



It's now the Easter Season

God is the creator of comedy, according to the Rev. Jerry Herships, pastor of After Hours Church in Denver, Colorado, and former stand-up comedian. "God has to have a sense of humor when you think about it. Just look at the hippos, the giraffes, or the Kardashians!"

"Add to that the fact that Easter was almost on April Fool's Day this year. It almost makes it twice as funny; like the resurrection wasn't already hard enough to accept. But seriously, I think Jesus came back saying, 'No, guys. I'm not kidding. It's me. I'm back. I have overcome death.'"

Easter always falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon of the spring equinox, so while the day of the week, Sunday, stays the same, the date can vary by almost six weeks.

Within the United Methodist Church, the focus is always to be on the Christian observance rather than the secular holiday when the two almost coincide. But that doesn't mean there can't be some humor. Just look at the irony.



The origin of April Fool's Day is unclear. One theory is that it came into being when the Julian calendar, which placed the new year around the March equinox, was replaced with the Gregorian calendar, which placed the new year January 1. People who didn't know about the change or refused to accept it and continued to celebrate the new year in the spring were called April fools.

The Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, a specialist in United Methodist worship, said the resurrection really was a joke on those in power at the time of the crucifixion. "They thought once Jesus was dead, he would be out of their way, things would go back to normal and they would continue to reign forever. The joke was on them. They may have been used as the instrument of death for Jesus, but they couldn't make him stay dead!"

continued on pg 2...



Pastor's Desk continued...

1 Corinthians 1:22-25 address the paradox of the cross as the symbol of God's power:

"Jews ask for signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's power and God's wisdom. This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." (Common English Bible).

Imagine the disbelief and astonishment the disciples surely felt when confronted by the absurdity of the resurrection. The women, who have encountered the risen Jesus, rush into the room where the disciples are in grief and mourning and

shout out the good news, "He's alive!" The disciples, in disbelief, say, "Yeah, yeah, April Fool!" but are soon convinced.

Rev. Herships reminds us that with Jesus' resurrection, God has the last laugh over death and suffering: "Every Easter really is like an April Fool's Day. For three days, the whole world, all of humanity, thought that hope and love were dead. But God came back to say, 'Surprise!'"

And our lives have never been the same. Because of Jesus' sacrificial action – our sins are forgiven and we are promised eternal life. That's no joke!

Easter Blessings and see you in church!
Pastor Joyce Slostad



WORSHIP IN APRIL

4/7 "Favorite Child", Acts 4:32-35. You'll never get what you deserve at the hand of God. Hymns: Grace Greater than Our Sin; In Remembrance of Me.

4/14 "A Bible Verse for Jonah", Psalm 4.

Sometimes we just need a little time and space. And God knows exactly how much. Hymns: He Leadeth Me; Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah; Lord of All Hopefulness.

4/21 "The Good Shepherd Brand", John 10:11-18.

As Christians, we need to renew our focus on what makes our brand unique: saying what Jesus said and doing what Jesus did. Hymns: O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing; Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us; I Love to Tell the Story.

4/28 "A Whole New Ballgame", 1 John 4:7-21. T

he pitch clock was a game changer for Major League Baseball. Does God have a pitch clock to speed up our understanding of love? Hymns: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling; They'll Know We are Christians; How Can We Name a Love.

PONTOON AND KAYAKING GROUP POTLUCK & PLANNING SESSION



Sunday April 21st @ 5 p.m.

Location: Vergas UMC – 200 Main St

Come and enjoy time with old and new friends as we gather to plan another summer of fun on the beautiful lakes in our area – everyone is welcome – even if you haven't pontooned or kayaked with the group in the past. Bring an appetizer, main dish, side dish or dessert to share and we will provide the paper products, silverware, & lemonade. We'll make decisions about what day of the week we want to have our excursions (some want to change it from Thursdays) and have a sign-up sheet for those who are willing to host a potluck gathering this summer. Plan to attend and feel free to invite your friends and neighbors to come with you to see if they would like to join the fun!



Stores Will Be Open With Maple Fest Specials!

