



Methodist Messenger

2022 Edition, Issue 9, September



Hello Everyone,

No doubt you have been hearing some rumblings about the split within the UMC. Churches splitting off to create a new expression of Methodism called the Global Church. I have been waiting a bit for the dust to settle, but now I am realizing that could take years.

Just this last week, DS Laurie Kantonen, sent pastors in her district an email with this paragraph below and a letter from DS Vanderwerf attached.

She recommends all pastors and churches read Vandewerf's letter. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to talk about this further.

Blessings,
Pastor Amy

Email from DS Laurie Kantonen

Friends,

I have become aware that there is a lot of information and misinformation that is being made available on various social media platforms. As DS's we are getting a lot of questions right now about what is accurate or not accurate regarding the United Methodist Church and disaffiliation.

*Fred Vanderwerf, the Southern Prairie District Superintendent has put together a document for his district that addresses many of these issues and has sent it to all of his churches. I have asked to be able to send it to all of you as well.

Please read through it, share it with your congregations if you see value in that, and if you have any further questions or would like to engage in more conversation, I am available and happy to do so.

Many blessings to you all as we navigate this journey together,

Rev. Laurie Kantonen
North Star District Superintendent

**See attached letter from Fred Vanderwerf, Southern Prairie DS*

Pastor's desk continued on page



Minnesota Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church
Southern Prairie District

Our Mission

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision

Grow in Love of God and Neighbor
Reach New People
Heal a Broken World

Expression of Our Vision as Lived Out Values

Rooted in Jesus
Grounded in Wesleyan Theology
Inclusive of All Persons
Engaged in the Work of Justice and Reconciliation

August 23, 2022

To the people called United Methodists in the Southern Prairie District,
Grace and peace to you in the name of Christ Jesus!

In the last six weeks I have noticed the temperature rise in the district concerning denominational schism. The cybersphere is full of many people from other annual conferences speaking into our denominational impasse with increased fervor. I try to stay connected to what is being said, and I have identified what I believe are “myths” that have created a false sense of urgency at least for the Minnesota United Methodist Churches. I hope you might find this document helpful.

1. **MYTH: THE UMC IS SPLITTING!** A denominational split is a specific negotiated plan to separate as an entire denomination. This has not occurred. What has happened is a new denomination (Global Methodist Church) has formed as of May 2022 and some congregations in the worldwide United Methodist Church are choosing to leave the UMC and join that new denomination.
2. **MYTH: WE MUST LEAVE NOW!** News sources from other conferences and caucus groups have increased the sense of urgency that if you don’t disaffiliate this year, you will miss the most advantageous window. In fact, it’s hard to predict what window will be most opportune for churches considering disaffiliation, since the General Conference has not met and will not meet until 2024. It could be, voting to leave now will be a greater burden than if you leave later. We simply don’t know. What we do know is that our Minnesota Annual Conference Trustees have stated that they are committed to the most gracious exit for disaffiliating churches that the discipline allows and have shown this posture towards the three churches who disaffiliated in 2022.
3. **MYTH: EVERY CHURCH WILL HAVE TO VOTE TO CHOOSE TO STAY OR LEAVE!** Your congregation is United Methodist. Only those churches considering disaffiliating would have to vote to do so.
4. **MYTH: THE ONGOING UMC DOESN’T HAVE ROOM FOR A CONSERVATIVE OR TRADITIONAL EXPRESSION OF THE FAITH.** To my knowledge in the history of the UMC, no member, no clergy, nor church has ever been asked to leave the UMC because they held to a more traditional or conservative viewpoint. One of the four values of the Minnesota Conference is “inclusive of all.” All means all! And our own Wesleyan understanding of sanctification is grounded in a “social holiness” that demands viewpoints different than our own. The current cabinet and bishop are committed to making space for all.
5. **MYTH: THE HISTORIC TENETS OF THE FAITH ARE AT STAKE!** There are no intentions, plans or legislation coming to General Conference to move the United Methodist Church away from the doctrines laid out in the Apostle’s Creed or in our Doctrinal Standards as found in the Book of Discipline Paragraph 104. In fact, there are very restrictive rules making it extremely difficult to change the United Methodist doctrinal standards which include the historic doctrines of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren articles and confessions of faith. Are there people in service to the denomination who don’t ascribe fully to these doctrines? Of course, and this is the case in all denominations – progressive or conservative. We believe it best to stand on the historic

tenets of the faith as the launching pad for theology and ministry. Unlike other denominations, our understanding of grace demands that we allow freedom of thought to explore the new things the Spirit of God may be doing. And as Steven Guthrie writes; "We remember that while we may hold doctrines, our doctrines don't hold God—neither controlling him nor containing all there is of him." Pastors and churches that hold more closely to traditional theologies built from these historic tenets are welcomed and needed.

