



# Methodist Messenger

2022 Edition, Issue 1, January

**From the  
Pastor's  
Desk**



A new year has dawned. Good riddance to 2021 and welcome 2022!

I'm not sure what camp you belong to... one in which you do make new year's resolutions and goals or the camp that just doesn't. But I'm in the second camp usually, with both feet.

Did you know that there is even a day called "Ditch New Year's Resolutions Day" celebrated on January 17<sup>th</sup>? It was created to acknowledge that too often the reality is, that even when we make resolutions with the best of intentions by the time the 17<sup>th</sup> has rolled around, we have dropped our resolutions. And we have no plans to pick them up again.

This year was different for me. I began working through a free online resource called Year Compass ([www.yearcompass.com](http://www.yearcompass.com)) and I have actually been enjoying it. Honestly! I'm going through the resource pretty slowly, giving myself plenty of time to process last year and make plans for 2022. I am at best, guardedly optimistic. But enough about me.

How are you feeling as you enter 2022? Are you optimistic, even guardedly so? Are you feeling empty, easily irritated, ready, already, for the warmer weather to hit? Are you nervous about catching something? Or ready for new adventures and new experiences? Or a bit of a mix of a few of these? I can understand if that is the case.

**Continued on page 2...**

## ASK THE PASTOR

Each week I Zoom with other Methodist pastors, to keep growing in my pastoring skills. One topic came up that is very Methodist, I had never heard of before, and had me very interested. It's called "Ask the Pastor".

Two or three Sundays out of the year, the congregation members write down questions they have about Christianity, the Bible, and our faith. The questions are collected and the pastor picks 3 to 5 questions to answer in the service.

Over time, these "Ask the Pastor" Sundays become highly anticipated Sundays in the life of the church. People really look forward to hearing what other people are wrestling with and questioning. Plus, they also wonder what the pastor is going to say in response.

I will try and let the congregation know a few weeks in advance when we will be doing "Ask the Pastor" so that people can be thinking up questions. It will give people time to email them, text them, or write them out on the Prayer Cards when you get to church that Sunday.

*I would like to thank you for the gifts and cards on Christmas. I am so grateful for your generosity and kindness. Your gifts boosted my spirits, thank you so much!*

*Pastor Amy*

## ***Pastor Desk continued....***

For me, I'm not putting pressure on myself to set goals or even intentions. But I do think there are some "opportunities" I can plan for myself to make 2022 a better year. I am a little excited about the things I can plan for in advance. It allows me to anticipate and be excited it is on my horizon.

I haven't worked through that Year Compass resource completely, so I don't have goals that aren't goals to mention here. But I do plan on identifying a couple of things I want more of in my life this coming year. I hope you are making plans to do the same.

If any of your goals that aren't goals include playing board games, please let me know. I love playing games and hanging out.

If your goals/intentions include something spiritual like praying more. Consider joining up for the Prayer Chain or adding the Break Through Prayer initiative to your day. Or reading the Bible through in a year? Ask me what I did this last year to help me stick with my reading plan better...I did read more consistently but not perfectly.

Are you interested in joining a NEW Coffee and Fellowship time, a time to connect and spend time in scripture? I hope to offer at least one online study option. But I could meet in person if there is interest. I am ready to make some plans for 2022.

After all, everything is easier with a plan, and, as the saying goes, you eat an elephant one bite at a time. I can plan to take small steps. Whatever you do with resolutions and goals, I hope you are excited to see what God has for us in the new year. Our God is good and has good plans for us.



## PRAYER CHAIN

We are in the process of updating our Prayer Chain in Dent and Vergas. If you are on the Prayer Chain but would prefer to be notified by **email** or **text** instead of by phone, please let our prayer chain leader know.

If you are in Dent, please call Doris Champlin with your preference at 218-758-2821.

If you are in Vergas, please call Sondra Flett with your preference at 218-342-2637

If you are not on the Prayer Chain but would like to be included, so that you can be notified about praying for others in our church, please let Doris or Sondra know, or put your name and preference information on the sign up list. Thank you!



