



*"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* John 13:34-35

*Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?  
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.  
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."  
Isaiah 58:6-9a*

We celebrate Valentine's Day this month, a day when we're told that to show our love for our significant others means flowers, an expensive dinner out, and a mushy, romantic card. When Christian love and compassion for others takes root in us, it is expressed not on one day, but throughout the year and in actions, not just in words or feelings. You cannot gradually and cautiously feel your way toward Christian love. Love is action. Grace is God's unconditional love for us. Christian love trusts God and goes for it without hesitating or pondering "what's in it for me?"

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From the Pastor continued....

Jesus' new commandment to his disciples was simply this: Show your love. Love one another. By your loving actions, people will know more about you than by anything else you could do. Love each other as I have loved you. Jesus didn't love us by simply feeling loving toward us. Jesus lived a life that embodied love. He healed the sick. He fed the hungry. He comforted the confused. He taught the ignorant. He hugged the little children. Jesus' love was so great that he went to the cross, suffered torture and death as his greatest demonstration of action--packed love. The love Jesus wants his disciples to enter into -- not just to "feel" but to do -- is action-packed. And love in action is sometimes embodied by the simplest of compassionate responses.

Jesus urged his disciples to have love for one another so that "everyone will know that you are my disciples." The ability to love everyone -- even the most unlovable of sorts, has always been the test of the discipleship of love. After the crowds had stoned him, mocked him, spit upon him, screamed "crucify him," Jesus could still cry out in love, "Forgive them, they know not what they do." How can we seek to imitate this love in our own lives? Certainly it comes through our words, but our actions speak so much louder. An action-packed faith is the power of love in action, it is the power of Christ within each one of us shining forth through the actions of our lives.

The Isaiah passage above reminds us that our faith must find its way into every part of our lives. Is Christianity just for Sunday mornings, church potlucks and choir rehearsals? Or should we tear down the walls of our weekly schedule and use our faith in Christ to meet those in need with love and action to help with their needs, whatever and wherever they are?

Blessings and see you in church!

Pastor Joyce <><



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**Lent begins on Ash Wednesday,  
February 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Joint Service at 7:00 pm @ Vergas UMC**

The worship will include ashes on our foreheads as a sign of our finite existence & communion to remind us of the promise of eternal life in Christ. "The Day of the Lord" Joel 2:1-2, 12-17.



What are we to make of Joel's expectation that "the day of the LORD is coming, it is near"? This prophet of ancient Israel called for national repentance.



## Schedule for Worship in February

**February 4th – Communion,**

**“Godsmacked” Isaiah 40:21-31.**

God’s wrath is always tempered by God’s mercy.

Hymns: Great is thy Faithfulness, Amazing Grace.

**February 11<sup>th</sup> – Transfiguration Sunday,**

“Visible Mending” 2 Kings 2:1-12. Patching up loss and disappointment can make a life that is not simply

bearable, but beautiful. Hymns: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, Precious Lord, Take My Hand, Hymn of Promise.

**February 18<sup>th</sup> – Lent 1, “A Brief History of Jesus” Mark 1:9-15.**

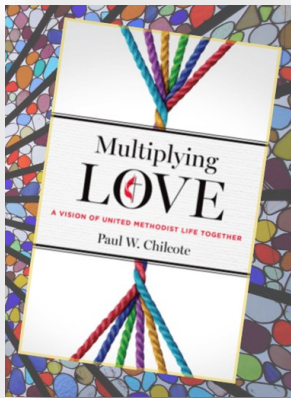
Stephen Hawking wrote a famous book about time. Now comes Mark's six verses about Jesus. Hymns: All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name, We, Thy People, Praise Thee, Spirit Song.

**February 25<sup>th</sup> – Lent 2, “Suffer or Skedaddle?” Mark 8:31-38.**

The prosecution of a war usually results in new vocabulary. Jesus here refuses to go to war with his enemies, but he does introduce an ugly new word into the lexicon of discipleship. Hymns: I Need Thee Every Hour, Have Thine Own Way Lord, Are Ye Able.