6. **MYTH: WE CAN'T GET ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROCESS OF DISAFFILIATION!** If your church is considering disaffiliating from the UMC, you should inform your DS. They can provide information concerning the process which has been established by the Conference Board of Trustees. If you hope to disaffiliate in this conference year, you should inform your DS prior to October 1, so that your congregation has enough time to consider the matter and walk through the process prior to next year's annual conference. For congregations that have this kind of clarity we want to help them as graciously as possible so they can move on and get about the work of the gospel. What we cannot provide are answers regarding the GMC as we do not serve that denomination.
7. **MYTH: THE UMC DOESN'T VALUE SCRIPTURE!** Our doctrinal standards regarding the Bible state: 1) the Bible contains everything necessary and sufficient for salvation; 2) the Bible is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice; and 3) Whatever is not revealed in or established by the Holy Scriptures is not to be made an article of faith nor is it to be taught as essential to salvation. The United Methodist Church believes that Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine, and we interpret individual texts in light of their place in the Bible as a whole. While we acknowledge the primacy of Scripture in theological reflection, our attempts to grasp its meaning always involve tradition, experience, and reason. (Book of Discipline paragraphs 104 & 105). Yes, there are conservatives and progressives alike who do ignore, misinterpret, and misappropriate the Bible. However, in my experience, most people's positions on human sexuality are formed precisely because they value scripture.
8. **MYTH: OUR CLERGY WILL BE COMPELLED TO PERFORM MARRIAGES THAT VIOLATE THEIR CONSCIENCE!** The following is an excerpt from a recent cabinet publication: We understand and respect that Minnesota United Methodist clergy who have engaged in prayerful discernment have differing views on officiating marriage ceremonies for LGBTQIA+ couples. No clergy will be expected or compelled to officiate marriage ceremonies that their conscience does not allow. Clergy have always been able to decline officiating marriages for any number of reasons, and clergy will be able to continue to exercise that discretion.
9. **MYTH: WE WILL BE COMPELLED TO RECEIVE A CLERGY APPOINTMENT THAT ISN'T A FIT FOR US!** Appointment decisions are first and foremost based on a match of leadership characteristics and missional fit. Consideration is given for the unique situations of clergy and the context for congregations to ensure a strong bond between pastor and people. The cabinet works tirelessly to ensure the healthiest of alignments of clergy with churches.
10. **MYTH: MY CONGREGATION IS OF ONE MIND ON THIS!** While it is often the case that one position is loudest, I've yet to be in a church where multiple positions aren't held regarding human sexuality and disaffiliation from the UMC. Therefore, it's imperative to do the hard work of providing brave spaces with healthy ground rules so that important discernment can happen. I've yet to be in a church that isn't capable of this. Your congregation is not of one mind and yet more able and ready than you think to talk about this.
11. **MYTH: MOVING TO ANOTHER DENOMINATION WILL SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS AS A LOCAL CHURCH!** The good news is that regardless of your denomination your local church is completely free to be a faithful, faith-filled, life-giving expression of the gospel in your context. The bad news, if you are not these things already, a denominational switch will not help you. If you have difficulty with things like establishing Sunday School, affording, or receiving an appointed pastor, or reaching

young families – this will continue regardless of denomination. You are completely free now to offer Christ in relevant ways to the world who desperately needs him. I can't think of a bishop, DS, or pastor that would stop you.