## Silent Night



# Ugly / Festive Sweater

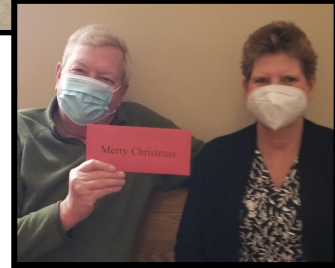
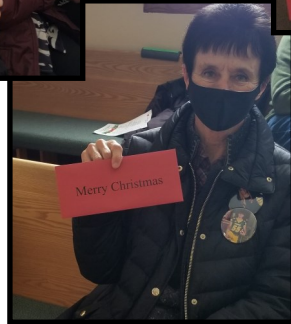
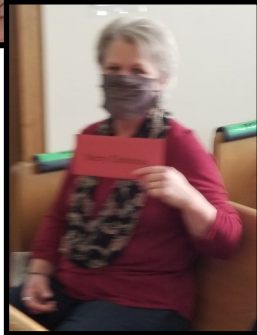
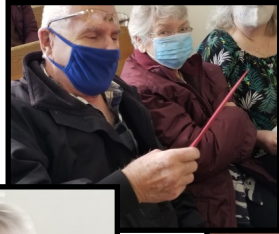


# Dent

PAY IT FORWARD



# PAY IT FORWARD



# Vergas

# Ugly Sweater



# Vergas Mission Minute

## Local Mission

The Mission dollars for December were spent as follows. The church did the Pay it Forward envelopes which was 7 envelopes at \$50 each, which Faye put together to be handed to members of the congregation to give away. This has been a positive experience in the past and with many stories shared. Then \$300 was split with \$100 each to The Welcome Place in Pelican, Someplace Safe in Perham, and Churches United for the Homeless in Moorhead.

The offering from the Christmas Eve Service will be used to assist the local Food Shelves.

## Mission of the Quarter

The Missions of the Quarter for 2022 will be as follows:

January, February, March	Food Shelves
April, May, June	Relay for Life
July, August, September	Samaritan's Purse
October, November, December	Salvation Army

The Missions of the Quarter will receive \$200 per month plus the donations that the congregation gives specifically to missions during that quarter.

We are very proud of our church family for their support to missions, both local and national.

*Jane Wasvick*



Thank you for your continued generosity

## DECEMBER MISSION UPDATES



\$200 from the Angel Tree collection will be sent to The Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville FL, in memory of Bill Hager, to further the research into Pulmonary diseases.



**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

**\$ 738.50**  
Was collected to be sent to the "The Bridge Pantry"



**Mission of the Quarter: \$165** will be sent to the Salvation Army (\$200 per month set aside for missions and \$ in additional

# Rudolph's Closet



Due to Covid, the Dent UMC decided to adapt Rudolph's Closet, so we would all be safe, yet we could still help out those in in need. During the month of December, through the outdoor church sign and word of mouth from church members, we were fortunate to help 69 individuals have a better Christmas.

Name, age and gender information was collected, and we then picked out and wrapped 2 gifts for each person. The gifts were then delivered to families. The families were so appreciative, and it was such a great way for our church to still be able to help out those in our community in need.

Huge thanks to all of you that have contributed to Rudolph's Closet through your donations, time and prayers. Just think how much happiness we have brought to those 69 individuals!



## JANUARY TRIVIA

1. What are the two January flowers?
2. What is January's gem stone?
3. What are the two zodiac signs for January?
4. When is Elvis Presley's birthday?
5. What federal holiday is in January?
6. T/F: January 1st is both the furthest away and closest day to December 31st.
7. What did the Anglo-Saxons call January?
8. What is January named after?
9. What does January's gem represent?
10. T/F: January is National Blood Donor Month.

ANSWERS: (1) Snowdrop & carnation (2) Garnet (3) Capricorn & Aquarius (4) January 8 (5) Martin Luther King, Jr Day (6) True (7) Wulfmonath (8) The Roman god Janus (9) Constanancy (10) True



# Inspirational Story "Carl - part 1"

Carl was a quiet man. He didn't talk much. He would always greet you with a big smile and a firm handshake. Even after living in our neighborhood for over 50 years, no one could really say they knew him very well.

Before his retirement, he took the bus to work each morning. The lone sight of him walking down the street often worried us. He had a slight limp from a bullet wound received in WWII. Watching him, we worried that although he had survived WWII, he may not make it through our changing uptown neighborhood with its ever-increasing random violence, gangs, and drug activity.

When he saw the flyer at our local church asking for volunteers for caring for the gardens behind the minister's residence, he responded in his characteristically unassuming manner. Without fanfare, he just signed up.

He was well into his 87th year when the very thing we had always feared finally happened. He was just finishing his watering for the day when three gang members approached him. Ignoring their attempt to intimidate him, he simply asked, "Would you like a drink from the hose?"