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# 2024 Lenten Bible Study Begins Feb. 13th



***“Multiplying Love:  
A Vision of United  
Methodist Life  
Together”***

by Paul Chilcote,  
(who was one of Pastor  
Joyce’s professors at  
Methodist Theological  
School in Ohio.)

**Dent Tuesdays 10 am and  
6:30 pm Online**

**Vergas Thursdays 10 am**





## Coffee & Conversation with Pastor Joyce

Come on down to the church of your choice and talk about whatever is on your mind: questions about the Bible, United Methodist doctrine & happenings, and getting to know me more, are all topics that are welcome.

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30 pm @ **Dent**, Thursdays 2—3:30 @ **Vergas**, for the remainder of January. Who knows, there might even be treats involved for those who stop by!

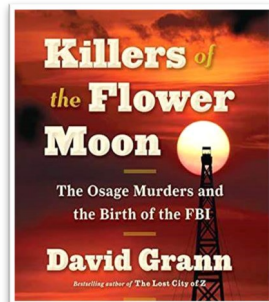
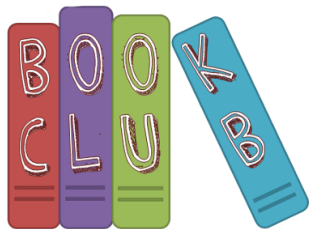
### SAVE YOUR RECIEPTS FROM **central market**

Each church is asking everyone to save their receipts from Central Market (be sure the cashier stamps them with the red **“we care”** stamp). These are turned in for rebates and the money has been used for mission work as well as helping to pay for things around the church. Place your receipts and codes in the labeled box – that’s all you have to do. We have earned many dollars through this program.



### VERGAS IS LOOKING FOR EMPTY SHOE BOXES

Continue to bring your empty shoe boxes to church all year round. We have a special member that wraps them for us to use for Samaritan’s Purse. Thank you!



**Next Meeting**  
Tues, Feb 6th 12:30pm  
at Mysteries Café



We had a lovely luncheon at Pastor Joyce’s apartment for our December meeting and had a great time. We decided not to meet in January and February as it was so cold, and many are gone.

Our next meeting will be March 21st at 12:30 at Vergas church.



### Dent Breakfast Club

meets at Mysteries Café (Nootzies) at 9am on the 1st Wednesday of the month



**Ad Council**  
Wednesday, Feb 21st  
Dent 3:00pm  
Vergas 6:30pm

# Church Mission's



## Vergas Local Outreach

The Local Mission \$300 was given to Lee Kramer, who has been dealing with Lyme Disease for several years. He is traveling to Mexico for additional treatment, and we donated to his travel expenses.

## Vergas Mission of the Quarter January / February / March

The Mission of the Quarter for October, November, and December was Water for Sudan, the church sent them a check for \$250.



The Mission of the Quarter for January, February, and March will be Vergas Looney Relay for Life Team. The dollars are given to the American Cancer Society to assist with research as well as helping those who have cancer. This is such a worthy cause; every family is affected by Cancer. Don and I just learned that his 34-year-old granddaughter has breast cancer. These situations happen over and over in families across the country. It is devastating and difficult and our Relay team feels committed to raising money for the cause in any way we can, the benefit comes back to all of us.



**for your generosity to this cause.**

## Dent Mission of the Quarter January / February / March



**Dent Church Mission  
for the Quarter has not been  
determined yet it will be in  
the March newsletter**



The SPRC met in January. Laurie Kantonen, District Superintendent, was in attendance and came to see how things were going with the transition to the new minister. Overall, everyone felt that things were going well and that we were on a good track. The committee set the new salaries for Pastor Joyce and Sheri. They also reviewed the Goals for 2024 developed by Joyce that will guide our activities for the year. The Conference is offering many resources to us without cost to assist the congregation in moving forward. The Breakthrough Prayer Initiative is one as well as a Lenten study. The opportunities will be shared as they are available.



