



Methodist Messenger

2023 Edition, Issue 13, January



As we begin a new year, we also begin a new sermon series called RESET (a resource from Greater New Jersey). I am excited about this one personally. But I also think this is right for us in both of our churches.

As God would have it, we are building NEW Ad Councils in BOTH Dent and in Vergas. Exciting times! And we have an opportunity like never before to dream and discuss what we would like our futures to look like as this new year unfolds.

For the sermon series, we will emphasize in RESET how God's mercies are new every morning (Luke 3:22-23)! But sometimes it is just so easy for us to get stuck in the same old routines. I like my routines and so do my cats. But how do we make sure we are staying open to the life God wants to lead us into and bless us with? Sometimes we must RESET.

This year let's hit the "reset button" so we can claim the fresh start God makes available to us. Let us focus on resetting our souls on God, resetting our purpose on God's Kingdom priorities, resetting on our shared values of our faith and expectations and resetting our direction as a church.

You might be surprised to hear I am suggesting small adjustments, just tiny tweaks, only slight shifts in attitude and in how we work together. Because I believe SMALL changes can add up over time to make a BIG difference.

For instance, I keep thinking about the back left tire on my dad's van. It typically runs low when winter hits, but only by maybe 4 or 5 PSI. When that happens, I don't put 100 pounds of air in the tire, or 30 or even 10 pounds of pressure in that tire. NO WAY! No, I only add the 4 PSI needed to bring it back up to match the rest of the tires and get things running smoothly again. Only that.

We want to add just enough change to get things running smoothly again. And part of that includes looking for everyone to help make these small adjustments, for each of us to do our part. For each of us to contribute to the whole, of helping our churches flourish again. We need to pull together. I just love what the Bishop said when we listened to her interview a while ago... "**We all do better when we all do better.**"

Our new sermon series begins Sunday, January 8th and will be for all of January. This would be a good time to invite someone you haven't seen in church for a while. Let them know you have been thinking of them, you miss them, and that we are starting a new sermon series. It's an easy excuse for ALL of us to jump back into the good things God is unfolding before us!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Amy

Good news! Both Dent and Vergas have responded to the call to serve!

Both churches have responded in amazing ways to the calls and invitations sent out by the Nominating Committees. Dent had a tremendous response, many people stepping up into new places of service, taking on significant roles and responsibilities. And now Vergas has responded too, many stepping up in new ways. We are so grateful! I see God's hand in this so clearly, it is so encouraging! It feels hopeful to me.

For those transitioning out of roles, some roles you have had to carry for far too many years, THANK YOU for your service! May God refresh you in deep and life-giving ways for all that you have poured out for God and your church. You can never be replaced! But you deserve to be able to step back and be renewed.

For all of you who are stepping up to serve. This is new for many of us, you are not alone. It's exciting, it's a bit anxiety inducing...but we can do this together, figuring it out as we go. May God grant you fresh energy, creativity, a team spirit, and hope to dream about our futures.

Let us all be in prayer for our churches. Let us pray for those taking a break and for those gearing up to serve. Let us pray to be ready, willing, and able to follow God's lead in all the good things God has for us in 2023.

Details to follow in February's newsletter... pictures and names.



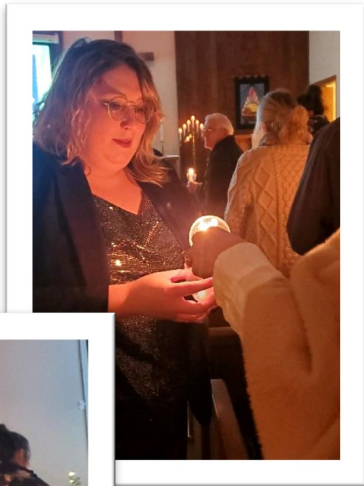
Would love your input for the RESET sermon series! If you could hit the RESET button on any part of your life, any time of your life, any relationship, job

decision, any angry outburst... what would you change?

And then, would you please share your thoughts? Just write out a word or two on a Prayer Card in church and drop it in the Offering Plate or text me at 612-226-8905. I'd like to share your answers anonymously in my RESET sermons this month. Thank you!

Rudolph's Closet





New Sermon Series



Week 1: Soul Reset | Luke 3:21-23

Resetting your soul begins with remembering who you are. In baptism, God calls us beloved.

Week 2: Reset Purpose | Mark 1:32-39

Spending time with God enables us to start our year with intention. Centered living comes from understanding God's purpose in this season.

Week 3: Reset Values | Galatians 5:24-6:10

What does it mean to live by God's Spirit and not our own, to live according to God's values and not those of the world?