Thank You for Shopping Vergas

**EVENTS @
SUMMERS DESIGN CENTER**

MAPLE SYRUP CONTEST
8 am - 10 am Winner Announced at 11 am

VENDOR FAIR
8 am - Noon

LIVE MUSIC 9 am - Noon
Kate Lachowitz

PRESENTATION 10 am
"Back to the Maple Basics" by Stu Peterson

Fun! KIDS EVENTS

Kids Face Painting \$5
Kids Magic Coloring Pages
Hunt for Maple Leaves

VERGAS, MN

MAPLE SYRUP

FESTIVAL
Saturday, April 13, 2024

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
7:30 am - 11:30 am @ Vergas Event Center
Pancakes, Real Maple Syrup and Sausage served until gone!
Adults \$10 • Kids 10 & Under \$5 • Cash Only • Take Out Available
(A Fundraiser by the Vergas Lions & Vergas Community Club for projects in Vergas)

"THE SAP IS RUNNING IN VERGAS" 5K FUN
register 8-8:30 am @ Summers Design Center • Race 9 am
\$30 • Medals for Top 5 Runners

HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES BY FARM 41
9:00 am - Noon @ Vergas Methodist Church

9 am - Noon
Summers Design Center



**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
COMMUNITY GATHERING**
Thursday, May 2nd
Krauss Park in Perham

5:30pm - Free Hot Dog Dinner
6:00pm - 7:00pm - Worship and Prayer
Presented by the Perham Ministerial Association

SAVE YOUR RECIEPTS FROM
central market

Each church is asking everyone to save their receipts from Central Market in Perham & Detroit Lakes (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.

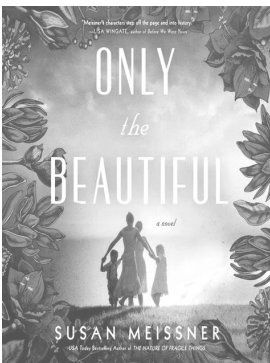
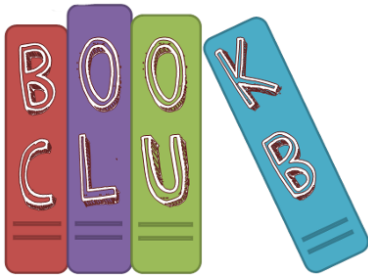


**Meeting Sunday,
April 14th 12:30pm
in Vergas**

The Vergas Church Ladies



**Next meeting is on
Thursday
April 18th 12:30pm
at the church.**



Next Meeting
Tues, May 7th 12:30pm
Monarch Coffee Shop, Frazee

Dent Breakfast Club



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

Ad Council
Wednesday, Apr 17th
Dent 3:00pm
Vergas 6:30pm

Vergas Fire & Rescue

invites you to attend a

Pancake Breakfast



*Sunday, May 5th 7am - 12pm
Vergas Event Center*

Serving pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk, juice

*Bring your family, friends, neighbors and join
us for a breakfast to support the volunteers
of our community.*



FREE WILL DONATION

Heavenly Humor



"I thought eternity would be wonderful...
but I still don't have enough time to
get everything done!"

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(See John 20:1-18)

03-29-2002

I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES,
WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS
SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"



An atheist was walking through the woods.
"What majestic trees!"
"What powerful rivers!"
"What beautiful animals!"
He said to himself.

As he was walking alongside the river, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a 7-foot grizzly bear charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder & saw that the bear was closing in on him.

He looked over his shoulder again, & the bear was even closer. He tripped & fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw that the bear was right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw & raising his right paw to strike him. At that instant the Atheist cried out, "Oh my God!"

Time Stopped.
The bear froze.
The forest was silent.

As a bright light shone upon the man, a

voice came out of the sky. "You deny my existence for all these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to cosmic accident." "Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer"? The atheist looked directly into the light, "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps you could make the BEAR a Christian"?

"Very Well," said the voice.

The light went out. The sounds of the forest resumed.

And the bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together, bowed his head & spoke:
"Lord bless this food, which I am about to receive from thy bounty through Christ our Lord, Amen."



Church Mission's ~ Vergas and Dent

Mission of the Quarter		April / May June	
United Methodist Committee of Relief (UMCOR)		 Women and Children	 Creation Care
STATED MISSION Alleviating human suffering around the globe by providing humanitarian aid through programs of relief, rehabilitation, service to refugees and renewal of life.	 UMCOR United Methodist Committee On Relief	 Sustainable Development	 Water and Sanitation
		 Disaster Response and Recovery	 Hunger and Poverty
		 Migration	 Global Health

Vergas Local Outreach

The Local Mission of \$300 for February was given to Pelican Rapids "The Youths" go fund me page. March and April Local Mission will be determined at the April Ad Council meeting.



