



Methodist Messenger

2023 Edition, Issue 15, March

From the PASTOR'S DESK

I am discerning, hopefully accurately, that we are shifting into a new season for both of our churches. An exciting time of specifically leaning on and listening to God in prayer as well as talking and listening to one another as we make plans for spring and summer.

The story of Samuel's call in 1 Samuel chapter 3, teaches us about listening to God and one another. Samuel needed Eli's help to know it was God speaking. And when Samuel did finally say, **"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."** God gave information to Samuel that Eli needed to hear!

We find this idea of discernment and listening to God and others also described in our [Guidelines for Church Councils](#) by the General Board of Discipleship of the UMC. They call it "Christian Conferencing" and they say:

While there are appropriate and useful businesslike practices that apply to church life, Christian practices distinguish the church as the church. In the United Methodist tradition, how we meet and work together is important. "Christian Conferencing" involves listening not only to one another, but also listening intently for the will of God in any given task or conversation. This makes prayer essential in the midst of "business as usual." (pg. 5)

As Christians, we are called to listen, share, and discern together how we sense God the Spirit is leading and guiding us as a church. And this way of being together also a way, **"...we treat one another as if each of us were Christ among us."**

As leaders on our different teams such as the S/PPRC, Ad Councils, Nominating and Leadership Development Committee and other teams, we as spiritual leaders in our different ministry areas... **"...have the privilege and opportunity to teach and model these practices. Remember that each of us is beloved of God and discerning the presence of God in all that the church does, every task becomes worshipful work."** All we do becomes infused with God and God's wisdom, creativity, and power as we look to God and lean on one another...listening, sharing, thinking, and seeking God's wisdom and guidance prayerfully together.

This way of being together might feel a bit new and awkward, at first. But as we practice together and when we start to hear God guiding us and inspiring us, it becomes a whole lot of FUN! Meetings become encounters with a loving God! And we gain a whole new perspective on where God is leading us and our faith is strengthened and our fellowship deepens.

Speak Lord, for your servant(s) are listening,
Pastor Amy

New Members



David & Carla Reiten

VUMC February 12, 2023



The Jelly Bean Prayer

RED
is for the blood he gave,
GREEN
is for the grass he made.

YELLOW
is for the sun so bright,
ORANGE
is for the edge of the night.

BLACK
is for the sins we made,
WHITE
is for the grace he gave.

PURPLE
is for his hour of sorrow,
PINK
is for our new tomorrow.



The earth shook with the news,
HE IS NOT HERE;
HE IS RISEN!

And in that moment,
joy REPLACED DESPAIR
hope PUSHED PAST FEAR
life CONQUERED DEATH

not just that day, but for eternity.

We celebrate the *resurrection* of Christ

for what it meant then and
what it means for us every day;

that brings *a sacrifice*

FORGIVENESS, RENEWAL, AND PEACE

to any of us
who put our *faith* in **Jesus.**

Vergas Mission Minute

Vergas Local Outreach

Since the Ad Council participated in a Training program in February, there wasn't a regular meeting, so no local charitable opportunities were discussed. The dollars will roll forward to March.

Please let the Ad Council know if you are aware of a local need that could be funded.

Vergas Mission of the Quarter



The Mission of the Quarter is UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief/ UMCOR works all over the world but does significant work in the United States. U.S. Disaster Response (UMCOR USDR) seeks to alleviate suffering caused by disasters that strike within the United States and its territories.

With a “communities own their recoveries” philosophy, UMCOR supports local efforts to accomplish immediate relief and long-term recovery while providing for volunteers to offer compassionate ministry in the aftermath of disasters.

In partnership with disaster response ministries and coordinators in U.S. annual conferences, UMCOR journeys with affected communities throughout a disaster's cycle, including disaster preparedness, relief, response, recovery and mitigation.

UMCOR's Early Response Team (ERT) training program supports conference preparedness and immediate response efforts. Key activities for conference ERT and other response teams are supplying survivors with food, water, shelter and help with mucking out and cleaning up.

UMCOR offers emergency financial assistance in the aftermath of a disaster to support local relief work.

Severe weather and tornadoes in Alabama and Georgia

In mid-January, a powerful storm front swept across the Southeast, producing a number of tornadoes that caused damage in both the Alabama - West Florida and North Georgia conferences. Hundreds of homes were destroyed and at least 9 people were killed.

UMCOR awarded solidarity grants to both conferences to support a coordinated response for survivors, including relief supplies, debris removal and clean-up efforts. ERTs were deployed in both conferences. The South Georgia Conference has also deployed to assist with the relief efforts.