Week 4: Reset Direction | Acts 9:1-15

Whether we've been in the church for a long time or are exploring the faith, Jesus sometimes calls us to move in a new direction, even when we think we are already heading in the right direction.



if a squirrel knows it's being watched, it will dig a hole but pretend to spit the food in, covering the hole with debris as normal before running off in search of privacy.

When squirrels find food to be stored for later, they carry it tucked inside their cheeks while searching for a place to bury it.



Squirrels will adopt other squirrel babies if the parents die or are unable to care for them.





Winter Facts

Not every severe winter storm is a blizzard. Blizzards are violent winter storms that last at least three hours and combines subfreezing temperatures, mighty wind laden and, blowing snow reducing visibility to less than 0.25 miles.



January 13th is generally the coldest day. January regularly produces frost, ice, and snow. It is the chilliest month of the year



Snow crystals are translucent, not white. The white coloring is caused by sunlight that is reflected off the crystals. All visible colors are reflected, which together, look white.

Volunteer Lists in Vergas

We are seeking a way to become more organized and more effective in covering all our commitments for Liturgists, Ushers, and our Fellowship times. To that end, we have created a year-long schedule for these three essential roles in the life of our church. And keeping in mind we do not have a Volunteer Coordinator to manage this, you have been assigned dates to serve for the whole 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 January and February 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!

Jan	Liturgist	Ushers	Fellowship
01	Tonya J.	Neil & Donna S.	New Year's Day
08	Bev F.	Rick & Margy	Potluck (Lana J.)
15	Carmen M.	Faye & Tonya	Rick & Margy N.
22	Margy N.	Rick & Margy	Steve & Carmen
29	Bryan G.	Neil & Donna	Birthdays (Sondra)

Feb	Liturgist	Ushers	Fellowship
05	Renee S.	Steve & Carmen M.	Tonya J.
12	Bev F.	Bryan & Eileen G.	Cabin Fever Potluck
19	Carla R.	Faye & Tonya	Connie Z.
26	Bryan G.	David & Carla R.	Birthdays (Sondra)



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 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!

January Ushers

Richard & Karen J.

Jan	Liturgist	Fellowship
01	Peggy M.	Peggy & Lyndon M.
08	Doris C.	Ivy M & Karen J.
15	Augie A.	Peggy Meissner
22	Gary A.	Lisa & Russ W.
29	Don G.	Virginia & Rick J.

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!

February Ushers

Augie & Kellie Ann A.

Feb	Liturgist	Fellowship
05	Michelle S.	Ivy & Rob M.
12	Doris C.	Carolann & Don G.
19	Lyndon M.	Kellie Ann & Augie
26	Russ W.	Doris C. & Rose T.

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.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

9:30 am Sunday's
in Vergas

THE WHITE BOARD BIBLE by Pastor Allen Jackson



abibliophobia

uh-bib-ih-uh-to-bee-yuh
Noun.


The fear of running
out of things to read.

~ aestas book blog ~



The Church Ladies

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,
Jan 10th 12:30pm at
Billy's in Vergas**

**Book of the month is
"People We Meet
on Vacation"
by Emily Henry**



Ad Council Meetings

Wed. Jan 18th
3pm Dent
6:30pm Vergas



Advent bible study entitled **Never Beyond Hope** in Dent and also one online via zoom.

Dent will resume their Study on Wednesday January 4th, 10am, at Don & Carolann Garbers house.

Online Study ~ Wednesday's at 6:30 pm online via zoom.

No homework required but please have your Bible handy.

At the first meeting we will finalize details for starting time and length of the study.

If you are interested in participating in either one, please let Pastor Amy know... 612-226-8905 or amyjstrom@gmail.com I'm looking forward to



A Thought for the Day



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 January is Feb. 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

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Dent United Methodist Church










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Dent Vergas Website:

dentvergasumc.org

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January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Irma S. (V)  1	2	3	10:00 am Dent Bk Study at Don & Carolann's 6:30 pm Online Book Study via Zoom	4	5	6	7
8	9	12:30pm Book Club @ Billy's Bar & Grill	10 Diane S. (V) 	11 Doris C. (D) 	12	13	14
15	16	17 Kelvin S. (D) 	18	19 Mary D. (V) 	20 Jane W. (V) 	21	21
22	23	24 Byron Z (V) Donna S. (V) David S. (D) 	25	26	27	28	28
29 Bill C (D) 	30 Roger D. (D) 	31	1	2	3	4	4
5	6	7 12:30pm Book Club @ Loon's Nest	4	5	6	7	7