Thank you for your continued generosity

You are invited to pack food at 		SATURDAY, MAY 4TH 11:00 AM -1:00 PM.	
 <p>Every day, at least 6,200 children die from starvation...</p>	AT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB IN PERHAM	WE NEED A GROUP OF 10 VOLUNTEERS TO HELP PACK FOOD	
<p>...but YOU can make a difference by volunteering at Feed My Starving Children.</p>	SEE SIGN UP SHEET TO VOLUNTEER. ANY QUESTIONS CAN BE ANSWERED BY FAYE OR SHERI		
 <p>In 2015, more than 1 million volunteers joined us to package nearly 273 million meals for malnourished children around the world.</p>	<p><small>**For safety reasons, children under the age of 5 are not allowed in the packing area (sorry no exceptions)</small></p>		



APRIL VOLUNTEERS LISTS

April Ushers		
Ivy & Rob M.		
Apr	Liturgist	Fellowship
07	Russ W.	Ivy & Rob M.
14	Darlene H.	Carolann & Don G.
21	Peggy Me.	Kelli Ann & Augie A,
28	Doris C.	Doris C. / Rose T.

Apr	Vergas Liturgist	Vergas Ushers
07	Tonya J.	Bryan & Eileen
14	Bev F.	Faye & Tonya
21	Renee S.	Faye & Tonya
28	Bryan G.	Byron & Connie

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

Apr	Vergas Fellowship
07	Margy N.
14	Faye C.
21	Sheri / Ice Cr Social
28	Neil & Donna S.



Vergas Birthday's

Apr 2nd Jody Schoenberger
 Apr 2nd Carla Reiten
 Apr 8th Loren Menz
 Apr 20th Rick Nelson

Dent Birthday's

Apr 19th Michelle Salathe
 Apr 27th Kelli Ann Augustson
 Apr 29th Doug Hovey

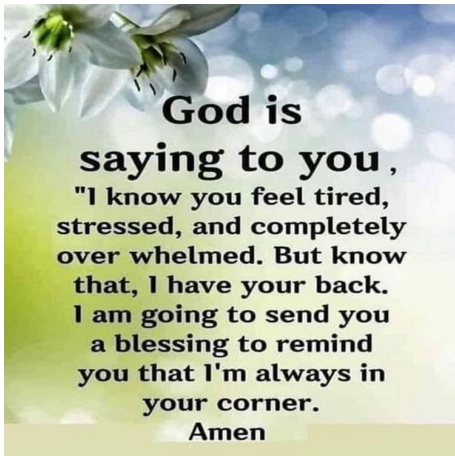


The needs of God's ministry are constant, please be sure your giving is current, especially over this last month of the year. If you are not able to be in church, please mail in your tithes and offerings to the addresses listed below. Make your offerings in advance of Sundays you will be gone.

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



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](#)

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 May, is April 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

April / May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship Times 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 Jody S (V) Carla R. (V)	2 9am Dent Breakfast Club @ Mysteries Café	3	4	5	6
	7 Loren M. (V)	8 12:30pm Book Club @ The Dugout in Dent	9 9am Dent Breakfast Club @ Mysteries Café	10	11	12 8am - noon Maple Fest Summers Design center
	14	15	16 Ad Council 3pm Dent 6:30pm Vergas	17 12:30pm Church Ladies meeting	18 Michelle S. (D) 19 Rick N. (V)	20
12pm SPRC in Vergas 5pm Kayak Group Potluck & Planning meeting at VUMC	21	22	23	24	25	26 Kelli Ann A. (D) 27
	28 Doug H. (D)	29 9am Dent Breakfast Club @ Mysteries Café	30	1	2	3
						4

DENT UMC LEADERSHIP TEAM

March 20, 2024

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

CALL TO ORDER: Gary called the meeting to order and Joyce opened with a scripture and a reading concerning how to bring people to the church then ended with a prayer.

MINUTES: Minutes from previous meeting were discussed and Karen made a motion to accept minutes with a second from Ivy. Motion was passed.

FINANCE: Monthly finance report was discussed and all bills are paid to date. Austin made a motion to accept the report subject to audit and Peggy seconded, motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Joyce had a handout about Methodist Foundations, with short term investments. We are using the fund already. Everything is in place for our Lenten Service on Thursday.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Roger has volunteered to mow the lawn this year. Thanks to Roger for volunteering. Ditch cleanup will be scheduled sometime in April. The screen door in the fellowship hall will be replaced this spring. Nothing new to report on acquiring an ADS, this will be checked into. Peggy made a motion to accept report with a second from Ivy, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS: Volunteers are needed for the Easter egg on March 30. Joyce handed out a process for the hunt, and there should be enough for 100 kids. Volunteers should be at the church by 1:30 to get things ready. Feed the Starving Children has been scheduled for our group on Friday May 3 from 12:30 – 2:30. There is a \$50 per person fee for 10 people. Karen made a motion to write one check from the church for this event and have donations be put towards payment. Austin seconded the motion and it passed.