The tallest and toughest-looking of the three said, "Yeah, sure," with a malevolent little smile. .... ***to be continued in February***



## BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT WORD SCRAMBLE

1. NIHTIOARCNS: \_\_\_\_\_
2. IAAGNLTAS: \_\_\_\_\_
3. HIPPNLIPIAS: \_\_\_\_\_
4. BREEHWS: \_\_\_\_\_
5. STIUT: \_\_\_\_\_
6. THAMETW: \_\_\_\_\_
7. IHTTMOY: \_\_\_\_\_
8. KULE: \_\_\_\_\_
9. MESJA: \_\_\_\_\_
10. MRONAS: \_\_\_\_\_
11. EVIRTLOEAN: \_\_\_\_\_
12. OLACISNOSS: \_\_\_\_\_
13. DEJU: \_\_\_\_\_
14. SELNHASANTOS: \_\_\_\_\_
15. PHAEISNES: \_\_\_\_\_
16. KMRA: \_\_\_\_\_





**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!

**Jan Ushers - Dent**  
Austin & Darlene H.

**Feb Ushers - Dent**  
Augie & Kellie Ann A.

**Liturgists January:**  
2nd Peggy Meissner  
9th Doris C.  
16th Augie A.  
23rd Gary A.  
30th Don G.

**Liturgists February:**  
6th Michelle S.  
13th Doris C.  
20th Lyndon M.  
27th Russ W.



**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.*



**Week 1 -**

Jesus Reconciles by Jacob Armstrong

**Week 2 -**

Jesus Sets us Free by Lanecia Rouse

**Week 3 -**

Jesus is God With Us by Justin LaRosa

**Week 4 -**

Jesus Brings New Life by Rachel Billups

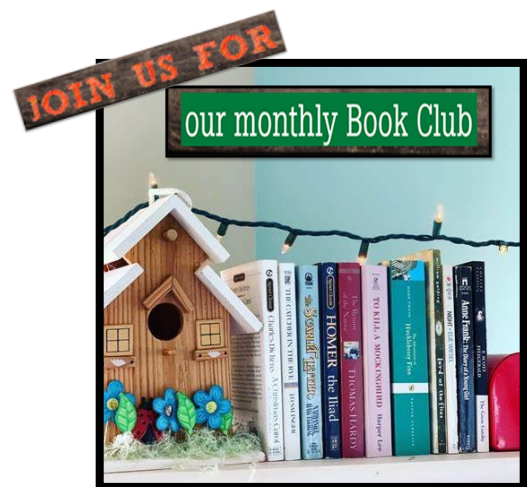
**Week 5 -**

Jesus Changes Everything by Jorge Acevedo



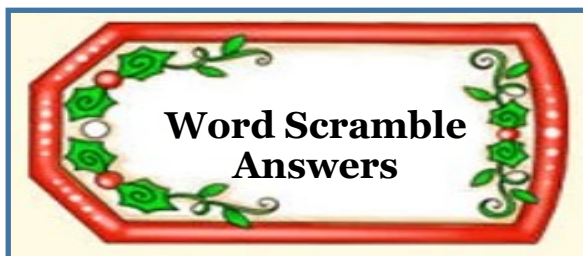
**Things Book Lovers Do**

<p>Read several books at one time...</p>	<p>...while also having a stack of books to read next...</p>	<p>...and keeping a running list of even MORE books you want.</p>
--	--	---



Next Book club will meet at 12:30 pm on February 1st at Mysteries Café in Dent





- |                |                |                   |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Corinthians | 7. Timothy     | 13. Jude          |
| 2. Galatians   | 8. Luke        | 14. Thessalonians |
| 3. Philippians | 9. James       | 15. Ephesians     |
| 4. Hebrews     | 10. Romans     | 16. Mark          |
| 5. Titus ?     | 11. Revelation |                   |
| 6. Matthew     | 12. Colossians |                   |



### 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 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, 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**  
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:**  
[vergasumc.com](http://vergasumc.com)