The needs of God's ministry are constant, please be sure your giving is current, especially over this last month of the year. If you are not able to be in church, please mail in your tithes and offerings to the addresses listed below. Make your offerings in advance of Sundays you will be gone.

**Dent mail to:** Karen Johnson, 33875 Downey Dr, Dent MN 56528

**Vergas mail to :** Sheri Schoenberger, 36755 Hungry Lake Ln, Frazee MN 56544 or Tithe online at [dentvergasumc.org](http://dentvergasumc.org)



**CABIN FEVER?**  
Lets have a **Picnic** **Food**  
**Fellowship**

Sunday, February 18th  
11:45—12:45

Save the Date!  
Sunday, Feb 18th  
after services

Family Fun

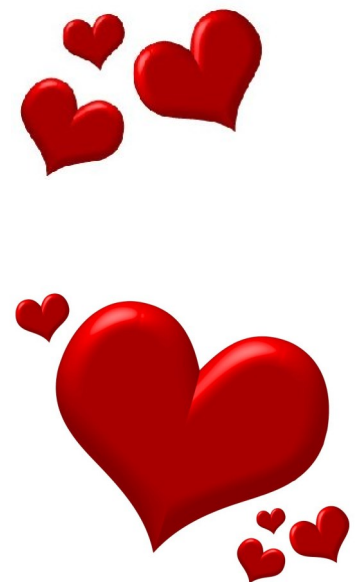
**MENU**  
Hot Dogs  
Chips  
Baked Beans  
S'mores and  
More

All are welcome from both churches, no need to contribute to the meal, unless you want to, just come and enjoy the picnic and the fellowship!

Come on let's blow



those winter blues away



## FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS LISTS

<b>February Ushers</b>
Kelli Ann & Augie

Feb	Liturgist	Fellowship
04	Michelle S	Gretchen & Roger D.
11	Lyndon M	Toni & Lowell L
18	Russ E	Michelle & Kelvin S
25	Peggy Me	Judy & Gary A.

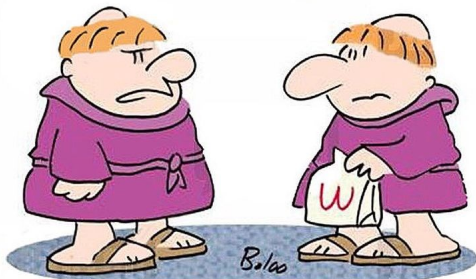
Feb	Liturgist	Ushers
04	Renee S.	Neil & Donna S
11	Bev F.	Faye & Tonya
18	Tonya J	Byron & Connie Z.
25	OPEN	OPEN

Feb	Vergas Fellowship
04	Faye C
11	Tonya J.
18	Cabin Fever Picnic
25	OPEN

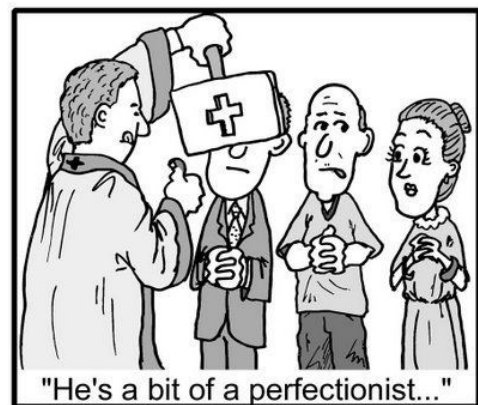
If you are unable to be there on a Sunday, please find a substitute to fill in for you. Thank You!