NEW BUSINESS: Joyce brought up the idea to put an ad in the newspaper for our Easter service. Karen made a motion to put a 2x3 ad in the Perham Enterprise for the cost of \$129 and Lyndon seconded, motion passed.

OTHER: A reminder that our church rummage sale will be May 11. More information later. More plans for a fall spaghetti dinner will be discussed.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT: Next scheduled meeting will be April 17. Ivy motioned to adjourn and all seconded. Adjourned.

Ad Council Minutes
Vergas United Methodist Church
March 13, 6:30 pm at the Church

Present: Jane Wasvick, Sheri Schoenberger, David Reiten, Faye Courneya, and Tonya Johnson
Absent: Lisa Wrabek and Joyce Slostad

Attendees shared God moments. There was a discussion of the Breakthrough Prayer Initiative.

Review of Church Attendance

Sheri reviewed the documents for church attendance in person and online and has remained steady. Online attendance averages about 40-58 people and in person is averaging 18-30.

Secretary Report

The minutes from January 17th were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer Report

The Treasurer report was approved as handed out. The furnace bill was paid at \$9993. We are expecting an \$800 rebate. There should also be savings in our energy bill. There was a question about having remote thermostats. David will call Hanson and ask about the possibility of installing remote thermostats. Faye reported that the Marco copier is gone with extra cartridges. Current cartridges are set to order from Amazon on a tax-exempt account, Faye will take care of this. Iona Tenter's estate is valued at \$1,456,000, she has donated 5% to the church. Several of the properties are up for sale so this money is delayed until the sales are settled.

Trustee Report

David reported furnace work is completed. Faye mentioned that the toilet in the basement and the one in the new addition are running and they should be fixed. David will talk to Hanson's to have them check these out and repair as needed. Davide will talk to Rick, and they will schedule a time for the rest of us to get together to walk through the church and grounds to see what should be done next.

Mission

There was a discussion on the Mission of the Quarter for the year. The decision was made to:

1st Quarter, Relay for Life, Vergas Looneys

2nd Quarter, UMCOR

3rd Quarter, Salvation Army

4th Quarter, Local Food Shelves, Perham, Pelican Rapids, and Detroit Lakes

The Local Mission for February will be the Pelican Rapids "The Youths" go fund me page, donating \$300. March Local Mission will be determined at the April meeting.

Grocery slips "We Care" collected from Central Market will be put into the Mission of the Quarter dollars.

2024 Budget

Tonya presented the budget for review. There was discussion on adding some of the items that were cut last year as long as our giving remains strong. Faye moved to increase the quarterly mission dollars from \$50 to \$200 a month, seconded by Jane, approved. Jane moved to have the stipend pay for the treasurer of \$600 included, seconded by Tonya, approved. Tonya moved to have the budget approved with changes, seconded by David, approved. Tonya will send out the changes.

Pastor Salary

Discussion was held on the issue of the housing costs included in the retirement package for the pastor. Faye moved to add \$210 to Westpath retirement for Joyce each year to make up the difference, Jane seconded, approved. Jane will check with Joyce to make sure the paperwork is signed.

Fire Protection

Discussion on why the alarm continues to go off and needs to be reset. The contract for this service was discontinued. Questions remain on what is being done for fire protection. This will be discussed further during the walk-through.

Community Club

Faye will pay the dues to the Community Club. We need to start planning for the “Shops and Hops” which is June 8. We would like to have a presence at that event. They will start at 3 and have vendors from 4-7 pm.

Feed My Starving Children

Perham has asked if we wish to have a team in this event to be held May 2-3. The church had a team last year. It was decided to have a team. Faye checked on time, and we can have May 3 from 11 am-1 pm. Sheri will make a sign-up sheet to have in church to put together a team.

Birthday Party for Donna Frank

Donna Frank has asked if her family can use the church for a birthday party on May 11. Everyone was in favor of this.

Fresh Expressions

Jane reported on the classes that she attended. Many ideas were shared for small churches. Many of the ideas were exciting, you couldn't help but get enthusiastic about some of the ideas. The idea of a Dinner Church was interesting. We discussed some of the things that we could do. One idea was having a summer dinner church in the park across from the church making an easy grilling meal. Invite the community and see what happens. We will discuss this more when Pastor Joyce is with us and brainstorm some more ideas.

The next meeting will be on April 17 at 6:30 at the church.