A few final notes:

1. The UMC has been and will likely remain a theologically diverse worldwide Christian denomination on a mission to make disciples for Jesus for the transformation of the world.
2. The Minnesota Annual Conference has developed and approved the vision and values it seeks to live by. You can find them here: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/about>
3. The Charles Wesley hymn "And Are We Yet Alive" was used by his brother John to begin annual society meetings. The third verse, regarding conflicts and fears, can seem especially poignant right now, but we cannot linger there. No, the richness of the Wesley hymns are found in the progression towards the ultimate destination of not salvation only in part, or only for heaven, but "uttermost salvation" available to you in me today. I invite you to read the six stanzas and then I invite your church to occupy itself in nothing less than verse six.

*1 And are we yet alive,
and see each other's face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give
for his almighty grace!*

*3 What troubles have we seen,
what mighty conflicts past,
fightings without, and fears within,
since we assembled last!*

*5 Then let us make our boast
of his redeeming power,
which saves us to the uttermost,
till we can sin no more.*

*2 Preserved by power divine
to full salvation here,
again in Jesus' praise we join,
and in his sight appear.*

*4 Yet out of all the Lord
hath brought us by his love;
and still he doth his help afford,
and hides our life above.*

*6 Let us take up the cross
till we the crown obtain,
and gladly reckon all things loss
so we may Jesus gain.*

Be blessed,



Rev. Fred Vanderwerf

(Some of these myths were gleaned from a similar document composed by Dakota's superintendent Kris Mutzenberger.)

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Pastors desk continued from page 1....



A great opportunity to serve has come to us from the organization of Feed My Starving Children. On Friday, September 23rd from 12:30 to 2:30pm at the Perham Boy's and Girl's Club, they are hosting a day in which volunteers can put meals together.

They require us to pull together a team of 10 volunteers and I believe we already have 8 volunteers signed up. How awesome is that! If you would like to add your name to help let Sheri know by Sunday, Sept 11th. Normally, we would each have to pay \$50 to cover the cost of the food. But we have an anonymous donor from the Vergas church who is willing to cover the sponsorship costs in full for all 10 of our volunteers! That's exciting news and helps me believe that God desires for us to do this good work!

Vergas & Dent Churches are scheduled to help on Friday, Sept 23rd from 12:30 to 2:30pm. 2-hour shifts include a 1/2 hour orientation (required).

The MobilePack will be held at the Boys and Girls Club in Perham (the old high school building now referred to as the Hub) *48 teams of 10 will pack slightly over 108,000 meals in two days.*

ABOUT FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Feed My Starving Children is a Christian nonprofit Minnesota organization begun in 1987 committed to feeding children and families in body and spirit. With the help of volunteers and donors, FMSC produces three special MannaPack meal formulas to assist in preventing and reversing undernutrition. Meals are shipped all over the world. The two-day community event, to be held at the Boys and Girls Club in Perham, will bring community together to pack over 108,000 meals at a cost of \$25,000.00. All donations raised over that base amount will go directly to FMSC to pack many more meals for many more families. Calvary Lutheran and specifically Justice Journeys are working as the lead on this community project. Justice Journeys has promoted short and long term mission events with Common Hope/Guatemala, Habitat for Humanity/Jamaica and Habitat in Minnesota.

OUR GOAL

Our goal is to feed hungry families and to

bring our community together in that effort. With hundreds of volunteers needed during this two-day event, not only the children/families receiving the meals but also the entire community will benefit as we work together to help others.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Get the word out!** Share this information with your friends, family and business associates.
- Support a Packing Team.** Volunteer to lead a Packing Team. Each team will raise \$500.00 (\$50 per team member) to pay for the meals they pack during their shift. There may be scholarships available to help defray this cost – or teams may find their own contributor. Everyone is invited to be involved.
- Donate to Feed My Starving Children:** Checks can be made out to FMSC and routed through Carla for submission. Online giving is available at FMSC.org, select Ways to Give, select Mobile Site/Perham (2209-24EA).



NEW Kayaking Club Sept Schedule

Meet at 4:45 pm to touch base and help each other get on the water. If the weather is bad, Fridays will be our alternate night, same time and place. Questions call 612-226-8905.

Thursday, Sept 8th Lorna and Lana Jacobson on Thursday, September 8th (kayakers meet at West McDonald public access, pontooner's arrive at 42712 Hoffman Lane, Dent, MN 56528 to go out on Hoffman Lake); bonfire included with hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, condiments and lemonade provide.