We don't have any birthdays listed for February.  
If anyone has a February birthday please let Sheri know so that we can celebrate it



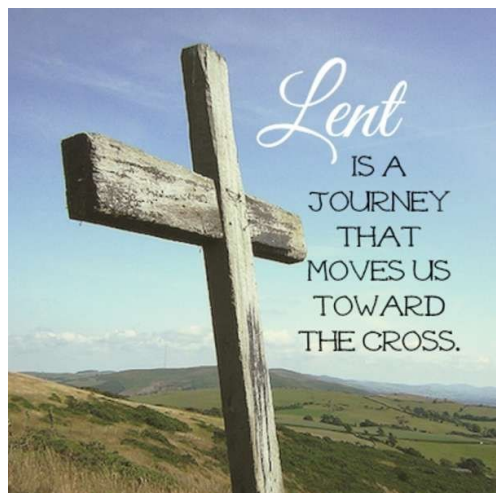
"'Fasting' doesn't mean eating fast food!"



"He's a bit of a perfectionist..."

[www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com](http://www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com)

## A Thought for The Day



Let us  
**WORSHIP**  
Together

## “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](http://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](mailto:sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com) or call her at 218-329-7465

Additions to the newsletter, **deadline for February, is February 26, 2024.**

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)



# February / March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Worship Times</b> 9am Dent 10:30am Vergas and Livestream	Pastor Joyce Office Hours 2- 3:30pm Tuesdays Dent	Pastor Joyce Office Hours 2 - 3:30pm Thurs. Vergas		1	Ground Hogs Day	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1st Sunday of Lent	19am Dent Bible Study 10am Dent 6:30pm Zoom	12:30pm Book Club @ Mysteries Café	9am Dent Breakfast Club @ Mysteries Café	10am Vergas Bible Study		24
11:45 am Cabin Fever Picnic @ Vergas			7 pm Ash Wednesday Service @ Vergas			
2nd Sunday of Lent	26am Dent Bible Study 10am Dent 6:30pm Zoom	Bible Study 10am Dent 6:30pm Zoom	Ad Council 3pm Dent 6:30pm Vergas	10am Vergas Bible Study	1	2
3rd Sunday of Lent	4am Dent Bible Study 10am Dent 6:30pm Zoom 12:30pm Book Club	Bible Study 10am Dent 6:30pm Zoom	9am Dent Breakfast Club @ Mysteries Café	10am Vergas Bible Study	8	9

## **DENT UMC LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**January 17, 2024**

The regular meeting of the DUMC Leadership Team was held on Wednesday at 3:00 at the church. Members present were Doris Champlin, Karen Johnson, Lyndon Maasjo, Peggy Meissner, Ivy Mickelson, and Pastor Joyce Slostad.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Joyce opened the meeting with a reading and prayer from Dynamite Prayer.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from last meeting were accepted with a motion made by Peggy and a second from Doris.

**FINANCE:** Ivy handed out the monthly finance statement and Doris made a motion to accept report subject to audit and a second by Lyndon. Motion passed.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Joyce handed out a sheet with her goals for 2024. She handed out copies of Dynamite Prayer books, which is a conference sponsored program "Breakthrough Prayer Initiative". This is a 28 day daily prayer guide.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Not much to report. Furnaces are working fine and being checked regularly by Roger and Robbie.

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE:** Nothing to report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The Lenten Bible will start the week of Ash Wednesday, Tuesdays at 10:00am at Dent and Online at 6:30pm. Vergas will be Thursday's at 10:00

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Joyce handed out a breakdown of the attendance for 2023. It showed that attendance was average over the 12 month period.
- Ash Wednesday services will be in Vergas at 7:00
- Dent will host the Maundy Thursday Service with a supper at 6:00.
- Friends of Gary Anderson has asked to have a small wedding on February 22 in the church.

**OTHER:** The team was asked to think of ideas for quarterly events for the church to invite people: Have an outdoor worship one Sunday; An afternoon of games and refreshments; Have an ice cream social; Have a grilling evening or a food truck with yard games or a movie night. Invite people with different skills to come. Bring back the big meals that we did twice a year. Continue with the Spring rummage sale with fry bread and the bake sale during Dent Daze.

**NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT:** Joyce closed the meeting with a prayer. Next meeting will be February 21st.