues, Dec 6th 12:30pm at Mysteries Café in Dent**

**Book of the month is "Some Luck" by Jane Smiley**



## A Thought for The Day

**Before you talk - Listen.**  
It may change what  
you say.  
**Before you react - Think.**  
It may change how  
you react.  
**Before you judge - Wait.**  
It may change your  
viewpoint.  
**Before you quit - Try.**  
It may be the best thing  
you ever did.



### 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 (if able to) 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 January is Feb. 26, 2023.

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](mailto:sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com)

#### Vergas United Methodist Church:

200 W Main St  
PO Box 243  
Vergas MN 56587

#### Reverend Amy J Strom

email: [amyjstrom@gmail.com](mailto:amyjstrom@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 612-226-8905  
Parsonage: 218-334-6901

#### Dent United Methodist Church

301 Main St  
Dent MN 56528

#### Dent Vergas Website:








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

Copyright © \*2021\*, All rights reserved.



# December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Worship Times</b> 9am Dent 10:30am Vergas and Livestream	<b>Vergas Sunday School</b> 9:30 am Adult				1	2
						3
						9am-Noon <b>Rudolph's Closet, Dent UMC</b>
2pm -4pm <b>Relay for Life Christmas Gathering Vergas E.C.</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9
		12:30pm <b>Book Club @ Mysteries Café</b>	9am Dent <b>Breakfast Club</b>			10
	11	12	13	11:30 am <b>Church Ladies at Billy's</b>	14 <b>Gretchen D. (D)</b> 	15
			<b>Ad Council</b> 3pm Dent 6:30pm Vergas			16
						17 <b>Austin H. (D)</b> 
<b>Neil S.</b> 	18	19	20	21 <b>Tonya J. (V)</b>	22	23
						24
						<b>Christmas Eve Services</b> 3:30pm Dent 5pm Vergas
<b>No Church services</b>	25	26	27	28 <b>Ken S (V)</b> 	29	30
				<b>Ivy M. (D)</b>	30 	31
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			12:30pm <b>Book Club @ Loon's Nest</b>			7



## VERGAS AD COUNCIL MINUTES

United Methodist Church

November 16, 2022

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

**Call to order** by Chairwoman Renee.

**Secretary minutes** were reviewed, corrected and approved with corrections after a motion to approve from Renee seconded by Faye.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to approve by Renee, seconded by Jane, and approved. Faye reported that she and Ivy found out that the apportionment from the Conference is not just based on membership, but also based on expenses so if large expenses are incurred, the apportionment also increases. There was nothing unusual in the budget; it shows about \$4000 below budget currently.

### **Pastor Report:**

1. Amy mentioned that "Pay It Forward" should be done again this year. She would like the money handed out on December 4. Faye will prepare the envelopes.
2. The membership list needs to be reviewed.
3. The budget needs to be communicated to the congregation. Amy suggested a letter to members to encourage more giving and understand the expenses. Faye suggested getting this in the newsletter maybe on a quarterly basis. A draft of the letter will be reviewed in December.
4. The Nominating Committee is working on filling the positions. There should be 3 people on the committee. Amy will contact Donna Strawhorn to assist as she is listed on the committee.

### **Old Business:**

1. Tonya discussed the Budget for 2023. All expenses have increased, but giving has remained the same or less with loss of members. Suggestions for changes:
  - a. Jane moved that the \$200 per month used for the Quarterly mission be put in the general budget while keeping the \$300 local mission budgeted. Tonya seconded and it was approved.
  - b. Renee suggested discontinuing the security monitor which doesn't seem to work. There is an annual fee of \$276 and it just had a service fee of \$85. Motion by Jane to disconnect the monitor, seconded by Sheri and approved. Faye will call the company.
  - c. Faye suggested discontinuing the stipend that the Treasurer is paid, but continuing the stipend that is paid to Jody. This will be monitored and decided in December.
  - d. The SPPRC approved a salary increase for Pastor Amy with a range of 3-5%. Dent Ad Council approved a 3% increase. Motion by Tonya, seconded by Jane to approve a 3% increase. This passed. Increase in salary for Sheri will be considered in December.
2. The Local Mission for November was the Band of Faith as decided last month. The \$300 for Local Mission for December will be used for the "Pay It Forward" envelopes. The Mission of the Quarter for Oct, Nov, and Dec is the Salvation Army. Amy suggested asking the Band of Faith to come this same weekend next year as this is opening deer

hunting and we got a good attendance anyway with the band there. Jane will check with Mike Nettestad.

3. The power surge problem continues to be a problem. Jane talked with Loren and Rick and they said that the power company and an electrician couldn't find anything, but the problem continues. There should be another call placed to Ottertail Power to see what else could be done. Jane will make a call.
4. It seems that the organ is the most vulnerable to the surges and now seems to be sounding strange even without it actually shutting down. The organ is well over 25 years old and should be replaced. The Council agreed that it should be reviewed. Jane will check into this. Jane has discussed this with other donors that would be willing to contribute, and also consideration of using memorial dollars.
5. Renee didn't have a chance to talk to the Sheriff about the Active Shooter Drill; this will be tabled until next year.
6. Discussed the organized list for ushers, liturgists, etc. Jane is working on this and will have for next meeting. It is difficult with the low numbers.
7. The vacuum was approved last month; Faye will purchase this and make sure that the old one is disposed of. There are several in the storage room that also need to be hauled away.
8. Sheri and Faye will look into the electric candles to replace the current ones.

#### **New Business:**

1. The potluck issue is that there should be someone in charge each month so that setup and cleanup happens. This is supposed to happen the second Sunday of the month. Jane will add to the organized volunteer list.
2. There was discussion about the old furnace and if that is causing more heating expense. Also, thermostats are reset and not changed. Jane suggested a programmable thermostat so that it could be set for the times that we use heat. This is relatively easy and inexpensive. Faye will talk to Rick about the furnace as the oldest one needs to be replaced, and then the thermostat issue will be discussed.
3. There was discussion on training someone to do the sound system when Sheri and Jody are gone. Renee is interested and we will talk with others to see if there is someone else.
4. There was discussion on whether the announcements get too long, stick to important events. Amy will think about this as services are prepared. The prayer and concern part can get too long also, difficult to control, but ideas of doing more of a group prayer rather than individual. This will be considered.
5. Renee would like to resign from the Chair of Ad Council position which she has held since 2011! The Council appreciates greatly all the effort that Renee has put forward for all these years and thanked her for her service. Amy is working with the Nominating Committee to fill positions on the Council now so more discussion next month.
6. The texting prayer chain is working well.
7. Charge Conference will happen Thursday, November 17 at 6:30 pm. This will be made available online as well as at the church so that more people can join. There is a speaker also.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 14th, 6:30 P.M. This will be a Zoom meeting.**

Respectfully submitted by Jane Wasvick, Temporary Secretary