

From the PASTOR'S DESK

Epiphany – It's Time To Take A Look!

As we look at the church calendar, we see that in January we begin the season of Epiphany (which means "revelation"). It is a season where we take our cue from the wise men and take a look at what God is revealing to us in the sky above, in the words of ancient Scripture, in the Baby Jesus, and in the depths of our own heart and soul.



Look Up! It was wise men from the East who looked up and saw the star that told them a special King had been born. They kept looking as they followed that star which led them to Jesus. Take time one evening to look up at the stars, marvel at God's creation, and commit yourself to following Jesus.

Look Back! When the wise men got to Jerusalem, they asked King Herod, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?" Matthew 2:2. Herod called the chief priests and scribes to look back into the Scriptures. They found the answer in the words of the prophet Micah: "You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Micah 5:2. Let us look at the words of Scripture that declare to us that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, the fulfillment of all the prophecies of old, the revelation of all the promises of God.

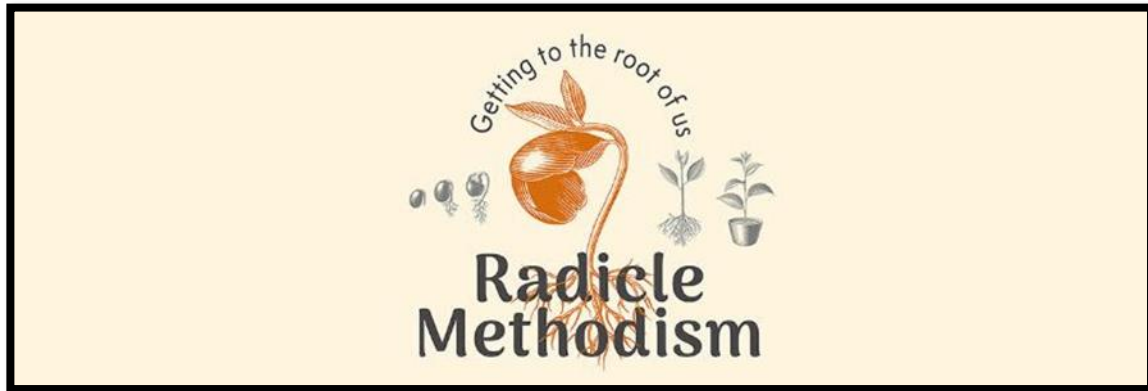
Look Down! When the wise men found the child Jesus, they looked down, as they knelt before the Son of God and worshiped him. Only then did they give their gifts to the Lord. In this time of Epiphany, Let us bow our heads in prayer to the Savior, to come to church for worship, and to humbly offer our gifts to the One who has given so much to us – forgiveness, renewal, peace, hope, and love.

Blessings and see you in church!

Pastor Joyce <><



New Class beginning in January – Get to know your United Methodist Roots



Radicle Methodism Project 2025

is an exciting opportunity to explore the foundational roots of United Methodism with other United Methodists from across the denomination! We're so glad to have you join us on this journey of discovery, growth, and connection.

Have you ever thought, "I wish I could go back and do my confirmation class over again, now that I'm truly able to understand what it means to be a United Methodist?" Or have you ever wondered, "What is United Methodism all about?" Well, here is your opportunity to learn more with your fellow United Methodists from across the state and country.

Back to our Roots!

In this four module/week course, you'll travel back to the roots of Methodism and up through the modern day. We'll examine the various rooted systems that create our current connection as The United Methodist Church. Included with this course are a leader's guide, participants guide, videos broken into 3-5 minute segments, discussion questions, and primary source readings.

Click on the link below to watch a 2 minute video about the class and then scroll down to register – it's free, but when you register you will have easy access to the videos & materials which go with each module/week.

<https://umhistoryhub.teachable.com/p/radicle-methodism-the-roots-of-methodism>

Many opportunities to join a group for discussion of that week's elements:

Discussion groups begin the week of January 20th

Tuesday mornings in-person in Dent at 10:30 am.

Tuesday or Thursday Evenings at 6:30 online with Zoom.

Thursday Afternoons in-person in Vergas at 1:00.



A New Opportunity to gather in person for prayer

Prayer Circle – meets every Tuesday morning 9:30 am in Dent or Thursday mornings at 11:00 in Vergas in the Sanctuary.