Thursday, Sept 15th Ken and Doreen Schwarzrock will host again at Rose Lake, private access at 36773 East Rose Lake Road, please bring a dish to share. 218-234-5657

Thursday, Sept 22nd Russ Waldorf will be hosting a bonfire (see details below)

Everyone must believe in something. I believe I will go canoeing (kayaking).
Henry David Thoreau



Bonfire Hosting Schedule

It's that time of year again, kids have headed back to school and we are watching the sun set earlier and earlier. We hope to keep kayaking for another 2 or 3 weeks, depending on the weather. The hosts for bonfires include:

Thursday, Sept 22nd Russ Waldorf will be hosting a bonfire at the park on Long Lake. They have a fire pit. If the weather holds some hardy souls might try getting in one last kayaking adventure of the year.

Thursday, Sept 29th Neil & Donna Strawhorn hosting.

Thursday, Oct 6th Don & Carolann Garber hosting 218-758-2121

Thursday, Oct 13th Russ & Lisa Waldorf hosting 218-556-8099

Thursday, Oct 20th Rick & Margy Nelson hosting 701-527-1874

Thursday, Oct 27th (weather permitting) Ken and Doreen Schwarzrock hosting. 218-234-5657

Vergas Mission Minute

Local Outreach

The Local Offering of \$600 combined for July and August will be sent to the fund set up for Phonethip “Thip” Prathane from Pelican Rapids who was shot by her estranged husband and is still recovering. She has 7 children and is currently unable to work due to her injuries. The family is living with her parents. Her father is working trying to support the large family. She and her family have a long road to recovery ahead and could use the extra help.

Please let the Ad Council know if there are needs in the community that should be considered for assistance.

Mission of the Quarter



The Mission for this quarter will be Samaritan's Purse which funds Operation Christmas Child. Mission dollars collected during this quarter (July, August, and September) will be added to the budgeted dollars to fund this outreach.

Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the Gospel message and bless children. The leaders learn how to host child-friendly outreach events, and how to implement The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship program.

Pastors around the world host outreach events in places where people may not know Christ and invite them to follow Him. Other churches use the boxes as resources for outreach in orphanages and other at-risk areas. Boys and girls grow in Christ and share with friends and family. The students also invite others to their graduations where the Gospel is shared. This often brings parents, siblings, and friends to accept Christ and become active members in the local church. Families are reached, churches grow, new churches are started, and communities are transformed.

Samaritan's Purse also funds a large disaster response within the United States as well as internationally. They set up and staffed a field hospital in New York City during the pandemic.

See list of suggestions for shoe boxes, attached at the end of newsletter.

Thank you for continued generosity,
Jane Wasvick





Dent Mission of the Quarter

July, August, September

The community children are invited to come and shop for gifts for Christmas for their family members. They will be assisted with shopping, all gifts will be wrapped and refreshments are served. The event is from 9 am to 12 noon on the 2nd Saturday in December. Same day as Dent's Santa Day.



Church Ladies

The regular meeting dates will be the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 1pm at the church. Join us for mission work, dessert and fun!

The Vergas Church Ladies held their annual Rummage Sale and Quilt Raffle August 12th and 13th. *We earned \$2291.28 of which \$215 was for the Quilt Raffle. This will be donated to Missions as decided at the next meeting of the Church Ladies. The Quilt was won by Pat Strand of Vergas who was excited to win the quilt.

Thank you to everyone who shopped, helped organize, donated "stuff", helped with the sale, and helped clean up. The church was back to normal in less than an hour! We really appreciated all the help!

We could really use more members, so please come to the meeting on Tues, Sept 20th at 1pm and enjoy the fellowship. Any interested members from Dent Church Ladies are also welcome.

**All proceeds go to the charities decided by the Ladies.*





**“Pastor”
Gary Edwin Klempke**

March 21, 1946 - August 24, 2022 (76yrs)

A Memorial Gathering will be held
September 24, 2022, 2pm - 5pm at the
American Legion in Browns Valley, MN

Obituary for Pastor Gary Klempke can be found at:
<https://www.mundwilerfuneralhome.net/obituary/Gary-Klempke>

Letters of condolence may be sent to:

**Virginia Klempke
PO Box 161
Browns Valley, MN 56219**



Curtis Wayne Lodin
September 30, 1947 - August 31, 2022

Visitation:

Wednesday, September 7, 2022, from 5:00 p.m.
to 7:00 p.m. with a Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m.
at Larson Funeral Home, Pelican Rapids,
MN. Visitation will continue one hour prior to
the service at the church.