Flooding and landslides in California

Beginning in mid-December 2022 and continuing into mid-January 2023, California has experienced a continuous series of rainstorms (frequently referred to as “atmospheric rivers”). This comes on top of wildfire damage from the last few years for

many areas. As a result, California has had an extensive number of floods, mudslides, landslides, and other related damage that is estimated to have caused several billion dollars of losses – and counting.

UMCOR awarded a solidarity grant to the California -Nevada Conference to support a coordinated response for survivors, including relief supplies, debris removal and clean-up efforts. The conference aided several communities, including those in the Sacramento area, focusing on flooded agricultural workers and senior and low-income households.



Thank you for your continued generosity

MARCH / APRIL VOLUNTEER LISTS

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!

March Ushers

Russ W / Kelvin S

Mar	Liturgist	Fellowship
05	Gary A.	Dorothy W. & Ivy M.
12	Doris C.	Toni & Lowell L.
19	Lyndon M.	Gretchen & Roger D.
26	Carolann G.	Michelle & Kelvin S.

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

Rob & Ivy Mickelson

Apr	Liturgist	Fellowship
02	Peggy Me.	Judy & Gary A.
09	Augie A.	Easter Sunday
16	Gary A.	Karen & Richard J.
23	Michelle S.	Peggy Meissner
30	Don G.	Lisa & Russ W.

Mission of the Quarter for Dent

The Ad Council has decided to do our mission offerings for 3 months at a time. The schedule will be:

January, February, and March ~ The Bridge Food Pantry
 April, May, June ~ UMCORE and the Conference Love Offering
 July, August, September ~ Rudolph's Closet
 October, November, December ~ The Salvation Army.



The Bridge is a nonprofit agency that provides food to families and individuals during a time of need. We provide good quality food that has been either donated, purchased from North Country Food Bank or locally. Our goal is to meet the basic needs of our clients while improving their nutritional well-being. For us to meet our goals, we need your support.

The Bridge relies heavily on the generosity of local churches, businesses and individuals to supply food for distribution to our clients. In addition monthly shipments of USDA supplied products help supplement the pantry needs.



Volunteer Lists in Vergas

A volunteer list has been created for the year, if you find you cannot serve on the weekend selected for you, please find a replacement. We are counting on everyone doing their part to make this work better. The lists for February and March are below, please let Sheri know of any changes you make. Thank you!

Vergas UMC - Liturgist & Usher lists have been put together. If you are unable to be there on a Sunday, please find a substitute to fill in for you. Thank You!

Mar	Liturgist	Ushers	Fellowship
05	Faye C.	Bryan & Eileen G.	Carmen & Steve M.
12	Rick N.	Byron & Connie Z.	Cabin Fever Potluck
19	Bev F.	NEEDED	Renee S.
26	Bryan G.	Rick & Margy N.	Birthdays Cake & Ice Cr

Apr	Liturgist	Ushers	Fellowship
02	Renee S	Steve & Carmen	Potluck / Margy
09	Bev F	Faye & Tonya	Easter - No Fellowship
16	NEEDED	David & Carla	Tonya J.
23	Tonya J	Bryan & Eileen	Men's Soup
30	Rick N	Byron & Connie	Birthdays cake & Ice Cr



Bible Study

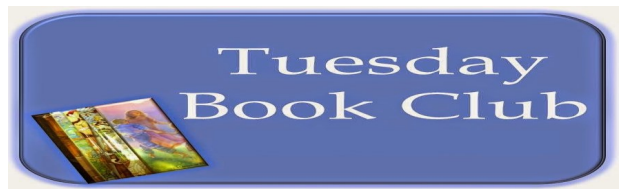
Sundays in Vergas 9:30am



The Church Ladies

The ladies will meet at noon, Tuesday, March 21st at Billy's in Vergas. Any ladies from church, friends, family or community are welcome to join us to share the adventures that we had this winter! The food & fellowship are great! Connie Prunty has agreed to chair this group, and we will start planning for spring and summer, hoping that they come soon!

Ad Council
 Wednesday, March 15th
 Dent 3:30
 Vergas 6:30pm



**Next Meeting Tues, April 4th
 12:30pm at Billy's in Vergas**

2 Books Chosen

“Someone Else’s Shoes” by Jojo Moyes
 “Take My Hand” by Dolen Perkins-Valdez

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENT

VERGAS, MN

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 1

PANCAKE FEED

8:00 am - 11:00 am (or until gone) Vergas Event Center

{ \$10 • Kids Under 10 \$5 • Cash Only }

{ DRIVE THRU AND INDOOR SEATING }

Serving Pancakes, Sausage, Juice & Real Maple Syrup, of Course!