If you would like to be a part of a group that gathers weekly to pray in-person – then we have a wonderful opportunity for you! We gather at the above listed times and places to listen to a short devotional or scripture, then we join together in prayer for our church, our community, our family & friends, and for whatever prayer needs there might be. A candle is lit for each prayer need and people are free to either pray out loud or silently. Let Pastor Joyce know if you'd like to be a part of this in-person prayer group.



JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Jan 5th “Is Bed Rotting a Good Idea? Ephesians 1:3-14

The ABCs of an alternative approach to spiritual health. Hymns: How Majestic Is Your Name, Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Jan 12th “God of the Seas” Isaiah 43:1-7

There's no swimming pool, bottomless brunch or stand-up comedian on board when we cruise with God across the waters. He's offering something much better. Hymns: As the Deer, Precious Lord, Take My Hand, God Will Take Care of You

Jan 19th “Will Wonders Never Cease? John 2:1-11

It's easy to be dazzled by the miracle of Jesus turning water into wine. But John shows us the real meaning of what he sees as a “sign.” Hymns: I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing, How Great Thou Art, Lift Every Voice and Sing

Jan 26th “Taco Tuesday and Sabbath Spirit” Luke 4:14-21

Tuesdays may be for tacos, but the Sabbath is for proclaiming God's favor to all who are in need. Hymns: Hail to the Lord's Anointed, Amazing Grace, The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



SAVE YOUR RECIEPTS FROM **central market**

Each church is asking everyone to save their receipts from Central Market (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.

The Vergas Church Ladies



The Church Ladies took a break in December and went to Pastor Joyce's apartment for a Christmas get-together.



Our next meeting will be **January 21st, noon at the church.**



Dent Breakfast Club



Meets at Mysteries Café at 9am on the first Wednesday of the month



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 Tithe online at dentvergasumc.org



AD COUNCIL MEETING

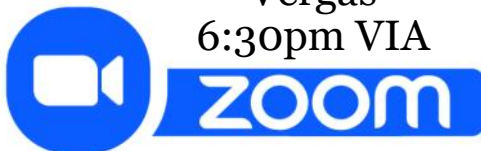
Wednesday, January 15th



Dent 3pm



Vergas
6:30pm VIA



BOOK CLUB

Next Meeting

Tues, Jan 7th 12:30pm at
Mysteries Café in Dent

Books:

"The Family Upstairs"
by Lisa Jewell
"Small Things Like These"
by Claire Keegan

Church Missions January / February / March

Vergas 1st Quarter Mission ~ UMCOR

The Mission for the 4th Quarter (October, November, December) was the local Food Shelves. The Food Shelves in Detroit Lakes, Perham, and Pelican Rapids are supported by this quarter's giving by the congregation plus the budgeted \$600 to total \$939. This also includes the Angel Tree which earned \$165. And the We Care receipts totaling \$34.42. Thank you for your generosity!

The Missions of the Quarter for 2025:

1st Quarter, UMCOR

2nd Quarter, Relay for Life

3rd Quarter, Churches United Homeless Mission

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

Vergas Local Outreach

The Local Mission dollars \$300 were sent to Embry, a premature infant with NICU bills. This is Connie Zitzow's nephew.



Dent Mission of the Quarter

The Bridge is a nonprofit agency that provides food to families and individuals during a time of need. They provide good quality food that has been either donated, purchased from North Country Food Bank or locally. Their goal is to meet the basic needs of the clients while improving their nutritional well-being. For them to meet their goals, they need your support. The mobile pantry was created to give more individuals access to the benefits of a community pantry.



VERGAS	DENT
St. John's Lutheran 410 E Scharf Ave 9:30-11:30AM	Methodist Church 301 Main Street 9:30- 11:30AM

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
1/15/25	1/16/25
2/12/25	2/13/25
3/12/25	3/13/25
4/9/25	4/10/25
5/14/25	5/15/25
6/11/25	6/12/25
7/9/25	7/10/25
8/13/25	8/14/25
9/10/25	9/11/25
10/15/25	10/16/25
11/12/25	11/13/25
12/10/25	12/11/25

2025 MOBILE PANTRY SCHEDULE

WAITING

More Than 10 Minutes?

CALL 1-800-716-9132

Refer to Main Street Crossing | Refer to Town Line Crossing
#695673G | #695671T

or go to: www.fra.dot.gov/blockedcrossings

WE NEED TO CALL TO GET RESULTS!



Paid by 

TAMMY KISSEL



BEWARE OF EMAIL SCAMS



On Wed, Dec 04, 2014 8:41 AM, arnavis@arvig.com wrote:

Original Message

arvig.