Memorial Service:

11:00 a.m., Thursday, September 8, 2022, at
United Methodist Church, Dent, Minnesota
with Pastor Amy Strom officiating.

Interment:

Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Dent, Minnesota

Military Honors:

Pelican Rapids V.F.W. Post #5252 and
American Legion Post #17.

Obituary for Curt Lodin can be found at:

<https://www.larsonfuneralpelicanrapids.com/obituary/curtis-lodin>



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!

| September Ushers | October Ushers |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Austin & Darlene H. | Roger & Gretchen D. |



**Vergas
Needed for Sept:**
18th & 25th

| Sept | Liturgist | Fellowship |
|------|------------|-------------------|
| 4th | Russ W. | Dorothy W / Ivy M |
| 11th | Gary A. | Judy & Gary A. |
| 18th | Darlene H. | ? |
| 25th | Don G. | Peggy & Lyndon M. |



**Vergas
Needed for Sept:**
11th, 18th & 25th

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.*

Breakfast Club

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

Vergas meets at the Loon's Nest at 9am on the last Friday of the month.



No one is too young or too old to join the Church Ladies. So

join us as we reorganize our Women's Group on the third Tuesday of every month, 1:00pm at the church, where a delicious dessert will be served.



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

**Aug's Book is
"The Girl in the
Wild Fig Tree"
by Nice Leng'ete**



Ad Council Meetings

Wed. Sept 21st
3pm Dent
6:30pm Vergas

A Thought for The Day

**Sometimes you
need to take a
break from
everyone and
spend time alone,
to experience,
appreciate and
love yourself.**

- Robert Taft



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 or call her at 218-329-7465

Additions to the newsletter, deadline for October is Sept 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.

Church Secretary / Newsletter editor

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email: amyjstrom@gmail.com
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Dent United Methodist Church

301 Main St
Dent MN 56528

Dent Vergas Website:

dentvergasumc.org

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September / October 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 | | 4:45pm Kayaking Tenter Lake | | |
| Margy N. (V) Summer of Love "Love Feast" Potluck 11:45am in Vergas | 5 12:30pm Book Club @ Mysteries Café | 6 5-7pm Visitation 6:30pm Prayer Service Breakfast Club Cancelled | 7 Curtis Lodin Funeral Service | 8 11am Curtis Lodin Funeral Service 4:45pm Kayaking W Mcdonald Lk | 9 Augie A. (D) | 10 Darlene H. (D) 10:30am to 12:30pm Relay for Life Fashion Show |
| 11 Grandparents Day | 12 Lorna J. Keith S. (V) | | 14 | 4:45pm Kayaking Rose Lake | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 1:00 pm Vergas Church Ladies Group | 21 <u>Ad Council</u> 3pm Dent 6:30pm Vergas | First day of Fall 4:45pm Kayaking / or Bonfire TBD | 22 Joanne S. (D) | 24 12:30 - 2:30pm Feed My Starving Children MobilPack |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 5pm Bonfire Strawhorn's hosting | 30 | 1 9am Vergas Breakfast Club Loon's Nest |
| 11:45am Vergas Celebrating Sept Birthdays | 3 12:30pm Book Club @ Loon's Nest | 4 | 5 9am Dent Breakfast Club @ Mysteries Café | 6 5pm Bonfire Don & Carolann G hosting | 7 | 8 |

School Supplies

Crayons
Pencils
Pens
Sharpener
Paper
Ruler
Scissors



Hygiene Items

Soap
Washcloth
Toothbrush (NO Toothpaste)
Comb
Brush



What to Pack in an



Shoe Box Gift

Something to Love



Doll
Stuffed Animal
Bitty Blanket

Toys

Ball
Marbles
Games
Harmonica
Puzzles
Cars
Legos



DO Not send:

Chocolate / Candy
Liquids
Breakables
Food
Knives
War related items



Clothing

Socks
Flip Flops
Shoes
T-shirts
Shorts
Pillow Case Dresses

