



In the sense that Advent is about "anticipation", Lent is about "realization." Grasping the reality of Jesus' suffering and passion and knowing that his compassionate acts of sacrifice were done personally for us, can be life changing for Christians. Lent is not about the future, as is the case in Advent. It is not about the past, either. Lent is about the personal impact Jesus is having on our life and behavior, right here, right now. It is acknowledging that there is a time of judgment for each one of us. This understanding calls us to our own "reality check," illuminating our selfish, materialistic, insensitive character. Over the drone of busyness, we can barely hear the call of God to "return" or to "draw near the throne of grace." This is a season to "get real and honest" in our relationship with God.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, the transition from death to life, and from the darkness and despair of the Day of the Lord (Joel 2) to the light and hope of the Day of Salvation at Easter. We confront our own frailties and imperfections as we examine ourselves in the mirror



of God's word. We see the reflection of arrogant hypocrites and hopeless sinners against the light of the Lord, who is justified in passing judgment. Even as we are on the verge of certain destruction, even then, God reaches out to us with both hands, calling us to return and to be reconciled. We meet the Lord in that secret place deep within each of us—our ashen, gray-black hearts—and in this encounter, our spirits become whiter than snow. We forgive and are forgiven, and begin to understand the extent of God's relentless affection for all.

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Pastors desk continued

Lent may begin with ashes, but it does not leave us on the ash heap. We move through a season of examining our spiritual lives, turning away from our sins and turning back towards God – this is repentance. We seek to grow deeper in our spiritual life. We move steadily onward with Jesus toward the celebration of Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Jesus Christ, God resurrects us from the dust and ashes, brings life out of death and makes us new creatures. The end of the Lenten journey is not death, but rather resurrection. With resurrection hope, this season remind us of a love that reconciles us inseparably with God. Ash Wednesday and Lent call us to turn back to the One who offers us all the living hope we will ever need. I encourage you to plan to join us for Sundays in Lent and during Holy Week for a time of deep worship and contemplation.

Blessings and See You in Church!

Pastor Joyce <><

Worship in March 2024



March 3rd – Communion, “Liar, Liar”. Exodus 20:1-17. Lying isn’t always a bad thing, is it
Hymns: This Is the Day, Come, Thou Almighty King, I Come with Joy, God Be With You.

March 10th – “God’s Portolan”. John 3:14-21. God gave us a map that leads away from danger and guides us toward eternal life. Hymns: This Is the Day, He Is Exalted, My Hope Is Built, It is Well with My Soul, God Be With You.

March 17th – “Smelling Like a Rose”. Psalm 51:1-12. King David messed up big time. His life stinks, and he knows it. Hymns: This Is the Day, Softly & Tenderly Jesus Is Calling, I Surrender All, Blessed Assurance, God Be With You.

March 24th – Palm Sunday, “A King’s Ransom”. John 12:12-16. The people paid \$17 million for Richard the Lionheart. For Jesus, they paid nothing. Hymns: This Is the Day, Hosanna, Loud Hosanna, All Glory, Laud, and Honor, O How He Loves You & Me, God Be With You.

March 28th – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm @ Dent, Communion, 6:00 Soup supper. An experiential worship service. Hymns: Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley, Let Us Break Bread Together, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Were You There.

March 31st – Easter Sunday, “The Skiplagging Christ”. John 20:1-18. Jesus’ final destination is heaven, but he has an unscheduled stop to make along the way. Hymns: This Is the Day, Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Christ Is Alive, He Lives, God Be With You.

**Don't be late for church on
Sunday March 10th!**

Set your clocks ahead one hour on
Saturday night, March 9th.

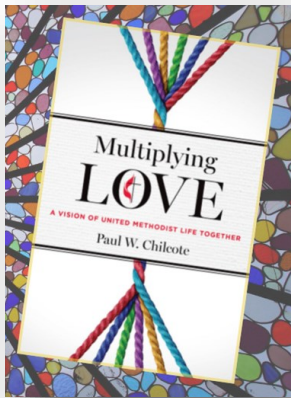


off the mark .com by Mark Parisi



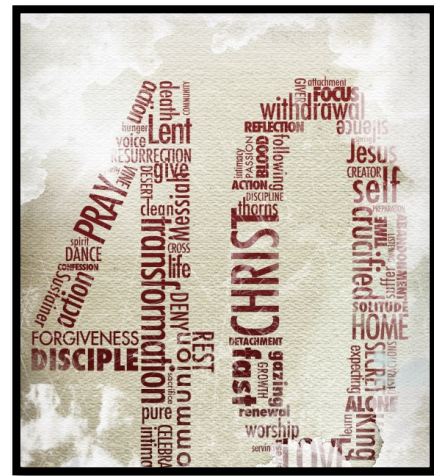
"Looks like I'll need that extra hour this weekend to figure out how to reset my digital clocks!"