Dear Valued **Customer**,

Your Arvig invoice for account number 000009379 is **now available** for review by clicking on the attachment. The amount due will be deducted from **your account on 12/09/24**. If you need help with paying your bill, LifeLine or other payment assistance programs may be available.

View Bill

If you have any questions regarding the Arvig Statement or need assistance, please send an email to arnavis@arvig.com

We appreciate your business.

Sincerely,
Arvig

The attacker hides the malicious link behind what appears to be a normal view bill button.

Here, the attacker tried to create a sense of urgency. Before panicking confirm whether the particular email is applicable to your recent activities.

Incorrect Email

Attention Grabber




Dent Community Club's Fiesta Fundraiser

Saturday, January 18, 2025
5:00 pm
Dent Community Center

Taco Bar | **Pinata**
(free will offering) | **Drinks**
Raffle | **Door Prizes**

Buy your \$5 raffle tickets now for a chance to win guns, cash & more!




GOD MOMENTS

We have a meaningful worship opportunity each week, sharing our God Moments.

These are stories of how we have seen or experienced God during the past week either ourselves, something we observed in others or saw on t.v. or read in the paper. Be on the look out for these moments and share them during the God Moments, Joys, & Concerns time during worship. God is working daily in our world friends – we just need to look and feel for these moments!



JANUARY VOLUNTEERS LISTS

January Ushers

Richard & Karen J

Jan. Liturgist

Peggy Meissner

Jan	Fellowship
5th	Peggy Me.
12th	Lisa W,
19th	Ivy & Robbie M.
26th	Carolann & Don G.

Jan	Vergas Liturgist	Vergas Ushers	Fellowship
5th	Tonya J	Faye & Tonya	Tonya J.
12th	Bev F.	Rick & Margy N.	Margy N.
19th	Bryan G ?	Bryan & Eileen G. ?	Eileen G.
26th	Margy N.	Rick & Margy N.	Lana J.

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

Born in January Birthday greetings

Vergas Birthdays

1st Irma Sonnenberg
 19th Mary Dahlgren
 20th Jane Wasvick
 24th Donna Strawhorn
 24th Byron Zitzow

Dent Birthday's

5th Tyrell Stanbrough
 12th Doris Champlin
 17th Kelvin Salathe
 24th David Smith
 29th Bill Chapman
 30th Roger Dornbush



"Sayin' 'Amen' is like pressing the 'SEND' button for your prayers."



"God creates twins whenever he makes a face he really likes."



A Thought for The Day

Overthinking will kill your peace. Sometimes you just need to pray and leave it in God's care.



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 February is January 26, 2025.**

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

January / February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Irma S (V) 1 	2	3	4
Tyrell S (D) 5	6	9:30am Dent Prayer Circle 12:30pm Book Club Mysteries Café	7	8	11am Vergas Prayer Circle	10 11
Doris C (D) 12	13	9:30am Dent Prayer Circle	Ad Council 15 3pm Dent 6:30pm Vergas via Zoom	16	Kelvin S (D) 17	18 5pm Dent Community Club Fiesta Fundraiser
Mary D (V) 19	Jane W (V) 20	9:30am Dent Prayer Circle 12:30pm Church Ladies	21	22	11am Vergas Prayer Circle	23 Donna S. (V) 24 Byron Z. (V) David S (D) 25
26	27	9:30am Dent Prayer Circle	28	Bill C (D) 29	Roger D (D) 30	31 1
2	3	12:30pm Book Club	4	5	6	7 8

Radicle Methodism Project 2025 Discussion groups begin the week of January 20th

Many opportunities to join a group for discussion of that week's elements: Tuesday mornings in-person in Dent at 10:30 am / Tuesday or Thursday Evenings at 6:30 online with Zoom / Thursday Afternoons in-person in Vergas at 1:00.

Ad Council Minutes
Vergas United Methodist Church
December 18, 2024, 6:30 pm on Zoom

Present: Joyce Slostad, Jane Wasvick, Sheri Schoenenberg, Tonya Johnson, Faye Courneya, and Doreen Schwartrock

Absent: David Reiten and Lisa Wrabek

Joyce opened the meeting with prayer.

Review of Church Attendance

Sheri stated that attendance has remained steady. Online and in person are close to the same.

Secretary Report

The minutes from November 20th were approved with changes to the treasurer's report \$73,000 instead of \$72,000 was put into a CD with an interest rate of 4.2%.