Bring the Entire Family & Enjoy the Day in Friendly Vergas!

“The Sap is Running in Vergas”

5K WALK/RUN CRIPPED RACE

Registration 8-8:30 am at Billy's Bar
 Race Start Time 9 am
 Pre-Registration \$25 • \$30 after April 1

Registration form at www.cityofvergas.com

{ HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES }
 9:00 am - Noon
 by Farm 41

{ MAPLE LEAF HUNT }
 10:00 am
 Ages 6 and under
 Long Lake Trail (Tin Can Alley Entrance)

Stores Will Be Open With Maple Fest Specials!

TAMM KESKULA

A VERGAS COMMUNITY CLUB & VERGAS LIONS FUNDRAISER

All proceeds go directly to projects happening in Vergas.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

Online Training offered by the Mn Conference:

March 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
New members of an SPRC and those who have recently received a new pastor, learn how to support your pastor's well-being, the responsibilities of the SPRC and the SPRC chair, and more.

THE PASTOR'S CAT...

This particular story just made me laugh. Hope the story leaves a bright spot in your day. Whoever said that God doesn't have a sense of humor?

Dwight Nelson recently told a true story about the pastor of his church. He had a kitten that climbed up a tree in his backyard and then was afraid to come down.



The pastor coaxed, offered warm milk, etc.

The kitty would not come down. The tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided that if he tied a rope to his car and pulled it until the tree bent down, he could then reach up and get the kitten.

That's what he did, all the while checking his progress in the car. He then figured if he went just a little bit further, the tree would be bent sufficiently for him to reach the kitten. But as he moved the car a little further forward, the rope broke. The tree went 'boing!' and the kitten instantly sailed through the air - out of sight.

The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighborhood asking people if they'd seen a little kitten. No. Nobody had seen a stray kitten. So he prayed, 'Lord, I just commit this kitten to your keeping,' and went on about his business.

A few days later he was at the grocery store, and met one of his church members. He happened to look into her shopping cart and was amazed to see cat food. This woman was a cat hater and everyone knew it, so he asked her, 'Why are you buying cat food when you hate cats so much?'

She replied, 'You won't believe this,' and then told him how her little girl had been begging her for a cat, but she kept refusing. Then a few days before, the child had begged again, so the Mom finally told her little girl, 'Well, if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it.' She told the pastor, 'I watched my child go out in the yard, get on her knees, and ask God for a cat. And really, Pastor, you won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outspread, and landed right in front of her.'

Planting a Lenten Garden



Three rows of Squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash Criticism
3. Squash indifference

Seven rows if Peas

1. Prayer
2. Penance
3. Perseverance
4. Politeness
5. Preparedness
6. Purity
7. Patience

Here's what you will need to plant in your garden:

Seven Heads of Lettuce:

1. Let us be unselfish and loyal
2. Let us be charitable
3. Let us search the scriptures
4. Let us not be weary in well doing
5. Let us be obedient
6. Let us be truthful
7. Let us love one another

No garden is complete without Turnips:

1. Turn up for prayer and Bible study
2. Turn up with a smile, even when things are difficult
3. Turn up with determination to do your best in God's service

Conclude with Thyme:

thyme with God. Thyme for fun, thyme for rest.

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.
There will be much fruit in the garden because you reap what you sow!

A Thought for the Day

Being Positive

doesn't mean you
don't ever have
negative thoughts.



It just means you don't let those
thoughts control you life.

**I'M Done
With Winter!**



**Next
Season Please.**



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 March is Mar. 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

Vergas United Methodist Church:

200 W Main St
PO Box 243
Vergas MN 56587

Reverend Amy J Strom

email: 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

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

March / April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship Times 9am Dent 10:30am Vergas and Livestream	Vergas Sunday School 9:30 am Adult					
Jan A. (D) 	5 Ellie L. (D) 	6 12:30pm Book Club Mysterics in Dent	7 9am Dent Breakfast Club	8	9	10 Donna S. (D) Carter J. (V)
11  Bev F. (V)						
12 	13	14 12 pm Church Ladies meeting Billys in Vergas	15 Ad Council 3pm Dent 6:30pm Vergas	16 Daryl P. (D)	17 	18
19 Cabin Fever Potluck Fellowship	20	21	22	23 David S. (D)	24 	25
26	27	28	29 Cathy M. (V)	30 Melanie H. (V) 	31  8am Maple Syrup Fest VEC	1
2 Jody S. (V) Carla R. (V)	3 12:30pm Book Club @ Billy's in Vergas	4	5	6	7 Good Friday	8 Loren M. (V)