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

# January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sunday Worship Times:</b> <b>9:00am Dent</b> <b>9:30am Adult Bible Study Vergas</b> <b>10:30am Vergas</b> <b>10:30am Online</b>						 <b>(V)</b> <b>Irma S.</b> 
2 	3	4  <b>12:30 pm Book Club</b>	5	6	7	8
<b>9 (D) Bonnie S.</b>  <b>S/PPRC 11:30 Vergas</b> No livestream Service today	10	<b>11 (V) Diane S.</b>  <b>Jody &amp; Sheri on Vacation</b>	<b>12 (D) Doris C</b> 	13	14	15
16  No livestream Service today	<b>17 Martin Luther King</b>	18  <b>Pastor Amy on Vacation</b>	<b>19 (V) Mary D.</b>  <b>Ad Council 4pm Dent</b>	<b>20 (V) Jane W.</b> 	21	22 
<b>23</b> Leading service Dent Darlene H Vergas Renee S	<b>24 (V) Donna S. Byron Z.</b>  <b>(D) David S</b>	25	26	27	28	<b>29 (D) Bill C</b> 
<b>30 (D) Roger D</b>  Leading service Dent Lyndon M Vergas Tonya J	31	 <b>12:30 pm Book Club</b>	1	2	3	4
						5

## VERGAS UMC AD COUNCIL MINUTES

December 15, 2021

Those present: Renee Sonnenberg, Sheri Schoenberger, Jane Wasvick, Pastor Amy, Margy Nelson, Tanya Johnson, and Faye Courneya

**Call to order** by our Chairwoman Renee. Renee shared a devotional on fear.

### **How has God worked in our lives?**

Stories were shared

### **Pastor Amy:**

1. Pastor Amy also reported that Dent is going to do the Pay it Forward envelopes as well this year. This is positive and Amy is looking forward to the stories after the envelopes are distributed.
2. Tanya, Faye, and Sheri are working on the Membership List and how to keep this going. They are using post cards and letters.
3. Both churches will have Christmas Eve service with Dent at 3:30 pm and Vergas at 5:00 pm. Amy asked if we have ushers. Connie and Byron Zitzow usually do it and they have agreed to this year. Amy ordered some new candles and also some LED candles to see if we like them for safety. After we see them, this can be discussed.
4. This Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup>, we are encouraged to wear Christmas outfits, whether they are ugly or not is based in the eyes of the beholder.
5. Amy also discussed the Nominating Committee and who would like to continue on the Ad Council committee. Margy would like to be done, as she has been on the committee for over 10 years. Jane, Renee, and Faye will stay on. Tonya will stay but would appreciate someone stepping into the Finance position. If someone would fill that position, she would leave the committee.
6. Amy also discussed the difficulty in filling the pulpit when she is on vacation. She thought that she and Jodi and Sheri should not be gone on the same Sundays so there is help for who is filling in. She is using members of the congregation to do the Sundays in January and appreciates the willingness for members to do this. Sheri and Jodi are gone January 9 and 16 and Amy is gone January 23 and 30.

**Secretary minutes** were approved after a motion to approve from Jane seconded by Margy.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to approve by Tonya, seconded by Jane, and approved.

### **Old Business:**

1. The Mission dollars will continue at \$500 per month. In reviewing the past minutes, this should be split with \$300 going to Local missions and \$200 going to the Mission of the Quarter.

2. The Missions of the Quarter for 2022 will be: Motion by Renee, seconded by Faye and approved.
  - a. Jan, Feb, Mar will be the Food Shelves
  - b. Apr, May, June will be Relay for Life
  - c. July, Aug, Sept will be Samaritan's Purse
  - d. Oct, Nov, Dec will be Salvation Army
3. It was discussed that we should see if there was a church in the path of the tornados that we could assist. Amy will check on this and we will decide what to do at the January meeting.
4. Faye will go ahead and order the Lending Library, will need to find someone to put it together and paint it. There will be a need to check on this to make sure that it doesn't get too junky.

**New Business:**

1. Margy discussed the need to access the basement especially for Sunday school and special functions. Connie Prunty offered to be part of installing a chair lift at the church. She just had one installed at her home and would use the same company at the church. The committee would like to get the company in and get an estimate, then discuss it further with Connie and proceed. Fay mentioned that we have \$1688 in the memorial fund that could be used.
2. Sheri discussed how to do the Liturgist and Ushers for the next year. We had difficulty getting volunteers, so we made assignments. This did not work as well as expected so we will go back to volunteers and see how it goes. Sheri will watch for openings and put in the bulletin.
3. There was discussion on what to do when church is cancelled. There should be something online to substitute for church. This could be a devotional or prerecorded program. Amy will think about this, and we will discuss in January.
4. The Committee decided that the meetings in Jan, Feb. March will be by Zoom due to the weather and driving.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 19, 2021, 6:30 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted by Jane Wasvick, Acting Secretary