Treasurer Report

- The Treasurer report was accepted as handed out pending audit.
- Faye reported that the church received \$73,000 from properties owned by Iona Tenter and \$123,000 from investments that she had. Pastor Joyce thought that perhaps we should tithe 10% of this money to charity. There was general agreement that this should be done. Jane made a motion to send \$5000 to Churches United, seconded by Tonya and passed.
- There was a suggestion that representatives from Churches United come and address the congregation.
- Jane made a motion to put \$100,000 into a CD, seconded by Tonya and passed.
- Secondary signing for the CD's can be anyone on the Ad Council that is available.

Trustee Report

- The thermostats are installed. Jane is working on the thermostats but having difficulty due to email addresses and Wi-Fi passwords in the church. Jane will check with Jody. No further progress.
- The fire extinguishers should be mounted on the wall, Faye found mountings and suggested locations. Done.
- The windows need to be fixed.
- Faye called Summer Construction about the cement work and hasn't received a call back. She has also called another contractor to get this on the spring agenda.
- Snowplowing, David will talk to Jim Hoffman to see if they are willing to continue with this. They stated that they will continue.
- Paper towel holders are no longer able to be filled, and other towels have been substituted.
- There was general discussion on the projects that need to be completed, and it seems that we should hire someone to serve as the general contractor for the projects for spring and let them work with the trades to get the work completed. Tonya talked with her husband Mark Johnson, and he agreed to take on the role

of general contractor and begin working on lining up the work for spring. The Council agreed.

- Faye also discussed the need to clean up the signature lists that the bank has for each account. There should be two people on each account. This should not be Joyce or Doreen. Jane will work on a form listing the accounts and send to Faye.

Pastor Report:

- Pastor Joyce reported that the chair lift has been inspected. She will be taking some time off after Christmas on December 29 and she will have members cover for her.
- The church also needs to send in the new leadership list. This includes the Ad Council and SPPRC. Joyce is still working on this. She is talking to Bev Flateland for Ad Council and Connie Zitzow for SPPRC. She still needs to find someone from Dent for SPPRC. This needs to be sent to the conference.
- The mission report on Form 13 will be completed by Jane and sent to Sheri. Other forms will be completed by Sheri.
- Ad Council needs to address the number of unresponsive members and reach out to them. Sheri reviewed this list and there are no members that should be removed. There is a possibility of 3 members who should be asked about continuing membership, and this will be done in 2025. This information needs to be sent to the Conference.
- Pastor Joyce is purchasing gifts for the children that come Christmas as well as guest gifts.

Mission

The Missions of the Quarter for 2025.

1st Quarter, UMCOR

2nd Quarter, Relay for Life

3rd Quarter, Churches United Homeless Mission

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

The Local Mission dollars for December were used for the Living Faith by Giving envelopes which were handed out. These are \$50 each.

The local mission dollars for January were sent to Embry, a premature infant with NICU bills. This is Connie Zitzow's nephew.

Pastor Joyce closed with everyone saying what they are grateful for.

The next meeting will be on January 15th on Zoom.

DENT UMC LEADERSHIP TEAM
December 18, 2024

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

CALL TO ORDER: Lyndon called the meeting to order and Joyce opened with a prayer.

MINUTES: There was no meeting in November. There was a special meeting on Sunday November 24 to approve the church budget for 2025. The budget was accepted by quorum with the members present.

FINANCE: The reports for October and November. Ivy said that all bills have been paid and that she did have to take \$2000 from savings to cover the bills for December.

OLD BUSINESS: Rudolph's Closet was another success. We served around 80 kids and wrapped about 500 gifts. Free will donations were \$353. Thank you to all that donated. We received donations from The American Legion and the Auxiliary for the program. There were many people that were very grateful for RC, the kids enjoyed their time.

NEW BUSINESS: Christmas Eve Service will be 3:30 and there will be gifts to hand out to the young people. We will have generational readers for the Christmas Story.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Joyce said that she will be on vacation from December 25 thru January 2 for her family Christmas. She will arrange to have a speaker for the 29th.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Austin reported that he signed a new 2-year contract for highway clean-up. The furnaces have been checked and serviced. Austin motioned to have Rob Mickelson added to the Trustee Committee, motion was unanimously passed.

OTHER: The missions for 2025 will remain the same. 1st quarter is The Bridge foodbank; 2nd quarter is UMCORE; 3rd quarter is Rudolph's Closet; and 4th quarter is Salvation Army.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT: Ivy motioned to adjourn and Austin seconded, motion passed. Next scheduled meeting will be January 15, 2025.