2024 Lenten Bible Study



**“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 in Person and
6:30 pm Online




March 28th ~ at Dent

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Service

6PM SOUP SUPPER

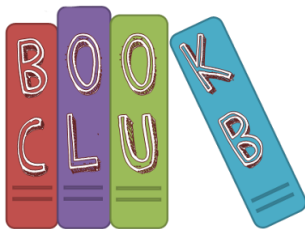
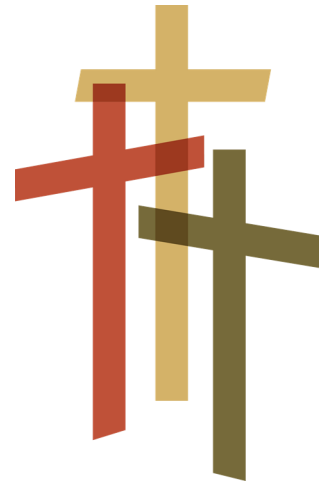
7PM WORSHIP



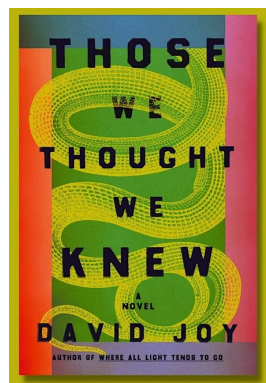

The Vergas Church Ladies



Next meeting is on
Thursday
March 21st
12:30pm at the
church.



Next Meeting
Tues, Mar 5th 12:30pm
at The Loon's Nest



Dent Breakfast Club



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

Ad Council

Wednesday, Mar 20th
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 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



The Bridge is a nonprofit agency that provides food to families and individuals during a time of need. They provide good quality food that has been either donated, purchased from

North Country Food Bank or locally. Their goal is to meet the basic needs of the clients while improving their nutritional well-being. For them to meet their goals, they need your support.



**Thank you for your
continued generosity**

MARCH VOLUNTEERS LISTS

March Ushers	
Russ W / Kelvin S	

Mar	Liturgist	Fellowship
03	Doris C.	Peggy & Lyndon
10	Augie A.	Karen & Richard
17	Gary A.	Peggy Meissner
24	Michelle S.	Russ & Lisa
31	Lyndon M.	Easter Sunday

Mar	Vergas Liturgist	Vergas Ushers
03	Carla R.	David & Carla
10	Rick N.	NEEDED
17	Bev F.	Rick & Margy
24	Lana J.	NEEDED
31	Bryan G.	NEEDED

Mar	Vergas Fellowship
03	Renee S.
10	Connie Z.
17	Lana J.
24	Tonya J.
31	Easter Sunday

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



Vergas Birthday's

Mar 11th Carter Johnson
 Mar 30th Cathy Moe
 Mar 31st Melanie Hoffmann

Dent Birthday's

Mar 1st Mary Jane Seifert
 Mar 4th Barb Lovaasen
 Mar 5th Jan Aanenson
 Mar 6th Ellie Lodin
 Mar 11th Donna Steinhofer
 Mar 24th David Satter



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 Tithes online at dentvergasumc.org

A Thought for The Day

"IN *Happy*
MOMENTS,
PRAISE GOD.
IN DIFFICULT MOMENTS,
SEEK *God.*
IN QUIET
MOMENTS,
trust GOD.
IN EVERY MOMENT,
THANK *God.*"



"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 April, is March 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

March / April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Worship Times</u> 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			Mary Jane S (D)	2
3rd Sunday of Lent	3 Barb L. (D) 4	Bible Study 10am Dent 6:30pm Zoom 12:30pm Book Club @ Loon's Nest	5 Ellie L.. (D) 6 9am Dent Breakfast Club @ Mysterics Café	7	8	9
4th Sunday of Lent	10 Donna S. (D) 11 Carter J (V)	Bible Study 10am Dent 6:30pm Zoom	12 13 Ad Council 3pm Dent 6:30pm Vergas	14	15	16
5th Sunday of Lent	17 18	Bible Study 10am Dent 6:30pm Zoom	19 20	21	22	23
David S. (D) 24 Palm Sunday	25	Bible Study 10am Dent 6:30pm Zoom	26 27 Bible Study 10am Dent 6:30pm Zoom	28 Maundy Thursday	29 Good Friday	30 Cathy M (V)
Melanie H. (V)	31	Bible Study 10am Dent 6:30pm Zoom	3 9am Dent Breakfast Club @ Mysterics Café	4 6pm Soup Supper 7 pm Comb Service @ Dent	5	6

